

## North Rode Parish News February 2024

Welcome to the first edition of 2024. We seem to have had wintry weather of all description, but at least we can look forward to lengthening light and snowdrops appearing.

### Birthdays

Best wishes to:

2nd February Hector Petts – 8

3rd February William Boxford – 13

8th February Jess Burton – 19

17th February Rosie Burwood – 11

22nd February Otto Petts - 2

### Christmas Trees



Once again we are grateful to Diane Lowe for her beautiful tree



decorating, both for the amazing festival at Gawsworth (left), and North Rode's tree kindly donated by Judy Howarth.

### News from Marton School

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

We returned to school after the long Christmas holidays and visited the New Vic Theatre for our post-Christmas treat. The whole school watched The Nutcracker and had a wonderful time. We felt

so proud of all our children and thanked Friends and Family (Our fantastic PTA) for paying for the coaches; a really great start to the new year and term!

We have been working hard on the theme of continuing relationships and developing new relationships in school and welcomed visitors (old and new) from local churches in to lead collective worship and maintain our distinctively Christian Collective Worship.

Gerry Hambridge who facilitates our link with Good Luck Junior School in Uganda is also preparing for her visit to Uganda. She'll be bringing back news of the new library that the school has built using funds that we raised at our craftivism event in the Summer. We are all looking forward to hearing how Marton has helped.

New life Church has started delivering Walk through the Bible weekly sessions to Y5, Kings School have been in to deliver science workshops with Y5 and Y6 and Cheshire Cricket are back to teach their sessions to selected classes across school.

All examples of working together and supporting school.

It's as busy as ever @ Team Marton!

Best wishes, Mrs Nevin Deakin

### The Rector's Letter – February

We seem increasingly to be living in an age where many people expect everything to be "instant" and the old idea that "the best things in life are worth waiting for" no longer applies. We have grown accustomed to instant meals, instant emails, instant music and films on hand-held devices. Even before the Christmas decorations are taken down, hot cross buns, chocolate cream eggs and Easter bunnies now appear in the shops. From Bethlehem to Calvary in a matter of a few days. Faith in God, on the other hand, is not instant for most of us. Sometimes, like St. Paul on the road to Damascus, people may experience a sudden "blinding flash" of awareness of the truth, that may well mark the beginning of their journey towards faith, or push it forward, but the reality is that faith takes time to deepen and mature. Like love, it is tested by the knocks and blows of life. As with human relationships, our relationship with God takes time to build.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 14<sup>th</sup> February. People often don't look forward to Lent, or they ignore it altogether. Unfortunately, the emphasis has often been on words like "sacrifice", "discipline", and "self-denial", giving the impression that Lent is something to be endured, rather than enjoyed. However, it is primarily a time of reflection and spiritual growth. As in previous years, I will be running a Bible study/discussion group on Monday evenings (February 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>) at the Rectory, beginning at 7.30pm and finishing by 9.00pm. The focus will be on St. Mark's Gospel, which begins with Jesus "proclaiming the Good News of God". But what exactly is this "Good News" and who is it for? This study course raises important questions about our ability to change and how we can become in ourselves living evidence of the Good News. To reserve a place, please sign up on the list at the back of the Church.

Yours ever,

Colin

## North Rode Services February 2024

<b>Feb 4<sup>th</sup></b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> before Lent Flowers: Bronwen Bebington	<b>11.15 am</b> Holy Communion (CW))	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Rev. Anne Freestone Louise Jackson Geoffrey Allen
<b>Feb 11<sup>th</sup></b> Sunday next before Lent Flowers: As last week	<b>11.15 am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesmen: Readings:	The Rector Judy Howarth Geoffrey Petts
<b>Feb 14<sup>th</sup></b> Ash Wednesday	<b>10.00 am</b> Holy Comm. (said) <b>6.00pm</b> Holy Comm. (sung)	<b>Gawsworth</b>  <b>Gawsworth</b>	The Rector  The Rector
<b>Feb 18<sup>th</sup></b> Lent 1	<b>11.15 am</b> Morning Prayer	Led by: Sidesman: Readings:	Mrs Jenny Kendal Shirley Tudor-Evans Charles Baxter Bronwen Bebington
<b>Feb 25<sup>th</sup></b> Lent 2	<b>11.15 am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	The Rector Peter Brocklehurst Rachel Wilson
<b>March 3<sup>rd</sup></b> Lent 3	<b>11.15 am</b> Holy Communion (CW)	Led by: Sidesman: Reading:	Rev. Anne Freestone Lynn Petts Yvonne Brown

### Carol Singing

The carol singing at the Harrington Arms on 19th December raised an impressive £206.33 for East Cheshire Hospice. Colin was most impressed by the singing and is looking to recruit members for the choir from the attendees! Alastair Kennedy, Hospice Treasurer.

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

Rector	Rev. Colin Wilson	01260 223201
Warden	Mrs Marilyn Ainslie	01260 223346
Secretary	Mrs Diane Lowe	01260 272576
Treasurer	Mrs Lynn Petts	01260 222902
Magazine Contacts	Ms Kate Bean	01260 272723
	Mrs Marilyn Ainslie	01260 223346



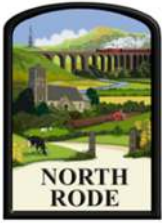
The Daintry Hall Management Committee would like to thank the PCC and North Rode Parish Council for their input at informal consultations and for feedback from villagers at the Presentation of our Vision for Daintry Hall in December. We are now in the process of assessing all the feedback received and finalising plans to make our dream of creating sustainable facilities that will benefit all villagers for many years to come a reality. We will be releasing further information and details in due course.

**Alec Johnson RIP.** 26.4.1952 – 27.12.2023. Funeral Report 22.1.2024, St Mary's, Bosley.

Alec was one of five children born to his parents at Dawson Farm, Bosley, a well-known local family, borne out by the packed church. The service included a tribute and poem from his nephew Eric called 'Remembering Alec', and a eulogy written by his older brother Tom who has farmed Dawson Farm since the passing of his father. Alec worked for another local farmer and then at Bosley Wood Treatment before returning to work back on the family farm with Tom.

Alec was a very colourful character but believed in his faith and regularly attended Bosley and St Michael's, often arriving late, and was well known for his like of communion wine, regularly draining the chalice. He was also a long-term member of Bosley Tug of War and could have been world class, but circumstances always prevented him from reaching his full potential. He had a great love of a tractor which he called Old Henry and loved steam fairs and shire horses. Rhinestone Cowboy by Glen Campbell was played on exit from church, and he was buried in the churchyard.

Diane Lowe



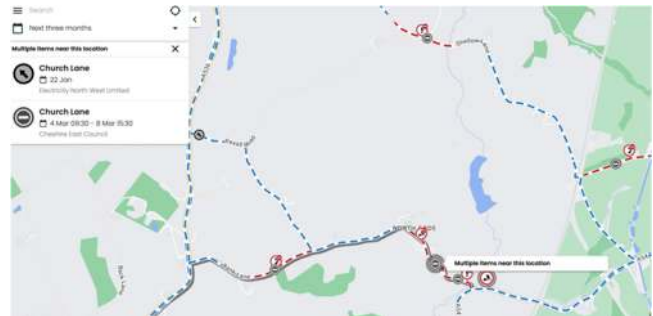
## North Rode Parish Council Update

February 2024

**Highways** - We have been notified by Cheshire East Highways of the following road closures:

- Church Lane: 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan: Electricity North West maintenance, Rode Hall Fm to Buxton Rd
- Shellow Lane: 25<sup>th</sup> Jan: Electricity North West maintenance, Gawsworth Business Park to Dobford Fm
- Bullgate Lane: 4-15<sup>th</sup> March: BT openreach
- Church Lane: 4-8<sup>th</sup> March: Highways drainage investigation – Manor Park Rd to Buxton Rd
- Bank Lane: 9-10<sup>th</sup> April: BT Openreach (Bank Farm to Bramhall Hill)

The drainage investigation on Church Lane, is the result of many complaints by the Parish Council, which recently reported a collapsed drain opposite the well. You are able to view details all upcoming closures on the one.network website: <https://one.network/uk/cheshireeast#>



Following a spate of accidents in very icy conditions in late November, the parish council contacted highways and the police, and arranged for emergency gritting. We have been following this up with requests for Bank Lane, Church Lane, Shellow Lane and Bullgate Lane to be included on the Winter Maintenance Network and have also requested a grit bin for the bad bend by the railway bridge. Cllr Williams attended a Parish and Town Council Meeting with the Police Commissioner, Police and Cheshire East in December and raised the issue we currently have with our busy lanes not being gritted.

Please continue to report details of any HGV's or accidents you may see, to enable the parish council to gather statistics which can help our arguments for improved services for our village.

Cllr's Williams and Bailey attended a meeting with the South East Cheshire Parish Councils Liaison Group, to help identify common issues councils are dealing with.

**CPR Training & Defibrilators** - 18 Villagers attended the CPR training course arranged by the Parish Council in December. This means that over 40 villagers have now received CPR training in the last year, which has got to be a good thing for North Rode. As a reminder, both Defibrillators in the village have the same code to unlock the cabinet. If you don't have a keyring with the code, please contact any parish councillor and we will get one to you. Thanks again to the Dane Valley First Respoders, for an excellent training night.

### **SAVE THE DATE! - D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration – Evening of 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

Plans are progressing well for the village commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. The Wychcraft Big Band will be playing music of the era in the church and there will be a fish and chip supper, followed by the lighting of our beacon. It will be a ticket event to include music and food. Further details to follow next month.



### **Next Parish Council Meeting**

The next parish council meeting will be the AGM to be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7:30pm at Daintry Hall. All residents are warmly welcome to attend. Details of Agenda's, Minutes, Notices and Events, together with some local history articles are posted on the North Rode Parish Council Website <https://northrodepc.co.uk>

**Chairman NRPC Huw Williams**

[huwilliams200@gmail.com](mailto:huwilliams200@gmail.com)



## W.I Report

In early December we enjoyed a Christmas Lunch. Members and Visitors were present including Brenda Proudlove, President Mossley WI, and Irene Goodwin, President Eaton.

Members were given Bucks Fizz etc on arrival and later enjoyed the Traditional Christmas Lunch - Turkey plus Christmas Pudding etc.

Our retiring President Bronwen Bebington welcomed everyone and was presented with Gifts on behalf of the Members for her time as President and also from the Committee for hosting our Committee Meetings during the past year. She wished everyone a Happy Christmas. The Hall was decorated with Holly Lights and Christmas Arrangements and looked very festive.

The first Meeting of 2024 we welcome Liz Clarke who will be talking about her life as a Magistrate. We meet at 2pm as is usual in the Winter Months.

All visitors are welcome to come Eaton Church and Community Hall, 2pm October to March 7.30pm April to September.

Our new President Diane Lowe wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Several apologies were read out and Diane welcomed new Members plus Visitors. The Table Flowers were given by Diane Lowe, Teas Brenda Carey and Pauline Croft, Cakes Bronwen Bebington and Margaret Aitchison, Raffle Pam Robinson.

The Brooch Competition in memory of Gladys Dines will this year be for an Evening Bag and will take place at the March Meeting. Programmes for 2024 were given out. The Quiz first round will take place at Byley Village Hall on Thursday 25th April and our Members are entering. Cheshire News information about various Events were read out by the Secretary Pam Robinson.

Our Speaker was Liz Clarke, a JP. Her Talk was her life as a Magistrate. She works in Staffordshire and covers Family Courts and Adult Courts. Her Talk was fascinating and interesting as she had to concentrate and listen fully when she was in Court not to miss a word. All our Members were totally in awe of her work and could have heard more interesting details about the way the Justice System works. Pam Robinson gave a warm Vote of Thanks on behalf of our Members to Liz Clarke. The two Raffle Prizes were won by Mary Hibbert and Freda Butler.

The next Meeting is Tuesday 13th February when we welcome Mark Chadwick, a Physiotherapist from Biddulph. The Competition will be for a Homemade Remedy.

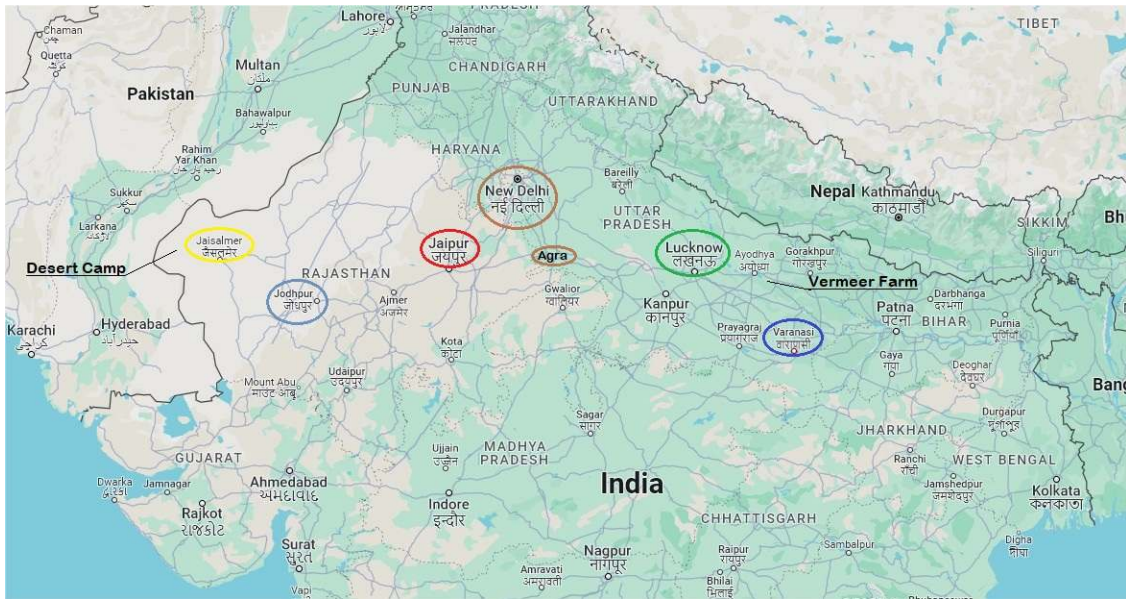
We meet at 2pm in the Winter Months at Eaton Church and Community Hall.

## Answers for Christmas Quiz

1. Germany
2. Eggnog
3. Four — the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future, and Jacob Marley
4. An angel
5. Bethlehem
6. Tom Hanks
7. White
8. Hansel and Gretel
9. A German Lutheran pastor named Johann Hinrich Wichern
10. According to tradition, the original Saint Nicholas put gold coins in the stockings of three poor sisters
11. The Twelve Days of Christmas are the last six days of the old year (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 December ) and the first six days of the New Year (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 January)
12. Feliz Navidad
13. The coldest temperature ever recorded during a UK winter was -27.2 °C
14. The chances of a White Christmas are just 1 in 10 for England and Wales
15. Nearly 60 million Christmas Trees are grown each year in Europe
16. Sandringham
17. 15 years
18. Christmas Eve
19. France
20. Three trees
21. The word winter comes from the Germanic *wintar* which in turn is derived from the root *wed* meaning 'wet' or water'
22. 800 million
23. King William I of England in 1066
24. 10 million turkeys

## The Indian Connection

The Bullock family from The Oaklands, North Rode, Mark, Sue, Winnie and Flo have recently returned from a fortnight of spice and adventure in India.



*Places we visited.*

### Namaste

"Namaste" is both a greeting and a good bye.

Hinglish is often spoken. It's a mixture of Hindi and English. On a train one hears the chatter of Hindi, possibly Punjabi or Gujarati. [There are 22 scheduled languages in India].

You can soon turn off and let the voices continue with the methodic rattle of the train.

Now and then however in pops a little English "... you understand?" or "I'm studying..."

Education taught in national colleges and universities is in English. English is the common language of education in India.

To gather an insight into their lives ask where they are from, where they are going to, who they are travelling with. Take out your mobile phone and show them photographs of your life. Use a translation app and maps.

We were in India during the cricket world cup, eventually won by Australia. I watched snippets of most games leaning over someone's shoulder or sharing their phone. As soon as you expressed an interest in the cricket they were most welcoming. Again an opening to ask questions. As usual they wanted to know where I was from and who I thought was the best player. I replied that it was Virat Kohli. They liked that.



We have made so many friends that I now have a contact section in my phone called 'Indian Friends'. These include a teacher who sells medical insurance (there's no NHS) as a second job in his Village; a restaurant owner who will marry for love only; the nephew of a stall holder selling sandals and a transport salesman.

## Enjoy the ride.

I recommend using the railways for getting between places for speed of travel with social mixing and value for money. We used 'sleeper' trains on overnight journeys. The corridor was divided off by a curtain.

Two sheets a blanket and pillow were provided. There was air conditioning which is also present in most hotels and taxis.



We however had to manage some issue

such as the Goldilocks syndrome of "You're sleeping in my bed", a ticket inspector increasing the price on demand and noise.

The noise became too much that on one occasion resorted in me jumping out of bed in my boxers, ripping the curtains apart to chastise a girl at 2 am who was chatting and laughing on her phone. It had an immediate effect. Either by way of

my finger to mouth shushing or the startling appearance of yours truly, an enigmatic Englishman in Union Jack boxers.



## Tourist Attractions.



I could list many temples, forts and palaces, however the tourist attractions were the Bullock family.

The Indian on the street or on the railway platform sat waiting will stare at the tall white people. Flo sternly says "No" when approached for a selfie and points to Winnie saying "She will".

I too have been asked for selfies and have been interviewed for a podcast. Flo, (Florence) has got around the unwanted attention by traveling with her own bodyguards. They were made up of the young men from the household we stayed with in

Goshainganj. She would travel on the back of a 350 cc Royal Enfield dressed in white trousers and her hair wrapped in a scarf; very Lady Di.

At times the attention is too much especially crowded places. Some Indians will come to your aid, speak some Hindi, and shoe the pestering people away.



## The Desert



To the west of the country is Rajasthan with a desert forming the border with Pakistan. Dry and arid, but not without bushes and vegetation that feed the goats shepherded slowly along.

Our trip into the desert felt too commercialised. It was one small area of sand dunes bounded by camels, jeeps and quad bikes for hire.

Again we were the only western people. At night there was traditional singing and dancing and a fire breather. I suggested to the family that we show them some traditional English dances like the 'Okey Cokey'.

We slept under canvas, though the walls and floors were concrete and there was air conditioning, when there was an electric supply!

Food was served in a large canteen. Typical rice and a spice. The manager, Oskr, came over and spoke to us. Asking us what we enjoyed and where we came from. "Congleton" means nothing, neither does "Cheshire" so it was that we introduced ourselves as coming from

"Manchester, England". Out came our telephones to show him pictures of home. As soon as we mentioned that we lived on a farm all the staff were around our solitary table; for the Indian desert tourists had left. They easily warmed to us and us to them. For we found a common interest. They were from villages and farms. We showed them sheep, grass, snow on fields and large areas of potatoes and oats being mechanically harvested.

Oskr is now Whats Apping daily and has invited us back to his home where he will take us out into his desert to sit under the stars.

## River Ganges

Varanasi, founded in the 11th century BC, is on the left bank of the Ganges in northern India. It is a sacred city, the ultimate destination of all Hindi pilgrims. A place of worship where the river will wash away your sins and the ashes from the funeral pyres. I'm advised that the best wood for



burning the body is from the mango tree. It burns hot. The wood is weighed and bought from sellers in the nearby street. The bodies are cremated usually within 24 hours of death.



We visited the Ganges one evening with about 5,000 other pilgrims. The stone stepped banks crowded close to the river

offering vantage points to see the holy men chanting, issuing forth incense from swinging brass burners and ringing bells. We were guided through the people on seats to the front, under a rope past the holy men to the river and onto wooden boats especially brought in to view the scene. It was very spiritual.

## Two pints of lager and a packet of crisps.

Alcohol is not *present* in the daily lives of the Indians. There are small shops called 'English wine shops' that sell alcohol. It is not necessarily English or wine. It is so named as alcohol is synonymous with the British from the time of the Raj. Alcohol is available to the army in the Army's CSD (Canteen Stores Department) without tax, and in the hotels and large restaurants with tax. The table prices are the same or greater than in the UK. It's best to drink the bottled water and Masala Chai, sweet, spiced tea served in small cups at about 20 pence.

Non-veg is the term used to refer to meats, fish, chicken etc. It is the reverse of our vegetarian option. When we had chicken at the Vermeer Farm it could only be cooked outside, away from the all veg kitchen. The food does not have to be spicy red hot. Just ask for it to be mild. Subway, Pizza Hut and Dominoes have a foothold in the major towns if you really need them.

We were invited to a temple by the town's elders. They sat us cross legged on the floor. The last time I did that was at primary school. We were given spoons to use to eat. Others used their fingers. In restaurants there will be a sink in the room for washing your hands before the meal.

## Volunteer

Staying at an old folks home we asked the owner if we could do anything. "No... no." he said shaking his head in the usual wobble.

He had painters in to paint the house using what might have been yard brushes. He was quite upset by it for there was paint on the floor and on the glass. So we offered to clean the windows for him to let more light into his house. It was Diwali after all, the festival of light.



The windows on the east and west sides are small to let in light, but not the direct sunlight and heat. The rooms had large windows internally that opened onto a central hall with an open roof.

We came across a hostel in Jaisalmir called the 'Crazy Camel'. It had four volunteers - an Italian, two French and a New Zealander. They painted, took orders and bought food from the market. Their labours covered their board and lodging.

## Namaste

