

The Pump

Newsletter of the
group parishes of
Humber, Ford, &
Stoke Prior

April 2026



Photo: Sunset over Stoke Prior by Linda Taylor

From the Editor: Did you know there are emus up near Westhope Common? I went for an amble in the sunset, and on the way passed a pair of emus, a turkey, some guineafowl, a handful of bantams, and some very fine rabbits. If you're after a stunning quiet walk, the common land is beautiful and the views spectacular. If you have news to share, articles of interest, or can help create or distribute *The Pump*, email me on editorpump@hfspgroupparishcouncil.gov.uk by **April 14, 2026**.

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Stay in touch: Parish WhatsApp Group



Ask your neighbours for recommendations, get help, and chat about local news and events with your local community in the Parish WhatsApp Group. We have more than 130 members! To join this group send a WhatsApp message to Cath Baker on 07780 448715, Jayne Hayward on 07788 296337, or Linda Taylor on 07867 672850 with your mobile number.



Are you on Facebook?

Join the Stoke Prior Village Notice Board Facebook Group to keep up with community news, activities, and local photos and events. Go to [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and search for “Stoke Prior Village Notice Board”, then join the group and join in the conversation!

Want to contribute to this magazine?

Send in your stories, photos, and news to editorpump@hfsppgroupparishcouncil.gov.uk. Please attach a Word document. If you have no access to a computer, you can pop a hard copy into the mailbox of The Dingle, Stoke Prior. Deadline is 14th of each month – no exceptions. If it's not here by then, it doesn't go in! For a digital copy please email the editor and I'll add you to the mailing list.



Dates for Your Diary

- 29 March, 10am: Palm Sunday Service, Humber Church
- 31 March, 10.30am: Coffee morning, The Lamb Inn
- 31 March, 6.30pm: Easter Bingo, Stoke Prior Village Hall
- 2 April, 10.30-12.30: Family art workshop, Stoke Prior Village Hall
- 2 April, 7pm: Maundy Thursday service, St Luke's Church
- 5 April, 11.15am: Easter service, Pudleston Church
- 8 April, 10.30-12.30: Coffee morning, Risbury Village Hall
- 10 April, 10.30am: Coffee morning, Forbury Chapel
- 10 April, 7.30pm: The Great British Quiz, Stoke Prior Village Hall
- 12 April, 10am: Guided walk at Bodenham Lakes
- 13 April, 6-8pm: Still life art workshop, Stoke Prior Village Hall
- 14 April, 2.30pm: WI, Risbury Village Hall
- 15 April, 7.30pm: Committee meeting, Risbury Village Hall
- 16 April, 10.30-12.30: Art workshop, Stoke Prior Village Hall
- 17 April, 7.30pm: Flicks Testament of Youth, Stoke Prior Village Hall
- 24 April, 10.30am: Coffee morning, Forbury Chapel
- 28 April, 10am: Ten pin bowling, The Grove
- 28 April, 10.30am: Coffee morning, The Lamb Inn
- 30 April, 12.30pm: SPROGS, The Lamb Inn
- 1 May, 7pm: Pub night, Risbury Village Hall
- 16 May: Plant sale, Ford Church
- 26 May, 10.30am: Coffee morning, The Lamb Inn
- 29 May, 1pm: Stoke Prior Ladies Lunch, The Lamb Inn
- 29 May: Pub night, Risbury Village Hall
- 9 June, 7pm: Tuesday Talk by Paul Cooper, Stoke Prior Village Hall
- 19 June: Pub night, Risbury Village Hall
- 26 June: Ploughman's & Pudding Evening, St Mary's Church Humber
- 27 July - 2 August: Community Week
- 31 July, 1pm: Stoke Prior Ladies Lunch, venue tbc
- 29 August: Risbury Show
- 30 August, 1pm: Summer BBQ, Risbury Village Hall
- 25 September, 1pm: Stoke Prior Ladies Lunch, venue tbc
- 27 September: Harvest Festival, St Mary's Church, Humber
- 27 November, 1pm: Stoke Prior Ladies Lunch, venue tbc
- 28 November: Christmas Bingo, St Mary's Church, Humber

Stoke Prior Group Church Services

Pudleston, Hatfield, Docklow, Humber, Stoke Prior & Ford, Hope-Under-Dinmore



Eastern Parishes | Church Services

March & April 2026

Sunday 1 March Lent II	09:00 Holy Communion 09:15 Holy Communion 11:15 Holy Communion	St Mary, Middleton-on-the-Hill St Peter, Pudleston cum Whyte St John of Jerusalem, Ford
Sunday 8 March Lent III	09:00 Holy Communion 09:15 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 11:15 Holy Communion	St Dubricius, Hamnish St Leonard, Hatfield St Andrew, Leysters St Mary the Virgin, Humber
Sunday 15 March Mothering Sunday	10:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Holy Communion	St Andrew, Leysters St Luke, Stoke Prior
Sunday 22 March Lent V	09:00 Holy Communion 09:15 Holy Communion 11:15 Holy Communion	St James the Great, Kimbolton St Mary the Virgin, Humber St Mary, Hope-under-Dinmore
Sunday 29 March Palm Sunday	10:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Holy Communion	St Michael, Bockleton St Mary the Virgin, Humber
Thursday 2 April Maudy Thursday	19:00 Holy Communion and Foot washing	St Luke, Stoke Prior
Friday 3 April Good Friday	12:00 Focus on the Cross 14:00 Focus on the Cross	St Leonard, Hatfield St Michael, Bockleton
Saturday 4 April Holy Saturday	12:00 Service of Reflection	St James the Great, Kimbolton
Sunday 5 April Easter Day	09:00 Holy Communion 09:15 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 11:15 Holy Communion	St Dubricius, Hamnish St Mary, Hope-under-Dinmore St Mary, Middleton-on-the-Hill St Peter, Pudleston
Sunday 12 April Easter II	09:00 Holy Communion 09:15 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 11:15 Holy Communion	St Dubricius, Hamnish St Leonard, Hatfield St Andrew, Leysters St Mary the Virgin, Humber
Sunday 19 April Easter III	09:00 Holy Communion 09:15 Holy Communion 11:00 Morning Prayer 11:15 Holy Communion	St Michael, Bockleton St John of Jerusalem, Ford Bridge St Mary, Middleton-on-the-Hill St Peter, Pudleston
Sunday 26 April Easter IV	09:00 Holy Communion 09:15 Holy Communion 11:15 Holy Communion 11:15 Holy Communion	St James the Great, Kimbolton St Mary the Virgin, Humber St Mary, Hope-under-Dinmore St Bartholomew, Docklow

A midweek Holy Communion Service is hosted at Henor House Chapel every Tuesday at 09:30

Includes tea/coffee afterwards - all welcome!

*** Patronal Festival Service**

Website <https://leominsterpriory.org.uk/eastern-parishes.php>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/EasternParishes>

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A View from the Farm

By Rich Thomas, 14/03/26

We often have book reviews and recommendations in the *Parish Pump* and I thought I'd add to that this month. I have recently read *A Farming Life* by Risbury resident Roger Bowen. It is a thoroughly enjoyable read and I highly recommend it to anyone who can get hold of a copy. It's great to hear tales from farming's past. I think we need a sequel book, with Roger's next set of farming stories. Maybe for Christmas 2026?! I can certainly remember a couple of stories when we were shearing in Kingsland!

I am currently reading another farming book by a former resident of the neighbouring parish of Puddlestone. Andy Offer's book, *It wasn't meant to be like this*, is his story of achieving his dream to farm. You may remember Andy and his wife Frances selling their Whyle House lamb at local events. Andy's route into farming after a job with the Agricultural Development Advisory Service (ADAS) gives him a different perspective and certainly made me think. There are also a few local names within, although I haven't seen mine yet!

Over Christmas I read another farming book (I do read non-farming books too!) recommended by a friend, *On the Smell of an Oily Rag: My 50 years in farming*, by John Cherrington. John grew up in the 1920s and 1930s and farmed in New Zealand, then England, also doing a stint in Argentina. I'm always fascinated about the pace of change in farming through the twentieth century, particularly following the war years.

Back here on our farm, the core of the business hasn't changed much in 50 years. Cattle, sheep and apples. No cereals or hops now, but otherwise pretty similar. I record my data on an app on my smart phone and use GPS to help me drive in the right place when carrying out field operations on the tractor, so I'm not that old fashioned, but who knows, if energy ever becomes limiting, maybe we will have to go back to some of the old ways.

We plan on hosting a blossom farm walk in early May, so look out for that and I'll be 70 in 2049. I think I'll have enough material to write a book by then. And God willing the time to do it too!

Local Events



Coffee Mornings

Join the community at the next coffee morning at The Lamb Inn, Stoke Prior, at 10.30am on Tuesday April 28. All are welcome! Next date is Tuesday, May 26, then the last Tuesday of the month. For Risbury faces, it's the second Wednesday of the month at Risbury Village Hall.

Stoke Prior Ladies Lunch (SPLL) Group

The next SPLL Group lunch will be at The Riverside, Aymestrey, on Friday March 27 at 1pm. Please contact Jayne Hayward on: 07788 296337 / 01568 760611. Or email: jaynehayward65@gmail.com.

SPROGS

The Stoke Prior Retired Old Gentlemen are meeting on Thursday April 30 at 12.30pm at The Lamb Inn. There's a maximum of 15 spots, so let Mike Hayward know asap if you'd like to join! Email him to book: mikehayward1962@gmail.com

Ten Pin Bowling

We'll be meeting on Tuesday 28 April at 10am at the Grove. Please let Valerie Thompson know by the 27th if you wish to participate. Call 01568 760220. It would be good to see some Stoke Prior and Ford faces too!



Revived: The Great British Quiz

Friday 10th April
7:30pm
Stoke Prior Village Hall (Bar open)

Teaser questions - get yourself quiz fit for the 10th April

1. What is the official name of the clock tower commonly referred to as Big Ben?
2. In what year did Britain join the EEC, now known as the European Union?
3. What war was fought between the Royalists and Parliamentarians?
4. Which British athlete won gold in the heptathlon at the 2012 Olympics?
5. What commonwealth nation is located furthest from the UK?



Stoke Prior Community

Primary School

Tel: 01568 760207

Email: admin@stokeprior.hereford.sch.uk



It has been wonderful to head towards spring, with the daffodils at school in full bloom and the brightening of the evenings.

Oak Class took part in a fullday workshop, “Hands Up for the Planet,” exploring practical ways we can all live more sustainably. The children approached the activities with real enthusiasm, and we hope the ideas they explored will inspire positive habits both at school and at home.

We welcomed our KS1 children back into school for a very cosy bedtime story evening. A shared story, good friends, and a warm hot chocolate made for a lovely, calm end to the day.

There has been plenty of sporting excitement. Our Year 3 and 4 boys represented the school at the Small Schools Football Tournament in Hereford. Despite the very damp conditions, they thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and came away victorious from all their matches – an excellent achievement. Some of our Oak Class boys also took to the pitch for the County North tournament, playing four matches and losing only one. As always, they showed great skill, teamwork, and positivity throughout. Well done to all involved. We enjoyed a friendly and energetic fixture of football and netball at Kimbolton, with excellent sportsmanship shown by all.

We were also delighted to launch a new Thursday lunchtime club: Books & Biscuits. The idea came from a pupil, who approached a staff member, who has given her own time to facilitate this great club. Children are invited to bring along their favourite books, enjoy a quiet read, and share stories with friends. The club has been a great success and is popular throughout the school.

A highlight of this term, of course, was World Book Day. On Thursday 5th March the school was filled with an array of wonderful characters – WALL-E made several appearances, Gangster Granny caused a little mischief, and we had more than a few princesses, animals, and adventurers wandering the corridors. The children took part in storybuilding activities throughout the day, and it was joyful to see their imaginations at work. We were also pleased to welcome many parents on a previous afternoon to share stories in class; the children loved having them.

All in all, it has been a busy, happy term filled with learning, creativity, and community – just as we like it.

Vacancy: School Governor

Our school is seeking to appoint an additional governor to join our active and supportive Local Governing Board. We are part of Three Counties Academy Trust, a small local MAT, and our governors play an important role in helping to shape the vision, values, and strategic direction of the school.

Some experience in education or governance would be helpful, but it is not essential. Most importantly, we are looking for someone with a genuine willingness to work for the benefit of our children, our school, and the wider community.

This is a voluntary role and will be subject to Safer Recruitment checks, in line with national safeguarding guidance.

If you would like more information or would like to request an application form, please contact Anne Dawson: adawson@tcat.school or 01568760207. We would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in supporting the life and work of our school.

News from the Pews

Stoke Prior & Ford Churches

Spring has been popping up everywhere these last weeks with daffodils and primroses lining the drive up to St Luke's and under the hedgerows at Ford Church. Lambs are skipping in the fields around us as Easter approaches. It's a time of celebration after Lent; a quiet reflective time in our church calendars.

Mothering Sunday, always a light, brought the opportunity to come together at St Luke's. The church was filled with spring flowers to celebrate mothers everywhere which we distributed amongst our congregation, neighbours, friends and families. Everyone enjoyed a little port and sherry and tasty nibbles.

There will be a Maundy Thursday service at St Luke's on Thursday 2nd April at 7pm. The Easter Sunday service is at Pudleston Church at 11.15am. All are welcome.

As mentioned in previous months, we are struggling to keep both our churches functioning and safe, especially over the past three years. We are now considering cutting services to just one per month, alternating between Stoke and Ford.

Sadly our congregations have dwindled and we have an average of only three to ten attending. Due to these consistent low numbers we now rely heavily on fund raising events. This is also getting harder as we now just have three active PCC members and our treasurer to organise all events. We are sending out a huge PLEA for HELP so we can keep our churches open, functional, and safe.

Below are a few of the things we need help with and if you can help in any way please contact us. We would be most grateful.

- Some secretarial help — 1 to 2 hours a week
- Oak door at Ford needs rubbing down and staining
- A new notice board at Ford
- Help to clean our churches each month
- Help with fundraising events
- Working garden party at Stoke to:
 - Clear and tidy back of church
 - Weed and cut back the bund
 - Box in the compost heap
 - Tidy and gravel “ashes burial” area

There is some structural work needed on Ford’s roof at an estimated cost of £2,500. We already have £820 in this roof tile fund and are hoping to raise more with future events. We hope in the future to have a toilet and water supply at Stoke Church.

It costs an average of £775 a month to keep our churches running and that does not include any repairs or maintenance work carried out by need and safety. And of course we have *two* churches. We don’t want to be so negative as *both* churches have unique features, histories, and attractions. We just want to keep them open, safe, and functional for ALL to use and for future generations.

Can you help in any way — big or small?

Please contact Sue or Cheryl if you can help.

Dates for your diaries

- Easter Bingo: 31 March at Stoke Prior Village Hall, 6.30pm
- Forbury Coffee Morning: 24 April, 10am
- Plant sale: 16 May at Ford Church

We are grateful for all the support we receive. We could not do this alone.

By Cheryl and Sue

Risbury Village Hall News

We had our biggest numbers yet at both our last pub night and our last coffee morning. It's so good to be able to bring the community together in an informal manner like that! The next pub night is on Friday 27 March (probably before you receive this). The April coffee morning will be on the 8th. The April pub night falls just outside the month on Friday 1 May.

We shall hold a committee meeting on Wednesday 15 April in the hall at 7.30pm. Please think about joining us. We could do with some new ideas and people to put them into practice.

Further pub nights will be held on Friday 29 May and Friday 19 June (a week early so as not to clash with Humber Church's Pudding & Ploughman's event). We are also planning our summer barbecue on Sunday 30 August at 1pm – the day after the Risbury Show and, by popular request, a return of Oktoberfest.

There are other ideas in the melting pot, but we had to postpone our March meeting and haven't finalised anything yet.

If you wish to put a notice on the board, please put it in the post box and, if possible, inform Margaret Brown (01885 400696, migsbrown49@gmail.com) so we can sort it quickly.

To book the hall for your own events please contact Kate Pugh on 07815 699957.

By Margaret Brown

Stoke Prior Village Hall News

Flicks in the Sticks

We had a great turn out for the February screening of *The Ballad of Wallis Island*, with over 40 people attending. The evening was made even better by a delicious steak and ale stew prepared by Mike Wyldes. Many thanks to all those who helped with the bar, tea and coffee and the running of the evening. Judith Burt's last film was *Save the Cinema* on 20th March, and she has passed the organisation to Mike Watson. He chose *Testament of Youth* as our final film of the season on April 17. We wanted to screen *Hamnet* but unfortunately it is not available. Food will be meat or vegetable chilli with baked potatoes, nachos, guacamole, and soured cream.

Paying for events

Karl Woolhouse has set up a new and easy way of paying for all events — Zeffy. It would be helpful for the committee if you could pay in advance using this Zeffy wherever possible. It will always be possible to pay on the door, but paying beforehand helps us to plan catering and organise events. Each individual event will have its own payment link.

Experimental art workshops

There are two art workshops in April, led by artist Gemma Moore with support from Jenny Ellerton. Everyone is welcome to join — please bring along any materials or paints you enjoy using, or simply come along and have a go. These are taster sessions and if they prove popular Gemma will run regular sessions through the year.

2 April, 10.30-12.30: Easter-themed collaborative drawings for all the family. Suitable for children aged 5+ and their parents/grandparents. £15 per family

13 April, 6-8pm: Exploring Still Life. £15 per person.

If you are able to help in any way, get involved, or would like more information about volunteering or hiring the hall, please get in touch with Jenny Ellerton on 07778 651905/jjellerton@gmail.com or Mike Hayward for bookings on 01568 760611/mikehayward1962@gmail.com.

EXPERIMENTAL ART WORKSHOPS

Launching 3 2 hour workshops!

EASTER themed collaborative drawing

2nd April, 10:30am-12:30pm



All welcome

Children 5 years+

Stoke Prior Village Hall

Please bring materials if you have them!

£15/family

Please call 44 7778 651905 if are interested in attending

The Pump Newsletter of the
group parishes of
Humber, Ford, &
Stoke Prior

Advertise Here

Contact: Tilda Swabey

0773 926 4495

advertisingpump@

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NEW RATES & NEW SIZE

1/8 page £10 / £50 year

1/4 page £15 / £75 year

1/2 page £20 / £150 year

Full page £40 / £400 year

Quiz Teaser Answers

1. Elizabeth Tower
2. 1973
3. English Civil War
4. Jessica Ennis-Hill
5. New Zealand

EXPERIMENTAL ART WORKSHOPS

Launching 3 2 hour workshops!

Exploring Still Life

13th April, 2026, 6pm-8pm



All welcome

Stoke Prior Village Hall

Please bring materials if you have them!

£15/person

Please call 44 7778 651905
if are interested in attending!

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust: Giving a helping hand at Leominster cemetery

The weather was kind to us that Sunday morning in late February as members of the Leominster Area branch of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust met at Leominster Cemetery. The goal — to put up eight bird boxes. We had previously selected trees which were close to shrubbery (providing hiding places and food sources for the birds) and away from paths to minimise any problems from bird droppings. We are very grateful to Weobley High School for making these sturdy boxes which we hope will soon be occupied.

Much of the ground was carpeted in primroses but we noted that there were only a few clumps of snowdrops at the far side of the cemetery. We will try to add some more of these early flowers and we earmarked a sunny bank near the road for crocus naturalisation. This should encourage more insects for the nesting birds as well as providing extra spring beauty for people visiting.

For those of you interested in birds, we are organising a guided walk around Bodenham Lakes on 12th April at 10am. Spaces will be limited so please book using our email:

leominsterbranch@herefordshirewt.co.uk

Priority will be given to members of the Wildlife Trust and parking charges will apply.

By Diana Emes
Communications Secretary



Humber Ford & Stoke Prior Group

Parish Council Notes

14 March 2026

I'm able to report considerable progress on drainage work. Just as well — the closing date for grant payments from Herefordshire Council is 31 March 2026! Following the considerable work carried out at Wheelbarrow Castle it looks like we may have solved most of the problems between Hollywall Croft and Sunnybank Farm and severe flooding could be a thing of the past. Apart from the “upside down” drainage pipe everything seems to be running well. Early in March, Herefordshire Council granted final consent for work to improve drainage at The Heath so our contractor – Graham Symonds from Stoke Prior – is working hard to do as much as possible before the deadline. We may not manage it but with luck will spend most of the grant before then. Any remaining work will be completed in April. The ditch east of Risbury on the C1110 around Holly Barn is clear and we are establishing if the crossroad drain from this ditch and passing under the C1110 near the 30mph limit signs operates as it should.

PROWs have not been forgotten with the lengthsman clearing routes on HU13 and SP2 with more work to follow as the weather improves. Additionally, Herefordshire Council has offered considerable funding to repair or replace bridges on HU1 and PG12.

A final piece of good news is drainage grant money will be allocated to Parishes much earlier in 2026 than previously. This enables us to get on with work during the summer rather than (as now) trying to cram everything into the last few months of the year.

There is one new planning application in Stoke Prior, 253172 — track northwest of Highfield Cottage. This is a modified application which aims to overcome problems with the original plan which was refused. There are no new applications for comment in Humber parish. There has been some movement on existing applications with the application 204437 at Old Hall, Stoke Prior (self build home) being withdrawn. At Humber 252813 for erecting an agricultural building for dry storage of manure has been approved with conditions.

By Allan Drew, Clerk to HFSP GPC



Alicia Vikander, Kit Harington, Taron Egerton, Colin Morgan, Emily Watson

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Testament Of Youth

Based on Vera Brittain's powerful memoir, Testament of Youth follows a young woman whose world is changed forever by the First World War. Torn between love, ambition, and unimaginable loss, her story is a moving portrait of resilience and hope.

**Stoke Prior Village
Hall**

HR6 0LG

**Friday
17 April**
7.30 pm

Tickets

Standard: £6.50
Under 18s: £3.50

Enquiries: 07850 030821

Optional supper served at 6.45pm prompt. Chilli & Baked Potato. £8.50 pp. Must be booked through the enquiries number and paid for in advance. Veggie option available.

**arts
alive**



Information and Tickets at www.artsalive.co.uk

**FLICKS
IN THE
STICKS**

Stoke Prior & District Women's Institute



Our members convened for our March meeting at Risbury Village Hall for our annual meeting. The president, Ann Crankshaw, confirmed we enjoyed another successful year with a varied programme of events and speakers. Sue Cleaver, our secretary, was thanked for her hard work and especially for all her fundraising. Our treasurer, Mrs Marilyn Lane, gave her financial support for the year ending 31 December 2025. We are keeping our heads above water, our funds having covered all expenses during the year enabling our W.I. to continue to thrive. Gill Harris, our vice president, hosts our committee meetings each month and she was thanked for her hospitality. The remaining committee members were thanked for their contribution.

We are pleased to give a warm welcome to four new members and another lady with dual membership. Joy Bravery will not renew her membership and has stepped down from the committee. We agreed to sign a card thanking her for her contribution to the W.I. over many years and will present her with some flowers. We presented a cup to Joan Tredwell for a flower arrangement competition and to Ann Crankshaw for a craft competition and another as overall competition winner.

Following business we turned our attention to browsing and looking at old photographs and archives while enjoying refreshments.

Our next meeting on Tuesday, 14 April at Risbury Village Hall at 2.30 pm will be a little more active as we welcome Sophie Atkinson who will demonstrate Mindful Movement – a little light exercise on our chairs!

Visitors are always welcome at any of our meetings at a cost of £5. Please contact Ann Crankshaw on 760447 or 07511 615713 or Sue Cleaver on 07875 268387 if you wish to join us or if you have any questions regarding the Institute.



Photos from the WI meeting



Restaurant Review: The Lamb

The Lamb re-opened its doors late last year under the ownership of Kieran Wyldes. A most welcome addition to the charm of Stoke Prior, this is the first time Mr Fussy and his stunning companion (SC) had visited for Sunday lunch.

The place was busy and the staff were efficiently buzzing around to keep everyone happy. From a very well stocked bar Mr F had a taste of the Wye Valley “special” ale and the SC a glass of very palatable house wine.

There was a good atmosphere with people sitting by the bar and around the fire. For a relatively small pub it didn't feel crowded and the tables are well spaced so you are not cramped for elbow room.

Mr F chose the roast lamb and the SC had a vegetarian main course. Both were served with all the expected trimmings and vegetables on the side plus a gravy jug. The portions were ample and the food delicious. The vegetables still had some bite and weren't overcooked as is so often the case elsewhere.

The question was did we have room for a pudding from the excellent choice? After a time we decided we did and chose the crumble and custard to share. It was very good and washed down with some decent coffee too.

Mr F and his SC would certainly recommend The Lamb for Sunday lunch and look forward to returning during the week for a lunchtime Ploughman's. The SC was also impressed by the ladies' facilities and hand towels on offer.

We hope The Lamb does well and attracts customers from a wide area. Well done to Kieron and all his team.

Staying Safe Online: Digital Scams

More of our daily life now happens online, from banking and shopping to keeping in touch with family and friends. The internet is a brilliant tool, but it's also an opportunity for criminals to contact you. Scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated, and they often look very convincing. Remember: anyone can be targeted. A few simple habits can greatly reduce the risk. Here are 3 common scams criminals might try:

Fake bank or delivery messages: You receive a text or email claiming there is a problem with your bank account or parcel delivery. The message urges you to click a link and act fast. These links often lead to fake websites designed to steal your details. A genuine bank never asks for passwords or full security information by email or text.

The family emergency scam: Someone may call or message pretending to be a grandchild or relative in urgent trouble, asking for money to be sent quickly and kept secret. These scams rely on panic and kindness. Always pause and verify by calling the person directly on a known number.

Investment or romance scams: Criminals build trust over weeks or months before asking for money, often suggesting a special investment opportunity. Be cautious of anyone encouraging secrecy or urgent transfers.

Five simple golden rules can help keep you safe:

- Do not click links in unexpected messages
- Never share passwords or security codes
- Be wary of urgency - scammers use this to create pressure
- Verify requests using a trusted phone number
- Speak to a family member or friend before sending money

Most online activity is perfectly safe. By slowing down, double-checking, and talking things through, we can protect ourselves and each another. If something feels wrong, it probably is — and it's always wise to pause and ask.

More information available at
stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk or scan this code —>



Tracing Family History

Part 9: School Records

Most of us remember our schooldays and the schools we went to – but do they remember us? Well, yes – schools kept detailed records of pupils. You will be mentioned in some of them. From 1862, all headteachers had to keep a log book, a daily record of events, issues etc. often mentioning pupils – especially the “problem” ones. Admission registers record the arrival and departure of pupils, their birthdates, addresses, fathers’ names, and which school they came from (or later moved to). Attendance registers record a child’s daily presence (or absence). Punishment books record when, why, and how a pupil was disciplined. School managers (later governors) kept minute books, recording policy, decisions etc.

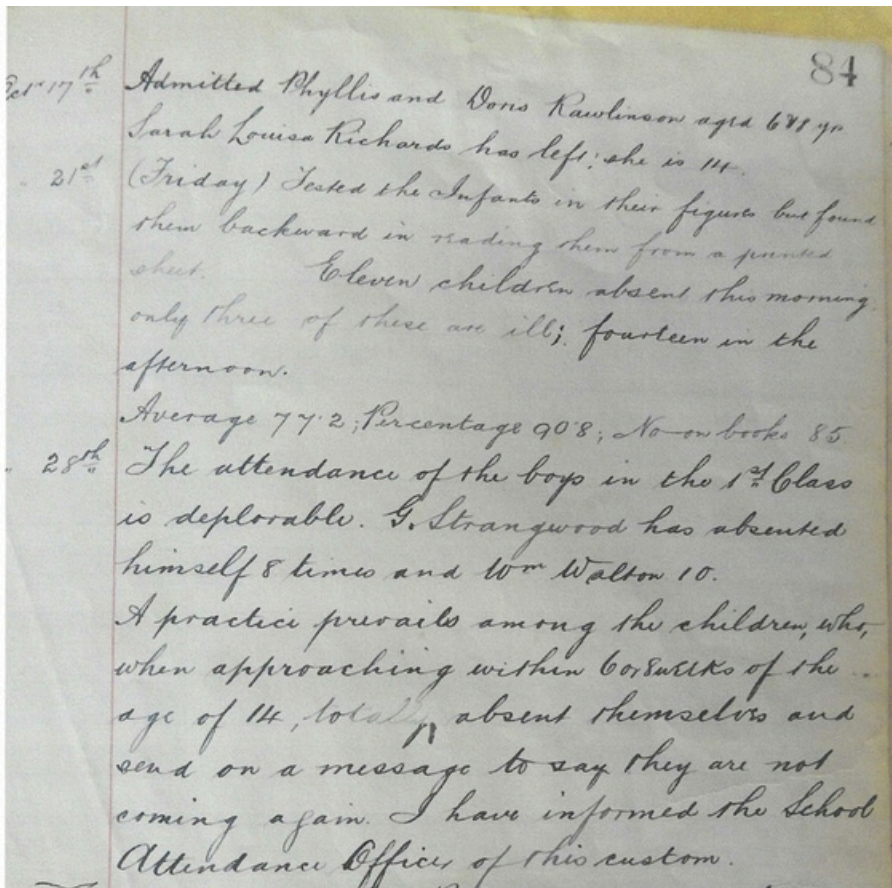
Some records remain in the school for the head’s reference but older ones are often deposited in the county record office at HARC. They are subject to a variety of closure periods, for confidentiality. Admission registers, for example, are closed for 100 years, like the census returns.

In earlier times, grammar schools educated more privileged children but few records survive. Dame schools, each run by a single woman, began in the 1830s, though their standards varied. Church schools – Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Nonconformist – increased as the 19th century wore on. Industrial schools trained children in skills that would help them find work. (Renamed Approved Schools in 1933.)

In 1833 a grant of £20,000 established denominational schools. From 1861 pupil teachers – bright children who were paid to train and work as teachers for five years – could gain a certificate. In 1857, Industrial Schools (or Reformatories) were set up to train delinquent children in a trade. The state became more involved in education from 1870 when an Education Act set up elementary schools for pupils from the age of five. Schooling became compulsory to the age of ten. It was free to the poor. The school leaving age was raised to 11 in 1893; to 12 in 1899; 14 in 1918; 15 in 1947; 16 in 1974.

In 1944, another Education Act created a three-tier system of grammar, technical and secondary modern schools, with an 11-plus exam to decide which school was appropriate to each child. From the 1970s, comprehensive schools were introduced to cater for all children.

Stoke Prior school was originally a two-classroom building heated by coal fires. A school was built in Risbury in 1875, at a cost of £500, with over sixty pupils. It closed after 1952 and pupils were transferred to Stoke Prior. Below is an extract from Stoke Prior school head's log book for 1910.

A photograph of a handwritten page from a log book, dated 1910. The page is numbered 84 in the top right corner. The text is written in cursive and includes several entries with dates and descriptions of school events and student behavior.

84

21st 17th Admitted Phyllis and Doris Rawlinson aged 6 & 7 yr
Sarah Louisa Richards has left; she is 11.

21st (Friday) Tested the Infants in their figures but found them backward in reading them from a printed sheet. Eleven children absent this morning only three of these are ill; fourteen in the afternoon.

Average 77.2; Percentage 90.8; No on books 85

28th The attendance of the boys in the 1st Class is deplorable. G. Strangwood has absented himself 8 times and Wm Walton 10.

A practice prevails among the children, who, when approaching within 60 yards of the age of 14, totally absent themselves and send on a message to say they are not coming again. I have informed the School Attendance Officer of this custom.

By John Hopkins, Stoke Prior

Emergency Plan

The parish has updated its Emergency Plan outlining how the local community will respond to an emergency, so we can be prepared and be more resilient to incidents such as flooding, extreme weather, or pandemic. A public version of the Plan is now available on the Parish Council's website:

www.hfspgroupparishcouncil.gov.uk/emergency-plan

The parishes are divided into small areas of 6-14 properties, each with an Emergency Warden. In an emergency, Herefordshire Council and the Parish Council may need to find out what's happening in an area, or get urgent information to all residents, which is where the area emergency wardens come in. We asked the wardens to give each household a proforma with their contact details, so everyone knows who their warden is. If you haven't had this within the next couple of weeks, you can contact the local co-ordinator (details below).

We do not have an Emergency Warden for the Normans Lane area in Stoke Prior (13 properties). If you could do this or have any questions about the role, please do contact us.

Lastly, the Plan also has details of local resources and expertise. If you have any expertise (e.g. first-aid training) or equipment (e.g. pumps, chainsaws, tractors) which could help the community in an emergency, please contact us. Details are not published, but used only by the Local Emergencies Team.

Philip Brown

Local Emergencies Co-ordinator

philipjbrown60@gmail.com

07939 122218

Cllr Hugh Fowler-Wright

Local Emergencies Co-ordinator
Chairman, Humber Ford & Stoke Prior Group
Parish Council

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St Mary's Church, Humber, News

Nature is waking up with new life and warmer fresh air — finally! It is amazing how fast the bulbs begin to poke up, leaves begin to shoot, and the garden furniture comes out. Spring has truly sprung and what a relief to count our blessings as we come to end of Lent. Easter is a good time to reflect with its theme of renewal, hope, and life, and is a powerful moment to reset. For almost 2,000 years, Christians have celebrated Easter at about this time. Easter Day is always the first Sunday after the full moon, on or following March 21.

On Easter Day, traditionally we give and receive eggs as a symbol of new life and a fresh start. Easter brings many traditions:

- Hot cross buns and fish on Good Friday (not usually together!)
- Easter bonnet parades
- Easter egg hunts

But not all traditions involve bunnies and chocolate. In some areas, locals carry flaming barrels through the streets to ward off evil spirits. My favourite tradition is probably hot cross buns on Good Friday, home made or fresh from a bakery, but once they were banned in England. In the 1500s, people believed they had magical powers (which to be fair I kind of do — because I can't stop eating them!). Queen Elizabeth I passed a law allowing hot cross buns to be eaten only on Good Friday, Christmas, and funerals. Luckily for me, she was ignored and now I can eat them all over Easter weekend!

Have a very happy Easter and renewed hope for the future and enjoy feasting on all the Easter treats. The Easter Services are listed on the Church Rota. At Humber this month, following a lovely Palm Sunday Service, we return to our normal pattern.

Our next coffee morning at the Forbury Chapel in Church Street, Leominster is on Friday 10 April at 10am. Any contributions of cakes or savouries are always welcome. Do come along to sample the treats and coffee and have a chat. It would be nice to see you there if you are able to attend.

The Woodland Trust

What is phenology?

Phenology is the study of seasonal changes in plants and animals from year to year — when flowers bloom, insects emerge, or birds migrate — and how changes relate to weather and climate. By observing these markers, we gain valuable insight into how wildlife is responding to a changing environment.

Why Nature’s Calendar matters

Nature’s Calendar, run by the Woodland Trust, holds one of the longest-running biological datasets in the UK. With more than 2.9 million records dating back to 1736, this exceptional collection allows researchers to track long-term trends and understand how climate change affects the timing of natural events. Data is widely used by global researchers in postdoctoral and PhD research at institutions like Peking University and the University of British Columbia, as well as the Universities of Newcastle, Exeter, and Glasgow in the UK.

How you can get involved

We always want more volunteers to help record seasonal changes anywhere in the UK. You can find many species in your garden, local park, or daily walk — and we welcome records from UK-based holidays and trips. To ensure our dataset remains comparable and scientifically robust, we carefully select species and seasonal events — from the first leaf buds on hawthorn, beech, and blackthorn to the arrival of migrant birds and ripening blackberries. Our chosen species meet the following criteria:

- Recorded extensively in the past
- Respond strongly to seasonal temperature changes
- Common across the UK
- Widely recognised and well loved
- Found in both rural and urban environments

Would you like to take part?

If you’d like to become a recorder and help submit records, you’ll find full guidance on how to submit observations along with access to our species analysis map on the Nature’s Calendar website:

naturescalendar.woodlandtrust.org.uk

By Sarah Shaw,

Volunteering Journey Officer

boomerangline

426

Stoke Prior to Hereford

via Bodenham, Marden & Sutton St Nicholas



boomerang 426

Stoke Prior to Hereford via Risbury | Bodenham | Marden | Sutton St Nicholas

	Monday to Friday					SH	Saturdays				
Stoke Prior Old Village Pump	07:15	09:15	--	--	--	--	07:34	09:15	--	--	--
Risbury Bus Shelter	07:22	09:22	--	--	--	--	07:42	09:22	--	--	--
Bodenham Primary School	07:32	09:32	10:55	14:05	15:35	--	07:52	09:32	10:55	14:05	15:35
Bodenham Moor Orchard Close	07:37	09:37	11:00	14:10	15:40	--	07:57	09:37	11:00	14:10	15:40
Litmarsh The Vauld	07:42	09:42	11:05	14:15	15:45	--	08:02	09:42	11:05	14:15	15:45
Marden Brook Farm S&A	07:47	09:48	11:11	14:21	15:51	--	08:07	09:48	11:11	14:21	15:51
Marden Volunteer Pub	07:48	09:49	11:12	14:22	15:52	--	08:08	09:49	11:12	14:22	15:52
Sutton St Nicholas Golden Cross	07:58	09:58	11:21	14:31	16:01	--	08:18	09:58	11:21	14:31	16:01
Hereford Shire Hall	08:20	10:12	11:35	14:45	16:15	--	08:35	10:12	11:35	14:45	16:15

boomerang 426

Hereford to Stoke Prior via Sutton St Nicholas | Marden | Bodenham | Risbury

	Mon-Fri		SH	Sch	Mon-Fri		Saturdays			
Hereford Shire Hall, Stand 1	10:20	13:00	15:00	15:10	16:30	18:00	10:20	13:00	15:00	17:00
Sutton St Nicholas Golden Cross	10:33	13:13	15:13	15:33	16:43	18:13	10:33	13:13	15:13	17:13
Marden Volunteer Pub	10:42	13:22	15:22	15:42	16:52	18:22	10:42	13:22	15:22	17:22
Marden Brook Farm S&A	10:43	13:23	15:23	15:43	16:53	18:23	10:43	13:23	15:23	17:23
Litmarsh Vauld Turn	10:46	13:26	15:26	15:46	16:56	18:26	10:46	13:26	15:26	17:26
Litmarsh The Vauld	11:05	13:29	15:45	15:49	16:59	18:29	11:05	13:29	15:45	17:29
Bodenham Moor Orchard Close	11:00	13:34	15:40	15:54	17:04	18:34	11:00	13:34	15:40	17:34
Bodenham Primary School	10:51	13:40	15:31	15:59	17:09	18:40	10:51	13:40	15:31	17:40
Risbury Bus Shelter	--	13:50	--	--	--	18:50	--	13:50	--	17:50
Stoke Prior Old Village Pump	--	13:57	--	--	--	18:57	--	13:57	--	17:57

Times in yellow are served in a different order. Check intermediate times carefully.

Journey in grey operate on schooldays only

Journeys in green operate during school holidays only



Spotted: Ariana Grandegg went exploring. She considers her life choices from inside the neighbour's garage. Verdict: she has learned nothing.



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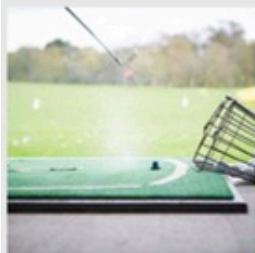
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Community Week: Margaret Brown, 01885 400696, migsbrown49@gmail.com

Humber Church Warden: Jane Morris 760486, Joan Lloyd 760685

Risbury Village Hall: Secretary Gene Clark 797365

Risbury Village Hall Bookings: Kate Aspinwall 07815 699957, katyaspinwall@gmail.com

Stoke Prior & Ford Church Wardens: Cheryl Poole 614545 Sue Hawkins 07808 068643

Deputy: Molly Firth 760291

Stoke Prior School Administrator: Anne Dawson 760207

Stoke Prior Village Hall Bookings: Mike Hayward 760611, mikehayward1962@gmail.com

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Parish WhatsApp Group: Contact Cath on 07780 448715 or Jayne on 07788 296337 to join

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We'd love to hear from you! Please send us any photos of the parish you think people may be interested in. And if you have stories, articles, or snippets of information you'd like to share with the community, contact Vicky: editorpump@hfspgroupparishcouncil.gov.uk.

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Deadline for submissions and ads: April 14, 2026