



# Willoughby Monthly

February 2025

Website: [www.willoughbyweb.net](http://www.willoughbyweb.net)

Facebook group: [Willoughby Monthly](#)

Volume 18



Welcome to February's WM. As you are probably all aware by now, there has been some confusion concerning the future of St. Nicholas' community events and other matters, so I hope this month's WM will bring some clarity. I would like to mention that, as Editor, I try to remain impartial and include what I am asked to, within reason. Enquiries should be made with the individuals/organisations who submitted the piece, not to me, as they are best placed to address any concerns. My job is merely to collate the submissions and ensure it all fits into the newsletter in a - hopefully - coherent manner; I do not personally write any of the articles. Moving forward, articles will have to have a named author to avoid misunderstanding and to be a point of contact.

In other news we should soon start to see lighter evenings and it has cheered me up no end seeing all the spring bulbs begin to make their appearance in the garden. I am also delighted to see a pop up pub and quiz on this month's calendar - let's hope it is well supported - count me in! Hannah

Date	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
01-Feb-25	7.30pm	Willoughby Society	Live Music - 'Old Spot'	Village Hall
04-Feb-25	7pm	Parish Council	Meeting	Village Hall
07-Feb-25	10.30-12.30	Community	Pop Up Café	Village Hall
09-Feb-25	11am	St. Nicholas	Allsorts Service	Church
13-Feb-25	2.30pm	Thursday Club	Tracy Evans - Myton Hospice	Village Hall
15-Feb-25	12-2pm	St. Nicholas	Soup & Social	Village Hall
20-Feb-25	12.30pm	Thursday Club	Pub Lunch - Ashby St. Ledgers	Old Coach House
20-Feb-25	7.30pm	W.I.	Kurling	Village Hall
21-Feb-25	7.30pm	Willoughby Society	Pop Up Pub & Quiz	Village Hall
23-Feb-25	11am	St. Nicholas	Holy Communion	Church

## Village Hall - Joss Ray



Congratulations to our January 100 Club Winners  
1st - Hannah Gowney-Hedges 2nd - Ed Beech



## Parish Council - Maggie Beech

Since 2008, the newsletter has been an important way of communicating information to residents in Willoughby. It is arguably the most important way, as every household receives a copy each month. In September 2008, Richard Jackson compiled and printed the very first edition and continued to do so for many years. His unfailing commitment to publishing information provided by village organisations and individuals created the successful dissemination of monthly news that we still enjoy today. In October 2022, Richard handed over the baton to Hannah Gowney-Hedges who has brought her own successful take to the newsletter and continues to ensure that we all have the opportunity to find out what is happening in Willoughby. The Parish Council would like to thank both Richard (somewhat belatedly) and Hannah for all their work each month and also the distributors who go out in all weathers to ensure residents are kept informed. The Parish Council would also like to thank the Willoughby Charities for sharing the running costs of the newsletter.

Another person we would particularly like to thank is Bert Ogle. Bert has been the Chair of FLAG since the first meeting in February 2023. His almost encyclopaedic knowledge of all matters related to flooding, in and around Willoughby, has provided the key information required by the group to significantly and successfully improve the flooding situation.



**Next Parish Council Meeting** - There are only two councillors available for the meeting on 11 February 2025 so the date has been changed to 4 February 2025. You are very welcome to come to the meeting.

## Willoughby Society - Leonie Tromans

**Music Event** - Our first music event of the year is being held as these newsletters are being delivered on the 1st February when we are being joined by a duo called 'Old Spot' who will bring Appalachian music to Willoughby with their five stringed banjo and fiddle amongst other instruments. It may not be too late to join us on the night. Tickets £15 on the door, 7.30 start.

**Pop up Pub and Quiz** - As the pub is still closed we will be running a 'Pop up pub' and quiz on Friday 21st February. Doors will open at 7.30pm. We will be serving bowls of chips for £2.50 on the night. Expect a fun evening with questions ranging from Food and Drink to History. If you don't fancy joining the quiz teams, why not just come along for a natter with friends.



**Visit** - We are organising two subsidised visits for members this year, the first of which will be on Saturday 1st March, when we will be organising a DACT bus to take us to visit Hidcote National Trust gardens. This is a beautiful set of gardens and there are two cafes for those that would like refreshments. Pick up for members using the bus will be at 10.30am outside the village hall. If you would like to join the bus for the visit please advise Val Taylor so your name can be added to the list on a first come first served basis.

**Second Music Event** - Our second Live and Local music event is on Saturday 22nd March from 7.30pm when we will be joined by 'Serena Smith and Friends' for a unique blend of traditional and modern English, Irish and Scottish folk. The four piece Celtic fusion band promise to deliver unforgettable music and lively ceilidh dancing. We will be running a bar on the night, tickets are £15 and available from Leonie Tromans, [secretaryengxiii@aol.com](mailto:secretaryengxiii@aol.com) or any member of the committee.

# St Nicholas Church - Rev. Price

## 2025 Plans

We're very close to being able to share plans for the whole of 2025, but we have a few things to finalise before we can reveal everything. Whilst I'd love to share all of the details for everything now, I'll have to settle for sharing a few teasers.

I'm really happy to confirm that:

- Our Children's choir will continue to meet and sing both in Church and in the wider community across the whole year
- We'll be holding a number of family friendly activities (which will include crafts) across the year
- In June we'll be holding a Community Flower and Country event



And of course, our Sunday services will continue during which we'll be marking all the annual festivals that the Willoughby community enjoys coming together to celebrate in Church. There's lots of other things that I haven't mentioned which we will announce in due course, along with dates and more information about the things highlighted above

**Window Update** - You may have heard our announcement at Soup and Social or read on our Social Media posts that the new stained-glass window is no longer going ahead. There are a few reasons this decision has been made. A key factor is that, at this moment in time, we don't feel the Church has the capacity to raise the £21,000 required for this project. We are offering to return any money that has been donated specifically towards the window, but hope that some people who have donated towards the window would be willing to allow us to use the money that they donated towards the installation of a timer on the church door instead. This timer would allow us to open the church every day during daylight hours for the community to come in and make use of the building. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to directly approach everyone who has donated towards the window. If you made a donation towards the window and you are not happy to have the money used in this way please get in contact with Rev Phil [revphilprice@outlook.com](mailto:revphilprice@outlook.com) who will be happy to arrange for your money to be returned to you. If you could you make contact before February 28th as that would be really appreciated.

To be clear, I did not write the back page article in the previous WM. St Nicholas' remains committed to serving the local community here in Willoughby through a variety of community events. I am always very happy to talk to people who have questions about anything surrounding Church. You may find that if you contact me directly I can allay your fears. God bless, Rev. Phil



## W.I. - Lorraine Geddes

Thursday 20 February – Kurling with Dunchurch WI – Village Hall 7.30pm.

The WI are knitting blankets for the elderly and would welcome donations of any odd balls of wool you may have. Please contact Lorraine 01788 890846

# Friends of Willoughby - Sue Waddington

## Going forward as Friends of Willoughby

Further to our previous notification in the January Willoughby Monthly, we would like to thank members of the community for their support, we know many of you were disappointed to hear that certain community-based events were not going to be run. In our role as members of St Nicholas Church PCC we applied for and completed a successful National Heritage Lottery bid which we hope has secured the safety and future of our church for generations to come.

The time has now come for new beginnings and adventures. Over the years we have enjoyed running and participating in many community-based activities meeting old friends and new. Although we have now stood down from the PCC and wish the new members well, we (Sue Waddington, Val Baxter, and Karen Nichols) have after careful consideration decided to carry on supporting our local community by continuing to run our community-based events i.e. Craft Fairs, Children's Craft events, Fashion Show, Halloween, Santa Trail etc., raising funds for the benefit of local groups within our community.

We can confirm our first event will be a Craft Fair in the village hall on Saturday 15th March 11.30am till 3.00 pm further information to follow These events will be separate to events already being run by other organisations within the village and we will help out with other events where we can.



Any queries please contact us at [friendsofwilloughby@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwilloughby@gmail.com)

Friends of Willoughby Village. Sue, Val and Karen

## Popmo – Lorraine Geddes

Popmo is a dance style, keep fit to music, Monday afternoons 2.30 – 3.30 Willoughby Village Hall for more information call Lorraine on 01788 890846 or just come along and give it a go - £5 per class



## Pop Up Café - Rachel Settle

Our next pop up café will be on Friday 7th February 10:30 - 12:30. We look forward to seeing you!



## Thursday Club - Jim Rowley

13 February, 2.30pm Village Hall: Tracy Evans - Myton Day Hospice

20 February, 12.30pm Pub Lunch at the Old Coach House, Ashby St Ledgers

New members welcome - just ask the Secretary, Jim Rowley 01788 891 805

Police and PCSO Police Community Support Officer - PCSO David Banks, PC Rebecca Bailey. The team have an e-mail address: [rrs.snt@warwickshire.police.uk](mailto:rrs.snt@warwickshire.police.uk) If you wish to report a crime please report it via the Warwickshire Police website or phone 101. Obviously, in an emergency please dial 999.

The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. Send them to me at [thewilloughbymonthly@gmail.com](mailto:thewilloughbymonthly@gmail.com), Tel: 01788315893. Thanks, Hannah.