

January
2021

Betley



PARISH NEWS

All profits go towards the maintenance of the churchyard.

60p

St Margaret's Church
Celebrating, sharing and growing in God's love



Officers of the Parish Church of St Margaret's, Betley

VICAR OF BETLEY AND OF MADELEY

Vacancy

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01270 820043

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Mr. Kevin Hamer,

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Please email all items by the 15th of the
preceding month to **BetleyParishMag@gmail.com**



A MESSAGE FROM REVD. ALAN BAILEY

"HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

- those words flow so easily off the tongue, but should we exercise more caution this year before we extend this greeting? Would it be insensitive to offer this greeting to the seventy thousand families in our nation alone who have lost loved ones to the coronavirus? Or to the many more who have suffered with the virus and are now on the slow road to recovery, some in our own community?

2020 was a year of change in many ways, from the global effect of the pandemic restrictions to the changes in our own churches here in Betley and Madeley with Revd. Peter's departure. 2021 does bring us hope of new beginnings - from a local level in our churches as we warmly welcome our new vicar Revd. Tim Watson and his family, to the global hope given by the rolling out of the vaccines.

But can two small, insignificant injections in the arm really impact our lives today? Can they deliver us from the uncertainty and fear that this virus has generated? Can they remove our isolation from our families and friends and the disruption in our communities, workplaces and schools? We trust that they can - and will!

We are in the Christmas season and have celebrated once again the good news of the birth of Jesus. But can the birth of a baby two thousand years ago in an insignificant village

in the Middle East really impact our lives today? We trust that it can - and will!

Christmas tells us that, in Jesus, God entered our world and lived our life; that He knows our joys and sorrows, laughs with us in the good times and carries us through the bad times.

'Emmanuel' means 'God is with us'. 2020 had its darkest moments, but many will testify to the hope that was felt by the situation bringing out the best in people - 'Emmanuel - God is with us.'

Words from John Newton's hymn, 'Amazing Grace' seem most appropriate as we enter this new year:

*Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come.
'Twas grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace shall lead me home.*

I am sure that when you read this, you will have made several New Year resolutions - and already broken most of them! Can I suggest that we make just **one** resolution, and make every effort to keep it - "Trust Jesus" - then we **can** sincerely extend the greeting ...

"HAPPY NEW YEAR"

Every blessing,

Alan

IN THIS MONTH'S BETLEY PARISH NEWS ...

Welcome to the January 2021 issue. The year turns, and if there's one thing we can learn from 2020 it's that we really don't know what's around the corner, e.g. this magazine (and probably the February edition) will be online — not what we expected as we put it together last week.

However, Covid-19 and everything else permitting, we look forward to welcoming Revd. Tim Watson as our new vicar. He will formally take up the role on 24 January 2021 (online service details are still being finalised).

As well as the usual round up of parish news, there are two special articles to look out for in this month's edition. On page 16 there is news of the commemoration of the centenary of the Minnie Pit disaster, and on page 20 information about the Betley Trust, a longstanding charity for the benefit of the people of Betley Balterley and Wrinehill.

Finally we would like to thank advertisers old and new who have taken spaces in the back pages for 2021; their support makes a big difference to the magazine's finances. Please consider using their services when you need them – and do mention that you saw them in the Betley Parish News!

The Editors

Christmas Flowers in St Margaret's Church

This time last year, we'd had all the planning, joy and excitement of getting the team together to arrange the flowers in church for Christmas 2019!

As we all know, in 2020 we had to do things very differently, or even not at all! But YES we can do 'differently' was the decision and so here we are, having done Harvest on the outside of church and now Christmas as usual, but done socially distanced, and sadly without our usual lovely team of 'flower fairies', we really missed you all! We do hope everyone enjoyed seeing the church decorated for Christmas once more, whether in person or on Zoom!

We would like to thank Dennis Morris and David Kennerley, for their unfailing support with flowers and harvest materials. Wonderful! And to Nigel Brown: thanks for cheerfully allowing us to pick holly from the grounds of Betley Court!

Many thanks also for the kind donations to the flower fund and we will look forward to hopefully being together as a full team *this* year! With our love and best wishes for a safe and peaceful 2021,

Di, Sue and Jean



ST MARGARET'S BETLEY... SERVICES IN JANUARY

7 January 2021

After much deliberation, we have come to the conclusion that we need to suspend all services in church for the time being.

We know this is hard for several of our number who aren't able to join online worship, but we feel that this is the best way to keep everyone safe in the light of the threat of the new Covid-19 variant, and to reinforce the need for all of us to stay home and stay safe.

We will **continue our weekly Sunday service online at 11am** at www.tiny.cc/BetleyMadeley (see page 7 for details). If you don't have Zoom, you can still join by using this link:

www.tiny.cc/BetleyMadeley2, which will enable you to watch the service with just a few clicks.

Particularly at this time, please do feel free to ring anyone in our ministry teams for a chat.

Blessings,

John Beswick Pallister (Curate)

Kevin Hamer

Jennifer Walton

(Churchwardens)

St. Margaret's continues to be **open for individual private prayer**
between 9.00am and 5.00pm daily
You are welcome to enter but please
follow the guidelines posted on the church door
and close the door when you leave.

**Institution of Revd. Tim Watson
as vicar of Betley and of Madeley
Sunday 24 January 2021 at 2pm**

This will be an online service and details will be
made available nearer the time.

**Best Wishes for a Happy
and Healthy New Year
from all in**



BETLEY READING ROOM

Why not Zoom into the Reading Room
on Monday, Thursday or Saturday
between 11.00 and 11.40am.

Just enter the Meeting ID: 775 2111 3022
and Passcode: coffee



***Your 50kg in December brings up a total of
1363 kgs in 2020!***

***That's getting on for 3000 meals!
An outstanding contribution from Betley
to help those in real need.***

In January any non-perishable food is welcome

Collection boxes in the porches of the Reading Room and the Church are frequently monitored.

Your contributions are secured and safely transferred to the warehouse.

More information is available from

www.newcastlestiffs.foodbank.org.uk

Kevin Hamer 820704



WORSHIP ONLINE DURING JANUARY

The following services will be on Zoom. Everyone welcome.

You will need a password to join. Please sign up to our mailing list at www.tiny.cc/weeklymail to receive this, or contact John or one of the churchwardens.

Sunday 3rd January Epiphany	11:00am	Service of the Word
Sunday 10th January 1 st Sunday of Epiphany Baptism of Christ	11:00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th January 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	11:00am	Service of the Word
Sunday 24th January 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	11:00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 31st January 4 th Sunday of Epiphany	11:00am	Service of the Word

Christmas 2020...Despite the difficulties of marking Christmas this year, the birth of the Christ child has been truly celebrated in a wide variety of ways throughout the village. Very many people were involved in our presentation and celebration of Christmas at all events and services, and we wish to thank every one of them for their special contribution and their teamwork.

Wishing you every blessing in 2021

Revd. John Beswick Pallister (Curate)
Jennifer Walton and Kevin Hamer (Churchwardens)

Ron Pearce

Chris, Helen and family would like to thank everyone for the many cards, flowers and telephone calls that we received after Ron passed away. We were completely overwhelmed, especially with the number of people who stood in the village to pay their last respects to Ron.

Once again thank you for your friendship and support.

Helen Burt

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

A Review of the Christmas Lights

For obvious reasons it was impossible to have the usual Christmas lighting event this year. The Parish Council's alternative approach, with the arrival of the Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill herd of deer along with two sheep, together with lighting across the shrubbery met with approval. There have been numerous favourable comments about the display, many of which have appeared on the community Facebook page; therefore, we will look to maintain this 'tradition' next year as the six animals are owned by the Parish Council.. This year, the animals will be removed from the Memorial Garden soon after Twelfth night but the lights in the trees and bushes to the rear of the garden will remain illuminated to brighten up January and February. Whilst the continuation of the lights will not keep Covid away, they will, we hope, engender an enhanced sense of wellbeing and brighten up an otherwise dismal time. I know we are all hoping for normality by Christmas 2021, which would be Good, if not Excellent News!

With the restrictions on other events and travel it was nice to see families with youngsters visiting the Memorial Garden to see the display; particularly on their way to and from school.

Our thanks are due to the team of helpers (including councillors and other residents) who helped to set up the display, an activity which had to be carefully planned to comply with social distancing and other safety requirements. Thanks are due to Graham Ecclestone (The Swan), who sponsored the tinsel and to Liam Shepherd (07894 227107), our electrician who tested the lights once they had been put up to ensure the installation was safe.

New Year - and New Hope?

Very few will regret seeing the back of 2020 and we can look forward to the New Year with even greater optimism than usual. With vaccination now underway and starting quite correctly with the most vulnerable in our community there is a real hope that 2021 will finally see Covid-19 being brought under some sort of control, and that we can gradually see the reopening and resumption of facilities and activities. However, as this article goes to press the Prime Minister has just announced a third national lockdown so until mid-February at least we must all follow the tightened rules until the vaccine programme begins to take effect.

**It remains vital that we all continue
to follow health guidelines:**

Stay at home, you must not leave home unless necessary;

Maintain 2 metres distance from anyone not in your bubble;

Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly (or use hand sanitiser);

Wear face coverings where appropriate or required.

If you have symptoms you should arrange a test as soon as possible either via the website www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by phone on 119. We know that the system has been working well locally with same-day testing



and results within 24 hours. *While you are awaiting your test appointment or the test results you must self-isolate, and clearly if you have a positive test result you and your household must self-isolate for the necessary period.*

As we go to print, though this may change, community testing is also available for any Staffordshire residents without symptoms by contacting staffordshire.zipporah.co.uk/TrackAndTrace but please note this must *not* be used if you have any symptoms. Our community has always had a reputation for looking after each other and by taking these measures we can protect each other's health. **Above all follow the Government guidelines.**

Neighbourhood Plan

The consultation on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan closed at the end of November and the Working Group is very grateful to all those who responded with comments and suggestions. These will be considered, along with comments by various statutory bodies, any appropriate revisions will be made, and the Plan will then be handed to Newcastle Borough Council for independent review.

Many issues were raised by residents but there were two themes in particular which require some explanation.

Firstly, a number of residents were concerned that the Plan seemed to concentrate on Betley with less mention of the other constituent parts of our area. There is certainly no conspiracy against Wrinehill or Balterley! It is simply that the Neighbourhood Plan is intended to control development, to protect our area against inappropriate development and to protect our important local facilities and services. Most of our facilities are centred on Betley (the school, the shop, the church) and it is the area most likely to be affected by development proposals. Outside what is called the 'village envelope' of Betley development is already restricted by Green Belt policies.

Secondly, there is a clear concern about the condition of local roads and, in particular, pavements as well as broader highway issues. Technically these are not planning issues but the Working Group felt they were so important to the community that they should be included as areas in which the Parish Council would do all it could to press for action. (The responsibility for highways lies with Staffordshire County Council and the Parish Council continues to press them to give a higher priority to our area - but see below for news on pavements.)

The Neighbourhood Plan has involved a huge amount of work and the Parish Council, and the wider community, owes a debt of gratitude to the small group of local residents who have worked so hard to bring it to this stage. They would not wish to be listed, but we thank them.

Pavement work

The condition of pavements across much of our area has been a concern for a long time and the Parish Council has taken the matter up with the County Council on many occasions. Repair work can only be carried out by Staffordshire, but the Parish Council has on occasion employed contractors

to clear away undergrowth encroaching onto the pavement in order to make it easier to use. A further programme of work is currently being drawn up and significant works will be carried out early in 2021 commissioned by the Parish Council.

Speed monitoring

The series of speed monitoring devices along the A531 have proved to be effective in moderating traffic speed to a noticeable degree. As well as the immediate warning that they flash up they also record data on traffic levels and speed. The Parish Council will now be downloading that data in order to identify any specific locations and/or times where there is a particular issue. This information can then be used to ask for police support to crack down on the minority of road users who are flouting the speed limit.

Memorial Garden

Volunteers have now made a start on improving the Memorial Garden by clearing vegetation from the notice board to the seat. Thanks are due to Frank Speed, who removed and disposed of the cleared debris. During the spring the odd branches and cuttings from the work last month will be removed and the rose garden, which was a feature in the area by the noticeboard some 30 years ago, will be replanted: a start was made by Luke Rimmer in September. Next November the area between the seat and The Hollies will be improved, which will also enable the lights to be displayed behind and through the bushes, as was done in the area from the notice board to the seat. Part of the problem with the rear area is that the shrubs and bushes had grown one into another: the Buddleia was a serious entry for The Guinness Book of Records with its 4-6" diameter stems! The area behind the war memorial stone will be planted with poppies.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 28th January**. Again it will be a "virtual" meeting on Zoom. There is a fairly straightforward way for any interested residents to view the meeting, and to raise any matters during the Public Participation part of the meeting. For details of how to view the meeting or on any other matter relating to the Council please contact the Clerk. Details of all meetings are posted on local noticeboards and on the Council's website. Go to www.hugofox.com/community and enter Betley, Balterley or Wrinehill.

Gwyn Griffiths

Clerk

griffiths725@btinternet.com

01270 663832

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Simon White

Simon.white@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

Tel 07561 340 899

Cllr Gary White

Gary.white@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

Tel 07834 090 747



Christmas lights display at the Betley Memorial Garden

BETLEY AND WRINEHILL W.I.



WI membership booklets are in my house. If anyone wishes to collect one, please feel free.

Pam Clarke (01270 820039)

SIMPLE CONVERSATIONS ON FOOD

Next meeting: **Thursday 14th January at 2pm** (on Zoom)

Topic: *What to do with marmalade, other than putting it on toast!*

Contact Jo, as below, for details.

Jo Thomas

Thomas.Johanne@gmail.com

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH - HOW TO ARRANGE...

Baptisms - Please contact the Parish Office 01782 750205.

Confirmations - Adults and young people who would like to prepare to begin receiving communion are encouraged to speak to one of the clergy about being confirmed.

Weddings - Please contact the Parish Office 01782 750205.

Funerals - Arrangements are made through the funeral director

Visiting - Please let the clergy know of anyone who is ill and who would appreciate a call.

READING ZOOM TASTERS

Short Talks For Everyone

Zoom in with Meeting ID: 899 2027 8608 (no passcode required)

Saturday 23rd January at 11.00am



Saturday 13th February at 11.00am

**Who do
I think
I am?**

**Presented by
Jo Thomas**



CHURCH FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Praise and Play

The toddler group is online-only which is certainly better than *not* meeting! Please see our Facebook page for news.

Early Birds/Kids' Church

On Sunday mornings there's *Kids' Church* which you can join online and do at home.

School assemblies

School assemblies will be recorded videos until it is safe to meet again.

Youth Group

Our youth group will continue on Zoom for the time being. Please pass on the message about this group, and let John know of anyone who might like to join. **The Youth Group will be meeting on 10th and 24th January**

For information about any of these activities, contact John, as below.

Rev John Beswick Pallister

johnbpallister@gmail.com (07428 342808)



BETLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christmas in school

In November, we told our parents that their children would still have the magic of Christmas in school even through this pandemic and we were true to our word. The children have enjoyed:

- ◆ Decorating the tree in Church and creating a Christmas Tree Video
- ◆ Our infants took part in two fabulous Nativities 'Hosanna Rock' and 'Breaking News in Bethlehem'
- ◆ A visit from Father Christmas who bought our children a Selection Box
- ◆ Naughty elves in each room performing daily mischief
- ◆ Watched an online Panto 'Cinderella' (Oh yes we did!)



I am so proud to be the Headteacher at Betley CE Primary School and see the commitment that the staff and parents have in creating a wonderful school. Thank you. If you would like to view our Nativities or our Christmas Tree Service, you can find all of these on the link below:

<https://betley-ce-primary-school.primarysite.media/playlist/christmas-2020>

Fabulous Flamingos (Year 1 and 2)

This year Fabulous Flamingos have worked their little socks off to get back into the swing of things at Betley Primary School. They have adapted to many little changes and showcased their full potential in all they have accomplished this term. Since September our topic has been learning all about ourselves and the UK. We discovered what makes us unique and how each one of us is different to the next person. We looked at people from all over the world to help us understand more about ourselves. Whilst learning about the UK and where we live, the children have loved exploring



Follow us on Facebook!

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Betley and going on adventures in and around our school. When the weather was a little warmer, we headed out to the village green to complete a traffic survey of all the different vehicles that passed.

Towards the final part of our Autumn term the children have been preparing for one of our favourite times of the year, Christmas! We have kept the spirit alive in Class 2 and taken part in numerous Christmas activities including a disco, movie night and our fabulous Nativity. The children worked hard on practising their parts and learning their lines. We definitely have many budding actors and actresses in this class with lots of children taking their parts of being a news reporter very seriously. The costumes were amazing so a massive thank you to our wonderful parents who provided them - it really helped the children feel the part and they looked fabulous on camera.



PIC-COLLAGE

School Admission - Reception 2021

If your child's fifth birthday is between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 it's time to apply for school. Reception applications are now open! We would love you to join our school. Please follow the link to make an application. <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/.../Apply/Overview.aspx>

We have also created a Betley Tour video. Have a look at what we offer:
<https://betley-ce-primary-school.primarysite.media/playlist/reception-admissions-2021-tour>

Sam Ray

Executive Headteacher
www.betley.staffs.sch.uk



REMEMBERING THE MINNIE PIT DISASTER

January 12th 1918 was a bleak day in North Staffordshire. At the Minnie Pit, Halmer End, an underground explosion of firedamp resulted in 156 deaths. The disaster, one of the worst in wartime mining history, devastated the local community, whose grief was only compounded by the continuing war and the imminent Spanish flu pandemic.



a mining family, and began to install a grove of native trees, wild cherry, rowan, silver birch etc. plus a hedge consisting of hawthorn, dogwood and dogrose.

A particularly poignant moment was when David, the husband of one of our members, planted a rowan in memory of his grandfather Henry Leslie Eden, (pictured) who, at the age of 23 had just recently returned, injured, from war service, only to die in the Minnie Pit. Henry's daughter, Joyce, was only three weeks old at the time so grew up without knowing her father but knowing well his story. When she became mother of David, the story of 'Grandpa' was passed on, like so many others in this afflicted village where memories are kept alive.

The original entrance of the Minnie Pit is now a World Heritage Site, and where the trees are planted has been prepared to enable visitors to spend time in contemplation. There is a small car park with a new path leading to a miniature headstick (the winding mechanism at a pit head). On the headstick

Shortly after the centenary, the Minnie Pit Centenary Steering Group decided to plant trees at the site, one for each of the 111 men and 44 boys under 16 years of age who lost their lives and one for a rescuer who died whilst trying to reach possible survivors.

Members of Madeley & District U3A tree planting group helped with the planting at the event on 12th August. We were joined by Baroness Llin Golding, herself from





Follow us on Facebook!

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is a plaque listing the names of the 156 who lost their lives, and on either side a life size powder-coated steel figure of a miner. These figures were part of the Bielby's winning Radio Stoke 2019 Garden Design Competition that was built at Chatsworth for last year's RHS flower show. The garden was called "An Imagined Miners Garden" set around the time of the disaster.



There are also sponsored benches, representative coal wagons and a large stone memorial on the site off Red Hall Lane, Halmer End. The mine entrance has been capped and there are plans for local schools to design pictures to be displayed here in the near future.

Chris Wright

Madeley & District U3A is an independent charity run by volunteers to serve the communities of Madeley, Betley, Keele, Whitmore, Baldwins Gate, Woore, Onneley and the surrounding area. It provides a wide range of activities and interest groups. These mainly take place on weekdays during daylight hours, and adults of any age are welcome, with the motto 'learn, laugh, live'. Many of the outdoor activities have continued during the lockdown, while other groups meet via Zoom. For details see <https://madeleydistrictu3a.wordpress.com>.

The tree planting group will be glad to hear from anyone who would like to join us or to suggest possible sites for planting. For further information please contact the group co-ordinator, Ruth Eagle [01782 750917](tel:01782750917) or email ruthefgh@gmail.com

Sanctus, St Mark's Supporting Asylum Seekers and Refugees



Sanitary products and toiletries can be deemed a luxury that is unaffordable for many. Sanctus relies on the generosity of supporters to collect these items for them, through collection boxes in local churches.

St Margaret's is one such church. If you would like to donate, please leave your contribution in the church porch.

www.sanctusstmarks.co.uk

BETLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Sitting here re-reading the December Parish News (on 15th December) which is full of Christmas news of reindeer on the Memorial Garden, Christmas Services, Christmas Poetry Reading, a Christingle Trail, a Christmas Recipe and Christmas Quizzes, I am thinking that they will all be Christmas 'has-beens' by the time we peruse our January issue.

All other months seem to slip unnoticed into the next one. But JANUARY brings another New Year. Welcome to 2021! In fact, we have been *longing* for 2021. Surely by Easter or mid-Summer, life will be looking a bit more normal, won't it? We herald it with Hope as Rev Tim Watson and family 'take up the reins' as our new Vicar of Madeley and Betley. We herald it with Thankfulness as our 'seniors', vulnerable and keyworkers receive their vaccine injections and lead the way towards overcoming this Coronavirus pandemic which has dogged us since March and we herald it with Joy as we go forward with a new Light in our lives.

We may not be able to party on New Year's Eve or Burns' Night but we shall soon be looking out for tiny spears of snowdrop and crocus and a promise of Spring arriving once again. Happy New Year!

Rhoda Farrington

BETLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We hope 2021 will be a happy new year for you now that the end of the pandemic is in sight. Perhaps we may meet soon. The next Newsletter, giving more architectural detail about All Saints, Balterley, is now online at BLHS *Pandemic Issue 3*. This provides more detail in our archives about a church in our civil parish. Worship there was suspended in 2019. If possible, we may try to re-arrange a visit.

Our following Newsletter will contain the responses you have given to us recently about your memories of Betley. It is not too late to add more to our archives, and some may be included here, with your permission, of course. For instance, there have been recent enquires about the Black Horse. Any stories or photographs from the Black Horse or any other older buildings from any period of time would be acceptable. Life changes – thus it is important to keep records. Please contact either Rhoda or myself.

Mavis E Smith

(Chair and Newsletter Editor)



@BetleyHistory

www.blhs.co.uk



IN MEMORY of DAVD BECKET 1936 - 2020

Bellringer at this tower for 39 years

Many of you taking your regular daily constitutional, may have walked up The Butts to go through the churchyard at St Margaret's. You will have noticed the beautiful new bench at the foot of the bell tower. It is the gift of David Becket's family and marks his long and loyal service to bellringing. He (along with other locals) was instrumental in getting the bells back in working order in the 1970s. David shared his enthusiasm for the art of bellringing, encouraging many others to learn.

The bench was crafted by Phil Stephens, David's brother-in-law and the base of recycled York Stone was laid by his grandson Christopher.

We continue to think of Anne, and all the family, in their loss in these difficult times.



Jennifer Walton
Churchwarden

COUNTRY FOOTPATH WALKS

Please join us for one of our walks – Try one for free and then you can decide to pay our annual subscription of £5.00 (normally due annually in November after the AGM).

Walks are usually on the first Sunday of each month starting at 10:00am and finishing around 12:00 /12:30
Distance around 4 to 5 miles.

For more information, please contact our Chair, Jon, on 07976 814023.

**We hope to begin walks again in April so
look out for more news nearer the date.**

The Betley Trust

A local organisation dating from the 18th Century, seeking to assist in the development or improvement of the individual or group with education, health or social needs.



Do you know any young people who could benefit from help to buy books or equipment?

Would a few hundred pounds help with your local project or idea to benefit the local community?

Do you need some help with aids or adaptions (that you can't fund from elsewhere) to make your daily life easier?

MAYBE WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP

Contact us for an informal chat or in writing to either:

Steven Ball 07920 096987

skb1@hotmail.co.uk

**Or Jenny Johnson 01270 820604
rogerjohnson604@btinternet.com**



The BETLEY TRUST is a local charity funded by local people and serving local people.

How can Betley Trust help? Applications are invited from local individuals or groups whose needs fall under the following broad headings - education, health or social needs. These reflect the intentions and generosity of much earlier residents of Betley.

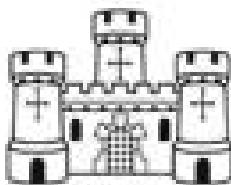
Where does the Trust gets its money and how does it work? The bulk of the Trust's funding rests on the original legacies and bequests of local people, for example a Churchwarden leaving money to buy bread for the poor in 1768. Numerous boards hanging inside St Margaret's church give testimony to these early 18th and 19th century bequests. These legacies were amalgamated in the 20th century to be ultimately known as the Betley Trust. The old charities were always administered by St Margaret's church and this link is maintained. However the 'new' organisation is managed by a group of trustees including the Vicar and a Parish Council representative. Other members are drawn from the church membership and the community.

Careful husbanding of resources means that the capital has remained intact but isn't closed, it is topped up by occasional donations such as from the Bonfire Committee. In the current light of low interest rates our capital sum does not on its own now generate sufficient revenue to always meet the needs of the community. Whilst we do have a generous monthly donation from individuals within the community which we are indeed grateful for, we also welcome other financial support either on an occasional or regular basis. Of course these may be gift aided if you were a tax payer. Alternatively you may wish to leave a legacy in your will.

As from generations in the past, we intend the Trust to continue its work for generations in the future.

What's local? The old constitutions limited benefits to the Church Parish, but in modern time the Trust supports the secular parish of Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill. Under the Charity Commission rules the trustees may now dispense funds over a wider area at their discretion.

Requests and donations are treated with the strictest of privacy and discretion.



NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME: 'HAVE YOUR SAY'

The Borough Council regularly seeks residents' views on a variety of services, and some new surveys have been added to the *Have Your Say* page on the Council's website:

- Budget 2021/22 - We are looking to find out which services you are keenest to protect, your priorities for budget-setting, which areas we should look at raising revenue from and your thoughts on the most important thing the Council could do to help your local community (survey closes 22 January).
- Philip Astley and the 850th anniversary of Newcastle-under-Lyme receiving borough status. In 2023 we will be celebrating the 850th anniversary of the founding of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1173. We would like your views on how we should commemorate this momentous occasion. In particular we would like your views on how we can make the most of the links to circus and Philip Astley, the father of modern circus, born in Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1742. *Like all the other Astley events, there is no intention to spend public money* (survey closes 29 January).
- Since changes to the recycling collection service, there has been a refresh of the service's satisfaction survey.

If any of these surveys take your interest then please have a look at the *Have Your Say* page – there are also quite a few ongoing satisfaction surveys for various services such as Planning, Housing Services and Environmental Services.

You can reach the *Have Your Say* page via this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/nul-haveyoursay>



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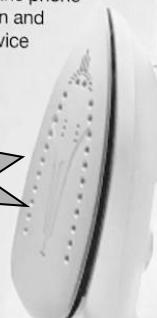
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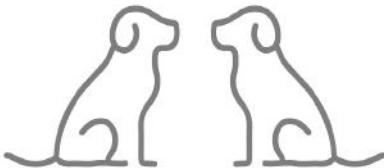
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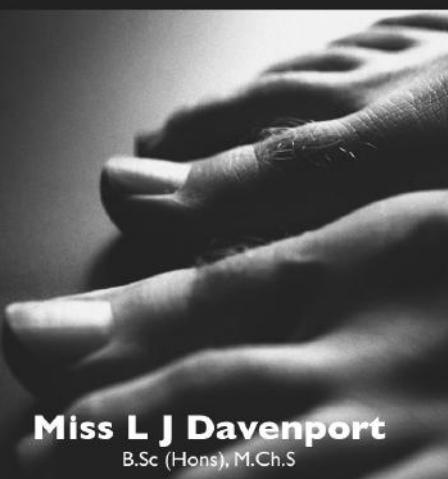
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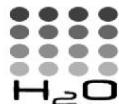
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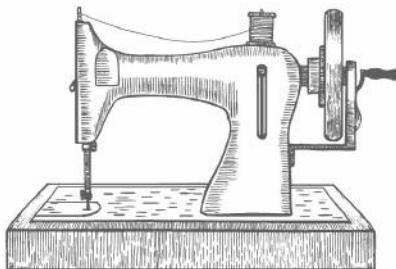
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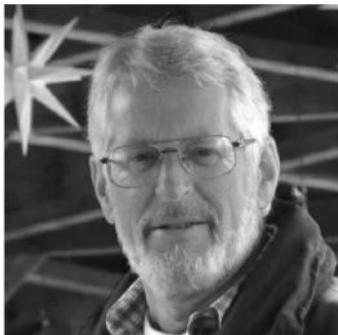
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