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# SEPTEMBER 2021



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who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary  
on 12<sup>th</sup> August

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# October 2021 Magazine Cut-off Date

Cut-off date for the October 2021 Stukeleys Parish Magazine is

## 9am Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021

\*\*\*\* Please do not be late \*\*\*\*

### FUTURE EVENTS

Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Reopening of GSVH	2pm to 4pm	GSVH
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	WI Meeting	7.30pm	GSVH
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	GSVH AGM	7.30pm	GSVH
Thur 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Brick Lane Music Hall Outing		

Take a look at the Magazine website at [www.stukeleymag.co.uk](http://www.stukeleymag.co.uk)

Email to: Martyn at [martyn@stukeleymag.co.uk](mailto:martyn@stukeleymag.co.uk)

Post/drop in to: 7 Hill Close, Great Stukeley PE28 4AZ

Tel: 01480 432633 Mob: 07710 171924

Please include your phone number in case of queries.

Space in the magazine is limited, so articles should be about 300 words. This is to allow as many people as possible the opportunity to contribute to the magazine. It would be helpful if you could submit articles sized to an A5 page in Word or PDF.

We reserve the right to refuse an article, cut its length or hold it over to a later issue without notice.

**Please Note:** This magazine is published by Martyn Fox with administrative and financial support from The Stukeleys' Parish Council. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Parish Council

A charge is made to advertise in this magazine. All enquiries should be directed to Martyn Fox (Tel: 01480 432633) or Ramune Mimiene, (Parish Clerk) Email: [clerk@thestukeleys-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@thestukeleys-pc.gov.uk)

### This Month

Page 4:	Table Tennis Tables have been installed
Page 5:	Women's Institute
Pages 6-7	Do you remember the Megatron?
Pages 8-9:	Janet Nunley Retires as Caretaker
Page 10:	Great Stukeley Village Hall AGM
Pages 11-13:	Letters to the Editor

### WANTED

Items for the Magazine. All things considered.



## **FUN and exercise for all ages!**

The table tennis tables have now been installed-

One on the playing field by the Little Stukeley Village Hall (See above)

And one in the old football field in Great Stukeley (See below)

Sport Direct in Huntingdon sell a set of 2 bats and 3 balls for £5.99

or you can get them online.

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## **Great Stukeley Craft Club**

**We are a small group of friendly ladies from the local area, interested in crafts, who meet monthly for 10 months annually. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of month in the recently refurbished Committee Room of the Great Stukeley Village Hall from 2pm to 4pm.**

**Our next meeting is on September 22<sup>nd</sup> when we will be pleased to welcome up to 3 new members as 3 existing members are leaving or have left the area. There is a small charge of £3 monthly towards the costs of materials, refreshments and room rental.**

**For further information please call me, Joan Gray, on phone number 01480 455773.**

## The Stukeleys' Women's Institute

On a sunny afternoon in early August, members of the WI enjoyed afternoon tea in the garden of 33 Church Road. This was the first face to face meeting since March 2020.



Our first meeting in Great Stukeley Village Hall will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Bob Harding-Jones, a former paramedic. In the light of recent events this should give us an insight into how the service works. Nibbles and a glass of something fizzy will be provided to help us celebrate our return to some sort of normality. There will be no competition for this meeting.

If you are not a member but would like to come along to see what it's like you are most welcome to join us.

Ann Monk (President)

## DO YOU REMEMBER THE MEGATRON?

For nearly two decades the Megatron - the flying saucer-shaped restaurant at Alconbury - was one of the most recognisable landmarks in the region. It was sadly demolished in 2008, but two Cambridgeshire filmmakers are looking to keep its memory alive in a documentary celebrating this unique piece of cultural history.

Tony Conn and Paul Satchell are looking for people willing to share their memories of the Megatron. Did you work there in its early days, or in its days as a McDonald's? Do you have fond memories of attending as a customer or of living alongside the distinctive building? Maybe you didn't like it at all. Every story is of interest. Some even tell of UFO sightings and ghostly hauntings at or near the site.

The filmmakers are especially interested to find people who knew the creator of the Megatron, Danny Blundell. They're also trying to find Deborah Abbot, the local schoolgirl who won a competition to officially re-open the venue as a McDonald's in 1993 (her surname has probably changed in the meantime). Perhaps you can help them to track down Adriana Fionda or Mike Clark, each of whom managed the site in the 1990s. All aspects of the history of the building are being sought.

Originally opening in 1990, Megatron was the idea of local businessman Danny Blundell and was planned to be the first of a new franchise. The project was extremely ambitious. Blundell went on fact-finding missions to Elstree Studios, consulted with special effects experts, and even planned to have holograms welcoming patrons. The finished restaurant had innovative touchscreen computers for people to make their orders, regular laser shows, and a cast of performers playing robots and aliens.

In 1993 the business was forced to close and the building became a McDonald's. This made it the only space-themed McDonald's on the planet, an honour now held by a restaurant in Roswell, New Mexico. It eventually closed for the last time and lay derelict until its demolition in 2008. Conservationists at Huntingdonshire District Council tried to have a preservation order placed on the building, but it was too late.

The film will celebrate the vision of Danny Blundell, the beautiful building designed by local architect Graham Campbell, and all of the performers and other staff who made the Megatron such an amazing experience. Several, such as Rob Clapperton and Roger Bunnage, are still performing to this day.

As well as looking for your stories the filmmakers are also looking for any photos, video or souvenirs anyone might have. This was obviously a time before smartphones, so photos and video of the venue are very rare. Your contributions could make all the difference.

Get in touch by email at [tonyconn84@gmail.com](mailto:tonyconn84@gmail.com) or by phone on 07565 037338.

You can follow the project and see exclusive pictures if you search for 'Megatron Memories' on Facebook.



## **JANET NUNLEY RETIRING CARETAKER**

Great Stukeley Village Hall Management Committee would like to acknowledge all the time and hard work Janet Nunley, with the aid of her husband Barry, has put into the Village Hall in her role as Caretaker. Together they have been cleaning the hall inside and out, even going in late at night after a function to ensure the hall is ready for use the next day. They have also carried out repairs as necessary helping to maintain the hall so it was always in a presentable state to show prospective hirers for over 13 years.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank Janet and Barry for all their hard work and dedication over the years in keeping the hall in such good order.

Village Halls need people like Janet and Barry to help keep them open for the Community to use.

Great Stukeley Village Hall is normally completely self-funding, receiving no financial help from Councils. Everything is paid for by the income received from letting the hall and from various events arranged by the Management Committee throughout the year. Hopefully supported by village residents and the local community.

Recently though we have had some CIL funding (Community Infrastructure Levy) through the Parish Council which has been generated from the Alconbury Weald Development, with which we have been able to completely refurbish the small hall, known as the Committee Room during the Covid lockdown period. This is a good space to accommodate small clubs such as bridge or chess or small meetings etc. If anybody is interested in starting and running such an event please call the Booking Clerk on 07934 853646.

The main hall floor has also been renovated and has a new badminton court marked out. We have two table tennis tables standing idle if anyone is interested in running a social badminton or table tennis club we would be pleased to hear from you. If anybody is interested in starting and running such an event please call the Booking Clerk on 07934 853646.

Great Stukeley Village Hall Management Committee are always interested in meeting anyone who would like to be part of the team. We meet once a month to discuss any forthcoming events or ideas for new

events and functions to boost the Village Hall funds. New people can bring new ideas which is always good.

If you would like to be involved in keeping our fantastic Community space going please ring David on 07885 438619.

Once again, a big thank you to Janet and Barry for all their hard work over the years.

**David Silsby**  
Chairman GSVHMC



David (Chairman) presented Janet with a gift card and flowers.



## COME AND JOIN US

Please come and help us celebrate the re-opening of the village hall on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September between 2 pm and 4 pm

Everyone is welcome to come and join us for free tea and cakes

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### **GREAT STUKELEY VILLAGE HALL Management Committee Annual General Meeting**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30pm  
at Great Stukeley Village Hall**

We are pleased to confirm that we will hold our AGM in September.

We invite all residents of Great Stukeley to come along and find out about the work the Trustees have been doing behind the scenes over the last 18 months.

Our lovely village hall cannot function without our dedicated voluntary committee to keep it in good working order and to organise events. We are always keen to welcome new people onto the committee. Do *you* have the time and enthusiasm to join us?

Come along on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September** to find out more, or contact the Secretary, Nicola Oldfield at [secretary@gsvh.org.uk](mailto:secretary@gsvh.org.uk) or the Chairman, David Silsby at [chairman@gsvh.org.uk](mailto:chairman@gsvh.org.uk)

## Email to the Editor

I read the article related to the recent road works written by Barrie James.

I concur with his concerns and comments but make the following comments.

These comments are directed to the road signs in particular at the bottom end of Church Road and Ermine Street.

Coming out of the village at the bottom is via a blind corner and the the road markings are inadequate!

The current road signs are 'give way' signs and these are advisory signs therefore in the event of a road traffic collision (RTC) it would be a 'he said she said' and the breach of this sign is non endorsable.

If the signs were changed to a 'stop' sign it is a compulsory and any breach is endorsable. It would also be clear in the event of a RTC where the blame would sit.

The ramps are also too far back from the junction, so it allows vehicles to speed up!

In short, the original layout was unsafe and presented a safety hazard for road user and I cannot understand how this was approved by Highways!

The amended proposal is only marginally better but without further changes will continue to present a real risk to the villagers.

My address is Innisfree, 18 Church Close, Great Stukeley, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 4AP

Regards

Ged

Ged Dempsey

Mobile: 07748 100100

Home: 01480 456243

## THE STUKELEYS ROAD SHAMBLES

It is over 5 years since we in the Stukeleys were consulted over plans for proposed Ermine Street enhancements designed to ameliorate the effects of having a new town planted on our doorstep, and it would now seem apposite to review what has happened since then and perhaps seek some opinions from villagers.

According to my dictionary, to 'enhance' something means, *inter alia*, to improve its value, quality or attractiveness. No doubt opinions will vary on whether or not that has been achieved. Certainly, in Great Stukeley I suggest the weed beds created when the road was narrowed and the loss of our usual magnificent spring display of daffodils have not improved its attractiveness.

We now have posh 'gateway' speed limit signs to tell everyone where they are and remind them to refer occasionally to their speedometer, but from what I have seen the latter information is frequently ignored - despite reminders. However, in Great Stukeley one might be excused for not referring to one's speedo too often as much of the time is, of necessity, spent observing and interpreting a plethora of signs (including those, quote: "to prevent turning down Church Road"?), attempting to see around blind corners at ridiculous junctions, and spotting and negotiating the next obstruction. In addition to the original proposals, we now have an extra hump, a display sign giving hump expectancy, and several new signs directing 'through traffic', although it is not entirely clear which way is 'through'. One driver entering the village at the southern end of Church Road clearly thought that because she was on the 'through' route (straight on) there was no need to slow down at the junction. So, is it possible that the signs are misleading? Only time and accidents will tell!

Regarding the revised junction at the southern end of Church Road in Great Stukeley, I note in the "Make News" (Winter edition) an admission that: "*Accidents and near misses have been witnessed, reported and occurred on several occasions, thankfully with no serious injuries.*" Oh well, that's OK then! Tim Close commented that "***Following completion of the initial changes, the SPC received several complaints regarding the remodelled junctions.***" The highlighted phrase - indicative of timing, is at best misleading. Had there been 'joined-up' planning discussions someone may have taken note of comments that I and others made during the consultation phase and perhaps re-examined their proposals then, rather than when it was too late to change.

Immediately following the public consultation in early 2016 I wrote at length to Rebecca Britton (letter dated 14 March 2016) criticising many of the proposals, and with regard to the junctions I wrote the following:

**“Change of Road Junction Priorities. If I had been asked to design an accident black-spot I think this would feature high on my list of proposals.”** I had no reaction or response to my letter.

And so to the manufactured disincentives to driving unnecessarily through the villages. We have a physical gate obstruction at the entrance to Little Stukeley and in both villages there are speed cushions and table-top road humps, all of which vary in profile. I think the new one just down from the Great Stukeley Village Hall must have been laid on a Friday afternoon; if I had such a deformed top on one of my tables I would confine it to the scrap heap. Is it really to design specification? That said, it is the only one that is effective; cars definitely slow down temporarily before going over it. However, overall there would appear to have been little, if any, reduction in speed between the humps and bumps or in traffic flow through the villages.

Having spent tens, or more likely hundreds of thousands of pounds on enhancing village life, I suggest nothing much has changed, except maybe Ermine Street itself, the surface of which has effectively been destroyed in both villages.

**Resurfacing is now long overdue, and it should not be the Stukeley’s residents who pay for it.**

Finally, on a slightly lighter note, I would like to propose an additional sign at the entrance to the villages in order to raise their profile:

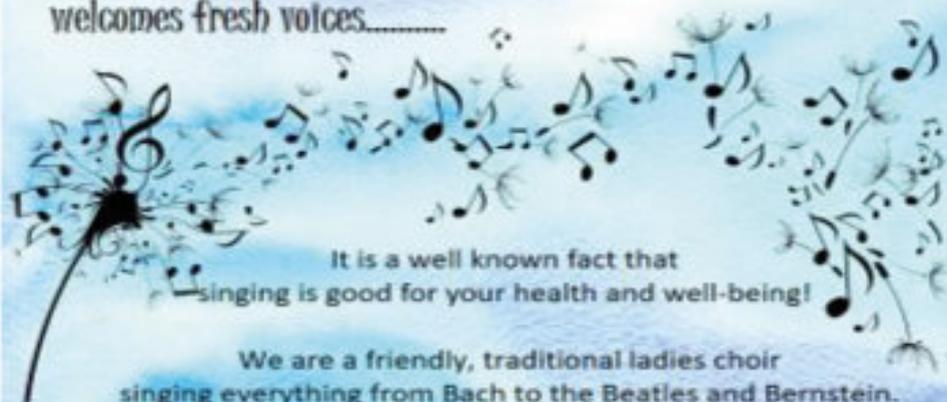
**“Welcome to The Stukeleys  
Twinned with Humps and Bumps”**

This would not involve local dignitaries going on expensive overseas jamborees. They could simply carry out their duty by visiting each hump and bump on a regular basis and ponder how it was that someone in their right mind could have designed such an enhancement!

Yours,  
**Martyn Redmore**

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We meet once a week on Wednesday mornings  
(currently in St Ives).  
You don't have to live in the Hemingfords to be a member!

If you love to sing and  
would like to join us on Wednesday mornings  
please contact:

**Viv Oxley 01480 417925**

for more information.  
We look forward to welcoming you!

# Huntingdon police cadets need you!

A search has begun to find young people with a desire to help their community and learn valuable life skills.

They are wanted for a new Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) unit in Huntingdon, which will be open to those aged 13 to 18 who want to join the world of policing. Cadet leaders are also needed for the unit, which will be based at the heart of the force, at police headquarters in Hinchingsbrooke Park.

It is set to open in the autumn and sessions will run on one evening a week, covering different policing duties, skills and basic law, as well as physical activity and drill.

VPC is the nationally recognised police uniformed youth group in the UK. Its purpose is not to recruit police officers of the future, but to encourage a spirit of adventure and good citizenship amongst its members and promote a practical understanding of policing.

It will also give young people the opportunity to make new friends, participate in activities and events, support local communities by taking part in social action projects, develop new skills, and see first-hand what goes on behind the scenes within the force.

Cadet leaders are in charge of running the sessions and will provide role models to young adults while also looking after their welfare and encouraging development. Leaders will have the opportunity to develop their own skills through challenging social action projects, such as supporting those vulnerable to crime, and fundraising events. A policing background isn't a requirement and adults from all walks of life are welcomed.

Those interested in becoming a cadet leader will be subjected to the highest national standards of vetting and enhanced DBS checks before being given training to support and develop their knowledge and skills.

The force is currently in need of leaders across all seven VPC units. These are Ely, Cambridge, St Neots, Cambourne, Wisbech, Peterborough and now Huntingdon. Chief Constable Nick Dean said: "This is a great opportunity to become part of the volunteer cadets here in Cambridgeshire. I have seen cadets really develop throughout their time with the scheme and it's a fantastic opportunity to become part of the wider policing family and involved in a range of activities and the community. Whatever your background you can make a real difference."

If you would like to become a cadet for the new Huntingdon unit, or any of our other VPC Units, please register your interest at [Police Cadets \(cambs.police.uk\)](https://www.cambs.police.uk/cadets).

If you are an adult interested in volunteering your time to support our cadets, or for further information, please get in touch with the team at [Cadets@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Cadets@cambs.pnn.police.uk).

# The Brick Lane Music Hall

## VINCENT'S JINGELBELL CHRISTMAS

### Thursday 2nd December 2021



While COVID-19 has devastated our lives things now appear to be moving towards some form of normality. Here's something which I hope will help to blow away those COVID blues and lead to a better 2022 for us all.

VINCENT'S JINGELBELL CHRISTMAS is an all-British Christmas variety show in the BRICK LANE MUSIC HALL-

The number one rated London attraction on TripAdvisor. Our last visit to this show was in December 2015 so this visit is long overdue.

We will be departing at 9.45am from the Great Stukeley Village Hall to arrive at around noon, depending on traffic, entering the Music Hall at 12.15 pm.

Included in the price of this value-for-money trip:

\*VINCENT'S JINGELBELL CHRISTMAS -a modern approach to the English Music Hall with singing, comedy and slap-stick humor.

\*A THREE COURSE Festive Lunch prepared on the premises of the HIGHEST QUALITY with a vegetarian option.

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\*A tip for the driver

I was able to bring-in this great VALUE-FOR-MONEY event for just £ 66.95 per person with special cooperation from both Brick Lane and the coach company.

The seating for this event is cabaret-style and the show will include all the fun of the Festive Season so please bring along your friends and family to make this visit a wonderful start to this year's Christmas Season.

This very special arrangement is STRICTLY LIMITED. It is First Come/First Served so please let me know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE or by no later than THURSDAY 23rd September 2021 so that I can confirm the arrangements. PLEASE NOTE: That all reservations MUST BE followed through with FULL PAYMENT.

**Mary Alleyne-James**

Organizer

Oldfields

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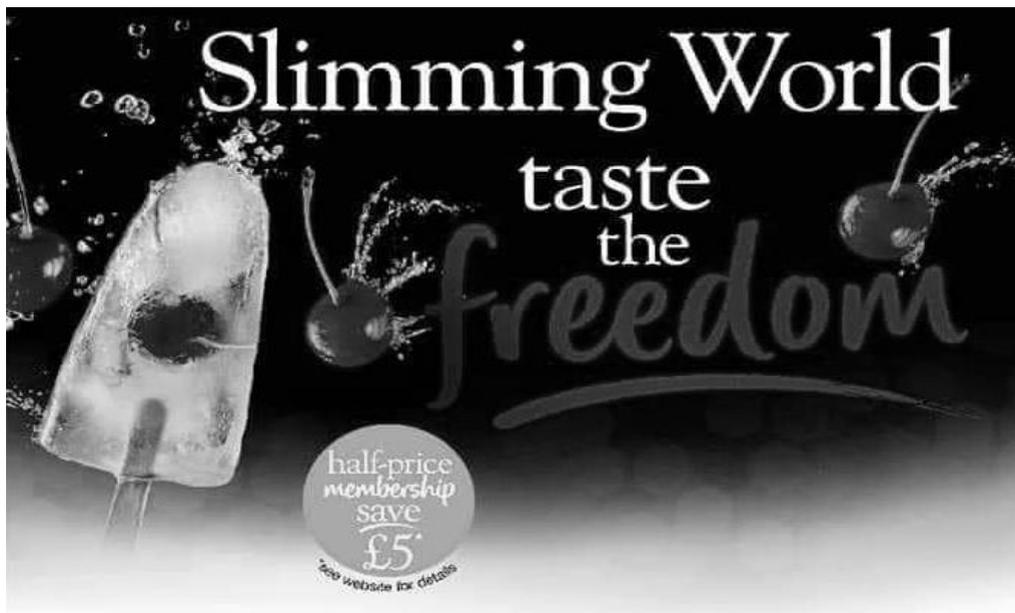
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Classes will be taught by Sensei Lucian Lucas Sbircea, 3rd Dan and will focus on kata (patterns of movements) and kihon (a set of movements that are connected together). Kumite (friendly sparring) will also be taught for more advanced students in the second session.

Cost: Adults = £20/month paid on first Monday of each month, Children=£10/month paid on first Monday of each month. Children must be accompanied by a parent.

If you are interested in taking part please email: [lucian.sbircea@cellbond.com](mailto:lucian.sbircea@cellbond.com).



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**We are still doing take away service**

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Contact Claire 07446114963 or 01480 456927

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**SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> September**

**KNOTTLEY'S (live band)**

**4pm**

**FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> OCT**

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**Bishop:** Richard Malachowski

*Sunday Service Schedule*

9.30am to 10.30am:      Sacrament Meeting

10.30am to 11.30am:    Children ages 3-11 classes; Youth ages 12-18, Young  
Single Adult and Adult Sunday School

*Alternating Sundays:*

Children ages 3-11 classes; Young Women and Young  
Men ages 12-18 lessons; Priesthood (males 18+) and  
Relief Society (Sisters, age 18+) lessons.

Schedule repeats, starting at 12.30pm with **Bishop** Michael Waters

All are welcome to come and worship with us!

***Weekday meetings:***

*Tuesday Nights: Youth meetings (ages 12 – 18), starting at 7.00pm*

*First Thursday, Sisters monthly meeting and activity, at 7.00pm*

*Sunday Evenings, every other Sunday – Young Single Adult meeting and activity*

***Come and see what we believe*** – try [www.comeuntochrist.org](http://www.comeuntochrist.org)

***Believe:*** Learn about the Savior, Jesus Christ, and how basic beliefs of His Restored Gospel can enrich lives

***Belong:*** Jesus can make you a better person. You can make us a better community. Come worship with us!

***Become:*** We are all trying to be better human beings. Explore ways to aid your personal and spiritual growth.



## **Alconbury Independent Baptist Church**

*We are an international church who have a common salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*The gospel is the message of amazing grace from Almighty God to lost souls like you and I.*

*Through Christ our precious Saviour you too can know God's grace and wonderful love.*

*If you would like to find out more about Christ or require a Bible, please contact us on the information below!*

Sunday      Morning Worship      10:45am  
*(Children's Church for 5-11 years)*

Sunday      Evening Service (monthly)      5pm

Wednesday      Prayer Meeting      6.30pm

*All are Welcome to any of these services!*

*Live broadcast on Sunday morning on YouTube or facebook*

*Our current Series "The Gospel of Mark for Today". Come and join us as we learn more about the Lord Jesus, his wonderful miracles, pointed teaching and memorable parables. After all Jesus Christ is the centre of true Christianity.*

If you require a bible or have any questions about the Christian Faith. Please contact Pastor G Marley.

Tel: 01480- 455300 email: [pastor@alconburybaptist.org](mailto:pastor@alconburybaptist.org)



'Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith Hebrews 12: ::

[\*\*pastor@alconburybaptist.org\*\*](mailto:pastor@alconburybaptist.org)



**ST BARTHOLOMEW'S  
GREAT STUKELEY**



**ST MARTIN'S  
LITTLE STUKELEY**

**ST BARTHOLOMEW'S GREAT STUKELEY  
ST MARTIN'S LITTLE STUKELEY**

**Church services for September 2021**

<b>September 5<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am Holy Communion, Great Stukeley
<b>September 12<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am Morning Service, Great Stukeley
<b>September 19<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am Morning Service, Great Stukeley
<b>September 26<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am Harvest Service, Little Stukeley 11.00 Holy Communion for all, Great Stukeley

**Everyone is welcome. Please come and join us.**

(Advance notice – Harvest Festival at Gt Stukeley will be celebrated on 10<sup>th</sup> October)

Many in our churches are vulnerable or caring for someone who is vulnerable. We want all people to feel able to come to church. For this reason, we are being cautious as COVID restrictions are lifted.

We would like to encourage all people to wear a face covering during worship and certainly when singing; to register on the Track and Trace system; to sanitize on entering the church and to continue the practice of social distancing whilst in the building.

**Every Sunday morning –9.30 am** a 'live' service which will also be recorded.

You can join this service by Zoom, or find it on the website ([www.norleigh.org.uk](http://www.norleigh.org.uk)) or North Leightonstone Benefice Facebook Group

St Bartholomew's Church is open for individual prayer by arrangement

St Martin's Church is open for individual prayer by arrangement

Rev Fiona Brampton (01480 538726 [revfiona@norleigh.org.uk](mailto:revfiona@norleigh.org.uk)) and Rev Mandy Flaherty (01480 896541 [rector@norleigh.org.uk](mailto:rector@norleigh.org.uk)) are available for prayer or a chat (by phone under the current regulations).

Rev Fiona Brampton  
Associate Priest, North Leightonstone Benefice  
29 Church Road  
Great Stukeley  
01480 538726 [revfiona@norleigh.org.uk](mailto:revfiona@norleigh.org.uk)

**Churchwardens**

Great Stukeley	Harry Raby	01480 453269
	Diane McGoff	01480 456238

Little Stukeley	Camilla Payne	<a href="mailto:camilla@uk.com">camilla@uk.com</a>
	Sally Smith	<a href="mailto:sallysmith101@aol.com">sallysmith101@aol.com</a>

[www.norleigh.org.uk](http://www.norleigh.org.uk) (for information about the churches, and for livestreamed and recorded services).

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