

Stoke Orchard & Tredington Newsletter



October 2025

GLASS HALF FULL OR HALF EMPTY...

October marks the start of Harvest season proper, and although Tredington has already had its Harvest service, there are plenty more around this month - please check the service information elsewhere in the magazine.

But I know that harvests have been disappointing and that we may feel there is little to celebrate, and that there are real fears around scarcity, financial implications, and the short- and middle-term future in agricultural life. It's not all that different in church life, where we notice scarcity with regards to personal and financial issues too. The parish share we're asked to pay to the diocese each year and cost of bills, insurance, and maintenance goes up, yet the number of people attending - or able to attend - remains stable at best or goes down somewhat too, so there are fewer people to help pay for all of that, and for many people their stable or only slightly increased income does not cover the increasing cost of living.

This is not a complaint or ask for help (although of course that is always welcome!), but more a realisation of how many of us, and many institutions including the church, operate from what Heartedge (see footnote) calls a 'mindset of scarcity.' We often focus on what's lacking, on what we do not have, on what we might not be able to do. But there is so much that we do have, and that we are able to do! It's a bit like the glass half full or half empty, and both of these ways are good and valid and necessary ways to look at the world around us. But I hope that in this month of Harvest we can focus on what is good and present and worth celebrating, as there is plenty of that.

Will you come along and share what you would like to harvest and celebrate?

Peace and blessings to you all,

Ilse

HeartEdge - St Martin-in-the-Fields - An initiative by St Martin in the Fields in London, Heartedge is a network of churches and those working at the heart of culture, community, and commerce. They provide courses, information, and support to rural and urban churches, within and outside London.

Church services - October

Sunday 5th October 10am • Benefice Communion at Chaceley

Sunday 12th October 9.30am • Holy Communion at Stoke Orchard

Sunday 19th October 9.30am • Holy Communion at Tredington

Sunday 26th October 9.30am • Holy Communion at Stoke Orchard

If you missed the Harvest service at Tredington, here are the ones elsewhere in the Benefice:

Sunday 12th October 11am • Harvest Communion at Deerhurst,
and 6pm • Harvest Celebration at Forthampton

Thursday 16th October 6.30pm • Harvest Celebration at Chaceley.



Stoke Orchard & Tredington Parish Council



Parish Councillors from May 16th 2025 are:-

Cllr Alan Macdonald (Chairman) • Councillor Sue Shorrock (Vice chair),
Cllr Andrew Troughton • Cllr James Gilder • Cllr Tim Jukes
Cllr Graham Ferguson • Cllr George Fairbairn

Contact Details - through the Clerk: Mrs Michelle Hinde

Phone: 07763 250303 - Email: clerk@stokeorchardandtredington-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of Past Meetings are to be found on the Parish Council Website.

Notice of Stoke Orchard and Tredington Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday November 5th, 2025 at 7pm at the Community Centre, Stoke Orchard and will be held according to standard Parish Council Meeting regulations. The Council will continue the Clerks special Powers Facility invoked for Covid Regulations for the foreseeable future.

www.stokeorchardandtredington.org.uk



Dear Resident,

Autumn is among us, and a noticeable chill is in the air especially first thing. Not sure about you but Winter is not my favourite time of the year. It's the dark mornings and evenings, I think. I'm obviously not related to a vampire in my past! 😊

- We have just received word of a solar farm application stretching from the field by Mill Farm on Mill Lane, right up to the sewage pumping station. We have had no chance to examine this yet but obviously we will be working on this very closely, as it would be huge. **We intend to have a residents meeting on Thursday 23rd October at 7pm at the hall to discuss action on this.**
- The multiple drainage issues around the Parish were investigated and pursued with great vigour by Cllr Shorrock. On the back of her efforts, there has been telling results in all areas. Additionally, an opportunity has arisen to forge valuable connections with the official parties involved.
- The Parish Council submitted an objection to the application to build 102 houses on land by the solar farm in Stoke Orchard. Concerns have also been raised by Highways regarding many issues. These and other comments and objections have been lodged with Tewkesbury Borough Council planning department, and we will wait for their decision.
- Some of the work going on around the Parish this month:
At the beginning of October, the preparation work for the area under the swings in the playpark will be done. It may be necessary to close the park temporarily whilst this is completed. Following this, week commencing the 6th October, the new surface will be installed by the contractors. This hopefully

will ensure an enhanced & long-term safety facility for our youngsters in years to come. We will of course be looking at further options to improve the experience for the children.

On Monday 29th September, Dowdeswell Forestry will be removing a dead tree and pollarding the large walnut tree at the front of the Orchard estate, opposite the old garage site. This will remove the dead eyesore and make safe the other tree.

- Arsh Sohal of Gotherington Stores is progressing his work to reopen the Orchard Stores as quick as he can. A slight hold-up with his prospective supplier has resulted in a short delay before he can start installing his equipment and stock. A rear fire exit door has been put in and a new external shutter. His builders are going to remove the silver 'Community Centre' lettering above his window and re-install it on the wooden wall above the red telephone box at the main entrance to the hall. We are hopeful he will be open by the end of this month, all being well.
- We are currently negotiating a new lease with local residents, John & Suzanne Cooper of Gravity Fitness, to give them sole use of one of our large first floor rooms. They will call it The 'Attic', and they have exciting plans to offer. It will give even more options to choose from for our superb community centre.
- An additional note that our football teams from Stoke Orchard FC have had a blistering start to the season, winning six of the seven team games on the first day. Up the 'Orchard'!

Have a good month all!

Recycling & Waste Collection Dates for October 2025 - Stoke Orchard & Tredington

| BLUE | Thursday 2nd | Thursday 16th | Thursday 30th |
|-------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| GREEN | Thursday 9th | Thursday 23rd | Thursday 6th Nov |

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Vicar | Revd Ilse Ferwerda | 01452 780880 | apperleypriest@gmail.com |
| Assistant Priest | Rev. Kay Mundy | 01452 780634 | therevkaymundy@gmail.com |
| Church Warden | Tessa Mills | 01684 216563 | |
| Reader and Young People's Church | Mrs Vivienne Troughton, Tredington | 01684 293540 | |
| Tredington Primary School | Head Mrs Emily Watton | 01684 293617 | Head.TPS.glatrust.org.uk |
| Tredington Church Hall/ Village Hall | Frank Jukes | 01684 292143 | tredingtonvillagehall@gmail.com |
| Stoke Orchard Community Centre Bookings | Nikki Clegg | 01242 680941 | info@stokeorchard.org |



**Solar exhibition at
Stoke Orchard
Community Centre,
Armstrong Road, GL52 7SB**

**Wednesday 12th November
3-7pm**

**Solar park on land
at the south west side
of Mill Lane**

ILOS New Energy UK Ltd. will be on hand to display their plans, answer any queries and see your views on a proposed solar PV development. Everybody welcome.

Call: 07943 841455

Email: contactuk@ilos-energy.com

Recent flooding and drainage issues in Stoke Orchard

As many of you are aware, Stoke Orchard has suffered numerous problems with drainage and flooding over many years. In order to strengthen our ability to tackle these issues within the parish, a second flood warden, Paul Simmonds, has joined Richard Chatham and the Parish Council has taken the lead on working directly with the relevant outside agencies, such as County Highways and Severn Trent (ST). Earlier in the year, a multi agency flooding meeting was organised by our Community Resilience officer and hosted by the Parish Council. This has served as a catalyst for more collaborative work. Our flood wardens attend regular Gloucestershire rural community council (GRCC) meetings focusing on flooding; prevention and resilience and continue to act as 'the eyes and ears' for such matters within the parish. The work they carry out includes:

- Reporting on flooding events to the Environment agency
- Monitoring local watercourses
- Helping to identify flood hotspots
- Logging events and actions taken during a flood
- Advising parishioners about information received from the local Flood Prevention team, the Environment agency etc.

We are pleased to report that over the last year, considerable progress has been made and we hope to see significant improvements as we head into the wetter seasons. Below the key projects that have been completed this year. Invariably this involved continual contacts, meetings and follow-ups with the various agencies. Obviously, there is more to do so we will just keep going!

1. MILL LANE

A number of on-site examinations were made with the local highways manager (LHM). Following this, surveys of the surface water drains were carried out and a significant schedule of works drawn up. The engineers' report shows that the drain from Outlet 1 (opposite the pumping station) running along the left hand side of the lane nearest the church has undergone major roots clearance, gullies sucked out and cleaned. There have been useful discussions with the riparian landowner regarding hedge clearance and possible ditch work over the winter. Highways have also given an undertaking that the drain from Outlet 2 which runs on the opposite side of the road will be cleaned when the specialist equipment becomes available again.

2. ARCHERS LANE

The flooding in Archers Lane, following episodes of rain, has been a significant problem for residents over a number of years. Whilst a number of drain clearing activities (including root clearance) have taken place in the past, these have never been fully effective. Again, following discussions on site with the LMH, it was agreed this year that a comprehensive survey would take place. This occurred and significant drain clearance work commissioned. Engineers reported the

removal of a great deal of silt from the drain that runs the full length of the lane as well as gully clearance. All were thoroughly cleaned and checked through to the outlet at the end of Swan Lane.

At the same time, our ST liaison officer agreed to commission the checking and clearing of the ST surface water drains in the lane. This has also been completed.

The Parish Council and flood wardens are hopeful that the work carried out will make a significant difference to the residents.

3. DEAN LANE

The surcharging from the drain covers at the end of Dean Lane has been a health and safety issue for many years. ST and the Environment Agency (EA) were on site over several days addressing the problems arising from the latest episode of sewage surcharging; this time unconnected to heavy rainfall (as is usually the case!).

Investigations revealed there was a significant blockage in the drain located within a local field. Identification of the source/s is still ongoing but our local EA contact has undertaken to keep us informed of outcomes.

The connecting drains were thoroughly cleared and cleaned. It would seem that the annual drain clearing that should have been taking place in Stoke Orchard has not been occurring and ST are currently investigating this with their subcontractors. However, ST has now agreed to extend the scope of the cleaning schedule all the way to the Mill Lane pumping station.

Whilst the Parish Council and the flood wardens will be checking that ST clearance work does take place on a regular basis, we should all play our part in ensuring that we do not put items down our toilets/drains that shouldn't be there, including wipes of any description (even those labelled biodegradable), sanitary items, fats etc.

The Parish Council has just received a report from ST that the discolouration and foul smell in Dean Brook (that occurred about the same time as the surcharging in Dean Lane) was probably caused by the gully clearance by Highways that had recently taken place. However, we are awaiting confirmation of this.

4. SWAN LANE - THE SWILGATE

For a number of years, the responsibility for clearing the very large willows growing on the embankment/bed of the Swilgate and causing flooding has remained unresolved.

However, following further conversations with the LHM, this was investigated by the GCC Reports team and it has been confirmed that Highways accept the responsibility. The specialist contractor has now been instructed to clear the willows. This will be carried out as soon as possible although emergency work to clear trees will take precedence over this.

The parish council wishes to place on record our grateful thanks for the support and cooperation of Max Kelly, our Highways local area manager, Andy Bayliss, our ST local liaison officer and Ian Skuse our EA local officer.

LEST WE FORGET...

On 15 September 1940, Flight Sergeant John Hannah was the wireless operator and air gunner in a Hampden bomber that was carrying out a raid on German invasion barges at Antwerp, Belgium. After releasing its bombs, the Hampden quickly came under attack from anti-aircraft guns. It took a direct hit, which started a fierce fire that soon engulfed the whole fuselage.

Gunner George James bailed out after the floor melted beneath him in the intense heat. Surrounded by flames, Hannah would have been justified in following him. But instead he began trying to put out the fire with the aircraft's two fire extinguishers. When those were empty, he used his log book and then his own hands to stop the spread of the blaze. He worked for ten minutes in the blistering heat, as ammunition exploded around him and another member of the crew bailed out of the stricken aircraft.

Hannah managed to stop the fire, but suffered burns to his eyes and face in the process. He then crawled through to the pilot, Connor, to tell him the inferno was out. On discovering they were the only two left on board, Hannah took over the navigation while Connor flew the badly-damaged bomber (pictured here) back to their base.

Hannah was taken to hospital for emergency treatment where he learned on 1 October that he had been awarded a Victoria Cross (VC), the highest decoration for gallantry, for his incredible bravery. He was just 18 years old at the time. Hannah recovered and remained in the RAF, but contracted tuberculosis and was discharged in 1942. He died just five years later and is buried in Leicester.



Tredington & Stoke Orchard News for October 2025

TREDINGTON & STOKE ORCHARD WI next meet on **Tuesday, October 14th at 7.30pm** in Tredington Village Hall. Our speaker will be Kate Peake telling us about *"Gloucestershire Events & Traditions"*. Visitors & new members are always very welcome.

Note for your diary: Our next meeting is our AGM with Fish & chip Supper on November 11th at 7.30pm.

.....

TREDINGTON & STOKE ORCHARD GARDENING CLUB will be meeting on **Monday, October 20th** in Tredington Village Hall at 7.30pm when Roger Umpelby will talk to us about *"The Kitchen Garden Today"*. We are always pleased to welcome visitors & new members.

NB: Our next meeting will be our AGM & social evening with drinks & light refreshments.

.....

TREDINGTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE are holding a **Whist Drive** in Tredington Village Hall on **Friday, October 3rd at 7pm**. Tickets are available from Paddy (01684 294053) and are £10 to include light refreshments. There will be a raffle.

POETS CORNER

There Is A Community Of Spirit
By Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi

There is a community of the spirit.
Join it, and feel the delight
of walking in the noisy street
and being the noise.
Drink all your passion,
and be a disgrace.
Close both eyes
to see with the other eye.



Granny Stagg's
Mince Pie
Day

Raising money for  CANCER RESEARCH UK

Saturday 6th December 2025
10:30am - 3:00pm

Nearly New Stall
Tombola
Children's tombola
Books & Puzzles
Raffle
Teas & Coffees
Cakes & Mince Pies

**The Walnuts, Tredington,
GL20 7BX**

The poster features illustrations of mince pies at the bottom and a Santa hat on the letter 'G' in 'Granny'.



Stoke Orchard Community Centre



Thank you to everybody that came to our annual Community Day at the Community Centre on Saturday 6th September.

We had a great afternoon, it was lovely to see so many people and lots of new faces within our growing community.

Days like that would not be possible without the support of the team of volunteers to help set up gazebos, run stalls, tidy up and ensure everyone had a great time.

We appreciate any time they can spare to help us. If you would like to join our team of volunteers, please email info@stokeorchard.org



Also, a big thank you to the local businesses that kindly gave us raffle prizes...

Court Farmshop • Clavell & Hind • The Gloucester Old Spot
Gravity Fitness, The Fitness Studio, The Attic • Cleeve Fruit & Veg



REQUEST FOR HELP AND DONATIONS

TRUSSELL TRUST TEWKESBURY shopping list for food bank. As we are able to shop at places like Bookers, a monetary donation would be much appreciated right now. BACS details are as follows: Tewkesbury Foodbank, sort code 30-91-87, account no 52870560



What's on at the Hall this Autumn?



Friday 3rd October

Pub Night at the Community Centre 7.30pm

Friday 31st October

Childrens Halloween Party 6 -8pm • Tickets on sale soon!

Halloween Spooky Pub Night From 8pm

Woody's Pizza Van From 6pm



Friday 7th November

Quiz night 7-10pm.

All proceeds in aid of a new roof for Stoke Orchard Church



Sunday 30th November

Christmas Light Switch from 4pm-6pm



Friday 12th December

NHS Blood Donation Service 12-8pm

Friday 19th December

Christmas Quiz Night

Don't forget your Xmas jumper!!

From 7.30pm





Community Sports Foundation

A healthy body in a healthy mind.

New After school clubs coming soon.

NEW AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS AT STOKE ORCHARD COMMUNITY CENTRE!

Where play is power, and everyone belongs.

Starting This Term 8th September – Monday Afternoons from 4pm

Stoke Orchard Community Centre

Open to school children, and young people with SEND age 6 to 11, and all who love to move, play, and connect!

What's on— Multi Sports.

Why Join Us?

Led by experienced coaches who get what makes you unique Fully inclusive, child-led, and joy-packed, Celebrating every win—big or small—with heart and high-fives, Friendly, safe space to build confidence.



@communitysportsfoundationic



@Community Sports Foundation

**PLAY
THEIR
WAY**





Stoke Orchard Community Centre



MONDAY

ZUMBA 9.30-10.30am • *Michele.darnell@btinternet.com*

NEW AFTERSCHOOL SPORTS CLUB 4-5pm • Community Sports foundation
For more information contact Rich, email *communitysportsfoundation@outlook.com*

CHILL DANCE ACADEMY 6-7pm • Chloe 09972 350896

GREEN TREE YOGA 7-8pm • *info@greentreeyoga.co.uk*

TUESDAY

PILATES BY CHARLOTTE 9.30-10.30am • *Pilatesbycharlotte@gmail.com*

CHILL DANCE 4.30-5.25pm • Chloe 07972 350896

TRED TRAINING Kettles 6.30pm • Hog Pilates 7.20pm • *tredtraining@outlook.com*

CHILL DANCE 8pm • Chloe 07972 350896

21/10/25 - U3A ART APPRECIATION 2-4pm

WEDNESDAY

STOKE ORCHARD BABY AND TODDLER GROUP 9.30-11am

DRAMA TOTS 1.30-2.15pm • *www.dramatots.co.uk*

THURSDAY

CHILL DANCE 5.45-6.45pm • Chloe 07972 350896

02/10/25 - U3A SCIENCE GROUP 2-4pm

FRIDAY

GRAVITY FITNESS - PILATES 9.30-10.30am • *gravityfitness@live.co.uk*

SATURDAY

ZUMBA 10-11am • *Michele.darnell@btinternet.com*

SUNDAY

TRED TRAINING Kettle Bell HIIT 9am • Body Weight HIIT 9.30am
tredtraining@outlook.com

Join in the fun!

Quiz Night

November 7th 2025

**Stoke Orchard
Community Centre**

7.00pm – 10.00pm

**Tickets £2.50/ person
Maximum of 6 people in a team**

**For tickets, contact Tracey Radford
07769 312977**

**All proceeds in aid of a new roof
for Stoke Orchard Church**

• Pay Bar •



Volunteer Corner

This month's jobs for any kind volunteers...

Do you walk your dog early or live on Greenwood Drive?

We need a volunteer to open the car park gate early to allow the school bus into the car park.

Painting – help us spruce up the glider to protect from the winter elements.

Weed around the hall and car park.

Litter pick.

Help with our social events, Halloween party & Pub Nights.

If you can help, please call or message Nikki 07437 533132.



dramatots

Stoke Orchard Community Centre

Wednesdays, during term time.

1.30 - 2.15 pm

3 class trial for £22.50 (50% sibling discount)

SING | DANCE | PLAY

*Support
local!*



*You'll find us just
down the road!*

**Fast, friendly and reliable print and design
solutions at a price to suit all budgets.**

Brochures | Invites | Posters | Flyers | Order of Services
Banners | Business Cards | Design | Artwork

typecraft
Print. It's what we do.

Finnick House | Longhill | Cheltenham | Gloucestershire | GL51 9TB

01242 518191 | sales@typecraft.co.uk | www.typecraft.co.uk