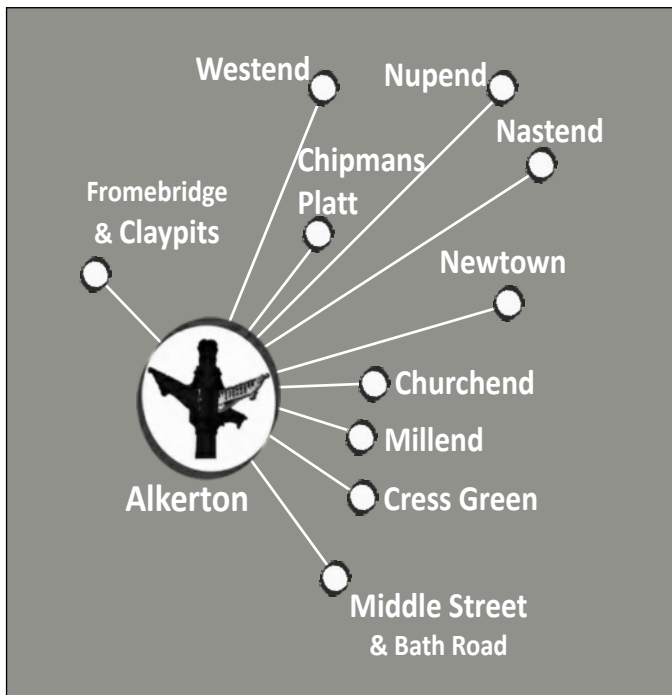




<https://ecn.eastington.website>

Dec / Jan 2022



Derek Greenaway



Jack Brown



Signpost

Your news... your ECN!

Written by You, produced by Tom & Jan Low and Mary Gribble.



Hello Dear Readers,

Welcome to this winter edition of ECN. A week ago I might have written 'late autumn' - but it seems that with the icy gales blowing outside as I write, winter has clearly decided to make its appearance.

We seem to have fewer community Christmas-time events in the village than in the past - partly Covid related still - but we hope that you will all be able to get out and about and enjoy the Advent Window trail - along with all the other lights and bezazz that will be going up in windows and gardens as Christmas approaches. It all helps to bring cheer to these long dark evenings.

I hope that you have been following Gill Glover's account of the protracted creation of our Community Centre at OHMG. This remarkable building has been achieved entirely by volunteer effort and Gill has been there all the way through to present times. We thank her for this and wish her well as she now steps down from the position of Centre Manager. The Centre has been through a bit of a sticky patch just recently, again partly Covid related but also due to lack of helpers - but now we welcome a new generation of volunteers and (Covid willing) can look forward to making full use of this great facility once more. Our thanks to the so very many who have been and are involved!

After the complications of yet another most peculiar year, we hope that you all have a good Christmas break - merry, peaceful, relaxing or spiritual as suits your needs - and a very Happy New Year.

Jan, Tom and Mary.

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Deadline for next issue : Thursday January 2022 (For delivery around 1st Feb 2022)

Please email your articles, stories, photos and events to articles@eastington.website

or, for ads please use advertising@eastington.website

Space is limited - we may omit. edit or shorten articles. Views expressed in ECN are not necessarily those of the editors.

See it in colour : visit the Eastington Hub at <https://eastington.website>

Community



Eastington Advent Trail 2021

Like a traditional advent calendar, a window in the village will be opened each night throughout December.

The creators will illuminate their windows from 5-9pm and the windows will stay on display each night until the 1st January. So by Christmas Eve there will be 24 decorated windows around Eastington to explore.

Maps will be available to buy from the Old Badger Inn for £5 per family in aid of the school.

Donations can also be made to Eastington School PA via this link. Thank you.

<https://www.justgiving.com/eastington-spa>

- and even if you are not part of the calendar trail, we hope that you will all join in to brighten up the village for this holiday season - and help to keep any winter blues at bay! Ed.

Alkerton Rangers FC

Alkerton Rangers FC the local football team based in Eastington are not only celebrating their 50th year in 2021, but are now proudly sponsored by very local business, Eastington Park. A new kit was presented to the team by Eastington Park owner Chris Greville-Heygate. Chris, an avid football follower, was more than happy to support his local team.

The team currently play in Stroud League division 7 and new players are always welcome.

Please contact our manager : Steven Lovell on 07490734047 if you would like to play.



Iain PW Photography

Councils

Parish Council News - 22nd November 2021



The Snakey Park play area was very popular throughout the summer and all the play equipment has had heavy use. Many thanks to the volunteers who have kept the play area clean and tidy and have carried out small maintenance tasks to keep it all working. The parish council arranged for a full inspection of the equipment, including the zip wire and single point swing in November, to ensure the continued safety and stability of the apparatus. Work has also been carried out on replacing areas of worn matting around the play equipment.

The council recently arranged for The Cross to be tidied up, with weeds and old shrubs removed, and the ground prepared ready for planting. Planting will take place over the next few weeks to include shrubs and bulbs.

The memorial garden is now a lovely peaceful area with benches and a bird table. The parish council has decided to turf the area for the time being, as a low-cost easy maintenance option. We are also appointing a contractor to plant up the 30 or so troughs around the village, so we should have a lovely display in the Spring.

The parish council is aware of residents' concerns regarding the increase in traffic through the village and the dangers of speeding vehicles. Regular speed checks have been carried out by the police throughout the year with many motorists being caught and fined. However, while this inevitably deters some drivers from speeding, it continues to be an issue. We have been told this is a county-wide problem. The parish council is working with Highways to come up with additional measures, particularly along Bath Road and Claypits where we are working with Highways to purchase a mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) to be used to reinforce drivers' awareness of their speed and flag when they are exceeding the 30mph limit. Gloucestershire County Council are working on a new policy for a county wide 20mph residential speed limit to be introduced in Gloucestershire. This would be done in conjunction with the police and local people. The parish council has registered its support for this policy.

In October a new bus shelter was installed at the Puddlesworth Turn bus stop near Fuller's Close, just in time to provide some shelter over the winter.

Shortly, two wooden stiles in Nupend are being replaced with kissing gates for improved access to footpaths and 3 new bins have been installed around Great Oldbury to increase the capacity as greater numbers of people are walking in the area. The council urges everyone to put their litter in the public bins, including bagged dog waste, or take it home and put it in their own household wheelie bin.

The parish council is in the process of purchasing a defibrillator for Great Oldbury. It will be fitted to the front entrance of the Travelodge, so it can be easily accessed by the residents and visitors of Great Oldbury. This is an addition to the 5 defibrillators already placed around the village.

- Old Badger Inn – GL10 3AT
- OHMG – GL10 3AQ
- Church – GL10 3SB
- Westend Suites – GL10 3SL
- John Stayte Services on Fence GL10 3AH

The defibrillators are easy to use, and I will arrange some training material to be available so that parishioners will be aware of how to use them.

Marianne Simpson

Parish Clerk - Eastington Parish Council

Tel: 01453 799616

Mob: 07747634217

Email: clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk

Groups

ECO - The Eastington Community Orchard

The Eastington Community Orchard is a great way of bringing us all together by using Apples and Pears!

Sounds a really mad idea - but it's already proven a big success!

ECO group Volunteers have long been planting and looking after apple, pear and other fruit trees in the orchard along the pathway between Springhill (near Eastington Park) and the Church. This orchard – the very first we planted – is called **Coneygree Orchard** – and for the best part of a decade now, its trees have been growing tall and proud and its paths and benches have been well used by many.

So successful has this been that the **ECO** members have opened a second community orchard. This is more central to the village and is reached via the little lane alongside the Kings Head, opposite the village Cross. This orchard is known as **Brownings Orchard** and although much younger than Coneygree, is already beginning to take shape with its own collection of fruit trees and bushes. It even has its own community pond which helps to maintain biodiversity.

Never been there?- you should go! (But beware it is a still bit muddy in bad weather - more paths to come!)

The BIG QUESTION now however, is how best to take advantage of these two marvellous community assets in the coming year?

We would like to organise some community-based events in the orchards, where everyone, can just come along and enjoy being outside with plenty of others. It's really just a case of what should we do and when?

You will soon be invited to join us for a meeting at which **your** ideas can be suggested, discussed and some set in motion. You don't have to be a current member of ECO, just someone who cares about nature in our village and enjoys its community. Watch notice boards and on facebook for dates and venue and please do come along. Please also feel free to email us at wendyfabbro@hotmail.co.uk If there is any orchard based event you would like to see or be a part of.

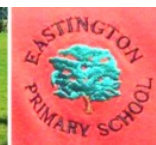
The ECO group's whole purpose is to use nature, and fruit trees in particular, to benefit the community and you'd be amazed at how a few apples and pears gives plenty of Eastington residents a chance to keep in touch.

The Eastington Community Orchard a great way of bringing us together by using Apples and Pears!



'Apple Day' October 2021 at the Badger - rotten weather, delicious juice, great company!

Community



Eastington Primary School

Children in Need – Friday 19th November 2021



Children in Need is a UK charity, who raise money throughout the year and have an annual appeal every November. Their mission is to help ensure every child in the UK is safe, happy, secure and has the opportunities they need to reach their potential. They fund over 2,500 local charities and projects, who help to remove the barriers that are facing children and young people, so they can thrive.

At school we wanted to raise money for Children in Need. Our School Council decided that we could wear something spotty. This could be a whole spotty outfit, spotty stickers stuck on our uniform or a pair of spotty socks. We were asked to bring in a donation of £1 to support this brilliant cause.

Some of us made our own outfits by drawing/sticking on colourful spots on t-shirts.

Do you like our spotty outfits?



We learned how Children in Need use the money to help others and how doing little things can make a **BIG** difference.

"We raise as much money as we can to send to charity." – Jackson

"We make money to give to children." – Olive

"To make families happy." – Dylan

By Class 2

Community

Eastington Community Centre and Owen Harris Memorial Ground

OHMG - The Story - Part Five - Conclusion.

If you have read the previous articles you may remember that by 2004, Eastington Community Project Working Group, a newly formed Committee (2002) were working flat out to raise money for a new Community Centre.

Local grants had been applied for and the first grant that came through was from the SDC Rural Regeneration Fund, imagine that Woo Hoo moment when we got the letter granting us £40,000, a seemingly immense sum. The Parish Council gave a grant of £30,000, a lot of money for them, and a previous S106 sum of £17,000 was agreed for the project. We then achieved a firm funding grant from the Charlie Bullock trust for £70,000, probably a clincher for future grant givers.

Meanwhile there is always a spanner about to throw itself into the works and ours was the Joint Charity Scheme. This was set up when the land was bequest in 1989. The Parish Council at this time were managing the Village Hall and then the new land. The Parish Council was already short of members so it was decided to adopt both assets under a joint charity scheme in order to simplify things. It was a good solution at the time. However from a fundraising perspective for a new Centre it complicated things and had to be addressed. One of the Committee members spent a lot of time sorting that one out and eventually the two facilities were separated to become individual charities.

After many more funding applications the Landfill tax credit grant makers started to take interest. First it was £15,000 then another £25,000, it was looking good. These were from the Ibstock Cory and the Cory Environmental Trusts. These Trusts had the same administrator; a wonderful lady who gave us so much support and advice. We'd jumped through a lot of hoops to get these grants and they were very supportive of the project, unlike the Biffaward....

We applied for the Biffaward, another LFT, never again! The form filling and supporting documents required can only be described as madness and that was just to get through round one. At the beginning of August (when everyone is on holiday, ta for that) the administrator sent a request for more supporting documents to include; letters of support from existing users and from potential users to be returned within 10 days – what? We called her about the short notice; apparently she had 'internal deadlines'. Should we just give up on it? No we would not as this application was for £50,000 and so much time and energy had already been invested in the application, we had to see it through.

The word went out... By the end of that day letters flooded in, who would have thought that the Eastington Model Makers Club were desperate to use the new centre, not to mention the WI, Ballroom dancing, a knitting circle and so on. Sadly no Eastington Model Makers Club ever did use the Centre, I was looking forward to that, but well done everyone because we got the grant.

The grant awards were going well and publicity about this new build Community Centre was increasing. But with all of this success there was still a very big shortfall. The original target was £250,000 but double that if you wanted the multi-use facility that was now planned.

At this point the Committee made the very brave decision to start the works. One Committee member said that if we could just build the shell and make the ground floor work then funders would see that it was a reality and would support it further. He was absolutely right.

In 2007 the preparatory works started with the site positioning of the new centre, trial pits were dug and soil samples collected. Meetings were held weekly in a dining room with the Architect, the main project manager and crucial committee members. The complexities of building it were innumerable; structural engineers, site inspections, building control, planning, utilities, it all had to be sorted out.



The actual building works commenced in 2008, very exciting, followed by a not so exciting recession. We had been promised the 'section 106' moneys from the Bradestone Way development and we were getting very twitchy about this, would we lose that money? A lot of calls were made and the developer's contact did pay the money over. He had just been made redundant. The same thing happened with the contact from Renishaw's, a grant of £5,000 was paid but that contact was also made redundant. Hard times.

Community

We did get that money and what followed was a mad scramble to further fund the shortfall, no stone was left unturned. Begging calls were made, awful, but needs must.... A local business man had donated £25,000 for footings, another donated £1,000 just by someone on the Committee making a cheeky phone call. In fact he said 'Is this a begging call', 'Actually yes, sorry about that', 'Put me down for a £1,000 and make sure xxxx puts his hand in his pocket'. Begging letters to small Trusts got results. The Jack Lane Charitable Trust contributed £1,000 and many more gave small sums, we couldn't have done it without them.

However, another unforeseen issue was that most grant makers who pledge support for your project won't pay the grant over until they see the results, impossible for a small charity like us. So that was worked around with help from some of the grant makers who were prepared to release the funds up front, amazing because they really were taking a punt. SDC, EPC, the Cory and Ibstock Cory Trusts and the Charlie Bullock fund got us well and truly build started.



Once the building was looking like a reality some grant funders doubled their original grant. SDC granted £80,000 in total, the two Cory Trusts doubled their grants and EPC further supported it. Even grant makers who didn't support 'capital build projects' were persuaded. A local trust agreed to fund the toilets and kitchen area, with some creative form filling. In fact there was a lot of creativity in all aspects, especially with the finances.

From the start the whole ethos of the new centre was that it should be an eco-build. The design had maximised insulation and green products where possible but so far there weren't any grants in respect of renewable energy until one Committee member put together a very complex application and was awarded £50,000 for the Solar and PV system. What a team!

In the summer of 2009 the builders had finished and the grant money had nearly all gone. But hey, this is Eastington! Volunteers fitted the kitchen, the bar area

and the outside decking. Volunteers even smashed down the old pavilion, a bit scary in respect of H&S but it had to go.

In September 2009 a Village Fete was held to celebrate this immense achievement. Shirley Harris, the widow of Owen Harris, attended and formally opened the brand new Eastington Community Centre. She was amazing.



The bar was open and a good time was had by all but we literally had no money left and no tables and chairs!

At the Fete a stall was set up in the hall corner 'Sponsor a chair for Posteriority' £15 for a chair with a named label on it. That day 108 chairs were sponsored by local people, some were sponsored for our young folks and some in memory. So if you sit on a chair at the Community Centre remember that it was gifted by a local person for a loved one. A local business also sponsored the round tables we have and they have been used for many weddings and celebratory events, what a lovely gift.

From start to finish the Eastington Community Centre was built in one year. The overall cost was £554,000. It took blood, sweat and tears but it came in on time and on budget, and all done by Volunteers.

The land was bequest in 1989 and almost to the day 20 years later a new Community Centre was completed. To everyone involved, big or small, past or present; we did this and we should all be very proud.



Community

Eastington Community Centre and Owen Harris Memorial Ground The Trustees and Management Committee.

During the summer and autumn the community centre and playing field has been getting back into operation, welcoming our regular users. We are now taking on a few special bookings and there are plans to revamp the website and booking system.

A few months ago the OHMG centre manager Gill Glover gave notice she wished to resign and the OHMG management and trustee team have been able to recruit a new management team to carry on the baton to run the centre and playing field activities. Anthea introduces the team below.

I hope you have been reading Gill's articles of the history of how the centre and field were formed over a period of 40 years; the concluding article is in this ECN edition.

Gill joined the OHMG team around 20 years ago amid the effort to replace the temporary building with the modern Community Centre that we have had now now since 2010. Her role was central to achieving the new build project with the key task of obtaining the grants and funding of around £500k; no mean task. Even after the new building was handed over there were still tasks to complete. This included making a new car park, supported by Eastington PC, as well as establishing operations around the use of the building - primarily by Eastington Playgroup - and bringing in many other users. As well as secretary of the management committee Gill took on the role of Bar Manager and later Centre Manager.

What a contribution to the success of our excellent village facility! Thanks for all this and best wishes, Gill, for the future.

John Morris - Trustees Chair

Hello, I'm Anthea McCann – as you will have seen from the previous item, Gill Glover has stepped down from her role as Centre Manager. She has worked tirelessly for the Charity for over 20 years, was part of the team responsible for bringing the Community Centre on to become the great asset it is to the village today, and we all owe her a big vote of thanks.

It's an indication of how great Gill's contribution to OHMGC has been that it has taken four of us to cover the roles that she has been responsible for!

so I will now introduce 'us':-

Thomas Hawtin: Centre Manager, Health & Safety, Maintenance, Security. Key Holder
email: thomas.hawtin@sky.com Phone: 07816 885580

Jorja May: Single user events bookings and information, Key Holder
email: jorjamay2015@gmail.com Phone 07966678296

Ben Ittyavirah: IT and Website
email: benoy23@hotmail.com

Anthea McCann: Admin, Assistant to Treasurer, contact for regular users
email: antheamccann@gmail.com Phone 07808 514327

Anna Ittyavirah and Kim Jones - new committee members

I hope we can all contribute to the continued success of the Charity, and the benefit it is for the people of Eastington and surrounding local communities

Community



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History

Eastington's cloth - famous around the world

Stephen Mills

It's easy to think that in earlier centuries, like so many others, our little workaday village had little to do with the outside world. It's true that many villagers didn't stray too far - it's only a generation ago that a visit to the bright lights and shops of Gloucester was a day out to remember! However, this only paints part of the picture, as Eastington was once well-known (both nationally and internationally) for the range and quality of the cloth produced in its mills.

The name 'Hooper' has come up in several previous articles, and it was thanks largely to the efforts of two generations of the family that woollen cloth produced in Eastington's mills found a place in some of the most prestigious exhibitions around the world. Under the management of Charles Hooper, and later, his son, Charles Henry Hooper, Eastington cloth went on to win both praise and awards.

The Hoopers must have appreciated the effectiveness of good advertising and invested a lot in promoting their wares at major exhibitions. The first we know about was the remarkable Great Exhibition, held in the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, London, in 1851. Even today, everyone knows about this - it was probably the most successful, memorable, and influential cultural event of the 19th century.

The 'Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations', to give it its full name, displayed 13,000 exhibits and was visited by over six million people - it's thought that a third of the entire British population visited at some point. The exhibition was the first ever international exhibition of manufactured products and inspired a series of similar fairs in other cities. Eastington cloth was displayed and promoted at many of these.



At the Crystal Palace, half the exhibition space was given over to British manufacturers, and the other half to foreign countries. Textile and woollen products were exhibited in the part known as Bradford Court.

Hooper's entry in the catalogue of exhibits describes:

cloths, wool-dyed, woaded, piece-dyed, etc. Single-milled cassimere. Patent elastic trousering and gloving material.

The last one is particularly interesting and hints at the competitive market that Charles Hooper was operating in. Unlike many of his local counterparts, he was not averse to trying out new ideas, one of which was the successful development of an elasticated material used initially for gloves, and later, for making trousers. As the material became more established, it became known widely as 'Hooper's Lustres' and its use spread to the manufacture of great coats. So novel was this elasticated material that Hooper was awarded a prize medal in the exhibition's Woollen and Worsted section. It was noted that:

only two novelties had been produced in the preceding decade, one of which was the newly-developed elastic gloving cloth developed by Charles Hooper.

The material was to prove very popular in the clothing trade for several decades. It's not clear which of his mills were directly involved, but it seems likely that at least part of the manufacturing process was carried out in the tall central building of Fromebridge Mill. At the time of the Great Exhibition, amongst other textile workers recorded at the mill, the 1851 census noted the presence of "elastic winders". It's such a unique occupation that there has to be a link.

History



Bradford Court, the Textiles & Woollen section of the Great Exhibition, 1851

Eastington-made cloth was destined to be promoted at a series of major events in the years following the Great Exhibition. For example, 1862 saw the opening of The International Exhibition, or Great London Exposition, in South Kensington, where types of cloth produced in our village included superfine black, scarlet, coloured cloth, doeskins, and elastics. Clearly, the elasticated fabric was still in demand. The exposition featured over 28,000 exhibitors from 36 countries. Eastington cloth must have been viewed by countless thousands and garnered a lot of interest.

However, on a personal front, not all was going well for Charles Hooper (but that's a story for another time).

Others events followed that included the Vienna Universal Exhibition, or World Fair, of 1873, and a major show in Paris in 1878. In Vienna, Charles Henry Hooper displayed examples of Eastington-made West of England Superfine Broadcloths, Military and Hunting Cloths, Doeskins, Cassimeres and other Trouserings, Carriage Lining and Livery Cloths, Beavers, Meltons, Venetian, and Kerseys (names that now mean little to most of us!).

In August 1878, the Stroud Journal reported on Hooper's success at the Paris exposition, noting that the judges had:

found Hooper's exhibit that included his elastic cloth and a diagonal coating woven under a new patent, by far the most remarkable in the place.

Eastington cloth made it beyond Europe to several major events in the USA. 1876 saw the opening of the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. Charles Hooper & Co's products were located in the main exhibition building and included an array of lengths of woollen cloths, broadcloths, military cloths, and skins, all in a hanging display. (See over page)

History



***The Philadelphia Exhibition of 1876.
The Eastington Mills' display (LHS) and part of the main exhibition building (RHS)***

This was followed in 1893 by The World's Columbian Exposition, or the Chicago World's Fair, organised to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the New World in 1492. It was the biggest fair yet, and no less than forty six countries had pavilions there. Remarkably, more than 27 million people visited during its six-month run. Hooper and Eastington were once again represented with a display that included:

West of England fine cloths: coatings, trouserings, serges, military (scarlet), naval (blue), carriage, livery, cricket and tennis, billiard, piano, printers', gloving cloths.

Speciality: Hooper's "warpless elastic cloths."

The exposition was a great success but it ended on an unexpected note as the city's mayor was assassinated two days before it finally closed.

So, our village may lack grand houses and celebrity residents, but the name 'Eastington' was once well known and respected by those who knew the difference between their Cassimeres and Kerseys!

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Apart from pre-arranged holidays, this work will be on-going, and so the position is best suited to someone who is able to commit to 10 hours per week including, for example, during school holidays.

In the first instance please email Caroline Tosh at ctosh1@talktalk.net for a job description, background information and details of how to apply.

The deadline for applications is 7th Dec 2021.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

We raised an amazing sum locally, it will be over £2,500 when the final donations are in from the local church and Parish Councils. There were many £20 notes, and one washer!



On behalf of the Poppy Appeal, we thank all those in our community who donated so generously and to all the businesses that kindly hosted the trays of poppies and collecting tins.

If your organisation or business would like to have a poppy collection box next year please contact us via the Eastington Community News at articles@eastington.website or post on the Love Eastington Facebook Page.

Kathryn and Mary Gribble



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Church



St. Michael and All Angels Church Eastington



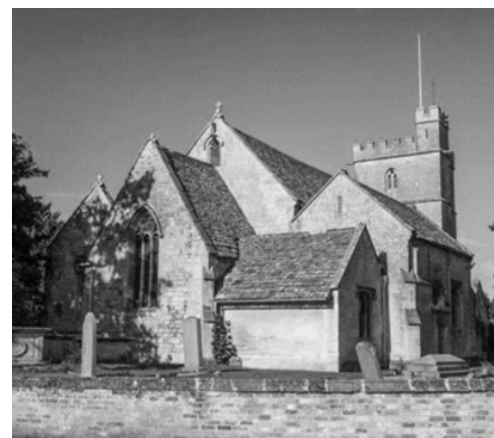
On 14th November 2021 we held our usual Remembrance Sunday service when we remember those who gave their lives for our freedom and in particular those from this Parish. Some of you may not be aware that many roads in Great Oldbury are named after Eastington men who fell during the World War conflicts which is a fitting tribute.

Despite the sombre nature of the service, we were delighted that so many attended this year and gathered afterwards at the War Memorial in the church yard when a wreath was laid.

Information on forthcoming events taking place in Eastington and across the Team you can ask to receive the weekly pew sheet by emailing:
officestroudwater@gmail.com.

The church is open 7 days a week, between the approximate hours of 9am-4pm. Please come and visit if you would like to experience the beauty of the church building or would like to offer a prayer or for a period of quite reflection.

The well-used library at the back of the church has had a makeover and is re-stocked with fresh books on a regular basis. You are welcome to come into the church for a quiet browse.



Please remember The Stroud District Foodbank, especially at this time of year when we should focus on the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves.

There is a collection point at the back of the church which remains open. All donations are gratefully received and taken to the Foodbank on a weekly basis.

Every year the Stroud District Foodbank lovingly prepares 600 Christmas Hampers that go to local households. These hampers provide some extra treats to bring cheer over the holidays.

This year they are partnering with Nailsworth Rotary, Standing Together Trust and Homestart to provide a book, an educational pack and a craft pack for children.



Church

St. Michael and All Angels Church Eastington



We plan to go ahead with our popular Christingle service this year at the usual time 6pm Christmas Eve.

The service is partly held in candle light and makes for a delightful start to our Christmas celebrations.

If you have children and want to come along, please be sure to get here early to get a seat. Collection boxes are available at the school and there will also be a number at the back of the Church nearer the time.



We are also taking part in the Stonehouse **Churches Together** "Sheep Trail" in Stonehouse and Eastington from 1st to 24th December.

Children can spot and discover the names of sheep hidden in shops in Stonehouse and Eastington.

There will be a prize for the winner to be announced at the Christingle Service.

The Christingle Service will be followed by a traditional Midnight Mass at 11pm.

Contact: Mike Naylor: 01453 822728 mike@mikenaylorsurveyors.co.uk



Churches Together

**Churches Together in Stonehouse
with Churches in Eastington, Standish & Haresfield**

Messy Knit-i-vity Sheep Trail

From 1st Dec – Fri 24th Dec

**The shepherds want to visit baby
Jesus but they've lost their
sheep...**

**Can you help
find them?**



**Collect your worksheets from any of our churches or on
Facebook and get searching.**

We will be having various 'CELEBRATIONS' hosted by all our churches. You are very welcome to join us at any of these services receive a small gift. You may even find *some more sheep!*

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

St Cyr's Church
Bethel Church

Stonehouse Methodist Church
Stonehouse Baptist Church
St Joseph's Catholic Church
St Michaels & AA, Eastington
St Nicholas, Standish
St Peter's, Haresfield

- Christmas Eve Crib Service @ 2pm
- 11th December Children Christmas Party & Messy Nativity Sheep @ 5pm - 7pm
- 19th December Nativity @ 10.30am
- 19th December Christmas Celebration @ 10.30am
- Christmas Eve @ 5pm followed by family vigil mass
- Christmas Eve Christingle @ 6pm
- Christmas Day Communion @ 9.30am
- 15th December Christingle with Haresfield School @ 6pm

Church



**STROUDWATER
TEAM OF CHURCHES**

At the heart of Christmas



Christmas events and services in the Stroudwater Team

(Leonard Stanley, Kings Stanley, Selsley, Frocester, Frampton, Arlingham, Fretherne, Stonehouse, Eastington, Standish, Haresfield, Framilode, Saul, Moreton Valence, Whitminster)

The beautiful churches of the Stroudwater Team are waiting to invite you to celebrate Christmas this year, and we would love to welcome you! Each of us has something in Christmas that inspires us and brings us joy, that thing which we say, 'That's what Christmas is all about'. We believe that at the heart of Christmas is a person, Jesus.

We'd love to share Christmas with you and celebrate the heart of Christmas

Services at St Michaels & All Angels Church, Eastington and Team services

12th Dec 11.15 am Communion Rev. Dave Bishop
24th Dec 6 pm Christingle Rev. Dave Bishop
24th Dec 11 pm Midnight Communion Rev. Dave Bishop
26th Dec 9.30 am **Team Service Moreton Valence Church**
(followed by a walk and refreshments)

9th Jan 11.15 am Communion
Rev. Dave Bishop
23rd Jan 11.15 am Communion
Rev. Steve Harrison
30th Jan 9.30 am **Team Service**
Standish Church

There is no carol service at Eastington this year, but carol services are being held at other team churches:-

Tuesday: 7 December

19:00 – Carols around the brazier:
Leonard Stanley

Friday: 10 December

18:00 – Carols: *Kings Stanley*

Saturday: 11 December

16:00 – Carols and Christingle: *Arlingham*
18:00 – Canalside Carols – *Saul*

Sunday: 12 December

16:00 – Carols – Moreton Valence

Monday: 13 December

17:00 – Carols - *Whitminster*

Friday: 17 December

19:00 – Great Oldbury Carols – Great
Oldbury Primary School

Saturday: 18 December

16:00 – Contemporary Carol Service – *Standish*
18:00 – Carol Service – *Saul*

Sunday: 19 December

15:00 – Carol Service: *Fretherne*
16:00 – Carols – *Haresfield*
19:30 – Nine lessons and Carols: *Selsley*
18:00 – Carols: *Frampton*
18:00 – Carols – *Framilode*

Monday: 20 December

12:15 Carols and Casserole: *Leonard Stanley* (Please email Julia if attending:
Julia@Michalb.co.uk)

Tuesday: 21 December

19:00 Candle-lit Carols: *Leonard Stanley*

If you would like more information or simply to be in touch, please contact one of the Team clergy:

Rev Steve Harrison: general queries but particularly events in the Stanleys, Selsley, Frocester, Moreton Valence and Whitminster: rectorstroudwater@gmail.com

Rev Liz Palin: Frampton-on-Severn, Arlingham, Fretherne, Framilode and Saul: tv1stroudwater@gmail.com

Rev Dave Bishop: Stonehouse, Standish, Eastington, Haresfield: tv2stroudwater@gmail.com

If the weather is inclement and you're wondering if an event is still being held, please have a look at our **Facebook page 'Stroudwater Team of Churches'**, you can also see there what's happening in other churches, and we'll let you know what's coming up on that day.

However, you celebrate Christmas this year we wish you and yours a happy and peaceful celebration.



Church

Eastington Methodist Church

Christmas number 1

Do you know the story of the first Christmas?

How God sent His own Son (His only Son) from Heaven, into the world, to be born a tiny, human, baby.

But not only that

- not to be born in a palace, so it was obvious he was important and God's Son, but to be born in a dirty, smelly stable.
- not to be born to parents of importance and standing but to a lowly, insignificant couple.
- not to be born to a couple who were married, so there wouldn't be disgrace, and a question over his legitimacy and who he actually was (things were very different then).
- not to be worshipped by angels of heaven but by lowly, rough shepherds and men who studied the stars and magic.

And why was God prepared to risk all that? The clue is in the name His Son was given, "Jesus". It means "God saves".

I believe the Christmas story makes it clear that people are in need of rescuing. Rescuing from ourselves. Rescuing from our sin and the hold it has on us. Rescuing from destruction! God's plan to rescue us was to send His Son, to be born of a virgin – so that He would be both God and human – but without the sin. To live among us, showing God's amazing love, almighty power and saving grace. And then to die in our place, taking the punishment for our sin, our turning our backs on God and deciding we know better. So that instead we can know forgiveness, freedom from guilt and a new closeness with God as our Heavenly Father. We can walk with Him every day of our lives, and even into death, if we put our trust in Jesus, turn from going our own way, and give our lives to Him.

"God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life." John 3:16

Why not come along to one of our Christmas activities to find out more?

Youth Club – we expect youth club to be running every Friday except Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. New members are welcome and we would also be interested in hearing from anyone who would like to help us run the youth club.

Eastington Methodist Church Main Activities (some will take a break over Christmas period)		
Baby & Toddler Group		Mondays 10:00 – 11:30am
Prayer Meetings using Zoom:		Tuesdays & Fridays 8:30 – 9:00am
Lunchtime Bible Study (includes a light lunch)		Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:30pm
Bible Study House group using Zoom		Tuesdays 7:30 – 8:45pm
Youth Club (11-18)		Fridays 7:00 – 9:00pm
Sundays at 11am:	Café Church (all ages together)	Sunday Dec 12th, Jan 9th
	Morning Services (refreshments afterwards)	The other Sundays 11am



If you'd like to know more; or you'd just like someone to talk to; or if we can help in any way; give us a call.

Ken & Beck Burgin 01453 827414 or 07511197265 or email: info@EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

Groups

Eastington Cricket Club

The Cricket season is over for the winter but Keith has sent us his take on the cricket world as he looks back on the trials of the covid-blighted season.....

As the sun slid over the equator and the Autumn Equinox closed the curtain on another covid cricket stage, the players could reflect on what the 2021 season had taught them:-

1. When changing rooms are closed, it's easier getting changed at home than in the front seat of a Reliant Robin.
2. Don't play in the rain. When play is suspended and you are wet, you will have to sit in your car. The seat will get wet and the windows will steam up.
3. Don't drink too much at lunchtime as the toilets may not be open and 2.5 hours in the field in a chilly wind will seem a long time.
4. Don't leave your packed tea in the sun on the back seat of the car; the ice cream will melt.
5. Hit 4s and 6s so you don't run around more than you have to. The showers will probably be closed.
6. The umpire will not hold your sweater when you are bowling so check you can tie the arms round your waist with a reef knot.
7. If you put too much hand sanitiser on you will drop the next catch; if you don't put enough on you may be in quarantine for 10 days and miss 2 games.
8. When fielding, only rub sanitiser on the shiny side of the ball. This will help it swing.
9. Nobody knows what rule covers the ball hitting the sanitiser bottle parked behind the stumps so be prepared for an argument.
10. Leaping in the air, arms aloft, staring at the umpire from more than 2 metres away and whispering "how is that" through a mask, looks, and sounds, daft.



If people stop encouraging the spread of the virus we hoped to be back to normal next season - but, just to keep us on our toes, the MCC announced on 22nd September that "batsmen" will no longer be part of the game. Charity shops became full of cricket bats only, days later, to have queues of cricketers trying to buy them back when it was realised that "batters" (cricketers holding bats) would replace them.

The price of flour in the shops doubled as word got out that the change of name was in honour of the great Yorkshire "batterer" 'Arry Ramsden. Yorkshire Cricket Club's one day side became known as the "Yorkshire Puddings" and recipe books flew off the shelves as cricketers sought to discover new techniques before their opponents did.

If you want to be part of our 2022 production then please contact:

Roger Beese 01453-823128. (bookings and ticket sales),

Paul Hancock 01452-720960 (Director), or Keith Dench (Producer) 01453-764990.

Eastington Farm Shop

Now stocking Eastington Community Orchard Apple juice

We asked you for suggestions of local charities to support this year. Thank you so much for all of your suggestions, so many wonderful charities that are doing great things locally.

This time round, 100% of profit made from the sale of the Eastington Community Orchards (ECO) Group Apple Juice will be going to Stroud Womens Refuge.

Stroud Womens Refuge offers help, support and accommodation to women and families experiencing domestic abuse.



Groups



As we approach the 'most wonderful time of the year' our playgroup is filled with jingle bells and festive songs as we practise for the Christmas concert we hope to hold for parents.



The children gathered various toys to make a bridge and worked together to get across it.



We talked about fireworks and fire safety and used our water sprayers to put out 'fire' which the children found very exciting.



We also had a week of dressing up and the children donated to Children In Need. We spoke about why it is important to help others.

Save the date! All being well we will be holding our very successful Bingo evening on **Friday 11th March**.

This is a great event and there are always some fantastic prizes on offer. Keep an eye out for further information and how to get tickets.



It is never too early to register your child with us.

Sessions for September 2022 are already filling up, so please contact us on 07977342742 or email us at eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com to arrange a visit or for a registration form.

Community

The Ocean, the Railway and the Towpath

The canal towpath between Ocean swing bridge and Bonds Mill will be closed from 18 October until the end of March 2022 as part of the work to replace the railway bridge.

An alternative walking and cycling route has been arranged through St Cyr's Churchyard and will be signposted - please be mindful of church services that may be taking place.

The current bridge with its narrow opening will be replaced with a new, wider bridge that will allow boats to pass under, and an integrated canal side footpath. It is the largest engineering project in the Cotswold Canals Connected programme and is a vital part of the plan to connect the restored canal to the national waterways network, eventually making Stonehouse and Stroud canal towns once again.

This project was planned for May of last year, but was delayed primarily by difficult ground conditions. Preparatory work started in October and the new bridge will be installed between the 24th and 30th of December 2021, with work on-going around the clock.

You will not be able to view the works directly, but regular photos and drone footage are to be posted on the Cotswold Canals Connected website and social media so that anyone who is interested can watch what is taking place.

Find out more about Cotswold Canals Connected at www.cotswoldcanalsconnected.org and their social media pages.



The existing railway bridge, water conduit and pedestrian tunnel



Artist's impression of the new bridge and towpath



Smart Meters

Smart Meters are being talked about a great deal these days and many people are having

tele-phone calls to encourage them to have one in place of their old meters.

If you would like to know more about smart meters and the in-home display unit and find out what assistance they might be to help monitor your use of electricity and gas then contact Citizens Advice on **Freephone 0808 800 0510/ 0808 800 0511**.

We can also discuss any other energy questions or concerns you may have.

Please note that eligibility of smart meters may vary - and savings are only made if you act on the information that the meter display provides!



~ ~ ~
 ★ Garden tidies ★ Planting ★
 ★ Waste removal ★ Mowing ★
 ★ Vegetable maintenance / advice ★
 Hedge cutting ★ Small landscaping

~ ~ ~
 Call or message 07966965356 for a free garden visit and no obligation quote

Email: fredhumphries18@gmail.com