



December 2022

Elkstonians Village Newsletter



Margaret's Meanderings...

November seems to have brought us nothing but heavy rain, as this picture of 'The Well' in the centre of Upper Elkstone shows. Let's hope that the local reservoir is filling up at last & perhaps we should be thankful that so far (fingers crossed!) we have not had a repeat of the three days of being snowed in without electricity that we endured towards the end of November 2021....



Diary Dates St John's Church & Village Events

Sunday 4th December **Holy Communion 11am**

Sunday 18th December **Carol Service 7pm**

The Carol Service will be followed by mince pies, hot mulled wine & Liz's Raffle, and a chance to chat to your friends & neighbours so please come along & enjoy the Christmas cheer at our first Carol Service since 2019. Offers of mince pies will be welcomed by Myrtle Alcock (304225) & offers of Raffle Prizes will be welcomed by Liz Meakin (304295). Funds raised will go towards the maintenance of our lovely little church.

Sunday 11th December **Christmas Lunch @ Biggin Hall**
12.30 for 1pm

Don't forget to bring a present costing less than £5, wrapped & labelled 'gent' if you are a man or 'lady' if you are a woman, for Santa to distribute afterwards 😊

Friday 16th December **Carol Singing around Elkstones**
This year's fund raiser is for Shelter. Carol singers please meet at Bank House at 6.30 for a pre-singing mince pie & a glass of Katy's home-made punch! If you would like the singers to call, please ring Margaret (300358) or email grants.elkstones@btinternet.com

Bin Collection Dates for Christmas week

Blue bins will be emptied on Thursday 29th December instead of Tuesday 27th

Church cleaning & flowers for December – Liz Meakin



At this time of year, when we're planning cosy meals with family & friends, giving gifts & hugs and celebrating the festive season, I always think of the homeless. Their goal is simply to find food, warmth & somewhere safe to sleep. That's why I've chosen Shelter as my charity for this year. Thank you very much in advance for your kind donations 😊

Jane

www.shelter.org.uk



A Piece of History for Elkstones

We had a lovely service to mark **Remembrance Day** on the 13th November & Elkstones was honoured to have been chosen to become part of the story of the **WW1 Battle of Verdun**. The vicar Fr. John told us how, after the Battle of Verdun, which was fought over 302 days in 1916 by the French who were holding out against the German invaders, there were **only two trees left standing alive** on the battlefield, **an oak & a horse chestnut**. The British allies fought the Battle of the Somme partly to draw pressure away from Verdun, in order to bring some relief to the French defenders. A very costly sacrifice, as the loss of British lives was enormous.

After the war ended, **the Mayor of Verdun sent a bag of acorns & horse chestnuts from these trees to Britain** as a thank you. Of these, one was planted at Sandringham by Queen Mary, two were planted at Kew Botanical Gardens & the rest were distributed around the country to individuals, groups & organisations in return for a donation to the War Seal Foundation, a charity set up by Sir Oswald Stoll to build self-contained homes for returning soldiers, with medical facilities on site. (The charity still exists, with the same aims, but is now called the Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation). **Lichfield received an acorn** & the tree grown from it is now over 100 years old.

In 2020 Paul Niven, Lichfield District Council's Community Gardener, **collected acorns from this tree** & grew saplings from them, which were given out to a number of churches & schools in the Lichfield Diocese.

The **vicar received a sapling for our Parish & chose to bring it to Elkstones**, partly because it should have a good chance in our quiet graveyard of growing undisturbed for long enough for it to become established. In time it will become a unique outdoor War Memorial & eventually there will be a **plaque to explain its origins as a grandchild of the Verdun Oak**.

At the end of our Remembrance Service, the sapling was planted in the lower section of the churchyard by the vicar's brother Michael.

Thank you Michael, it was not an easy task digging the hole!



Warslow & Elkstones Parish Council
has a casual vacancy for a new
Parish Councillor

Details are currently displayed on the village Notice Board or can be obtained from the Parish Clerk
Mrs Sandra Hampson
parishclerk.warslow@gmail.com

To apply for this position, please contact Sandra before 14th December

This Christmas Leek High School are doing their usual collection for the Leek & District food bank.

If you would like to donate anything (it will be distributed after Christmas) please contact Emma at Town Way House or on ethoenissen@ttl.org.uk by 11th December to arrange collection. Thank you very much—any items will be greatly appreciated.



Wishing all friends & neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a happy, peaceful & prosperous New Year!

