



Margaret's Meanderings...

April was so cold & showery even the local lambs needed raincoats!

Now we can look forward to our village get together to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The venue for the Big Lunch has been moved to the back lawn at Bank House as it will be safer, with much more space, and tea & coffee making facilities if wanted & toilet facilities if needed 😊



Thanks to Jane for the photo

<u>Diary Dates</u>	<u>St John's Church & Village Events</u>
Sunday 7th May	Coronation Big Lunch 12.00 for 1.00pm sit down at Bank House
Sunday 7th May	Coronation Sunday Evening Service 6.30pm
Sunday 21st May	Holy Communion 3.00pm
Friday 16th—	Elkstones Flower Festival Weekend 10.30am—5.00pm daily St John's Church
Sunday 18th June	plus the two special Flower Festival Weekend events below ↓
Friday 16th June	Cheese & Wine Evening—talk on Cheese Making 6.30pm in church—details overleaf
Sunday 18th June	Wakes Service 7.00pm with Ashbourne Town Band, followed by beef baps & a bar
Church cleaning	May—Elizabeth Buxton



Plans for the Coronation Weekend

Friday 5th May 6pm Anyone able to **help set up** for the lunch, please meet at the barn below the old school to carry up some village tables currently stored there & to erect gazebos & bunting. We'll also need to transport the chairs from the church.

Saturday 6th May Coronation Day free for TV viewing or however else you plan to spend the day ...

Sunday 7th May from 12.00 Big Lunch @ Bank House

So far 26 people are coming together to celebrate the event. Arrive from 12.00, bring your own picnic. We'll have time to chat before sitting down together for our Big Lunch at around 1.00. The Elkstonians will provide fizz to toast the new King, a glass to drink it from & soft drinks for the children. Fingers crossed for nice weather, but if it's too inclement we can move into Bank House!

Hopefully those attending will help to take the tables & chairs back again afterwards, probably around 2.30 😊





Flower Festival

Plans are proceeding for the Flower Festival & Wakes weekend **16th—18th June**. The Festival will be open daily from 10.30am to 5pm. The theme is 'Lyrics in Bloom' based on flowers mentioned in the title or lyrics of songs. After 4 years without a Flower Festival thanks to Covid, it will be lovely to have another of our village's favourite events at last, and to be able to raise funds again for the upkeep of our very special little church. [Please contact Myrtle Alcock if you would like to do an arrangement](#)

Volunteers will be needed for:

- ☼ The Refreshments Rota (there will be a list in church shortly)
- ☼ To sponsor an arrangement (please give your sponsorship donation to Myrtle who will allocate it as needed)
- ☼ To provide raffle & tombola prizes (please give to Myrtle – she can collect if necessary)
- ☼ To donate cakes & buns for the refreshments – please let Myrtle know if you can provide some

Myrtle ☎ 01538 304225

Cheese & Wine Evening!

On Friday 16th June at 6.30 for 7pm there will be a talk in church given by Alan Salt on the subject of 'Cheese Making', followed by a cheese tasting session accompanied by a nice glass of wine.

The talk is part of the Flower Festival & the price of £7 on the door will go to St John's Church funds



Warslow & Elkstones Educational Charity

If you are under 25 & need help to support your own or your child's education, with regard to books, stationery or specialist equipment, the Warslow & Elkstones Educational Charity can offer funding towards your educational needs. You must be resident or have parents resident in the parish of Warslow & Elkstones.

To apply, or to find out more, please contact

warslow.elkstones.trust@gmail.com or 01298 84624/07786 961219

Neighbourhood Watch

Many years ago, we had a flourishing Neighbourhood Watch scheme running in Elkstones but it dwindled away when the police stopped doing their regular calls alerting us to criminal activity in our area. Should we explore registering Elkstones as a local scheme? It would certainly benefit us all!! Jane Prince has very kindly offered to investigate... Meanwhile, there is an excellent free Neighbourhood Watch magazine available online. Visit www.ourwatch.org.uk to sign up for the magazine & get lots of useful information, including advice on all types of crime prevention



The Elkstonians: Chair *Jane Prince* Vice Chair *Don Sutherland* Secretary *Katy Parkinson* Treasurer *Margaret Grant*
Newsletter: Content *Margaret* Editing/Layout *Jane* Distribution *Margaret/Katy*

Please see below a letter from Warslow & Elkstones' Parish Clerk, explaining the increase in the parish precept this year. Several villagers have questioned the large rise on the Council Tax bill.

WARSLOW AND ELKSTONES PARISH COUNCIL

Parish precept increase for 2023-2024

Unfortunately, Warslow and Elkstones Parish Council had to make a very difficult decision at the parish council meeting of 25th January 2023 to increase the parish precept for 2023-2024. A lengthy discussion took place with reference to next year's financial budget.

A number of financial reasons influenced the decision, including a very important project to commence for the benefit of the whole parish.

This project is to attempt to secure future burial facilities within the parish, as the churchyard is approaching full capacity. There are some very significant costs involved in the provision of new burial facilities but it is hoped that it will be appreciated by parishioners that this will be of a huge benefit, as the alternative could mean burials having to take place away from the parish.

In addition, 2023 is a parish council election year. A contested election can involve significant expenditure to the parish council and has to be taken into consideration. Lengthsman duties and parish maintenance remain a significant portion of the parish council's budget to ensure the parish remains in an attractive state for everyone's benefit.

The actual increase to the precept, in monetary terms, to Band D properties will actually not be too significant; however, in terms of a percentage increase, in comparison to the previous year, has somewhat increased.

Parishioners are always welcome to attend parish council meetings and a dedicated public speaking section appears on every agenda. The agendas can be found on the parish noticeboards and the parish council's website.

**Mrs S Hampson
Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer
Warslow and Elkstones Parish Council**

26th January 2023