Edition 45 Autumn 2023

LocalLife The Newsletter of Dodleston Parish Council

in this issue...

- Meet The Vicar
- Let's Get Our Parish Moving!
- The Secret Gardener!



Welcome from the Editor



Hello Dodleston Parish!

As you probably know, we said goodbye to Carl Willis who was Editor for our last two issues after taking over from Roger Taylor. Carl has moved to another area for a new venture as a publican landlord – we wish him all the best!

I have now taken over the role as the new Editor and thought

that we could do with a bit of a revamp and as ever, was keen on getting your views. The quick survey that I ran via our local WhatsApp groups provided great feedback which I'm more than happy to share with you. Thank you to everyone who took time to respond. I asked three main questions: What do you like about Local Life; What don't you like about Local Life and do you have any suggestions for content.

Let us start with what you don't like – whilst the majority of people were happy with the magazine, which is nice to know, some comments mentioned that at times content would be out of sync with the dates, for example advertising an event that has already happened. I will try my best to get this right, but sometimes we plan that the magazine comes out before an event only for it to be delayed due to a variety of reasons. We will keep trying to get this sorted.

Great suggestions flooded in for new content. From publicising a forthcoming events diary which we have included in this issue and will update going forward, to the list of the WhatsApp groups in the village. Talking about the WhatsApp groups, they provide you with instant information, from power failures to water leaks as well as a dedicated Dodleston Market Place where you can offer items either for free or for sale. Find the list within the Local Life and contact one of the admins if you would like to join.

Other suggestions include articles about local people or volunteers living in our Parish who deserve recognition. This is a great suggestion, and I would love for you to get in touch with me if you have someone in mind.

We are also starting some new columns which I hope will become regulars going forward. From a Parish Council update to a Secret Gardener's view of what to focus on going into the colder months. We are also starting a new fitness column to get Dodleston moving!

I hope you like this edition.

Welna Bowden

Local News & Events



"Showers" were something of an understatement!

EPIC (for all the wrong reasons) **Village Day**

Parish Council update Welcome to your slightly revamped Local Life!

Surely the highlight this summer within our community was the biblical weather we encountered on Saturday, 8th July which just happened to coincide with our Village Day on Dodleston Sports Field. This was a moment anyone present will likely never forget, but also demonstrated what a great community we live in. The scenes on the field which we have seen on the CCTV footage are incredible, and for those who sought shelter in the main marquee, the memory of us all holding down the frame with such vigour will stay with us all.

On the subject of Dodleston Sports Field, it is great to see so many people using the facility. We now have four cricket team using the pitch as their home ground, Dodleston Primary School use the field for various activities, the woodland project is really starting to mature, and hopefully by the time you read this edition of Local Life the project to improve and develop the pond will be well underway. You may also have noticed the slightly strange site of the British Fly Casting Society who are regularly renting the field and coming from all corners of the UK for their open days.

We continue to try and do the best for our community, quite often with our hands tied. In truth as a Parish Council, we have little responsibility and powers for many of the issues we encounter, examples being problems with the roads, planning, the level crossing and more recently the postal service. All we can do is follow the process of raising a formal complaint on behalf of our community and seek a successful remedy.

As we bid farewell to Richard Kitchen and Carl Willis, as they have stepped down from the Parish Council, and thank them for their invaluable input over the years, we welcome Steve Hughes from St Mary's Road, Dodleston who many of you will know. Steve was the driving force behind the wonderful "Hare Roundabout" in Rough Hill.

Thank you for all your continued support and making our community such a wonderful place to live.



At around 3pm the dark clouds that had been threatening, which we all hoped would skirt around Dodleston and leave us high and dry, swept across the village. There was also a bouncy castle for children, a dog show and some games hosted by the DVF. Let's return to the weather... 8 July had a forecast of some showers which was unfortunate, but as everyone was going to be under cover, with the big marquee to shelter if the space at the smaller stalls run out all seemed to be going to plan.

LocalLife

As with all previous Village Days, you have to decide on a date and then keep fingers crossed that the weather will play along to make it a memorable event.

A lot of hard work went into the 2023 Village Day – all the community groups that were involved in the preparations did a fantastic job to gather books, plants, cakes and items.

There was big a marquee to serve drinks, a cake and tea tent hosted by the WI, a Tombola and 100Club gazebo, another one for the Local History Group, the Youth Players, the Church stall and one selling local art and honey.

3





Pictures shown from the sunnier side of our Village Day 2023!

At around 3pm the dark clouds that had been threatening, which we all hoped would skirt around Dodleston and leave us high and dry, swept across the village. They unleashed the most biblical storm we have ever experienced. There was a high pitched howling wind noise that accompanied horizontal lashing rain which swept away all of the stalls and people and dogs who were sheltering in the big marquee, had to cling on to poles for dear life to make sure that it stays standing. The bouncy castle was up in the air and landed in the car park. Every cloud has a silver lining though and in this case, we are all so grateful that no children were on it at the time. People who were caught in the rain looked like they have fallen into a swimming pools, totally drenched.

The aftermath was total destruction, apart from the big marquee which was still standing thanks to those who kept the tentpoles from dislodging. We are so thankful that there were no serious injuries.

Thank you to all the volunteers who collected items to sell and those who gave time to represent their groups on the field. A huge thanks to those who helped with the clear up.

Fingers crossed that we have better weather for future Village Days as we've certainly had our fair share of misfortune in 2023.







Local News & Events

Dodleston and District WI



As we head towards our 10th anniversary in November, yes 10 years, We kicked off the year in true Scottish style with a ceilidh and over the enjoyed a colourful and delicious evening of Sri Lankan cookery with lots to

Dodleston and District WI can look back on another packed year of events. following months we heard how art therapy can help young people deal with trauma; learnt about the work of a chiropractor, complete with demonstration backbone; made street decorations to mark His Majesties's coronation; sample. Next we took a step back into the Roman Past at Park in the Past in Hope and then learnt to play the recorder; it sounded good to us! We also made a poignant visit to the war graves at Blacon Cemetery. Our summer ramble was a washout but it didn't stop an intrepid few.



1. PTFA Day Tea Tent 2. Outdoor Crafting 3. War Graves visit Blacon 4. Brownies For Adults! eve.

In July we joined forces with the PTFA to host the village day tea tent. It started so well and then; who can forget the rainstorm and gale force winds that brought the tents down? We had better weather for our Brownies for adults evening, for the kid in us all, al fresco crafting with hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows.

Our programme for the rest of this year is just as varied:

14th September at 7.30pm - learn more about the profession of a funeral director.

24th September	Autumn foraging walk	
12th October	Astronomy	
14th December	Christmas craft with Coralina	

LocalLife

We'll be hosting the annual Christmas tree light switch on, an ever more popular village event. Join us by the lychgate on Saturday 2nd December at 5.30pm for mince pies and carol singing to bring in the festive season. All the family are welcome including dogs and sheep!

Dodleston and District WI welcome any women in our community. If you would like to join us simply contact us at dodlestonwi@yahoo.co.uk and we will add you to our mailing list so that you receive the latest updates and invites to our upcoming events.



Local News & Events



Dodleston Babies and Toddlers

Dodleston babies and toddlers group meets every Thursday morning during term time, 10 till 11.30. Lots of play, craft activities, snack time and singalong. £3 per session. Just turn up or follow us on FB. Helen Longmuir 07951 880792



Annual British Heart Foundation Charity Concert

This year's British Heart Foundation charity concert will be held on Saturday 18th November at 7.30 pm in the village hall. A variety of musicians for you to enjoy, raffle and refreshments. Tickets £15, all proceeds to the BHF. To reserve and buy tickets, contact Helen Longmuir 07951 880702

On average over the last 15 years, the concert has raised just under £2000 each year. We would like to thank the local community for their continued support in raising money for the British Heart Foundation.

Chapel Stores

What a year it has been so far in many ways, for both the economic and weather climates.

We realise that many of you are going back to the supermarkets for convenience, but please bear in mind that by spending a small percentage of your weekly budget at local and independent stores, you will boost the economy greatly. We continue to keep our prices low and competitive.

It does not cost anything to walk to us, it is even good for you! (depending on the weather)

Don't forget all the wonderful stock that we have, a large percentage of it sourced locally. If you think we may not stock what you need, come in and ask, we will probably have it.

We have lots of Cheshire farm flavours in, Bison Grass & Tonka bean is a new one.

Our Vegetarian & vegan range is growing, we have creamy cauliflower pies, Greek vegan cheese, sausages, and of course, apples. We also have a good range of eco-friendly cleaning and laundry products. Fancey by Nature cards, the range from Jackie & Miles from the village have introduced some new designs and we have some of this

year's harvest of their Dodleston Honey.

The 'Rosie made a thing' card spinner has been topped up with all the new designs.

Do you know that as well as withdrawing cash here, you can also deposit cash & cheques here too! This service is available all of time that we are open Mon - Sat 7am -7pm and Sunday 8am - 6pm.

We have just recently become a drop off and collect store for Amazon, Evri & DPD we still have Royal Mail of course.

Our telephone number is 01244 660342 or find us on facebook or even look at our website dodlestonchapelstores.co.uk

Our aim is to be more than just a Village Shop & Post Office, many thanks for your continued support.

We hope to see you soon - Stay Safe. Best Wishes from Samantha, Lloyd, Jan, Kelly, and Julie xxx

LocalLife

Brownies & Guides



Above - Coronation Campfire enjoying some smores. Right - Making tasty Pizza with Chef Glen M by the campfire. Below - Animal Athletes Challenge.

Brownies and Guides have spent a fantastic amount of time outside in the sun, thunder, and rain over the past 2 terms! First of all, we owe a huge thanks to Heather (Barn Owl) who has jumped into everything with both feet and has been wonderful with the girls - enjoying her 1st Brownie sleepover and looking forward to her 1st Guide camp. Also, with thanks to lots of parent helpers (as Beth is still very much enjoying her time with Baby Suzie on maternity leave), we have been able to lead a fun-packed, diverse set of activities.

Together, both Brownies and Guides explored the park and alleyways of the village, performing a "Biodiversity Blitz" with some Brownies holding creepy crawlies for the very first time! We also enjoyed a session together at our "Coronation Campfire" where we investigated 3 different ways of starting our campfires and enjoying some Smores!

The Cheshire U15s Girls Cricket Coaches ran a very active session with us where we discovered some of us had some cricket skills and some of us are really quite competitive! It was a great active session with both Brownies and Guides putting in a fab effort!

In another active session, the Guides took part in the,"Animal Athletes" Challenge where they had to demonstrate specific skills from the animal kingdom, including a smelling challenge! In another sports session, each of the patrols at Guides had to create a new team game that they could then teach the other team how to play. This was a very interesting



session with great teamwork and creative skills, but it would have been better if it wasn't in the driving rain!

The Guides had a fabulous sunny evening with Chef Glen M making gourmet pizzas on the campfires - it was a very tasty success.

The Guides have also been out and about with our "City Walk" around Chester - exploring the culture, architecture, and of course the history. We even had a brief battle in the amphitheatre. We've also been exploring our Village with the



age-old tradition of the "Penny Hike" where the flip of a coin dictates the direction that the group takes at each junction - we did eventually make it from the village hall to the Parish Field - displaying our pennies proudly.

The Brownies have worked on their leadership skills and earned their Lead Stage 3 Skills Builder badge, which concluded with a fantastic group dance!

We continued on a performance theme with the Brownies working

> in groups to each tell their (very different!) version of the "Brownie Story". This is part of what the new Brownies learn before they make their Promise. One of the teams did a fantastic job of performing in front of the parents of our 2 Brownies who made their promise on the Parish field. Lauren and Isla were very attentive hostesses

for the evening and made great table decorations

















8. 9. 10. 12. 14. "Round Ponds Adventure" which included building rafts and archery.
Battle in the Chester Amphitheatre and the "Penny Hike"
Italian adventures making breadsticks by the campfire.
Lauren & Isla proving the attentive hostesses and they made great table decorations!
6. 7. Our Brownie Sleepover at "The Lookout" Pettypool.
3. Lead 3 Skills Leader badge which includes dance skills.
Our lovely Brown Owl gets married to her wonderful Dan.

15. Practising for our "Fearless Fun" camp at Waddow Hall Girlguiding Centre in September.







Brownies & Guides





We were very proud to take part in our Division's (group of local Guiding units) "Race for Life" event, where **we raised £3000 together as a Division** for Cancer Research thanks to all those who sponsored us! It was a super hot day but the girls were inspirational in their determination to just keep running! They were very encouraging of each other and enjoyed a visit from baby Suzie and Brown Owl to cheer them on - great effort!

We finally got to have a "Brownie Sleepover" at "The Look Out" Pettypool (the award-winning Cheshire Forest Girlguiding centre) and we also had 3 Guides come along to help out too. It was jam packed with 4 other Brownie units doing activities, eating fantastic food, doing chores(!), singing, making friends, and a very, very, very late night with thunder and lightning too! The girls were fantastic fun and we are super proud of them all for getting stuck in.

We celebrated the Brownies and Guides achievements and hard work this year by spending a day at "Round Ponds Adventure". The girls enjoyed an archery competition, climbing up cargo nets and twisting barrels, and finally a fantastic

8









effort of teamwork in raft building. The rafts were expertly made, and no one fell in, but they did enjoy jumping in at the end (even if it was a bit cold)! It was a superb day with lots of working together, encouragement, and laughs.

Our lovely Brown Owl had a very different day to us whilst we were adventuring, she got married to her wonderful Dan and we wish them lots of love and happy memories together as a family. Their cake showed a beautiful homage to Beth's love of our Brownies and Guides.

The Guides are very excited to be joining lots of other Guides from around the country in our weekend "Fearless Fun" camp at the "Waddow Hall" Girlguiding Centre in September. We have been practising some camp skills in preparation (albeit inside the village hall!) this term.

Here's to a fun-packed Autumn term of activities including our yearly "harvest moon" campfire in the great British weather!

Thanks to all our supporters for Brownies and Guides especially the parent helpers! Please get in touch if you would like to volunteer with us! dodlestonguides@gmail.com



The Benefits of Dog Training

Did you know that there are around twelve million dogs living in the United Kingdom, which means that approximately 33% of UK households, share their homes with a canine companion! With such a vast number it's so important, and our responsibility to make sure we provide training for these animals so that it's easier for us to share our lives with them, but also to make sure they don't become a nuisance for other people!

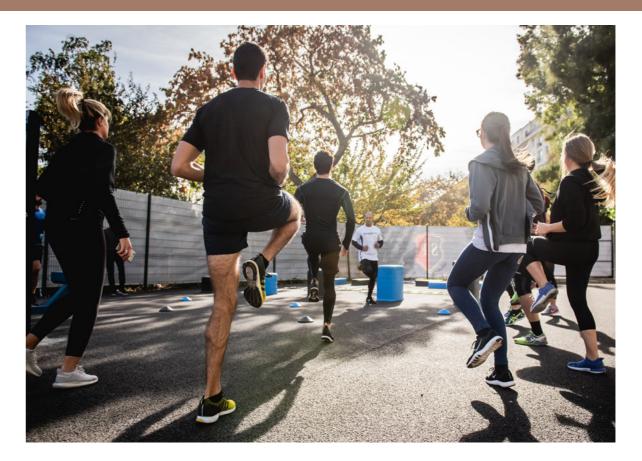
Training with our puppies can start as soon as they are able to come home, in fact vital skills like confidence building, socialisation, and recall, can all be started from those first few weeks. However, the age that dog training really comes into its own, is during that tricky teenage or adolescent stage which is anywhere between 6-12 months of age depending on the breed. This is the age at which I see the most as during this period of development your dog can suddenly start to become frustrated easily, they might start to find their voices, humping or mouthing might start appearing and often their recall starts to disappear as they find new dogs and people more exciting. It's our responsibility at this stage to make sure we really work on their training but also start to put management in place; for example, using a long line in public places, to ensure they aren't getting it wrong, and running over and pestering dogs and people that would really rather enjoy an undisturbed walk (remember not all dogs like other dogs!)

The benefits to training sessions, is not only a dog that grows up well mannered, and able to be taken out and about anywhere, but it also helps to tire them out! Just a 10-15 minute short training session will give your dog's brain a good workout, and will leave them calm, with less energy to take part in activities you'd maybe rather they didn't; for example, digging up your freshly planted flower borders! Especially if you use the time to work on impulse control training such as leave its, stays, door-manners, polite greetings, and general focus!

Training could cover a variety; puppy training classes, class training for that tricky teenage stage, reactivity training for dogs that are unsure of others, and then the fun stuff too like trick training and scent-work. In fact, you may have already seen me in the village already with my deaf dalmatian, as we have classes set up in the hall on weekdays and soon-to-be weekends!"

Jayde www.thatdog.org

Local News & Events



Let's get our Parish **moving!**

We are very lucky to have some fabulous facilities on our doorstep. A village hall, which includes a sprung floor, great for a variety of fitness classes. The playing field with a walking/jogging path, a wellmaintained children's play area, with some room for ball games. Our beautiful sports field also has a circular walk/ jog and is great for knocking a football around, playing cricket or practicing your bowling and batting skills with the help of the cricket nets. This is also home to an outside multi gym and table tennis area.

To inspire our community to become more active, I would like to ask you to join me on the Parish field on **Saturday the 30th of September and 7th of October at 10am.** This invite is extended to everybody in our community, all genders, abilities, and age groups. You can stay for as long as you want or just come and meet some of the lovely people in our community. There is no dress code, other than loose fitting clothes, sensible footwear and perhaps a water bottle.

LocalLife

The purpose of this initiative is to introduce you to the multi gym equipment that is freely available and accessible for all of us to use. You can work at your own pace, trying out some of the equipment or just walk or jog around the park. You will even be able to try out your table tennis skills.

The equipment is designed to work our cardiovascular system, which is important for a healthy heart. It also develops strength leading to greater bone density and in addition, it enhances our mobility, flexibility, and balance. Physical exercise stimulates chemicals in our brains, that make us happier. So many positives!

All I ask is for you to turn up, with a positive and motivated attitude. Remember any amount of physical activity is better than none. You can bring friends and family members or use it as an opportunity to meet new and old friends. By starting to use our Parish facilities you will inspire and motivate others to take the same journey.

Go on, give it a go! See you there, get smarter, get fitter!

Any questions call or email Vicki Rahill – 07963 500607 – vickirahill@gmail.com

Qualified in Yoga Fit (Levels 1 and 2), YMCA Group Exercise and ISSA Personal Training.

11



THE SECRET GARDENER

Welcome to our new gardening feature which we hope you will enjoy. Otherwise, we might hibernate or go to seed! We will use Latin names mostly (which are easier to check) but there will be some common names as well. Bear with us, we are novices at this.



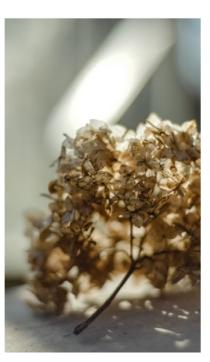
From September to December

our Cheshire and North Wales gardens are transitioning from Autumn into Winter, with our deciduous plants dying back and we might feel we are 'putting our gardens to bed.' Some dead or dying plants such as ornamental grasses and tall seed heads like Hydrangea can provide structure and interest through Autumn and into Winter, so you may wish to leave some in place.

There is much to see and do at this time of year. Of interest until the first frosts may be late flowering roses, Agapanthus/African lily, Hydrangeas, Dahlias, Anemone Japonica/Japanese Anemone, Pelargonium, Salvia, Erigeron Karvanskianus/Mexican Fleabane, Astrantia, Echinacea, ornamental grasses, Nerines, Viburnum Bodnantense and an array of Autumn foliage.

September to December Garden activities.

- Cut the lawn whilst the grass is still growing but don't cut it too short if there is warm, dry weather.
- Lift and store dahlia tubers
- Bring indoors tender plants you wish to keep (such as pelargoniums).
- · Harvest seeds from your own or friends' plants (with their consent) labelling them up and storing them in paper bags. Sow hardy annual seeds such as cornflowers and forget me nots direct in the ground.
- Take cuttings of favourite plants as an insurance policy or just to make more plants.
- Protect half-hardy plants with fleece if frost is predicted.
- Collect leaves and make leaf mould. Old compost bags are ideal for this.
- Clear out ponds making sure you leave clearings at the side for 24 hours to allow time for pond creatures to crawl back in.
- Cut back shrubs if needed and have a general tidy up but leave some untidy places for wildlife such as hedgehogs to hibernate.
- Plant new shrubs from late Autumn.
- Order and plant spring bulbs such as narcissi/daffodil and tulip
- · Visit special gardens that have all round interest for inspirational ideas.
- On rainy or windy days plan garden changes for next year whilst keeping cosy in your home.



Next time.... we will focus on spring activities and gardening on a budget.

LocalLife

West Cheshire Foodbank Support

Local News & Events

During the pandemic, when everyone did everything at home, from work to attending church services, I was fortunate to listen to a foodbank coordinator who shared some information about foodbanks and what they do as part of my local church service.

It had a profound impact on me. I wanted to help in any way I could but as volunteering wasn't an option at that time, I decided to dedicate a part of our shopping budget to the West Cheshire Foodbank. So, every time I went shopping, I picked some urgent items on their list and included that in my purchase. As I opted to deliver it to the foodbank in person, I thought that perhaps others might want to contribute too - I was certainly more than happy to keep doing to drive over to Ellesmere Port where the warehouse is. So, if I drop my contributions off, I'm more than happy to drop others' contributions off as well - this was the start of the established Dodleston Foodbank Appeal.

I am constantly being blown away by the fantastic generosity of our Parish. Our last drop off weighed 112.4kg!

We also have regular Easter and Christmas appeals so keep a lookout for a call out.

If you want to help West Cheshire Foodbank, please drop your non-perishable donations (a tin or perhaps even more) off at 12 Egerton Walk. You will find a Red Box by the front door - just lift the lid and leave your contribution inside - then secure the lid again.

There is an open invitation for anyone who would like to go with me to the Foodbank on our next drop-off visit – a round trip takes about 45 minutes.

Welna Bowden Tel 077175 74185

Rose hips



bit wrinkly!



floret).

the wreath.

Alternatively, you can make mini wreaths to hang on your Christmas trees by threading a hard rose hip head onto wire. Around 8 heads are enough, then twist the wire together to form the wreath shape. These dry over time so are ideal to make now.

With thanks to the **Dodleston WI**

12

Rose hips are the fruit of the rose plant and appear after the blooms have dropped from the plant. Rose hips ripen in the fall and throughout early winter. If you have your own rose bushes just remember that hips will only form where the flower was, so don't cut all of the flowers if you want rose hips

13

Hips are red to orange

in colour, oblong or round in shape, often with small wisps of "hair" protruding from the bottom of the rose hip. the longer the rose hips grow on the plant the sweeter they become. It's ok if they are a

Look for red to orange (no green) rose hips that easily detach from the stem, you shouldn't have to tug much to harvest them. Just like with wine grapes, rose hips become sweeter and more flavourful if they're exposed to frost before being harvested.

For a little colour as the nights set in try making a rose hip wreath:

Form a natural wreath with pliable twigs, binding these together with wire.

Remove the majority of leaves form rose hip stems and snips into small florets about 3 inches (8cm) in length.

Twist a loop of wire to the base, lie the first floret onto the base and wrap the wire around the stems and wreath, continue around the wreath until about 9-% of the wreath is covered. (tip ensure all rose

hips are pointing in same direction and cover the stem of the previous

At you get to the end of the wreath, tuck the stems of the last bundle into the berries of the first and

loop the wire around to tighten.

Complete by typing a bow around





Know Your Village

Creative Priest

The history of Dodleston is a long and varied one with the village being mentioned in the Domesday Survey in 1086. Since that time, Dodleston and its resultant Marcher Parish, being situated some five miles southwest of the city of Chester and within shouting distance of the border with Wales, has experienced many events of historical interest.

It would seem there are no remains of pre-Norman churches in Cheshire and there was no mention in the Domesday entry for Dodleston of any church in 1086.

There is, however, a possibility that, as the monks of St Werburgh's held several manors in the countryside around Chester, Dodleston may have had a small building which was used for religious services taken by itinerant monks from Chester.

Dodleston has, in the very early years of the 12th century transitioned between Wales and England due to various land disputes. But it wasn't until the treaty made between Llewellyn and Ranulf de Blundeville III, Earl of Chester in 1218 that the resulting boundary changes once again brought Dodleston and Kinnerton into England. Although Higher Kinnerton is in Wales, Lower Kinnerton is firmly ensconced in England.

It was from this first settled period that it's possible a permanent church could be established and the first known Rector of Dodleston was Hugh, some time before 1220. Prior to that, it appears Dodleston, for ecclesiastical purposes was part of the Parish of St Oswald's, Chester.

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Dodleston is unique inasmuch it encompasses two churches, one in England and the other in Wales, this being All Saint's in Higher Kinnerton!

The date of construction of St Mary's Church Dodleston is unknown but the bell tower is thought to be from the early 1500s. The church as we know it now, was remodelled by the Cheshire architect John Douglas in 1869 / 70.

The building of All Saint's Church, Higher Kinnerton started in 1893 and was consecrated on Thursday 25 January 1894.

The Rector of Dodleston also has charge over All Saint's and the services on a Sunday are arranged so that the rector can be present at both.

Over the centuries, there have been 51 Rectors and 24 Curates connected with St Mary's Dodleston and more latterly with All Saint's Higher Kinnerton. The Parish has been in an interregnum since September 2022 following the retirement, after about twelve years' service of the previous Rector.

Following an exhaustive process, a new Rector has been appointed. She is in her early 30s having been a curate in a neighbouring parish for several years. Her name is Rev'd Hana Amner and she will be Rector of St Mary's Dodleston, All Saints Higher Kinnerton and Chaplain of Bishops' Blue Coat High School in Chester.



Together with her husband Warren, who is a dairy farmer for the Duke of Westminster and with their Corgi dog, Fudge and British Shorthair cats Larry and Bear, they will live in the Rectory in Dodleston.

A newly positioned sign on the main gate into the Rectory says;

"St MARY'S RECTORY

The Vicar lives here, turn around before it's too late"

The induction ceremony of the Rev'd Hana Amner took place during the evening of Wednesday 28 June 2023 in St Mary's Church. Also included in the induction was the newly appointed Headteacher of The Bishops' Blue Coat CE High School, Ms Helen Cairns.

The Commissioning Service was conducted by the Rt Rev Mark Tanner, Bishop of Chester and the Venerable Dr Michael Gilbertson, Archdeacon of Chester.

Originally from South London, Rev'd Hana moved to Chester in 2017 to study Theology in which she graduated with a Masters. In her introductory notes, Rev'd Hana says she recently finished her curacy at St Mark's, Lache cum Saltney, serving for nearly six years under the Rev'd Hennie Johnston.

Being her first incumbency, the Rev'd Hana is now preparing for a new chapter in her life. She has, so far, been encouraged by the warmth, support and sense of excitement from both churches, viz St Mary's Dodleston and All Saints Higher Kinnerton. She goes on to say that the passion she brings with her is to seek to be a blessing for both communities.

This involves listening, understanding the needs and exploring what part the respective churches can play to enable the communities to flourish further.

She has boundless energy and loves coming up with new creative ideas, running events and seeing a diverse group people of all ages, cultures and walks of life come together.

Apart from the role she will play in administering her religious duty in the parish, Rev'd Hana is also an accomplished artist going by the name of Creative Priest. Her artwork is very colourful and she describes it as being 'street art'. One of her paintings is featured here. It's a remake of Rublev's Trinity Icon but continuing the story exploring the idea of who is invited to Gods table. In this instance a lot of children on a housing estate!

No doubt more examples of her work will appear at village events in the near future.

The appointment of the Rev'd Hana is a tremendous asset to our Parish and it goes without saying that both she and her husband will bring a breath of fresh air to our community, and long may it last.

Bernard Dennis MBE Chairman Dodleston Local History Group

LocalLife

Church News

Meet the Vicar!

It gives me great joy to write to you all for the first time in the Local Life magazine. On the 28th June I was installed as Rector of St Mary's Dodleston, All Saints Higher Kinnerton and Chaplain of Bishops' Blue Coat CofE High School. It has been a lot of fun connecting with you all as a community, through 'Meet the Vicar' pub events, doggy play time, picnics and the fantastic village fete that, even with what seemed to be a 'biblical' storm, was a great time and showed real community spirit as people rallied together to help one another.



Revd Hana Amner

I feel immensely proud to be part of these two distinctive communities and all that they stand for. The heart of the vision for the Church of England is to be a Church that is centred and shaped on Jesus Christ and how he lived. You are already showing me what that looks like through your welcome and your kindness!

You have all made it easy for my husband and I to feel like we belong here and for me to have a really good start in my first ever solo ministry gig!

As you will see in the list of dates below we have lots coming up at St Mary's and All Saints that we would love to welcome you to.

But I would like to particularly encourage community involvement in September, on Sunday the 10th, as we are starting a new sermon series called 'The Value of a Vision', where we are going to explore some key questions as a church around who we are, why we exist and what direction we are being called to go in, in order to see our churches and its communities flourish further. During my first church service in Dodleston and Higher Kinnerton, I shared something with the congregation that I would like to extend to you, which is that, as your Rector, I cannot do this without you. In order to discern the direction we are going in and to see our churches accessible for all people means we need to hear different voices.

Some years ago now, I remember reading a very sobering news article that said that the church will be dead in 40 years time, that attendance is falling faster than ever before, and that the future of Christianity in Britain is bleak. The church over history has faced bigger battles than financial and attendance decline since its birth, so I am personally not concerned and refuse to believe that the church is dying but adapting - Yes!

The church has evolved over time to work with the culture it exists in. When my nan was little, the whole community was expected to attend church on a Sunday, although I'm not sure bottoms on seats really reflects success and the church being alive! Feeling liberated enough to chose to be part of church, because you are convinced that there is something good happening there, is success to me, and a church that exists for the flourishing of its community is also success to me.

We know that we exist in a time where committing to church every Sunday isn't always realistic, parents take their children to extra curricular activities that can coincide with a

14

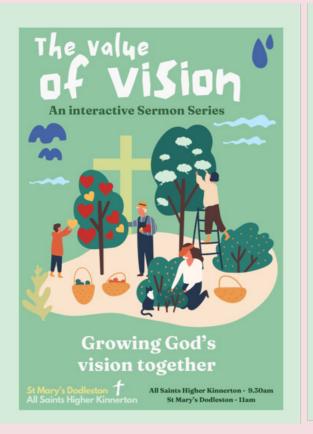
Sunday morning, where people have the freedom to go away more now and so cannot commit to regular church attendance. Others may have felt let down by church, or don't see its benefit to culture today.

This sermon series is going to allow us to dream, ask big questions and explore what direction we need to take in order to be a church that thrives today for all people. This process will take time. I often think of the process of gardening, how it takes work, commitment, and nurturing to see a garden flourish. Brian, a local Dodleston legend, can usually be found on his knees with a lovely smile on his face welcoming passing cars as they enter Dodleston. He has faithfully toiled and tended this area since the pandemic, and has turned it into something utterly beautiful for all of the community to enjoy. That image of Brian inspires me. It shows me that playing your part goes a long way, that to be a blessing, it takes commitment, service, and a lot of love, but Brian also relies on the resources and support given to make this garden so wonderful.

It reminds me again that we need each other. 1 Corinthians ch12 tells us that we are all one body (the church) with many parts. We need each other to work effectively. Together, we will see our whole parish thrive, and together we can say confidently the church is certainly not dead, she is alive!

Blessings and Peace Revd Hana Amner





St Mary's Church

1st Sunday of the month:

11.00am All Age Service

Sundays following:

11.00am Holy Communion

Coffee Morning:

The first Wednesday of the month. 10.30am – 12noon.

Crafty Creations:

Second Monday of each Month – 10.00am-12n0on. Please come along to St Mary's if you would like to know more about the exciting projects we are working on.

The valye

ioh

Who we are - 10th September

Who isn't here? - 17th September

Inside Out - 24th September

Harvest Sunday - 1st October Let the dreamers dream - 8th October Vision Saturday 14th October Blessed to be a blessing - 15th October

Life in all it's fullness - 22nd October

Growing God's

vision together

St Mary's Dodleston T All Saints Higher Kim

Events and Services:

Sunday 12th November, 10.50am Remembrance Service

Saturday 18th November – Craft Group will be holding their Annual Art and Craft Event – 10.30am to 4.00pm, Admission £1. Please come along to support this group who raise funds for a variety of charities.

Saturday 2nd December and Sunday 3rd December – Christmas Tree Festival. The church will be filled with Christmas trees from various organisations in the village. The Church will be decorated with Christmas Trees and a Nativity Scene which has been made by the Craft Group, together with our normal large Nativity Scene in the Altar. The Craft Group have also made 'The 12 Days of Christmas' which will be displayed on the windows and between the pillars, so do come along to our Services at St Mary's.

Posters will be about in the Village and on Social Media giving further details of Christmas Services and times.

St Mary's Church supports the West Cheshire Food Bank – any donations can be brought to church. Fran Brown – Warden (660089) – if you require any further information

DVF News

Dodleston Village Foundation - is a registered charity managed by a small committee of residents and provides the Village Hall and Recreation Field next to St Mary's Church for the use of the local community.



Recreation Field - Play Equipment

Installed late last year, the new play equipment at the children's play section of the recreation field continues to be a hit and a positive start to the ongoing replacement of the original equipment that was funded from a Millenium Lottery grant. Seen here in action fully occupied by a school visit and more typically with the quieter use by families and visitors to the village.



The DVF continue to work towards the funding of a replacement for the zipwire which has had to be taken out of use.



16

Events

Comedy Night at the Village Hall on Saturday 14th October - see flyer below



Chairman's Report

Chairman's Report for the year ending 28th Feb 2023

Dodleston Village Foundation (DVF) was set up in 1979 to provide and maintain a Village Hall, field for the inhabitants of Dodleston, Lower Kinnerton and Marlston Cum Lache. Stewardship of the recreational field was included from 1986.

It is pleasing to be able to report another positive year for the DVF, with increases in Hall bookings, and investment in new equipment on the recreational field. However, this success only further highlights the limitations of a single use facility, which houses a preschool 4 days a week (who desperately want to provide a 5 day offering), with other community groups limited to evenings and weekends. Since I last reported in September plans have now centred around redeveloping the existing Hall and providing a separate pre-school facility at the rear. We are now on the third iteration of draft plans (many thanks to Vanessa Owen



DVF News

for drawing these up) and I believe we will soon be in a position to make these available for the community to consider and provide feedback.

Personal highlights of the year were the return of the Easter Bingo which resulted in many children leaving the Hall heavily laden with chocolate, the annual comedy night, the murder mystery - Murder is Served appropriately scheduled just before the WI invited cake entries for the Autumn Show- and of course the Youth Players performing Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

Dodleston has a great sense of community, and the social events that happen in the Hall play a significant part in fostering this spirit. They can also be really entertaining and great value for money and provide a welcome income for the community groups.

I am grateful to Meadow foods and to Inchcape Volkswagen to donating the chairs you now see in the Grosvenor room, and Peter Chadwick for some extra easily stored auditorium seats.

It is over 23 years since the play area was installed on the recreational field, and progressively the equipment will need to be replaced. We started this process by replacing the activity trail in November and are currently raising funds to replace the popular Zipwire which has had to be decommissioned. I am grateful to Pete Troughton who for many years has helped with maintaining the equipment and carrying out the safety inspections. The responsibility of the grass cutting has transitioned to the parks and recreational dept of Cheshire West and Chester and it is has been a challenge to get the contracted level of service. This has improved - but is still by not as it should be.

Andrew will give a detailed review of the accounts next, so I won't duplicate what he has to say, other than I am pleased that even in these inflationary times we have been able to hold off any increases in Hall charges until 2024. This is in no small part due to Andrew's stewardship and I am extremely grateful for his diligence in combining the treasurer's and Vice chairman's role. Indeed, I am fortunate to have an active committee, who along with other volunteers, find time from their busy schedules to manage the DVF, help with maintaining the recreational field, and assist with fundraising events. Special thanks also to our secretary Philippa, to Jon for his stewardship of the Hall, to Vicki and Nicola for booking and billings and to Stephen for running the 100 Club.

In summary there is a window of opportunity to improve the Hall facilities in Dodleston, which will require resource - both in terms of volunteer time and funding. I would like to reiterate my thanks to everyone who has donated that most precious of commodities - their own time - and extend an invitation to those who can find that time to become involved with the DVF.

DVF 100 Club Draw



Draws for 2023 to date

January	Number 26 Lynn Mayo	won £19.50
February	Number 1 Susan Fitzpatrick	won £19.50
March	Number 15 Chris Ward	won £19.50
April	Number 26 Lynn Mayo	won £19.50
Мау	Number 44 Laura Ward	won £19.50
June	Number 52 Dave Morgan	won £19.50
July	Number 73 Liane Hayes	won £100



Our £100 Winner Liane Hayes

Egerton Walk about the numbers that are spare that you might win with.

PTFA News

DODLESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



- Registering only takes a few minutes. Then, each time you shop online, a percentage of the cost of your bill will be donated to the PTFA by nominated retailers. It really is that easy. All you need to do is select Dodleston C of E Primary school as your chosen charity
- You can make a cash donation by contacting us directly on the email address below

Contact us at:	dodlestonptfa@gmail.com	
Follow us on	www.facebook.com/dodlestonprimarys	
	twitter@dodlestonptfa	
	Insta@#dodlestonptfa	

Richard Lloyd Chairman

LocalLife

ask Stephen Bowden at 12



We are always looking for extra volunteers to assist with fundraising. You don't have to have a child in school to be part of what we do. If you would like to find out how you can help, please contact us at dodlestonptfa@gmail.com

19

If you would like to help us with our fundraising, here are some ideas of how you can be involved:

- Volunteering at events. You can put your name down as a volunteer to help selling raffle tickets and running stalls on an ad hoc basis, as and when you are available. We are grateful of any assistance no matter how large or small
- Baking for us. We have a cake sale at the end of each term. If you enjoy baking, this is a great way to support us. The children, parents and teachers absolutely love home baked cakes.
- We are always looking for raffle prizes. This can be in the form of vouchers, services, alcohol, chocolates, beauty products, toys and art supplies. Please contact us if you would like to donate. We are happy to collect from you
- Match Funding Some large businesses offer to match money raised by their employees for charitable community events. If you are unsure, your HR department will be able to advise you. This can sometimes raise ± 100 's and is a very effective way for boosting our funds

easyfundraising feel good shopping

schoolptfa



Nature Needs our Help Like Never Before

This year has been quite a strange one. From the hottest June to one of the wettest Julys. As an ecologist I often consider what sort of effect will extremes of weather have on our wildlife.

Certainly, extremely dry (or extremely wet) conditions will affect things like prey abundance (such as invertebrates), and for species such as house martins who build their cup nests with mud, such dry weather can result in their nests becoming fragile and falling apart, that's if they have enough available wet



House Martin

mud to make their nests in the first place. In Dodleston, I do think there appears to be a slight reduction in the number of species like breeding house martins and swallows active this season. Whilst, extremely wet weather, particularly when coupled with stormy and gale-force conditions as we have witnessed on a few days in the last couple of months (most notably on the day of the Dodleston Summer Festival), can easily destroy nests, and cold and wet fledglings may perish. Most flying invertebrates will also be unable to be active in such wet conditions and will be unable to visit flowers and gain sustenance, which of course will also affect those creatures (like martins and swallows) who predate them. It certainly appears that these sort of extreme weather events

both home and abroad are increasing, with most people attributing this to (human-induced) climatic change.

You now don't typically have to watch the TV or read a newspaper for long before there is a story about the nature crisis, we're experiencing with climatic change a major part of this. However, other factors such as the degradation of habitats is also having a considerable impact. As hedgerows are replaced with fences and garden lawns and flowerbeds are replaced with hard-standing driveways and other man-made surfaces, we are actively reducing the available space for wildlife. I was reading the other day that in Britain private gardens make up around 730,000 hectares of the land space, so the potential for these areas to be important homes, shelters, and feeding and breeding grounds for a host of wildlife is huge. We really all can do our bit, no matter how small. 'No mow May' is a well-publicised activity (or non-activity I suppose!) that a lot of folks are embracing these days, to allow, as Plantlife say, your lawns to liberate and provide a space for nature. In our lawn, during May we were often seeing an array of flying insects visiting the daisies, buttercups and dandelions which were on show. We also didn't strim our privet hedge until after it had flowered which would not only have the obvious benefits to



Tortoiseshell Butterfly insects, but also benefit any birds that may have been nesting or sheltering

within it. Granted, privet is not native to Britain (it's from Asia), but the hedge (which of course is one the most common ornamental species in this country) was alive with the buzz of flying insects, and I was amazed by the number of bees (including bumble), butterflies (including small tortoiseshell) and other creatures visiting its creamy-white flowers.



The Privet Hedge - originally from Asia!

On a slightly larger scale of giving space for nature, if you visit the Parish field over the next few months, you will also see habitat enhancement works taking place at the Parish Pond. We have commissioned local contractors ('Wildbanks') who will have started the works in August 2023, and over a few phases, continue until this winter. As you will have seen in a previous addition of Local Life, a number of enhancement measures were suggested around the pond and, with input from the local community, are to be adopted, including the creation of a dipping/viewing platform with adjacent activity tables and benches, information board about wildlife at the pond and surrounding area, eco-grid ground membrane installed to allow wheelchair access to the picnic benches to the north/northwest of the pond, some vegetation planting along pond margins, and scrub/tree planting to the south of the pond to create a 'wildlife area'. The intention here is to have an area where wildlife, like small mammals

LocalLife

and amphibians from the pond, can take shelter from dogs and such like, so the area will be bordered by deadhedging, which is a natural boundary



Dead Hedging - A natural boundary and refuge structure that itself provides refuge for wildlife like small mammals and perhaps even nesting birds such as robins and wrens. So, look out for that over the next few months, and



Our Viewing & Dipping Platform hopefully we will collectively see the pond reaching the potential it has for being a great place for wildlife and the local community.

So, helping nature isn't necessarily about making huge change and effort, because as individuals we can sometimes feel pretty powerless to make any meaningful difference in



Dodleston Youth Players



'ALLO 'ALLO EVERYBODY 15 and 16 September 2023

Come and join us at Café René to see all your favourite 'Allo 'Allo characters - from René to Herr Flick and Michelle to the English Policeman. We've been having a ball rehearsing it, so we're pretty sure you'll enjoy it.

Cash Bar. Café doors open 7.30pm.

2024 Panto February 15th to 17th

Anyone interested in being part of our 2024 pantomime which will be Beauty and the Beast is invited to come to the first meeting in the Village Hall on Sunday 23rd September at 7.00pm

Children aged 7 and over are welcome but it would also be great to see some older young people. Adults equally welcome whether you're interested in acting or helping backstage with scenery or costumes.

Look forward to seeing you.

the grand scheme of things (often with national or international actions needed), but by everyone doing a bit of this (like 'No mow May') and a bit of that (like letting your hedges flower, even on one side, or creating a wildlife area) collectively the impact on wildlife could be quite surprising (and in a good way!)

Until next time, have a nice Autumn. I can hear the distant 'wink-wink' call of the pink-footed geese arriving imminently from their northern breeding grounds (listen/look out for them in our region from around mid-September).

Dr Colin Bonnington

Tickets from the Village Shop; £15.00 to include a light supper.





Dates for your Diary

Parish Events Calendar

	September 2023	
Autumn Show 10th Sept – Village Hall	'Allo 'Allo 15th & 16th September – Village Hall Get Dodleston Moving: Sports Field, 30 September and 7th October , meet at 10am	Anyone interested in being part of our 2024 pantomime which will be Beauty and the Beast is invited to come to the first meeting in the Village Hall on Sunday 23rd September at 7.00pm
	October 2023	
Comedy Night 14th October – Village Hall	3rd October PTFA AGM	
	November 2023	
Sunday 12th November, 10.50am Remembrance Service	Saturday 18th November – Craft Group will be holding their Annual Art and Craft Event – 10.30am to 4.00pm, Admission £1. Please come along to support this group who raise funds for a variety of charities.	BHF Charity Concert – Village Hall - Saturday 18th November at 7.30 pm in the village hall. A variety of musicians for you to enjoy, raffle and refreshments. Tickets £15, all proceeds to the BHF. To reserve and buy tickets, contact Helen Longmuir 07951 880702
	December 2023	
Saturday 2nd December and Sunday 3rd December – Christmas Tree Festival. The church will be filled with Christmas trees from various organisations in the village.	Christmas Lights switch on – 2nd December 5.30pm	Carol singing – details tbc
	January 2024	
	February 2024	
15 to 18 February - Panto		
	March 2024	
The Great British Spring Clean Litter pick – dates tbc		
	April 2024	
	May 2024	
	June 2024	
	July 2024	
Village Day tbc		
	August 2024	·

LocalLife

Directory of Local Activities in the Parish

Dodleston Parish Council dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk Chair - Mike Maughan, Tel 01244 661776, Vice Chair Paul Buchanan Tel 01244-661707

You have joined a thriving community where dozens of people give their time voluntarily to provide active opportunities for all.

For up to date information, we have quite a few **WhatsApp** groups – below is the list including the admin to contact to join:

Caring for Dodleston (main group for all general info) - Liz Shanklin (07762 630364) or Chris Ward (07730 564712)

Dodleston Market Place (for swapping, selling and recycling) - Helen Longmuir (07951 880702)

Friends of Dodleston Alleyways (caring for our Alleys) Welna Bowden (07717 574185)

Dodleston Gardeners (for gardening tips, swapping, selling,

giving away plants) – Liz Shanklin (07762 630364)

Dodleston Home Watch (to keep our residents safe) -Bernard Dennis MBE (07966 436073)

The Village Hall is used for meetings, pre-school education, lectures and classes and other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation. Although the hall is in use throughout most of the week, it is available for hire for private functions, including birthdays, children's parties, wedding receptions, funeral teas and other village social functions. Contact Vicki Rahill at 07963 500607 to book. Dodleston Village Foundation (DVF) was established in 1979 to provide and maintain a village hall and recreational field (next to the church) for everyone living in Dodleston, Lower Kinnerton, Balderton, Gorstella and Marlston-cum-Lache. The DVF is a registered charity.

The recreational field next to the church, offers a wide variety of play equipment catering for a range of ages, along with picnic benches, a basketball court, a small football pitch and activity course.

Dodleston Sports Field

Owned and operated by Dodleston Parish Council. This facility has Cricket and Football facilities, a pavilion, perimeter walking / jogging track of about 1km and a free outdoor gym. Everyone is welcome to use the facilities. To book the pavilion, Cricket and Football pitches, contact Paul Buchanan Tel: 01244-661707

St Mary's Church

Services are every Sunday at 11am. There are coffee mornings at 10.30am every first Wednesday of the month and a craft group the second Monday at 10am. All welcome!

Bell Ringing

Join our team for an exercise of body and mind in a 400 year old tradition. For ages 10 - 75 with reasonable health and hearing. Contact Liz Shanklin at 07762 630364

Chapel Stores and Post Office

for all your shopping and postal needs. Lloyd & Sam. Call 01244 -669342

Dodleston & District Women's Institute

The WI meets on a monthly basis normally in the village hall. We have a variety of speakers through which we hope to inspire, educate and pass on skills and knowledge. We also give women in our community a voice on issues that matter to them and in doing so, we have a lot of fun, foster community spirit and make friends. If you would like to join us, then please get in touch by contacting us at dodlestonwi@yahoo.co.uk or join our Facebook page for more information.

Dodleston Youth Players

Friendly group of adults and youngsters whose main production is the annual pantomime in February. Great team spirit and lots of laughs. Come and join us! Contact us via dodlestonyouthplayers@gmail.com

Dodleston Leisure Group

We meet on alternate Tuesday afternoons in the village hall. Diary of

22

events will be published on the notice board inside the main door. Contact Jim Howard 01244 661468 Dodleston Local History Group Founded in 1984, the History group has recorded the origins of the Parish. It also holds regular talks in the village hall. Contact Bernard Dennis MBE. Tel 07966 436073 or bernarddennis531@gmail.com

Dodleston Home Watch

Keeping local residents informed and updated with Cheshire Police Alerts. Also reports and circulates any suspicious incidents and anti-social behaviour. Contact Bernard Dennis MBE at 07966 436073 or email bernarddennis531@ gmail.com

Babies & Toddlers

Dodleston Toddlers and Babies playgroup meets every Thursday morning 10 until 11.30. Lots of play, craft activities, snack time and singalong. £3 per session. Just turn up or follow us on Facebook. Contact Laura Ward at 07834 281493

Dodleston Pre-School

Highly qualified staff facilitate learning through play with child individuality at the forefront of practice. Large play spaces, free flow to outdoors, continuous provision and child-initiated play. Dodlestonpreschool@gmail.com

Brownies & Guides (meet at the Village Hall)

Brownies (aged 7 to 10) meet Mondays 6 to 7.30pm and Guides (aged 10 to 14) meet Mondays 7.15pm - 8.45pm. We have a very active and diverse programme very much led by the girls themselves. Adult volunteers also wanted so please get in touch to find out more about Guiding! Contact Mel Hughes (Guide Leader and Assistant Brownie Leader) Tel: 07970 802213 and Beth Daniels (Brownie Leader and Assistant Guide Leader) Tel: 07860 614041

Dodleston Sings!

We meet to sing in Dodleston Church on many Sunday evenings from 6 to 7pm. Enthusiasm more important than talent! For more info contact Liz on 07762 630364



Chairman: Councillor Mike Maughan Tel: 01244 661776

Vice Chairman: Councillor Paul Buchanan Tel: 01244 661707

Councillor Welna Bowden Tel: 07717 574185

Councillor Mike Dix Tel: 07840 164216

Councillor Steve Hughes Tel: 07961 887656

Councillor Rachel Jones Tel: 01244 660206

Councillor Tim Rahill Tel: 07722 506667

Councillor Chris Ward Tel: 07730 564712

Councillor Mark Williams Tel: 01244 315535

Clerk to the Parish Council: **Kate Lloyd** Tel: **07872927050** email:**katepcdodleston@gmail.com**

For all correspondence, please email the Clerk.

www.dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk

 $ig({f f} ig)$ dodlestonparishcouncil















