



# Oyez

**Edition 79 December 2024**

**Village Website: [www.west-stafford.com](http://www.west-stafford.com)**



**Introduction:** As this will be the last newsletter before Christmas, “Team Oyez” would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New year. We thank you all for your inputs over the course of the last year and we hope that you continue to find the newsletter both entertaining(!) and informative. Please keep your inputs and suggestions coming so that we can continue to keep the village informed of the numerous activities and events taking place throughout the year. Welcome to December’s newsletter!

## Recent Events:

**Village Precept meeting:** At the Village Precept Meeting held on 1st November there was a vote to use the remaining Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which stood at £1,009, on a dishwasher for the Village Hall. This money was the remaining CIL paid to the village as part of the Shepherd's Walk development. After the meeting a more cost-effective dishwasher was bought meaning that there is now a residual CIL fund of approximately £560.

This funding can be used for a wide range of projects e.g. play park repairs, village hall improvements, church repairs etc. or indeed any projects within the village you may be thinking of. If you have any ideas / proposals for projects within the village that this money could be spent on, then please email them to the Parish Clerk Jen Scarff ([mutley177@gmail.com](mailto:mutley177@gmail.com)). Quotes would also be helpful. These can then be discussed and voted on at the April village meeting.

**Christmas Market:** A message from Jacquie Walton: “What a lovely morning and, blessed with the weather, we were treated to treats from our magnificent stall holders. Thank you to all who supported the event, we hope you found lots of treasures and enjoyed the breakfast BBQ and Teas. To all who gave their time to help run the event THANK YOU - THANK YOU – THANK YOU.”

## Future Events:

**Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> December – Artsreach:** Our first Artsreach production of the season will be “Lev’s Violin” in the Village Hall from 7:30pm. Born with a beautiful sound but no name, Lev’s violin was valued as worthless, although its origins remained a mystery. Many tales were attached to the violin, some true, some wonderfully untrue. Old and worn by its travels, it eventually broke a few years ago, and the instrument became the subject of a book by Helena Attlee and a BBC Radio 4 reading. It has since been through an extensive restoration and having passed through the hands of countless musicians, travelled continents and played the music of many cultures, it is now in the possession of violinist Greg Lawson.

Joined by accordionist Phil Alexander, come and follow the violins journey and hear some of the music from its past, ranging from Bach and Arvo Part to Armenian and Macedonian music. Tickets are available from [jacquie.walton@outlook.com](mailto:jacquie.walton@outlook.com) (tel:07968 633834) or at [artsreach.co.uk](http://artsreach.co.uk), priced at; Adults, £12.50, U18’s £6. There’ll be a licenced bar and snacks plus a raffle.

**Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December - West Stafford Christmas Party.** A reminder that this will be held in the Village Hall, from 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start. We invite you to join us for a **sparkling reception** and an evening of **music and magnificent canapes**.

The evening will start at 7:00pm for a fizz reception, with music starting at 7:30pm from a local quartet playing baroque to modern day. There will be a licenced bar and raffle. Tickets are £15 per person. We have limited availability and tickets are selling fast but are still available by returning the form previously posted through your letterbox or by dropping an envelope to Sian Edwards at The Gardens, Rectory Lane with the payment and number of guests.

Also, thank you to all who donated to the “barrow of booze” raffle. Tickets to win it all (not the barrow I’m afraid!) will be available to purchase on the night for £5 per ticket. If you are unable to attend, you can still purchase a raffle ticket from [jacquie.walton@outlook.com](mailto:jacquie.walton@outlook.com). We look forward to welcoming you.

**Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> January – Artsreach: Luke Wright – “Joy”:** Over twenty-five years, Luke Wright has built up a reputation for being one of Britain’s most popular live poets, winning an unprecedented four Saboteur Awards, a Stage Award, and a Fringe First. He’s sold out shows across the world and regularly tours with John Cooper Clark and The Libertine. Luke Wright returns with a new set of poems that get to grips with the idea of JOY. Is it possible, as a 42-year-old, to feel pure unbridled happiness, and what does it look like?

The French novelist Henry de Montherlant said that "happiness writes white" but Wright’s not exactly starting with a blank page. The poet writes urgently and warmly about family, fatherhood, and the joy of language itself. We might have to go down to come up, but we’ll get there in the end. Come let a little joy into your life with a raconteur and wordsmith at the top of his game. Suitable 14+. Tickets are £12.50 for adults, £6 for u18’s and are available from [jacquie.walton@outlook.com](mailto:jacquie.walton@outlook.com) / 07968633834 or [www.artsreach.co.uk](http://www.artsreach.co.uk).

### **Other news:**

**Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, “Willdoes Tractor Run”:** The annual charity “Willdoes Charity Tractor Run”, a spectacular parade of illuminated tractors, is due to come through West Stafford on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at around 6.30pm (very approximate time!). It would be great to give them a warm West Stafford welcome as they pass through the village. For more details on the charity, go to <https://www.willdoes.co.uk>.

**Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December - Carol Singing:** The Play Park carol singers are back this year to spread Christmas joy around the village on the eve of 18<sup>th</sup> December. They plan to meet at the Wise Man for **6:00pm** and set off round the village. Please join if you can or if not keep an eye/ear out for them on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Oyez distribution:** As previously mentioned, we now have a fewer number of volunteers distributing Oyez around the village. However, this might be a good opportunity to cut down on the number of paper versions of the newsletter and increase the number of email copies. So, if you currently receive a hard copy of Oyez and would be happy to receive an electronic version in future, then please let me know at [adrian-edwards@btconnect.com](mailto:adrian-edwards@btconnect.com). Thank you to those who have already responded.

### **St Andrew’s Church news:**

A BIG thank you ... to those who have supported the church throughout the year - mowers & churchyard maintenance volunteers and flower arrangers. Also, to those who ‘open & close’, enabling visitors to see inside the quaint village church with Thomas Hardy ‘history’.

### **December’s Church Services:**

Coffee will be from 10:45am, with services starting 11:15am.

- **Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December** – Matins
- **Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December** – Holy Communion
- **Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December** - Matins
- **Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December** – No morning Service (see below) \*
- **Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> December** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, so no service. All welcome to St George’s Church for 9.45am Holy Communion followed by refreshments.

**Christmas Services:** (Seasonal jumpers / outfits optional!)

- \* **Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6:00pm** - Carols by Candlelight; please contact Janet on 07752 634773 if you would like to read.
- **Christmas Eve** – 4pm Crib & Christingle), 9:00pm Bethlehem Midnight Mass
- **Christmas Day** - 10:00am Family Service

**Home Communion:** If you are unable to go to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Rev. Cora Yarrien on 262421 or email [revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com](mailto:revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com).

**Morning Prayer:** is every Tuesday at 9:30am. All are welcome.

**Private Prayer & Reflection:** the church is open every day from 10:00am – 4:00pm.

**Church Contacts:** Team Vicar - Rev. Cora Yarrien (Tel: 262421), Secretary – Janet Ranger-Dennis (Tel: 07752 634773)

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