



## Neighbourhood Café



We would just like to remind you that, unfortunately, we cannot open the Café in February but we will be back **March**, usual time, usual place

If you don't receive emails about the cafe but would like to, please contact us at: [hailwestonneighbourhood-cafe@gmail.com](mailto:hailwestonneighbourhood-cafe@gmail.com) to ask to be put on to the updates list.

The HW Neighbourhood Cafe Team

## HAIL WESTON VILLAGE HALL

**is available for advance bookings**

Further information is available on the Village Hall website:  
[www.hailwestonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.hailwestonvillagehall.co.uk)

Bookings: Liz Bacon  
Contact: [Bookingshwhv@gmail.com](mailto:Bookingshwhv@gmail.com)  
Hire Rates: £10 ph Hail Weston Residents  
£12 ph Non-Village Residents  
Deposit: £20  
Regular weekly bookings - 1 hour minimum  
Friday and Saturday evening bookings - 5 hours minimum  
All other bookings - 2 hours minimum

**If you have news, articles or events for inclusion in the next issue, please contact Ruth. Publication deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> of each month (7.00pm)**

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## ST NICOLAS' CHURCH, HAIL WESTON

**February 2026**

### VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

**Rector:** In Vacancy

**Churchwarden:**

Mrs Elaine McCarthy      Tel:      01480 474542

**Village Contact for St Nicolas' Church:**

Mrs Sarah Herdman      Tel:      07724 512851

Dear Friends,

February - in the old Fenland farming sayings, it was always February fill-dyke! Wet, wet, wet!

So far this year our weather has been varied - cold, snow, frost, sun and rain.

In February we mark the end of Christmastide and Epiphany at Candlemas on 2nd of February - when Jesus was taken to the temple, as Jewish Ritual demanded and Anna and Simeon proclaimed him as the promised Messiah, even though Jesus was still a very young child. Candlemas, also marks the final coming down of any Christmas decorations and Advent wreaths!

On the 17th February it is Shrove Tuesday, the evening before the Lent season starts on 18th February - which we know as Ash Wednesday. Of course, most of us enjoy pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and around the world there are many carnivals to celebrate Mardi Gras - Fat Tuesday - all the fat and oil was consumed before the start of Lent.

Historically Christians fasted, and today some give up things they like and give the money to charities.

Lent looks forwards to Spring and Easter - longer hours of daylight and the signs of new life around us in nature.

Hopefully, we may have a little more news of a possible new vicar, as early this month there will be a meeting to shortlist candidates. Please remember this in your prayers.

Oh, and a Happy Valentines Day to All!

Elaine, Your Churchwarden.

Please contact me about Weddings, Baptisms or Funerals, so that I can put you in touch with the clergy who will be able to help you during the Vacancy.



## **HAIL WESTON WILDLIFE AND GARDENING GROUP**

**Tuesday 3rd February**

at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

### **The Happy Brewer**

**Stephen Black** (a local resident and garden group member) talks about how to use flowers and vegetables from your garden to make wine. Samples available to try, purely for quality control purposes!

**The annual membership of £7 will be due.**

Visitors always welcome

Members £1.00 per meeting (annual membership £7.00/year), non- members £3.00 per meeting (certain meetings/events may cost more), light refreshments will be available for a donation and there will be a Raffle (4-6 prizes) including a garden centre voucher (£25)

If you require any further information about the HWWGG please email Secretary Maggie Lakey on:

[tel\\_maggs2@225771mgl.co.uk](mailto:tel_maggs2@225771mgl.co.uk)

or telephone Chairman, Barbara Wallis on 07849 272915

An Invitation to the Women of Hail Weston from  
**GREAT STAUGHTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

to join them for the following events:

**Tuesday 10th February**

**'Rip & Burn'  
Layered fabric textile pictures**

**with speaker Lee Harris**

Ladies interested in going along to the above event (7.30pm)  
at the Village Hall in Great Staughton or those interested in  
the coffee mornings and lunches please contact:

**Barbara Wallis on 07849 272915**



**The Mondays**



**Your Community Choir**

**We are having a break for February**

**New members welcome - there is no audition  
call Elaine on 474542**

## **Services in the Benefice for February 2026**

Please visit our website at [www.swhw.co.uk](http://www.swhw.co.uk) to find out more about services and other activities.

All 10.30am services can be accessed via Zoom  
ID: 380 915 8110      Passcode: 90Mn1s

### **Hail Weston - St. Nicolas'**

1st February	10.30am	Morning Praise
8th February	9.00am	Parish Communion
15th February	3.00pm	Creative Communion
22nd February	9.00am	Parish Communion

**It is hoped that there will be a Communion Service  
for Ash Wednesday - with Imposition of Ashes at  
Hail Weston on 18th February at 7.30pm.  
Please check Hail Weston Social Media and the  
Church noticeboard for confirmation.**

### **Great Staughton - St. Andrew's**

1st February	10.30am	All Age Worship
8th February	10.30am	Parish Communion
15th February	10.30am	Parish Communion
22nd February	10.30am	Parish Communion

### **Little Staughton - All Saints**

1st February	9.00am	Parish Communion
15th February	9.00am	Parish Communion
22nd February	4.00pm	Evensong

## St Nicolas Church Restoration Group Update

Just before Christmas, I saw an article in a national paper, about a street where everyone had joined together to put up lights on their houses for Christmas. Whilst it looked very nice, my first reaction was “Hmmp – it’s not a patch on Hail Weston!” Our village looked absolutely amazing, and I would like to thank everyone who did their bit to spread a real feeling of Christmas spirit and happiness with all the stunning light displays that appeared throughout the village. In particular, I would like to thank Mark Milligan and Zoltan Kuruc who not only put on a beautiful display in their front garden, but very generously opened up a veritable ‘Winter Wonderland’ in their back garden for all of us to enjoy and, in doing so, raised £477 for St Nicolas Church Restoration. It was stunning.

Restoration Group news has been a bit thin in recent months because we have been extremely busy behind the scenes, finalizing all our plans for Phase 3 – re-wiring the main body of the church, installing a new heating system, upgrading the lighting and putting in a new hearing induction loop and new audio system. We are now approaching the final stage of getting official permission to carry out all the work, having had to jump through numerous hoops over the last few months. Grant applications are being prepared, and as soon as we receive the faculty permission, these will be sent off and, hopefully, we can get the work carried out as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we have two exciting dates for your diary. On 12<sup>th</sup> March, Christine Walkden will be coming to St Nicolas to give a talk about her life in gardening. As many of you know, Christine is a regular panelist for Gardener’s Question Time, was the One Show gardener for many years and a regular presenter at Chelsea Flower Show, and is well-remembered for her BBC show “Christine’s Garden” and the award-winning “Glorious Gardens from Above”, as well as being the successful author of several gardening books. Tickets will be available shortly.

Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> April will bring another very special Art Exhibition and Auction to St Nicolas Church, showcasing the work of many local artists, and with some very special Lots for the Auction. More details next month.

We look forward to seeing you.

Anne-Marie Hamilton, Chairman

## St Nicolas’ Church 100 Club 2025/26 Draw Year

### The winners of the January draw are:

1 <sup>st</sup> prize	Ticket no 43	Nicola Capper	£50
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	Ticket no 16	Jim Lightfoot	£25
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	Ticket no 28	Fiona Spavins	£10

### Congratulations to all the winners!

### Letter from Julie Dalleywater, St Nicolas Church 100 Club Administrator

Dear Supporter,

The March draw will mark the end of the current 100 Club year. Your support has been invaluable, helping us meet the minimum £1,500 per month needed to maintain an active church serving the village. With our main building dating back to 1209 AD, repairs and maintenance are frequent and costly, and insurance is high. The church relies on multiple fundraising initiatives, including the 100 Club, to cover these expenses. We hope you will renew your membership to support us again, and perhaps you could be one of our lucky monthly prize draw winners!

We appreciate renewals being received by March 31st, before the start of the new 100 Club year. Some members have set up an annual Standing Order, with the ticket price remaining at £25 per ticket. If you prefer not to set up a Standing Order, there are two other ways to pay:

1. Bank Transfer to Hail Weston PCC (£25 per ticket)  
Sort Code: 30-94-47  
Account Number: 02900623  
Please use reference HW10026 and your name (e.g., Smith).

2. Cheque made payable to Hail Weston PCC or £25 in cash in an envelope marked 100 Club, along with your name. This can be posted through the letter-box of 20 Orchard Close, Hail Weston (Julie Dalleywater). If you would like it to be collected, please ring Julie on 07708085445 or email [jmdwater@hotmail.com](mailto:jmdwater@hotmail.com).

We welcome enquiries from newcomers to the village or anyone else who wishes to join the 100 Club to support our church. We hope you will continue to support us and we wish you the best of luck!

Kind regards

Julie