



*Pictured: Front row: Nigel and Lisa West
Back row: Alex West & Daniel West*

Count Me In!

My husband Nigel and I moved to Muxton with our eldest son Daniel just over 30 years ago and a few years later we were delighted to welcome our younger son, Alex to our family.

Alex was a beautiful baby and an absolute joy. However, our joy became mingled with concern as we noticed by around 6 months that Alex was not reaching the usual developmental milestones.

We were eventually told that Alex had Severe Global Developmental Delay, autism and epilepsy and might never speak. It was recommended that he attend The Bridge School to best meet his learning and physical needs.

Despite many challenges, Alex was a happy child and is now a happy 28-year-old man who loves trains, music, theatre and his iPad! Although unable to talk, read or write, he enjoys worshipping at St John's Church and is a much-loved member of our church family.

As Christians, we are not exempt from the challenges of life. Certainly our own family has experienced sadness, illness, bereavement and relationship breakdowns, just like most others. However, I firmly believe that we have been surrounded by God's love, care and support through our Church family at St John's at just the time we needed it, right from the time when we found out about Alex's difficulties.

In recent years, I have had contact with a charity called 'Count Everyone In' that supports churches to become more welcoming and accessible for adults with learning disabilities. Their work has inspired us at St John's to reach out within our own community to adults with learning difficulties and their carers.

Written by Lisa West

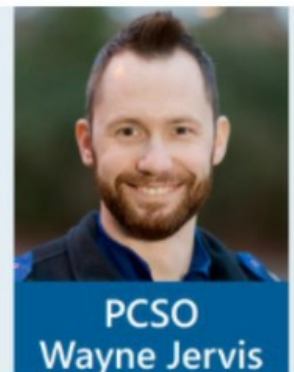
See page 3 for more details

Safer Neighbourhood Team Cares for Muxton

PC James Fox and PCSO Wayne Jervis are the officers who cover Muxton, St Georges and Priorslee as part of the local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), Policing is at the heart of everything they do.

PCSO Jervis has around 17 years of service, most has been spent covering this local area. He has built strong links within the community and he is as dedicated and diligent today as he was when he first joined the service.

PC Fox has around 10 years of service, with three of these as a PCSO and then seven as a PC. This is his 4th year of covering the Parish and he looks forward to serving the area for many more years to come.



Below is a QR link, or website address for Neighbourhood Matters; this alert system is designed to keep residents up-to-date on things that may be happening locally, to allow Police to appeal for information, to offer crime prevention advice and much more.



Sign up to receive alerts from
your local policing teams
www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk



Muxton Mission Church and Growing Up

Martin Johnson's reminiscences about life in Muxton in the 1950s and 1960s continue, looking at the role of the old Muxton mission church in his family life:

"As we were in Lilleshall parish, our church for major events like christenings or Christmas services was St Michael's in Lilleshall. The cemetery across from St Michael's is where many of our family is buried, but our people didn't go in for gravestones, so we didn't visit much.

Normal things like Sunday School took place in the Mission church in Muxton. Sunday School was at 3 p.m. on Sunday and our teacher was Mrs Rigby of No. 6 Homelands. She was also the barmaid at the Sutherland Arms.

Once a year there would be a Sunday School outing – I remember going to Rhyl, New Brighton and Llandudno. The experience involved hours on a bus, jam sandwiches and pop, with an ice-cream and a couple of funfair rides before the long journey home.

After getting confirmed, we attended the 9 a.m. services, conducted by the vicar Mr Gibson. We knew he had spent a lot of his life as a missionary to the Eskimos in Canada. He was a kindly man and was very happy to relinquish the bell-ringing to the first boy who arrived.

We were told that our grandfather William Johnson, who had been a missionary and was a lay preacher active into his 80s, had helped build the church – it came as a "flat pack" provided by the Duke of Sutherland. It was here that he first met our Sunday School teacher's grandmother Mena Lowe in 1900 after his return from four years in Mashonaland (now in Zimbabwe)."



This photo shows us outside the Muxton Mission church in about 1958.



*Article and Pictured:
Rev. Matthew Lefroy*

It always encourages me when I hear comments about how St John's Church adds so much to the sense of local community here in Muxton. Many people attend and appreciate the activities and events offered here, including: lunch club and café that run on Fridays, the dementia-friendly film mornings, the community choir, the book club, the children's activity days, the youth café and our Tots group. All of these are run by volunteers who are under no obligation to give their time but do so willingly and generously. Without the many thousands of hours given by ordinary people like this every year, we believe our community would be poorer.

Local churches get involved in this way with their communities because we follow a leader, Jesus, who commands us to do two things: to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves. We know that, although we are far from perfect, by acting in care and love for others we foster a way of living that can enhance the lives of everyone including ourselves. One of the hallmarks or straplines for St John's church is "Generously serving our community". We serve others because God's love has made such a difference to us and we want everyone to have the chance to experience that love for themselves. Our experience tells us that God cares deeply for every single person – more than the human care we can offer - that is why we regularly invite the whole community to hear specifically about the driving force behind what we do. Every few years we have a special focus on this. In 2017 we ran "Passion for Life" at Easter and this was followed in 2019 by "Time For A Change?" After a break during the Covid pandemic years, this Easter we are inviting you to join us for a series of special events entitled "Who Cares?". Details are advertised elsewhere in this issue and I hope that you will accept this as a personal invitation to attend one or more of these events.

Matthew

Count Me In Too!

As part of our Mission 25 week, based on the theme of 'Who Cares?', we are running a pilot session called 'Count Me In'. There will be an interactive bible story, crafts, music, prayers and fun for adults with learning disabilities. The group will learn about God's love for them in an appropriate way. There will also be a place where parents and carers can meet and talk or just sit and enjoy time to relax. There will be refreshments served and opportunity to be cared-for rather than being the carer – if only for a little while.

If you or someone you know may like to come along to St John's Church on Sunday 13th April at 4.00pm, please contact the church office. We look forward to welcoming you.



St John's Community Choir would like you to join them at St John's on Sunday 11 May for their concert to celebrate the 80-year anniversary of VE Day. They will be rolling out a barrel of songs, bringing entertainment nostalgia, laughter and a chance to join in with some wartime classics. Concerts will be held at 2pm and 7pm with tea, coffee and cake.

Booking is essential via the Church Office (670033) or admin@stjohnsmuxton.co.uk. There is no charge for tickets but there will be a collection in support of The Battle Back Centre, Lilleshall.

The Importance of Being Community

Over the last 12 months, a group of friends in Muxton has come together to form a new housing development campaign group. We call ourselves the Wellington Road Action Group (WRAG) and we are about influencing how the new local housing plans are to be delivered in the Muxton area.

Our work so far has had positive results, particularly in meeting the Strategic Planning Office at Telford & Wrekin Council, as we are the only local community team who have done this. We have met with them twice and would like to think that this will help to shape the future.

Our aim is not to stop development but to do our best to ensure it benefits the local community. By coming together, working as a team and meeting the right people in a planning function, to an extent we can influence what will be built and where.

The formation of a local team is an important strength in any community that cares about its environment. Working with a local community team is very rewarding and we hope that in the future we can say that we had a part in making sure that housing development was done properly and in the interests of the local community.

Written by: Philip Loughlin



Recipe for Easter: Pax Cakes

In some English churches, small buns or biscuits called Pax Cakes (from the Latin for 'peace') are given to the congregation as they leave after a Palm Sunday service. These cakes, bearing the image of a lamb, a dove and/or bearing the words 'peace and good neighbourhood' (symbolic of peace and goodwill) are handed out by the priest to the congregation as they leave church. The tradition is believed to date back to the 16th century or even earlier and is still kept up in the parishes of Sellack and King's Capel in Herefordshire. Come and taste for yourselves on Sunday 13th as we celebrate Palm Sunday at St John's!

Or see our website for the recipe so you can make your own Pax Cakes.

St John's Church, Saltwells Drive, Muxton TF2 8RJ
For more information contact 01952 670033 or
admin@stjohnsmuxton.org.uk

Join us for the opportunity to explore who we are & what we believe.

Thursdays starting 22nd May 7.30pm
St John's Church, Muxton
Register your interest by email:
admin@stjohnsmuxton.org.uk
Or call 01952 670033

Seeking inner peace?
Need rest or healing for yourself or a loved one?

Join us for
A Quiet Reflective Healing Service
ON
Sunday 29th June
6.30pm
St John's Church, Muxton
01952 670033
www.stjohnsmuxton.org.uk

Prayer Works

Due to an accident in my twenties and subsequent osteoporosis, I have had to use crutches for many years. As my knees deteriorated they were not only painful but would give way, causing falls.

I was finally told my knees could be replaced, but this was prevented by COVID lockdowns. When normality returned I was told that I had been taken off the list, but I eventually got back on with a potential 4-year wait.

I was not in a good place and broke down before praying like I have never prayed before, asking for the Lord's help. Afterwards I felt calm and left it in his hands.

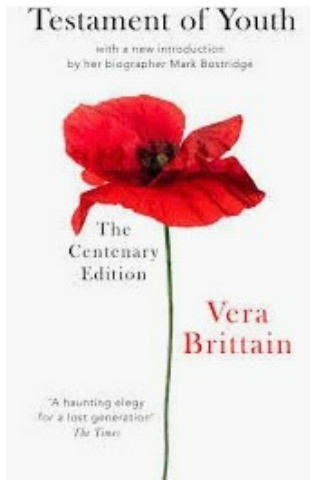
My first operation went ahead in December 2023. It went well, as did my recovery and I noticed a difference straight away. In June 2024 I had the second knee done and although healing was not as straightforward, the power of prayer from family and friends got me through.

My surgeon was expecting me to arrive at the 6-week post-op appointment with both crutches, but for the first time in many years I had no crutches at all! He asked what I had done to have such good recovery from the difficulties of the second operation and I said faith and the power of prayer; to which he said Amen!

So while I give thanks for the care of the medical profession and hospital staff, I also felt God's care for me throughout this time, hearing my prayers and giving me a new lease of life.



Written by Jeanette Taylor (pictured).



A Good Easter Read

Testament of Youth by Vera Brittain

It's not very often I read a book twice, but I recently made an exception by re-reading Testament of Youth. I have always been an avid reader and I initially read this book in my late teens. Fifty-plus years later and second time around I seemed to read this account of Vera Brittain's First World War experiences in a different way.

Vera was 20 when war was declared in 1914. Clever and studious, she was one of

the first women to study at Oxford. She was called upon to make decisions very early on in her life – whether to continue in her life's ambition to study or take on a menial role as a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurse.

Vera was a woman with purpose in everything she did and her life's dedication to pacifism, peace and feminism originated in these early years.

Of course, love and romance is part of Vera's story, but it is so much more. Relationships of all kinds (family, friends, lovers, soldiers, colleagues) are central to the story, dealing with all the emotions and decisions associated with them. Along with this is an enlightening account of the politics of the time.

In this period of Easter where we are focusing on 'Who Cares?', this book gives a wide insight into how the passion of one woman had far-reaching effects in many aspects of care: for the sick, her family, her friends, her country and for the world. Whatever your age, I commend this book to you as a good Easter read.

Written by Jan Stackhouse

Muxton Placenames

W	S	U	T	H	E	R	L	A	N	D	R	F	I	
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GOODRICH
GRANVILLE
EGERTON
PADDOCK
DORCHESTER
CRAFT
BROOKSIDE
BIRCHWOOD
HALCYON
COOKSON
GREENGAGE
ARRAN
WINCHESTER
SUTHERLAND
WELLINGTON
WOODBINE
GOWER
JARRETT
LYTHAM
BRETON
FARR

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