St John's and St Mary's, Stiffkey

Church Notes

August 2026





Welcome to Church Notes.

As late summer begins to soften into autumn, we are reminded that every season carries both gratitude and change. During the past year, our church has stood alongside the community at some of life's most significant moments. As they have for centuries, families have gathered to remember absent friends and give thanks for lives deeply cherished; here, too, couples have made their promises and stepped with hope into a new life together. Through farewells and new beginnings, sorrow and celebration, the church has remained a place of welcome, remembrance and love.

" Where are the songs of spring? Ay, Where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river sallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies."
-John Keats

Along with the harvest and a welcome easing of the heat, late summer ushers in one of the most cherished moments in our community calendar.

On the August Bank Holiday, friends and neighbours come together to support the church, renewing a tradition shaped by fellowship, generosity and a shared sense of belonging. Behind the day itself lie many quiet acts of service: the planning and preparation, the baking and decorating, the setting out and clearing away, and the warm welcome offered to all who come. We are deeply grateful to the volunteers whose time, care and willing hands make this gathering possible. As summer begins its gentle turn towards autumn, the occasion reminds us that the life of our church is sustained not only within its walls, but through the enduring kindness and commitment of the community around it.



Upcoming Services

Harvest Festival - 4th October 09:30am

Remembrance Service* - 11th November 10:45am

*The Remembrance Service is held at the Stiffkey War Memorial

Regular services are usually held on the first and third Sundays of each month.

Morning Prayer 9.30am on the 1st Sunday - September 6th and October 4th

Holy Communion 9.30am on the 3rd Sunday - September 20th and October 18th

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Made in Stiffkey ART EXHIBITION

Our inaugural Made in Stiffkey Art Exhibition is now open.

Each weekend throughout August, the church of St John and St Mary is showcasing the work of **eleven talented local artists** in a unique exhibition that celebrates the incredible creativity of our village.

The exhibition features an eclectic mix of sculpture, acrylics, watercolours, mixed media and lino-cuts.

Whether you are an art enthusiast or are simply curious to discover local talent, we hope that you will come along, enjoy the exhibition, and perhaps purchase a raffle ticket for the chance to win one of the original works of art on display.

There will be a selection of homemade cakes and bakes, which together with tea and coffee complete the experience!

All proceeds will support the Church Fabric Fund and the urgently needed roof repair...

We are extremely grateful to the following artists who have generously donated both their time and their amazing work to support the church:

Pauline Adlington-De'Ath
Steven Bashforth — **Paula Mahoney**
Tony Foster — **Greg Pepper**
Geraldine Green — **Janey Sugden**
Lin Hartley — **Isabel Tipple**
Liz Hawkins — **Sophia Williams**



Stiffkey Local History Group Exhibition

This August Bank Holiday, Stiffkey Local History Group will present Fading Memories, a three-day exhibition at Stiffkey Church.



The exhibition will explore the history of Stiffkey's Light Anti-Aircraft camp, from its establishment in 1938 until its closure in 1955. Its story will be brought to life through photographs, documents, artefacts and a specially produced video.

Visitors will have a rare opportunity to discover a wealth of information through the many previously unseen exhibits on display.

The exhibition will be open from 10am to 4pm between the 29th and the 31st August. Admission, refreshments and parking are free.

Any donations received will go towards the church fabric fund, helping to preserve an important part of Stiffkey's rich heritage for future generations.

STALLS ON THE KNOLL
STIFFKEY CHURCH

The August Bank Holiday Sunday would not be complete without the annual Stalls on the Knoll event that runs between 10am and 12pm on the knoll outside the church.



Please visit to sample the fantastic range of home-baked cakes, biscuits and a range of delicious local produce. There will also be books and bric-a-brac as well as the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for the Made In Stiffkey Art Exhibition.

How You Can Help

Make a Payment Today.
- A cheque payable to Stiffkey PCC
- A bank transfer
- A card payment via the QR code below
- A card payment in the church

Make a Regular Donation.
Setup a monthly Standing Order
Make a Deed of Covenant

Leave a Legacy.
Please contact us for more information

Volunteer.
- Help in the church
- Help in the churchyard
- Help fund-raise

Please contact info@stiffkeychurch.com for more information

If you would like to get involved, or can contribute cakes, bakes and other items please let us know by writing to:
info@stiffkeychurch.com

Stiffkey Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the following members:
Rev. Ian Whittle . Heather Harrison . David Hooper . Alan Duff . Chris Halford . Roger Bland . Alexandra Hooper

Contact Details
Church of St Mary and St John's, Church Street, Stiffkey, NR23 1QJ
Email: info@stiffkeychurch.com
Website: stiffkeychurch.com

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales No. 1210243

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We are registered for giftaid

Bank Details
Bank Account Name: **Stiffkey Parochial Church Council**
Sort Code: **20-30-81**
Account Number: **20844306**