

TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 9 December 2025

Sunday 9 November 2025 – Remembrance Sunday

The Remembrance Sunday service in the High Street was extremely well attended this year, as it has been for some years here in Stone. Our outdoor commemoration and church service were moving tributes to the individuals and their families that lost so much during our countries' most devastating wars. The words, and turnout were testament to our strong community, and it was great to see the occasion so widely supported by attendees from across the country. Many attendees on Sunday remarked at the wonderful turnout, and I was grateful that we could pay respects to the fallen as a strong and compassionate community. Furthermore - the Walton Community Centre service and wreath laying proved to be excellent, with residents attending for the recognition of our local fallen. All ages were present from our community, showing a strong future appreciation and awareness for the difficult times our town (and indeed, people from around the world) endured during the World Wars.

Tuesday 11 November 2025 – Armistice Day

On the 11th, I was glad to pay further respects and tribute to the fallen and to remember the moment that marked the end of the wars. The war memorial statue was once again the centre of our collective respects, with silence observed throughout the high street.

Thursday 20 November 2025 – Stone Christmas Lights Switch On

Even the bitter cold of early winter didn't extinguish the warm friendly atmosphere in the town during the light switch on! Local children and parents sang carols with harmonious enthusiasm, whilst many other locals clung to the warmth of our hospitality venues. I had the great honour to meet the future artists and winners of this year's Christmas Card Competition, and I was able to meet Santa himself as we all turned the lights on together. We were all entertained by Kath Stanway who sang and hosted the event, captivating the audience throughout the evening. It was great to see so many parents and attendees, and for our towns businesses to be able to benefit from the community spirit of the town.

Saturday 22 November 2025 – Cheadle Christmas Lights Switch On

Cheadle high street became a bazaar of Christmas wonder with Santa's grotto, market stalls, music, and fancy-dress. I enjoyed the hospitality of their local library in the company of other civic guests and partners. The community spirit was very familiar, and it was clear that the townsfolk of Cheadle are as lucky as we are here in Stone to have such dedicated public servants and friends to their town. It was a delight to behold the town under the Christmas lights with everywhere a-glow with anticipation for the holiday season, and big grins on the faces of the young people there.

Sunday 23 November 2025 – Stafford Borough Mayor's Curry Evening

Borough Mayor, Councillor Jenny Baron, hosted a three-course curry evening at Bengal Lounge in Stafford. We filled the venue comfortably and ate in good company, and had musical entertainment provided by the venue. It was nice to be reacquainted with familiar faces that I had not seen in some time, and a great pleasure to meet new people too. We raised a nice sum for the Borough Mayors Charity in a raffle with prizes

a-plenty. It was a pleasure to see the event well supported, and to see some of the Stone Town Councillor's attending as Borough and County invitees. The Mayor of Stafford Borough expressed kind words of support and appreciation for our past events and indicated that she was looking forward to future events here in Stone. I look forward to arranging these events soon. The paneer-special curry was delicious, and the hospitality staff were very friendly and faultlessly accommodating.

Thursday 27 November 2025 – Stone Flower Club Christmas Demonstration

The Stone Flower Club kindly invited Sarah and I to their demonstration evening for flower arranging. Their guest demonstrator that evening had tremendous oratory and storytelling skills as she seamlessly talked about her journey into floristry and flower displays, as well as some of the big names and celebrities that had requested her expertise in the past. It was easy to see why! Whilst she wove her stories together, one into the next, the flower displays were steadily built up with interspersed explanations of the theories and aesthetic considerations. By the end of each story, a new flower display was complete, each one looking like a festive centre-piece or a miniature Garden of Eden! All of the guests were thoroughly entertained, and it was easy to see what value the club brought to attendees. I discovered that this was the 60th year that the flower club had been operating, bringing joy to members throughout. My mother also attended as a visitor, and intends to become a member in the new year!

Saturday 29 November 2025 – Saint Dominic's Priory School Christmas Fayre

I was welcomed to the hall of Saint Dominic's Priory by the staff of the school, along with two helpers; Dancer and Prancer, real life reindeers that had been brought by animal experts to bring joy and entertainment to the children and parents. As an animal lover, I was beaming from ear to ear and reluctant to leave them! The hall had stalls and games to raise money for the students and various projects. I was very happy to support these stalls and even participated in some of the novelty games. For £1 you could gamble on getting a bottle of water or wine from a sealed wine bag. Very novel! I bought a glitter tattoo to help some of the girls raise money for prom, and a small gnome keyring from a girl raising money to go on a volunteer project in India, and bought some sweets from some enterprising young students who had a very refined mobile sweet shop. It was good to see the school and parents encouraging young people to learn mercantile skills that will no doubt set them up for success in the future. The head teacher and staff were very welcoming, and I even got a photograph with them and the reindeers.

Sunday 30 November 2025 – Crown Wharf Turkey Trot

The Crown Wharf Theatre and Joules Brewery hosted a 5km race to raise money to support the funding of the Theatre. Participants wore festive outfits and received awards in racing categories, as well as the best costumes. I chose the three wise men, and a very classy hound that wore a Christmas cardigan and a festive hat. Emma and Steve from Joules Brewery were excellent organiser's and the volunteers facilitated a fun, safe race along some of the country roadways parallel to the canal. The event was fully booked, and I had the great privilege of starting the race and handing out medals to participants. The event went smoothly, and I may have accidentally indicated that I would

be racing next year to make up for all of the buffets and hospitality shown during this years events!

DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 9 December 2025

Thursday 6 November 2025 – Edward Jeavons' Art Exhibition

Ed Jeavons Art Exhibition was wonderful. It was interesting to listen to Ed about the processes he uses to produce his art. Thank you for the invitation.

Tuesday 11 November 2025 – Opening of Christ Church Garden

I was given the great honour to open Christchurch's garden. It was attended by Reverend Kingman and a few pupils from Christchurch First school. The garden will look lovely as time goes by and I look forward to watching new plants being introduced to it.

Friday 28 November 2025 - Christmas light Switch-On at Shoemaker Place

I felt very humble to be asked to turn on their lights. It was a joy to meet the staff and residents. Yarlet school choir were amazing and everyone had a lovely time. Thank you

See photographs enclosed.



