

THE LINK

The Magazine of The Knightley Parishes



PALM SUNDAY

March 2024

No. 391

Badby ☿ Newnham ☿ Charwelton ☿ Fawsley ☿ Preston Capes



THE KNIGHTLEY PARISHES

www.knightleybenefice.org.uk

An on-line version of this magazine in colour is available on the web site

Services for March 2024

	3 March	10 March	17 March	24 March	31 March	7 April
	I Lent 3	II Mothering Sunday	III Lent 5	IV PALM SUNDAY	V EASTER	I Easter 2
Badby	11:00 Holy Communion CW	11:00 Family Service CW	11:00 Holy Communion CW	11:00 Morning Worship	11:00 Holy Communion CW	11:00 Holy Communion CW
Newnham	09:15 Holy Communion CW				09:15 Holy Communion CW	09:15 Holy Communion CW
Charwelton	17:00 Evensong BCP (Chapel)	10:00 Mothering Sunday service (Chapel)	09:15 Holy Communion BCP (Church)		09:30 Holy Communion BCP [PA]	17:00 Evensong BCP (Chapel)
Fawsley				09:15 Holy Communion BCP	11:00 Holy Communion BCP [PA]	
Preston Capes		09:45 Family Mothering Sunday service		10:00 Morning Prayer CW	09:15 Holy Communion CW [GS]	

OTHER SERVICES

for Holy Week services - See page 3

Tuesday 19 March

6.30 pm

Badby

ESOW

SUNDAY READINGS

Principal Service CW

- for other services see Lectionary

Date	Feast	Topic	First Reading	Gospel
3 Mar	Lent 3	Rescue	Romans 5:6-8	Matthew 1:18-25
10 Mar	Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)	Rebirth	Romans 6:1-14	John 3:1-15
17 Mar	Lent 5	Righteous	Romans 6:15-23	Matthew 5:17-20
24 Mar	PALM SUNDAY	Royalty	Romans 11:33-36	John 12:12-19
29 Mar	GOOD FRIDAY	Rejected	Romans 5:12-17	John 19:16-42
31 Mar	EASTER	Reconciled & Rejoicing	Romans 5:9-11	Matthew 28:1-10
7 Apr	Easter 2	Let the nations be glad	Psalms 67:1-7	Luke 24:13-35



Mon. 25 March 7.00pm
Newnham - Compline

Tues. 26 March 7.00pm
Charwelton Chapel - Compline

Wed. 27 March 7.00pm
Preston Capes - Compline

Thurs. 28 March (Maundy Thursday)
7.00pm
Badby - Maundy Thursday service

Fri. 29 March (Good Friday) 10.30am
Fawsley Good Friday service



Kind Heart Yoga with Ruth

Experienced teacher near Daventry

Small, friendly in person group classes in

Badby, for all levels; 121/221 &

private group classes are available.

Gentle flowing Hatha & slow held yin yoga,

improving the breath, &

relaxation: perfect for every body, mind and

soul. Contact Ruth on 07591 166551

ruthmackman@btinternet.com

EDITORIAL

Despite the weather (see below) there are many signs of spring in the air. Crocuses and snowdrops are poking up, the temperatures are rising, and the bird song in the morning is wonderful, with the robins and blackbirds especially singing their hearts out. I realise that they are not celebrating the joys of spring, they are just saying to their neighbours "Push off; this is my territory." but nonetheless it is very cheering.

February Filldyke is certainly living up to its name! February 2023 was the driest for many, many years with a grand total of 8.5mm rain in the whole month., whereas this month (and I write on 18th.) we have had 101mm already (including 22mm overnight last night!), with no let-up in sight. The pub was flooded again overnight (thank goodness for the stone floor and no cellar!), but I was told half an hour ago that all would be ready for our Sunday lunch in another couple of hours. Well done!

The memorial service for John Giles last week sent me off on a trip down memory lane for two reasons.

Firstly, John was the first business owner I met in Daventry nearly 54 years ago. After my interview with Danetre Medical Practice (as it then wasn't!) I needed to put petrol in my car ready for the journey back to Ely and of course the partners (George Daley, Colin Graham, and David Boulton) naturally steered me in the direction of John's garage almost next door to the surgery (which is no longer there either). So when, six months later, I arrived to take up the partnership it was John and his colleagues who supplied my fuel and went on to service my cars for many years after that. It was very good to meet again at the service so many of the old faces from Giles' Garage.

Secondly, the service, which was packed to capacity with many familiar faces, also took me back - though nothing like so many years - to times when our churches were much better attended than they are now. During the interregna between Stephen Adams and Michael Pettitt, and then between Michael and Sue Falkner, we ran a system in which by and large there was just one service (a UBS with HC) in the Benefice each week - with the service (and the congregation) moving around the 5 churches in turn. It was very noticeable how good the attendances were during those periods, and, maybe even more valuable, how much better the parishioners knew each other and were willing and able to co-operate and work together for the common good. As we move shortly into another interregnum we might perhaps consider reverting to a similar arrangement at least for the duration of the interregnum. We would all get to know each other better, and more importantly we would not have to make unreasonable calls on the time of the limited number of retired priests available to come to our assistance each Sunday.

Is there something which makes you feel old? Our son recently sent us a photograph of himself nursing a new born child - and telling us that, as the result of one of his wife's family having had a baby, he is now a great-uncle! But I'm not old enough to have a son who is a great-uncle!!!

Somehow the term "great uncle" sounds more ancient even than "grandfather" - and we don't expect him to become that for several years yet!

David

THE RECTOR'S LETTER

His Mercy is More

I'm a good person.

Well, that's what I tell myself, at least. And most of the time I'm not actually bad, in fact sometimes I can be wonderfully kind, generous and thoughtful. But before you start thinking that I'm getting big headed, I am very well aware that at other times I can be selfish, rude and hurtful. I can feel angry, jealous and all the emotions that I wish I wouldn't and if you're honest with yourself, I suspect that you know this to be true of you as well.

How adept we become at sweeping those inconvenient truths under the carpet – “We're not really sinners,” we argue, “we're just human!” And yet all those things that we seek to pass off as being not really our fault are actually symptomatic of sin. The great twentieth century theologian, John Stott wrote, “Scripture is quite clear that the essence of sin is godlessness. It is the attempt to get rid of God and, since that is impossible, the determination to live as though one had succeeded in doing so.”

But such a life of dreadful denial leads us and our world further and further from the loving creator God who longs for us to know his grace and peace – do you see how it becomes sin? However, although we might try to deny God, it turns out that he loves to claim us as his own and that's where Easter comes in. Easter is how God gave us more than chocolate, or bunnies, he gave us life and hope where we had created death and despair. Through the Cross of Christ and the empty tomb that he rose from, the Bible (or the “Scriptures” as John Stott puts us) tells

us that Jesus wiped away all of our sins – everything that we say and do and think that marks our lives as those lived as though there were no God and in their place he pours out God's love upon us so that we can know life with him in all its fulness, for ever.

What sort of God would treat us with such undeserving kindness? The holy, just, loving and merciful God that we encounter in Jesus. A

recent song by a couple of gifted modern hymn writers is called “His Mercy is More” and the final verse takes us to the sacrifice of Good Friday and the love that we are shown on Easter Day.

“What riches of kindness He
lavished on us;
His blood was the payment,
His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt
we could never afford;
Our sins they are many, His
mercy is more”

This is the truth that we need to own up to; that when we are honest with ourselves, no matter

how good we try to be, “our sins they are many.” But then the greater, more wonderful truth that we are invited to hear and embrace for ourselves is that in Easter we discover that God's mercy is more, isn't that good news? As another modern hymn puts it, “What a love! What a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.”

Best wishes,

Malcolm



BENEFICE PAGE

EVENING SERVICE OF THE WORD

This short service is held once a month on the Tuesday evening following the third Sunday at St Mary's Badby at 6.30pm. There is always a brief talk about someone inspirational. All welcome! The next dates are 19 March and 23 April.

BADBY AND DISTRICT FILM SOCIETY

Saturday 16th Mar: Beethoven's Fidelio (1978) Beethoven's only opera is all about the triumph of devoted womanhood over adversity of the worst kind: it honours women in a way that no other opera does. Otto Schenk's brilliantly staged historic production stars Gundula Janowitz, René Kollo and Lucia Popp. Leonard Bernstein conducts the Vienna State Orchestra & Chorus. "A fine interpretation... with period costumes and authentic-looking sets... other good versions of the opera are available but this is a treasure." [147 mins, Exempt cert.]

Friday 22 March: The Guard (2011) An eccentric crime comedy. Sergeant Gerry Boyle, a police officer with unorthodox methods, is forced to team up with FBI agent Wendell Everett to take on an international drug smuggling gang which is threatening his town. Stars Brendan Gleeson. [95 mins, Cert.15]

For further information about the Society email banddfs@gmail.com or phone Karen, evenings only, on 01327 312158.

BADBY & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The green shoots of bluebells are already on show in the woods and you've no doubt seen a few plants budding in your garden. But remember to hold off pruning your delicate plants until after the last frost. The early growth can

be quite sensitive to the cold so leaving last years 'die-back' will afford a degree of protection. Sadly the Club Chair and Secretary will both be moving abroad in the Summer so we are really keen to ensure a proper handover to the successors... we're grateful to hear about anyone who is willing to take over. Responses please to richgreen1975@icloud.com.



SUDOKU

[With thanks to Robin Baker]

Puzzle No. 88 - Milld

	2		3	6				1
	4	3						9
				7		2	3	
	6			5	3			
					6	9	1	5
	8			2	7			
				9		1	7	
	1	8						5
	5		4	1				9

Puzzle No. 89 Difficult

		9	5		1	2		
		1	6		4	8		
	4						5	
4			7		2			9
2		7		6		5		4
		8				1		
			1	8	3			
1				2				3

[Solutions on p 11]

PARISH NOTICES

BADBY

Correspondent - Geoff Pullin (gcsspullin@yahoo.com)

website: www.badby-pc.gov.uk

	Reader	Sidesman	Coffee
3 Mar	J. Hall C. Wakeford	J. Jordan F. Williams	A. Syred
10 Mar	J. Jordan S. Rose	G. Morley J. Hall	J. Hall
17 Mar	G. Nelson P. Wakeford	P. Wakeford C. Wakeford	G. Morley
24 Mar	N. Shaw J. Hall	C. Nelson G. Nelson	J. Hall
31 Mar	F. Williams J. Jordan	J. Jordan F. Williams	G. Nelson

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR MARCH

w/b 4 Helen Morris, Gillie Morley, Ann Skinner
w/b 11 Jan Cooper, Moira Cooper
w/b 18 Jo Hind, Judy Jordan, Gill Nelson
w/b 25 Ann Cotton, Monique Shortt, Ann Syred

T 4 U

On Friday, 1 March in the village hall from 2.30 - 4.30pm: Real Coffee, playing space for young children, games, free Wi-Fi, cakes, bring crafts, chat and tea. Come and enjoy a warm welcoming space for everyone!

QUIZ AND FISH & CHIPS

Don't forget St. Mary's quiz and fish & chips which will be held in the village hall on Saturday 2 March. Doors open at 6.40pm for a prompt 7pm start. Tickets may still be available from Ruth on 07591 166551.

LENT SOUP LUNCHES

There is still time to book up for the last few soup lunches - on Wednesday 6 March, Wednesday 13 March, Thursday 21 March and Wednesday 27 March. See website and Facebook pages for details of how to book.

CHURCH DRAW

The February winners were:

1st Christine Richards ,
2nd. John Brodie
3rd. Linda Loft

HALF CUT THEATRE

On Wednesday 13 March the Half Cut Theatre will be performing their take on Chaucer's Canterbury Tales at 7pm in St. Mary's. Come along early for a glass of wine beforehand. The link to book tickets on-line is shown on BCS Facebook and village website.

ST. MARY'S COFFEE MORNING

Our monthly coffee morning will be in the church on Tuesday 19 March. Come along to St. Mary's between 10.30 am and noon for hot coffee, fresh cakes and lots of chat, as well as the monthly draw.

BADBY & FARTHINGSTONE CRICKET CLUB

The Sportsman's Dinner will take place on Friday 22 March at the Mercure Hotel, Daventry at 7 for 7.30pm.

The speakers will be Gareth Chilcott (Bath, England & British Lions) and Matthew Hoggard MBE (Yorkshire and England). The cost is £60 per head. Book now with Peter Collins on 07740875344 or petercollins12311@yahoo.co.uk

BADBY VILLAGE HALL

Burns Night on 27 January was a great success and was enjoyed by everyone. Thank you to everyone who took part or helped – it raised over £900 for the upkeep of the hall.

RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Members meet on Tuesday 12 March 2 – 4pm in the village hall for *Marche Militaire*, a programme of military music presented by Angela Adams. Contact Pat Eaton on 01327 705326.

BLUEBELL TEAS

Bluebell Teas will be on Sunday 5 and Monday 6 May. Would you like to join our dedicated teams who

run this event, helping in the village hall, or with the car parking, or assisting with getting the signage and publicity out? We'd love to hear from you – it's enjoyable and rewarding. You can offer as much or as little time as you are able. Contact Karen Alexander (01327 310780) or Monique Shortt (01327 704184).

BADBY AND FAWSLEY WI

Thursday 14 March will be our AGM, accompanied by Wine and Cheese, and a Bring and Buy Sale. For Information about visiting or joining this modern, lively WI please email Jan Cooper at jancooper2012@me.com.

Then on Wednesday 20 March B&FWI have arranged a Fashion Show to be held in Badby Village Hall, featuring outfits provided by the very popular Wanda Fashions of Dunchurch. Doors open at 6:30pm for a 6:45pm start. Open to all, tickets cost £5 to include a glass of non-alcoholic fizz and a chance to buy garments after the show. If you would like to attend please contact Joanna Dring at jjddring@aol.com

PARISH COUNCIL

With a donation of 420 mixed hedge row plants from the Woodland Trust, Councillor Katie Griffiths and new resident Mark Parris have planted a vast number of them around the cemetery which in time will establish boundary hedging. They will be planting more new hedging around the village to encourage wild life.



NEWNHAM

Correspondent - Ellen Henning
(ellen.henning@hotmail.co.uk)

BINGO

The church are running another bingo session, this time on 8th. March. It will be held in the Village Hall and the doors will be open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start.

Bingo can fun for both children and adults, so do come and join in. If you come as a group, this can enhance your fun, but is far from necessary. If you

haven't been before, come and give it a try.

NEWNHAM VH 200 CLUB DRAW

The winners for the February draw are as follows:-

£50 prize - Mrs C Haynes No 4

£25 prize - Mrs J Payne No 5

£25 prize - Mr R Hodges No 117

COMEDY NIGHT. NEWNHAM VILLAGE HALL

Thursday 7th March. Doors open 7pm for 8pm start. By popular request The Comedy Crate returns to Newnham with stand up from Steve Hall, Lindsey Santoro, James Cook and Pete Teckman. There will be a paying bar for refreshments and snacks. Tickets £12 plus booking fee from www.thecomedycrate.com

NEWNHAM JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 16th March 2pm -4pm

Men's, ladies and children's clothes, bric-a-brac, good as new, books and toys. Bargains galore and delicious teas. In the Village Hall

NEWNHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

18th April 7pm - The Shoe Must Go On

The Society will be hosting a fascinating talk by Rebecca Shawcross, curator of the Northampton Museum on their collection of shoes, trinkets and machines. Held at Newnham Church 6.30pm for 7pm start. Tickets £2.50 members and £5 for non members from judithdorkins@btinternet.com 07767 494867

QUIZ NIGHT. NEWNHAM VILLAGE HALL

26th April. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm.

Teams of up to six welcome. £2 per person. Come along and have some fun and compete for some great prizes. There will be a paying bar for refreshments and snacks.

NEWNHAM CHURCH'S APCM

Newnham Church is holding its APCM on 19th. March at 2.00pm. in the church. This annual meeting of the PCC is open to all people of the Parish. It is where the accounts are presented and

churchwardens and PCC members elected.

NEWNHAM WI

Our meeting in the village hall on the 21st March will be our AGM. This is a time of change for us as we will be appointing our new President and members of the committee.

We wish to encourage new members to our WI with our excellent programme of speakers and friendly environment, where we learn new skills and support important issues and each other. Visitors are always welcome to our meetings which are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7.30pm in the village hall. If you would like to learn what Newnham WI is all about why not pop along one Thursday evening. If you would like any further information, please contact Carol on 01327 872861 or Sue on 01327 439612



CHARWELTON

Correspondent - David Pound
(davidpound1939@talktalk.net)

	Reader/Sidesman	Flowers
3 Mar	Meryl Nicholls	
17 Mar	Penny Cory	
31 Mar	Elizabeth Bird	Elizabeth Bird
7 Apr	Amanda McCree	

Chapel cleaning	
March	Meryl Nicholls
April	June Pound

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Our Mothering Sunday service will be held in the Chapel on Sunday 10th March at 10am. Do come and join us. It will be a short, family-friendly, service for all ages and generations. If anyone - child or adult - would like to help make posies on Saturday 9th March at 9.30 in the chapel, please come along. All materials will be provided.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

A date is yet to be agreed but we will soon be

holding the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the chapel. If you would like to join the Parochial Church Council — and we are keen to recruit new members with fresh ideas — this would be the ideal time to come along and meet the existing PCC members. The date will publicised in the April Link.

If you wish to be added to the Electoral Roll, please contact PCC Secretary Penny Cory (pennycory@yahoo.co.uk) by Monday 15th April.

OLD AND GOLD TALK

The Village Hall would like to thank Lucinda Orr for a very informative and engaging presentation about the treasure process and interesting finds from the local area. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the evening and we are looking to see if Lucinda will be able to do another presentation.

VILLAGE HALL AGM

At the Village Hall AGM the previous year's Minutes and the 2022/23 accounts were presented and approved. All the current VH team agreed to continue volunteering for the next 12 months with Dawn Aries remaining as Chairperson and Trish Willoughby as Treasurer.

ADMIN. HELP

Are you able to take notes at a meeting and type up the Minutes? The Village Hall team would love someone to come along to the bi-monthly meetings to help out with this admin. task. If you think this is for you then please get in touch with Trish 01327 261817 or Dawn 07866 557238.

EASTER TRAIL, EGG ROLLING and CRAFTS

The Village Hall will be organising an Easter event for the children on Saturday 30th March with a trail around the village in your own time and egg rolling and craft activities in the village hall in the afternoon from 3pm. Please let Ria know if you and the family are joining in this year so enough answer sheets and refreshments can be catered for. Ria 07969 054762

QUIZ NIGHT

The village hall was packed once again with 13 teams enjoying a lovely fish and chip supper

followed by Jen's eclectic mix of questions. This year's winning team was 'Top and Bottom' with Mike and Ann Jones, Trish Willoughby and Debbie Hamilton winning by just 2 points. Over £400 was raised including monies from Bev and Steve's amazing raffle. The next quiz will be in September/October - date TBC.

OPEN GARDENS

Charwelton village will be hosting Open Gardens on Sunday 30th June. If you would like to be an 'Open Garden' please let Bev 07931 793491 know. Details about opening times and refreshments will be detailed in future Links nearer the time.

WHIST DRIVE

The monthly village hall whist drive will be on Monday, 18th March at 7.30pm.



FAWSLEY

Correspondent - Vacant

LITTER PICK

The annual litter pick will be on 16th March. As in previous years we will all meet outside the hotel at 11:00am before we start.

EASTER DAY SERVICE

The 11:00am Easter Day service will be taken by Rev'd Peter Allen.



PRESTON CAPES

Correspondent - Claire Hoare
caghoare@gmail.com

	Reader	Sidesman	Cleaning /Flowers
10 Mar	Heather Wilson	Anabel Lewis-Bowen	Mike Scragg & Chris Lumbis
24 Mar	Mireya Weaver	Peter Smith	
31 Mar	Luke Bridgeman	Claire Hoare	

BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2023

Congratulations to Moira and Rosie for the total of £280 collected in dreadful wet weather. Thank you for taking on this task year after year. A great result, we are all most grateful for your hard work.

MOTHERING SUNDAY 10th MARCH

A Special Family Service at 9.45.
Posy making during the service, and refreshments, everyone very welcome to join in.

CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers in Lent, then church to be decorated by everyone for Easter please

ANNUAL VESTRY
AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS
Friday March 22nd. 17.00 in the Church.

COFFEE MORNING AND PERFECT PLANT SALE
Save the date - Monday 13th May

Once again, we have been persuaded to continue this. Please come along to meet friends for coffee and biscuits and to purchase cakes and plants.

BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORS

Byfield surgery has a supply of blood pressure monitors they loan out for free as needed, but not all these have been returned. If you have had one and forgotten to return it please could you do so asap as the number of monitors available is very low so when people need one there may not be any in stock.

PRESTON CAPES WI

Preston Capes WI is now officially one hundred years old! We celebrated our centenary on 11th February – the actual date of our inauguration in 1924 – with members past and present at an afternoon tea at the village hall.

Meetings in March and April are members-only (our AGM and resolutions meetings respectively), so our next open meeting will be in May when we shall be having a talk on wild swimming – more details nearer the date.

DIARY

This diary records the proposed dates of any benefice, parish or village events. We hope that this will help those planning such events to know what else is going on and therefore be able to avoid any unhelpful clashes of dates.

If you know, or become aware, of events which ought to be recorded please let David Pound, or your village Link correspondent, know.

Events known about so far are:

March

- 1 T4U Badby VH
- 2 St. Mary's Quiz + fish and chips Badby VH
- 6 Charwelton PCC
- 7 Newnham Comedy Night
- 8 Newnham Bingo
- 11 Newnham PCC
- 12 Badby PCC
- 13 Half Cut Theatre Badby Church
- 14 Badby & Fawsley WI AGM
- 16 Newnham Jumble Sale
- 16 Film Soc. opera
- 18 Charwelton Whist Drive
- 19 Newnham APCM
- 20 Badby & Fawsley WI Fashion Show
- 21 Newnham WI AGM
- 22 Cricket Club Sportsman's Dinner
- 22 Film Soc.
- 22 Preston Capes APCM & PCC
- 30 Charwelton Easter Trail and Egg- rolling

April

- 5 T4U Badby VH
- 12 Film Soc. AGM (Members only)
- 18 Newnham History Society - The Shoe Must Go On
- 20 District bellringers at Preston Capes
- 26 Newnham Quiz
- 26 Film Soc.
- 30 Badby PCC

May

- 1 Charwelton PCC
- 5/6 Badby Bluebell teas
- 7 Newnham PCC
- 11 Film Soc. opera

- 13 Preston Capes Plant Sale and Coffee Morning
- 19 Badby NGS Open Gardens
- 26 Newnham NGS Open Gardens
- 28 Badby PCC and APCM
- 31 Film Soc.

June

- 6 Newnham D-Day 8 Beacon
- 7 Newnham, Daventry Brass Concert
- 15 District bell ringers at Badby
- 30 Charwelton Open Gardens

July

- 2 Newnham PCC
- 3 Charwelton PCC
- 13 Newnham Music on the Green
- 30 Badby PCC

September

- 3 Newnham PCC
- 4 Charwelton PCC
- 21 District bellringers at Newnham
- 24 Badby PCC

November

- 5 Newnham PCC
- 6 Charwelton PCC
- 12 Badby PCC



SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Solution
No. 88

5	2	7	3	6	9	8	4	1
6	4	3	2	8	1	5	9	7
8	9	1	5	7	4	2	3	6
4	6	9	1	5	3	7	8	2
3	7	2	8	4	6	9	1	5
1	8	5	9	2	7	4	6	3
2	3	4	6	9	5	1	7	8
9	1	8	7	3	2	6	5	4
7	5	6	4	1	8	3	2	9

Solution
No. 89

8	7	9	5	3	1	2	4	6
5	2	1	6	9	4	8	3	7
6	4	3	2	7	8	9	5	1
9	1	6	3	4	5	7	2	8
4	8	5	7	1	2	3	6	9
2	3	7	8	6	9	5	1	4
3	9	8	4	5	6	1	7	2
7	6	2	1	8	3	4	9	5
1	5	4	9	2	7	6	8	3

POTS & PLANS: WHAT TO DO IN YOUR GARDEN THIS MARCH

Philip Turvil, Garden designer in Badby.

My secateurs are sharp. My fork prepared. There's lots to do in the garden in March. Below are my go-to priorities.

1. **Seed trays at the ready**

Finally it's March. The month listed on so many seed packets for sowing vegetables and flowers. There's lot of choice, of course, but horticultural jeopardy too...

Growing too many seedlings can stress out young plants (and gardeners). Plan your space so seedlings get good light, space, and ventilation, inside and out. I like to stagger seed sowing over spring to give more time and space for each. March is the perfect time for sowing: carrots, broad beans, lettuce, onion (sets too), pea, leaf beet, cauliflower, and broccoli. Plus flowers such as lobelia and salvia.

Garden centres also have a great range of seedlings come spring. Look out for small trays of plants ready for you to pot on or pot out.

2. **Is that a weed?**

Maybe. It's hard to tell in March. You'll see lots of weeds growing fast, but these can be confused with new shoots from 'herbaceous perennials' which re-grow from ground level each year.

I sometimes delay weeding to avoid damaging existing plants or removing seedlings I might like. It's also useful to look at photos of your garden and planting plans to identify plants and weeds.

But don't delay too long. Every 20 minutes spent weeding in spring is an hour saved in summer! Especially for managing deep rooted perennials. Digging out persistent weeds is also worth the effort early in the year, such removing ground elder. Dig out as much root as possible before the plant 'recharges' its roots in the spring sunshine; then remove any re-growth twice a week. If severe, repeat, and recharge yourself with cake.

3. **Finish pruning roses.**

For all roses, remove branches which are dead and weak. Then remove unhelpful branches which are

(or likely to) cross/rub with other branches. These removals let air and light into the heart of the plant. This encourages growth and discourages problems. Win win.

For shrub and patio roses, that's it. Time for tea. But for bush and climbing roses, it's also worth cutting longer stems and side-shoots back by a third or half. This encourages stronger growth while controlling the plant's size and shape.

4. **Cut the grass**

Not the lawn. Rather larger grasses grown for their lovely over-wintering flowers, such as *Miscanthus*, *Molina*, *Pennisetum*. Cut down plants to 2-4 inches from ground level to let the new grass come through cleanly.

You can also tidy up evergreen grasses, such as the many garden varieties of *Carex* and *Festuca*. Gentle pull or cut out untidy growth.

Right, back to my potting shed. My best wishes to you and your garden.

Philip is an award-winning horticulturalist who loves plants that make people feel good. He designs and supplies new planting displays to bring colour and convenience to any size garden. Philip has 20 years' experience at Kew Gardens and elsewhere. He also sells plants for charity in Badby. Book your free garden design consultation on 07701 296621 or philip@brightenmygarden.com. Read about Philip's services at www.brightenmygarden.com.



**New
Gardens**
garden design and build

Unique. Bespoke.
Collaborative.

We work with
you to design
the outdoor living
space of your
dreams

WE CREATE TIME

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MAKING MOMENTS WITH LOVED ONES
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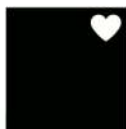
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CHAIRMAN – Gary Hammersley

07887 634936 chair@newnham-parish.org.uk

CLERK – Elaine Gibbon

07955 644586 clerk@newnham-parish.org.uk

Council Update

The Council met on the 5th February. The key discussion points were the Parish Council website, a proposal to explore a village website for use by organisations within the village, traffic calming and working parties.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, work by WNC related to the **flooding improvement** programme will have commenced. This is scheduled as the first in a multi-phase approach to improve the infrastructure and tackle the causes of the flooding in the village.

We continue to monitor data from the **speed indicator devices** around the village, and to share it with the Police Road Safety Team and the Community Highways Team. We are arranging a site meeting with Highways to look at specific sites of concern, with the initial priority being the Mounts Lane/Weedon Road junction.

The Parish Council has to find a new provider for its website services. Whilst this is of limited interest to most people, it has added impetus to conversations about a **village website** – one which contains information about all the organisations in the village, the activities they provide and upcoming events being organised. Initial discussions with other organisations have been positive, reflecting the benefits of having a single source of information for residents to access. We aim to consult with all organisations in the coming weeks.

Another matter discussed was the creation of **working parties** to deliver projects in the village. The rationale for this is multifaceted. Firstly, ‘many hands make light work’ and there is a track record of successful working parties doing litter picks, churchyard clearance and putting up marquees for example. Secondly, it enables people who want to help with the upkeep and improvement of the village to contribute, without the commitment of joining the Parish Council. Thirdly, it enables ‘us’ to progress schemes and deliver tangible benefits much quicker. Working parties could include tree planting, litter picking, churchyard upkeep, website development and traffic calming. If you’re interested in getting involved in any of these working parties, or have ideas for other projects, we’d be delighted to hear from you.

The **next Parish Council Meeting is Monday 4th March**, starting at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

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vicarofknightley@gmail.com (His day off is THURSDAY - please try to respect this.)

Benefice Secretary:

Benefice Treasurer: Christopher Nelson, The Cottage, Church Hill, Badby, NN11 3AR 300034 chris.c.nelson@talktalk.net

Ministry Team: Gerard Hoare, Susan Rose, Graham White

Lay Pastoral Minister: Graham White

Benefice Children's Officer Susan Rose (879053)

Parish Visiting: Requests for visiting should be made to the co-ordinators who will pass them on.

Link Editor: David Pound, Forge End, Church Street, Charwelton. NN11 3YT 260006 davidpound1939@talktalk.net

Copy deadlines - Editorial, 20th of the month; Advertising 18th. of the month please .

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 Vacant

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 872670 jimandmarywood@yahoo.co.uk

Visiting co-ordinator: Jeff Lawrence (705085)

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Visiting co-ordinator: Vacant

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