

THE LINK

The Magazine of The Knightley Parishes



Mothering Sunday

March 2025

No. 403

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 2025

	2 March I Next bef. Lent	9 March II Lent 1	16 March III Lent 2	23 March IV Lent 3	30 March V Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)	6 April I Lent 5
Badby	11:00 Holy Communion CW [GS]	11:00 Morning Worship CW [Lay SR]	10:00 United Benefice Service of Holy Communion CW at Badby [AS]	11:00 Morning Worship CW [Lay GH]	10:00 United Benefice Service of Morning Prayer for Mothering Sunday at Preston Capes [GS/HW]	11:00 Holy Communion CW [GS]
Newnham				11:00 Holy Communion CW [CP]		
Charwelton	09:15 Holy Communion BCP (Church) [GS]			17:00 Evensong BCP (Chapel) [Lay GW]		09:15 Holy Communion BCP (Church) [GS]
Fawsley		11:00 Holy Communion BCP [CP]				
Preston Capes		09:15 Holy Communion CW [CP]				

OTHER SERVICES

Wednesday 5 March	7.30pm	Badby	Ash Wednesday HC [GS]
Tuesday 18 March	6.30 pm	Badby	ESOW

SUNDAY READINGS

Principal Service CW

- for other services see Lectionary

Date	Feast	OT Reading	NT Reading	Gospel
2 Mar	Next bef. Lent	Exod 34, 29-end	2 Cor. 3,12-4,2	Luke 9, 28-36
5 Mar	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2, 1-2 & 12-17	2 Cor. 5,20b - 6,10	Matt. 6, 1-6 & 16-21
9 Mar	Lent 1	Deut. 26, 1-11	Rom. 10, 8b-13	Luke 4, 1-13
16 Mar	Lent 2	Gen. 15, 1-12 & 17-18	Phil. 3,17 - 4,1	Luke 13, 31-end
23 Mar	Lent 3	Isaiah 55, 1-9	1 Cor. 10, 1-13	Luke 13. 1-9
30 Mar	Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)	Exod. 2, 1-10	2 Corr. 1, 3-7	Luke 2, 33-35
6 Apr	Lent 5	Isaiah 43, 16-21	Phil. 3, 4b-14	John 12, 1-8

Lent Course meetings

The Lent Course meetings will be held in Charwelton Chapel on:

Wed 12 Mar.
and
Wed 9 Apr.

at 7.30pm each time.
They will be led by GS and SR



Kind Heart Yoga with Ruth

Experienced teacher near Daventry.
Small, friendly in-person group classes in Badby for all levels. 1:1 / 2:1 and private group classes are available.

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Contact Ruth on 07591 166551
ruthmackman@btinternet.com or
<https://bookwhen.com/kindheartyyogawithruth>

EDITORIAL

A change of emphasis on the wild life front this month.

The hedgehogs appear now to be safely snuggled up for the winter in their den - and who could blame them.

However last week, while standing in the kitchen window doing the washing-up I saw a flash of white moving rapidly down the bottom of our hedge bordering the field. It then disappeared through the hedge and into the field, only to be followed at intervals by 3 more, all enjoying playing in the hedge before disappearing. After a look online, and advice from our neighbour, we decided that they must be stoats - distinctive gait, white fur and a black tail tip. While stoats are not uncommon round here I have never seen one in it's white winter coat before. Shame there was no snow to help their camouflage!

Bluetits have made an appearance in large numbers, so we have put up our nesting boxes complete with cameras. We shall await the first sightings of them nest building.

And the buzzards and kites are much in evidence too.

All I need now is a shotgun for the pigeons!

The snowdrops and aconites are flowering, and the daffodils are poking their heads above ground. Spring is indeed in the air.

Finally, a sobering epitaph taken from a tomb in the crypt of St.Martin-in-the-Fields:

*Remember man, as thou goest by,
As thou art now, so once was I.
As I am now so thou must be;
Prepare thyself to follow me.*

David



SUDOKU

[With thanks to Robin Baker]

Puzzle No. 110 - Mild

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

Puzzle No. 111 - Difficult

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

[Solutions on page 11]

PASTORAL LETTER

**March in like a lion
and out like a lamb -
so they say!**

I am not sure how much truth is in that saying but I have always been fascinated about the connections between this and the way we talk about God.

'Lion' and 'Lamb' are both images we use for Jesus.

The Bible speaks of 'the Lion of Judah' which we see reflected in hymns and modern worship songs. CS Lewis gives us the story of Narnia where Aslan, the Lion, is killed on the stone table and then seen again. Death and Resurrection.

The 'Lamb of God' is used by John the Baptist about Jesus directly, the idea of sacrifice, the lamb given on behalf of others. There is a gentleness about this image, hence with March it stands as the opposite to the roaring lion. This Lamb of God, this Jesus, is however not a helpless creature taken against



his will, this is God who willingly gives himself as an offering for all.

The final Sunday this month takes us to Mothering Sunday, a good time to celebrate all who 'mother' others. A time also to celebrate the church family who 'mother' others and both of those a reflection of God's Love. God who is Lion and Lamb. God who willingly made the sacrifice necessary to 'mother' us, as Jesus shows us, God who longs to gather us to safety as a mother hen gathers her chicks, if only we are willing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Booker'.

*The Venerable Alison Booker
Archdeacon of Oakham*

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 18 March and 22 April.

BADBY AND DISTRICT FILM SOCIETY

Friday 28th Feb: The Great Escaper (2023)

Based on the true story of a 90-year-old British WW II Royal Navy veteran who broke out of his nursing home to attend the 70th anniversary D-Day commemorations in France. Starring Michael Caine & Glenda Jackson, it's the final screen performances for both lead actors. "Sweet without straying into sentimentality... thanks to stellar performances from the two leads." [92 mins, 12 cert.]

Friday 14th Mar: Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be immediately followed by a free screening for members only:

Cold Comfort Farm (1995)

Classic comedy directed by John Schlesinger, starring Kate Beckinsale, Eileen Atkins, Joanna Lumley, Stephen Fry, Ian McKellen, Rufus Sewell & Miriam Margolyes. Reviewers gave it universal acclaim: "deliciously eccentric... the fun that Schlesinger and his first-rate ensemble must have had while working on this production is infectious, for there isn't one dull - or quiet - moment." [98 mins, PG cert.]

Friday 28th Mar: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (2023)

Harold is an ordinary man who has passed through life, living on the side lines, until he goes to post a letter one day... and just keeps walking. Based on the 2012 novel of the same name by Rachel Joyce, the film stars Jim Broadbent & Penelope Wilton. The critics loved it: "impeccably acted, sincerely intended and often beautifully shot ...

Broadbent is a wonder, so real and sincere it doesn't feel like acting... and Wilton equals him." [103 mins, 12 certificate]

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Parish Council recently approved the planting of bulbs within several locations throughout Badby. Planting will take place in Autumn 2025, ready for flowering in Spring 2026. The bulbs will be planted by volunteers in the vicinity of street furniture to add value as well as beauty to some of the shared public spaces in Badby.

1. The (Main) Green – near to benches, phone box and areas near to the road.
2. Village Hall – in vicinity of swamp area.
3. Bus Stop Green – near to Bus stop and also adjacent to the A361.
4. Windmill Green – near to noticeboard.
5. Church Green – near to salt Bin and near to Bench nr Churchyard wall.
6. Entrances to village – near to welcome signs to village.
7. New tree area near football pitch – in vicinity of gate.

BENEFICE DEVELOPMENTS

Following the recent resignation of the Vicar of Weedon, Everdon and Dodford there has been a suggestion from the diocese that consideration might be given to Everdon joining the Knightley Benefice. Such an arrangement would require the formal consideration and agreement of all 6 of the PCCs. They are currently being consulted, and it is hoped that a joint social meeting of the 6 PCCs can be arranged over the next few weeks so that they can get to know each other and make consultations about any possible amalgamation easier.



PARISH NOTICES

BADBY

Correspondent - Geoff Pullin (gcsspullin@yahoo.com)

website: www.badby-pc.gov.uk

	Reader	Sidesman	Coffee
2 Mar	P. Wakeford S. Rose	C. Nelson G. Nelson	C. Wakeford
9 Mar	J. Hall G. Nelson	F. Williams G. Morley	J. Hall
16 Mar	F. Williams N. Shaw	J. Jordan C. Wakeford	A. Syred
23 Mar	C. Richards J. Jordan	J. Jordan J. Hall	C. Richards

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR MARCH

w/b 3 Gillie Morley, Ann Skinner
w/b 10 Jan Cooper, Moira Cooper
w/b 17 Jo Hind, Judy Jordan, G. Nelson
w/b 24 Ann Cotton, Monique Shortt, Ann Syred

CHURCH DRAW

The winners in February were: 1st: Peter Wakeford;
2nd: Rachel Brodie; 3rd: Karen Alexander.

LENT SOUP LUNCHES

During Lent soup lunches will be given in aid of St. Mary's Church. Come and join in for some hot soup and fresh bread, and pay £5 (or more if you can). Book direct with each host for any dates you would like. Each lunch starts at 12.15 and ends at 2pm.

Date	Hosts	Where	Contact
Sat 8 Mar	Nicola & Greg Shaw	Greystones	text 07952 999826
Wed 12 Mar	Jan Cooper	Hope House	jancooper 2012@me. com
Wed 26 Mar	Jan Cooper	Do.	Do.
Wed 2 Apr	Church- wardens	Badby church	williamsf33 3@aol.com 07752 384969

Tue 8 Apr	Julianna Hall	Gable Cottage	juliannahall @btinternet .com 07802 714556
Wed 16 Apr	C&G Nelson	The Cottage	01327 300034 gillian.nelso n@talktalk. net

BELLS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The bells will be removed from the tower in w/c 16 June. We need one or two more able-bodied volunteers to help Nicholson Engineering Ltd's technician with this removal work and putting the bells back in w/c 1 September. Also, two people are needed during two weeks (dates not yet fixed) to help repair the frame and repaint it. This unusual work will make a great financial and physical contribution to the village's heritage. If you could help, please contact Geoff Pullin.

BADBYSINGS

Come and join our welcoming, singing-for-fun group every Tuesday 7.30pm to 9pm in the village hall. Find out more from badbysings@gmail.com.

T 4 U

On Friday 7 March, from 2.30 - 4.30pm, we will be welcoming everyone with tea, coffee, cakes, games, chat and companionship. Do come along to the village hall.

BADBY & FAWSLEY WI

On Thursday 13 March we will be having our AGM (for members only). This will be followed by a Bring and Buy Sale, a chance to pass on those unwanted Christmas presents! To book a free visit to this thriving and friendly WI contact Jan Cooper on jancooper2012@me.com or Jackie Peel on jackiepeel22@gmail.com.

COFFEE MORNING

St. Mary's will be holding its monthly coffee morning on Tuesday 18 March from 10.30am till noon. Come

and join us to see the Church draw being made and to enjoy our coffee, cake and chat.

BADBY VILLAGE HALL

On Saturday 22 March, 2 - 5pm, during National Village Halls Week, come along to see what our hall can offer for your party, reception or event, over a cup of tea and cake.

Our annual Bluebell Teas will be on Sunday 4 and Monday 5 May, 1- 5pm, serving cream teas and refreshments to visitors viewing the bluebells. If you can help by baking a cake or assisting on the day for an hour or so serving teas or directing cars, please contact Ann Cotton (01327 640107), Karen Alexander (01327 310780) or Peter Cooper (07792 165529).

Thank you to everyone who attended and/or helped at the successful Burns Night dinner and dancing on 25 January. It raised over £1,000 to support the hall.

CRICKET CLUB

The Badby and Farthingstone Cricket Club will be holding its AGM on Sunday 23 March at 6pm in The Maltsters.



NEWNHAM

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

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

2nd. March Mr. & Mrs. Wood
9th. March Mrs. Cooke & Mrs. Rees
16th. March Ms. J Minor
23rd. March Mr. & Mrs. Rees
30th. March Mr. & Mrs. Wood

FEBRUARY AND MARCH AT NEWNHAM CHURCH

February

4th. The alarm system was tested
9th. Snowdrop Sunday. The weather was not good, it was a cold dull day, but nevertheless a good number of people turned out to see the snowdrops and enjoy

tea and cake.

14th. The mains electrics were tested

23rd. Holy Communion 11.00am

27th. History Society talk this event is open to all.

March

4th. PCC meeting

23rd. Holy Communion 11.00am.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1st April in the church at 2.00pm. This is an opportunity to raise questions or have your say about the running of the church. Maybe you have an interest in the building, but perhaps at the moment not in the worship aspect of the church. Any thoughts on raising funds for the maintenance of the building would be much appreciated. It takes the current congregation a long time to raise £1000 to replace just a small piece of crumbling stone. If you are unable to get to the meeting, but have thoughts or ideas you would like to raise, please contact the PCC secretary, Janet Rees at "jmr3349@hotmail.com"

FEBRUARY DRAW

The results for our February draw are as follows:-

£50 prize - Mrs S Venner No 54

£25 prize - Mr. Ettridge No 26

£25 prize - Mrs M Price No 175

CLASSICS and COFFEE

On SATURDAY 26th APRIL from 10.00 am Jeff Lawrence will be hosting his 3rd Classic (cars) and Coffee morning at 3 Westbrook, Newnham. If you have a classic/interesting car or motorcycle you would like to display contact Jeff asap on (01327)705085 or (07801)399157. We still have a few slots available. Proceeds in aid of Church funds, all are welcome.

NEWNHAM WI

Newnham WI's monthly meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on the 20th March. This evenings meeting is very important to Newnham Village as we will decide on its WI's future. This will be our AGM and we need to recruit new committee members as several of the key members will be

standing down. Without these key positions being filled Newnham WI cannot continue.

Please contact Sophie on 07711123981 or Chris on 07927465404 for further information or take a look at Newnham WI's Facebook page.

FOOD BANK

A huge thank you to all those who continue to so generously donate items to the Daventry Food Bank. Demand remains high for basic food and toiletry items. If you can spare a couple of items, please place them in the box in the Church porch. Please ensure they are "in date" Thank you.

QUIZ NIGHT

Sunday 2nd March - Quiz Night. Join us at The Romer Arms for our exciting Taster Quiz kicking off at 7.30pm. Test your knowledge and enjoy a fun evening with friends. Entry is £2 pp. Team Size max 6. Don't miss out on a fantastic night filled with trivia and prizes. See you all there



CHARWELTON

Correspondent - David Pound
(davidpound1939@talktalk.net)

	Reader/Sidesman	Flowers
2 Mar	Fiona Spencer	Fiona Spencer
23 Mar	Penny Cory	None
6 Apr	David Pound	None

Chapel cleaning	
March	Meryl Nicholls
April	June Pound

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting, to which you are warmly invited, will take place on Wednesday 23rd April at 7.30 in the Chapel.

ELECTORAL ROLL

Please don't forget — if you want to be included on the new Electoral Roll which is currently being compiled, please contact pennycory@yahoo.co.uk

who will email you the application form. This needs to be returned by 1st April so that the Roll can be compiled in time for the APCM

VH WHIST DRIVE

The village hall whist drive is on Monday, 17th March at 7.30. It would be lovely to see some new faces.



FAWSLEY

Correspondent - Vacant

LITTER PICK

The annual litter pick will be on 15th March. As in previous years we will all meet outside the hotel at 11:00am before we start.

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The Church Electoral Roll is being compiled afresh this year. If you wish to be included please can you contact Robin Baker at rf.baker@yahoo.com who can send you the relevant form. All Church electors are entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting which elects the Church officers and reviews the Church's accounts.



PRESTON CAPES

Correspondent - Claire Hoare
caghoare@gmail.com

	Reader	Sidesman	Cleaning
9 Mar	Kevin Smith	Mireya Weaver	Mike
30 Mar	TBA	Claire Hoare	Scragg & Chris Lumbis

MOTHERING SUNDAY - 30th March

A Special Family Service at 10.00.
Everyone invited to this lovely service, posy making and refreshments during the service.
Please come and join us.

CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers in Lent until Easter, 20th April.
Then all please for Easter Sunday.

COFFEE MORNING AND PERFECT PLANT SALE

New Venue for this year

Monday 12th May at The Old Rectory Preston Capes
Luke and Tic Bridgeman are kindly hosting the Plant
Sale with the added bonus of looking at the wonder-
ful garden. Because of planned shoulder surgery,
this will happen this year but in a slightly different
format. Cosmos and plants still available to order in
advance.

For orders and further info please contact Claire

CHURCHYARD MOWING ROTA 2025

We are blessed to have some 20 able bodied and
hard working people who mow or strim 1-3 times a
year and I have thanked them already for the good
results last year. 1 to 1.5 hours work may be
involved each time.

We take off the cuttings or, as the church Hayter
does, leave them in situ. Volunteers are welcome to
decide just how and when to mow in their
allotted fortnight. Sometimes a second volunteer is
listed too.

The Hayter has been serviced and can be used
whenever required. Petrol cannot be provided
because of storage safety but expenses can be
readily refunded.

The 2025 Rota will be circulated in April to the usual
team but we need new volunteers ,please, to share
the load, minimise it for everyone and reduce the
team's average age!! Thank you very much
everyone.

Offers please to Gerard Hoare.



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 Badby St. Mary's Quiz
- 4 Newnham PCC
- 6 Badby Floral Bee
- 6 Charwelton PCC
- 14 March Film Soc AGM BVH
- 14 Quiz Night Charwelton
- 22 BVH Open afternoon
- 23 B&F Cricket Club AGM
- 29 Newnham Comedy Night

April

- 1 Newnham APCM
- 19 Charwelton Easter children's event
- 23 Charwelton APCM
- 26 Newnham Classic Cars and Coffee
- 29 Badby PCC

May

- 4 Newnham NGS Open Gardens
- 4/5 Badby Bluebell Tears
- 4 ? Charwelton Yard Sale
- 6 Newnham PCC
- 7 Charwelton PCC
- 8 VE Day 80 Beacon Newnham
- 8 VE 80 Badby
- 10 VE Day 80 Village Party Newnham
- 27 Badby APCM

June

- 8 Newnham Village Open Gardens
- 16 Badby bells dismantled

July

- 1 Newnham PCC
- 2 Charwelton PCC
- 27 Badby church hog roast
- 29 Badby PCC

September

- 1 Badby bells due back
- 2 Newnham PCC
- 3 Charwelton PCC
- 19 Charwelton Quiz Night
- 23 Badby PCC

October
18 District Bellringers at Badby

November
4 Newnham PCC
5 Charwelton PCC
9 Armistice Breakfast Charwelton
11 Badby PCC
16 Charwelton Christmas Craft Fair

December
13 Charwelton Children's Christmas party
? Charwelton Pantomime



**SUDOKU
SOLUTIONS**

Solution 110

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

Solution 111

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

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Penny Cory at
knightleybenefice@gmail.com**

* * * * *

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Don't forget.....



**Sunday 30th. March
at 0200**

Pots & Plans: what to do in your garden this March

Philip Turvil
Garden designer in Badby
BrightenMyGarden.com

1. Prepare seedbeds

With the longer days and warmer soil, March is perfect to prepare seedbeds for sowing hardy flowers and vegetables. As well as to clear patches for new permanent planting with shrubs, fruit bushes, and perennials.

Start by clearing any debris and weeds. Then if your soil is workable, and not too wet or frozen, lightly tickle the surface to de-compact. This will create a welcoming space for seeds and young transplants. Or dive in with a small fork or spade if you need to add more compost or remove stubborn weeds. If your soil is very compact or needs drainage or other works, it's best to start improvements as early as possible.

Generally, minimal soil disturbance is best. For instance

- A little bit of soil debris makes a wonderful habitat for beneficial wildlife. This community of creatures will munch on pest species later in spring and summer. So your space needn't be pristine.
- Only digging where needed will unearth fewer dormant weed seeds. So reducing the number of weeds. Less digging also preserves the soil structure that's been created so carefully by roots, fungi, and other useful organisms.

If you'd like to discuss your soil, and soil is one of my favourite subjects, please contact me at BrightenMyGarden.com.

2. Sow early crops

You can now sow seeds of hardy crops like broad beans, peas, spinach, and early varieties of carrots and radishes. Plus calendula, sweet peas, and other flowers.

For tender plants like tomatoes, peppers, and

marigolds, start them indoors in seed trays or pots on a sunny windowsill or in a greenhouse. This gives them a head start before planting out in late May when the risk of frost has usually passed.

3. Sow even earlier crops

Can't wait for a snack? Sow fast-growing salad greens now 'under cover'. This creates a micro-climate of heat and moisture.

You can grow under cover using plastic or glass 'cloches'. These cover one or two plants. Or use mini-polytunnels that cover a whole row. Greenhouse and cold frames are useful too.

Crop that responds well under cover include lettuce, spinach, and rocket. For the best results, choose varieties bred for earlier sowing. There are lots of varieties to choose from in our local garden centres and online. Sow early. Harvest quick. Go again!

4. Join the hunt

March is when slugs and weeds wake up. You'll find both working fast to nibble and out compete shoots of your favourite plants.

Reduce slug damage using traps or handpick them in the early morning or evening. Look for their hiding places.... (my slugs hide in my stack of old plant containers). Organic slug pellets are also helpful and harmless to other wildlife.

Reduce weeds with the humble hoe and hand fork. I like using both tools. When clean and sharp, the hoe slides beautifully over the soil surface to nip out weed seedlings, while I deploy my fork when I uncover deeper roots. It's a few minutes to remove weeds when smaller, but quite an undertaking if they get tangled with new growth you want to keep.

My best wishes to you and your garden



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NEWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN – Gary Hammersley

07887 634936 chair@newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Council Update

Addressing flooding concerns continued to dominate the February meeting, with items relating to tree maintenance, and the forthcoming mowing and strimming season also being discussed. Residents' concerns regarding the condition of stiles on footpaths and the access signage on Wet Lane were also raised.

Following the **flooding on 24th November**, communication with West Northamptonshire Council Highways Department regarding the short term and longer-term actions to avoid a repeat of this incident have been ongoing. In addition, we agreed to establish the status of the remaining drainage work on Daventry Road/Newnham Hill. The Flood Team Working Group is liaising with the Environment Agency regarding the River Nene and the work required to 'clear' the river and its banks. It was agreed that a list of tasks which might reduce risks of flooding, such as the clearance of leaves from drains in the Autumn, should be compiled and actions assigned. The Parish Council is also exploring options to have a supply of sandbags available in the event of future flooding risks.

As the new growing season is approaching, we discussed the **mowing and strimming regime** around the village. Feedback last year was largely positive but we encourage any feedback on how it can be improved. The Council is responsible for maintaining the greens, verges, the churchyard and the burial ground. Mowing will initially be weekly when the grass grows most vigorously, then fortnightly from July onwards.

The Parish Council is also responsible for maintaining the **trees in the village**. An annual survey has recommended the work required, and we are currently sourcing quotes from local tree surgeons. We have agreed to increase the level of work in the churchyard in order to keep it safe and tidy. This will include removing the growth at the base of the lime trees.

As always, the showing of **snowdrops** around the village has been spectacular. This year, thousands of snowdrops have been planted around the village entrance signs. They have been planted by Sue and Geoff Chester in memory of Sue's Mum, Mavis, and will make a significant addition to the floral display as they thicken over time. Thanks go to Geoff and Sue.

Preparations for the **celebration of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day** continue to take shape. There will be a Beacon bonfire on Thursday 8th May with a party on the Green on 10th May. The marquee has been booked and the music arranged. More details of the celebrations will evolve.

As mentioned previously, I would like to highlight the **village website**, which is receiving very positive feedback from all who use it, so I would encourage everyone who hasn't yet visited it to check it out. www.newnhamvillage.co.uk.

The **next Parish Council Meeting is Monday 3rd March**, starting at **7.00pm** in the **Village Hall**. For agendas and minutes go to www.newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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www.knightleybenefice.org.uk

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Benefice Secretary: Vacant

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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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