

THE LINK

The Magazine of The Knightley Parishes

BIG BRASS SOUNDS OF RUSHDEN TOWN BAND



**SATURDAY 5th JULY - 7.30pm
CHARWELTON CHURCH**

Licensed Bar & Raffle

All proceeds in aid of Church Funds



CONTACT DAVID POUND FOR TICKETS. davidpound1939@talktalk.net

June 2025

No. 406

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 June 2025

	1 June I Easter 7	8 June II PENTECOST (Whit Sunday)	15 June III TRINITY	22 June IV Trinity 1	29 June V SS Peter & Paul	6 July I Trinity 3
Badby	11:00 Holy Communion CW [GS]	11:00 Morning Worship [Lay SR]	10:00 United Benefice Service of Holy Communion BCP at Charwelton Church [+EC]	11:00 Morning Worship [Lay HW]	10:00	11:00 Holy Communion CW [CP]
Newnham				11:00 Holy Communion CW [GS]	United Benefice Service	
Charwelton	09:15 Holy Communion BCP (Church) [GS]			17:00 Evensong BCP (Church) [Lay GH]	Holy Communion BCP	
Fawsley		11:00 Holy Communion BCP [CP]			at Fawsley [+EC]	
Preston Capes		09:15 Holy Communion CW [CP]		10:00 Morning Prayer [Lay GH//LB]		09:15 Holy Communion CW [CP]

OTHER SERVICES

Tuesday 20 May

6.30 pm

Badby

ESOW

SUNDAY READINGS

Principal Service CW

- for other services see Lectionary

Date	Feast	OT Reading	NT Reading	Gospel
1 June	Easter 7	Acts 16, 16-34	Rev.22, 12-14 & 16-17 & 20-end	John 17, 20-end
8 Jun	Whit Sunday	Acts 2, 1-21	Rom. 8, 14-17	John 14, 8-17
15 Jun	TRINITY	Prov 8, 1-4 & 22-31	Rom. 5, 1-5	John 16, 12-15
22 Jun	Trinity 1	Isaiah 65, 1-9	Gal. 3, 23-end	Luke 8, 26-39
29 Jun	SS Peter & Paul	Zech. 4, 1-6a & 10b-end	Acts 12, 1-11	Matt 16, 13-19
6 Jul	Trinity 3	Isaiah 66, 10-14	Gal. 6, 7-16	Luke 10, 1-11 & 16-20

FROM THE REGISTERS



HOLY BAPTISM

at Fawsley
on 18th May
Olive Rose Reeve
[by Rev'd Celia Parkes]



IN MEMORIAM

at Newnham
on 29th. April
Interment of Ashes
David Frank Messenger
[by Rev'd Canon Ann Slater]

*Shine as a light in the world,
to the Glory of God the Father*

*Grant him peace,
and let light perpetual shine upon him*

EDITORIAL

The wild life continues to flourish. We are seeing the hedgehogs feeding every evening, often 2 or 3 and looking very healthy.

The blue tits laid 10 eggs, and by 3 May 5 chicks had hatched, followed shortly after by another 4. So we currently have 9 healthy looking chicks, which are, as I write, getting very near to fledging. It is fascinating to watch them progress from helpless, blind pink blobs at birth to pretty well fully feathered miniature (indeed not all that miniature!) adults now. Watching them is the highlight of every child's visit here.

We also have a profusion of other birds coming to feed - chaffinches, gold finches, green finches, wrens, as well as sparrows, dunnocks, and some starlings. All being watched over (or so it appears) by kites and buzzards which nest in the spinney.

Since our last issue our Roman Catholic brethren have lost their Pope; a great loss to them. I know nothing about the relative merits of the candidates to replace him, but by all accounts Pope Leo has been welcomed on all sides as a very worthy successor and was appointed in less than 3 weeks after Pope Francis's death.

We, the CoFE, on the other hand learned last September that our Archbishop of Canterbury was to step down, and at present it looks as though it will be next September before his successor is appointed. Could it be that we might have something to learn from the Roman church?

David

SUDOKU

[With thanks to Robin Baker]

Puzzle No. 116 - Mild

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

Puzzle No. 117 - Difficult

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

[Solutions on page 12]



PLAYING LIVE HITS FROM THE 60's/70's AND BEYOND

Status Quo

KINKS

WHAM!



BEATLES

SPARKS



**ST MARY'S CHURCH
EVERDON**

SATURDAY 28th JUNE
DOORS 18:00 / MUSIC 19:15

Entrance by ticket only / Real Ale & Wine Bar available

£12.50 per head and includes a Hot Pork Roll

Call for tickets - Steve: 01327 361881 or Nigel: 07908 324505

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PASTORAL LETTER

"I know I always can trust you"

Towards the end of my recent sabbatical leave, I went to Lee Abbey on the North Devon coast for a Prayer Retreat to reflect upon retirement later this year.

One of the wise guides suggested it would be good to choose a "theme song" for this next stage in life. At first I didn't think this was a very good idea! Then I remembered that on a previous visit, fifteen years ago, before my interview to be one of your Bishops, I sang a hymn on my prayer walks.

That hymn was *"Father, I place into your hands the things I cannot do"* by Jenny Hewer and it has been a special favourite ever since. It's a wonderful reminder of God's trustworthiness in the face of life's challenges. The verses cover the whole range of anxious questions; "What will I do?" "Where will I go?" "Who will I be?" "What about my family?" and "How will I cope?"

The final verse focusses on walking close to God and loving his people, the Church; *"Father, I want to be with you and do the things you do, Father, I want to speak the words that you are speaking too, Father, I want to love the ones that you will draw to you."*

It's a lovely call to pastoral leadership and it continues to inspire me after 39 years of ordained ministry.



But my wavering loyalty to God is overwhelmed by his faithfulness to me. In response to an enquiry about faith during a Question & Answer session with school children at the Cathedral, I said; "Faith is less about what you believe, more about who you can trust".

This month I celebrated the Golden anniversary of my Confirmation. After over 50 years of following Jesus, "I know I can always trust him."

*The Rt. Revd. John Holbrook
Bishop of Brixworth*

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 17 June and 22 July.

BADBY AND DISTRICT FILM SOCIETY

Friday 30th May 2025: The Personal History of David Copperfield (2020)

A comedy-drama based on the 1850 novel David Copperfield by Charles Dickens, a semi-autobiographical tale of a young orphan who is able to triumph over many obstacles. Written, directed and produced by Armando Iannucci, it stars Dev Patel, Peter Capaldi, Hugh Laurie, Ben Whishaw and Tilda Swinton. "A wonderfully entertaining film, managing to both respect and reinvent the novel from which it takes its lead. It puts a fresh, funny, and utterly charming spin on Dickens' classic, proving some stories truly are timeless." [115 mins, PG certificate]

Friday 27th June: We Live in Time (2024)

In film-maker John Crowley's decade-spanning, deeply moving romance, Almut (Florence Pugh) and Tobias (Andrew Garfield) are brought together in a surprise encounter that changes their lives. Through snapshots of their life together - falling for each other, building a home, becoming a family - a difficult truth is revealed that rocks its foundation. As they embark on a path challenged by the limits of time, they learn to cherish each moment of the unconventional route their love story has taken. "Garfield and Pugh's palpable chemistry will snatch audiences' hearts before breaking them... a powerful melodrama that uses its nonlinear structure to thoughtfully explore grief." [103 mins, 15 certificate]

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The society needs a new chairperson and secretary. The roles are not onerous and simply offer a means of putting something back into the village. Please contact richgreen1975@icloud.com if you are interested and willing.

The most recent ongoing initiative concerns an impressive investment in daffodils throughout the green spaces within the village. They will be planted in the autumn and look beautiful each spring.

LOST EAR RING

Following the Benefice service at Newnham on the 18th. May a silver ear ring was found. If this belongs to you please phone Mary on 01327 872670.



PARISH NOTICES

BADBY

Correspondent - Geoff Pullin (gcsspullin@yahoo.com)
website: www.badby-pc.gov.uk

	Reader	Sidesman	Coffee
1 Jun	C. Richards P. Wakeford	P. Wakeford C. Wakeford	C. Richards
8 Jun	J. Peel G. Nelson	F. Williams J. Jordan	G. Nelson
22 Jun	C. Wakeford J. Jordan	J. Jordan N. Shaw	C. Wakeford

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR JUNE

w/b 2 Jan Cooper, Moira Cooper
w/b 9 Jo Hind, Judy Jordan, Gill Nelson
w/b 16 Ann Cotton, Monique Shortt, Ann Syred
w/b 23 Gillie Morley, Ann Skinner

CHURCH FLOWERS ROTA FOR JUNE

7 – 21: Gillie Morley and 21 - 5 July: Gill Nelson.

BADBY BELLS

On Sunday 1 June afternoon a quarter peal will be rung.

The foreman bell hanger, Neil Deem, will arrive around midday on Monday 16 June to organise our volunteers into off-loading equipment and start dismantling. The lorry is expected to be loaded on Thursday to take the bells to workshops in Bridport. The clock chimes will be replaced by the sound of chains from the hoists tinkling on the bells during this process!

RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

The programme for Tuesday 10 June is members' choice of Music for Afternoon Tea in the village hall 2 – 4pm.

BADBY & FAWSLEY WI

On Thursday 12 June we have Tristan Baxter-Smith from the Nene Rivers Trust talking to us about the work they do and also the Clean Rivers Campaign. This will be of particular interest as a group of our members have been testing the water quality of the Nene in our local area as part of this campaign. To book a free visit, contact Jan Cooper on jancooper2012@me.com or Jackie Peel on jackiepeel22@gmail.com.

BADBY VILLAGE HALL

The 2025 AGM will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 18 June (note change). All residents of Badby & Fawsley over age 18 are welcome to attend; refreshments provided.

Thank you to everyone who helped with or attended Bluebell Teas over the Early May Bank Holiday. It raised over £2,800 towards the upkeep of the hall – a great result.

COFFEE MORNING

All are welcome at the coffee morning, on Tuesday 17 June, in St. Mary's Church. Come along at any

time between 10.30 and noon for coffee, cake and our monthly Church draw. The winners in the May draw were: 1st: Peter Wakeford; 2nd: Hilary Warburton; 3rd: Jackie Peel.

BADBYSINGS

For fun, excitement and great songs, everyone is welcome to sing with BadbySings on the third Tuesday from 7.30pm. Find out more from badbysings@gmail.com.

BADBY PARISH COUNCIL

One vacancy on the council after recent non-contested elections. Responsibilities were allocated at AGM on 19 May. Please contact the clerk if you are interested in joining us in ensuring Badby is well cared for and thriving.

Projects planned for 2025 include further remedial work on the chestnut trees, further improvement to the cemetery, some safety work in the churchyard and a bog garden where the underground spring on The Green creates a regular quagmire. Lobbying various agencies to tackle flooding on Neneside Close will continue by our flood warden.

CRICKET AT LONG ROADS FIELD IN JUNE

On Sundays Badby & Farthingstone will be playing Northampton Eagles (1st), Daventry Rugby Club (8th), Pattishall (22nd) and Harry's Heroes (29th). On Saturdays visually impaired Northampton Steelbacks will be playing Yorkshire Vikings (7th) and Cheshire Cobras (14th). All these matches start at 1pm.

HOG ROAST

The next social event for the village, in aid of the Church, will be the hog roast at The Old Forge, by kind permission of Sue and Neil Berry, £20 a head, paying bar, 2pm till the evening, on Sunday 27 July, tickets available from johind@talktalk.net or judyjordan27@gmail.com.

RIDE & STRIDE

The date for ride & stride this year is Saturday 13 September. Please get practising for cycling, walking and driving around as many churches as you can to support your local church.

SCARECROW FESTIVAL AND FAYRE

We are now looking forward to the annual scarecrow festival which will be held on Sunday 14 September. The theme this year will be My Favourite Hobby. If you want some help in making your scarecrow there are several simple ways to make a scarecrow, with videos easily available in the public domain. Here is one:-

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=how+to+make+a+scarecrow&mid=F95B68A5141EFD128665F95B68A5141EFD128665&mcid=DADFFC7AC7B-F4EA3BA47907ADE00C62B&FORM=VIRE>

BADBY NGS OPEN GARDENS – MAY 2025

We had very favourable weather for Badby's NGS open gardens on 18 May. Four gardens were open this year and we had around 150 visitors, raising just short of £1,000 for the NGS nursing charities from ticket and plant sales. The delicious cakes and teas raised £500 for the church too. Our grateful thanks to everyone involved in making this such a successful day.



NEWNHAM

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

NEWNHAM VILLAGE OPEN GARDENS.

8th June 1pm – 5pm

Once again, an array of small and large, structured and quirky gardens will be open around the village to delight visitors. Tickets £6 for adults and children free. Parking is free. There will be a Treasure Trail for children, plants for sale, and refreshments in the Village Hall. Children are invited to enter the miniature garden competition. Entries should be on a tray and delivered to Wren Cottage between 11am and midday, 8th June.

NEWNHAM COMEDY NIGHT

Village Hall, Church St, Newnham NN11 3ET on 14th June.

We welcome the Comedy Crate to Newnham again for a great evening of stand-up comedy featuring: Headliner - El Baldinho, Opener - Hal Cruttenden,

MC - Pete Teckman & Support from Jules O'Brian. Doors open 7pm for 8pm start. Drinks and snacks available from the bar. Tickets £15 no booking fee from www.thecomedycrate.com

WI

The next meeting will be on Thursday 19th June at 7.30pm Newnham Village Hall.

Fluid Chi Movement (Chi Kung) and changing your Health with Carole Justice Gray of Your Well Life. Come along and learn Chi Kung, an ancient gentle technique for relaxing the body and mind thereby improving well-being, calm, stability, and mobility. Hear Carole's inspiring story and enjoy a new experience in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Guests extremely welcome £6 on the door

MUSIC ON THE GREEN

Saturday 12th July

The annual musical celebration will include two local bands this year, The Spitfires and Doctor Moonshine. There will be lots of additional family fun including an afternoon dog show so ensure you have saved the date!

JOINT HIST. SOC. / WI

Thursday 17th July at 7.30pm. Joint History Society and WI talk from Rebecca Shawcross

MAY DRAW

£50 prize - Mr K Burrows - No 158
£25 prize - Mrs P Alexander - No 194
£25 prize - Mr A Haase - No 1

CLEANING ROTA FOR JUNE

1/6 Mrs. Cooke and Mrs. Wood
8/6 Ms. J Minor
15/6 Mr. and Mrs. Rees
22/6 Mr. and Mrs. Wood
29/6 Mrs. Cooke and Mrs. Rees

SCHOOL

On Saturday 21st June FoNS will be holding a fund raising Bingo in the Village Hall. Tickets are available at the school office.

CLASSICS and COFFEE

After a bright sunny week Saturday the 26th April dawned overcast and cold. Nevertheless more than a dozen eclectic vehicles arrived for our 3rd "Classics and Coffee" morning ranging from a superb Bentley saloon to a 1938 Morris 8, but the star of the morning was surely Eddie's lawnmower powered mobility scooter! A very useful £250 was raised for Church funds. Thank you to all those who displayed a vehicle and to those who came to view., not forgetting of course the tea/coffee team.

FOOD BANK

Demand remains ongoing at Daventry Food Bank. If you can spare a couple of food/toiletry items please leave them in the donations box in the Church porch.

LOST EAR RING

Following the Benefice service at Newnham on the 18th. May a silver ear ring was found. If this belongs to you please phone Mary on 01327 872670.



CHARWELTON

Correspondent - David Pound
(davidpound1939@talktalk.net)

	Reader/Sidesman	Flowers
1 Jun	Elizabeth Bird	Graham White
15 Jun	TBA	Fiona Spencer
22 Jun	Meryl Nicholls	

Chapel cleaning	
June	Graham White
July	Meryl Nicholls

CHARWELTON MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

This year's Macmillan Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 20th September! Get the date in your diaries and keep your eyes peeled for more details in The Link and on Facebook. If you have any questions, please contact Verity on verity.spencer@outlook.com.

VILLAGE HALL WHIST DRIVE

Regretfully, we won't be running the monthly whist drive any more. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way to make it the success it has been. Special thanks to Marie, Helen and Melissa for manning the kitchen for so long, to Graham for his very popular fruit cake every month, and especially to Barbara and Norman for their very generous prizes every month.

Chris.

BRASS BAND CONCERT

After six years, we're looking forward to another concert in the church, this time welcoming Rushden Town Band on Saturday 5th July at 7.30. Proceeds will go towards repairing the leaky church roof.

CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

Walkers and visitors to the church often comment on how beautiful the churchyard looks. This reflects credit on the small band of regular mowers, supplemented now and then by an ad hoc working party. So thank you, both to our regular team and to those who gave up a morning in April to clear the moat, strim, lop branches, cut down ivy and recoat the benches. Your work is very much appreciated. We plan another such working party later in the season but, if you have a spare hour and want to offer your help before then, there are always jobs to be done. If you can help, please contact pennycory@yahoo.co.uk.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

At the APCM on Wednesday 7th May, Graham White was re-elected Churchwarden. The other serving members of the PCC — Meryl Nicholls (Interim Chair), Elizabeth Bird, Norman Blenkhorn, Penny Cory (Secretary) and Peter Merrills were re-elected. Freddy Arthur was co-opted onto the PCC as Treasurer. The Electoral Roll was renewed and stands at 15.

CHARWELTON YARD SALE

Sat 14/06/25. 10.00am-1.00 pm
Parking signposted on A361
Everyone Welcome

FAWSLEY

Correspondent - Vacant

POT HOLES

There has been some recent improvement to the pothole situation with the road through the estate to the west of the hotel. Many thanks to those who have been reporting them. The road to the east of the hotel to the Preston Capes turn is still in as poor condition. Please keep on reporting and we may get that improved too!

BURGLARIES

Burglaries have been reported at a few of the churches in our area. Please can people be extra vigilant and look out for any vehicles parked by our church that do not seem to belong to residents. It would be a pity if we have to keep the church locked to prevent this sort of low level vandalism.



PRESTON CAPES

Correspondent - Claire Hoare

caghoare@gmail.com

	Reader	Sidesman	Cleaning
9 Jun	Luke Bridgeman	Mireya Weaver	Cleaning - Beverley Bayne & Ruth Quilter
22 Jun	Bridget Whittaker	V Brassey	
Flowers - Scilla Smith & V Brassey			
Churchyard Rota			
	Mowing	Strimming	Rear church yard
1-15 Jun	Edward Giles	Alan Bray	Tim Redfern
16-31 Jun	Roger Jenkins	David Grahamslaw	Chris Moysen

APCMs

These took place in Church on 25th April after the last Link was closed. In the Vestry meeting Claire and Gerard Hoare were re-elected churchwardens, to serve another year.

At the Parochial Church meeting the following were

all re-elected;

Heather Wilson as Deanery Synod Representative and Lay Vice Chair.

Parochial Church Council members; V Brassey, Anabel Lewis-Bowen, Mireya Weaver (Hon Sec), Tic Bridgeman, Edward Giles (Hon Treas), and Peter Smith.

PERFECT PLANT SALE AND COFFEE MORNING

We had a busy and successful morning at The Old Rectory on Monday 12th May. Well attended by over 70 people. Many thanks given to the Bridgemans for allowing access to such a lovely venue. To those who provided plants, including excellent ones from Tim and Heather, V Brassey, Tic Bridgeman, David Grahamslaw and Claire Hoare. Delicious cakes provided by Heather, Tic, Mireya and Claire. Graham Stanton kindly allowed us to use his drive for parking.

The helpers were. Peter Smith and Mike Scragg on the gate, Mike Eves and David Grahamslaw who manned the car park. Tea and coffee ladies, Mireya, Pauline, Maureen and Penny. The plant stall was manned by V Brassey, Scilla Smith and new girl Beverley Bayne [who was so helpful, she is now on the permanent staff!]

Not all monies are yet in, but over £2000 paid in so far, which is an excellent effort, to maintain the upkeep and maintenance of our church.

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Due to a rather late plea for help (although it had been publicised in the Link) a small but dedicated group of 4 assembled on Saturday 17th. The vital roof and gutter works were done, and other gardening jobs. Thank you very much Tim, Roger, Gerard and Claire

EDUCATIONAL CHARITY APPLICATIONS 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

The annual circular inviting applications will be circulated by email shortly (or hard copy to a few). If you are under 25 years old at 1st August, you are probably eligible to apply, so please read carefully. If by any chance you miss or lose your Application Form, it can be resent if you email the Hon Secretary Beverley Bayne educationalcharityprestoncapes@gmail.com or telephone her on 361627. Applications for the

Charity before 29th June please

DATE FOR THE DIARY PET SERVICE

Sunday July 27th will be our annual Pet Service in the churchyard - please come along to join us to enjoy a short service with refreshments (for pets and humans). Bring your pets, although there is no obligation to do so!

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

This month Preston Capes WI will be "out and about" with a Blue Badge guided tour of Towcester on the evening of Tuesday, 24th June. Details are still being finalised, but if you would like to join us please register your interest by contacting our secretary, Anabel Lewis-Bowen (361298 or alewisbowen@btinternet.com) as soon as possible.

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

This month's coffee morning will be on Friday, 27th June, from 10.30am to noon. Come and enjoy a tea or coffee with friends and neighbours.



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:

June

- 6 T4U Badby VH
- 8 Newnham Village Open Gardens
- 10 Recorded Music Soc.
- 12 B&F WI
- 14 Charwelton Yard Sale
- 14 Newnham Comedy Night
- 16 Badby bells dismantled
- 17 Badby church coffee morning

- 18 BVH AGM
- 19 Newnham WI
- 21 FONS Bingo
- 24 Preston Capes WI
- 27 Preston Capes VH coffee morning
- 27 Film Soc BVH

July

- 1 Newnham PCC
- 2 Charwelton PCC
- 5 Charwelton Brass Band concert
- 10 Newnham Coffee Morning - Jim & Mary Wood
- 12 Newnham Music on the Green
- 17 Newnham WI/History Soc.
- 25 Film Soc BVH
- 27 Badby church hog roast
- 29 Badby PCC

September

- 1 Badby bells due back
- 2 Newnham PCC
- 3 Charwelton PCC
- 13 Ride and Stride
- 13 Film Soc opera BVH
- 14 Badby Scarecrow Festival and Fayre.
- 19 Charwelton Quiz Night
- 20 Charwelton Macmillan Coffee Morning
- 23 Badby PCC
- 26 Film Soc BVH

October

- 5 Charwelton Harvest weekend
- 10 Film Soc BVH
- 18 District Bellringers at Badby
- 24 Film Soc BVH

November

- 4 Newnham PCC
- 5 Charwelton PCC
- 9 Armistice Breakfast Charwelton
- 11 Badby PCC
- 15 Film Soc opera BVH
- 16 Charwelton Christmas Craft Fair
- 28 Film Soc BVH
- 28 Charwelton Christmas Prize Bingo

December

- 4/5/6 Charwelton wreath making
- 12 Film Soc BVH
- 13 Charwelton Children's Christmas party
- 14 Knightley Singers Christmas concert Newnham
- ? Charwelton Pantomime

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

Philip Turvil
Garden designer in Badby
BrightenMyGarden.com

Harvest strawberries

Strawberries ripen rapidly in June on lively plants. Pick them early in the day when they're firm, and check daily to prevent over ripening. If you see spoiled fruits, remove quickly to discourage pests and diseases. And if you have strawberries left over from breakfast, excess fruit can be frozen or made into jam.

Snip, snip

Many summer-flowering plants benefit from deadheading. Snipping off faded flowers will encourage fresh blooms rather than seed production. It's also great fun to get up close and personal with your plants to enjoy their fragrance, colours, and wildlife. You can also reward yourself with wine after deadheading. But remember to deadhead every week...

Control growth

Tomato plants transform in June from polite young plants into rampant fruit machines. Left unchecked, shoots grow everywhere. This makes it harder to support plants using canes and harder to retain good air flow for healthier growth. The solution is to remove 'side shoots'. Side shoots grow from between the stem and leaf from hidden buds. Removal is easiest when side shoots are an

inch long using finger and thumb, or secateurs if preferred (or if shoots are larger). Check each week.

However, leave side shoots alone if you're growing bush or trailing tomato plants. These varieties are naturally bushy and compact.

Keep weeding

Weeds are just as lively as other plants in June. Regular hoeing between plants or using a mulch will help keep them in check. If tackling deep-rooted weeds, a hand fork is best for precise removal. Remove weeds regularly before they take hold and compete for nutrients.

Water wisely

As temperatures rise (even more than spring), efficient watering becomes essential. Early mornings or late evenings reduce evaporation. It's best to focus on roots rather than leaves – and water more, but less often, to encourage deeper roots and more independent plants. For thirsty crops like tomatoes, a mulch helps retain moisture by sheltering the soil surface. Compost is good for mulching at two inches deep. As are comfrey leaves at four inches deep.

Snip again

Regularly harvest herbs to keep them bushy and compact. This also improves flavour. Although I like to leave some herbs untrimmed for enjoy their flowers. Pollinators love them too.

My best wishes to you and your garden.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Solution 116

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

Solution 117

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



Ruth Mackman, celebrant

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07887 634936 chair@newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

CLERK – Kevin Carr

clerk@newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Council Update

The new Council met on the 12th May. This was the first meeting since the Local Government Elections and we were joined by our two West Northants Councillors; Rupert Frost and Charlie Hastie. This was also the Parish Council's Annual Meeting, where Councillors are elected to certain roles. All post holders were re-elected which puts the Council in a strong position going forwards. We have a full complement of Councillors who bring energy, experience and commitment to Newnham, and in Kevin Carr we have a Clerk who brings considerable experience.

The meeting received reports on the VE Day Anniversary Celebrations. An estimated 150 people made their way to the top of Walkers Hill (many by shuttle bus!) to enjoy the spectacular sight of the beacon against the backdrop of the Newnham countryside. Huge thanks to all those involved in building the bonfire, to Robin Leven for the 1940's musical entertainment and to Jude Dorkins for organising it. Two days later we had beautiful weather for the party on the Green. Around 250 people attended the event, with excellent music provided by local bands, a parade from the Church and stalls on the Green run by the Church, the Guides, the Village Hall, the WI and the History Society. The Green looked stunning, thanks to the work of the many volunteers who helped put up bunting, lights and marquees. A good time was had by all, but events like this have a value beyond the moment, by bringing a village together and strengthening a sense of community. Again, thanks to Jude for all the hours she spent organising the events, and helping Newnham to maintain its tradition of marking such occasions.

The meeting also received a report on the Bus Shelter renovation. The work to re-roof and clad the interior and external walls has transformed the building into an attractive feature of the Green and creates a new community asset. Huge thanks to the volunteers from the History Society who gave up their time for this. The shelter now houses two information boards provided by the History Society with more to follow.

The Council received an update on flood prevention work. Lobbying of West Northants Council and the Environment Agency is ongoing but, in the meantime, the Parish Council has funded the provision of sand and sandbags to enable residents to improve their resilience in the event of future flooding. Thanks to Gary Niblett for this.

Councillor Debbie Bastin presented an update on a maintenance programme for the street lighting in the village and responsibility was assigned for commissioning various repair jobs around the village, one of which is the speed indicator on the Weedon Road. This has been sent away for repair and will be returned as soon as possible.

The minutes of this meeting, together with all minutes and agendas, are available on the Council website newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The next Parish Council Meeting is Monday 2nd June, starting at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

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Lay Pastoral Minister: Graham White

Benefice Children's Officer Susan Rose (879053)

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

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