

THE LINK

The Magazine of The Knightley Parishes

A stylized illustration of a Nativity scene. In the center, a white manger sits on a small wooden stand, containing a baby wrapped in a yellow cloth. To the left of the manger stands Joseph, a man with a brown beard and hair, wearing a white robe with brown vertical stripes. To the right stands Mary, a woman with brown hair, wearing a white robe and a blue cloak with a yellow headband. They are positioned in front of a simple wooden stable with a brown roof and a blue arched doorway. Above the doorway is a large, bright yellow star with multiple points. The background is a dark blue sky with small white stars. The entire scene is set against a yellow ground.

Carols by Candlelight

The Fawsley Singers **with Charles Tarry**

St. Mary's, Fawsley – Sunday 7th December at 3:00pm
Free admission with retiring collection

December 2025

No. 412

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 December 2015

	7 December	14 December	21 December	25 December	28 December	4 January
	I Advent 2	II Advent 3	III Advent 4	CHRISTMAS	IV Christmas 1	I Epiphany
Badby	11:00 Holy Communion CW [GS]	11:00 Morning Worship CW [Lay SR]	18:00 Carol Service [GS]	11:00 Holy Communion CW [GS]	11:00 United Benefice Service of Morning Worship at Badby [Lay SR]	11:00 Holy Communion CW [CP]
Newnham			16:00 Christingle [Lay HW]	09:15 Holy Communion CW [AoN]		
Charwelton	09:15 Holy Communion BCP (Church) [GS]	18:00 Carol Service (Church) [GS]		09:15 Holy Communion BCP [GS]		09:15 Holy Communion BCP (Church) [CP]
Fawsley				11:00 Holy Communion BCP [AoN]		
Preston Capes		11:00 Holy Communion CW [+EC]		09:30 Holy Communion CW [+EC]		

OTHER SERVICES

Wednesday 3 December	6.30 pm	Newnham	Guides District Carol Service
Tuesday 9 December	6.30 pm	Badby	ESOW
Friday 12 December	6.30 pm	Preston Capes	Carol Service
Saturday 13 December	4.00 pm	Charwelton Chapel	Christingle
Sunday 14 December	4.00pm	Newnham	Christingle
Wednesday 24 December	4.00 pm	Badby	Christingle

SUNDAY READINGS

Principal Service CW

- for other services see Lectionary

Date	Feast	OT Reading	NT Reading	Gospel
7 Dec	Advent 2	Isa. 11, 1-10	Rom. 15 4-13	Matt 3, 1-12
14 Dec	Advent 3	Isa. 35, 1-10	James 5, 7-10	Matt. 11, 2-11
21 Dec	Advent 4	Isa. 7, 10-16	Rom. 1, 1-7	Matt. 1, 18-end
25 Dec	CHRISTMAS	Isa. 52, 7-10	Heb. 1, 1-4	John 1, 1-14
28 Dec	Christmas 1	Isa. 63, 7-9	Heb. 2, 10-end	Matt. 2, 13-end
4 January	Christmas 2	Jer. 31, 7-14	Eph. 1, 3-14	John 1, 10-18

FROM THE REGISTERS



IN MEMORIAM

at. Newnham
on 28th. October
Brian Price

[by Bishop Edward Condry]

at Fawsley
on 17 November
Roger Thomas Tarry
Followed by burial

[by Rev. Celia Parkes]

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

A Memorial Service for June Catlin is to be held at
Charwelton on 5th. December at 11.00



Ruth Mackman, celebrant

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and professional, based in Badby, nr Daventry.

Contact me on 07591 166551
ruthmackman@btinternet.com
www.ruthmackman.co.uk

EDITORIAL

As I started to write the editorial this morning, it was snowing gently outside!! Not a lot, and it soon stopped and thawed, but enough to remind us that winter is approaching. Despite that (or maybe because of that) the hedgehogs of all shapes and sizes are still coming for their feed every evening. We can often watch them by the light from the kitchen window as they sate themselves before wandering off back into the hedge bottoms and other sheltered locations.

There are also dozens of blue tits (last year's chicks?) flying constantly between a hedge and the bird feeders, but not spending more than a few seconds in either place, presumably fattening themselves up while trying to avoid the attentions of the sparrow hawk. A delight to watch.

Not that we could forget, even if we wanted to, that Christmas is coming. The shops and web sites seem to have been reminding us of that since about the middle of August! Why do we have to start preparing for it so far ahead? I can remember as a boy wandering down Briggate (the main shopping street in the centre of Leeds) to buy Christmas presents for my mother and father on Christmas Eve. And Thomas Hardy's "Under the Greenwood Tree" starts with the village choir waiting until midnight on Christmas Eve before starting on their carolling round Upper Mellstock. Didn't that sort of anticipation make the festival so much more significant and important?

So let's not get too impatient. Let's take life at a gentler pace, and remember the lines of Henry Davies:

*What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?*

*No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.*

AMerry Christmas to you from all of us concerned with the production and distribution of The Link. We hope you have a happy and peaceful time with those you love, or with your memories.

David



PASTORAL LETTER

The Christingle Service

I wonder how many oranges will be used in our churches and schools this year as we celebrate a Christingle Service. For me, the lighting of the candle and the singing of 'Away in a Manger' has always been one of the most profound moments of the Christmas season. To watch young children (and adults, too!), be stilled in the gentle candlelight and to sing gently of the birth of Jesus, is a powerful way to recapture the joy and wonder of Christmas.

The Christingle itself is a sign of God's love for the world, it is a promise of hope at times of darkness, it is a message that Jesus is indeed the light of the world. As each candle is lit, we can see how each one joins together to banish the

darkness. This is our calling – to live lives that burn brightly with the love of Jesus and to work together to bring hope.



My prayer for you, is that you will know the light of Jesus in your own lives this Christmas and that you will experience that joy that comes from welcoming the Son of God into our lives.

+ Debbie

*The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin
Bishop of Peterborough*

BENEFICE PAGE

EVENING SERVICE OF THE WORD

This short lay-led service is usually held once a month on the Tuesday evening following the third Sunday at St Mary’s Badby from 6.30pm to 7pm. This month we meet a week earlier, because of Christmassy things going on, so it will be 9 December and then 20 January. There is always a brief talk about someone inspirational. All welcome!

BADBY AND DISTRICT FILM SOCIETY

Saturday 28th November: The Brutalist (2024)
Epic period drama starring Adrien Brody as László Tóth, a Hungarian-born Jewish architect who survives the Holocaust and immigrates to the United States, where he struggles to achieve the American Dream until a wealthy client changes his life. “Writer-director Brady Corbet’s immaculately designed film is a towering tribute to the immigrant experience.” “The cinematography, score, costumes and production design are sumptuous... impressively stylish... and possessing a staggering ambition.” [215 mins, 18 certificate]

Friday 12th December: The Holdovers (2023)
American Christmas comedy set in 1970, it tells the story of a strict classics teacher at a New England boarding school who is forced to chaperone a handful of students who have nowhere to go during the school’s Christmas holiday break. Directed by Alexander Payne (About Schmidt, Sideways, The Descendants), it received 5 Oscar nominations and won an Oscar and a BAFTA. [133 mins, 15 certificate]

BADBY & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We had a fabulous turn out of 19 volunteers, of all ages, to help plant a variety of daffodils to create what we hope will be a spectacular

display next Spring. We were blessed with beautiful Autumn sunshine and focused our planting on the entrance to the village along and at either end of the ditch, by the A361, by the benches and around the new trees that have been planted on The Green. After planting a total of 1,500 bulbs the volunteers went to the Maltsters for hot dogs and a drink courtesy of the Horticultural Society.

We would like to spread this display around the village with another Bulb Bash next Autumn. Any suggestions as to locations (as long as they don’t interfere with the mowing) and bulb types are most welcome.



SUDOKU

[With thanks to Robin Baker]

Puzzle No. 128 - Mild

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Puzzle No. 129 - Difficult

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

[Solutions on page 12]

PARISH NOTICES

BADBY

Correspondent - Geoff Pullin (gcspullin@yahoo.com)

website: www.badby-pc.gov.uk

	Reader	Sidesman	Coffee
7 Dec	G. Nelson C. Wakeford	J. Jordan N. Shaw	C. Wakeford
14 Dec	J. Hall J. Jordan	G. Morley G. Nelson	N. Shaw
21 Dec		J. Jordan P. Wakeford	C. Richards
24 Dec		C. Richards C. Wakeford	n/a
25 Dec	F. Williams J. Jordan	F. Williams J. Jordan	n/a
28 Dec	J. Hall N. Shaw	J. Hall N. Shaw	G. Nelson

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR DECEMBER

w/b 1: Ann Cotton, Monique Shortt, Ann Syred
w/b 8: Gillie Morley, Ann Skinner, Helen Morris
w/b 15: Jan Cooper, Moira Cooper
w/b 22: Jo Hind, Judy Jordan, Gill Nelson
w/b 29: Ann Cotton, Monique Shortt, Ann Syred

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

Decorating St Mary's Church for Christmas will take place on the morning of Saturday 20 December. Flower arrangers and winter greenery will be most welcome. If you'd like to join the flower arranging team, please contact Jackie on jackiepeel22@gmail.com.

A huge thank you to all the flower arrangers who, throughout the year, work extremely hard to make the church look welcoming for all.

BADBY BELLS

Frustratingly, due to further delays in manufacturing new headstocks, neither Christmas services nor the New Year will be heralded by bellringing this year.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Christmas Fair will be in St. Mary's on Saturday

6 December. We have lots to offer you: plenty of stalls, coffee and cake, soup and rolls, and a warm church. Come along between 10am and 2pm!

DAVENTRY CONTACT

Both the WI and St. Mary's Church will be sending presents to Daventry Contact (charity no. 1002659) this year. If you would like to contribute, please leave your present under the Christmas tree which will be decorated in St. Mary's on 4 December. Please leave presents unwrapped so they can more clearly be identified for suitable recipients. They need to be taken to the charity in time for distribution, so please leave your offering on 11 December at the latest.

T 4 U

On Friday 5 December, 2.30-4.30pm in the village hall. Come along and enjoy Christmassy cakes and drinks full of friendship. Everyone is welcome! Please note that there will be no T4U in January.

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Thank you to all who attended or helped with our fund-raising Film Race Night on 8 November. We raised a £1,000 to support the hall. Our Christmas programme comprises:

– Friday 5 December, 7.15 for 7.30pm, Christmas wreath-making. £15 per person including wine and mince pies. Tickets/further details from Zelda Shapter (07748 545477) or Peter Cooper (07792 165529).

– Wednesday 17 December 6 to 7pm, Festive community singing, FREE - ALL WELCOME.

– Friday 19 December, 3 - 5pm and Saturday 20 December 10am – noon, Santa's Grotto for local children up to age 11, £5 per child, pay cash/card at the door. Email badbysanta@gmail.com to book.

COFFEE MORNING

Our last coffee morning of the year will be on Tuesday 16 December, from 10.30am till noon. All are welcome to come and join us in the build-up to Christmas!

The draw will be made as usual. The winners in

October's Church draw were: 1st: Christine Warburton, 2nd: Sue Blundell, 3rd: June and Andrew Witcomb and in November were: 1st: Gill Nelson, 2nd: Tony & Monique Shortt, 3rd: Siggie Mensah. New members for the draw will be welcomed by Frances Williams.

RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Members will bring along some Christmas music and have some mince pies and mulled wine at the village hall on Tuesday 9 December, 2 - 4pm. Contact Pat Eaton on 01327 705326.

BADBY AND FAWSLEY WI

We will be holding our Sumptuous Christmas Celebration Supper in Badby Village Hall on Thursday 11 December. There will be festive games, music and a seasonal quiz. An evening not to be missed! (Members only on this occasion.)

For further information about this thriving and friendly WI, please contact Jan Cooper on jancooper2012@me.com or Jackie Peel on jackiepeel22@gmail.com



NEWNHAM

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

ANGEL FESTIVAL

The church will be open to view the Angels on 7th. December between 2 and 4pm. At the same time tea and cake will be served in the Village Hall. This Festival is a coming together of village organisations, and it will be good to see how many things there are to do in the village.

If you are making an Angel, please can you let me know when it is ready to come to the church, call (01327 872670), we will be ready to receive them any time after the 3rd. December. Thank you all for supporting the Angel Festival.

NEWNHAM VH 200 CLUB

The winners of the November draw are as follows
£50 prize - C Simpson No 14

£25 prize - S Parsons No 148

£25 prize - J Burrows No 86

GUIDES SERVICE

District Guides Carol service is on 3rd. December at 6.30pm

NEWNHAM'S CLEANING ROTA FOR DECEMBER

7th. December Mr. and Mrs. Wood
14th. December Mrs. Cooke and Mrs Rees
21st. December Ms. J Minor
28th. December Mr. and Mrs. Rees

NEWNHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newnham History Society AGM and Christmas Social Monday 15th December at 7pm in the village hall. An opportunity to bring members up to date on our finances and our plans for 2026. Once the formal business is concluded there will be some festive snacks, refreshments and some fun and games. New members very welcome.
JD

SCHOOL NEWS

FONS (Friends of Newnham School) are organising a wreath making evening on Friday 5th December at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Tickets £35 incl mince pies and mulled wine are available from the school.

On Thursday 4th December at 9.30am the school will be holding its Christingle service in the Church. Parents, family and friends are all welcome

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER at 5.00pm we will welcome the Knightley Singers back to the Church for an evening of Seasonal music and Sing-a-long Carols. In the past this has been a very popular event and was a sell out, so please get your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Tickets £12 (incl, mulled wine & mince pies) Children FREE are available now from Jeff (705085), Mary (872670) Ruth (361386), Sue (312433)



CHARWELTON

Correspondent - David Pound
(davidpound1939@talktalk.net)

	Reader/Sidesman	Flowers
7 Dec	Elizabeth Bird	
13 Dec	TBA	
14 Dec	TBA	
25 Dec	Graham White	Fiona Spencer

Chapel cleaning	
December	June Pound
January	Fiona Spencer

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Coffee mornings in the Village Hall

The VH has been given Central Government funding to run coffee mornings over the winter months, SO, our first event is on 1st December, and the second on the 8th December, and thereafter on the first and second Mondays of the month 10.15 - 11.45. Open to everyone, including surrounding villages. Complimentary refreshments and a chance to get out and meet up. Do join us, and if well used, we might get funded next winter too.

National Lottery Funding

The VH Committee has managed to get a £15000 grant to improve and update facilities in the VH. We are very grateful to be chosen and it has taken several months to achieve.

Children's Christmas Party

As mentioned in last month's edition 2.30 pm on 13/12

Christmas Coffee Morning (Lola)

Back by popular demand. Sat 20/12 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Christmas Panto

29/12 Sinbad the Sailor 1.30 - 3.30pm

Also at the time of writing both Armistice Day break-fast and The Christmas Crafters Fair were a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Regards

IL

CALLING ALL WOULD BE CAROLLERS!

It's that Most Wonderful Time of The Year approaching; yippee!!!!

Would love you to join us for our Christmas Eve Carol singing, on yes, you guessed it, Christmas Eve 6- 6.45p.m. Outside the Village Hall

Wrap up warm. Christmas hats? Fabulous!

Bring jollity and voices and a torch or lantern.

We provide Carol sheets. (Thank you The Pounds!)

And John will accompany us on guitar

You don't need to stay for all the time; feel free to come and go whenever.

Be great if you would join us at this our 4th year of Carol singing.

AM

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Many thanks for all the box donations this year, a total of £249.53 has been raised.

FS

HISTORY DAY

Please put the Village History Day in your diaries!

This perennially popular event (the last one was in 2022) will be held on Saturday 31st. January in the Village Hall, and will feature the history of the Church, the railway, the village itself, and of people associated with the village over the last 800 years. There will be many photographs, documents, complete Census records from 1841 onwards, films (including film of the last train to run through the village, and of past village events), and memorabilia. You will be able to see records of who has lived in your house before you - and much else. There will be tea, coffee and other refreshments available. There will be no charge, though donations towards the upkeep of the Church and the Village Hall will be much appreciated.

Further details published over the coming weeks.

We hope to see you there!

DP

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP MAKE HOLLY WREATHS.

Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help but, as this is our most labour-intensive

fundraiser, we could do with a few more helpers. As much or as little time as you can give, over the three days, would be greatly appreciated. If you can cut holly (Wed 3rd. in the morning, local venue tba); make holly bunches (Thurs. 4th and Fri 5th 2pm, village hall); or final assembly (Sat 6th in morning, village hall), please contact pennycory@yahoo.co.uk. A light lunch will be provided on Saturday.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Saturday 13th December 4pm in the chapel after the children's Christmas party. Everyone is very welcome.

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 14th December 6pm in the church.

Once again, we invite you to bring presents to lay under the Christmas tree for children and adults, male and female, in the care of Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service. Please mark clearly on the present who the present is suitable for (boy, girl, adult male or female, age range and what it is), to help the team distribute the presents appropriately.

And a little information for newcomers to the village - not only does the Carol Service give us a beautifully decorated church, a lovely service led by Revd. Greg Shaw, a chance to sing favourite carols, and to hear the Christmas story read by parishioners, but afterwards we also get hot mulled wine (other beverages are available!), sausage rolls, mince pies and a chance to mix and chat. So plenty of reasons to come along.

On a practical note, as it will be dark, it is advisable to bring a torch to help you navigate safely from your car to the church.

PC

100 CLUB

It's time to renew your subscription for 2026. If you wish to continue or join, please let Norman Blenkhorn (3 Manor Close) have £12 - either cash or cheque payable to Charwelton PCC - in an envelope marked with your name and contact details. Subscribers are entered into the monthly draw, with a prize of £50 This is another important fundraiser for us.

100 CLUB WINNERS

100 club winners are as follows

October No 11 Trish Willoughby
November NO 44 Marina Wyatt
NB



FAWSLEY

Correspondent - Vacant

CAROL CONCERT

Join us on 7th December at 3:00pm for our Christmas Carols by Candlelight concert with the Fawsley Singers with Charles Tarry on guitar. Admission is free with a retiring collection to help with the upkeep of the church.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Our Christmas Day Holy Communion service will be at 11:00am and will be taken by Archdeacon Richard.



PRESTON CAPES

Correspondent - Claire Hoare
caghoare@gmail.com

	Reader	Sidesman
12 Dec		Claire, Harry and Emilia Hoare
14 Dec	John Wilshire	Anabel Lewis-Bowen
25 Dec	Luke Bridgeman	Heather Wilson

Flowers - none until Carol Service

Cleaning - Anabel Lewis-Bowen

POP UP SHOP

Sunday 7th December 12.00 Village Hall with a Christmas Theme

To coincide with the December monthly Bar in the Village Hall.

Come and stock up with Christmas goodies, cakes, biscuits, marmalade, jam, and quiches along with Heather's delicious sausage rolls and cheese scones amongst other things.

CHURCH FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Please can the flower decorators put their flowers in the church for the Carol Service.

CAROL SERVICE

Friday 12th December at 18.30

A traditional service of carols and lessons, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. All most welcome to come and join in.

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

We had an excellent team of 12 achieving many improvements on 25th October. Roof gullies and hoppers cleaned, water feature cleaned and refenced, two seats cleaned, much ivy & deadwood cleared and strimming too. Our thanks to all who worked so willingly including the youthful Harry and Emilia. The age range was an inclusive 8 to 80!

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

This month Preston Capes WI will be having an earlier-than-usual get together when we meet up at

Green Acres for our traditional Christmas meal on 9th December. Our first meeting of the New Year will be on 27th January, when Jessica Nash will be telling us *Tales from the Driver's Seat of a London Bus*.

CHURCH NORTH ROOF APPEAL

We are having to renew the covering of the north roof of the church in April next year (timed for minimal disturbance of our bats). The project includes cast iron downpipes etc. repairs too. Very skilled craftsmen will be involved so the materials and work is expensive at over £60,000. We are trying to find the money, aiming to make the building watertight for future generations, for Christenings, Weddings and Funerals as well as regular worship, so we hope that people in the village who value the church building as part of our heritage, would like to make a contribution, as several people have generously done already. Naturally we have applied to many Trusts and Foundations for grant support and rewards are coming in with £13400 received so far. Please look out for the Flier coming shortly, which tells readers how to make payments by Bacs etc. Thank you everyone who supports this Appeal. Enquiries to PCC members, or Church Wardens.

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Please note that there is no coffee morning this month, but "normal service" will be resumed on 23rd January (and thereafter on the fourth Friday of each month).



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:

December

- 1 Charwelton coffee morning
- 3 Benefice Council
- 3/4/5/6 Charwelton wreath making
- 5 Badby wreath making
- 5 FONS wreath making
- 6 Badby church fair.
- 7 Newnham Angel Festival
- 7 PC Christmas pop-up shop
- 7 Fawsley Carol Concert
- 9 Preston Capes WI
- 12 Film Soc BVH
- 13 Charwelton Children's Christmas party
- 13 Fawsley Parish Meeting
- 14 Knightley Singers Christmas concert Newnham
- 14 PC PCC
- 15 Newnham History Society
- 16 Badby coffee morning
- 17 Seasonal Singing BVH
- 19-20 Santa's Grotto BVH
- 20 Charwelton coffee morning
- 24 Charwelton Carol singing outside the Chapel
- 29 Charwelton Pantomime - "Sinbad the Sailor"

2026

January

- 6 Newnham PCC
- 23 Burns Night BVH
- 31 Charwelton Village History Day

February

- 28 St Mary's quiz and supper BVH

March

- 3 Newnham PCC

May

- 5 Newnham PCC

June

- 13 Guitar concert Ba

July

- 7 Newnham PCC

September

- 1 Newnham PCC

November

- 3 Newnham PCC



SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Solution 128

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

Solution 129

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

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* * * * *

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NEWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN – Gary Hammersley

07887 634936 chair@newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

CLERK – Kevin Carr

clerk@newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Council Update

The Council met on the 3rd November. It was a broad agenda, covering updates on the ongoing flood prevention issue, church path maintenance, Christmas Music on the Green, stiles, the grass mowing contract and the path from Coronation Road to the playing field.

We are becoming increasingly frustrated by the lack of clarity from West Northants Council regarding the work to prevent a repeat of the flooding we experienced this time last year. Despite our regular lobbying, combined with the efforts of our ward councillors, we are still not clear what work is scheduled. We will continue to lobby and escalate as necessary in order to get the work done. Whilst it is not an alternative to the works we want to see, it would reduce the risks of surface flooding if drains are kept clear of leaf build-up. With the trees in the centre of the village, we are prone to heavy leaf fall at this time of the year, resulting in drains being covered and therefore unable to take surface water away. If you are able to check the drain near you and clear it of leaves, it will help to avoid this situation.

In response to residents' requests, we have been clearing leaves from the path between the churchyard and Mounts Lane. This path traditionally gets very slushy and slippery as the leaves rot, and the path becomes dangerous so to mitigate this, this year we are clearing the leaves each week during the Autumn. Whilst it may be a losing battle at times, it will prevent the build up and associated slippery surface.

We continue to explore how we can improve access around the footpaths which surround the village. We are looking to change some stiles for kissing gates, in conjunction with relevant landowners.

We are currently making arrangements for this year's Christmas Music on the Green. It will take place in the late afternoon of the 20th December, outside the Romer, with carols, mince pies and mulled wine.

Also, in response to residents' requests, we spread gravel on the path from Coronation Road to the playing field in order to make this footpath safer.

The current three year contract for grass mowing comes to an end this year. We are reviewing the specification for the contract and will be tendering the work in the New Year.

In September, we sent out our first Parish Council news email. This initiative was set up to help residents stay up to date with what is happening in the village through a regular email. Only half of the residents who signed up to receive this have activated their email invitation, so if you haven't heard from us yet, please check your spam folders. Look for an email from the Zoho Team, inviting you to join a distribution list. Accept the invitation. If you wish to join the mailing list, email clerk@newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Finally, the usual reminder – we have a **vacancy for a new Councillor**. If you're interested, please feel free to contact myself or the Parish Clerk.

The **next Parish Council Meeting is Monday 1st December**, starting at **7.00pm in the Village Hall**. The agenda for this meeting, together with all minutes and agendas, is available on the Council website newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Benefice Secretary: Vacant

Benefice Treasurer (Interim): Frances Williams, 25 Westhorpe Lane, Byfield, Daventry NN11 6XB 07717 337048
williamsf333@aol.com

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 .

Advertising: knightleybenefice@gmail.com

BADBY

Churchwardens:

Frances Williams, 25 Westhorpe Lane, Byfield, Daventry NN11 6XB 07717 337048 williamsf333@aol.com
Judy Jordan, Thyme Cottage, Vicarage Hill, Badby NN11 3AP 07752 384969 judyjordan27@gmail.com

Secretary:

Judy Jordan, Thyme Cottage, Vicarage Hill, Badby NN11 3AP 07752 384969 judyjordan27@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Frances Williams, 25 Westhorpe Lane, Byfield, Daventry NN11 6XB 07717 337048 williamsf333@aol.com

Visiting co-ordinator: Judy Jordan (07752 384969)

NEWNHAM

Churchwardens:

Mary Wood, Hillside, School Hill, Newnham. NN11 3HG 872670 jimandmarywood@yahoo.co.uk
Vacant

Secretary:

Janet Rees, 33, Bradbury Road jmr3349@hotmail.com

Treasurer:

Jim Wood, Hillside, School Hill, Newnham. NN11 3HG 872670 jimandmarywood@yahoo.co.uk

Visiting co-ordinator: Jeff Lawrence (705085)

CHARWELTON

Churchwarden:

Graham White, 8, Council Houses, Charwelton. NN11 3YT 264393 grahamwhite1962@gmail.com
Vacant

Secretary :

Penny Cory, 3, Lindrick Close, Daventry. NN11 4SN 700550 pennycory@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer:

Freddy Arthur, Harcourt House, Church Street, Charwelton. NN11 3YT 07815 057729 mfreddymarthur@gmail.com

Visiting co-ordinator: Graham White (264393)

FAWSLEY

Churchwardens:

Vivienne Baker, Lakes Rise, Fawsley NN11 3BA. 361585 v.j.baker@outlook.com
Vacant

Secretary:

Vacant

Treasurer:

Robin Baker, Lakes Rise, Fawsley NN11 3BA. 361585 FawsleyTreasurer@gmail.com

Visiting co-ordinator: Vacant

PRESTON CAPES

Churchwardens:

Gerard Hoare, Old West Farm, Little Preston. NN11 3TF 361263 gerardjhoare@gmail.com
Claire Hoare, Old West Farm, Little Preston. NN11 3TF 361263 caghoare@gmail.com

Secretary:

Mireya Weaver, West Field House, Little Preston. NN11 3TF 361201 mireyaweaver@aol.com

Treasurer:

Edward J. Giles, Hall Farm, Preston Capes, NN11 3TA. 07780 688988. giles@gbgp.com

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