

THE LINK

The Magazine of The Knightley Parishes

The Fawsley Singers
and Charles Tarry present
Christmas Carols
By Candlelight
at Fawsley Church, on
Sunday 8th December
at 3:00pm.

Free admission, with a retiring collection.

December 2024

No. 400

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 2024

	1 December I ADVENT	8 December II Advent 2	15 December III Advent 3	22 December IV Advent 4	24/25 December V CHRISTMAS	29 December I Christmas 1
Badby	11:00 Holy Communion CW [GS]		10:00 United Benefice Service of Holy Communion CW	18:00 Carol Service {Lay SR}	16:00 Christingle SR 11:00 HC CW [GS]	10:00 United Benefice Service of Morning Prayer BCP in Charwelton Chapel [Min Team]
Newnham		10:00 Morning Worship CW [GS]		16:00 Christingle [LT]	09:15 Holy Communion CW [AoN]	
Charwelton	09:15 HC BCP (Church) [GS]		18:00 Carol Service (Church) [GS]		09:15 HC BCP [GS]	
Fawsley		15:00 Carol Concert	at Newnham		11:00 HC BCP [AoN]	
Preston Capes		09:15 HC CW [CP]	[LT]		09:30 HC CW [+JS]	

SUNDAY READINGS

Principal Service CW

- for other services see Lectionary

Date	Feast	OT Reading	NT Reading	Gospel
1 Dec	Advent 1	Jer. 33, 14-16	1 Thess 3, 9-end	Luke 21, 25-36
8 Dec	Advent 2	Baruch 5	Phil. 1, 3-11	Luke 3, 1-6
15 Dec	Advent 3	Zeph. 3, 14-end	Phil. 4, 4-7	Luke 3, 7-18
22 Dec	Advent 4	Micah 5, 2-5a	Heb 10, 5-10	Luke 1, 39-45
25 Dec	CHRISTMAS	Isaiah 52. 7-10	Heb. 1, 1-4	John 1, 1-14
29 Dec	Christmas 1	1 Sam. 2, 18-20 & 26	Col 3, 12-17	Luke 2, 41-end
5 Jan	Christmas 2	Jer. 31, 7-14	Eph. 1, 3-14	John 1, 10-18

OTHER SERVICES

Tuesday 10 December	18:30	Badby	ESOW
Friday 13 December	18:30	Preston Capes	Carol service
Saturday 14 December	16:00	Charwelton	Christingle service (Chapel) [GW]
Tuesday 24 December	16:00	Badby	Christingle service (SR)

FROM THE REGISTERS



IN MEMORIAM

From Badby
at Rainsbrook Crematorium
on 8 November.
Anne Julie Eales

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



Ruth Mackman, celebrant

Wedding and anniversary celebrations
Funerals and memorials, including pre-arranging
your own funeral service, scattering of ashes

I can help you mark life's important events with
a bespoke ceremony. I'm experienced, caring
and professional, based in Badby, nr Daventry.

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

EDITORIAL

As you may have noticed from the front page, this is the 400th. edition of The Link since it was started by Stephen Adams in 1991. On behalf of the production team I would like to offer very grateful thanks to all the contributors and advertisers who have done so much to support us over the years. And of course thanks to you, the readers, without whom the whole thing would be a waste of time.

Lessons from Life:

"Age 50 might be the new 40, but 9.00pm is the new midnight"

"I had my patience tested. I'm negative".

"When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "Nothing", it doesn't mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing!"

The saga of the hedgehogs continues, as they prepare for their hibernation. At the moment however they are still very much in evidence, and come, often in two waves, for their supper each evening. We now seem to have two regular adults and also (judging by their size) two young ones.

The hedgehog family has now been joined by another one - a beautiful stained glass one bought last Sunday from Ian Cunningham at the Charwelton Craft Fair.



Bishop Debbie in her letter this month (page 5) talks about a "Posada" in a parish in which she once served. It's a interesting isn't it that exactly such a tradition (known here as "The Travelling Nativity") has existed in Newnham for many years - see the note from Mary Wood on the Newnham page. Perhaps these traditions are more widely spread than one might suppose.

Common sense is like deodorant. The people who most need it are those least likely to use it.



SUDOKU

[With thanks to Robin Baker]

Puzzle No. 104 - Mild

5	9						1	6
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1	8						2	3

Puzzle 105 - Difficult

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

[Solutions on page 12]

PASTORAL LETTER

'Welcome Mary and Joseph to your home this Christmas'

Dear Friends

When I was in parish ministry, I was delighted to learn about the tradition of the Posada which one village had been running for a number of years. Posada means 'inn' in Spanish and, in Mexico and parts of the United States, an activity has developed when small versions of Mary and Joseph travel around different households in the community and stay there for one night. On Christmas Day, they are brought into church and placed in the crib where they are joined by the baby Jesus. In the small village where I ministered, this had become a beloved tradition and many people joined in.

'Welcome Mary and Joseph to your home this Christmas' is the invitation that is offered to the community and in doing this, people are encouraged to make room for Jesus in a new and creative way.

I wonder what it would be like for you to make room in your home for Jesus this Advent and Christmas –

maybe it would be slowing down and taking time to speak to him; perhaps it is thinking about those in



need in your neighbourhood and finding ways to serve them; you might want to find time to read afresh the words of the prophets in the Old Testament who look ahead to the day that the Messiah will come and live among God's people. Whatever it might look like to you, can I encourage you to invite Jesus into your home, into your heart and into your lives.

'The word became flesh and dwelt among us'

With Christmas blessings

+ Debbie

Bishop of Peterborough

BENEFICE PAGE

EVENING SERVICE OF THE WORD

This short service is held once a month on a Tuesday evening, usually following the third Sunday at St Mary's Badby at 6.30pm. However to avoid other pre-Christmas events it will be held on 10 Dec 2024, then back to normal on 21 January 2025.

BADBY AND DISTRICT FILM SOCIETY

On Friday 29th November we're screening 'Peterloo' (2018). This is an explosively visceral retelling of a defining moment in British history, the infamous 1819 Peterloo Massacre where British forces attacked a 60,000-strong peaceful pro-democracy rally in Manchester. Written and directed by Mike Leigh, the film stars Rory Kinnear and Maxine Peake. "A brilliant and demanding film... Leigh's populist anger remains undimmed." [147 mins, 12 certificate]

Friday 13th December 2024: West Side Story (2021)

Directed and produced by Steven Spielberg, and cited as one of the best musical films of all time, with some critics deeming it superior to the renowned 1961 film which we screened back in 2017. This newer version is "a knockout: a dynamite blend of old-school musical showmanship and modern sensibilities; it's one of the best movies of the year, and one of the best movies of the acclaimed filmmaker's career - yes, really." [149 mins, 12 certificate]

BADBY & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Perhaps you will bring out your best side, against the backdrop of Dec dark and drizzly nights, by attending the Annual BDHS wine tasting on Friday, 6 Dec in Badby Village Hall from 7-10pm. Contact

sophiefitzhugh@yahoo.co.uk to reserve a ticket. It's only £20 per person which includes an aperitif, different wines to taste, cheese board, mince pies and a short talk from expert horticulturalist Philip Turvil.



PARISH NOTICES

BADBY

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

	Reader	Sidesman	Coffee
1 Dec	N. Shaw G. Nelson	N. Shaw G. Nelson	A. Syred
22 Dec	TBA	TBA	C. Wakeford
25 Dec	P. Wakeford J. Jordan	P. Wakeford J. Jordan	N/A
5 Jan	J. Hall N. Shaw	J. Hall. N. Shaw	N. Shaw

CHRISTMAS

The Christmas Fair in November went well and we would like to thank all those who kindly gave their help. It was lovely to start our Christmas celebrations with this success and we now look forward to welcoming everyone to the

- Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday, 22 December
- Christingle Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve
- Communion Service on Christmas Day at 11am all in St. Mary's Church.

If you have any (new) presents suitable for women or children which you would be willing to give to the Women's Hostel, for victims of domestic abuse, please put them, unwrapped, under the Christmas tree in St. Mary's by Sunday, 15 December. Thank you!

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR DECEMBER

w/b 2 Ann Cotton, Monique Shortt, Ann Syred

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

Jackie Peel makes a huge plea to anyone who enjoys flowers, whatever their ability, to join her very friendly team, keeping St Mary's Church looking welcoming for all. Willing new helpers please contact her at jackiepeel22@gmail.com. They will be welcomed with open arms!

FOOD BANK

Thank you for all the food given to Daventry Food Bank this year. It is greatly appreciated and I know they hope you will continue to be generous. In particular at the moment they are short of women's toiletries.

CHURCH DRAW

The November winners were 1st: Ann Skinner, 2nd: Claudette Gardner, 3rd: Jean Hancock.

COFFEE MORNING

St. Mary's monthly coffee morning will be held on Tuesday, 17 December, from 10.30am to noon. Come along for coffee, cake and chat in our pre-Christmas calm.

T 4 U

Do come and enjoy meeting and chatting with village friends on Friday, 6 December from 2.30- 4.30pm in the warm village hall. Delicious cakes hot drinks and games!

Advance notice - there will be no T 4 U in January.

BADBY & FAWSLEY WI

The next meeting will be our Christmas Celebration, a festive fun evening with a two course dinner, games and seasonal music. This session will be members only, but if you would like to find out what a modern WI gets up to and visit us at a future meeting, please get in touch with Jan Cooper on jancooper2012@me.com or Jackie Peel on 07870 627826.

BELLRINGING

Come and join us, using the outside tower door, for ringing out 2024 and ringing in 2025 11.30pm New Year's Eve.

With a recent pledge of £2,000 from NHCT and a substantial sum from Sally Bush's legacy to the church, we are within £12,000 of reaching our updated funding target. Please help us to close the gap with donations to 'PCC Badby Church Restoration Fund', sort code 30-92-55, account no: 07106240, reference: 'Bells'.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT BADBY VILLAGE HALL

Monday 16 December, 7.15 for 7:30pm – Christmas wreath-making: £15 per person including wine and mince pies. Bring your own materials or buy on the night (frames, berries, cones, foliage etc.). Bring secateurs and gloves! Tickets and further details from Zelda Shapter (07748 545477) or Peter Cooper (peter.bvhmc@btinternet.com, 07792 165529).

Wednesday 18 December, 3 to 5pm – Santa's Grotto: For local children up to 11 years old. Come and meet Santa and his Elf in their Grotto, and get a present for Christmas. £5 per child, pay cash or by card at the door. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Email badbysanta@gmail.com to book

Wednesday 18 December, 6 to 7pm – Seasonal singing: Come and join in festive community singing in the Village Hall. All are welcome – free entry,

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villages?**

**If so please contact
Penny Cory at
knightleybenefice@gmail.com**

* * * * *

Advertising rates 2024

Back page box	£6.45 per insertion
Quarter page	£12.85 “
Half page	£21.50 “
Full page	£37.50 “

including a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

Saturday 25 January, 6.45 for 7.15pm start – Burns Night dinner and dancing. A meal of haggis, neeps and tatties (vegetarian option available) and an evening of Scottish and country dancing. Licensed bar and raffle. Tickets £22.50/head. Enquiries to peter.bvhmc@btinternet.com or 07792 165529. Finally, the Village Hall Quiz Night on 15 November raised over £650, a great result – thank you to everyone for an outstanding and enjoyable evening.



NEWNHAM

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

NEWNHAM VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

The prize winners for the November draw are as follows:-

£50 prize - Miss Z Heathcote No 17

£25 prize - Mrs J Tarrant No 16

£25 prize - Mrs K Dennis on No 183

TRAVELLING NATIVITY

The Nativity set that pre-Covid travelled around the village and further afield has for the last two or three years been under used. It would be nice if it was able to go on its travels again. If you would like to borrow it for a few days to join with your Christmas celebrations, please let me know. Young, old or in-between all are very welcome to borrow the Nativity and if you want, one of the lambs will stay with you. Please give me a call.

Mary Wood 872670.

OCTOBER AT NEWNHAM CHURCH

7th. October Visitation from Rural Dean to check all registers were correct and goods listed in the inventory were still in the church.

9th. October The Bishop of Peterborough visited the Deanery and took a service at Daventry. The Benefice Council met at Newnham Church in the evening.

13th. October Harvest Festival, taken by Rev. Lesley Tomalin, a number of children from the school read poems and sang a jolly harvest hymn. Thank you to

the children for their contribution to the service.

18th. October The Bingo session arranged was very poorly attended and only a short version of intended session took place.

27th. October Holy Communion service taken by Rev Greg Shaw

During October the vacancy for a priest for The Knightley Benefice was advertised three times, sadly there were no applicants.

DECEMBER AT NEWNHAM CHURCH

The services and events at the church are listed at the back of the Christmas cover of the Link.

Please do come and join together at these services and events and start your Christmas celebrations.

Please do read the article below on the Band Concert on the 13th. December, this will be a real taste of Christmas music and carols you can join in with.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT NEWNHAM CHURCH

On Friday the 13th. December Daventry Brass Band will be performing a concert of Christmas music and carols that you can join in with. The Band did a concert at the church in June everyone who came thought it was fantastic. Tickets are on sale or you can pay at the door, but it makes organisation easier if we know how many are coming.

Tickets are on sale from :- Jeff Lawrence 705085

Mary Wood 872670

Janet Rees 705394

Look forward to seeing you for great evening.

CLEANING ROTA FOR DECEMBER

Dec. 1st. Mr. and Mrs. Rees

Dec. 8th. Mr. and Mrs Wood

Dec. 15th. Mrs. Cooke and Mrs. Rees

Dec. 22nd Ms. J Minor

Dec. 29th. Mr. and Mrs. Wood

CHANGE OF SERVICE TIMES

I have been asked if it is possible to have Holy Communion services later than 9.15am. Whilst we have no priest attached to the Benefice this is possible. I have therefore arranged for the 9.15am Holy Communion service to move to 11.00am, from January. This change can be reviewed at Easter. When a priest is appointed, they will be responsible

for the service pattern, but I feel sure they will consult and do the best they can.

Mary Wood Churchwarden



CHARWELTON

Correspondent - David Pound
(davidpound1939@talktalk.net)

	Reader/Sidesman	Flowers
1 Dec	Elizabeth Bird	-
14 Dec	TBA	-
15 Dec	TBA	-
25 Dec	Graham White	Fiona Spencer

Chapel cleaning	
December	June Pound
January	Fiona Spencer

A BIG THANK YOU...

....to David and June Pound who, after 50 years of being part of the churchyard mowing team, have finally hung up their scythes. It's precisely this level of dedication that enables us to keep the churchyard so neat and tidy. The mowing team now needs new members for next year's growing season: if you would like to help, please contact Penny (01327 700550 or pennycory@yahoo.co.uk) Everything you need is provided.

100 CLUB

Thank you if you have renewed your subscription for 2025. If you haven't done so yet, if you wish to join, please let Norman Blenkhorn (3 Manor Close) have £12 - either as cash or a cheque payable to Charwelton PCC - in an envelope marked with your name and contact details. The 100 Club pays out a monthly prize of £50 whilst being an important fundraiser.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED...

...to help fulfil holly wreath orders. This is our biggest fundraiser and we really need your help, as much or as little as you are able to give, over the three days. If you can cut holly (Thurs. 5th AM, local venue tba); make holly bunches (Thurs. 5th and Fri 6th 2pm in the

village hall); or join in the final assembly (Sat 7th, again in the village hall), please contact Penny (details above). A light lunch will be provided on Saturday.

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 15th December 6pm in the church Once again, we invite you to bring presents 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 for (boy, girl, adult male or female, age range and what it is), to help the team distribute the presents appropriately.

CHARWELTON CHURCH 100 CLUB

The winning numbers for the club were,
September No 42 Bull
October No 1 Pound

WHIST DRIVE

Charwelton village hall Christmas whist drive is on Monday 16th December at 7.30pm. Seasonal prizes and refreshments.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Village Hall will be hosting their annual children's Christmas party on Saturday 14th December 2-4pm. There will be activities and games, and a special visitor calling in to see us! Cakes and refreshments will be provided so please let Ria (07969 054762) know if you'll be coming so we can make sure we have enough for everyone. We look forward to seeing all Charwelton children and grandchildren for some festive fun - and don't forget to bring Santa's present for your child(ren)!

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST PANTOMIME
SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER.

Show time 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Performed by the professional Northamptonshire 'Laugh out Loud Theatre Company.'

A wonderful opportunity for family and friends to share a festive theatre trip.....in Charwelton!
Tickets £10 for adults (9 and over) and £8 for children (8 and under)

Tickets are selling well so please book soon to avoid disappointment.
 Contact Trish 07817 973642 or Dawn 07866 557238

A review of the theatre company performance last year from Martin Clarke at Clipston Village Hall
 "Excellent! A great mix of traditional 'Panto' stuff, songs and corny 'Xmas cracker jokes'!
 The audience - both young and old - engaged totally with the performance due, in the main, to the relaxed and informal approach of the cast which put everyone at ease.

Thank you - and hopefully see you again later in the year."

THANK YOU from the Village Hall team.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Armistice Breakfast and the Christmas Craft Fayre. It was wonderful to see the hall so full and together they have raised just over £500.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the village for supporting all the events throughout the year that the village hall team organised. These include two infamous quizzes, children's Easter and Christmas parties, Open Gardens, Armistice Breakfast, Christmas Craft Fayre, a professional theatre company performance and the monthly Whist Drives.

Christmas Eve Carol Singing

Led by John & Amanda (Claggain Cottage, Church Street) this will be happening
from 6.00 to 7.00pm by the Village Hall/Chapel/Old Post Office.

Please join us for this special occasion - even if you cannot be there for the whole hour.

- Carol Sheets provided
- Bring a torch
- Wear a Christmas hat



- Wrap up warmly
- Prepare to be jolly!



If you play an instrument please bring it along; the more the merrier.

The monies raised at these events are ploughed back into the upkeep and running of the village hall, thereby ensuring this valuable facility is kept.

May we wish you all a lovely Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Dawn Aries



FAWSLEY

Correspondent - Vacant

CAROL CONCERT

Join us on 8th December at 3:00pm for our Christmas Carols by Candlelight Concert with the Fawsley Singers and Charles Tarry (guitar). Admission is free with a retiring collection to help with the upkeep of the church.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

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

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards featuring the church are available from reception at Fawsley Hall Hotel or from Lakes Rise (361585). They are £4 for a pack of five and £10 for three packs of five. Two designs are available. A photograph of the church in the snow or a painting of the church by Nora O'Keeffe. There are pictures of the inside of the church on the back.



PRESTON CAPES

Correspondent - Claire Hoare
 caghoare@gmail.com

	Reader	Sidesman	Cleaning
8 Dec	Mireya Weaver	Anabel Lewis-Bowen	Anabel Lewis-Bowen & helpers
13 Dec	TBA	Peter Smith	
25 Dec	Claire Hoare	Gerard Hoare	

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Please can flower arrangers put their decorations in for the Carol Service On
Friday 13th December

POP UP SHOP WITH A CHRISTMAS THEME
Sunday 1st December 12.00 in the Village Hall

To coincide with the December monthly Bar, there will be a pop up shop selling lots of delicious goodies, some with a Christmas flavour, mince pies, puddings, cranberry sauce, plus a host of other food. Heather's famous sausage rolls and cheese scones for immediate consumption. Come along and have a look. All welcome

CAROL SERVICE FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER 18.00

A traditional service of 9 Lessons and Carols suitable for all the family followed by refreshments

CHURCH CLEANERS

The 'Team' led by Anabel, on 19th November, had an autumn clean, with Pauline, Chris, Chris, V, Jane, Gerard and Claire, they dusted, swept and polished the church ready for December. It looks superb [until the bats, birds and spiders re establish!]. Thank you all.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

There is no meeting this month, as our "fourth Tuesday" date inevitably clashes with Christmas!

However, here is a brief run-down of our guest speakers for the first half of 2025: JANUARY – *In Praise of Bolshy Patients* (Forty Years as a Pharmacist) – Graham Brack, FEBRUARY – *A Vet's Life* – Polly Smith, MAY – *A History of Tattoos* – Janine Kitrowe, and in June we shall be having a guided tour of Towcester. Non-members are welcome to attend up to three meetings per year – bookings can be made now or nearer the respective dates by contacting our secretary, Anabel Lewis-Bowen



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 Preston Capes Pop-up shop
- 5/6/7 Charwelton wreath making days
- 8 Fawsley Candlelit Carol Concert
- 9 Badby Parish Council meeting
- 13 Film Soc. BVH
- 13 Newnham Christmas Band concert
- 14 Charwelton Children's Christmas party
- 16 Christmas wreath making BVH
- 18 Santa's Grotto & carols BVH
- 29 Charwelton Beauty & the Beast Panto.

2025

January

- 7 Newnham PCC
- 13 Badby Parish Council

February

March

- 4 Newnham PCC

April

- 1 Newnham APCM

May

- 6 Newnham PCC

July

- 1 Newnham PCC

September

- 2 Newnham PCC

November

- 4 Newnham PCC

SUDOKU SOLUTION

Solution No. 104

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Solution No. 105

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

Philip Turvil, Garden designer in Badby

Christmas tree

I love to plant a tree on Christmas Day.

Winter is ideal for planting because the soil is moist and most trees are dormant. You'll also find the best selection of trees to buy in winter from garden centres and online.

There's a rich tapestry of tree varieties available with amazing spring and autumn leaf colours and diverse flowers and fruits. Some trees are subtle and compact. Others are boisterous and spreading. So select your tree and its position carefully.

As with all plants, but especially trees, choose a variety that'll also enjoy growing in your soil. The soil in our area is often variations of clay loam, which is pretty helpful for most trees, but do check your soil and get advice if unsure.

And if we do have a white Christmas, delay planting your tree until the ground is thawed and easier to work. Delay planting if your soil is waterlogged too.

Don't want to plant a tree? Perhaps give a gift instead to a friend towards their tree, or donate a charity or parish/town council to help them maintain their existing trees and plant new. The UK has lots of great tree initiatives that need support.

Let's talk roses

I love to see roses in gardens. I see lots in my travels when designing and building gardens.

Now's the time to prune roses to remove problem growth and encourage healthy flowering growth.

Start your pruning by removing dead and damaged branches. These dodgy stems are typically paler, may sound hollow, be thin and wibbly, or just broken.

Next, stare at your rose while drinking tea. Spend a moment to mentally follow each branch to see what grows where. Then, cut out branches that are crowding out others, especially those that are (or likely to) to cross/rub against each other. If crowded growths are left in place, they reduce light, airflow, and flowering, so are best removed.

Finally, shorten healthy shoots by a third or a half to retain your preferred shape and encourage more flowers. For climbers, also tie in longer growths to wires or another framework in the direction you want them to grow.

Festive harvest?

If you've grown carrots or parsnips for Christmas dinner, cover the ground if frost is forecast. A layer of straw can stop the ground freezing, so will make harvesting easier when wearing your Christmas slippers. Old sacks also reduce freezing.

I also like to store some carrots and parsnips inside, just in case. Store in a dry place at 1-4 degrees Celsius in shallow trays. Put the roots in layers of damp leaf mould, sand, or sieved soil.

Potatoes and onions will also store well if dried off first and kept in a dark and cool place that's frost free. Put spuds inside paper sacks or boxes. Put onions on slatted shelves or hang in nets. And if you have a stray cabbage or two, these store well on shelves in a cool, dark place that's well ventilated.

When storing any fruit or veg, only store produce in good condition and check regularly to remove anything rotten.

My best wishes to you and your garden
Philip



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NEWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN – Gary Hammersley

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Council Update

The main items discussed at the November meeting were the budget for the next financial year, websites, Christmas Music on the Green and the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.

As mentioned previously, we need to have the **budget for the next financial year** in place by January, and this year, for the first time, we asked the public and local organisations for their ideas for initiatives which could improve or enhance the village. At a public meeting on the 21st October, we received input from the Village Hall Management Committee, the Allotments Association, the Church and the History Society. Whilst it was universally accepted that we live in a beautiful village, it was really positive to hear diverse perspectives and views on how the village can be enhanced. All the suggestions put forward will be considered, but there was one interesting idea which didn't relate to the physical environment, but could improve lives for residents. It was pointed out that appointments at Northampton General Hospital can be a logistical nightmare, especially for people who may not be able to drive or park, with some people resorting to taxis at a cost of £40 each way. Whilst the Parish Council alone cannot solve this problem, the principle of sharing journeys, offering lifts and asking for assistance is something where the wider community, aided by a platform for sharing information, could potentially provide support.

The sense of community in Newnham was evident on **Remembrance Sunday**, at the service beside the War Memorial. It was really well supported and as always made especially poignant by the reading of the names of the men from Newnham who died during the war. Several people commented on the poppies which the Parish Council put on the lampposts. We will add to these next year.

Also, on the theme of community, I would like to highlight the **village website**, which is receiving very positive feedback from all who use it and I would encourage everyone to check it out. It has huge potential to connect people and organisations in the village, raise awareness of what's on and also provide topical information and updates. Have a look on www.newnhamvillage.co.uk.

One of the events which will be promoted on this site is the **Christmas Music on the Green**. This is taking place on the **22nd December from 5pm**. Like last year, there will be Christmas music, mulled wine from the Romer and Father Christmas might make an appearance. It was a great atmosphere last year, and lovely to exchange season's greetings with folk in the village. The **Christingle service** is taking place in the church **from 3pm that afternoon**. Details of all events are on the website: www.newnhamvillage.co.uk.

Next May marks the **80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day**. We plan to continue Newnham's strong tradition of celebrating national events, and ideas to date have included music from the forties, forties themed food, forties outfits and possibly some vintage cars and jeeps. If you would like to get involved, or have any ideas as to what else we could do, please get in touch.

The **next Parish Council Meeting is Monday 2nd December**, starting at **7.00pm** in the **Village Hall**. For agendas and minutes go to www.newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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