

# THE LINK

*The Magazine of The Knightley Parishes*

It's Charwelton's world-famous

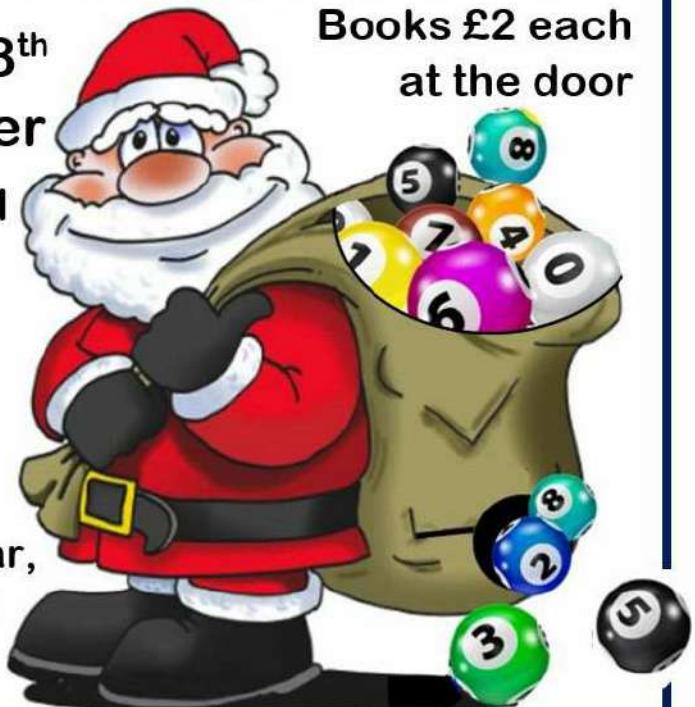
## CHRISTMAS BINGO

Friday 28<sup>th</sup>  
November  
Village Hall

down 7pm

Licensed bar,  
nibbles and  
raffle

Books £2 each  
at the door



## November 2025

No. 411

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Badby ☺ Newnham ☺ Charwelton ☺ Fawsley ☺ Preston Capes

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The Knightley  
Benefice

# THE KNIGHTLEY PARISHES

[www.knightleybenefice.org.uk](http://www.knightleybenefice.org.uk)

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



## Services for November 2025

	2 November <b>I</b> 4 bef. Advent	9 November <b>II</b> 3 bef. Advent REMEMBRANCE	16 November <b>III</b> 2 bef. Advent	23 November <b>IV</b> Next bef. Advent	30 November <b>V</b> ADVENT	7 December <b>I</b> Advent 2			
Badby	11:00 Holy Communion CW [GS]	11:00 Remembrance [Lay SR]	10:00  United Benefice Service  of  Holy Communion BCP  at  Charwelton Church [MB]	11:00 Morning Worship [Lay SR]	10:00  United Benefice Service	11:00 Holy Communion CW [GS]			
Newnham				10:00 Holy Communion CW [MB]					
Charwelton	09:15 Holy Communion BCP (Church) [GS]	08:30 Remembrance (Chapel) [GS]  11:00 Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial		17:00 Evensong BCP (Chapel) [Lay GW]		09:15 Holy Communion BCP (Church) [GS]			
Fawsley									
Preston Capes				10:00 Morning Prayer BCP [Lay HW]					

## OTHER SERVICES

Tuesday 18 November

6.30 pm

Badby

ESOW



# SUNDAY READINGS

## Principal Service CW

- for other services see **Lectionary**

Date	Feast	OT Reading	NT Reading	Gospel
2 Nov	4 bef. Advent	Isa. 1, 10-18	2 Thess. Ch. 1	Luke 19, 1-10
9 Nov	Remembrance	Job 19, 23-27a	2 Thess. 2, 1-5 & 13-end	Luke 20, 27-38
16 Nov	2 bef. Advent	Mal 4, 1-2a	2 Thess. 3, 6-13	Luke 21, 5-19
23 Nov	Next bef. Advent	Jer. 23, 1-6	Col. 1, 11-20	Luke 23, 33-43
30 Nov	ADVENT	Isa. 2, 1-5	Rom 13, 11-end	Matt. 24, 36-44
7 Dec	Advent 2	Isa. 11, 1-10	Rom. 15, 4-13	Matt. 3, 1-12

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### IN MEMORIAM



#### HOLY BAPTISM

at Badby  
on 5th October 2025  
Tora Bella Frances Flanagan  
[by Rev. Greg Shaw]



at Badby  
on 10th October 2025  
Peter James McAlister  
(30.4.1932 - 11.9.2025)  
following cremation on 9th October.  
[by Rev. Greg Shaw]

at Badby  
on 17th October 2025  
Dorothy (Dot) Mirrey Hawkins  
(15.10.1943 – 7.9.2025)  
followed by burial.  
[by Rev. Celia Parkes]

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

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

## EDITORIAL

**S**adly, on the morning of 27 September we found a very squashed, and very dead, hedgehog in the road outside our house. It had clearly only very recently happened and we were very sorry to see it. They are scarce enough as it is. However, that evening what did we see coming to the hedgehog feeding station, but a very live and active hedgehog? Not being able to tell one hedgehog from another it seems that the dead one may not have been "our" hedgehog after all; which was of some comfort to us.

And he/she has been returning each night as usual since then.

**A**rchdeacon Alison mentions "Stir Up Sunday" on page 5, but our Christmas cake has been baked already, and very good it smells too. We now just have to feed it regularly with brandy until Christmas when it will be absolutely ready!! I don't know how long the grandchildren will be coming for at Christmas this year but I don't suppose the cake will last long past then.

**A** couple of weeks ago our daughter, along with her husband and children, attended the Harvest Festival service at their usual church (a long way from here). The service started with the words of that well known Harvest Hymn -

*"We plough the fields with tractors,  
With drills we sow the land.....!"*

Nicky says that at that point she lost interest and stopped singing, and fortunately that was the end of the "new" hymns.

But how is it that today's hymn writers seem to believe that they can "improve" on the old favourites when it is so patently obvious that they can't?

**T**alking of old favourites. I recently heard again the old children's song "Gilly Gilly Ossenfeffer Katzenellenbogen-by-the-Sea". Max Bygraves 1954. Does anyone else remember it? The husband of my cousin Rosemary, a man called Peter Bond, was a BBC Radio announcer at that time and used to say that his (only) claim to fame was that he was the first person ever to say that name on air. Little things...!

**F**inally, have you been watching "Murder before Evensong" on the telly? The author, Revd. Richard Coles, was before his retirement a clergyman in Northamptonshire and came here to one of our "Evening Services of the Word" some years ago. I read the book when it came out, and I wasn't sure how it would translate to the small screen, but in fact I am really enjoying it. (Channel 5 Tuesday evenings) It is set in a small rural parish rather like ours (and like his no doubt) and I am sure I recognise some of the characters!

*David*



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Contact Ruth on 07591 166551  
[ruthmackman@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthmackman@btinternet.com) or  
<https://bookwhen.com/kindheartyogawithruth>

# PASTORAL LETTER

## Remember, Remember

Remember, Remember... That is, of course, the beginning of the children's rhyme about the gunpowder plot of 1605. But Remember is a very good summing up word for the month itself.

November brings us a season of remembering. All Saints followed by All Souls as we remember those who have gone before us. The Saints of old whose lives inspire us in our Christian journey and the local, maybe only known to us, souls who have walked with us in faith.

Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day call us to remember the horrors of war so that in remembering we might avoid such actions as lead to these tragedies.

November also marks the end of the Church year and as with every time of ending and beginning we remember what has been and we look to what will be. The church year ends with the Sunday before Advent when we remember what is important to us. We keep it as the feast of Christ the King remembering that it is in Jesus Christ that all things are held together, that it is Jesus who the saints follow and it is the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, laying down his life for us, that inspired those who lay down their life for peace.

That Sunday is also often known as 'Stir up Sunday' from the collect rather than from the Christmas pudding and cake stirring in the kitchen! The Book of Common prayer Collect leads us to pray "Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they,

plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

So in this month of November I pray that we will remember...

Those who lived faithful Christian lives (and do so too), those who we love as see no longer (cherishing our loved ones now), those who sacrifice for peace (and commit ourselves to work for peace) and finally Jesus Christ, God who left the glory of heaven to be one of us.

In our remembering may we be inspired to action, to be stirred up, faithful Christian people known for the fruit of Good Works. Amen.



The Venerable Alison Booker  
Archdeacon of Oakham



# BENEFICE PAGE

## EVENING SERVICE OF THE WORD

This lay-led service is held once a month on the Tuesday evening following the third Sunday at St Mary's Badby from 6.30pm to 7pm. There is always a brief talk about someone inspirational. All welcome! The next date is 18 November. We always meet a week earlier in December because of everything going on in Advent so it will be 9 December.

## BADBY AND DISTRICT FILM SOCIETY

### **Saturday 15th November: Dvorák's Rusalka (1986)**

David Pountney's film version of English National Opera's stage production of Rusalka is a fairy tale about a mermaid blessed with immortality who risks everything for love. It stars Eilene Hannan and Ann Howard, with ENO's orchestra and chorus conducted by Mark Elder. The aria Song to the Moon is one of the most popular arias in all opera. [159 mins, Exempt cert.]

**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]

## BADBY & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Badby Bulb Bash! On Saturday 1 November between 11am - 1pm the horticultural society will be planting 1,500 mixed daffodils to create

a spectacular spring bloom in Badby. We would love your help as there are a lot of bulbs to plant! We are meeting outside The Maltsters at 11am and hope you can join us there for some hot dogs and a drink after. Everyone of any age is welcome to join in. If you can help, please contact Sophie Fitzhugh on 07866 428 650.



## SUDOKU

*[With thanks to Robin Baker]*

Puzzle No. 126 - Mild

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

Puzzle No. 127 - Difficult

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

*[Solutions on page 11]*

# PARISH NOTICES

## BADBY

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

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

### CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

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

### CHURCH FLOWERS

Thanks to Jackie Peel and her team for decorating the church for harvest festival.

### BADBY BELLS

Irritatingly, the return of our bells has been delayed further until early December.

### COFFEE MORNING

The next coffee morning will be at St. Mary's on Tuesday 18 November from 10.30am till noon. All are welcome to enjoy coffee, tea, cake and conversation, and the monthly Church draw.

### CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Christmas Fair will be in St. Mary's on Saturday 6 December, from 10am till 2pm. Put the date in your diary now to visit the craft stalls! We shall also be grateful for any good quality, unwanted presents for sale on the church stall.

### CHRISTMAS AT St. MARY'S

Our regular Christmas celebrations will be the Carol

Service on Sunday 21 December at 6pm, Christingle Service on Wednesday 24 December at 4pm and Holy Communion at 11am on Christmas Day.

### DAVENTRY FOOD BANK

The food bank is particularly looking for washing-up liquid and soap powder, as well as any tins. This is a very difficult time of year for families who are already struggling. Please put anything you can spare in the box in the Church porch.

T 4 U

On Friday 7 November, 2.30 - 4.30pm in the village hall, maybe with a bonfire theme. So come along and enjoy the cakes, company and drinks. Everyone is welcome!

### VILLAGE HALL

Tickets are now available for the Film Race Night on Saturday 8 November. Tickets are £19 pp. including a tasty supper. Doors open 6.45pm, first race 7.15pm, licensed bar and raffle. Contact Peter Cooper (07792 165529, [peter.bvhmc@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.bvhmc@btinternet.com)). All proceeds in aid of Badby Village Hall.

Some future dates: Friday 5 December, 7.15 for 7.30pm, Christmas wreath-making; Wednesday 17 December, 6 to 7pm, free Festive Seasonal Singing; Friday 23 January 2026, Burns Night Dinner and Dancing.

### RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

On Tuesday 11 November, 2-4pm, members will bring to the village hall music related to Remembrance. Further details from Pat Eaton on 01327 705326.

### BADBY & FAWSLEY WI

On Thursday 13 November, we will be having a Fused Glass Workshop lead by local artist, Judith Dorkins. By the end of the session, we should have produced a Christmas Tree decoration!

For further information about this thriving and friendly WI or to arrange a visit, please contact Jan Cooper on [jancooper2012@me.com](mailto:jancooper2012@me.com) or Jackie Peel on [jackiepeel22@gmail.com](mailto:jackiepeel22@gmail.com)

## TAD NEWTON'S JAZZ FRIENDS

Saturday 22 November, in the village hall, 7.30 pm.  
Information from 07703 821042 or email  
cladders@icloud.com.



## NEWNHAM

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

### CLEANING ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

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

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on the 9<sup>th</sup>. November, there will be a service of Remembrance at the Wall Memorial at 10.50am where the names of dead will be read out, followed by the laying of a wreath. A service in the church, will then take place.

### ANGEL FESTIVAL

Thank you very much to all who have agreed to take part in the Angel Festival. This is looking as though it will be a good Village event, where all the organisations in the village are drawn together. I have had direct contact only with some organisations, it would be very helpful if everybody could contact me with their plans, so that I can organise a relevant space for your display.  
Mary Wood 01327 872670

The church will be open for viewing the Angels between 2 and 4pm on the 7<sup>th</sup>. December. There is no charge for entry. During this time tea and cake will be served in the Village Hall.

### NEWNHAM WI

Newnham WI meeting on Thursday 20th November at 7.30pm in Newnham Village Hall.  
Michelle from Fancy Felts will be running a needle felting workshop teaching us how to make a Christmas decoration or key ring. Guests welcome -

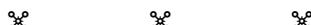
please contact judithdorkins@btinternet.com by 10th November to book a guest space.

## SCHOOL NEWS

On Wednesday 1st. October parents, families and friends joined the children for their Harvest Festival in the church. The service featured poetry, reflections and songs all on a harvest theme. Thank you for the ten huge bags of produce that were taken to the Daventry Food Bank where they were gratefully received

### A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Please put SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER at 5.00pm in your diary when 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. Please contact Jeff (01327)705085, Mary (01327)872670, Ruth (01327)361386, Sue (01327)312433.



## CHARWELTON

Correspondent - David Pound  
(davidpound1939@talktalk.net)

	Reader/Sidesman	Flowers
2 Nov	Fiona Spencer	
16 Nov	TBA	Graham White
23 Nov	Penny Cory	
7 Dec	Elizabeth Bird	

Chapel cleaning	
November	Meryl Nicholls
December	June Pound

## ARMISTICE DAY

0830 - 0900 Service in Chapel  
0900 - 11.30 Armistice Day Breakfast. Don't miss this splendid full-English fry-up after the service and before proceeding to the War Memorial for the Wreath Laying.  
Please let Trish know 07817 973642 know for

numbers.

### 1050 - Wreath laying at the War memorial.

#### VILLAGE HALL

#### Sunday 16/11/25.

Christmas Crafters Fair 10.00 am - 1.00 pm  
Local Crafters display their handy work for sale  
Refreshments in aid of the Village Hall will be available to purchase

#### Saturday 13/12/25 2.30 pm- 4.00 pm

Children's Christmas Party  
Fun and games for all  
We have it on good authority that Santa will again be making an appearance

#### Monday 29/12/25 1.30pm - 3.30 pm

Christmas Pantomime  
This year it's Sinned the Sailor  
Full of laughs, mishaps, evil plots, songs, dances, audience interaction and Slapstick chases, this is a fun filled family show not to be missed.  
Prices are £10 for adults and £8 for children

#### CHURCH

#### Harvest weekend

A big thank you to all who contributed to our successful Harvest weekend: we raised over £900.

#### Remembrance service

There will be a short Act of Remembrance in the Chapel, led by the Revd Greg Shaw, at 8.30am on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November. This will be followed by the Armistice Breakfast in the village hall. All are very welcome.

#### Christmas Bingo

The countdown has begun for Christmas Bingo on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November in the village hall. See the front of the magazine for details. Already, the callers are gargling and perfecting their bingo calls for the big night.

#### 100 Club

In November we will be collecting the £12 subscriptions for the 100 Club. If you are new to the village and would like the opportunity to win £50 each month, there are a few free numbers. Contact [normanblenkorn@gmail.com](mailto:normanblenkorn@gmail.com) to get your number.

#### Wreath-making

This year we will be offering a single design of wreath, newly created by Graham White. He has called his design 'Trinity', reflecting the name of the church. Practical help is needed between Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December. This community effort is our biggest fundraiser. All help - mossing rings, bending pins, wiring cones, tying bows, collecting holly, bunch-making, wreath-assembling and other light jobs - is earnestly sought. There is a job for everybody. Contact [pennycory@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pennycory@yahoo.co.uk) for details.

**The Christingle Service** on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm in the chapel will follow the children's Christmas party in the village hall. The **Carol Service** will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December at 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.

#### CHARWELTON MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

A big thank you to everyone who came to our Macmillan Coffee Morning! The morning raised an amazing £2,005.50 for Macmillan! Over the past 4 years since I took on the Coffee Morning, we have raised over £10,000 for Macmillan! A huge thank you to everyone who attended, donated and helped make the morning a success!



#### FAWSLEY

Correspondent - Vacant

#### REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

A special service will be held at 10:50am on 9th November to remember those who have died in conflict in the two world wars and all the smaller conflicts as well. Please come and light a candle as your token of thanks and remembrance.

#### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The annual parish meeting will be held at 7:30pm on 13th November at Fawsley Hall hotel. All residents are welcome to attend. It will be possible to assemble in the bar from 7:00pm before moving to the meeting room at 7:30pm.

## CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Fawsley singers, together with Charles Tarry on guitar, will be presenting a Carols by Candlelight concert on 7th December at 3:00pm. Admission is free with a retiring collection to help with the upkeep of the church.



## PRESTON CAPES

Correspondent - Claire Hoare  
caghoare@gmail.com

	Reader	Sidesman	Cleaning
9 Nov	Gerard Hoare	Heather Wilson	Chris Farmer
23 Nov	Kevin Smith	V Brassey	Chris Wareing
Flowers - Jane Arblaster			

## CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

9.30 - 11.30 Saturday 25th October

All helpers most welcome, bring garden tools please. Refreshments will be provided

## CHRISTMAS POP UP SHOP

Sunday 7th December

In the Village Hall from 12.00. Come and buy delicious foods ready for Christmas [and to eat now!]. Heather will be providing her delectable scones, sausage rolls and other goodies. There will be marmalade, jams and cakes

## CHURCH ROOF APPEAL

It is a big challenge for a small parish to raise the £66000 Target including Vat, but the marvellous Rectory Garden Drinks gave a great start to our own fundraising. Most grateful thanks to Tic and Luke Bridgeman and Heather Wilson for a flying start of £1630. Several very generous gifts have followed such that the prospect of reaching the target seems possible as we have six more national funding Trusts still to reply to detailed applications.

However the likelihood of some £12000 of Vat not being recoverable does remain a serious problem, although we are nearing £25000 raised in all but it leaves a big gap to fill. We will keep readers

informed. Churchwarden Gerard Hoare is the contact for more information.

We hope that the roof works can take place in April 2026.

## PCC MEETING

14th November 17.00 at Old West Farm

## CAROL SERVICE

18.30 Friday 12th December

## FLOWER ROTA 2026

I shall shortly be drawing up the Rota for next year. Thank you to all who have decorated the church during the year, it has been kept looking wonderful. Always looking for others to join the team. Please get in touch with Claire see contact details at the back.

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

This month's meeting takes place on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, in the village hall. Judith Dorkins of the Spirit Studio, Newnham, will be guiding us to make fused-glass Christmas ornaments. As well as the usual guest fee of £6.00 (which includes refreshments), there will be an additional charge of £8.00 which will cover the materials to make two ornaments.

Places are limited, so please book as soon as possible by emailing our secretary, Anabel Lewis-Bowen on alewisbowen@btinternet.com. (Please note that the workshop will start promptly at 7.30pm.)

## VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Our last coffee morning of the year is on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> November. Come along from 10.30am to noon and enjoy unlimited tea/coffee and biscuits for just £1.00, with a small extra charge for cake!



# 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:

## November

- 4 Newnham PCC
- 5 Charwelton PCC
- 7 T4U
- 8 Badby VH Race Night
- 9 Armistice Day Breakfast Charwelton
- 11 Badby PCC
- 13 Fawsley Parish Meeting
- 13 Badby & Fawsley WI
- 15 Film Soc opera BVH
- 16 Charwelton Christmas Craft Fair
- 18 Badby church coffee morning
- 20 Charwelton Parish Meeting
- 20 Newnham WI
- 22 Jazz in BVH
- 25 PC churchyard working party
- 25 PC WI
- 28 Film Soc BVH
- 28 PC VH coffee morning
- 28 Charwelton Christmas Prize Bingo

## December

- 3 Benefice Council
- 4/5/6 Charwelton wreath making
- 5 Badby wreath making
- 6 Badby church fair
- (6 Badby Bells 3 hour peal?)
- 7 Newnham Angel Festival
- 7 PC Christmas pop-up shop
- 7 Fawsley Carol Concert
- 12 Film Soc BVH
- 13 Charwelton Children's Christmas party
- 13 Fawsley Parish Meeting
- 14 Knightley Singers Christmas concert Newnham
- 14 PC PCC
- 17 Seasonal Singing BVH
- 19-20 Santa's Grotto BVH
- 29 Charwelton Pantomime - "Sinbad the Sailor"

2026

January

- 23 Burns Night BVH
- 31 Charwelton Village History Day



## SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Puzzle No. 126

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

Puzzle No. 127

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

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villages?**

If so please contact  
Penny Cory at  
[knightleybenefice@gmail.com](mailto:knightleybenefice@gmail.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

## Advertising rates 2025

	per ins.	per annum
Back page box	£6.60	£79.20
Quarter page	£13.10	£157.20
Half page	£21.95	£263.40
Full page	£38.25	£459.00

# Pots & Plans: what to do in your garden this winter

Philip Turvil

## Dig a square hole for trees

If planting a tree this winter, dig a square hole. It helps roots establish quicker because they're more likely to break out the corners rather than risk going round and round, especially in clayey soils. Break up the bottom of the hole too. Then mix in peat-free compost and fertilisers before back filling.

Winter is great for planting because the soil is moist and most trees are dormant. You'll also find the best selection of trees to buy from garden centres and online. Oh, I love choosing trees. There are amazing spring and autumn leaf colours to choose from, plus diverse flowers and fruits. Some trees are subtle and compact. Others are boisterous and spreading. So select your tree and its position carefully.

## Protect vulnerable plants from frost

For hardier varieties of tender plants, such as fuchsia and salvia, they're best unpruned until you see new growth in spring. The old growth guards next year's buds. So wait until your plants are looking lively in spring before removing dead growth and clipping back to a satisfying dome shape.

For borderline hardy plants that are too big to move indoors, these are best wrapped up in a cosy blanket. This is useful for bananas, olives, passion flower, tree ferns, and bottlebrush. Horticultural fleece makes a good blanket when secured with string or netting. As does hessian. I like to loosen covers during milder spells to allow ventilation before rewrapping.

For non-hardy bedding plants such as petunia, these are usually replaced each year. But for plants growing tubers underground, such as dahlia and canna, store tubers frost-free overwinter. First dig up your tubers, dry off, and store in dry compost or vermiculite until replanting indoors in spring.

## Snap, snap

November is perfect for photographing your garden before making changes in 2026. You'll capture the boisterous growth of this year before any clearance, as well as see garden structures better as leaves fall.

November is also perfect for writing notes about your garden – both what you most enjoyed this year, and the garden areas and views that didn't make you smile.

Photos and notes help when planning changes with family, friends, or a designer. Perhaps you're plotting a new position for plants or veg. Or planning more year-round colour or lower maintenance?

When I select plants for people or design garden layouts, I love discussing how they'd like their garden to look, feel, and function for them and others using the space. Every area matters, from a small border to a whole garden.

Designers and landscapers get booked up now for spring, so it's worth starting conversations early. You can contact me for a consultation or free quote for plant selection or garden layout. Please visit [www.brightenmygarden.com](http://www.brightenmygarden.com) or contact me on 07701 296621 and [philip@brightenmygarden.com](mailto:philip@brightenmygarden.com).

## Look after wildlife

Keep bird feeders topped up and birdbaths clean. Fresh water's just as important as food. Leave a few seed heads and berries for birds — they love teasels, sunflowers, and hawthorn.

For the insects - and all their friends (and prey) - make a bug hotel next to a border or hedge. Or pile up logs and leaves in a quiet corner.

## Love your lawn, but not too much

Don't mow unless it's mild and dry - winter mowing can stress the grass. Rake up leaves so they don't smother the lawn.

If your lawn is compacted, spike it with a fork to improve drainage and brush in lawn dressing (or sharp sand/fine top soil mix). Avoid walking on your lawn when it's frosty or sodden — you'll damage the roots.

I still like to edge the lawn for a tidy look. It's not glamorous, but it makes a big difference. A neat lawn in winter feels oddly satisfying.

My best wishes to you and your garden



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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 1<sup>st</sup> of October. As well as the standard agenda items, updates were discussed on the ongoing flood prevention issue, the Parish Council News email, Remembrance Day events and the maintenance of the Village Hall.

We have been informed by West Northants Council that the remaining flood prevention work is due to take place by the end of October. We will monitor this and if necessary, continue to lobby the relevant WNC departments to ensure that every effort is made to prevent further flooding to residents' homes.

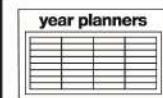
In September, we sent out our first Parish Council news email. This initiative was set up to help residents stay up to date with what is happening in the village through a regular PC email. Over 140 people have now signed up to receive this; however, so far only half have activated their email invitation, so if you haven't heard from us yet, please check your spam folders. If you wish to join the mailing list, you can do so by emailing clerk@newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

As part of the village Remembrance Day commemorations, a second 'Tommy Statue' has been purchased by the Parish Council. This will be placed by the War Memorial in readiness for Remembrance Sunday along with a commemorative wreath. The other Tommy Statue is permanently situated outside the recently refurbished Bus Shelter on the Village Green and the large poppies displayed last year will also be placed on the lampposts around the village.

The Chair of the Village Hall Committee attended the meeting to share plans for much needed improvements to the building. The Village Hall is a charity run by volunteers who work hard to keep the hall available for the many different groups and events in Newnham. The main hall is in desperate need of redecoration to make it a modern and attractive space for events, and the toilets require a full refurbishment. The income received from bookings and through fundraising events, such as the 200 Club and the recent Garage Sale, just about cover the ongoing running costs, so additional funds are needed to deliver any improvements to the building. The Council recognise that the Village Hall is an important village asset and will look what support might be available.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> November**, 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](http://newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk)



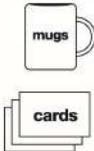
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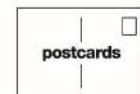


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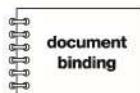
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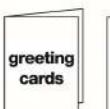
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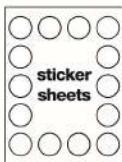
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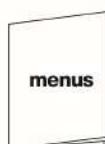
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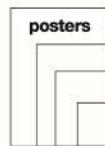
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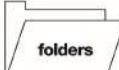
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[Telephone codes 01327 unless stated otherwise]

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

**Ministry Team:** Gerard Hoare, Susan Rose, Graham White

**Lay Pastoral Minister:** Graham White

**Benefice Children's Officer** Susan Rose (879053)

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

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

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

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