

THE LINK

The Magazine of The Knightley Parishes

Spring into Open Gardens

8 beautiful gardens Plant sales
Light lunches, cakes & refreshments

Badby 17 May 1-5 pm
Newnham 24 May 11-5pm



May 2026

No. 417

Badby ☿ Newnham ☿ Charwelton ☿ Fawsley ☿ Preston Capes ☿ Everdon

THE KNIGHTLEY PARISHES

www.knightleybenefice.org.uk

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

Services for May 2026

	3 May I Easter 5	10 May II Easter 6	17 May III Easter 7	24 May IV Pentecost (Whit Sunday)	31 May V TRINITY	7 June I Trinity 1
Badby	11:00 Holy Communion CW [GS]	11:00 Morning Worship [Lay HW]	10:00 United Benefice Service of Holy Communion CW at Badby [GS]	11:00 Morning Worship [Lay SR]	10:00 United Benefice Service of Holy Communion CW at Everdon [GS]	11:00 Holy Communion CW [GS]
Newnham	X	X		11:00 Holy Communion CW [MB]		X
Charwelton	09:15 Holy Communion BCP (Church) [GS]	X		17:00 Evensong BCP (Church) [GW]		X
Fawsley	X	11:00 Holy Communion BCP [MB]		X		X
Preston Capes	X	09:15 Holy Communion CW [MB]		10:00 Morning Prayer CW [Lay GH]		X
Everdon	X	09:30 Morning Worship [Lay SR]		09:30 Holy Communion CW [MB]		X

OTHER SERVICES

Tuesday 19 May

6.30 pm

Badby

ESOW

SUNDAY READINGS

Principal Service CW

- for other services see Lectionary

Date	Feast	OT Reading	NT Reading	Gospel
3 May	Easter 5	Acts 7, 55-end	1 Pet. 2, 2-10	John 14, 1-14
10 May	Easter 6	Acts 17, 22-31	1 Pet. 3, 13-end	John 14, 15-21
17 May	Easter 7	Acts 1, 6-14	1 Pet. 4, 12-14 & 5, 6-11	John 17, 1-11
24 May	Pentecost	Acts 2, 1-21	1 Cor. 12, 3b-13	John 20, 19-23
31 May	TRINITY	Isa. 40, 12-17 & 27-end	2 Cor. 13, 11-end	Matt 28, 16-end
7 June	Trinity 1	Hos. 5, 15 - 6, 6	Rom. 4, 13-25	Matt. 9, 9-13 & 18-26



EDITORIAL

I have had some very kind comments from residents of Everdon saying how much they enjoy reading The Link. That's very good to know and we all appreciate those remarks. Thank You!

It seems however that not everyone knows how The Link is financed. It's from the advertising. The income from the charges paid by our advertisers is sufficient to cover the entire costs of materials and printing - some £3000+ a year. We are very grateful to our generous advertisers, and we hope that you will support them by making use of the goods and services they offer. If it were not for them we would not be able to continue.

The hedgehogs, I am pleased to report, continue to survive. They have hardly been absent at all this winter, but are continuing to eat food at a furious rate. Plus there is hedgehog pooh all over the lawn - so all quite good signs I think.

We are also (on this gloriously sunny but quite chilly morning with the washing flapping vigorously in the breeze) inundated with finches of all sorts on the bird feeders - gold finch, green finch, chaffinch, - but also many blue tits. The first blue-tit egg appeared on the nesting box camera on 14th. April (13th. last year) and we now (on 22nd.) have 9 eggs. We also welcomed back our friend "baldy" the blackbird whom you may remember from last year.

A couple of months ago our daughter was browsing in an antique shop near where she lives in Surrey when she caught sight of a framed group photograph of some students. It was labelled "Leeds School of Medicine 1965". She knew that I was a student there, and that I graduated in 1965, and, sure

enough, tucked away in the bottom right hand corner she found your's truly! And also a fellow student and friend who later became her godfather.

What, I wonder are the chances of making such a discovery? And which of my colleagues ended up in Croydon with his (or her - though there were not many female medical students in those days) photograph. It would be wonderful to know who that was, but sadly the shopkeeper, astonished though he was to learn of the coincidence, did not know where the photograph had come from and we have managed to find no clues so far.

However Nicky has promised to pass it on to me and I hope to have it hanging in my study before too long.

Finally, let's stick with the Yorkshire theme, and recall the words of that old Northern saying :-

*"Hear all, see all, say nowt;
eat all, sup all, pay nowt;
and if ever tha' does owt for nowt,
allus do it for thissen."*

David



PASTORAL LETTER

What's in a name?

It will soon be Pentecost... or should that be Whitsunday? Does it matter? No, it doesn't matter, it's the same, but the name helps us to think a little deeper.



Pentecost, from the Greek word for 50, is 50 days after Easter and a Jewish festival (much in common with our Harvest Festival). In Acts, the disciples (women and men) were preparing to celebrate Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended like 'tongues of fire', there was the sound of a great wind, Peter preached and thousands became Christians that day.

The small number of women and men, hiding away and afraid, became a large number of women and men, speaking about Jesus' death and resurrection.

So why did it used to be Whitsunday?

Maybe from the Old English 'White Sunday', people were often baptised then wearing white robes.

Or maybe Whitsunday comes from 'Wisdom Sunday' - I love this explanation because it draws us back to the heart of the biblical account. Wisdom Sunday because the Holy Spirit is viewed as the wisdom of God who gives wisdom to Christians. Whatever we call it, Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. We focus on God who gives wisdom and enables the church to serve their community.

My prayer this Pentecost is that we also continue that tradition of care for those who need it most and focus on becoming ever more a place of welcome for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Booker'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

*The Venerable Alison Booker
Archdeacon of Oakham*

BENEFICE PAGE

EVENING SERVICE OF THE WORD

This short 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. The next meets will be on 19 May and 23 June. There is always a brief talk about someone inspirational. All welcome!

NEWNHAM GARDENS OPEN FOR NGS

Sunday 24 May, 11 - 5pm

Please join us again on bank holiday Sunday as we re-open 3 of Newnham's gardens (Hilltop, The Banks and Wren Cottage) for the National Garden Scheme. We always have a lovely day chatting to visitors so please do come along and support such wonderful charities as Macmillan, Marie Curie and Parkinsons UK amongst many others. Still only £6 combined entrance per adult with children free for all 3 gardens.

Take the day off and enjoy the lovely gardens, choose from the plant sales, browse around Spirit Studio glass art and stroll through our lovely village to our peaceful 14th century church. Photographers and artists very welcome.

And not forgetting of course ... super tasty light lunches with scrumptious cakes & refreshments to follow.

BADBY OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 17 May, 1 - 5pm

Five gorgeous gardens in Badby, including one opening for the first time, will open for charity from 1-5pm on Sunday 17 May 2026. Please come along to see inspiring plants and unique garden features. Everyone is welcome, including families. Look for bright yellow signs on the day directing to gardens. Entry is £6 by cash or card at the gardens or book in advance via the NGS website (ngs.org.uk). All proceeds go to the National Gardens Scheme. NGS is the

biggest funder of nursing charities, supporting Queen's Nursing Institute, Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Carers Trust, Hospice UK, Perennial, Parkinson's UK and others. There are refreshments available too at St Mary's Church in Badby, including cake, and all proceeds support the church. We can't wait to welcome you.

BADBY AND DISTRICT FILM SOCIETY

Friday 24th April: The Choral (2025)

A choral society's male members enlist in World War I, leaving the demanding choirmaster to recruit teenagers to perform Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*. Together, they experience the joy of singing while the young boys grapple with their impending conscription into the army. Directed by Nicholas Hytner, screenplay by Alan Bennett, it stars Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam and Simon Russell Beale. "A quiet and consistent pleasure: an un sentimental but deeply felt drama... A beautiful, transcendent film." [108 mins, 12A certificate]

Friday 29th May: Mr. Burton (2025)

British biographical drama about the early life of Welsh actor Richard Burton and his relationship with his mentor Philip Burton. It stars Harry Lawtey as Richard, alongside Toby Jones and Lesley Manville. The reviews describe it as "genuinely heart-warming, uplifting and quietly emotional." [124 mins, 12 certificate]

BADBY AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The society is for everyone with an interest in gardening, flowers or vegetables, and currently has over 50 members. Whilst horticulture is the central plank of the society, its guiding principles are inclusivity, fun and community. New members, of any age, are most welcome (and membership is free!). There is also an active WhatsApp group which is available for

members to share advice and photos, swap seeds and to swap and sell plants. The society's main event this year is as part of the Badby Fayre on Sunday 13 September. We are planning to have a tent/canopy on the village hall patio with a colourful show of plants and produce – and prizes to award as well!

The society holds an evening wine tasting event every year to raise funds, which is always a sell-out. Local wine expert Greg Shaw introduces us to selected wines from around the world, with a horticultural theme.

The Committee is: Chair: Craig Howell Williams, Secretary: Sophie Fitzhugh, Treasurer: Neville Snell, Committee: Jilly Howell Williams, Joanne Hind, David Peel. Please contact us via Facebook.



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

PARISH NOTICES

BADBY

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

	Reader	Sidesman	Coffee
3 May	C. Wakeford P. Wakeford	F. Williams N. Shaw	C. Wakeford
10 May	G. Nelson J. Hall	G. Morley C. Richards	N. Shaw
17 May	F. Williams N. Shaw	C. Wakeford J. Hall	A. Syred
24 May	J. Hall C. Richards	J. Jordan G. Nelson	C. Richards

BADBY AND FAWSLEY WI

We welcome local nature expert Richard Piner to our next meeting on Thursday 14 May. He will be talking to us about the Flora and Fauna around Badby. New members are very welcome. To arrange a free visit or for further information about this thriving and friendly WI, please contact Jan Cooper on jancooper2012@me.com or Jackie Peel on jackiepeel22@gmail.com

B&F WI PRE-LOVED CLOTHES SALE

On Sunday 17 May (the day of the Badby Open Gardens) we will be holding a Pre-Loved Clothes Sale in the Village Hall (or Courtyard if it's sunny) from 1-4pm. Do drop in and have a browse, we'd love to see you!

CHURCH WARDENS

Frances Williams and Judy Jordan were re-elected for the coming year. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is scheduled for 28 April, in St. Mary's at 6pm. All are welcome to attend, whether churchgoers or not.

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR MAY

w/b 4: Jan Cooper, Moira Cooper
w/b 11: Jo Hind, Judy Jordan, Gill Nelson
w/b 18: Ann Cotton, Monique Shortt, Ann Syred
w/b 25: Gillie Morley, Ann Skinner, Helen Morris

CHURCH FLOWERS

Many thanks to all our flower arrangers who beautifully decorated the church for Easter. The rota is: 25 April - 9 May Jackie Peel; 9 - 23 May Gillie Morley; and 23 May - 6 June Karen Brown.

ALLOTMENTS

There are a few still available to rent. They are located near the cricket pavilion in a beautiful spot with views over the bluebell woods, the village and surrounding countryside. The perfect place to start growing your own food and reconnecting with nature. If you are interested, please contact Jilly Howell Williams on jillyhw@btinternet.com.

T 4 U

There will be no T4U on Friday 1 May as that is Bluebell Teas weekend.

BLUEBELL TEAS

We will be running our annual Bluebell Teas in the village hall from 1 to 5pm on Sunday 3 May and Bank Holiday Monday 4 May. Come along for tea, coffee, home-made cakes, and scones and cream. There will be managed car parking on the playing field off Chapel Lane – follow the signs.

DURING BADBY OPEN GARDENS 17 MAY

While you are visiting the five open gardens, St. Mary's will be offering tea and home-made cake in the church from 1pm to 5pm. Come to

refresh yourself before the next garden!

On that day too from 1-4pm, Badby & Fawsley WI will be having a Pre-Loved Clothes Sale in the village hall. Pop in on your way around the village Gardens

BADBY & FARTHINGSTONE CRICKET CLUB

A refreshed club committee, led by new chairman Andy Nightingale, is determined to ensure the club's future and continue the tradition of 170 years.

The new season started on Sunday 26 April, 1pm, with first visitors Crick Lions - the first of 23 scheduled matches. Club membership fees are replaced by a pay per play system: £10 match fee (includes tea), £5 for juniors and £5 for midweek matches. The club will put on social events and welcomes any new players who want to play sociable, friendly, limited over (min 20 overs, max. 30) Sunday afternoon cricket (finish around 5-6pm) with midweek T20s (6-8.30pm). Nets take place most Thursday evenings (6-7.30pm). Maybe you could help with preparing the ground for matches, providing refreshments on a match day or help out with the admin? See our Facebook page – all welcome. Families too are invited to come and watch at our beautiful ground at Long Roods off Chapel Lane in Badby (refreshments available).

FRIENDS OF BADBY SCHOOL

Craft stall holders are wanted for Badby Primary School Rose Day celebrations on Saturday 27 June. Pitches are £15 each. Space is limited, so book early! If any members of the community would like to donate a raffle prize or would be willing to help on a FOBS' stall, please contact Claire on friendsofbadbyshool@hotmail.com

BADBY BELLS & BBQ

A barbecue will be held on Sunday 28 June in the churchyard, to celebrate the return of our bells. The barbecue, to include chicken, steak

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burger and sausage, with salad, cheese and home-made puddings, will cost £20 a head. St. Mary's is a lovely setting for a parish barbecue and we look forward to seeing you there. Food will be served from 1pm and the bells will be rung intermittently. You are free to bring your own drink and glasses but everything else will be provided. Email judyjordan27@gmail.com for tickets. There will be intermittent bellringing, displays and exhibits in the church, tours up the tower and have a go sessions for all the family.

COFFEE MORNING

We look forward to seeing coffee and tea drinkers at St. Mary's on Tuesday 19 May from 10.30am till noon. Freshly made coffee, tea and cakes, and a chance to witness the monthly draw.

BADBY FAYRE

Planning has begun for the event on Sunday, 13 September which will include a new annual show and fun dog show. Anyone willing to bring or run a stall, children's games, help with parking etc will be most welcome to contact Churchwardens Judy and Frances.

BADBY RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

The AGM will be held in the village hall on Tuesday, 12 May at 2pm followed by members' choice of music by Chopin. Further details from Pat Eaton on 01327 705326.



NEWNHAM

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

APRIL 200 CLUB

No 118 Mrs. C. Wright £50
No 85 Mr. R. Russell £25
No 11 Mrs. I. Cooke £25

There are 7 numbers in the 200 Club draw available at present, if you are interested in taking part please contact Elaine Gibbon on 07875 417860.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) for **St Michael and All Angels, Newnham** will take place on **Monday 11th May at 7.00pm** in the church.

All parishioners are welcome to attend. If your name is on the Church Electoral Roll, you are entitled to vote at the meeting. A copy of the Electoral Roll is displayed on the church notice board in the porch if you'd like to check if your name is on the Roll .

If you need any more information, please contact **Janet Rees on 01327 705394**.

NEWNHAM WI

Thursday 21st May

Stonyfield Vineyard - Creating an English Vineyard.

Belinda Brown will talk about the journey of setting up this delightful vineyard in Blisworth. Samples of their wine will be provided. Meeting starts at 7.30pm in Newnham Village Hall. Non-member ladies very welcome at £6 pp.

DOG OWNERS

Can we please remind owners to keep their dog(s) on a lead if walking in the Church Yard. We have recently had a couple of "calling cards" left on memorial stones in the area for cremated remains. This is not very pleasant and is upsetting for the families concerned. Thank you.



CHARWELTON

Correspondent - David Pound
(davidpound1939@talktalk.net)

	Reader/Sidesman	Flowers
3 May	Fiona Spencer	Pauline Donnelly
24 May	Norman Blenkhorn	Marina Wyatt
28 Jun	David Pound	

Chapel Cleaning	
May	Fiona Spencer
June	Graham White

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Great success with all who came thoroughly enjoying a lovely Family Afternoon. Many Thanks to Ria for organising and to all other helpers too.

OPEN GARDENS

We are still trying to gauge support for this and agree a suitable date.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER UPDATES

VH REFURBISHMENT

Kitchen to be painted and repaired following the removal of old water heaters.

Heating to be replaced the order has been placed and we await delivery.

ADVANCE WARNING

Our ever popular Fish and chip Supper and quiz has been arranged for Friday 18th. September to avoid clashes with the Macmillan Coffee Morning and the Harvest Supper.

Book early to avoid disappointment

CHARWELTON MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

This year's Macmillan Coffee Morning will be

held on Saturday 26th September! Get the date in your diaries and keep your eyes peeled for more details in The Link and on Facebook. If you have any questions, please contact Verity on verity.spencer@outlook.com.

EASTER FLOWERS

Thank you to everyone who gave of their time and talent to decorate the church for Easter. It looked (and smelled!) magnificent.

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

If you wish to be added to the Electoral Roll, please contact PCC Secretary Penny Cory (pennycory@yahoo.co.uk) by Monday 4th May.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) The APCM, to which you are warmly invited, is on 12th May at 7.30 in the Chapel.

RUSHDEN TOWN BAND CONCERT

Tickets for the concert on 6th June at 7.30 can be obtained from davidpound1939@talktalk.net

HELP REQUIRED - BRASS BAND CONCERT

If you can:

- Lend a gazebo for the bar
- Help set up the church
- Help set up the parking and/or manage it on the night
- Help move tables and chairs from the village hall and back afterwards
- Help publicise the event
- Sell tickets
- Serve at the bar

please contact Penny pennycory@yahoo.co.uk or 01327 700550



CHAPEL RE-DECORATION

Another thank you to those who helped move the furniture from the chapel to the village hall prior to its decoration. (There will be a re-run in the opposite direction on a date yet to be confirmed.) We're making the most of the empty chapel by treating the floor, and mending and washing the curtains. Once it's finished I hope you'll take a moment to pop your head round the door and see what we've done.



FAWSLEY

Correspondent - Vacant

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

The APCM will be held on the 6th May at 3pm in St Mary's church Fawsley.

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

If you would like to be on the Electoral Roll of St Mary's church Fawsley then please contact Vivienne Baker

(v.j.baker@outlook.com)

CHURCHYARD

There are a lot of weeds taking root around the church on the stone pathway. If you could spare an hour to spray weed killer on the weeds it would be very much appreciated.

Please contact Vivienne Baker
(v.j.baker@outlook.com)



PRESTON CAPES

Correspondent - Claire Hoare
caghoare@gmail.com

	Reader	Sidesman	Cleaning / Flowers
10 May	Heather Wilson	Gerard Hoare	Pauline Clarke & Maureen Franks / Sheila Bull
24 May	Mireya Weaver	Peter Smith	

PLEASE NOTE OUR SERVICE TIMES ARE NO LONGER THE LAST COLUMN OF THE SERVICE LIST - NOW EVERDON HAS JOINED THE BENEFICE.

THIS HAS CAUSED SOME CONFUSION!

PERFECT PLANT SALE AND COFFEE
MORNING AT THE OLD RECTORY
Monday 11th May, 10.00 - 13.00

Come along to buy your summer plants, enjoy the gardens and have a cup of coffee with your friends. Cakes and marmalade for sale.

CHURCH ROOF PROJECT

Work started on time with stripping off the aged lead covering. Interestingly a lead worker's signature thereon gave the name of J. Bire 1896, dating when the roof was laid 130 years ago!

Inspection of the timbers beneath the lead has exposed some problems and need for a skilled joiner. This has stopped work for a week or so. We are very grateful to have just received generous grants from the Davidge Usher Trust and Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust.

THE FLAG OF ST. GEORGE

The PCC wonders if anyone would like to give a new flag in memory of a loved one? It is a fine way to remember someone dear and benefits the parish too. Please contact a PCC member.

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

The next session is planned for Saturday 16th May, 0930 to 1130.
We need as many helpers as possible so please just turn up. Tools are provided but bring your favourites. Gerard Hoare is organiser.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

This month's meeting is on Tuesday, 26th May, starting at 7.30pm in the village hall. Our speaker is David Saint, with a talk entitled *Stages – My Life On and Off*. Guests and prospective members welcome – please contact our secretary Diane French at highlatches@aol.com if you would like to join us.

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Our coffee morning will be on Friday, 22nd May, from 10.30am to noon. Tea/coffee and biscuits - £1.00. Slice of cake - £1.50.

Once again, the WI will be selling a small selection of cakes and plants at each coffee morning – come early to get the best choice!



EVERDON

Correspondent - Nigel Platts
nigelplatts53@gmail.com

	Sidesman / Reader
10 May	Charles Coaker
24 May	Karen Kingston
31 May	Nigel Platts

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

The Morning Worship on the second Sunday of April proved very successful. It is a shorter, more informal service with croissants and coffee available afterwards. This service will be

repeated on 10th May at 9:30 with the same format. Everyone is welcome.

On the fourth Sunday in May (24th) at 9:30 we have a Holy Communion service taken by Revd Mark Betson.

A Holy Communion service will also be held on 31 May at 10:00 which will be a Benefice Service taken by Revd Greg Shaw from Badby. Everyone in the Knightley Benefice is warmly invited and we look forward to hosting this service.

VILLAGE HALL

A **coffee morning** is held in the Village Hall from 10:30 to 12:00 on the first Thursday of each month. Everyone is welcome.

The **Bluebell Teas** will be served in the Village Hall from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Saturday 2nd May, Sunday 3rd May and Bank Holiday Monday the 4th May.

Back In Time Dance, 27 June 2026
Tickets will go on sale in early May. Last year was a sell-out. Entrance is by ticket only with a real ale and wine bar available on the night.

Tickets cost £12.50 each (which includes a hot pork roll). Tickets can be bought from Steve Blason (01327 361881) or Nigel Platts (07908 324505). All proceeds go completely towards Church Restoration.



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:

May

- 2,3,4 Everdon Bluebell teas
- 3-4 Badby Bluebell teas
- 5 Newnham PCC
- 6 Charwelton PCC
- 11 Perfect plant sale Preston Capes
- 12 Charwelton APCM
- 17 Badby NGS Open Gardens & Teas
- 23 Newnham History Soc.
- 24 Newnham NGS Open gardens
- 24 Bell Sunday Badby
- 29 Film Soc. BVH

June

- 3 Benefice Council
- 6 Charwelton concert by Rushden Town Band
- 13 Newnham Quiz Night VH
- 14 Newnham Open Gardens
- 20 District bellringers at Newnham 3.30pm
- 22 Badby VH AGM
- 26 Film Soc. BVH
- 27 Badby School Rose Day
- 27 Everdon Back in Time concert
- 28 Badby Bells and barbecue

July

- 2 Charwelton PCC
- 7 Newnham PCC
- 11 Newnham Music on the Green
- 12 Village History BVH
- 14 Badby PCC

- 16 Newnham coffee morning
- 18 District bellringers at Badby 3.00pm
- 18 District bellringers Charwelton 7.00pm
- 31 Film Soc. BVH

August


- 5 Benefice Council
- 21 Film Soc. BVH
- 31 Everdon Fete

September

- 1 Newnham PCC
- 3 Charwelton PCC
- 8 Badby PCC
- 13 Badby Fayre and Annual Show
- 19 Newnham Comedy Night
- 25 Film Soc. BVH
- 26 Charwelton Macmillan Coffee Morning

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October

- 3-5 Charwelton Harvest weekend
- 17 Film Soc. opera BVH

November

- 3 Newnham PCC
- 5 Charwelton PCC
- 10 Badby PCC
- 13 Newnham Movie Night cinema

- 14 Film Soc. opera BVH
- 27 Film Soc. BVH
- 27 Charwelton Christmas Bingo

December

- 2 Benefice Council
- 6 Badby Church Fair
- 11 Film Soc. BVH
- 29 Charwelton Pantomime

NOTABLE DATES IN MAY

1 May. 1707 The Union between England and Scotland is proclaimed.

2 May. 1611 The Authorised Version of the Bible (King James Version) was first published, and became the standard English language Bible.

4 May. 1471 The Battle of Tewkesbury, the last battle in the Wars of the Roses, took place; Edward IV's Yorkists defeated the Lancastrians.

6 May. 1954 Roger Bannister was the first man to run a mile in under 4 minutes, at the Iffley Road Sports Ground, Oxford, England.

7 May. 1945 Nazi Germany surrendered to the Allies at Rheims and the war in Europe ended. VE Day is celebrated across Europe and North America on the following day.

12 May. 1926 Britain's Trades Union Congress called off the General Strike that had brought the nation to a standstill for nine days. Workers across the country had downed tools in support of miners, protesting against a wage cut.

13 May. 1607 Riots took place in Northamptonshire and other Midland counties of England in protest at widespread enclosure of common land.

16 May. 1943 RAF Lancaster bombers caused chaos to Nazi German industry by destroying two huge dams. Dr Barnes Wallis's bouncing bombs skimmed the surface of the water to reach their targets.

24 May. 1809 Dartmoor Prison in Devon is opened to house French prisoners of war.

28 May. 1759 Birthday of William Pitt (the Younger), English statesman who became the youngest ever British Prime Minister at the age of 24.

30 May. 1536 Eleven days after he had his wife Anne Boleyn beheaded, King Henry VIII marries Jane Seymour, former lady-in-waiting to Anne.



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Go, go, go

It's trowels at the ready for summer bedding. Cosmos, marigolds, petunias and other frost-sensitive plants can go into borders and containers after mid-May — as can tomatoes, courgettes, runner beans and similar veg started indoors. Prepare soil by removing weeds and lightly loosening compacted areas. Add a little compost to each planting hole and water plants before and after planting so moisture reaches the roots.

For containers: if they're mostly topsoil or have permanent plants, refresh the top few inches with compost and an organic fertiliser. If they're filled with last year's compost, start afresh — ideally an 80:20 topsoil/compost mix for better water retention.

Young bedding and veg often look small, so it's tempting to plant too close. But they grow fast once outside. Follow spacing instructions — usually 6– inches — to avoid overcrowding.

Stop, stop, stop

Delay planting if frost is still possible, or cover new plants with fleece during cold snaps.

Ideally, harden off indoor-grown plants for around two weeks. Move them outside by day and back in at night, or use a cold frame or fleece — uncover by day, re-cover at night. A gentle transition avoids stress and stalled growth.

Stake, stake, stake

Some energetic plants wobble once they start flowering, especially taller delphiniums, hollyhocks, lupins, and taller varieties of asters, dahlias and similar perennials.

Now is the ideal time to add stakes while the soil is soft and growth is still manageable. Tie flowering shoots to individual canes or bamboo stakes, or use grow-through supports that allow plants to rise through them naturally. This gives a neater look in summer and avoids the awkwardness of adding supports too late.

Harvest strawberries

Strawberries ripen rapidly in June. Pick them early in the day when they're firm, and check plants daily to avoid over ripening. Remove spoiled fruit promptly to discourage pests and disease. Any surplus berries can be frozen or turned into jam.

Snip herbs

Regularly harvesting herbs keeps them bushy and compact, and improves flavour. I also like to leave a few stems untrimmed for their flowers — pollinators appreciate them just as much as we do.

Control tomatoes

Tomato plants transform in June from polite young seedlings into rampant growers. Left unchecked, shoots appear everywhere, making it harder to support plants and maintain good airflow.

To keep control, remove side shoots — the ones that grow between the main stem and leaf — when they're about an inch long, using finger and thumb or secateurs. Check weekly. But leave side shoots alone on bush or trailing varieties, which are naturally compact.

Water wisely

As temperatures rise, efficient watering becomes essential. Early mornings or late evenings reduce evaporation.

Focus on watering the roots rather than the leaves — and water more deeply but less often to encourage stronger, deeper root systems and more resilient plants. For thirsty crops like tomatoes, and for new permanent planting such as shrubs, a mulch helps retain moisture by insulating the soil surface and feeding the soil. Compost works well as a mulch when applied about two inches deep.

Right, I'm off to weed and relocate a few slugs eyeing up my lettuce.

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As well as standard agenda material, the main topics for discussion at the **April meeting** included the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting, maintenance of the Burial Ground and councillor recruitment.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** is a legacy from the Middle Ages when local councils did not exist, and decision making was carried out by the whole community. It is not a Parish Council meeting but is a forum to generate discussion about village issues. This year' meeting will be the first opportunity to discuss a potential **Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)** on the Playing Field, and we would welcome residents' views. There will also be short presentations from local groups and organisations about their activities. This year' **Annual Parish Meeting** is on **Tuesday 12th May at 7pm** in the Village Hall.

The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of **Newnham Burial Ground** and this includes checking that the tombstones are stable. Currently there are around 10 headstones that are unstable which may result in them being laid on the ground to make them safe. If you require further information about any graves at the Burial Ground, please get in touch by emailing clerk@newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

With two councillor vacancies, we found ourselves in the unusual but positive situation of having more interested parties than vacancies! We would like to thank all the residents that applied and are pleased to welcome Robin Levin and Pat Bannerman to Newnham Parish Council.

On the last Sunday in March, around 15 volunteers turned out to pick up litter, wash street signs, and clean the equipment at the playing field – the Parish Council would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part! Litter around the village is not generally a problem, but unfortunately a few antisocial motorists discard their rubbish on the roads out of the village, which spoils the environment for us all.

The **grass-mowing** season is well under way. The Parish Council is responsible for the mowing of the Greens, open spaces, verges within the village, the Churchyard and the Burial Ground. Grass will be mown weekly until July, then fortnightly thereafter. If you feel that areas are being missed, please contact the Council so that we can bring this to the attention of the contractor.

Sadly, the roads are not as well-maintained, and the Parish Council encourage people to report any issues (including potholes) via www.fixmystreet.com. The more times a concern is reported, the greater the likelihood that the WNC Highways team will resolve it.

At the meeting, Mary Wood, " warden of **St Michael and All Angels Church**, gave an overview of the church operation. The church is the only Grade 1 listed building in the village and is managed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC). They are responsible for the entire cost of maintaining the building, receiving no income other than that raised by the Parish. Outgoings are around £20,000 per year and money is raised from events such as Open Gardens, bingo and concerts, and donations through the Parish Giving Scheme but in recent years this has not been sufficient to meet the Diocese' requirements. If anyone would like to contribute, please contact Andrew Banks (nuttery@btinternet.com) who co-ordinates the Parish Giving Scheme. The Church is available for use by other village groups and organisations, and this is welcomed and encouraged by the PCC.

Don' forget to check out the village website www.newnhamvillage.co.uk to find out what is coming up, including **Open Gardens on 24th May** and **Music on the Green on 11th July**.

The **next Parish Council Meeting** is **Monday 11th May**, starting at **7.00pm** in the **Village Hall**. For agendas and minutes go to www.newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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