

THE LINK

The Magazine of The Knightley Parishes

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Rushden Town Band



Saturday 6th June at 7.30pm

Tickets £10 (£5 for 16 and under) davidpound1939@talktalk.net

June 2026

No. 418



THE KNIGHTLEY PARISHES

www.knightleybenefice.org.uk

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

Services for June 2026

	7 June I Trinity 1	14 June II Trinity 2	21 June III Trinity 3	28 June IV Trinity 4	5 July I Trinity 5
Badby	11:00 Holy Communion CW [GS]	11:00 Morning Worship [Lay SR]	10:00 United Benefice Service of Holy Communion BCP at Fawsley [GS]	11:00 Morning Worship [Lay HW]	11:00 <i>Holy Communion</i> CW [AoN]
Newnham	X	X		11:00 Holy Communion CW [MB]	X
Charwelton	X	X		09:15 Holy Communion BCP (Church) [MB]	09:15 <i>Holy Communion</i> BCP (Church) [AoN]
Fawsley	X	11:00 Holy Communion BCP [AoN]		X	X
Preston Capes	X	09:15 Holy Communion CW [AoN]		10:00 Morning Prayer BCP [Lay GH]	X
Everdon	X	09:30 Morning Worship CW [Lay SR]		X	X

OTHER SERVICES

Tuesday 23 June

6.30 pm

Badby

ESOW

SUNDAY READINGS

Principal Service CW

- for other services see Lectionary

Date	Feast	OT Reading	NT Reading	Gospel
7 June	Trinity 1	Hos. 5,15 - 6,6	Rom. 4, 13-25	Matt. 9, 9-13 & 18-26
14 June	Trinity 2	Exod. 19, 2-8a	Rom. 5, 1-8	Matt. 9,35 - 10.8
21 June	Trinity 3	Jer. 20, 7-13	Rom. 6, 1b-11	Matt. 10, 24-39
28 June	Trinity 4	Jer. 28, 5-9	Rom. 6, 12-end	Matt. 10, 40-end
5 July	Trinity 5	Zech. 9, 9-12	Rom. 7, 15-25a	Matt. 11,16-19 & 25-end



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EDITORIAL

The bluetits are doing well this year, with 11 eggs having been laid by 25 April. On 6 May they started to hatch over the course of only a few hours, with a parent helping to remove the shells from some of them. The larger pieces of shell were taken away from the nest by one of the adults while they seemed to eat many of the smaller bits

And as I write this 9 chicks are being fed by the (presumably exhausted) parents! It is a wonderful sight to see these 9 open mouths as soon as they sense the approach of one of the adults.

On a less happy avian note, we found last week a beautiful woodpecker dead on our terrace. It seemed as though she (it was a female) had flown head first into one of the conservatory windows on one of her frequent visits to the bird feeder. There were no external signs of her having been attacked - though I wasn't inclined to do a post-mortem! But the birds we see most of are goldfinches. Positively hordes of them all over the feeders. They clearly love the sunflower hearts we put in them.

I read recently a letter from someone who had, along with all her neighbours, stopped feeding the birds in accordance with advice from the RSPB and she was complaining that all the birds had disappeared! That surely is a prime example of the Law of Unintended (though entirely foreseeable) Consequences!

Our local sparrow hawk is much in evidence, and much as we don't like to see him/her make off with a smaller bird, I suppose that this is all part of the grand scheme of things and we shouldn't get too upset about it.

The hedgehogs are still thriving, and visiting every evening. We never see more than

one at a time, but there are clearly several of different sizes paying visits from time to time. However our neighbour, while working in his lambing shed, found a nest of 5 hoglets of about a week old. Unfortunately once having been disturbed their mother did not return to feed them, but they are now in the care of Smudge's Hedgehog Sanctuary and appear at the time of writing to be doing as well as can be expected.

The other noticeable feature (noticeable from our bedroom windows at least) is the effect of the hard (by local standards) frost of the night of 11/12 May. The tops of all our beech hedges look as if they have been torched with a flame gun! It also knocked out all my runner beans which I had inadvisedly planted out a few days beforehand. Fortunately I had a reserve supply still growing in the greenhouse so I was able to replace them as soon as the weather warmed up.

As the bluebells are fading, they have been replaced by a wonderful crop of buttercups. Travelling from Charwelton village to the church through almost a mile of open fields the sight is quite spectacular - one of the best years I can remember.

David



PASTORAL LETTER

Beginnings and Endings

As June arrives, perhaps some of us sense a gentle invitation to pause and notice where we are. The weeks ahead carry a particular energy for me, a feeling that something is drawing to a close, even as new possibilities begin to open up. For many households, June marks the end of exams and years of study, bringing a heady mix of relief, tiredness and excitement.

This year, that feels especially close, as my son Noah comes to the end of his GCSEs. Like many families, we've lived with revision timetables, quiet encouragement, lots of snacks and prayers, all held alongside that familiar question: *what comes next?*

Across our communities, others will be marking different endings and beginnings too. The school year begins to wind down, projects reach their conclusion, and routines soften as summer draws closer. Even the natural world joins in. Spring's freshness gives way to the smell of barbecues and freshly cut grass. Days stretch long into the evening, gardens flourish, and light seems to linger as if reluctant to leave.

In every season of life, God remains our constant. While our circumstances shift and change, God's faithful presence does not. Scripture reminds us that God walks with us through endings and beginnings alike, offering hope when outcomes are still unknown, peace while we wait, and reassurance as new possibilities unfold.



Christian hope is not about having all the answers, but about trusting the One who holds them. As we journey through June, my prayer is that we may notice what is ending, celebrate what is beginning, and step forward with confidence and joy, trusting that God is already there, welcoming us into all that lies ahead.

Becky Dyball

*The Revd Becky Dyball
Bishop's Missioner*

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 meet will be on 23 June. There is always a brief talk about someone inspirational. All welcome!

BADBY AND DISTRICT FILM SOCIETY

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]

Friday 26th June: The Penguin Lessons (2024)

Based on the best-selling 2015 memoir by a former teacher, who becomes politically aware after he adopts a penguin during a cataclysmic period in Argentine history. Directed by Peter Cattaneo [The Full Monty] and starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce. It's a poignant true-story heart warmer, "elevated by a winning performance from Coogan, with a little help from a loveable pint-sized companion." [112 mins, 12 certificate]





Ruth Mackman, celebrant

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ruthmackman@btinternet.com
www.ruthmackman.co.uk

PARISH NOTICES

BADBY

Correspondent - Geoff Pullin (gcsspullin@yahoo.com)

website: www.badby-pc.gov.uk

	Reader	Sidesman	Coffee
7 Jun	F. Williams P. Wakeford	J. Jordan C. Richards	C. Wakeford
14 Jun	C. Richards J. Hall	N. Shaw J. Hall	G. Nelson
28 Jun	J. Jordan G. Nelson	P. Wakeford C. Wakeford	N. Shaw

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR JUNE

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

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

- 23 May - 6 June Karen Brown; 6 - 20 June Kay Purnell; 20 June - 4 July Jo Hind.

ALLOTMENTS

We are delighted to welcome three new members. There are a few plots left and it's not too late to start growing your own vegetables this year. Please email Jilly Howell Williams on jillyhw@btinternet.com.

BADBY BELLS & BBQ

There will be a professional barbecue in The Old Forge next door to the tower from 1 - 5pm on Sunday 28 June. Each BBQ ticket includes chicken, steak burger and sausage, with salad, cheese and home-made puddings. Tickets in

advance please at £20 from Judy Jordan
judyjordan27@gmail.com. Please bring your
own drink.

T 4 U

Do come along to the village hall on Friday 5
June between 2.30 and 4.30pm. Hot and cold
drinks with cakes and chat, in sunshine we
hope!

BADBY & FARTHINGSTONE CRICKET CLUB

The summer got underway with a home fixture
against old rivals Crick Lions. The sun shone
and the clubhouse looked spick and span.
Crick batsmen plundered our bowling for over
200 runs in the allotted 30 overs, 40 runs too
much for the home side. A similar story

unfolded at Offchurch, who scored 223 in 35
overs, B&FCC fell well short, all out for 109!
The club as ever welcomes any new players
who want to play friendly, social cricket at the
beautiful ground. The club is also seeking local
sponsors to support its development plans.
Contact chairman Andy Nightingale at
andynightingale234@gmail.com

BADBY RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Members will be meet in the village hall on
Tuesday, 9 June at 2pm with their chosen piece
of music by a composer or an artist whose
significant anniversary falls this year, e.g.
Benjamin Britten who died 50 years ago. There
are a lot to choose from this year! Further
details from Pat Eaton on 01327 705326.

GUITAR CONCERT


We sadly confirm that this event has been
cancelled due to indisposition of the guitarist.

COFFEE MORNING

All are welcome as usual at St. Mary's on
Tuesday 16 June from 10.30am till noon.
Freshly made coffee, tea and cakes, and a
chance to witness the monthly draw.

VILLAGE HALL

Thank you to everyone who helped, baked,
served, guided cars or attended the village hall
Bluebell Teas over the bank holiday. Despite
the weather being less than ideal, together we
raised over £2,900 to support the hall and
facilities. The new courtyard was well used
and fully met all our hopes. A really great
result, so well done everyone.
The Village Hall Annual General Meeting will be
held at 7pm on Monday 22 June. The agenda
will be posted on noticeboards and the
website. All residents of Badby or Fawsley
aged 18 or over are warmly invited to attend.



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BADBY PEOPLE AND PLACES - A NEW EXHIBITION

On Sunday 12th July, from 1 to 5pm, we are presenting an exhibition in the village hall about Badby and its past. It will look at how our village has developed, featuring people, families, and events. We are also keen to gather memories about Badby right up to the present day. Do you have photos showing how the village has changed, or of notable events or people? Do you know about past generations of your family or your home? Please come on 12 July to enjoy your Sunday afternoon and if you have something that you would like to share, please talk to any of us about it in advance (Helen Morris, Hilary Mensah, Ann Skinner, Geoff Pullin, Pat Butler, Peter Cooper) or email us at badbyhistorygroup@gmail.com.

RIDE AND STRIDE

Why not walk, run, ride or take the car and visit as many churches as you can in our lovely countryside on Saturday 12 September 10 am to 6 pm. Get people to sponsor you as 50% of the money raised goes to the church of your choice. Please support Badby church so we can continue for many generations to come! Sponsor forms can be obtained from Chris Richards, Meadow View, Bunkers Hill.

BADBY FAYRE

Would you like to run a stall at this year's

Badby Fayre, on Sunday 13 September. There are many people already hard at work preparing for it, and we'd love to have more people join us! So please let one of the Churchwardens know if you could offer your skill and time to run a stall, prize draw, children's games, help with parking etc.

BADBY AND FAWSLEY WI

Put on your dancing shoes for our next meeting on Thursday 11 Jun! Emma Pettitt will be introducing us to Dance for Fitness and Fun. New members are very welcome. To arrange a free taster 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

BADBY NGS OPEN GARDENS – MAY 2026

We had fair weather for Badby's NGS open gardens on 17 May, the rain stayed away almost until the end of the afternoon which was much better than had been expected! Four gardens were open this year, including one for the first time, and we had over 200 visitors, raising just over £1,400 for the NGS nursing charities from ticket and plant sales. The delicious cakes and teas raised £710 for the church too. Our grateful thanks to everyone involved in making this such a successful day.

Karen Brown



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NEWNHAM

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

MAY 200 CLUB DRAW

£50 Prize -No 16 - Mrs J Tennant
£25 Prize - No 51 - Mrs L Spires
£25 Prize - No 166 - Mr & Mrs Shepherd
£25 Prize - No 42 - Mr J Bradley

CLASSICS and COFFEE

Saturday 25th April dawned bright and sunny and by 10'00 am Westbrook was filled with an eclectic mix of interesting vehicles. The undoubted star of this our 4th Classics and Coffee morning was Dominic's London Transport double decker Routemaster bus on which he gave rides to Badby ! A very useful £250 was raised for Church funds. Thank you to all those who displayed a vehicle and to those who came to view, not forgetting of course the coffee/tea team.

FOOD BANK

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

NEWNHAM OPEN GARDENS

14th June 1pm until 5pm.

Come and visit nine of Newnham's secret treasures. Gardens small and large but all loving treasured. Plant sales, crafts and refreshments all available. Monies raised support our Village Hall.

NEWNHAM QUIZ NIGHT

Newnham Village Hall 13th June 7pm for 7.30pm start. Teams of four. £12 per team. Bar, hot dogs and lots of prizes.

NEWNHAM WI

18th June at 7.30pm in Newnham Village Hall Marie O'Riley will speak of her adventures sailing the Atlantic in the Transglobe Challenge. Guests welcome £6 per person

MUSIC ON THE GREEN

- save the date. 11th July.

Our annual party of music, fun and refreshments approaches. Don't miss out on all the fun.



CHARWELTON

Correspondent - David Pound
(davidpound1939@talktalk.net)

	Reader/Sidesman	Flowers
28 June	David Pound	Graham White
5 July	Elizabeth Bird	

Chapel Cleaning	
June	Graham White
July	Meryl Nicholls

VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

New heating now installed.
Kitchen to be re painted.
We are exploring the possibility of having acoustic panels fitted to improve the sound quality in the hall.
We now move on to the replacing of 2 windows.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Charwelton Open Gardens 2026

Sunday 5th July.

We have six glorious gardens open this year, between 1pm and 5pm with refreshments in

the village hall.
 Field parking adjacent to the hall (at own risk).
 Plants for sale, all within a compact stroll of
 the village.
 Pub open as well, save the date!

Quiz night 18th. September

Armistice Day Breakfast 8th. November
 further details will be available soon.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

At the Parish Meeting on 12th May, Graham White was re-elected Church Warden. At the APCM immediately following, the existing members of the PCC agreed to stand for a further year and were duly reappointed. At the PCC meeting that followed, Meryl Nicholls was re-elected Deanery Synod Rep, Penny Cory agreed to continue as Secretary and Freddy Arthur agreed to continue as Treasurer. It was recorded that the Electoral Roll stands at 15, unchanged from last year.

AND JUST IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED THE BLITZ OF PUBLICITY...

Rushden Town Band are back at our Church-in-the-fields on Saturday 6th June at 7.30. There aren't many places where you can hear live music in such an idyllic setting, an experience which those attending last year would doubtless agree shouldn't be missed. There will be a raffle, bar and a bespoke loo. The gates will be manned (thanks Freddy, Kitty and family) and there'll be ample parking. Tickets can be purchased from David Pound by emailing davidpound1939@talktalk.net



Beware of unscrupulous ticket touts!

100 CLUB

Winners of the 100 club have been,:

April No 72 Serve Allen
 May No 90 Peter Merrills



FAWSLEY

Correspondent - Vacant

THANK YOU

Thank you very much to the kind person who has planted colourful flowers in the metal baskets outside the North door of the church.

They make a welcoming entrance to the church and your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.



PRESTON CAPES

Correspondent - Claire Hoare
 caghoare@gmail.com

	Reader	Sidesman	Cleaning
14 Jun	John Wilshire	Gerard Hoare	Beverley
28 Jun	Kevin Smith	V Brassey	Bayne & Ruth Quilter
Flowers - Scilla Smith			

PERFECT PLANT SALE

The plant sale and coffee morning was held on a wet morning on 11th May. In spite of the weather it was well attended, and the customers were generous. Many thanks to Tic and Luke Bridgeman for hosting it, and providing plants, Tim and Heather Wilson for supplying many plants and cakes, along with others,

David Grahamslaw, Penny Eves, Mireya Weaver and Claire Hoare. Thanks also to the car parking attendants, gate keepers, plant sales and our indomitable team serving coffee and biscuits in the rain. Gerard Hoare, Mike and Penny Eves, David and Juli Grahamslaw, Mike Scragg and Chris Lumbis, Peter and Scilla Smith, Jane Arblaster, Beverley Bayne, V Brasseley, Pauline Clarke, Maureen Franks, without whom the morning could not have worked. After counting the takings, such wet notes they had to be dried out first! A figure of just over £2000 raised towards the upkeep of the church. Our thanks to all involved.

CHURCH ROOF

Our snag with a major roof timber joint is to be fixed in May but has involved additional permissions to safeguard the Listed church structure.

We are very sorry the church has had to be locked 24/7 for so long. It is necessary for safety and storage reasons. (Services not affected).

If anyone would like to view the craftsmanship and sight of the laid terne coated stainless steel covering in due course while scaffolding is still present, please would they let Gerard Hoare know. The covering cannot otherwise be seen!

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

A small but dedicated group assembled on 16th May. Thank you to those who came to help that morning.

Many thanks to the group who gathered on the 16th May and energetically tackled some important maintenance issues.

There is always visible proof of the work done afterwards, but we need some volunteers who are under 50! to stretch this impact going forward.

Thank you all.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 9th June in the Village Hall 7.30

The time table for the rest of the year is as follows:

9th June
14th July
NO AUGUST MEETING
8th September
13th October
NO NOVEMBER MEETING
8th. December

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

This month local Northamptonshire author and artist, Derek Blunt, will be giving an illustrated, light-hearted talk entitled *To the Manor Born*. His presentation explores the fascinating histories, quirks and stories behind Northamptonshire's "big houses" and their eccentric owners.

The meeting is on Tuesday, 23rd June, in the village hall, starting at 7.30pm. 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 takes place on Friday, 26th June, from 10.30am to noon. Tea/coffee and biscuits - £1.50. Slice of cake - £1.00.

Once again, the WI will be selling a small selection of cakes and plants in aid of WI funds.

EVERDON

Correspondent - Nigel Platts
nigelplatts53@gmail.com

DIARY

	Sidesman / Reader
14 Jun	Anne Ford

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

June services are more limited this month due to the Church being used for other activities. The popular and informal Morning Worship service is taking place at 09:30 on 14th June, led by Susan Rose. Croissants and coffee are available afterwards.

CONCERT

On Friday 19th June the Knightley Singers are performing their Summer Concert in the Church, starting at 7:00 pm. Tickets are £14 (including refreshments); children get in free. For tickets call 01327 312433 / 361757 / 361386.

DANCE

On Saturday 27th June the annual Back in Time Dance is being held. Doors open at 6:00 pm, music starts at 7:15 pm. Entry by ticket only is £12.50 including a hot pork roll. For tickets call Steve 07768 998153 or Nigel 07908 324505.

APCM

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 23rd April, Nigel Platts and Karen Kingston were elected as Churchwardens. Immediately afterwards, other matters were discussed and annual accounts for 2025 were agreed. A copy of these was posted on the Church notice board.

VILLAGE HALL

Coffee morning on 4th June, 10:30 – 12 :00.
Everyone welcome

This diary records the proposed dates of any benefice, parish or village events. We hope that this will help those planning such events to know what else is going on and therefore be able to avoid any unhelpful clashes of dates.

If you know, or become aware, of events which ought to be recorded please let David Pound, or your village Link correspondent, know.

Events known about so far are:

June

- 3 Benefice Council at Charwelton Chapel
- 6 Charwelton concert by Rushden Town Band
- 13 Newnham Quiz Night VH
- 14 Newnham Open Gardens
- 19 Knightley Singers Everdon
- 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 dance
- 28 Badby Bells and barbecue

July

- 2 Charwelton PCC
- 5 Charwelton Open Gardens
- 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
- 18 Charwelton Quiz Night
- 19 Newnham Comedy Night
- 25 Film Soc. BVH
- 26 Charwelton Macmillan Coffee Morning
- 26 Newnham Band concert

October

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

November

- 3 Newnham PCC
- 5 Charwelton PCC
- 8 Charwelton Armistice Breakfast
- 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



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Historical Dates in June

1 June. 1946 Television licences were issued in Britain for the first time; they cost £2.

6 June. 1944 D-Day. The invasion of Europe by the Allies

8 June. 1042 Harthacnut, King of England and Denmark, died drunk; he was succeeded in England by his adopted heir, Edward the Confessor,

9 June. 1870 Charles Dickens died of a stroke at his home in Gad's Hill Place, Kent.

10 June. 1829 The Oxford team won the first-ever Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race.

13 June. 1944 The first V1 flying bomb, or "doodle bug" was dropped on London.

14 June. 1645 In the English Civil War, Oliver Cromwell defeated the Royalists at the Battle of Naseby, Northamptonshire.

15 June. 1215 King John and his barons met on the banks of the River Thames at Runnymede and sign the Magna Carta.

17 June. 1579 Francis Drake drops anchor off the south-west coast of America and proclaims England's sovereignty over New Albion (California).

18 June. 1815 British and Prussian forces led by the Duke of Wellington and Gebhard von Blücher defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo, in Belgium.

19 June. 1917 In the midst of World War 1 the British royal family renounced German names (Saxe-Coburg-Gotha) and titles, and adopted the name of Windsor.

20 June. 1756 In India, over 140 British subjects were imprisoned in a cell measuring only 5.4m by 4.2m ('The Black Hole of

Calcutta'); only 23 came out alive.

21 June. 1675 Construction work starts on Sir Christopher Wren's St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

22 June. 1814 The Marylebone Cricket Club and Hertfordshire play the first ever cricket match at Lord's Cricket Ground.

25 June. 1797 Admiral Horatio Nelson is wounded in the arm in a battle with the French and the limb is amputated. This follows the loss of his sight in his right eye some three years earlier.

26 June. 1483 Richard, Duke of Gloucester, began to rule England as Richard III, having deposed his nephew, Edward V. Edward and his brother, Richard, Duke of York, were imprisoned in the Tower of London and later murdered.

27 June. 1944 After 21 days of bloody fighting through the Normandy countryside, Allied forces took Cherbourg.

29 June. 1613 London's Globe Theatre was destroyed by flames as a cannon is fired to announce the king's entrance in Shakespeare's Henry V.

30 June. 1894 Tower Bridge in London was officially opened by HRH The Prince of Wales.



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NEWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN – Gary Hammersley

07887 634936 chair@newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

CLERK – Kevin Carr

clerk@newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

The May meeting was the Council's Annual Meeting, where roles for the coming year are agreed. There were no changes and with the co-opting of Pat Bannerman and Robin Levin, the Council is once again at full complement. Other items on the agenda included Burial Ground repairs, a good neighbourhood scheme and the internal audit report.

The **Annual Parish Meeting**, a legacy from the Middle Ages when local councils did not exist, took place on 12th May. As is traditionally the case, the meeting was attended by all organisations in the village, with each providing an update on the previous year's activities. The Parish Council provided a summary of the 2025-26 year, together with a break-down of the budget and the Council's reserves. This was followed by the report from the Woodford and Weedon ward councillors, Councillors Charlie Hastie and Rupert Frost. Reports were then presented from Newnham Primary School, FoNs (Friends of Newnham School), the 2nd Newnham Girl Guides, St. Michael and All Angels Church, the Women's Institute, the Book Club, the Bell Ringers, the Allotments Society, the History Society and the Village Hall Management Committee. All reports are available on the Parish Council website, www.newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

As always, the breadth of activities provided by these organisations is so impressive, as is the commitment of those volunteers involved in arranging and delivering their programmes. The village owes a debt of thanks to all those who give up their time to work on the various committees and groups.

A recurring theme was a plea for more members. The **Women's Institute** is keen for more people to attend their meetings on the third Thursday of every month. Their programme is available at www.newnhamvillage.co.uk/newnham-wi. The **Allotments Society** reported that there are vacant plots available, contact Jim Simpson (Jim.a.simpson@btinternet.com) if you are interested. The **Bell Ringers** are keen for more members; if you are interested in helping to maintain this tradition, contact James Millsop on 07580 983496. In the open forum part of the meeting, the Parish Council provided an update on the **Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)** project on the Playing Field. We are currently seeking permission from WNC, the owners of the playing field, and we will consult fully when we have a design to share.

The **'Friends of Newnham'** WhatsApp Group was also discussed. If you are interested in supporting events in the village, such as litter picks or putting up a marquee, contact Judith Dorkins on judithdorkins@btinternet.com. The meeting was also informed of the retirements of Sol Johnson, headteacher at the Primary School, and Mary Wood, warden of the Church. Both have had a significant impact on the village and our collective thanks and best wishes go to them.

Miscellaneous items:

Grass mowing - if you feel that areas are being missed, please contact the Council so that we can bring this to the attention of the contractor.

Potholes, report them on www.fixmystreet.com. The more frequently an issue is reported, the greater the likelihood that the WNC Highways team will resolve it.

Don't forget to check out the village website www.newnhamvillage.co.uk to find out what is coming up, including the **Village Hall Quiz on the 13th June** and **Music on the Green on 11th July**.

The **next Parish Council Meeting is Monday 1st June**, starting at 7.00pm in the **Village Hall**. For agendas and minutes go to www.newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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