

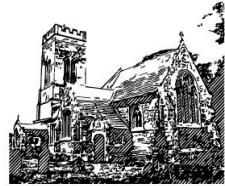
December 2025



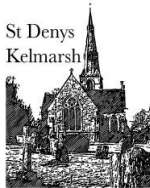
All Saints, Naseby



All Saints, Clipston



St Michael's Haselbech



St Denys
Kelmarsh

*I will honour
Christmas in my heart*

The Magazine

*And try to keep it all the year
Charles Dickens*



Welford
Congregational Chapel



St Helen's Sibbertoft



St Mary The Virgin, Welford



St Nicholas' Marston Trussell



News & Views

Haselbech, Kelmarsh, Marston Trussell,
Naseby, Welford, Sibbertoft & Clipston

DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH

United Benefice of Clipston, Haselbech, Kelmarsh, Marston Trussell, Naseby, Sibberton and Welford

Rector	Rev. Tom Grant, The Rectory, Church Lane Clipston LE16 9RW Tom@nasebygroup.org	07869 345780
Assistant Priest	Rev. Lesley Tomalin Lesley@nasebygroup.org	07943 702865
Readers	Kairen Ball, 11 Salford Close, Welford Gordon Temple 14 The Leys, Welford Valerie Carpenter, The Covers, Harborough Road Bob Tomalin, Bob@nasebygroup.org	575331 07990887635 525120 07341 301754

Magazine	Julian Howell-Jones, 83 West Street, Welford	575757
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St. Mary the Virgin, Welford

Churchwarden	Gordon Ball, 11 Salford Close	575331
Treasurer	Julie Newman, 30 Wakefield Drive, Welford	575335
Secretary	Judith Chadwick, 10 Browns Meadow	07790 906417
Organist	Alan Barraclough, 38 West End, Welford	575269
Tower Captain	Kelvin Broad, 3 Newlands Road, Welford	575683
Mothers' Union	Anne Wing, 8 Millers Road, Welford	571063

St. Helen, Sibberton

Churchwarden	Toby Jackson, Wry Furlong, Welford Rd, Sibberton	881091
Treasurer	Lesley Hartshorne, Roserie Cottage, Westhorpe, Sibberton	880112
Secretary	Viv Arrowsmith, 5 Beeches Close, Sibberton	880988

St. Nicholas, Marston Trussell

Churchwarden		
Treasurer	Chris Oatway, 9 Main Street, Marston Trussell	289516

All Saints Clipston

Churchwarden	Steve Carpenter, The Covers, Harborough Rd	525120
Treasurer/Organist	Julie Connell, The Wooden Owl, 10a The Green	525336

St Michael's, Haselbech

Churchwardens	Tess Le Sueur, Haselbech	01604686266
	Michelle Jeffrey	07785 575169
Treasurer	Michael Hopkins Orton House, Welford Road, Naseby	01604740309

St. Deny's Kelmarsh

Churchwarden	Bob Swinfen Lyndale Rectory Farm, Kelmarsh	01604686676
Treasurer	Gina Hankins Scotland Wood Farm, Kelmarsh	01604686216

All Saints, Naseby

Churchwarden	Margaret Diack 11 Hall Close, Naseby	01604743820
Treasurer	Maurice Cave 84 Church Street, Naseby	01604740388

Welford Congregational Chapel

Minister	Rev. Tony Avery	07850 052541
Treasurer /Secretary	Denise Bolton, Copper Bottom, Northampton Road,	575746

Dear Friends,

If you've ever read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, you'll remember that Narnia begins as a place where it is **"always winter and never Christmas."** Snow covers everything, but instead of magic and celebration, there is silence, fear, and waiting—a chilling picture of a world longing for light, warmth, and hope.

Yet everything changes with a whisper: **"Aslan is on the move."** The moment hope returns, something shifts. Snow softens. Birds begin to sing. And then comes a moment of pure joy—Father Christmas arrives. Not because everything is fixed, not because evil is gone, but because change has begun. Joy enters before the ending is secure, because a promise has arrived.

Advent is our season of waiting and watching. We live in a world where brokenness, uncertainty, and weariness can feel like spiritual winter. Yet Advent reminds us that God has not forgotten us. Like Narnia's thaw, the story of Jesus's birth tells us that hope is already breaking through. **Joy is on its way.**

Our Advent course (see inside magazine for more details) and prayer space in St Mary's Church, Welford (open for everyone to drop into), is inspired by Narnia and will be a wonderful opportunity to explore how Lewis's magical world relates to ours, and to the wider story of Christmas and the birth of Jesus.

As we journey toward Christmas, may we recognise this joy the way the Narnians and the children did—not as a reward once life is perfect, but as a sign that God is near. Joy grows as we remember that Jesus is **Immanuel—God with us**, not just at Christmas, but always. So do come and share the joy of Christmas this year at one of our many services across the Naseby Group of Churches.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a joy-filled New Year.

Blessings,
Tom

WINTER SERVICES IN WELFORD CHURCH

St. Mary the Virgin is a magnificent building that has hosted worship for hundreds of years, and we are confident it will continue to do so for many years to come.

However, during the winter months it is almost impossible to heat adequately, making it uncomfortable. Additionally, heating such a large space is costly and has a significant environmental impact.

In light of this, Welford Church Council (PCC) has decided to launch a pilot scheme this coming January: All 6.15pm services during this period will be held in the Billiard Room at the Village Hall.

We look forward to welcoming you to this warm and safe venue, and we welcome your feedback on this pilot scheme.

Rev'd Tom Grant

Rector of the Naseby Group

tom@nasebygroup.org

Should you have any questions or require further information about the new arrangements, please do not hesitate to get in touch with a member of the PCC or contact me directly. Your thoughts and suggestions will be invaluable as we assess the success of this initiative and consider future options for our services during the colder months.

Christmas Good Neighbours

Coffee morning with mince pies

Tuesday December 2nd

10-12



Betty's Christmas Hamper

Green's Country Kitchen

Angel and Snowmen Tree Decorations

Hyacinth Bulbs

This year Betty is again supporting prostate cancer with her annual Christmas hampers raffle. Tickets @ £1 will be on sale at the coffee morning when the draw will take place.

Our usual books (£1), jigsaws (£2) and cards will also be available. We will be serving tea, coffee, biscuits and mince pies all for £1.50! *There may even be a little Christmas surprise!*

We look forward to seeing you. All are welcome.

Jane, Sue & the Team

Marston Trussell Poppy Cascade



After an idea by Mrs Langrick and Mrs Allen , almost a year of plans and handicraft by many, far and wide, knitting ,crocheting and sewing ,the fantastic result has been displayed from the church tower.

If you have not been able to see it, or guess how many poppies are on the cascade here is where it can be viewed now. (see below).

The cascade now down. Funds have been shared between the village hall, church and the Royal British Legion.

The nearest guess and winner can be found on Nasebygroup.org

Thankyou to all on this amazing feat and your loyal support.

J.M.B.

<https://youtu.be/Pbwc-yP183I?si=dhc67O7K1OZMm7na>

<https://youtu.be/kxkbDJiRHIs?feature=shared>

PARISH MAGAZINE DELIVERY

We would like to say a big THANKYOU to all the deliverers of the magazine each month. Come rain or shine you get the job done all the year through.

May we also take the opportunity to wish you a very Happy Christmas.

Jill & Col H

SIBBERTOFT NEWS

CHRISTMAS WREATH FESTIVAL

13/14 DECEMBER 2025

11 AM - 4 PM

COME AND ENJOY A FESTIVE DISPLAY OF BEAUTIFUL WREATHS

Adult wreaths will be showcased in Saint Helens Church, while children's creations will brighten up the Reading Room. Visitors are invited to vote for their favourites, with winners announced during our festive carol service taking place after the Sunday session. Refreshments/tombola and festive hamper raffle available.

Entry by donation, supporting the upkeep of our village church and Reading Room. For further info sibbertoftreadingroom.co.uk/UpcomingEvents



St Helens Church, Church Street LE16 9UA

Reading Room Berkley Street LE16 9UF

Sibbertoft Wreath Festival December 13/14th

Hints and Tips for making your wreath.

We hope you will join in with this fun community event.

Here are some hints and tips to help start those creative ideas flowing. The aim is to make a wreath using recycled or fresh/dried hedgerow materials. In any form you like conventional or wacky.

Try to avoid buying new materials and consider using saved items such as buttons, feathers, bottle tops, old greetings cards, magazine cuttings, fabric, wool. Sticking, gluing, drawing, sewing, anything goes. Children may wish to use a cardboard dinner plate as a base to decorate.

Aim to keep your finished wreath no bigger than 45cm diameter. Put a hanging loop on and secure a tag with your name and contact number (details will be recorded and an anonymous code will be attached for voting purposes).

Wreaths will need to be finished and delivered to church (Adult) or Reading Room (Children) by 11th December.

If possible we would like to leave wreaths on display for the festive season. However we understand some may wish to use them at home so please feel free to collect from the 15th December. Please inform Lesley by whatsapp or email if you are planning on entering a wreath by 7th December. Thank you

lesley1702@aol.com/07765256552

Open to anyone in the benefice.

Sunday Teas Review 2025

Another record breaking year with visitor numbers in excess of all previous years. Several weeks we were close to selling out of cakes and clients were often found queuing out of the door. Spirits were high and people were understanding that they had to wait a little longer than normal to be served. Thanks to everyone who helped in anyway (particularly some of our visitors who often helped by clearing plates and in some cases assisting with the washing up!)

Sadly we lost one of our key Tea team members in December last year - Sue Parsons. Sue and David moved into the village 4 years ago and immediately immersed themselves in village life. Sue's baking skills were much admired her signature bakes being Scones and Meringues. We celebrated Sue's life at the end of the 2025 season when David, family and friends hosted the last Sunday teas in aid of Macmillan Nursing raising £720.00. Sue you are remembered fondly and David thanks for your continued support.

I think this year has been notable in that there has been a very positive and happy vibe on a Sunday afternoon amongst tea team members. New people have joined in and great community friendships have developed. On many occasions I chatted to our visiting public who express how much they enjoy coming to Sibbertoft Sunday Teas. The quality and choice of cakes, good service and a friendly face. Plus the opportunity to buy home made produce, cut flowers and plants all in the lovely warm atmosphere of our much loved reading room. This can only happen because so many people volunteer to help in many different ways. You know who you are and we can not do it without you.

Total Income for the year

Teas £9851.00, Jam/Plants/flowers £2002, Book Sale £98 total £11951.00 less expenses £815.

Net £11,136. This figure is higher than 2024 without the increased footfall generated by an Open Gardens event.

In addition a further £2000 was raised during the last 4 weeks for the following good causes.

The Reading Room upkeep. Clipston School association, Guide Dogs and Macmillan Nursing.

The running costs of Saint Helens church is in excess of £20,000 a year (excluding any major building or repair work). We receive no grants. All income generated comes from the PCC organising fund raising events, service collections and voluntary donations. Sunday Teas allows us to keep our village church open for present and future generations. A huge Thank you once again to each and everyone of you who volunteer your time, make cakes and support us in anyway.

The Christmas Wreath Festival takes place on 13/14th December. This is a joint fundraiser with the Reading Room and promises to be a very special community event. Please can we encourage you and your children to get involved and make a wreath. Lots of information on village social media, church and village websites. Or email lesley1702@aol.com/ whats app 07765256552.

On behalf of the Tea Team, Caroline, Jose, Moyra, Jenny and Lesley we wish you and your family a happy Christmas and peaceful New year. We look forward to your continued support in 2026.

Lesley H

WI November Meeting

26 members and 1 guest were welcomed by President Denise Bott. Following the singing of Jerusalem, thanks were given to Pauline Underhill for the coffee meet up at Hotel Chocolat in Market Harborough, to Christine O'Reilly for organising the birthday meal at Lutterworth Golf Club on November 18th and for laying our wreath on Remembrance Sunday, to Sue Brotherton and Sue Walton for the much enjoyed skittles evening and to members who attended Sue Swales's funeral. November's coffee meet up was at the Christmas Tree Farm.

We had a very interesting talk by Kay Andrews on canal art and she brought lots of her wonderfully painted items for sale.

Also, on sale were delightful angels and snowmen tree decorations, made by the craft group raising money for our charity Rainbows Hospice. They will be on sale again at the Good Neighbours coffee morning.

The competition table for a boat scene, organised by Mary Crowther was won by 1st Lynne Sharpely 2nd Jane Cottrell and 3rd Josie Coles. The raffle organised by Pauline Matthew was won by Val Morson, Janet Mills and Val Jackson. Teas were provided by Julie Cromack, Val Jackson and Maureen James and birthday flowers were provided by Denise Cattell.

The next meeting is our Christmas party which is for members only.

January is Women In Blue - A woman's view from the police front line by Fay Tennet. New members welcome.



JC

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. Which country donates the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square?
2. What did my true love give to me on the eighth day of Christmas?
3. What is the name of Scrooge's cheerful nephew in Christmas Carol?
4. What makes Frosty the Snowman come to life?
5. What was the first Christmas song to be broadcast from space?
6. In which country is KFC traditionally eaten on Christmas Day?
7. In 'It's a Wonderful Life' what happened every time a bell rang?
8. What is the highest grossing Christmas movie of all time?
9. What would the Reindeers not allow Rudolf to do?
10. How many ghosts appear in 'A Christmas Carol'?
11. What animals were present when Jesus was born?
12. In the Bible, what did the Innkeeper say to Mary and Joseph?
13. Which character says 'God Bless us everyone'?
14. How many Christmas broadcasts were made by Queen Elizabeth II?
15. Who wrote 'In the Bleak Midwinter'?

1. Norway 2. Maids a milking 3. Fred 4. Hat 5. Jingle Bells 6. Japan 7. An angel got its wings 8. Home Alone 9. Join in reindeer games 10. Four 11. None 12. Nothing recorded 13. Tiny Tim 14. 69 15. Christina Rossetti

CHAPEL COMMENT



Christmas Blessings

From your friends and fellow Christians at Welford Chapel

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God

And saying "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and goodwill towards men"

We hear these words every Christmas, but some might ask, "Where is the peace on earth"?

For families, of the thousands, involved in the many wars around the world, or for those in despair, having lost their jobs because of the financial crises, or those who have lost loved ones, this is going to be a very sad Christmas.

Peace seems to be a distant thought to the minority intent on causing trouble and perpetuating hatred between nations, religions and cultures.

Christians must not be sucked into taking sides, but rather to follow our Lord, trying to be peacemakers wherever the opportunity arises.

If we, in our small way, try to set an example by the way we treat others and share our Christian beliefs, then others might understand just why Jesus Christ came to earth on that first Christmas and find the peace the angel sang about.

May the Joy of the Angels, the Wonder of the Shepherds and the Peace of the Christ Child, fill your hearts this Christmas time; and may you all have a Happy, Peaceful and Blessed New Year.

Yours in Christ's Service
Rev. Tony Avery
Minister, Welford Chapel.

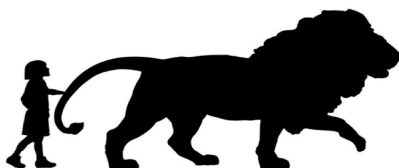


COME AND SING CAROLS

Start Christmas proper the traditional Welford way by joining us on Christmas Eve at 8 o'clock in St Mary's Church for a light-hearted hour of carol singing. All money raised will be divided between the Children's Society and The Cynthia Spencer Hospice.

If you are unable to attend but would still like to support these two worthy causes, please contact me,
annbarraclough@hotmail.com

Advent Groups



This is your invitation to meet up and explore the fantastical world of Narnia and discover more of the real Christmas. Together we are going to trace the story of the coming of Jesus Christ, imaginatively portrayed in the series of books authored by C S Lewis of which the best known is *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

The Group meets at 10:30am each Wednesday morning with coffee/tea and finishes at noon – continuing on December 3rd and 10th.

Hosted by Sarah McSharry at Quarry House, 2 West End, Welford, NN6 6HJ where there is plenty of parking space.

Please call or message Sarah for catering purposes on 07767303082 or email: scmcsharry@gmail.com

Also, please visit the **Lady Chapel** (far corner of the Church) to enter a **'Narnia experience'**. This will be the venue for readings from the *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* at 3:30 until 4:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays (2nd, 4th, 9th, 11th)

SIBBERTOFT

Carol Service 14th December 4.00pm following the Wreath Festival
Christmas Holy Communion 25th December 10.00am

	Lesson Reader	Intercessions	Sidesman
21/12	OT Peter Kraftl NT Peter Kirby	TBC	Lesley Hartshorne
25/12	OT Lesley Hartshorne NT Viv Arrowsmith	TBC	Lesley Hartshorne
Eucharistic Assistant 21/12 and 25/12 Viv Arrowsmith			

WELFORD

	Lesson Reader	Intercessions	Sidesman
24/12	OT J Newman NT G Newman	S Lees	M Broad
Eucharistic Assistant Kelvin Broad			

WELFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL **Services at 10.45am**

Preacher
7/12 Rev Tony Avery
14/12 Bobbie Wakeleigh-Jones
21/12 Bill Johnson Favorite Carols
24/12 3.00pm Christmas Eve Carols
- 28/12 Trevor Boys
4/1 Rev Tony Avery

The Magazine.

If you would like an entry in the January edition of the magazine please

Send copy by 15th December to jules1044@gmail.com

83 West Street, Welford. 01858 575757

PSALMS AND READINGS – December

Sunday 7th—2nd of Advent

Psalm 121
First Isaiah 11, 1 to 10
Second Romans 15, 4 to 13
Gospel Matthew 3, 1 to 12

Sunday 21st – 4th of Advent

Psalm -
First Isaiah 7, 10 to 16
Second Romans 1, 1 to 7
Gospel Matthew 1, 18 to end

Sunday 14th—3rd of Advent

Psalm 67
First Isaiah 35, 1 to 10
Second James 5, 7 to 10
Gospel Luke 20, 27 to 38

Sunday 28th – Holy Innocents

Psalm -
First Jeremiah 31, 15 to 17
Second 1 Corinthians 1, 26 to 29
Gospel Matthew 2, 13 to 18

The Naseby Group Sunday Morning Services DECEMBER 2025

10:00am The Morning Worship Stream

Date	Service	Location
7 th	Morning Worship +HC	All Saints, Clipston
14 th	Morning Worship +HC	All Saints, Naseby
21 st	Morning Worship +HC	St Helens, Sibbertoft
28 th	Morning Worship +HC	St Nicholas, Marston Trussell

HC = service includes Holy Communion

See back cover for Christmas Services and events

*For latest service updates see the website calendar:
www.nasebygroup.org/calendar*