

THE LINK

The Magazine of The Knightley Parishes

St. Michael & All Angels Newnham



**Snowdrop Sunday
9th. February**

**at The Nuttery
Manor Lane
and in the churchyard**

**Tea and cakes in the
Village Hall**

2.00 to 4.30pm

**There will be a nominal charge in aid of
church funds**

See p.9



February 2025

No. 402

Badby ☘ Newnham ☘ Charwelton ☘ Fawsley ☘ Preston Capes



THE KNIGHTLEY PARISHES

www.knightleybenefice.org.uk

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

Services for February 2025

	2 February I Candlemas	9 February II 4 bef. Lent	16 February III 3 bef. Lent	23 February IV 2 bef. Lent	2 March I Next bef. Lent
Badby	11:00 Holy Communion CW [GS]	11:00 Morning Worship [Lay SR]	10:00 United Benefice Service of Holy Communion CW at Preston Capes [LT]	11:00 Morning Worship [Lay SR]	11:00 Holy Communion CW [GS]
Newnham	X	X		11:00 Holy Communion CW [CP]	X
Charwelton	09:15 Holy Communion BCP (Church) [GS]	X		17:00 Evensong BCP (Chapel) [Lay GW]	09:15 Holy Communion BCP (Church) [GS]
Fawsley	X	11:00 Holy Communion BCP [CP]		X	X
Preston Capes	X	09:15 Holy Communion CW [CP]		X	X
	X	X		X	X

OTHER SERVICES

Tuesday 18 February

6.30 pm

Badby

ESOW

SUNDAY READINGS

Principal Service CW

- for other services see Lectionary

Date	Feast	OT Reading	NT Reading	Gospel
2 Feb	Candlemas	Mal. 3, 1-5	Heb. 2, 14-end	Luke 2, 22-40
9 Feb	4 bef. Lent	Isaiah 6, 1-8	1 Cor. 15, 1-11	Luke 5, 1-11
16 Feb	3 bef. Lent	Jer. 17, 5-10	1 Cor. 15, 12-20	Luke 6, 17-26
23 Feb	2 bef. Lent	Gen. 2, 4b-9 & 15-end	Rev. Ch. 4	Luke 8, 22-25
2 Mar	Next bef. Lent	Exod. 34, 29-end	2 Cor 3.12 - 4.2	Luke 9, 28-36

FROM THE REGISTERS



IN MEMORIAM

at Newnham
on 17th. January
Simon Martin Dolan
[by Revd. Sue Faulkner]

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

Two former long-time residents of Badby have died elsewhere this month:

Sylvia Drinkwater (Bunkers Hill) on 1 January and
Anne Donaldson (The Green) on 13 January.



Ruth Mackman, celebrant

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

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

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

EDITORIAL

At the time of writing Mrs. Tiggywinkle (and/or members of her family) is still coming for feeding most evenings, much to my surprise! We would have expected them in most years to have been well and truly hibernating long before now - but clearly not this year. We continue to put out food each evening, and not much later we see her/him chomping away - so we know it isn't something else eating the food. Over the last few days water has been a problem in that it freezes very quickly, even if we put it out fairly hot.

The first batch of 10 jars of marmalade has been made, labelled and put away. There will be another 3 lots to follow, which will be a year's supply. It seems to be as delicious as usual.

I hope you have got away without too much overindulgence in food and drink at Christmas. I found 2 quotations from the Bible which give me some cheer;

"Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works."
(Ecclesiastes 9:7).

"Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities".
(1 Timothy 5, 23)

Did you find some useful information in your crackers this time? Such as -

Why was Santa banned from coming down the chimney? Because of his carbon footprints.

What does an English teacher call Santa's little helpers? Subordinate clauses.

What do you call a pig with 3 eyes? Piiig.

*Which is the most frequent w(h)ine at Christmas?
"I don't like Brussels sprouts"*

And finally, as one who lived through the whole of WW2 (just!) I am looking forward to celebrating the anniversary of the end that conflict (at least in Europe) in May. It is good to see that

Newnham are already planning their events and no doubt other villages will be doing likewise.

David



**Would you
like to advertise
on these pages and reach nearly
900 households in the five
villages?**

**If so please contact
Penny Cory at
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

PASTORAL LETTER

Cathedral in Crisis

continued to pile pressure on our balance sheets.

Dear Friends,

Safeguarding concerns have presented a big challenge for the Church of England nationally, but, nearer to home, the now well-publicised financial issues facing our Cathedral have helped to bring home the challenge we are all facing, whether as individuals or as parishes, to make ends meet or to fund properly the ministry and mission of our church. Jesus said, *“the poor you have with you always”* – and it can sometimes seem as if we are always poor!

From a Cathedral perspective it’s disappointing to be facing yet another financial pinch point when we’ve done so much to improve our financial management, and been so creative in the delivery of a fantastic array of exhibitions, events and activities. But like every other business, we’ve all of us been facing the same issues; Covid, the cost of living crisis, the rising costs of fuel and employment – they’ve all



We have launched an emergency appeal here, and we pray that that may be fruitful. *But “we are afflicted but not crushed, perplexed, but not driven to despair”* writes St Paul in 2

Corinthians, and Jesus again and again called us not to be afraid or anxious because *“your heavenly Father knows you need all these things”*. The real challenge for us all is not one of systems, or process, or finance or funding – but faith.

Whatever we face as individuals or as communities - and we need to be responsible in our stewardship and disciplined in our actions – but above all we need to renew our trust in the living God: *“strive first for the kingdom of God... and all these things shall be given to you as well”*. (Matthew 6.33)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Dalliston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*The Very Revd Chris Dalliston
Dean of Peterborough*

BENEFICE PAGE

EVENING SERVICE OF THE WORD

This short service is held once a month on the Tuesday evening following the third Sunday at St Mary's Badby at 6.30pm. There is always a brief talk about someone inspirational. All welcome! The next dates are 18 February and 18 March.

BADBY AND DISTRICT FILM SOCIETY

Friday 31 January: *Where the Crawdads Sing (2022)*

Abandoned by her family, Kya Clark, otherwise known to the townspeople of Barkley Cove as the Marsh Girl, is mysterious and wild. "Where the Crawdads Sing" is a coming-of-age story of a young girl raised by the marshlands of the south in the 1950s. When the town hotshot is found dead, and inexplicably linked to Kya, the Marsh Girl is the prime suspect in his murder case.

(125 mins, Cert 15)

Saturday 15th February: *Giuseppe Verdi's Simon Boccanegra (2002)*

The next in our Supper at the Opera series is one of Verdi's less well-known works. Many cognoscenti, however, consider Simon Boccanegra to be the most beautiful of all his operas. It features soaring melodies and ravishing singing from Karita Mattila, Carlo Guelfi and Vincenzo La Scola, under the inspired baton of the Italian maestro Claudio Abbado. The production is directed by the renowned German opera director Peter Stein. [143 mins, Exempt certificate]

Friday 28th Feb: *The Great Escaper (2023)*

Based on the true story of a 90-year-old British WW II Royal Navy veteran who broke out of his nursing home to attend the 70th anniversary D-Day commemorations in France. Starring Michael Caine & Glenda Jackson, it's the final screen performances for both lead actors.

"Sweet without straying into sentimentality... thanks to stellar performances from the two leads." [92 mins, 12 cert.]

WEATHER REPORT

My thanks to Edgar Mobbs and June Pound for their annual contributions to our discussion of the weather in our benefice.

Edgar records that the annual total rainfall for Newnham was 41.73 inches or 1060 mms.

This was the second highest annual rainfall total in the last third of a century! 2012 saw 43.33 inches or 1100.5 mms.

We saw the highest ever month's rainfall in September with 8.40 inches followed by April 2012 with 6.71 inches.

Charwelton's experience was broadly similar, though as usual slightly wetter than Newnham at 1069 mm. Likewise Charwelton's wettest year since 1993 was also 2012 when it had 1136mm, while its driest year was 1996 with only 653mm. Charwelton's driest months since 1993 were jointly March 2011 and June 2006 in each of which months we only had 2.5mm.

So far as temperatures are concerned 2024 was fairly run-of-the-mill in Charwelton with a mean maximum temperature of 12.06°C and a mean minimum of 5.84°C - not significantly different from 1993.

The hottest days of 2024 were 25th. June and 27th. August, when the temperature hit 27°C, while the coldest was -9°C on the night of 18 January, with a prolonged cold spell between 19 and 29 November.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Badby Hort Soc Committee would like to hear your ideas with regard to how to best use the Club's resources to enhance the village's community spaces. Some of the other societies (such as the WI) have contributed a great deal

to various projects and we are keen to support too. Please send any ideas to richgreen1975@icloud.com. Once received, the team will review, then go to the Parish Council with a few proposals.



SUDOKU

[With thanks to Robin Baker]

Puzzle No. 108 - Mild

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

Puzzle 109 - Difficult

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

[Solutions on p. 10]



PARISH NOTICES

BADBY

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

	Reader	Sidesman	Coffee
2 Feb	J. Jordan J. Peel	C. Wakeford J. Hall	G. Morley
9 Feb	C. Wakeford J. Hall	P. Wakeford G. Morley	G. Nelson
23 Feb	N. Shaw F. Williams	F. Williams N. Shaw	N. Shaw

BADBY AND FAWSLEY WI

On Thursday 13 February there will be a chance for us to sample a new craft, or brush up on an old one. Several of our talented members will be giving demonstrations of a variety of different crafts, promising a most interesting and informative evening.

To book a free visit to this thriving and friendly WI contact Jan Cooper on jancooper2012@me.com or Jackie Peel on 07870 627826

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR FEBRUARY

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

ST MARY'S QUIZ

Put a date in your diary for St. Mary's next quiz. This will be in the village hall on Saturday evening, 1 March, with doors opening at 6pm and the first question asked at 6.30pm. Tickets will be available from Ruth McBeth 07591 166551 or ruthmackman@btinternet.com at £15 a head, to include fish and chips. All drinks to be bought from the bar on the night.

LENT

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, 5 March and so our Lent lunches will be happening from then till Easter. If you would like to be one of the hosts, please contact Judy Jordan on 07752 384969.

Don't forget to look at Knightley benefice website for current services at St. Mary's and in the other villages of our benefice.

MITE SCHEME

The local organiser of the Mite Scheme, founded originally by the late Roy Barnett MBE of Badby, has informed us that it was closed at the end of January. UNICEF took over running the scheme, which was used to purchase and distribute oral rehydration sachets thereby saving nearly 10 million lives worldwide. UNICEF have advised that, in the interests of operational efficiency, they are no longer able to

accept targeted donations. The local organiser has asked us to thank everyone who has donated to the Mite Scheme via the collection jar in Badby Church. We will keep the jar in place in memory of Roy Barnett and continue to collect loose change which will be forwarded to UNICEF to support their general work.

COFFEE MORNING

Frances and Judy look forward to seeing you at our next coffee morning, in St. Mary's, on Tuesday 18 February, from 10.30am to noon. The draw will be made as usual, and there will be lots of coffee, cake and chat.

T 4 U

Friday 7 February, from 2.30 - 4.30pm, welcome the New Year with cakes, tea and chat. Play games, read papers, knit, crochet, crosswords and puzzles and have fun in the lovely warm village hall.

BADBY FLORAL BEE

This month Floral Bee celebrates its 10th anniversary. Our members, from all the villages around the benefice, have now completed over 100 flower arrangements and enjoyed having fun with flowers. Each month we tackle a different floral design which is suitable for all abilities. Our friendly group is happy to support beginners to achieve a pleasing arrangement to take home and welcome the more experienced too who bring fresh ideas to the group. We meet on the first Thursday of the month in the village hall, 7 – 9pm. Our first session of the season is on 6 February, when we will be creating an arrangement for Valentine's Day. If you want learn a new skill or fancy practising them, do come along. Contact Liz Hudson on 01327 877797.

RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

On Tuesday 11 February in the village hall from 2pm, members will play their chosen piece of music by a composer from the Romantic Period, approximately 1770 to 1910 - so plenty of choice!

THE VILLAGE HALL

We were delighted by the numbers who attended the village hall Christmas events – Wreath-making,

Santa's Grotto and the Festive Singing. Eleven children came on 18 December and made their way through the fairy lights to meet Santa and his Elf in his grotto. Thank you to Robin and Maxine for leading the singing in the evening, which attracted over 40 people. It went extremely well and we hope everyone enjoyed the occasion.



NEWNHAM

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

JANUARY DRAW

£50 prize - Mr Andrew Banks No 168
£25 prize - Mrs D Mobbs No 167
£25 prize - Mrs Payne No 5

CLEANING ROTA

2 Feb. Mr. & Mrs. Wood
9th Feb. Mrs. Cooke & Mrs. Wood
16th. Feb. Ms. J. Minor
23rd. Feb Mr. & Mrs. Rees

DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY AT NEWNHAM CHURCH.

Christmas seems such a long time ago, but as I write this it is only three weeks since Christmas Day. December was a busy time at the church. We started December with the District Guides Carol Service on the 4th; this was attended by about 100 people, guides and their parents. It was a jolly service which contained a break for making sheep from pipe cleaners!

There were Holy Communion services on the 8th, 15th. and Christmas Day.

The School held their Christingle service in the church on the 11th. There was a Brass Band Concert on the 13th. and a Christingle Service on the 22nd. It was nice to see so many new people at the Christingle Service. The collection at this service was £40 which has been sent to The Children's Society.

January is a much quieter time at the Church, we have just one Holy Communion Service on the 26th. at 11.00am

February also sees just one Holy Communion Service on the 23rd. at 11.00am. Also in February,

on the 9th, is the annual Snowdrop Sunday. See the separate article for more detail.

SNOWDROP SUNDAY

Snowdrop Sunday at Newnham is on February 9th. at 2.00 - 4.30pm

Once again you are invited to Newnham to see the snowdrops.

Andrew and Penny Banks will be opening their garden at The Nuttery, where they look forward to seeing the return of snowdrops after coppicing took place last year. In addition to the snowdrops in the Banks' garden, snowdrops can also be seen in the churchyard, the Woodland Trust Nuttery, and on many of the verges around the village.

Tea and cake will be served in the Village Hall, where you can also buy raffle tickets; raffle tickets will also on sale at the Nuttery.

With the changing climate fixing a date is not that easy, but seeing the current progress of the snowdrops, February 9th. seems to be a good choice.

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Every 6 years a new electoral roll must be prepared rather than a revision of the existing roll and 2025 is the year in which this has to be undertaken. Everyone currently on the electoral roll will have to fill in a new application form, and anyone not on the current roll but who wishes to be included must also complete the application form. Those currently on the electoral roll will be contacted and given a new application form. If you are not on the electoral roll and would like to be included please contact Janet Rees, 01327 705394 for an application form.

NEWNHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

Thursday 27th February Newnham Church 6.30pm for 7pm.

Newnham History Society are pleased to present author and past Newnham resident Paul Stuchbury who will provide us with a fascinating insight into the history of the Fawsley Hundred. This historical military and judicial district covered Newnham and it's surrounds including Badby, Preston Capes, Dodford, Weedon, Daventry and other local villages. Tickets £5 (£2.50 members) from judithdorkins@btinternet.com

COMEDY NIGHT

Saturday 29th March. Comedy Night returns to Newnham. Nick Page, Nuala Ryan, Pete Teckman and TV star Paula Sinha will all be entertaining us at Newnham Village Hall, NN11 3ET. Doors open 7pm - show 8pm. Drinks and nibbles on sale. After the sell-out success of November's event make sure to get your tickets (£15) now at www.thecomedycrate.com

NEWNHAM VE DAY 80 CELEBRATIONS

Newnham will once again be putting out the bunting to celebrate with the nation, this time for the 80th anniversary of VE Day. A Beacon will be lit on the 8th May and then a village party will take place on Saturday 10th May. Watch this space for further details Save the dates.

NEWNHAM WI

Newnham WI will be meeting in the Village Hall at 7.30 on February 20th. Visitors are very welcome to our meeting and please look us up on Facebook for further details or telephone either Sophie on 07711123981 or Chris on 01327 704063



CHARWELTON

Correspondent - David Pound
(davidpound1939@talktalk.net)

	Reader/Sidesman	Flowers
2 Feb	Elizabeth Bird	June Pound
23 Feb	Meryl Nicholls	
2 Mar	Fiona Spencer	

Chapel cleaning	
February	Graham White
March	Meryl Nicholls

CAROL SINGING

Many thanks to all the villagers who joined us on Christmas Eve for Carol singing. Although we were fewer in number than last year; what a merry throng we were! And what we lacked in numbers we definitely made up for in enthusiasm! It was certainly

a joyful experience! And it must be told that our rendition of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' should go down in the annals of Charwelton history, as the most exuberant ever heard - or seen, as the accompanying actions were outstanding!!

Well done everyone!

With love and all good wishes to one and all from

John and Amanda

Claggain Cottage

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The total raised for 2024 was £294.00. Very many thanks to all who gave so generously.

Fiona Spencer

POPPY APPEAL

Graham White reports that his collection in Charwelton last year amounted to £207.39 and he thanks all those who contributed.

VILLAGE HALL WHIST DRIVE

The next village hall whist drive is on Monday, February 17th at 7.30pm.

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

This year the electoral roll must be updated as part of the six-year cycle. Unlike in the intervening years when it is just amended, in the sixth year every name is removed and the register is compiled afresh. If you would like to be included on the electoral roll in 2025 please contact pennycory@yahoo.co.uk who will send you the relevant form for completion.

THE CHURCH KISSING GATE

Those who sometimes walk through the churchyard will know that the gate has recently been showing its age (like the rest of us) and has dropped on its hinges (ditto), making it hard to open and close and keep shut. I'm pleased to say that Rob Hedges has now restored the gate, making the opening and closing much easier.

BEAUTY & THE BEAST PANTOMIME

The pantomime performance was a great success. Oh yes it was! With around 50 adults and 15 children the hall was packed and there was excellent audience participation, particularly from the children. The Laugh out Loud theatre company is putting on a Sherlock Holmes play in the summer so we shall let you know about this in due course.

IMPROVE YOUR BALANCE, CO-ORDINATION AND CONFIDENCE

The Village Hall have booked a Talk and Taster session on Thursday 6th Feb at 10.30am to introduce the Get Up & Go Programme from the WNC. This is a 6 week course aimed to improve Balance, Co-ordination and Confidence. It is open to everyone, as well as those who are post illness/operative or experiencing general mobility and health issues. There is no need to book, however it would be good to know who will go along as there will be refreshments and biscuits, so if you could let Trish (07817 973642) know that would be much appreciated.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Solution No 108

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

Solution No 109

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

CHARWELTON YARD SALE IN MAY?

Looking to de-clutter and make a few pounds? Would you be interested in taking part in another Charwelton Yard Sale on Sunday 4th May? If so, please contact Trish, (07817 973642) and if there is enough interest the Village Hall will organise this.

Village Hall contacts - Dawn 07866 557238 and Trish 07817 973642.



FAWSLEY

Correspondent - Vacant

ANNUAL LITTER PICK

Please remember to keep the morning of Saturday 15th March free for our annual litter pick. Details will be circulated nearer the date.



PRESTON CAPES

Correspondent - Claire Hoare
caghoare@gmail.com

	Reader	Sidesman	Cleaning
9 Feb	Bridget Whittaker	Gerard Hoare	Anabel Lewis-Bowen
16 Feb	James Delingpole	Heather Wilson	

REMEMBRANCE DAY AND COLLECTION

Thank you to Moira and Rosie for nobly collecting around the villages for British Legion Poppy Collection. A grand total of £320 was raised.

The Remembrance Service in November was taken by Rev. Greg Shaw, assisted by Gerard Hoare. Anabel Lewis-Bowen read the Role of Honour and laid the Wreath. Other wreaths were added by Parish Council and WI.

DOG FOULING IN THE CHURCHYARD

This continues to be a problem. Please clear up behind your dogs. There are two bins in the High Street for this purpose, or please take them home to

put in your bin.

FLOWER ROTA

This has now been distributed. If you did not get your copy please let me know caghoare@gmail.com



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:

February

- 6 Get Up & Go Charwelton
- 6 Badby Floral Bee
- 9 Snowdrop Sunday Newnham
- 13 B&F WI
- 15 February Film Soc. Opera BVH
- 17 Charwelton whist drive
- 27 Newnham History Society
- 28 February Film Soc. BVH

March

- 1 Badby St. Mary's Quiz
- 4 Newnham PCC
- 14 March Film Soc AGM BVH
- 14 Quiz Night Charwelton
- 29 Newnham Comedy Night

April

- 1 Newnham APCM
- 19 Charwelton Easter children's event

May

- 3 Newnham Classic Cars
- 4 Newnham NGS Open Gardens
- 4 ? Charwelton Yard Sale
- 6 Newnham PCC
- 8 VE Day 80 Beacon Newnham
- 10 VE Day 80 Village Party Newnham

July

1 Newnham PCC

September

2 Newnham PCC

19 Charwelton Quiz Night

November

4 Newnham PCC

9 Armistice Breakfast Charwelton

16 Charwelton Christmas Craft Fair

December

13 Charwelton Children's Christmas party

? Charwelton Pantomime



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

Philip Turvil
Garden designer in Badby
BrightenMyGarden.com

Focused pruning

At the end of February, it's time to prune the following plants:

- Cut down deciduous ornamental grasses left standing over winter, such as *Miscanthus* and *Pennisetum*. These look great over winter, but the old growth is best removed before it gets tangled with the new spring growth. Cut back all growth to 3-4in from ground level.

- Cut back summer flowering Clematis to enthusiastic buds. Look for healthy buds about 1-2ft from ground level. The plants will re-grow long shoots from spring. It's fun to watch clematis climb up their framework or scramble between border plants. PS – if you have winter or spring flowering Clematis, these don't need much pruning. But if they're getting too big, clip back lightly after flowering.

- Cut back winter-stemmed Cornus (dogwood). These plants have tall red or yellow shoots which look great in winter, but if the shoots are left for too many years, they lose their colour and can overtake a space. The solution is to cut back the coloured stems each year to 1-2ft from ground level. Aim for strong buds on evenly spaced woody branches. This pruning will prompt long new shoots with wonderful colour to enjoy next winter.

PS - If you have a newly planted Cornus, wait until the plant is three years old before pruning, and if you have a shorter variety (often the orange stemmed plants), then cut back every three years rather than every year.

- Chop Buddleia down to a woody branch framework 2-3ft from ground level. Then, similar to Cornus, these plants will re-grow tall new shoots. Hard pruning buddleias will produce wonderful flowers on arching branches in summer, as well as controlling the plant size. You can do the same with *Sambucus* (elder).

- Cut away the old foliage from Epimediums. These wonderful ground cover plants produce spring flowers and often colourful new leaves. So it's best to remove any winter damaged leaves now for the best display in spring.

With this harder pruning, ideally mulch plants too with a 2in. deep layer of compost over the soil surface. Peat-free multi-purpose compost is good. As is home-made compost. Keep compost a bit away from the woody base.

Divide

Divide large clumps of snowdrops and winter aconites after flowering and replant to start new colonies.

February is also a good month to divide congested clumps of herbaceous perennials such as *Aster* and *Phlox*. Replant the most vigorous sections.

Potatoes

Garden centres now have seed potatoes in stock. For a robust start and earlier crop, 'chit' your spuds for a few weeks. Simple place them in trays, egg boxes or wire racks in a well-lit, cool place (around 10°C).

Position your spuds with the 'rose end' facing upward. This is the end with the most eyes (little dimples). This is crucial as the shoots will emerge from these eyes. In a few weeks, you'll notice little green shoots. The spuds can then be planted from late March and into April about 12-24in. apart, depending on variety (maincrop varieties need more space).

I also like to protect emerging shoots from frost by throwing over some horticultural fleece on colder nights.

My best wishes to you and your garden



Enjoy year-round colour & control in your garden

Book your FREE garden consultation & quote



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NEWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN – Gary Hammersley

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Council Update

Like the December meeting, the January meeting also devoted significant time to discussing the flooding in the village on 24th November, and what the Parish Council can do to support residents and lobby the authorities responsible for tackling the causes of the flooding.

Following the **flooding to homes on Sunday 24th November**, the Parish Council has been communicating with West Northamptonshire Council Highways Department regarding the short term and longer-term actions to avoid a repeat of this incident. West Northamptonshire Councillor Rupert Frost has also been central to the ongoing liaison with the Highways officers. To date, a new drain has been installed to shift surface water from the Badby Road into the brook, hopefully addressing this point of flooding. The Parish Council agreed to establish a Flood Team Working Group to focus on flooding, and co-ordinate the communications with agencies such as West Northamptonshire Council and the Environment Agency and the water companies. The working group has already identified areas where silt and debris need removing from the river where it goes under the Preston Capes Road.

I am pleased to report that we have recruited a **new Councillor**. Gary Niblett joined us at the January meeting and this brings us up to a full complement of eight Parish Councillors. Details of all Councillors are available on the Parish Council website www.newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Preparations for the **celebration of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day** are beginning to take shape. There will be a Beacon bonfire on Thursday 8th May with a party on the Green on 10th May. Judith Dorkins is once again taking a central role in planning the events, for which we are all grateful, and she will be supported by an event 'team'.

As mentioned previously, I would like to highlight the **village website**, which is receiving very positive feedback from all who use it, so I would encourage everyone who hasn't yet visited it to check it out. The new website has huge potential to connect people and organisations in the village, raise awareness of what's on, as well as provide topical information and updates. Have a look on www.newnhamvillage.co.uk.

The **next Parish Council Meeting is Monday 3rd February**, starting at **7.00pm** in the **Village Hall**. For agendas and minutes go to www.newnhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Benefice Secretary: *Vacant*

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.

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

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Visiting co-ordinator: Vacant

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