

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS PARISH MAGAZINE FEBRUARY 2025



**Parish Church Notices
Women's Institute News
Parish Council Update**

Ordinary Time?

As the celebrations of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany come to their conclusions, the Church now steps into the quieter rhythm of Ordinary Time. Far from being a dull or uneventful season, Ordinary Time offers us an invaluable gift: the chance to rest, reflect, and reconnect. After weeks of preparing, rejoicing, and celebrating some of the most profound mysteries of our faith, this period invites us to pause and catch our breath, both spiritually and practically.

The Advent season, with its anticipation of Christ's coming, is filled with expectation and busyness. Churches are bustling with preparations for carol services, nativity plays, and Christmas liturgies. Christmas itself brings joy and splendour, but it is often a season where everyone is pulled in multiple directions. Families gather, meals are prepared, gifts are exchanged, and festive services require meticulous planning. Then, as we move into Epiphany, the focus shifts again, as we celebrate the manifestation of Christ to the world. Each of these seasons is rich and meaningful, but they also demand much from us – emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

Ordinary Time, therefore, arrives as a welcome change of pace. It is a season marked not by feasting or fasting, but by steady growth and renewal. It offers us the opportunity to step back from the constant planning and busyness and to enter into a more reflective, unhurried state of being. For clergy, churchwardens, and congregations alike, this is a time to rest from the demands of planning large-scale services. There are no midnight vigils to arrange, no elaborate decorations to put up, no major feasts to cater for. Instead, we are invited to simply be present, both in our worship and in our daily lives.

Spiritually, Ordinary Time encourages us to embrace the quieter rhythms of faith. This is the season to delve into the ordinary moments where God is at work – in our daily routines, in our relationships, and in the small acts of kindness and service that shape our lives. Without the heightened focus on major liturgical events, we have the space to deepen our personal relationship with God. It is a time to cultivate habits of prayer, study, and reflection that can sustain us throughout the year.

For many, this season also provides the chance to reflect on the transformative experiences of the preceding months. The journey of Advent, the joy of Christmas, and the revelations of Epiphany often pass by in a flurry of activity. Ordinary Time gives us the breathing room to look back, to ponder what these seasons have taught us, and to discern how God is calling us to live out their truths in our everyday lives.

As we enter this season, let us embrace its quiet beauty. Let us rest in the knowledge that God is with us, not only in the grand celebrations but also in the stillness of ordinary days. Ordinary Time is not a step back but a step deeper – an invitation to live our faith fully and faithfully in the simplicity of the everyday.

Ordinary Time is anything but Ordinary!

Tim

CHURCH SERVICES

St Margaret's Church Hemingford Abbots	Feb	St James' Church Hemingford Grey
Sung Eucharist 9:30am	2nd	All Together Worship 10am
Book of Common Prayer 8:30am Family Service 9:30am	9th	Service of the Word 10am
Sung Eucharist 9:30am	16th	Service of the Word 10am
Book of Common Prayer 8:30am Matins 9:30am	23rd	Holy Communion 10am Evening Service 6pm
Sung Eucharist 9:30am	2nd March	All Together Worship 10am
St James Morning Prayer 9.15am Monday & Wednesday in church		
St Margaret's Morning Prayer 8.00am Tuesday & Thursday on Zoom		
Monday to Friday - Night Prayer at 9pm on <u>Zoom</u> <i>A short service of quiet reflection & prayer</i>		

CHURCH NOTICEBOARD

If you would like to talk, or need prayer, our Rector Rev Tim May_would be happy to speak with you on 07871 523249. If you would like a regular email with church news for both St Margaret's and St James' and including links to join online services please sign up on the St James' website:

<https://churchbytheriver.org.uk/wp3/>

and scroll down to the Signup on the left

MARCH MAGAZINE

The magazine will be published as a PDF and distributed by email. Please submit any articles by the morning of **Friday 21st February**

Please help by providing copy as A4 with 16pt font. When using Word please set the language to 'English (UK)' and be consistent with the format of dates. Images do not need placing in separate boxes. Right-click images and select Format/Square. Thank you for taking the time and effort to contribute to the magazine. Please send articles, advertisements and notices directly to: Rachel Winton, admin@churchbytheriver.org.uk or deliver to the Rachel in the Parish Office at 33, High Street, Hemingford Grey.

CHURCH CLEANING

3rd February - Carol and David Wordsworth

Brasses - Vivien and Barrie Hoar

13th February - Sue Henderson and Janet Garner

3rd March - Carolyn Allen and Judith Bolton

Hemingford Abbots Parish Council Report

January 2025

Hi everyone,

You may have heard that there have been a few changes at the Parish Council. After Peter, Phillip and Glen decided to step down, Eddie Halls and Richard Chamberlain applied to join and were successfully co-opted at the January meeting. Our thanks go to the departing councillors for their service to the parish, and I am sure you will want to wish the new councillors well in their new positions.

Brett Mickelburgh (one of our District Councillors) announced that under new Government proposals, there is a possibility that Huntingdon District Council could be abolished and the services centralised into a larger unitary authority. He will keep us informed of progress, and specifically how this might affect our parish.

Two new planning applications have been submitted for Hemingford Park, intended to regularise the current planning breaches. There is no request for any 'Change of Use' in these applications. The majority of remedial actions have already been agreed with HDC and Historic England, but negotiations continue between HDC and the applicant over a request to remove the new tarmac in front of the spa building and replace this with something more appropriate for a heritage site. The Parish Council resolved to respond as 'neither for nor against the application', but to make the following points:

- HAPC strongly supports HDC's requirement that the newly laid tarmac is lifted and replaced with a more suitable surface in keeping with a heritage site.
- HAPC to request that HDC Building Control carries out an audit on the completed work to ensure that it has been carried out to the proposed specifications and meets the required standards

On a separate matter, HAPC will write to HDC Planning regarding the road that was built (without planning permission) across the front of the grade 2 star building; this sits outside of this planning application, and we believe has yet to receive appropriate planning permission.

A new LHI bid has been submitted for the junction of New Road and High Street (a known local accident blackspot) to extend the adjacent 20mph speed zone. Our thanks go to Jo Wills who helped prepare the application.

We were pleased to approve a request from the Hemingford Arts Group to have an information page on the Parish Council website, which will provide useful information to any interested parishioners.

Finally, we received a request from the Flower Festival Committee to allow dogs onto the playing field for the two days of the event (28th and 29th June). The Parish Council agreed to allow this, subject to a number of conditions: including that dogs must be kept on leads at all times, the play equipment is fenced off and kept separate, and there is scrupulous clean-up of the field at the end of each day. For the avoidance of doubt, the general ban on dogs entering the field at any other time will remain in place.

Best wishes
Marcus Whewell



WI January 2025



There were only a select few at our first meeting of the year on Wednesday 8th January but our speaker was definitely worth braving the elements for! Jonathan Jones is a consultant orthopaedic surgeon, specialising in hand and wrist surgery. He is the co-lead of the BSSH (The British Society for Surgery of the Hand) LION (The Lilongwe Institute of Orthopaedic Neurosurgery) project to help heal the hands of Malawi.

Hands are vitally important for most activities and a hand injury for an individual can impact on the wellbeing of a whole family in such a poor country. Malawi is the 9th poorest country in the world with a life expectancy of 63 years (in comparison with 80 years in UK). There is 1 doctor to every 65,000 patients (cf 1/330 in UK).

Malawi has the third highest death rate in the world from road traffic accidents. Another major source of hand injuries is the panga knife, a type of machete, readily available and often wielded by subsistence farmers as they try to protect their precious crops from thieves. Old injuries can often be neglected which makes them more difficult to treat; the timely management of hand injuries can make a real difference.



The BSSH have an overseas committee and currently support ten overseas projects. The LION project has been running for 2 years now at a cost of around £90K/year. The project started within the old Kamuzu Central Hospital which was built in the 1970s but has had its own purpose-built unit since 2023. It is hoped that funding will be available to ensure this project continues for another 3 years.

Since the start of the project, a total of 47 volunteers (20 surgeons, 15 trainees and 13 therapists) have worked at LION. The team typically comprises a consultant, a trainee and a hand therapist. The role of the physiotherapists is important and integral to the success of surgery performed.

LION aspires to become self-sufficient in the provision of specialist hand services by the end of the five-year project in 2028. The team run two teaching sessions each week and already have locals working with them that were on the first courses they ran. The mission statement is all about collaboration – Educate, Enable, Empower.

Jonathan is clearly very passionate about the project and this came across in his talk. He finds the work professionally refreshing, spiritually inspiring and a tonic for his soul. He enjoys being part of a team working hard in a challenging setting. He particularly enjoys working in “the warm heart of Africa” with such happy, friendly people.



Next Meeting...

Our next meeting will be at 7.30 on Wednesday 5th February in the village hall. Come and hear renowned local historian, Roger Leivers talk about the role that Farm Hall, Godmanchester, played in the second world war, its chequered and fascinating use as an SOE (Special Operations Executive) training centre. Guests are always welcome!



Maria Needham

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Eco Tip February

Go green for Lent. The weeks leading up to Easter are a time for self-reflection, repentance and emulating Jesus' obedience to the Father. Is there something you'd like to give up or take up during Lent that will enable you to reflect on God, contribute to our planet's well-being and enhance others' lives through sustainable, ecofriendly living? Explore some of these changes at arochoa.org.uk/go-greenfor-lent/

Recipe

Chicken tagine with spiced brussels sprouts & feta

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ tbsp coconut oil
- 1 large red onion sliced
- 1 red pepper finely sliced
- 3 garlic cloves finely chopped
- 10 chicken thighs fillets (boneless and skinless)
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp ground turmeric
- ½ tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tbsp tomato purée
- 250ml chicken stock
- 6 dried apricots cut in half
- 175g canned chickpeas drained and rinsed
- ½ tsp cumin seeds
- 275g brussels sprouts shredded
- 50g feta
- ½ small bunch coriander roughly chopped



Method

Step 1

Heat 1 tbsp of the coconut oil in a large flameproof casserole dish over a medium heat. When melted and hot, add the onion, pepper and garlic. Cook, stirring regularly, for 3 -4 mins or until just starting to soften. Increase the heat to maximum and add the chicken thighs. Fry everything together for about 3 mins, stirring occasionally.

Step 2

Sprinkle in the spices, squeeze in the tomato purée and fry, stirring almost constantly, for 1 min. Pour in the stock and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer and partially cover with a lid. After 30 mins, add the dried apricots and chickpeas, and continue to simmer for a further 10 mins.

Step 3

While the tagine is bubbling away, heat the remaining 1/2 tbsp of coconut oil in a frying pan over a high heat. When melted, add the cumin seeds, toast for 10 secs, then add the shredded sprouts. Fry the sprouts over the high heat, stirring almost constantly, for 5 mins, by which time they should have softened and browned in places.

Step 4

Serve the tagine in a large bowl, scatter over the fried sprouts, crumble over the feta and finish with the coriander.

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS VILLAGE LUNCH

Tuesday 18th February

The cooks for the February lunch are Bridget Flanagan, Vivien Hoar, Catheryn Reed, Vanessa Murphy, Judith Bolton, JoAnne Rutter, Margaret Thomas and Eleanor Hewitt.

At the time of going to press for the magazine, we have not yet planned the menu – but can assure you it will be attractive and tasty! So we hope to see lots of diners there to enjoy it.

The 2024 Christmas Lunch was a very festive occasion with 69 diners. Thank you to everyone for their generosity with the raffle, all their help, excellent cooking and good spirits. There was a profit and as soon as we have had a meeting to assess the funds, we hope to be able to make a donation to a relevant charity. Details to follow.

Organising the Village Lunch

Jo Wills has been leading the organisation of the Village Lunch for the last two and a half years – and has done an excellent job with great enthusiasm and vigour. She has now decided to stand down due to family commitments. And so, on behalf of everyone, can I thank Jo very warmly for all she has done.

Bridget Flanagan

Upcoming HUBCLUB EVENTS 3pm at the Pavilion
(subject to change)

Feb 5th	Seated Exercise
Feb 12th	Robin Bletsoe talk on Hamilton Gardens, New Zealand
Feb 19th	Seated exercise
Feb 26th	Age UK visit
Mar 5th	Seated Exercise
March 12th	Games
March 19th	Seated exercise
March 26th	Talk to be announced

Hub events appear on posters around the village and are sent to anyone interested in receiving updates by email and WhatsApp. Contact us to receive direct.

Tel: 07308 035416 **Email:** hemingfordhub@icloud.com

Web: www.hemingfordhub.co.uk **Registered Charity No:** 1194706

Hoppa Bus team meets the Mayor

Over Christmas and New Year the transport team has presented to:

- a) the Mayor of the Combined Authority, Dr Nik Johnson,
- b) the CEO of HDC, Michelle Sacks,
- c) and finally posed a question to the Transport Infrastructure Committee (TIC) of the Combined Authority with the Mayor present, about support for our sustainable Hoppa pilot proposal.

We received encouraging feedback from TIC and are continuing to liaise with them on the possibility of part-funding our pilot minibus scheme. The next stage will involve keeping our parish councils informed and engaged with the scheme.

We are hoping for funding from several sources, which together with our own village fund-raising, will help demonstrate the viability, reliability and sustainability of an hourly mini-bus into St Ives. In the meantime, we will be looking to start our fund-raising which we hope will engage all villagers in some fun activities.

Donations from the Shop and Cock



Thank you to the Cock pub and the village shop, now part of the Premier Group, for their two generous donations to help us continue running HemingfordHub. The Cock has given us the proceeds from their quiz nights and the village shop has donated proceeds from their Christmas raffle

Why I love our Hub

This month we feature Rachel Winton

As a fairly new trustee it's been a privilege and pleasure to get to know residents who come to our weekly HubClub sessions.

Everyone really values the relaxing social atmosphere and the wide range of activities. I love to listen to people's stories and can offer advice and support whenever it's needed. It's humbling to be able to help, and incredibly rewarding to know HemingfordHub is making a difference to our residents' lives, and my small part in that.

RECRUITING



Simple acts of kindness — improve our neighbours' lives

Giving just a couple of hours a month makes a difference. Ask about our Hoppa Bus or Hobby Shed projects, or get involved with HubClub and more.

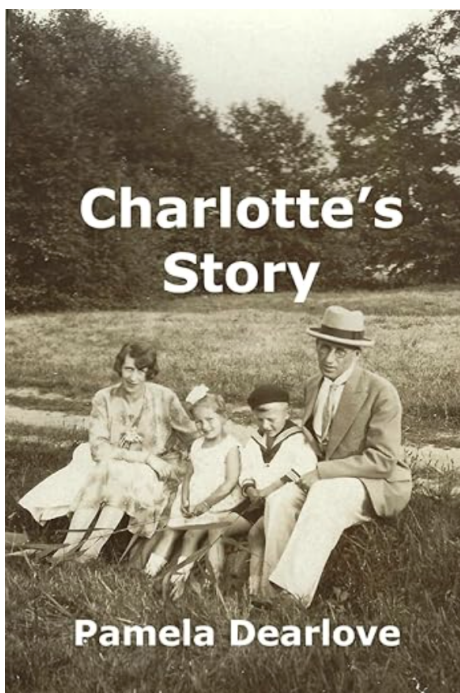
Please **Sign up** to continue the good work:

hemingfordhub@icloud.com

Mob: 07308 035416

www.hemingfordhub.co.uk

Registered Charity No: 1194706



Cambridgeshire local historian and village resident Pamela Dearlove has recently published a book titled 'Charlotte's Story', in which she weaves a fascinating tale of the recollections of Abbots Close resident Charlotte Fellows. Charlotte was born in Mecklenburg, Germany in 1926 and grew up in Nazi Germany, where she frequently had to fend for herself after the death of both her parents by the time she was 15. These early experiences and hardships shaped her outlook on life and influenced the choices she would make in a future society. She married Michael Fellows in

1947 and settled in Hemingford Abbots. Pamela's book is available on Amazon, priced £9.95. <https://amzn.eu/d/dLuZXBz>.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Abandoned cars

01480 388297

Fly tipping

01480 388640

[https://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/
forms/Operations/
New_Street_Cleaning_1.html](https://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/forms/Operations/New_Street_Cleaning_1.html)

Highway Faults including Potholes

0345 045 5212

[https://
highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.g
ov.uk/](https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/)

Faulty and broken streetlights

K&M Lighting Services

01480 395806

Where possible please quote street light number on plaque on the street light and the location.

Illegal signs/graffiti

0800 7832220

Refuse & recycling helpline

0800 3896613

<http://huntingdonshire.gov.uk/>

**St Ives & District
Neighbourhood Policing Team**
dial 101

ABBOTS VILLAGE HALL

Stuart Prosser (Chairman)

Margaret Cloke (Treasurer)

Jenny Desborough (Bookings & Hall Mgt 07720 309992)

Beryl Lager (Health and Safety)

Chris Nicol (Parish Council Committee Liaison)

Rie Hargreaves (Trustee)

We All Need Friends – Please Be One of Ours!

If you are interested in becoming a friend of the Village Hall, and are willing to give a couple of hours a month, on an occasional basis to help with leaflet dropping, setting-up the hall etc. – please call: **Stuart Prosser, Chairman 07892 682389**

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS VILLAGE CONTACT LIST

CHURCH

Rector	Rev Tim May	07871 523249
Priest	Revd Canon Brian Atling Revd Judith Bolton	493975 370036
Churchwardens	David Wordsworth Daniela Spilca	370634 07722 587759
Deputy Churchwarden	John Hyde Janine Hamilton	464127 390505
Bellringers	Sharon Williams	830766
Flower Guild	Bridget Flanagan	465370
Magazine	Parish Office Team admin@churchbytheriver.org.uk	467250
Treasurer	John Hyde	464127

For weddings see churchbytheriver.org.uk/weddings

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Marcus Whewell (chairman)	marcus.whewell@hemingford-abbots.org.uk	464293
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Peter Keen	peter.keen@hemingford-abbots.org.uk	300931
Glenda Perrott	glenda.perrott@hemingford-abbots.org.uk	
Cllr Rie Hargreaves	rie.hargreaves@hemingford-abbots.org.uk	
Phillip Cooke	Phillip.cooke@hemingford-abbots.org.uk	

PARISH CLERK

Maxine Blewett	parishclerk@hemingford-abbots.org.uk	
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COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Douglas Dew		469814
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DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Sarah Conboy	sarah.conboy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	
Debbie Mickelburgh	debbie.mickleburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	
Brett Mickleburgh	brett.mickleburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	

Parish Council Website: www.hemingfordabbots.org.uk

Chairman	Stuart Prosser	07892 682389
Bookings	Jenny Desborough	468956
Bridge Club	Chris Nicol	300185
Village Lunch	To be confirmed	
Women's Institute	Maria Needham	07730 556870