

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS PARISH MAGAZINE May 2025



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

The Venerable Bede: Scholar of Wearmouth-Jarrow

Last month I introduced you to Thomas Merton, this month I'd like to introduce you to arguably most important Christian in British history. Bede's day is celebrated in May so what better chap to think about as the days grow warmer and spring turns slowly to summer. St Peter's in Monkwearmouth, one of my curacy Churches was home to the Wearmouth Jarrow monastery and the very archway through which Bede enter the monastery still stands to this day.

Bede, often known as the Venerable Bede, was an English monk, scholar, and theologian who lived from around 673 to 735 AD. He spent nearly all his life in the twin monasteries of Wearmouth and Jarrow under the rule of Benedict Biscop and later Ceolfrith. These monasteries were renowned centres of learning, boasting one of the best libraries in Europe at the time. It was within this rich intellectual environment that Bede composed works which would influence the Christian world for centuries.

Bede is best known for writing, *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, completed in 731 AD. As a result of this book he earned the title "Father of English History" and remains a crucial source for understanding early English Christianity and the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons. Bede's meticulous approach, using oral testimonies, letters, and earlier chronicles, established standards of historical writing that were advanced for his time.

One of Bede's most significant intellectual contributions was his work in chronology and the calendar. While he did not invent the calendar as such, he played a major role in refining the Christian understanding of time. In his work *De Temporibus* and its later expansion *De Temporum Ratione*, Bede explained how to calculate the date of Easter, the most important feast in the Christian calendar. The western and eastern Churches celebrate Easter at two different weeks due to adhering to different calendars, this year for the first for many where the two dates for Easter coincided with each other. This involved complex lunar and solar calculations and required reconciling the Jewish lunar calendar with the Roman solar one. He was instrumental in promoting the *Anno Domini* (AD) dating system, devised by Dionysius Exiguus in the 6th century, which counted years from the supposed birth of Christ. Bede's popularization of this system in his historical and theological works helped it become the dominant dating method in Western Europe.

Bede's scholarship went beyond history and chronology. He wrote extensively on theology, biblical commentary, grammar, poetry, and science. He helped preserve and transmit classical knowledge and was deeply concerned with accurate education in Latin, essential for biblical studies.

Bede died on May 26, 735, and this day is observed as his feast day in the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, and other Christian traditions. He was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII in 1899—the only native of Britain to hold the title—recognizing his exceptional learning and piety.

Bede was one of the most interesting characters I learned about while living in Sunderland, his legacy is one we might not all be aware of but it is one we all benefit from.

Tim.

CHURCH SERVICES

| St Margaret's Church Hemingford Abbots | | St James' Church Hemingford Grey |
|---|-----------------|--|
| 9.30am Sung Eucharist <i>followed by APCM</i> | 4th May | 10am All Together Worship |
| 8.30am Holy Communion BCP 9.30am Family Service | 11th May | 10am Morning Worship <i>Guest speaker Michael Thompson</i> <i>followed by Bring and Share Lunch</i> |
| | 14th May | 10:30am Mid-Week Communion |
| 9.30am Sung Eucharist | 18th May | 10am Morning Worship <i>followed by APCM</i> |
| 8.30am Holy Communion BCP 9.30am Matins | 25th May | 10am Holy Communion |
| | 28th May | 10:30am Mid-Week Communion |
| 9.30am Sung Eucharist | 1st June | 10am All Together Worship |
| 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

JUNE MAGAZINE

The magazine will be published as a PDF and distributed by email. Please submit any articles by the morning of **Friday 23rd May**

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

12th May Carol and David Wordsworth

26th May Brasses Vivien and Barrie Hoar

26th May Sue Henderson and Janet Garner

Hemingford Abbots Parish Council Report

April 2025

Hi everybody,

This is a shorter report this month, as we do not meet again until Monday 19th May.

It is very gratifying to have Michelle Sacks, the CEO of HDC visit us to discuss the forthcoming restructure of councils across the county. This could have large implications for us all (who our local authority will be and their priorities, potential disruptions, what local services are provided, how planning will work, future levels of council tax) and I would urge you all to take some time to read about this if you were not make the meeting.

Similarly, we have representatives of the developer of the 'Land South of the A1307' attending our Annual Parish Meeting on April 30th. If this goes ahead, it will be the largest change in the parish population in our history, and currently you have an opportunity to interact over how this might affect your amenity, and what assets or safeguards you might wish to ask for.

The APM is also an opportunity to learn about the excellent work that is undertaken across the parish by your fellow citizens, and to raise any points that you wish the Parish Council to be aware of and consider.

There have been some reports of officials (possibly the Environment Agency) taking to the river near the Bailey Bridge: we are trying to establish what is taking place and why, and we will report back as soon as we have any more information.

On other matters, it is good to see the potholes being filled in at pace around Rideaway and the bridge. There are still lots of areas of road damage across the parish, and I hope you will take 5 minutes to report these on the potholes website (which is advertised on the parish website under 'Report It'. The link is also shown below:

<https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

Similarly, please keep on reporting to us any things that need our attention (faulty streetlights, broken or damaged gates, overgrown footpaths): the sooner we know, the quicker we can address the issue!

Best wishes

Marcus Whewell

Chair HAPC



June 28 and 29th 2025

Gardens are springing into life. Gardeners are working hard to bring their gardens to fruition. Behind the scenes the Steering Group are working like an army of ants to deliver the very best Flower Festival and are preparing the ground to showcase our village, welcome our visitors and come together with that special community spirit this village has in spades!

Apologies for all the awful puns. Time to tell you a bit more about what's new in this year's Flower Festival starting with two areas where we are reaching out into our wider community.

Scouts and Explorers

We are delighted to welcome the *Cromwell District Explorer Scout Unit* and *1st Hemingfords Scouts* into our Volunteer Team this year. The Explorers and their Leaders will be manning and managing our car park operation in Chapman's Field. It is great to have young people involved in this event and we thank them for their very valuable contribution.



Women's Institute



The ladies of the Hemingford Abbots WI have, for many a Flower Festival, organised afternoon teas in the village hall after the lunch service for coach parties has finished, bringing their traditional style, experience and efficiency to the operation.

This year they are coming out into the sunshine and taking the lead in one of the 3 iconic tea venues in the village. We know this operation will be in great hands but..... many hands make light work

- and they need more! If you would like to join this great team for the event the please complete and return your volunteer form. Not only *Jam and Jerusalem* - but so much more!

New Hub groups are springing up

We're trying out new ways for special interest groups to meet up. One of these is for anyone who likes to fish (or just talk about angling). If this appeals to you, or you know of anyone who'd be interested, please get in touch. We'll arrange a time and venue to suit those who express an interest.

Another potential new group is for men who would enjoy an afternoon or evening social gathering. There is no special agenda, just a meet up over a drink (coffee or maybe something stronger). Again contact us if you'd be interested in learning more about this.

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

| | |
|------------------|--|
| May 7th | Film show with ice cream |
| May 14th | Seated exercise |
| May 21st | Gary Baker talk on Hemingford footpaths |
| May 28th | Seated exercise |
| June 4th | Bee keeping a talk by Steve Fenner |
| June 11th | Seated exercise |
| June 18th | Tish talk on China |
| June 25th | Seated exercise |
| July 2ns | Regina Baraban and Riva talk about cruising |

Sign up to receive 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

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS VILLAGE LUNCH

The Village Lunch will be on **Tuesday May 20th in the Village Hall.**
12.30 for a 12.45 pm start

Chris Smith is leading the team of cooks with Sue Henderson, Alli Bentley, Gill Mercer, Jane Kemp, Nicola Ansell and Joyce Evans.

The menu is to be Cottage Pie with vegetables, followed by Basque Cheesecake and coulis.

Hope you can join us for a delicious meal and good company !

Bridget Flanagan

FUNDRAISER CONCERT

SUNDAY 1ST JUNE AT 3.30 PM

**ST MARGARETS CHURCH,
HEMINGFORD ABBOTS**

FEATURING:
PRO CORDA 2025 FINALISTS
• REEDSIGN CLARINET
QUARTET
• STRING QUARTET

**AS WELL A MIX OF SOLOS AND
DUETS BY MEMBERS OF BOTH
GROUPS**

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO STAY
FOR DRINKS AND
REFRESHMENTS AFTER THE
CONCERT**



**DONATIONS IN SUPPORT OF CHARITY
FUTURE TALENT, AND AMY KEEN'S
ATTENDANCE AT THE NATIONAL
SCOUT AND GUIDE CONCERT BAND
THIS SUMMER**



Recipe



Let them eat cake!

Did you know that in the time of Marie-Antoinette the favourite cake was Kugelhoppf.

Records show that at the **Flower Festival** the favourite cake is coffee & walnut and the time-honoured favourite of Victoria Sponge. The origin of Victoria Sponge goes back to the 17th century and is nothing to do with the Queen of the same name!

Whatever type of cake you bake we'd love to taste it and share it with our visitors at the Flower Festival. Our target of 300 is some way off....

Oh, and scones go down very well too! There follows a tried and tested recipe I got from Pam. Yummy. What's your recipe 'to die for'?

If this has whetted your appetite for baking then please please join the great Hemingford Bake-off and promise a cake or 2.

Contact Alex Donlon at 07702568279 or complete the box on the back of the volunteer form.

Thank you - Sue Henderson

Scones (Jenny Bliss - kind permission of Pam Bartlett)

Ingredients

1lb SR flour
1 teaspoon salt (if used)
4oz cold butter - cut into cubes
1 teaspoon baking power
2 oz caster sugar
7 fl oz milk

Method

- Mix flour, baking powder and salt (if used) in Kenwood fitted with K beater.
- Add butter and mix until it resemble fine breadcrumbs.
- Add sugar and mix.
- Add milk and combine until you have a dough.
- Turn out on a floured surface, sprinkle with flour and press mixture into a round approx 1" thick.
- Cut with size of cutter your choice (*I use a 2.5" cutter and this quantity makes 9*).
- Place on a floured baking tray and bake for 8-9minutes.
- Remove from oven and place on cooling rack.
- Sprinkle with icing sugar.

Delicious served with jam and clotted cream

Note - may be frozen as soon as they have cooled down. Remove from the freezer for about 10 -15mins then freshen in oven at 200 C for about 5 mins.

WI - Chocolate tasting & Easter craft evening



This month, Cathy organized the activities with Easter in mind! Members were invited to blind taste, and rank in order of preference, three different brands of white, milk and dark chocolate. Aldi mid-range fared well in all categories although Galaxy milk chocolate still has a large following! All agreed that Bournville dark chocolate is now just too sweet for our taste with 58g of sugar/ 100 g and only 36% cocoa solids! Once satiated with chocolate, Cathy led us through the making of these small easter baskets. Using simple paper folding techniques, these baskets can be decorated to suit and hung from twigs over Easter.



Sue Cook

WI Committee

Left: Sue Cook presenting our outgoing president Maria with a bouquet of flowers as a small token of appreciation of all her hard work over the last couple of years.



Right: Maria handing over the silver brooch to Carolyn – her badge of office as our new president.

Below: Introducing the full committee. Back, from left to right – Alison Mackie, Maria Needham, Norma Keeling (Vice president), Sue Crafer (Secretary) and Sue Cook (aka Bockie). Front, from left to right – Ruth Burrows, Cathy Edwards (Treasurer) and Carolyn Purdie (our new President).



Next Meeting...

We will be meeting on Wednesday 7th May when Neil Mackie & John Finch will be coming to talk to us about their roles as volunteer Community First Responders (CFRSs) with the East of England Ambulance Service.



Carolyn Purdie

WI President

Sue Crafer

WI Secretary 07738 549598



sue@crafer.co.uk

www.hemingfordabbotswi.co.uk

It takes a village to host a Flower Festival



the pay is non-existent but the rewards are great!

How Can You Get Involved?

VOLUNTEER

there are so many ways to help!



Volunteer Coordinators

Carrie Plummer & Katie Slater

You'll be hearing from them very soon but if you cant wait please email on: info@haflowerfestival.org

BAKE CAKES!

The great Hemingford Bake-off



Hospitality & Cakes Coordinators

Alex Donlon & Alli Bentley

You'll be hearing from them very soon but if you cant wait please email on: info@haflowerfestival.org

GIVE PLANTS

Too many seedlings?
Splitting plants
We'll take them!



Plant stall coordinators

Jo Wills and Rie Hargreaves

You'll be hearing from them very soon but if you cant wait please email on: info@haflowerfestival.org

DONATE BOOKS

Time to clear your bookshelves



Book collector

Dickie Brookes

You'll be hearing from them very soon but if you cant wait please email on: info@haflowerfestival.org

SPREAD THE WORD

Tell your friends, family, colleagues



word-of-mouth:

digital

www.haflowerfestival.org



haflowerfestival



hemingfordflower

need some fliers?

email: info@haflowerfestival.org

COME!

Buy tickets online via website



www.haflowerfestival.org

or at Chapman's Field or Village Hall on the day.

We can't wait to welcome you to the

Hemingford Abbots Flower Festival 2025

Pam Bartlett - Chair of Steering Group HAFF25

07919573001

info@haflowerfestival.org

Eco Tip -

May

2025

Nothing says
Spring like the
buzz of a bee!
But bees are
declining

St James Church

KNITTED BIBLE STORIES EXHIBITION

**A fabulous exhibition of 30 knitted
Bible stories produced by one lady!**

This **FREE** exhibition
takes you on a
journey through
the Bible from the
Creation to the
resurrection of
Jesus

St James Church,
Hemingford Grey

10 am - 4 pm

Thursday 1st May

Friday 2nd May

Saturday 3rd May



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 |
| Family Service | Janine Hamilton | 390505 |
| Churchwardens | David Wordsworth Daniela Spilca | 370634 07722 587759 |
| Deputy Churchwarden | John Hyde Judith Clark | 464127 |
| 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 |
| Cllr Shaun Reinson | shaun.reinson@hemingford-abbots.org.uk | |
| Cllr Rie Hargreaves | rie.hargreaves@hemingford-abbots.org.uk | |
| Richard Chamberlain | richardchamberlain@hemingford-abbots.org.uk | |
| Maria Halls | mariahalls@hemingford-abbots.org.uk | |

PARISH CLERK

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Maxine Blewett | parishclerk@hemingford-abbots.org.uk |
|----------------|--|

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Douglas Dew | 469814 |
|-------------|--------|

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 |