## HEMINGFORD ABBOTS PARISH MAGAZINE JULY 2025



Parish Church Notices Women's Institute News Parish Council Update Hello!

This month saw much activity in the village as we prepared for the Flower Festival. Thank you all so much for your hard work and dedication I think we can all agree it was definitely worth it!

A truly amazing event that brought the entire village together to celebrate and to share the village with others. I was blown away by the community spirit and engagement and of course your beautiful gardens!

While I may not have managed a scone, I did swing by the ice cream van which had nearly sold out by the end of the first day!

Yet, the highlight of my time at this year's Flower Festival was getting the chance to meet so many of you and talk about the village and find out more about it and you. Whether we bumped into each other in the Church, around the village or you took the time to show me something in your garden, thank you! It's clear to see the love you have for the village and for St Margaret's, and I have very much enjoyed hearing about your happy memories and hopes for the future.

I look forward to many more to come!

Tim.



## **CHURCH SERVICES**

St Margaret's Church Hemingford Abbots		St James' Church Hemingford Grey
9.30am Sung Eucharist	6th July	10am Altogether Worship
	9th July	<b>10:30am M</b> id week Communion
8:30am Book of Common Prayer 11am Riverside Service at SJHG	13th July	11am Riverside Service
9.30am Sung Eucharist	20th July	10am Morning Worship
	23rd July	10:30 am Mid week Communion
8:30am Book of Common Prayer 9:30am Matins	27th July	10am Holy Communion
9.30am Sung Eucharist	3rd Aug	10am Altogether Worship
8:30am Book of Common Prayer 9:30am Family Service	10th Aug	10am Morning Worship
	13th Aug	<b>10:30am M</b> id week Communion
9.30am Sung Eucharist	17th Aug	10am Morning Worship
8:30am Book of Common Prayer 9:30am Matins	24th Aug	10am Holy Communion
	27th Aug	<b>10:30 am Mid week</b> Communion
Evensong TBC	31st Aug	10am Mission Sunday

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 Zoom A short service of quiet reflection & prayer

## **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

## SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE

The magazine will be published as a PDF and distributed by email. Please submit any articles by the morning of **Friday 22nd August** 

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, <u>admin@churchbytheriver.org.uk</u> or deliver to the Rachel in the Parish Office at 33, High Street, Hemingford Grey.

### **CHURCH CLEANING**

7th July July Carol and David Wordsworth
21st July Pearl Muspratt and Pam Bartlett
4th August JaAnne Rutter and Catherine Keen
18th August Vivien and Barrie Hoar Brasses
18th August Sue Henderson and Janet Garner

## Hemingford Abbots Parish Council Report June 2025

Hi everyone,

With preparations for the flower festival in full swing, the latest parish council meeting took place this week.

As you may know, we have agreed that the playing field can be used for various activities including the food vans and various stalls. We have also been asked to allow dogs on the field for the first time, and have assented to this as long as they remain on the lead at all times. The children's play equipment will also be fenced off, and a check made of the field at the end of each day to remove any unwanted presents! I am sure that everyone will act responsibly and respect the space.

The Hemingford Peace Memorial Field (Hemingford Pavilion) submitted a grant application to help with the running costs of their excellent facilities, and HAPC agreed the grant totalling £700, which was paid in June.

We are delighted to share that we have appointed a tree warden! Tom Mosher from Common Lane has stepped forward, and we will be engaging with HDC to explore how we can protect and enhance our wonderful green canopy.

We reviewed one new application as follows: <u>13 Rideaway Drive:</u> <u>demolition of garden shed and erection of garden room outbuilding and</u> <u>summer house</u>. We resolved that we were 'neither for nor against this application.

We also noted the refusal by HDC of the request to build three storage barns on land off Rideaway near to the bridge over the A1307. Multiple reasons were given for this decision - including contravention of the local plan, visual harm to the landscape, and concerns over traffic ingress and egress. Disappointingly, it appears that the resurfacing of Rideaway (near the bridge over the A1307) has been postponed to Spring 2026 – we will be seeking to better understand the reasons for this decision.

A parishioner at the meeting kindly shared a notice from Anglia Water announcing the installation of new sewer piping across Godmanchester Common. This is apparently to reduce the load on the existing infrastructure (which is quite old) as opposed to any preparation for new residential housing – so is to be welcomed.

Previously, parishioners have reported suspicious activity late at night around the former Little Chef building. The police have now visited the location and as a result of their findings, will be keeping a vigilant eye on proceedings. Please let us know if you see any further events that might give cause for concern.

Best wishes

Marcus Whewell

Chair HAPC

#### **Farewell to Flower Festival 2025**

It's the morning after the Flower Festival. At 32 degrees, the temperature still soars.

The dust (and let's face it — most of our lawns are now dust) settles. The marquees are down, the signs have gone. A surreal sight: a train of portaloos trundles out of the village, and the buggies that ferried our happy visitors to far-flung gardens of delight now sit aloft a trailer like dinky toys on a transporter. The visitors have left with smiles on their faces. People in the village have returned to their day jobs or embrace with relief a return to the routine of life after Flower Festival. The village is gradually reclaiming its tranquillity, and peace prevails once more.

And I am left wondering - did it really happen?

Then I look around. The village still looks beautiful, with neatly clipped hedges and trimmed verges. Behind this well-kept frame lie the spectacular gardens, so lovingly nurtured over many months. Even in this searing heat, the flowers in the church remain a staggering spectacle.

But above all, what remains is the intangible energy and the spirit; the smiles and cheery hellos of passing neighbours. There is a feel good factor.

For the past eight months, we've relentlessly bombarded you with requests — for cakes, books, volunteers — there's been no escape! We've asked for commitment from gardeners, cooks, bakers, drivers, greeters, and you have delivered. Big time.

It would be invidious to thank anyone by name or to single out any one area. Every effort, every contribution — no matter how small — has helped make this Flower Festival the success it was.

That said, I do want to pay tribute to the Steering Group — a team of 14 volunteers who gave their time and energy over the last eight months to make the Flower Festival happen. We welcomed some new younger members with fresh ideas and new approaches, balanced by those who have supported the Flower Festival over many years. Together, we made some changes while preserving the parts of the event that are so uniquely key to its success. We took risks and made bold decisions — and I thank the team for their trust, commitment, dedication and support.

I want to thank the whole village — those who threw themselves into it, those who quietly supported it, the first-timers, the long-standers, your friends and families and our neighbours from Hemingford Grey. To those unable or who chose not to participate — I thank you for your patience and cooperation when your peace or routine was inevitably disturbed.

Although the funds raised go toward the maintenance of the church's fabric, the benefits of this event go far beyond that. There is a renewed sense of pride in our village and in its community. There's a buzz that comes from working together toward a common purpose. New friendships have been made, old ones renewed.

As a result of your combined energy, talents, and creativity, this small village has delivered something far greater than the sum of its parts or the depth of its resource — something that transcends pounds and pence.

We have something precious in Hemingford Abbots and I hope events like this help us preserve that.

See you in 2027!

Pam Bartlett

Chair - Flower Festival Steering Committee 2025



Flower Festival bake-off - even Rev Tim joined in



## Now some interesting facts and figures

Over the weekend we filled **300** volunteer slots with more people contributing to the effort in the days before and after.

On Saturday there were more than **560** cars in the car park

1280 people bought a piece of cake - by card

1420 bought a cup of tea

2370 people visited the church

330 Bacon butties were consumed

280 cakes were donated

1200 scones were devoured

there are many interesting facts and figures but.....

now here's the bottom line......

#### From the treasurer :

Some costs are still estimated but this is a cautious and reasonable approximation to the final position......

Our income for the Flower Festival 2025 was...... £58.200.

After costs it is estimated there will be a surplus of **£35,500** 

Hemingford Abbots you aced it!

## **Two big Thanks from The Friends**

On behalf of The Friends of St Margaret's can I first say a huge 'Thank You' to Pam and her committee for delivering a wonderful Flower Festival in 2025. We all enjoyed it – villagers and visitors. Yes, there was an enormous amount of hard work, but equally there was great generosity, friendship and goodwill. The Flower Festival really brings out the best in our village. 2025 was the Festival's 61<sup>st</sup> year, and it continued the tradition of being a very special community event.

And the other huge 'Thank You' is to everyone who participated – so that is everyone in Hemingford Abbots and all their friends and relations who joined in. As you know all the funds go towards the repair and maintenance of the fabric of St Margaret's Church. Parts of the building are 800 years old, so timely repair and conservation ensure that it will be a beautiful focal point of our village for centuries more to come. Your support is invaluable

Bridget Flanagan

Chair, The Friends of St Margaret's

## **Eco Tip - Plastic Free July**

This is a great opportunity to review where you might be able to reduce single-use plastics in your life. Being part of Plastic Free July will help you find great alternatives that can become new habits forever. Paying attention to what we consume and its effect on God's earth, can lead us not into guilt, but into action and prayerful determination to see change where it's possible. Read more about the effects of plastic at arocha.org.uk/plastic-summer.





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

July 2nd	Talk on Cruising by travel journalist, Regina Baraban
July 9th	Seated exercise
July 16th	Talk on China by Tish Peek
July 23rd	Seated exercise
July 30th	Outdoor games at the Pavilion
Aug 6th	Seated exercise
Aug 13th	No HubClub
Aug 20th	Seated exercise
Aug 27th	No HubClub
Sept 3rd	Seated exercise
Sept 10th	Film and Ice-cream
Sept 17th	Seated exercise
Sept 24th	A talk about Holt Island

#### Sign up to receive updates by email and WhatsApp. Contact us to receive direct.

Tel: 07308 035416Email: hemingfordhub@icloud.comWeb: www.hemingfordhub.co.ukRegistered Charity No: 1194706

# Mayor explores how to make Hoppa Bus

## happen

Our new Mayor for the Combined Authority, Paul Bristow, visited us at the Parish Centre to discuss making our Hoppa Bus a reality. He's a can-do man, and is convening a meeting of interested parties to explore how to make our Hoppa bus, and rural transport in general, happen.



Paul Bristow enjoying finding out about the Hemingfords.

## 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



## WI Pudding Club - June 2025



A chance to taste a Parade of Seven Puddings made by our members!

The inaugural meeting of Hemingford Abbots WI Pudding Club! Bockie outlined the history of the Pudding Club (see below) and its mission to preserve British puddings. We had seven desserts to savour, seven being the traditional number to bake and serve, particularly at gatherings in Scandinavia.

Our seven cooks gave the reasons they had chosen their puddings:

Sandy Wells - Summer Pudding - A nice easy dessert with summer produce.

Cathy Edwards - **Chocolate Mousse Cake** - Needed to use up the chocolate from our Easter tasting evening!

Gill Knight - **Lemon Cheesecake** - A family favourite which when Gill tries to adapt is asked to 'not muck around with it' by her son!

Jean Marney - **Eve's Pudding** - Lots of apple trees in her garden have prompted Jean to try various apple recipes and this one is easily adapted for coeliacs.

Diane Macrae - **Rhubarb Crumble** - Another pudding led by produce in the garden with a biscuit crumb favoured over a more traditional oat topping.

Carolyn Purdie - **Tropical Fruit Kebabs** - A different dessert to counterbalance the more traditional offerings.

Sue Cook aka Bockie - **Norwegian Waffles** - A family tradition from her mother-in-law served with brown cheese and Norwegian strawberry jam.

The evening kicked off with a glass of Bucks Fizz and the tasting commenced. Bockie demonstrated cooking the fresh waffles and we were all interested in trying the brown cheese!

While we were working our way through the delightful desserts Bockie had provided us with a Pudding Club fact sheet and a pudding inspired quiz.

We decided not to vote for our favourite pudding as they were all delicious! We all returned home suitably replete and probably not wanting breakfast the next day!

#### Sue Crafer



The world-famous Pudding Club is based at the Three Ways House Hotel in the Cotswolds. It's heartfelt mission since it started in 1985 has been to preserve the Great British Pudding. The club runs every Friday evening and begins with a glass of Bucks Fizz and an introduction by The Pudding Master. A light main course is followed by the Parade of Seven Traditional Puddings, with all its noise and ceremony, the aim is to taste them all and then to vote for your favourite pudding of the night over coffee. Guests depart certificates in hand!

Why seven puddings? In Scandinavia it is traditional to bake and serve seven types of cakes or biscuits for celebrations particularly birthday parties and at Christmas. At the end of a Norwegian cook book from the 1800's it states that 'good housewives' should bake seven



types of Christmas cookies!

The Hasty Pudding Club was founded in 1795, at Harvard University, USA. The 21 founding undergraduates came together "to cherish feelings of friendship and patriotism." The club is named for Hasty Pudding a traditional English dish popular at that time in America that the members ate at their first meeting. Each week two members, had to provide a pot of hasty pudding for the club to enjoy. Often referred to simply as the Pudding, this social club still exists.

Sue Cook







#### Next Meeting...

Please note that there will be **NO WI meeting in July**! Our **Summer Outing** will take place on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August** starting at **6pm** at **Godmanchester Community Plant Nursery**. Oscar Jeakins will be taking us on a tour of the nursery, looking at the orchard, nuttery, hives and gardens. This will be followed by tea and cake! If you would like to join us, and have not already signed up, please let us know asap – we need to know numbers for catering. Sue Crafer is collating the numbers. If you have any dietary requirements (*eg* gluten free) we need to know that too!





Carolyn Purdie WI President

sue@crafer.co.uk

*Sue Crafer* WI Secretary 07738 549598 Herningford Abbots Womens Institute Inspiring Women

www.hemingfordabbotswi.co.uk

"There is no better way to bring people together than with desserts"

**Gail Simmons** 

# Recipe - Pistachio, rose & white chocolate blondies

## Ingredients

60g pistachios 150g white chocolate, chopped 100g unsalted butter, cubed. *Plus extra for the tin* 200g light brown soft sugar 2 large eggs 1⁄2-1 tbsp rosewater 85g plain flour 100g white chocolate chips Dried rose petals to decorate (optional)



## Method

#### Step 1

Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and butter and line a 20 x 20cm baking tin. Tip the pistachios into a pan and toast over a medium heat for 3-4 mins until aromatic, tossing occasionally so they don't burn. Set aside.

#### Step 2

Melt the chopped white chocolate and butter together, either in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water or in the microwave in short bursts. Leave to cool slightly, then beat in the brown sugar with a wooden spoon. Add the eggs, mixing well after each addition, then stir in the rosewater and <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> tsp salt. Sieve in the flour and gently fold together.

#### Step 3

Roughly chop the cooled pistachios, then add them to the blondie mix and fold in the white chocolate chips. Pour the mixture into the lined baking tin.

#### Step 4

Bake for 35-40 mins until set and golden brown, then leave to cool completely before slicing. To serve, scatter with dried rose petals, if you like.

\* St James Parish Centre Cafe 33 High Street, Hemingford Grey

speciality coffee/selection of teas/ hot chocolate/soft drinks/cakes & slices/toasted teacakes/courtyard garden/dog\_friendly

Open Wednesday & Thursday 10.00 am - 12.30 pm

everyone welcome, donations only

### **USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Abandoned cars 01480 388297 **Fly tipping** 01480 388640

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/

> Illegal signs/graffiti 0800 7832220

Refuse & recycling helpline 0800 3896613 http://huntingdonshire.gov.uk/

St Ives & District Neighbourhood Policing Team dial 101

## K&M Lighting Services 01480 395806

Faulty and broken streetlights

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

## **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	John Hyde Daniela Spilca	07722 587759
Deputy Churchwarden	Judith Clark Pearl Muspratt	
Bellringers	Sharon Williams	830766
Flower Guild	Bridget Flanagan	465370
Magazine	Parish Office Team admin@churchbytheriver.org.uk	467250
Treasurer	Brian Atling	

For weddings see churchbytheriver.org.uk/weddings

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#### 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