

# **HEMINGFORD ABBOTS PARISH MAGAZINE SEPTEMBER 2025**



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

Dear Friends,

It seems to me that at the moment every time I open a periodical, magazine or even the Church Times someone is quoting the Irish Poet W.B Yeats. I find his writing rather depressing and so it fails to leave me uplifted.

With the very hot weather nature seems to be giving the impression that Autumn has already arrived. Trees are shedding leaves, the Harvest is well advanced and in addition my two friendly squirrels are making continuous visits to my Walnut tree to garner nuts to store for the winter.

As we move into September with the signs that nature is sending because of the lack of rain, thoughts naturally turn to the season of Autumn. For me and possibly many of you this makes me think of the poet John Keats and his Poem Ode to Autumn which paints such a vivid and magical picture of Autumn. The opening words of his poem seem to say everything about Autumn.

“Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”

His poem not only brings Autumn to life in our imagination but encourages us to see the unique beauty of the season leaving us uplifted.

This all leads me to reflect on how nature and for many gardeners is beneficial to both our souls and health. The positive effects on our health and particularly our mental health that just being outside and certainly if linked to some activities are very well documented. Just being in the fresh air and enjoying sights, smells and tastes is a bonus. If we are also able to discover a peaceful sanctuary in our gardens or the countryside, somewhere to escape from the world for a short space of time and provide the opportunity to immerse ourselves in nature, identifying what God has created then our health and souls will benefit.

The Poet George Herbert wrote: -

“By all means use sometime to be alone  
Salute thy self: see what thy soul doth wear.  
Dare to look in thy chest, for tis thine own:  
And tumble up and down what thou find'st there  
Who cannot rest till he good fellows finde.  
He quits the house and turns out of doors his mind.”



Dr Charles Moseley, a Fellow of Hughes Hall, Cambridge, I think painted a tranquil picture of Autumn when he wrote this week: -

“As we sat outside over an evening meal it suddenly becomes clear that our beloved swifts whose joyful sounds fill the summer skies at evening had left for Africa. When they leave us, you notice the nights beginning to draw in on us as the year ages. He concludes by quoting Dug Hammarskjöld (a past Secretary General of the United Nations) “For all that has been, Thanks, for all that shall be. Yes”.

My prayer for you all is that this Autumn may see you enjoying nature, good health and sufficient space to allow the soothing flow of nature to have its healing power on your body and soul.

May God bless you all  
Brian



**ST JAMES' BIG WEEKEND**

**12 FRI 13 SAT 14 SUN**

**SEPTEMBER**

Sign up on the church website for events over the weekend. Everyone is invited to the Sunday BBQ with inflatable fun for all the family!

come and join us for

**FAMILY FAITH FUN**

[www.churchbytheriver.org.uk](http://www.churchbytheriver.org.uk)



**ST JAMES' BIG WEEKEND**

**12<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

Sign up for events on the church website!

**FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**7:00 PM Get to Know Your Neighbour**  
*A relaxed evening of conversation and connection.*

**9:00 PM Compline**  
*A short and peaceful night prayer.*

**SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**10:30 AM Intergenerational Event**  
*Activities and fun for all ages together.*

**2:00 PM Knowing God**  
*An afternoon session exploring faith.*

**7:00 PM Knowing Worship**  
*An evening of music and worship.*

**SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**10:00 AM Sunday Service**  
*Worship together as a church family.*

**12:00 PM BBQ at the Vicarage Garden**  
**- 4:00 PM**  
*Food, fellowship and fun!  
(Includes a bouncy castle for children!)*

[www.churchbytheriver.org.uk](http://www.churchbytheriver.org.uk)

## Church Services

<b>St Margaret's Church Hemingford Abbots</b>		<b>St James' Church Hemingford Grey</b>
<b>9:30am</b> Sung Eucharist	<b>7th Sept</b>	<b>10am</b> Altogether Worship
	<b>10th Sept</b>	<b>10:30am</b> Mid week Communion
<i>Joint service at St James</i>	<b>14th Sept</b>	St James Big Church Week End
<b>9:30am</b> Sung Eucharist	<b>21st Sept</b>	<b>10am</b> Morning Worship
	<b>24th Sept</b>	<b>10:30am</b> Mid week Communion
<b>8:30am</b> Book of Common Prayer <b>9:30am</b> Matins	<b>28th Sept</b>	<b>10am</b> Holy Communion <b>6pm</b> Evening Service
<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion <i>Harvest Festival</i>	<b>5th Oct</b>	<b>10am</b> Altogether Worship <i>Harvest Festival</i>
	<b>8th Oct</b>	<b>10:30am</b> Mid week Communion
<b>8:30am</b> Book of Common Prayer <b>9:30am</b> Family Service	<b>12th Oct</b>	<b>10am</b> Service of the Word
<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>19th Oct</b>	<b>10am</b> Service of the Word
	<b>22nd Oct</b>	<b>10:30am</b> Mid week Communion
<b>St James Morning Prayer 9.15am Monday &amp; Wednesday in church</b>		
<b>St Margaret's Morning Prayer 8.00am Tuesday &amp; Thursday on Zoom</b>		
<b>Monday to Friday - Night Prayer at 9pm on <u>Zoom</u></b> <i>A short service of quiet reflection &amp; 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

## OCTOBER MAGAZINE

The magazine will be published as a PDF and distributed by email. Please submit any articles by the morning of **Friday 19th September**

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](mailto:admin@churchbytheriver.org.uk) or deliver to the Rachel in the Parish Office at 33, High Street, Hemingford Grey.

## CHURCH CLEANING

1st September Carolyn Allan and Judith Bolton

15th September David Wordsworth

29th September John Hyde and Judith Clark

Brasses Vivien and Barry Hoar

# Hemingford Abbots Parish Council Report

## August 2025

Hi everyone,

The last four weeks have been a particularly busy period for the parish council, with 2 council meetings and also facilitating an open session for the village.

Much of our activity surrounded the latest planning application for 'Change of Use' for Hemingford Park (25/01248/FUL|Change of use from dwelling (Use Class C3) & agricultural land to a wellness centre (Class E) and wedding and events venue (Sui Generis) with guest sleeping accommodation and parking).

At our parish council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July, we decided to conduct an anonymous consultation of the parish to better understand the views of Hemingford Abbots residents on this matter before we deliberated on the application. Over 130 responses were submitted, with 89% expressing 'some concerns' with the application (in particular 'noise' and 'traffic') - and 74% of those who responded said that an open meeting would be beneficial.

An open meeting was held at the village hall on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August, with approximately 60 people attending.

Following the open meeting, Hemingford Abbots Parish Council held an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August where the parish council voted unanimously to oppose the application. A copy of our objection letter can be found on the HDC planning portal or alternatively, it can be requested from the Parish Clerk, email [parishclerk@hemingford-abbots.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@hemingford-abbots.org.uk).

Hemingford Abbots Parish Council has also asked HDC to 'call in' this application to the Development Management Committee and, if HDC agrees the request, it will allow a wider debate of the application with the public present. At the time of writing, we await a formal response from HDC to our request.

The parish council has also been considering an application to 'normalise' the new track / road on the same site, 25/01451/CLED| Certificate of existing lawful use for access tracks, which we have similarly agreed to oppose.

Marcus Whewell

Chair HAPC

## **Our proposed local bus is on the move....**

Paul Bristow, our new Combined Authority Mayor, visited the Hemingfords this summer and offered to set up a meeting to find a way to make rural transport work for us. We will be joined by Mayor Bristow, our local MP, Ben Obese-Jecty, Dews buses and officials from the Transport and Infrastructure committee for the county. In preparation, we held a meeting with Dews' management team, which resulted in a proposal for a daily, frequent and reliable timetabled service. Furthermore The Cock pub is supporting any efforts on the Hoppa team's part to make this bus service a reality. Watch out for in-pub ads for a team to 'drive' this initiative.

## **Join us...**

We are always happy to hear from anyone who wants to get involved with our free Hub activities, whether as a speaker (only 40 minutes) or as a helper. And all villagers are welcome to join us as our guests ... and enjoy delicious cakes!

## **HUBCLUB EVENTS 3pm at the Pavilion**

<b>Sept 3rd</b>	<b>Seated exercise</b>
<b>Sept 10th</b>	<b>Film</b>
<b>Sept 17th</b>	<b>Seated exercise</b>
<b>Sept 24th</b>	<b>Talk on Holt Island</b>
<b>Oct 1st</b>	<b>Seated exercise</b>
<b>Oct 8th</b>	<b>TBC</b>

*(subject to change)*

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

**Tel:** 07308 035416    **Email:** [hemingfordhub@icloud.com](mailto:hemingfordhub@icloud.com)

**Web:** [www.hemingfordhub.co.uk](http://www.hemingfordhub.co.uk)    **Registered Charity No:** 1194706



## Eco Tip - September

The Season of Creation (1 September - 4 October) is dedicated to God as the creator and sustainer of all life. During this period of the church calendar, many churches celebrate Harvest, thanking God for His provision through the land and food that is grown. It's a time when churches and congregations are called to pay special attention to the responsibility of humanity for the Earth and for all that lives upon it, and to pray for our world. Explore A Rocha UK's season of creation resources at: [arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/season-of-creation](http://arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/season-of-creation).

## Safety Tip

### Keeping Safe

In each publication we will include a new tip for keeping safe.

Always remember, that nobody official will ask for your bank account details and pin numbers. If in doubt put the phone down, or shut the door and call a number you trust. Do not use the phone number someone on the door gives you to verify an identity. Give yourself time to check everything.

### Tip number 1:

A company will never call you out of the blue regarding issues with your computer. Genuine computer companies do not make these calls. If you receive a call like this, hang up straight away. Only phone back companies on phone numbers published on original documents already in your possession.

**If you think you have been the victim of fraud report online at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or phone 0300 123 2040.**

# WI AUGUST 2025



## WI trip to Godmanchester Community Plant Nursery

We were lucky to have a warm, sunny evening for our summer outing in August this year! Twenty-two of us met at 6 o'clock at Godmanchester Community Plant Nursery where Oscar Jeakings, the nursery manager, took us for a tour of the 4.5-acre site. As many of you will remember, from Oscar's talk to us in October 2023, the nursery and grounds are run by the Town Council with the aim of involving and educating as much of the local community in gardening and the natural environment as possible.

There is a large team of volunteers that get involved with all manner of jobs from weeding to vegetable planting, seed sowing to fruit harvesting, mulching to grass cutting.







We started our tour in the green house where the seeds are sown and seedlings are potted up. Here Oscar showed us two different redwood saplings that are being nurtured ready to plant out in the grounds. Oscar also gave us a sneak peak of a tree that is to be unveiled this weekend: it is a sapling from a tree that survived the Hiroshima bombing in August 1945. Green Legacy Hiroshima have honoured Godmanchester by giving them a sapling from the ginkgo biloba, one of only 147 worldwide, in recognition of the part the town played in housing ten German scientists at Farm Hall, in West Street, 80 years ago.

We meandered through the areas close to the cafe and shop with vibrant planters containing alstroemeria, rudbeckia and alliums and rows of dahlias and echinacea waiting to be bought.







There was a drought garden, a winter aspect garden, a newly dug pond and a vegetable garden to take in before we walked down, through the orchard with over 20 varieties of local heritage fruit trees, to the wilder end of the site. Here we found the bee hives, a dead hedge, a wild flower meadow, a nuttury and an area of mixed woodland - a lot to explore.

Returning to the Muddy Trowel Café we all enjoyed tea or coffee and a selection of delicious cakes. Many then returned to the sales area to buy a plant or two before heading home. For those that weren't able to join us and would like to visit, the nursery is open from Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 3pm with the café open Thursday to Saturday 10am to 2pm. Dates for our diary: the nursery will be hosting Godmanchester Town show on Saturday 6th September and Apple Day will take place on Saturday 11th October. Enjoy!







***Sue Cook***

***Carolyn Purdie***

WI President

# Hemingford Abbots WI

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall



## Underwear through the ages a talk by Fran Saltmarsh

For more information please contact our secretary

Sue Crafer on 07738 549598 or

[sue@crafer.co.uk](mailto:sue@crafer.co.uk)

Guests are always welcome

- why not come along and try your local WI?!





# Three-cheese scones

Makes: 6 giant scones

Prepare: 15 mins

Cook: 15 mins

Total time: 30 mins

## Ingredients

- 50g butter, cold and cubed, *plus extra for greasing*
- 250g self-raising flour, *plus extra for dusting*
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 100g Waitrose Mature Cheddar Cheese
- 100g No.1 Vintage Smoked Red Fox
- 50g essential Waitrose feta
- ½ tsp sea salt flakes, *crushed*
- 1 tsp nigella seeds, *plus extra for sprinkling*
- 150ml whole milk, *plus extra for brushing*



## Method

1. Preheat the oven to 220°C, gas mark 7 and place a large baking tray in the oven to heat up. Grease another slightly smaller baking tray with butter, then dust with a little flour.
2. Sift the flour and baking powder into a large bowl. Add the butter and rub in with your fingertips until it resembles rough breadcrumbs.
3. Coarsely grate the Cheddar, then add to the bowl, reserving 25g. Coarsely grate the Red Leicester and crumble the feta. Add both to the bowl with the sea salt and nigella seeds. Mix to combine.
4. Make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients, then add the milk and mix with a round-bladed knife to make a soft dough. Turn out onto a lightly floured work surface, then knead gently, just to smooth the surface.
5. Roll or pat the dough out to a thickness of at least 2cm, then stamp out circles with a 7-8cm straight-edged round cutter. Press the trimmings back together and reroll a couple of times as needed to make 6 scones. Place onto the greased and floured tray.
6. Brush the top of each scone with a little milk, then scatter with the reserved Cheddar and extra nigella seeds. Put the tray on top of the preheated baking tray in the oven and bake the scones for 12-15 minutes or until risen and golden. Serve warm, if possible.

## Cook's tip

Make them mini: If a more elegant approach is required, use a 4-5cm cutter instead. Press the dough out to a thickness of about 1.5cm, then make 16-18 rounds, reusing the trimmings as before. Bake for 10-12 minutes on the preheated tray, as above.

## 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%20Street%20Cleaning%201.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	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 <a href="mailto:admin@churchbytheriver.org.uk">admin@churchbytheriver.org.uk</a>	467250
Treasurer	Brian Atling	

For weddings see [churchbytheriver.org.uk/weddings](http://churchbytheriver.org.uk/weddings)

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

Marcus Whewell (chairman)	<a href="mailto:marcus.whewell@hemingford-abbots.org.uk">marcus.whewell@hemingford-abbots.org.uk</a>	464293
Cllr Shaun Reinson	<a href="mailto:shaun.reinson@hemingford-abbots.org.uk">shaun.reinson@hemingford-abbots.org.uk</a>	
Cllr Rie Hargreaves	<a href="mailto:rie.hargreaves@hemingford-abbots.org.uk">rie.hargreaves@hemingford-abbots.org.uk</a>	
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Maria Halls	<a href="mailto:mariahalls@hemingford-abbots.org.uk">mariahalls@hemingford-abbots.org.uk</a>	

## PARISH CLERK

Maxine Blewett	<a href="mailto:parishclerk@hemingford-abbots.org.uk">parishclerk@hemingford-abbots.org.uk</a>
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## COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Douglas Dew	469814
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## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Sarah Conboy	<a href="mailto:sarah.conboy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">sarah.conboy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>	
Debbie Mickelburgh	<a href="mailto:debbie.mickleburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">debbie.mickleburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>	
Brett Mickleburgh	<a href="mailto:brett.mickleburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">brett.mickleburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>	

Parish Council Website: [www.hemingfordabbots.org.uk](http://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