

December 2025



Produced by the churches of
Cauntown, Cromwell,
Norwell and Ossington

www.becktrent.org.uk/ccno-parish-magazine



CCNO Parish Magazine – December 2025

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Beck & Trent Parishes

Services December 2025

		St Andrew's Caunton	St Giles' Cromwell	St Laurence's Norwell	Holy Rood Ossington	All Saints' Sutton	St Mary's Carlton
<i>first Sunday</i>	7 Dec. <i>Advent 2</i>	9.00 a.m. Holy Communion				10.30 a.m. Joint service at Methodist chapel 4.30 p.m. Carol Service at All Saints'	3.00 p.m. Evensong
<i>second Sunday</i>	14 Dec. <i>Advent 3</i>			6.00 p.m. Carol Service		9.00 a.m. Breakfast church at Methodist Hall	11.00 a.m. Holy Communion
<i>third Sunday</i>	21 Dec. <i>Advent 4</i>	7.30 p.m. Carol Service			6.00 p.m. Carol Service	10.30 a.m. Joint service at Methodist chapel	10.30 a.m. Christingle Service
<i>Monday</i>	22 Dec.		7.30 p.m. Carol Service				
<i>Tuesday</i>	23 Dec.			4.00 p.m. Crib Service			6.30 p.m. Lessons and Carols
<i>Wednesday</i>	24 Dec. <i>Christmas Eve</i>			7.00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion		4.00 p.m. Crib Service at All Saints 9.00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion at All Saints	
<i>Thursday</i>	25 Dec. <i>Christmas Day</i>				10.00 a.m. Christmas Holy Communion		11.00 a.m. Christmas Holy Communion
<i>fourth Sunday</i>	28 Dec. <i>Christmas 1</i>					10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at All Saints	3.00 p.m. Evensong

Beck & Trent churches update

From the Reverend David Lewis

Someone asked me the other day how I remember all six of my parishes and reel them off easily. I use the acronym NOCCCS ('knocks' in my head), standing for Norwell, Ossington, Caunton, Cromwell, Carlton and Sutton. This may be helpful to any of you who are not regularly aware of which parishes I'm now looking after as vicar.

One of the first things I have wanted to attend to is the pattern of Sunday Services that we have in the benefice. For years, each parish has relied on different priests to cover services, operating somewhat independently of each other. My desire is to be present and serve in each service that takes place, whilst

also not rushing from one to another without a chance to connect with people.

A wonderful set of representatives from across the benefice has helped me set out a new plan for 2026. This involves having a 9.00am in one parish and an 11.00am service in another parish for the first four Sundays of the month. The fifth Sunday will have a singular 11.00am service that moves around from parish to parish; historically known as the 'Benefice Service'. This will hopefully encourage us to gather and worship together, no matter what your usual local church may be.

At the time of publishing, the accompanying table represents what is planned for 2026.

(continued overleaf...)

Help, support and contacts

The church is here to help, support and advise you.

Please get in touch with our Vicar, the Reverend David Lewis, who would like to hear from you. Email david.lewis@beckandtrent.church or call 07742 932444.

Do not hesitate to make contact, however please remember that Wednesday is David's day off.

Churchwardens:	Caunton	Irene Crossley 01636 639 123
	Cromwell	Sarah Clark 01636 821 943
	Ossington	Robin & Jane Drury 07951 439 840
Other contacts:	Norwell	Elizabeth Jones 01636 636 365
		Barbara Bateson 01636 636 840



Also in the Benefice:

Carlton-on-Trent Edith Crowther (PCC Secretary) edithtamworth@gmail.com
Sutton-on-Trent contact the Administrator (see below)

- For baptisms, weddings and funerals contact the churchwarden or the administrator, Lorna Caddy, on 01636 555082 / 07568 929232, or email lorna.c.caddy@gmail.com
- Deanery Administrator paula.carlin@southwell.anglican.org 01636 817988

Beck and Trent website: www.becktrent.org.uk

Safeguarding in our churches

Ensuring that children, young people and adults are kept safe whilst in our care is an integral part of our church life. If you have any concerns about Safeguarding contact the Diocesan Safeguarding team:

email: safeguarding@southwell.anglican.org

or report a concern on <https://southwell.anglican.org/contact-safeguarding> or contact 01636 817200

Outside of normal office hours:

Nottinghamshire: 0300 456 4546

Nottingham City Council: 0115 876 1000

Bawtry: 01302 796 000

Some parishes have not changed their pattern much, whilst others have either increased their provision or sacrificed their current time slot. I'm aware that there is never a perfect system when it comes to these things and am grateful to everyone who is willing to find a new norm together as a benefice.

Please also keep an eye out for other initiatives that will be starting in the New Year.

Verse of the month:

“When they saw the star, they were filled with joy”
Matthew 2 v 10
 Joy is for all the world, the Lord has come.

From the registers

15 Oct. – 14 Nov. 2025

Wedding
 18 October 2025
 William Glyn Rees-Jones
 & Abigail Kate Draper
 St Laurence, Norwell

BECK & TRENT

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SUNDAY	9.00am	11.00am
1ST	CAUNTON*	SUTTON
2ND	NORWELL*	CARLTON*
3RD	SUTTON*	OSSINGTON*
4TH	CROMWELL*	NORWELL
5TH		BENEFICE*

* SERVICE INCLUDES HOLY COMMUNION

This parish magazine serves the villages of Caunton, Cromwell, Norwell and Ossington and is published monthly. It is delivered free to households in the four parishes.

The magazine is produced by the church for the primary purpose of delivering information about church services, events and related issues. We are fortunate that we are also able to include community news, and news of events in neighbouring villages. Advertisements are paid for, enabling free delivery to all homes. Thank you to our advertisers.

From the Reverend David Lewis



Dear Villagers,

Our youngest child, for the first time in her life, has begun asking, "When will it be Christmas?" This will be the last year for me that I see that initial experience of advent expectation from one of my own children. That point in life when they realise there's something exciting on the horizon but must wait for it. I'm aware that we all have different experiences and opinions about Christmas but I'm grateful as a parent that I get to see the season through children's eyes as much as I see it through the looking glass of faith.

A verse that has been prominent in my mind on this topic is Isaiah 11:6 – "The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion together; and a little child shall lead them." Advent and Christmas are a reminder of the childlike quality that is necessary for faith and as part of fostering peace in our communities. The mystery of angels, wise men, gifts and light are not only

a chance to gather around a shared table, but to have our eyes opened to the bigger story that we are swept up into at this time of year.

Though we have little information about Jesus as a child, the god-man we celebrate was still a product of his upbringing. The teacher who gave us such powerful guidance was guided by parental hands. The one of whom Christians receive continual nourishment was himself fed by those he loved.

This part of His story reminds us to see each other and God through a lens of dependence and wonder. I look forward to celebrating Christmas with you all as vicar, as well as dwelling in the anticipation of Advent. Glory in the highest and peace to all on earth.

All blessings,

David



December lacks nature's usual colourful display and mosses provide some much-needed colour during this time. Mosses are small, non-vascular plants, meaning they lack the normal transport tissues like xylem and phloem found in other plants. As bryophytes, mosses are one of the world's oldest plant species, having evolved approximately 450 million years ago. There are estimated to be between 12,000 and 20,000 different species of moss throughout the world. Mosses are diverse and come in a variety of shapes and sizes, ranging from the triangular pygmy moss, which is as small as 1mm, to the common haircap moss, which can grow upwards of 30 cm tall.

Mosses are specialised to survive in inhospitable and hostile environments, such as on rooftops and tarmac, much to our dismay! Mosses lack a root system and instead have tiny hair-like structures called rhizoids, with which they can anchor themselves to these bare surfaces. Mosses obtain moisture through their leaf-like (phyllids) and stem-like structures (cauliids) from rainfall and air moisture. As a pioneer species, mosses change the environment in which they are found by trapping dust and organic material and, over time, the rhizomes break down their rock substrates, forming a primitive soil. This makes the conditions more favourable for other species to colonise, forming more complex ecosystems in the process of ecological succession.

Mosses also act as microhabitats or 'miniature forests' for small organisms, like microscopic organisms and insects, where they live on rocks, trees, and fallen logs. Mosses have the ability to prevent freezing during winter, and this was initially thought to be due to their producing their own antifreeze proteins. However more recent research suggests that it is in fact due to a bacteria that lives on the moss, producing ice-binding proteins, preventing ice crystals forming on moss. This relationship is commensal, with the moss providing a home and nutrient



False coloured scanning electron micrograph of tardigrade on moss. Eye of Science, Science Source.

source for the bacteria and the bacteria preventing the moss from freezing in return. This becomes particularly important in winter, as they provide these much-needed habitats throughout cold periods.

Lacking the vascular system of other plants means mosses can survive during periods of environmental change, such as drought. As desiccation-tolerant plants, mosses can completely dry out while they wait for the arrival of rains, and can survive in this state for months, years and even decades until, with the arrival of the rains, they act as sponges, absorbing moisture from the air and becoming re-saturated.

If you're looking for something to buy your little ones for Christmas, an at-home kid's microscope is a perfect stocking filler. You can undertake your own moss safari (there are lots of good websites for guidance) where you can search for the moss 'big five' which includes mites, nematodes, rotifers, gastrotrichs and tardigrades or water bears, that can tolerate extremes of temperature (absolute zero, -273oC and +148oC!), pressure and dehydration.

Adam Breslin
adamnaturewatch@gmail.com

BIRD *Watch*

It has been quiet recently for local birdwatching. Perhaps the excitement of the Great White Egrets last month has meant everything else just seems a bit too 'normal'. However I never cease to be astounded by the Red Kites that we get over the villages. We really are blessed that these magnificent gliding machines are seemingly omnipresent in the parish these days.

I've been spending more time in the car recently, which has meant less time for walking and birding. While being in the car isn't the best way to spot birds, it can actually be good fun trying to quickly identify what is flying over as you move up and down the country and drive near different habitats. It is not uncommon to be heading down to Newark on the A1 and spot flocks of geese (look out for Pink-Footed Geese this time of year), Little Egrets, Common Terns and Cormorants all flying overhead. If you're stuck in traffic and gazing out of the window, you might also see Mute Swans (or even Whooper and Bewick Swans), or other wildfowl and waders sitting in fields. Keep your eyes peeled, whilst obviously staying very alert to the road!

As I have been in the car a lot more I decided to change my usual playlist and reluctantly subscribed to a music service. This got me thinking about our birdlife and the changes we see (and hear) as the year moves on. While some of our summer visitors are sunning themselves thousands of miles away, winter brings its own special cast (and choir). Keep your eyes (and ears) peeled for flocks of Redwing and Fieldfare, which are fresh arrivals from Scandinavia feasting on berries in hedgerows and gardens. Their chatter can turn even the quietest lane into a festive chorus. Goldfinches and Long-tailed Tits add a splash of colour and sound to grey days, while the Robin — Britain's unofficial Christmas mascot — provides entertainment and company in equal measure, seemingly following you around the garden looking for unearthed insects. Robins are also usually



the first to be up and singing in the mornings and last to stop at night.

As temperatures drop, your garden can become a vital pit stop for birds — so keep feeders topped up with high-energy foods like sunflower hearts, peanuts, or fat balls (avoid those in mesh bags, which can trap small feet). Fresh water is equally important, so remember to pour a little warm water onto frozen birdbaths in the morning. If you have space, leave a small patch of your garden a little "messy" as fallen leaves and seed heads provide both shelter and food.

Finally, don't forget to open a window or pop out of your back door, even when it is cold, and simply pause and enjoy it all. Birdwatching in winter isn't just about ticking off species — it's about the small moments: the hoot of a Tawny Owl at dusk, the busy flutter at the feeders when the bad weather breaks, the way a Robin perches on a branch against a backdrop of snow with its resplendent red breast shining like a beacon. So, pull on your hat, grab your binoculars (and maybe a mince pie), and take a wander.

Remember, collectively the birds haven't gone — they've just changed the cast, choir (and their playlist) for the season.

Happy birding and a Happy Christmas!

Greg Hill
gregoryjameshill24@gmail.com



*Pictured above: Red Kite
Right: Robin*

RAIN *Watch*

After a very wet September, October was a little wetter than the long-term Norwell average with 109% of expected rainfall – 7.4cm (2.9 in).

Despite the low rainfall earlier in the summer we have received the amount of rain expected by the end of September.

Andrew Ward wardha@aol.com



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01636 821232 | www.seedtofeed.co.uk

WANTED – A DIGITAL DESIGN VOLUNTEER

Who makes our parish magazine look so good? It's our wonderful designer Heather Beasant who volunteers her time to put it together each month. Now, after five splendid years, she has let us know that she needs to make space for new things in her life.

So we need to find a community-minded volunteer with digital design skills to artwork the parish magazine.

If you are that person, or you know that person, please contact either Elizabeth Jones (01636 636365) or Chris Senior (01636 822727).

Caunton church news



Remembrance Sunday

Once again, villagers came together for our annual Act of Remembrance. It's always humbling to honour those who served in both world wars, as well as all conflicts that have involved our military personnel, far too many paying the ultimate sacrifice!

Memory Tree

If you go into church, there is a white tree in the Lady Chapel – this is St. Andrew's Memory Tree. You are invited to write a message on the labels provided in memory of a loved one, or to whoever you wish, and then hang it on the tree where it will stay throughout the festive season.

Christmas at St. Andrew's

Time is gathering pace as we begin our celebrations towards Christmas!

Hopefully, society Christmas trees, along with church decorations, will now be in place. So St. Andrew's should be well and truly ready to welcome visitors for the festive season which lasts until Twelfth Night on 6 January – the Feast of Epiphany.

- A coffee morning/cake sale will take place on Saturday 6 December from 10.30am to 2.30pm. There will be lots of home-made cakes either to eat in church (along with copious cups of tea/coffee) or to take home. Also in church will be a tombola stall run by the school which always proves popular. Please come if you can as there will be plenty on offer including a look at the trees.
- The monthly service of Holy Communion service will take place on Sunday 7 December at 9.00am with the lighting the Advent Wreath. This will be our last Holy Communion of 2025 – the next one being on Sunday 4 January.
- Our Carol Service will be on Sunday 21 December at 7.30pm (not Monday 22 as stated in the November magazine). This

year will be a little different to previous years. As well as the traditional readings and carols, there will be a few 'extras' in the form of more light-hearted content. Afterwards, festive refreshments in the form of mulled wine (orange juice for the children), stollen and minced pies will be on offer.

Please come along to any events in St. Andrew's at this special time if you are able.

St. Andrew's is indebted to the volunteers who help to keep the church and churchyard in good order, as well as those who help at services. May I and PCC members take this opportunity to thank you and to send our good wishes to everyone for a very Merry Christmas as you celebrate this joyous time with family and friends.

Thanks go to Rob, David and his team for relocating the tree logs to a safer place away from any floodwater we may get over the winter.

May Brown

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of May a few months after we helped her celebrate her 100th birthday. As stated in the March magazine, May lived all her life in Caunton but sadly died in a rest home as she became too frail to be on her own. May died on 25 October. R.I.P. May.

Irene Crossley

Caunton Church Rota

Cleaning

Sat 29 Nov & 6 Dec – Pat & Irene
Sat 13 & 20 Dec – Cathy & Wendy
Sat 27 Dec & 3 Jan – Charlotte & Bo

Flowers

Sat 29 Nov & 6 Dec – Charlotte
Sat 13 – Bo
Sat 20 & 27 Dec – Christmas flowers
Sat 3 Jan – Irene



Caunton Parish Council – Report on the November meeting

The Academisation of Dean Hole School has been stopped by the Department for Education. This means the school is in a period of consultation for the future. This could involve an approach from another school, an amalgamation or another use for the site. We are trying to get the best outcome for the community.

May we please stress again that pet owners should clean up after themselves and use the dog bins for which we all pay. Also, please be aware of livestock, especially sheep, around the whole village and keep your dogs on their lead. This also applies to paths through private areas such as The Manor grounds.

We continue to press for water and drainage repairs/unblocking throughout the village. The recent rains saw the Beck operate as it should. Villagers are very good at reporting debris that could cause any potential problems or blockages. It was also

noted how well everyone looks out for each other.

Heavy lorries continue to be noticed by residents. Some seem to be ignoring the weight limits and using the village as a shortcut. We are monitoring this.

We continue to consult with the GNR Solar Park and are still waiting for the result of a water flow survey from Trent Rivers Trust. We have registered as an interested party and plan to shape further responses in the coming months, as well as attending meetings which the public can also attend.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 14 January at 7.30pm in the Village Room at Dean Hole School. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Any representation to the Parish Council should be made to the Clerk at parishcouncilcaunton@gmail.com

Steve Routledge, Chairman

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**Contact Neil for a quote:
07498 733331**

Caunton Local History Society

The next meeting of the society will be our annual Christmas meal, which we will again share with Caunton Garden Society.

AGM – Tuesday 13 January

The first meeting of 2026 will be the society's AGM. If you would like to make suggestions for the content or format of future meetings and/or trips, please do come along and share your views. We want this to be your society.

In addition to the usual business of the AGM, join us for a display of some of the society's archive, Victorian photographs of Caunton residents and landmarks, and of course, there'll be tea and biscuits!

Do You Remember? – Tuesday 10 February

Speaker: Peter Savage

A highly entertaining, light-hearted presentation which invites audience participation. Trivia, memorabilia and a little quizzing to explore events of the last century, some of which had a great impact – lots trivial, some serious, and others life-changing, but all have come to be accepted



Dean Hole – a village community space

Christmas Bingo – Friday 5 December,
7.00pm for 7.30pm start

and their impact at the time almost forgotten. This talk was originally scheduled for March 2025 but was postponed due to illness.

Please join us...

Brighten your winter months and become a member of Caunton Local History Society. New members are especially welcome and attending your first talk with the society is FREE. The cost for returning non-members is £5. Annual membership is £20.

We always meet at 7.30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and almost always at Dean Hole School. We look forward to welcoming you. If you would like to add your name to our mailing list and hear about talks, summer trips and local visits, please email lynn1485@gmail.com

It has been wonderful to meet so many new faces over the last year and we look forward to welcoming you again in 2026. The society would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas, good health and the very best for 2026.

Lynn Thompson

Community Carol Service



Sunday December
21st, 7.30pm

St. Andrew's
Church, Caunton

Traditional Readings and Carols,
Live Music, Poetry and Stories
followed by Mulled Wine, Hot
Chocolate and Cake

Enjoyment for all the
family

A collection will follow with
proceeds to the Children's
Bereavement Society



Caunton: Dean Hole Church of England Primary School

The second Autumn term is firmly underway and I want to begin with a warm welcome to all our families, neighbours, and parish friends. Your continued support means so much to our school community, and it has been especially felt over the past few weeks.

As many of you will now know, the academisation process – which we had been preparing for over a considerable period – has unfortunately been cancelled. This has been a disappointment for us all, not least because of the uncertainty it leaves behind.

However, in the midst of these challenges, we have been genuinely uplifted by the many heartfelt messages from parents expressing how much they value the school. Comments about the dedication of staff, the warmth of our community, and the happiness of the children have been a real encouragement. It is clear that, whatever lies ahead, our school remains a place cherished by those who know it best.

Meanwhile, daily school life continues with all its joy, curiosity, and energy –

especially as we head towards Christmas. We are very excited about our upcoming educational visit to Rand Farm, where pupils will be able to combine Christmas fun with hands-on learning in a truly memorable setting.



We are incredibly proud of the ecological work that has taken place across the school since September. Every child has played a part in our gardening projects – whether planting, weeding, watering, or harvesting. The sense of ownership and teamwork this has created has been remarkable, and our grounds are looking more vibrant than ever.

Thank you once again for standing with us during uncertain times. We remain committed to offering the very best for our children, and we look forward to sharing more positive moments together as we journey towards the Christmas season.

Kind regards,

Alan Brown, Principal

head@cauntondeanhole.notts.sch.uk



THANK YOU!

Many thanks to those from Caunton and elsewhere who supported the lunch event in Elston village hall on Sunday 20 October.

Together we raised around £1,200 for two important local charities – Reach Learning Disabilities and The Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance.



With some additional fundraising and an element of matched funding we are on target to donate at least £2,000 to each of these charities between now and summer 2026.

*David Tranter
President
Rotary Club of Newark*

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CHILDREN OF CROMWELL AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



SANTA NEEDS YOUR HELP!



He's running out of time and needs you to help him make some toys ready for Christmas day.

A WORKSHOP WILL BE SET UP AT CROMWELL VILLAGE HALL

ON SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER FROM 4PM-6PM

where you will be tasked with stuffing a cuddly toy reindeer. Santa will then make an appearance to take the toys away (and discreetly give to your parents to pop under the tree for Christmas day), give out presents and spread some Christmas cheer.

We will then celebrate our efforts with a party tea and a short Christmas film.



Price £12.50 per child
**PLACES ARE LIMITED
AND GOING FAST**





Upcoming events!

Everyone welcome

Every Thursday, 6.30-7.30pm
Legs, Bums and Tums with Lauren
£7 per session

Every Friday, 10.30am-1.00pm
Craft Club
Teas, coffees, hot chocolate!

Saturday 29 November, 10.30am-12.30pm
Repair Shop
With refreshments

Tuesday 9 December, 6.30-9.00pm
Wreath making

All resources provided. Please just bring
scissors and secateurs.

£20 each including refreshments.

Only 15 places. Please book via Claire on
07796 133656

Sunday 21 December, 4.00-6.00pm

Santa's workshop for children

£12.50 per child.

Places limited! Please book via Naomi on
07576 661667



If you wish to be kept informed on Village Hall activities & meetings
Join Cromwell WhatsApp Group - Text your mobile number to Claire on **07796 133 656**

WhatsApp

To join the village WhatsApp group please
contact 07456 668078, or ask any existing
member to add you.



The church is here for the parish. The PCC will provide help, support and information. The contacts are:

Elizabeth Jones: emjones.norwell@btinternet.com and 01636 636 365

Barbara Bateson: barbarabateson@btopenworld.com and 01636 636 840

Initial enquiries about **baptisms, weddings and funerals** to the Benefice Administrator, Lorna Caddy on 01636 555082, mobile 07568 929232 or email lorna.c.caddy@gmail.com.

Looking back

The Fourth Sunday Worship Anniversary Party took place on 26 October and was well attended with everyone joining in the service full of music, prayer and warmth. At the celebrations after the service we tucked into sweet and savoury snacks and drinks. It was heartening to see that the congregation was a mix of all ages. Rev. David Lewis has confirmed that this style of service would continue in the New Year, albeit at the slightly different time of 11.00am. Refreshments will be served from 10.30am.

What happened in November?

First, the replacement and repair of the path from the church to the graveyard finally took place. This was conducted with military

precision (appropriate given the service below) and, before most of us had realised, the old path had been removed and a new smooth, level and safe path had appeared to replace it. Thanks to everyone who uses the churchyard regularly for their cooperation during the closure of the churchyard for this brief period.

Our Remembrance Service on Sunday 9 November had such a lovely atmosphere – respectful of what we had gathered to remember but also warm and welcoming with over 70 people attending. Our thanks once again to Joshua Ward for playing The Last Post and Reveille and to Cllr Ashleigh Robertshaw, ably assisted by Arabella, for laying the wreath at the ceremony, and everyone else who took part in the service.



The pupils of Norwell School came to the War Memorial at 11.00am on Tuesday 11 November for their own Act of Remembrance. Small wooden crosses were brought forward for each of the local people who fell in the two World Wars and for the one who died in Malaya. They read poems and stood in silence as they thought about what had been sacrificed.

Still to report

Great Expectations is the theme for our Fourth Sunday Worship in November. We'll be looking forward to Advent.

Thanks to a generous bequest, we can begin the much-needed painting of the north and south transepts, starting in late November. This is part of a multi-year plan to redecorate the whole of St Laurence's church. More details are to follow.

Coming up in December

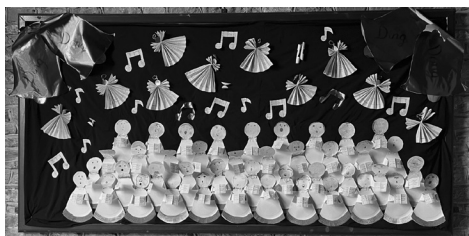
- **Christmas by Candlelight.** The acclaimed Highly Strung String Quartet returns to Norwell to give an atmospheric Christmas Concert in St Laurence church on **Saturday 6 December** at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at www.eventbrite.co.uk.
- **Decorating the church for Christmas** takes place on **11 and 12 December** on the theme of 'We Saw a Star'. Lynne Johnson will be in touch with those who helped last year but new volunteers are very welcome, so please email Lynne at lynne@gajohnson.co.uk.
- Our traditional service of **Nine Lessons and Carols** takes place on **Sunday 14 December** at 6.00 pm. We will be joined once again by our wonderful choir

'Village Voices'. Come and hear the familiar carols and readings, followed by seasonal refreshments.

- **Beer and Carols.** December would not be the same without this event which will commence at St Laurence's on Tuesday **16 December** at 6.30 pm and work its way down to the Pinfold by 7.20pm before joining everyone in The Plough for a final 'group' singalong of your favourite carols.
- The timing for the **Crib Service** is different this year. It will be on Tuesday **23 December at 4.00pm**. This will be the perfect way to start the Christmas season.
- **Christmas Communion** is on **24 December** at 7.00 pm. It is an opportunity for a moment of calm in which to remember what Christmas is really about.

Services in 2026

There will be some changes in the times of services next year but we will still be having Holy Communion on the second Sunday of the month and Fourth Sunday Worship on the fourth. Everyone is welcome on all occasions.



The members of St Laurence's PCC would like to thank everyone who supports the church in so many different ways. It makes such a difference.

We wish you all a Christmas full of happiness and joy. We also think of those who are finding this a difficult time and pray that they will find peace and hope.

ST LAURENCE CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Saturday 6th December
7:30pm

Highly Strung Christmas Concert

Tickets from Eventbrite
£25 (includes booking fee)

Thursday & Friday
11th & 12th December

We will be decorating the Church
in readiness for our Christmas
Services.

Saturday 13th December

Come and view the decorations
and join us for refreshments
between 10am and noon

Christmas Eve



Holy Communion at 7pm.

Tuesday 23rd
December

Crib Service at 4pm

'Follow the Star'

Sunday 14th December

Our traditional 'Nine
Lessons and Carols' Service.
Starts at 6pm, followed by
Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

Tuesday
16th December

Our traditional Beer and Carols.
This year it will commence at the
Church at 6:30pm, the Pinfold at
7:15pm before warming up in
the Plough .



NORWELL PCC PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT

Saturday 6 December, 7.30pm

In the atmospheric surroundings of
St Laurence Church, Norwell
enjoy the celebrated

Highly Strung String Quartet

perform a pleasing variety of seasonal musical favourites –
classical numbers, classic carols and festive pop hits.

Tickets £25 (including booking fee)
available at www.eventbrite.co.uk



Norwell community news

Norwell and Norwell Woodhouse Parish Council

Dear Parishioners,

I am pleased to report that at the October meeting we confirmed the timely submission of the Council's response to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the GNR Solar Park. Cllr Johnson was nominated to attend the Joint Parishes Action Group (JPAG) meeting on behalf of the Council.

It was agreed that an application be submitted to the Local Communities Fund for replacement fencing at the play park. Routine planning business was noted, including minor tree works at Cedar House. I would also like to update parishioners that, since the meeting, the appeal for the change of use at Flaggs Farm to storage and warehousing has now been approved by the Planning Inspectorate.

A meeting of the Norwell United Charities will be arranged, now that a quorate number of trustees is in place.

In respect of the Parish Gardens, the Parish Council will be pursuing quotations in order to grass over vacant plots. It is hoped that this will further improve the look of the Gardens and make it easier on the contractor and remaining allotmenters.

Budget priorities for 2026–27 will be considered at a future meeting. If any parishioner has any suggestions for

priorities for the Council, please do let us know.

The Council noted that the Friends of Norwell School are organising a Christmas event and therefore decided not to hold a separate Parish Council event. However we will set up a Christmas Tree on the Green as in previous years.

Lastly, it was a continued honour for me to lay the wreath on behalf of parishioners at this year's Remembrance Service at St Laurence's. I was particularly moved to see such a large congregation at this year's event – a true testament to the respect that the residents of this parish hold for those who gave their lives.

Correction and Acknowledgement

A point of clarification is required regarding the reference to Norwell United Charities in last month's magazine. The Parish Council wished to formally record its appreciation to **Mr Pilgrim and Mr Ward** for their significant work and support in helping to restore the appropriate number of trustees to enable the charity to operate effectively. We extend our sincere thanks to both gentlemen for their contribution to the community.

*Cllr Ashleigh Robertshaw
Chair of Norwell and Norwell Woodhouse
Parish Council*



Norwell Diary – November, December and January

Tues 25 Nov	7.00-9.00pm	Village Voices
Wed 26 Nov	8.00pm	Book Club – for details 01636 636337
Mon 1 Dec	10.30-12.30	Community Coffee Morning at Norwell Nurseries Pavilion
Sat 6 Dec	7.30pm	Highly Strung String Quartet Christmas Concert by candlelight at St Laurence. Tickets £25, including booking fee and drink on arrival, from www.eventbrite.co.uk
Mon 8 Dec	10.15-11.15am	Jigsaw Swap in the Village Hall
Mon 8 Dec	1.30pm	Mobile Library – Old Chapel, Main Street
Tues 9 Dec	7.00-9.00pm	Village Voices
Thurs 11 Dec	AM	Decorating of the Church commences
Thurs 11 Dec	7.00pm	Heritage Group – 1940s Christmas Party. Please let Lorraine Pilgrim know if you wish to attend 01636 639048
Sat 13 Dec	10.30-12.30	Drop in for Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Sausage Rolls and view the decorated church
Sat 13 Dec	8.30pm	Christmas Pub Quiz at the Plough
Sun 14 Dec	6.00pm	The Annual Christmas Carol service at St Laurence. With Mulled Wine & Mince Pies
Tues 16 Dec	2.30pm	Norwell C of E Church School Nativity at St Laurence
Tues 16 Dec	6.30pm onwards	Beer and Carols – Starting at St Laurence at 6.30pm. Aiming to be at the Pinfold by 7.15pm followed by Beer and Carols at The Plough
Fri 19 Dec	PM	Norwell School closes for Christmas
Tues 23 Dec	4.00pm	Crib Service ‘Follow the Star’ at St Laurence
Wed 24 Dec	7.00pm	Christmas Eve Holy Communion at St Laurence
Wed 31 Dec	PM	‘Willow’ will be appearing at The Plough
Mon 5 Jan	AM	Norwell School re-opens
Mon 5 Jan	10.30-12.30	Community Coffee Morning at Norwell Nurseries Pavilion
Sun 11 Jan	9.00am	Holy Communion at St Laurence. Please note the new time.

Norwell community news (continued)

Village Hall News

Thanks to those of you who turned out on a wet evening in November to support the Live and Local event 54North. I have received positive feedback with the following comments: "A very enjoyable evening. Thanks to all your team for their organisation and hard work" and "a quick message to say how fantastic and enjoyable last night was. Good entertainment and excellent food. The village is so lucky to have such a wonderful hall and a committee that works so hard to safeguard its future. Thank you".

I would like to add my thanks to the committee which includes Helen and Andrew Ward, Nick and Jayne Bingham, Kris and Adam Grief, Jenny Anderson, Pauline Hobson, Simon Pilgrim and Jo Benson. On this occasion our thanks also go to Karen and Pete Chesney, Steve Benson and Iain Gibson for their help setting up.

We hope that you will support our next fundraising event which is our annual

Burns' Night on 24 January. The Piper, Speakers and Haggis are all booked! Tickets are available from NorwellVH.Events@gmail.com at a cost of £25 to include a three-course meal, whisky and chocolates.

The next Jigsaw exchange is on 8 December.

Thank you to those of you who supported our grant application to the County Council towards the cost of solar panels for the hall. Thanks also to district councillor Sue Saddington for her letter of support.

*Ann Gibson
Chairperson*



**norwell
VILLAGE HALL**

Book Club

There is no meeting in December, but for anyone who wants to look ahead, our choice for 7 January is "The Offing" by Benjamin Myers. This sounds like a gorgeous book. It's the story of Robert, the sixteen-year-old son of a coal miner, who walks across the North of England to Robin Hood's Bay where he meets Dulcie, an eccentric older woman who changes his life. Said to be gentle, sensual, and lyrical – a treat for the depths of winter.

A very Happy Christmas to everyone.

More information about the Book Club from Helen on 636337.

BURNS NIGHT

**24TH JANUARY 2026
NORWELL VILLAGE HALL
7.00 PM FOR 7.30 PM**



Piper
Village Voices
Toasts

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whisky and chocolates)
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NorwellVH.Events@gmail.com**

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Norwell Village Hall

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07789 986558



Norwell Village Coffee Morning

Since the shop has shut, the opportunities for villagers to catch up have been limited so we are running a Community Coffee morning.

Monday 1st December 10.30 to 12.30

The Pavilion, Norwell Nurseries

£4 for tea/coffee and cake

Please come and join us, all welcome. It's an opportunity to meet people, chat and renew old acquaintances.

25% to village organisations to include the church, Parish Council etc.

We are hoping this becomes a regular event, thereafter on the first Monday of the month.





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Monday closed
Tuesday – Saturday 6pm onwards
Sunday 12-2pm

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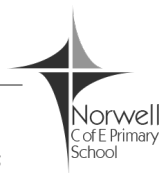
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Norwell CofE Primary School



November was a busy month for us in school! We all walked down to church on Tuesday 11th and remembered all those who had given their lives in conflicts. The poppy display the children created at school helped us to remember the significance of the flower.

It was also the month that we filled Christmas wrapped shoe boxes with toys, toiletries and special gifts to give to children in Eastern Europe. This year we will help make even more children happy at Christmas as we broke last year's target! The shoe boxes are collected and distributed by Teams4U whom we have supported for several years.

Friday 14 November was also Children in Need and we helped to raise more money for this wonderful charity by having a non-uniform day and completing lots of challenges all linked to the number 25! So many of the events in November help the children to understand the importance of 'generosity', which is one of our school's values.

This month we have many fun and festive events to look forward to, including the EYFS and Key Stage 1 Nativity which takes place in St Laurence's Church. If you can attend this, it will also give you the chance to see the children's Christmas display in church which is always lovely and the church will be beautifully decorated. We

will also join our friends at St Matthew's and Dunham schools as we go to the pantomime together at the Palace Theatre, and we will enjoy Christmas Dinner and Party Day with our friends. December is a wonderful month with lots of opportunities for parents and families to come to school and share the excitement of Christmas.



Once again, the children have been busy creating wonderful Christmas decorations for the tree at the Christmas Tree Festival in Newark, which takes place this year in The Butter Market. Our theme is 'Let It Snow!' and the children love getting creative, making decorations for this tree. The festival runs from 29 November to 7 December. Please do go along and see the beautifully decorated tree which has once again been kindly sponsored by Larken and Co.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

From all the staff, governors and children at Norwell School.

Reminder

Norwell C of E Primary School reopens Monday 5 January for the Spring Term.

Report on October meeting – Life in Nottingham Caves

Richard Goddard's talk took us back in time, and led us through the caves which still form an extremely complex system below the city of Nottingham. We built up a picture of the caves as they are now and as they had been in the past. It was fascinating to find out how they were used. The archaeological evidence of wells and troughs shows that some were used for curing leather, metal goods were made, and some caves were used for storage. The Borough Records gave details of some of the individuals using them. The final conclusion was that they were used as glorified garden sheds in an over-crowded city. The evening certainly whetted our appetite to visit them.



The 1940s

At the time of preparing this edition of the magazine the November meeting had yet to take place, but our talk that night will increase our appreciation of the 1940s in Norwell and beyond and prepare us for the 1940s Christmas Party. This takes place on Thursday 11 December at 7.00pm in Norwell Village Hall (please note the earlier start time).

There will be music and food and activities which will transport you to the 1940s. There will be a welcoming drink but please bring your own glasses and drinks (and pen/pencil, plus the other kind of glasses if necessary!!). Anticipate Lord Woolton's pie, sandwiches, jelly and blancmange and much more besides (special requests on theme considered!).

Tickets are £10.00 (£8.00 for NPHG members). Pay on arrival (identity cards and ration books not essential).

Names to Lorraine Pilgrim 639048 lorraine.pilgrim@hotmail.co.uk or Pamala Dixon pamala.dixon@yahoo.co.uk by **Thursday 4 December** please. We need to know how much food to prepare!

2026

We do not meet in January, but on **Thursday 19 February** there will be a short AGM at which we will be reminded that Norwell Parish Heritage Group will be celebrating its 20th anniversary – having been founded in February 2006. The AGM will be followed by Jason Mordan talking to us about **Nottinghamshire's Historic Parks and Gardens**.



Newstead Abbey



From the Church

Although renovation works continue at Holy Rood, sadly the church will not be available for the traditional Christmas service for a second year. However the carol service will be held in the Hut at 6.00pm on Sunday 21 December, when everyone will be made most welcome.

Remembrance Gathering

More than 30 people attended the village remembrance gathering on 11 November at the War Memorial. The format was similar to previous years, but with the special addition of a bugler to play the Last Post and Reveille.

This year particular tribute was paid to the Canadian airmen who were stationed at RAF Ossington during World War 2. There were many air crashes involving Canadians in the local area and further afield, many of which resulted in fatalities. Some of these airmen are buried in the Commonwealth War Graves area at Ollerton cemetery and, exceptionally, one is buried in Tuxford graveyard. On a lighter note, one or two of the airmen found brides among the local population who then emigrated to Canada with their new husbands.

After the wreath laying and tribute, refreshments were on offer in the Hut, with the opportunity to view the newly-produced information board about RAF Ossington. Once a stand has been procured, the board will be erected close to the official airfield marker to give visitors and locals alike an insight into Ossington airfield during the war.

An Evening of Christmas Cheer!

Friday 12 December, 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start at The Hut, Ossington.

Join us for a festive evening of live music, carol singing and Christmas songs with mince pies and mulled wine for all! Sing and clap along with some seasonal favourites and beautiful classic carols. All ages

welcome and suitable for the whole family. Prize for the best Christmas jumper!

Entry is free but donations are welcome and proceeds will go to the Crisis at Christmas appeal, supporting those of us experiencing homelessness this Christmas. We will also be filling a Christmas hamper for the Newark and Tuxford food bank, so please do bring an item to pop in – they are asking for tinned goods and toiletries in particular at the moment – but anything you can spare would be fabulous! No fresh produce or items containing alcohol.

We really look forward to getting into the festive spirit with you all and raising the roof of The Hut in Ossington!

Liz and Angie Carney-Marsh
Please email liz@carneymarsh.com with any questions.

December Luncheon Club

The last monthly luncheon club of the year will be held on Monday 15 December in the Hut. Please let Mary Brown (01636 821029 / marybrown3@hotmail.co.uk) know if you would like to come along. As always, everyone is very welcome for a delicious homemade meal, this month with a Christmas feel!

Please note that there will not be a Coffee Morning in December because of the clash with the Christmas period.

Dates for your diary

Looking ahead, please make a note in your diary or calendar that the first Luncheon Club of 2026 will be held on Monday 19 January, with the Coffee Morning following on Saturday 24 January.

Janet Carr jecarr@live.co.uk



Facebook: Search for
"Ossington Village Group"



An Evening of
Christmas Cheer

Friday 12th December 7.30pm
The Hut, Ossington

Join us for a festive evening of live music, carol singing and Christmas songs with mince pies and mulled wine!

Suitable for the whole family!

Prize for the best Christmas Jumper!

Free entry - donations welcome
and proceeds will go to

Crisis
at Christmas

We will also be filling a Christmas hamper
for the Newark and Tuxford food bank
so please do bring an item to pop in.

Come and sing-along!

For queries email liz@carneymarsh.com



Happy Christmas



EQUINE FEEDS & BEDDING

Highland Farm, Ossington, Newark NG23 6JB
mike@ossichaff.com 07788725923

General news / Round and About:

Carlton on Trent Village Hall

Christmas Quiz

Saturday 6 December, 7.00 for 7.30pm
start

Christmas themed quiz with seasonal light
bites during the interval.

Bring your own drink.

£8 per person. Teams of 4 or 6.

Call Murray for tickets 07939 856499

For details of regular group meetings
including craft, sewing, Rummikub, Tai
Chi, yoga, book club and film club please
see the calendar on the village hall
website – Google search for Carlton on
Trent Village Hall or go to

<https://cotvillagehall.yolasite.com>

News from the museums of Tuxford

Walks of Life Museum, Saturday 6

December, 1.00-4.00pm

The story of mining transport through the
ages

A talk with Lego model mining artefacts.

Tombola, raffle, refreshments.

Saturday 17 January

Railway Innovation Centre open track day

Contact Diane – 01777 872776 or

diane hunt08@btinternet.com

Safer Neighbourhoods Group

There was a sparsely attended meeting of the SNG on 30 October in Sutton on Trent Village Hall.

PCSO Richard Dunn reported that there had been an outbreak of poaching which is still being investigated.

Quad-bikes had used the riverbank path at North Muskham for racing and had damaged the footpath.

It is believed that they came from Tolney Lane and parishioners were asked to report any such incident and record all possible details.

Itinerant “workmen” have been reported knocking on doors and saying that work is needed to roofs and/or guttering. They then charge very high prices for little or no poor-quality work.

PCSO Dunn reminded everyone of the danger of using links on unsolicited emails.

Cllr Sylvia Michaels gave an up-date on the Egmanon Incident in which an unauthorised travellers’ site was set-up over the Easter Bank Holiday period in Weston parish. The District Council moved with great speed to issue an Enforcement Order (EO) against the site owners who immediately appealed. The inspector’s requirement that verifiable identities were needed caused a small exodus from the site but the appeal had to go ahead. It has now been heard and, due to lack of any documentary evidence from the site operators, the appeal has been dismissed and the EO reinstated. This requires the site to close and to be returned to its original agricultural state by a fixed date. The restoration is necessary to prevent an easy recurrence of the incident. The water and electricity services, which were illegally seized, have been cut off, although there has been an attempt to break back into the water pipe.

Around the villages:

- There have been thefts of heating oil from residences in Wellow. Tank security is important. Overnight tools were stolen from a vehicle, and a crashed and abandoned car has been reported but is not obstructing the highway.
- In Laxton, the doors were stolen from a Land Rover, probably for sale as spares. Another Land Rover was attacked, but it had extra security devices and so retained its doors but suffered serious collateral damage from the frustrated thieves.
- A “speed watch” group in Egmanon will be activated to deal with speeding traffic on the Kirton road where pedestrians have been subject to near misses.
- There have been instances of inconsiderate parking at the entrance to Milestone Caravan Park (MCP) in Cromwell. It is believed that the drivers concerned were customers of the Milestone Brewery Bar. Because this is not a regular occurrence, and the law is not being broken, the police were not able to offer a direct solution, but it was suggested that a request should be made to Nottinghamshire County Council for double yellow lines to protect the MCP entrance. This would require a Traffic Regulation Order which would make such parking an offence which would be actionable.

Mobile Library www.inspireculture.org.uk/reading-information/libraries/mobile-libraries

General enquires: Phone: 01623 677 200 Email: ask@inspireculture.org.uk

Cauntton (on Route 1)

BT Exchange 10.40-10.50am

Dean Close 11.00-11.15am

Monday 22 December.

For information about requested titles or items of stock, please call 0115 804 3196 or email southwell.library@inspireculture.org.uk

Cromwell (on Route 11)

Yew Tree Cottage, Great North Road: 10.00-10.45am

Tuesdays 9 December and 6 January

Enquiries: 01623 677200 or email worksop.library@inspireculture.org.uk

Norwell, Ossington and Moorhouse (on Route 10)

Norwell Old Chapel, Main Street 1.30-1.50pm

Ossington Speaker's Cottages 2.00-2.10 pm

Moorhouse Thoroton, Weston Road 2.20-2.30pm

Mondays 8 December and 5 January.

Enquires: 01623 677200 or email worksop.library@inspireculture.org.uk

The Potting Shed Church:



Advent & Christmas

At St Nicholas' church, Tuxford, NG22 0LJ

Sunday 7 December – 4pm service including Holy Communion

Sunday 14 December – 4pm service (theme: Mary visits Elizabeth)

Sunday 21 December – 4pm **The Big Christmas Sing!**

Christmas Eve – 4pm Christingle service

Christmas Day – 10am Christmas Day Celebration

Sunday 28 December – a walk and refreshments

More details at

www.thepottingshedchurch.org/whats-on



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guy.beeby@btinternet.com



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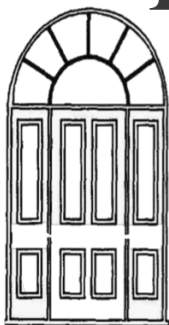
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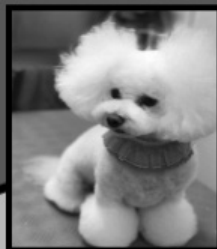
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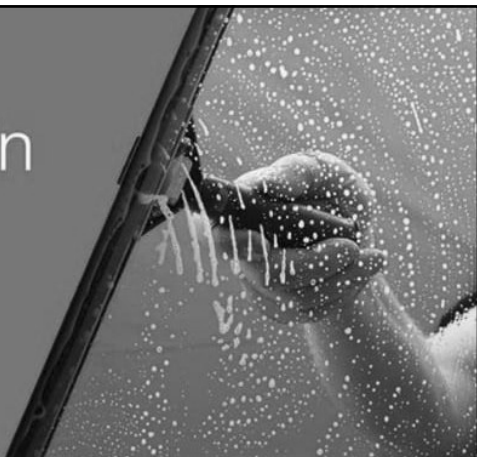
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NB EARLY DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY EDITION. If you have anything for inclusion in the January edition of the magazine please send it to the Editors **by Monday 8 December** so we can ensure timely distribution of the magazine before the New Year.

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As always the editorial team welcomes your feedback.
Please send any messages to ccnoparishmagazine@gmail.com

The parish magazine is produced by the church for the primary purpose of delivering information about church services, events and related issues. We are fortunate that we are also able to include news and events from the Beck and Trent villages and the relevant parish councils. Any advertisements are paid for, thus helping to finance the magazine, meaning that it can still be delivered free to homes. We are sorry to be unable to publish letters.

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About me:

I graduated from the University of Leicester in 2022 with a BSC Hons in Physiotherapy. Whilst continuing to work from Chapman Physiotherapy in Doncaster, I am now able to offer appointments at Holme Farm, Norwell Woodhouse.

Outside of work I compete in show jumping, enjoy playing tennis and going to the gym as well as watching rugby.

Lizzy Alcock

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