

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 347 DECEMBER 2017

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Decorating the church for Christmas

We shall be decorating the church for Christmas on Friday 22nd December, beginning at 10am. Contributions of help, greenery and flowers are very welcome (we like white flowers best for Christmas). No expertise required. Coffee and biscuits will be provided to help the work along.

Christmas Carol Service by Candlelight

St. James' Church, Newbottle, 6pm Friday 22nd December

By the week before Christmas we can all be a little tired of the shopping, crowds, tinsel, food, advertisements and relentless pressure to have a wonderful time.

Remember what Christmas is really all about: come to your parish church (which looks wonderful by candlelight) and hear the real Christmas story and sing the carols. There'll be mulled wine and mince pies to follow.



**Midnight Mass 10pm, St. James' Church, Christmas Eve
Holy Communion, 9.30am on Christmas Day**

Nature Notes

The other morning we had a close encounter with a very handsome dog fox. Opening the kitchen curtains first thing there he was just trotting round the corner of the building and lifting his leg on a convenient shrub. He eyeballed us for a minute or two and then decided he'd better scarp. The dog got very excited later by the smell and spent some time chasing round the garden in case he was still there. We'd never seen the fox quite so close to the house before, and to get there he must have come over a really quite high wall, but we have often had other evidence of a fox's presence overnight in the garden.

We've been conscious of hearing quite a lot of birdsong again just recently. There is a period in the summer – August particularly – when the garden seems quite quiet: when their babies have all fledged, birds moult and regrow fresh new feathers, which can take several weeks. When they are regrowing their wing feathers they are less able to escape predators, so tend to lurk about in inconspicuous places; this means they might be present but invisible as well as inaudible. Also in late summer lots of food becomes available elsewhere as there is plenty of grain in the fields, berries and fruits in the hedges, and weed seeds everywhere else, so birds may abandon their nesting areas and move to where most food is. This is the time when they make least use of offerings in seed feeders and on bird tables.

It has been generally accepted that birds sing – aggressively – to claim and protect their territories for breeding, but in which case why now? And some scientists now think that many female songbirds sing as much as the males so that it isn't all to do with defending a territory. Here we have great difficulty in sorting out which birds make which songs despite having a wonderful book with birdsong recordings. If you can hear the song you generally can't see the bird at the same time.

At the time of writing we have had a couple of slight frosts and one rather more serious one. We had to take all the dahlias up before they had been really frosted, and we still have tender plants flowering away next to the house where they have protection. And we are heading towards December with really quite a lot of leaves still to come down. We are rather fed up with raking leaves so wish they would get on with it. Though we very much admired lots of beech trees showing wonderful coppery and tawny autumn colours last week near Burford and Swinbrook.

There are all sorts of things still in flower, not just in the garden but in the verges too, and rather depressingly, next year's annual weeds are all growing already. Goosegrass or cleavers – one of our worst weeds – is coming up all over the place. Our big euphorbias too, the stalwarts of the spring garden, which we rely on to make a good showing from February through to May, are all beginning to show their lime-green inflorescences.

Looking back at the record of everything that we have put in the December Nature Notes since the autumn of 2010, we can see that the lateness of the autumn is a common theme. Perhaps we have to accept that winter just doesn't start until well into December in the 21st century.

Deborah and Paul Hayter



Newbottle & Charlton School Update

As part of our work on firework safety and our PSHE curriculum, all children in KS2 took part in St John's Ambulance **Big First Aid** lesson. The two areas of focus were choking and burns and all children received some useful information, as well as what to do in a medical emergency.

Children took part in **Anti Bullying Week** and explored the message 'All different All equal'. They wore odd socks to school on the first day of this work to emphasise this message and they all completed a variety of tasks exploring the message in different ways through cooking, singing, art, drama and IT. We supported **Children in Need** by wearing our pyjamas to school and enjoyed 'spotty' activities to increase our fundraising amount.

Six of our children represented the school and Brackley area as part of the **Fun Raise Sing** project. The children wrote and performed their own song as well as singing a number of other well-known hits at The Venue in Milton Keynes. It was a fabulous event to be part of.



The choir sang at the annual '**Children Singing For Children**' Concert in Banbury at St Mary's Church. Children sang two songs as a choir and then joined all the schools and formed one large choir for another three songs. It was a wonderful atmosphere and the children were a credit to school, I was so proud.

The first two terms are flying by and already we are nearly at **Christmas** - we are beginning to hear Christmas songs being rehearsed on instruments, Christmas decorations being discussed and lines for the nativity will soon be shared!

Our **Community Tea** will be on **Tuesday 19th December** from 2pm, I do hope some of you will be able to join us.

Mrs Smith, Head Teacher

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Notes of the Newbottle Parish Council Meeting Monday 20 November 2017 at 7.30pm

Present – Chairman, Councillor Andrew Woods; Councillors Linda Baker, Andrea Gladden, Adrian Kelly, Michael Loggin and Diana Sheasby. Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer) and three members of the public.

Apologies – Parish Councillor Richard Bland submitted his apologies because he was at work.

Minutes - The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Speeding Traffic in the Village – The VAS had been ordered, however further liaison was required with Northants Highways about moving the 30mph speed limit out along Farthinghoe Road, before the locations for the two poles for the VAS could be agreed.

Playing Field and Pavilion – It was confirmed that a 25 year lease for the playing field had been agreed and Councillor Andrew Woods would be drawing up the legal agreement. A number of fundraising activities were also being arranged. If anyone would like to make a donation to the fund, a cheque should be made payable to Newbottle Parish Council and posted to: 3 Tanners Close, Middleton Cheney, OX17 2GD.

Remembrance Day Wreath – The Parish Council thanked Bob Whitrow for laying a poppy wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the Remembrance Day service.

Budget/Precept 2018/2019 – The budget was approved and the precept was agreed at £11,000 for 2018/2019. The Parish Council felt that the precept should be increased from £10,000 to £11,000 to allow some funds to be set aside for the street lighting which would need to be replaced in the next few years.

Fly-Tipping – It was reported that there was fly tipping at Forceleap Crossroads, towards Newbottle, on the left-hand side. The Clerk would report this to South Northants Council and ask for it to be removed.

Broadband - The Parish Council was advised about a letter from Trench Cut with regard to Gigaclear ultrafast fast fibre broadband being installed in the village. However residents only knew what was happening because a letter had been found on the ground and they had alerted the Parish Council. There had not been any proper communication with the Parish Council nor the residents. Work had already started on Farthinghoe Road and cables were being laid up to the boundary of all properties. The Clerk was asked to contact Northamptonshire Highways and establish why the Parish Council had not been informed before the work had started.

Meeting Dates - Future meetings, all starting at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall, Charlton were as follows: 20 November 2017, 15 January 2018

All welcome to attend!

A copy of the draft minutes for the whole meeting are available at www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk or please contact the Clerk, Theresa Goss, at newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk or ring 01295 710965 during normal office hours

You can also follow Newbottle Parish Council on Facebook

CHURCH Fr Roger Bellamy, The Vicarage, Kings Sutton
Tel: 01295 811364 <https://newbottlechurch.weebly.com>

Newbottle Services at 9 30 on Sundays

3 Advent I Sung Eucharist

10 Advent II Matins

17 Advent IV Sung Eucharist

24 no service at 9 30. There is, however, a Mass at King's Sutton at 8am

Carol Service 6pm Friday 22 December

First Eucharist of Christmas Eve 9pm (**please note the time: an hour earlier than usual**)

Christmas Day Eucharist 9 30am

31st First Sunday after Christmas Matins 9 30am

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

It may be true that the Church converted a mid-winter festival in honour of Sol, the sun god, into the feast of Christmas. The Gospels give no idea of the season of the birth of Jesus Christ, and thanks to a medieval monk's error it may well have been 7 BC when he was born. Christmas became established as the feast of the Incarnation by the 4th century and for Christians it continues to be the celebration of his birth.

More people go to church at Christmas than at other times of the year and all are welcome, but the festivities are much wider in scope. Office parties, giving of presents, sending of cards – probably more by email than through the post! and the culmination in a large meal on December 25th. I have no argument with any of that although over-excess is not to be encouraged, but it is meant to be a feast – something out of the ordinary. But surely people can't be unaware of the original significance of the day and what remains central for some. I used the word incarnation. It is a theological term - enfleshment is a more English version.

The central question of Who is Jesus? is answered by the phrase God with us. #Godwithus is a resource published by the Church of England. You can find out more at churchofengland.org/Christmas and follow the links. You can have material sent to your phone.

A neat summary is in this prayer. It is by anon and published by Christian Aid in 1985: Blessed are you, O Christmas Christ, that your cradle was so low that shepherds, poorest and simplest of folk, could yet kneel beside it, and look level-eyed into the face of God.

Fr Roger

Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated, Charlton made £274.73 for the Royal British Legion this year.

Many thanks to all our collectors: Sarah Marshall, Clodagh Green, Beccy Millard, Dougal Barrons, Terri Tapp and Julie Kilby.



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