

THE FARTHINGHOE CHRONICLE



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Village news, notices and events....

USEFUL CONTACTS

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Mr Ricky Emms
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Community Police Officers

101

Doctors

Brackley Medical Centre
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Springfield Surgery
01280 703431

Hospitals

The Horton
01295 275500

Vets

Croft - 01280 703451
Mansion Hill
01295 712110
Taylor Vets
Brackley - 01280 474796
Middleton - 01295 233555

Rector

Office@astwickvalebenefice.org
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WNC Planning Department

WNC Planning Department
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planning@westnorthants.gov.uk

The Fox Inn

01295 713965

Chronicle Editor

Lynne Lee
chronicle@farthinghoeparishcouncil.org

EDITORS WELCOME

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.
'For the Fallen.' - Laurence Binyon. September 1914.

November can be a meditative month with remembrance at its heart. It is a time of gratitude and reflection as we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War 1, World War 2 and all of the conflicts that followed. Lest we Forget.

November also marks the transition from Autumn into winter. It can bring freezing rain and partial thaws that coat the earth and the trees with a thin layer of ice; while the countryside turns into jewelled beauty before commencing the winter's sleep. Much as I love the Autumn colours and feel a sense of loss when the leaves have all fallen; I can admire the sculptural elegance of the bare branches as the trees seem to sit in quiet repose.

November has long been a special month in European cultures, holding a unique place in the cultural tapestry of the pre-Christian Celts and Germanic tribes. It not only marked the changing of the seasons but brought about a profound shift in lifestyles and spiritual practices. In ancient times November was seen as the threshold to winter and was celebrated as the start of a new year. Such timing reflects a deep connection to nature's cycles, with the ending of the Harvest moving into a period of rest and peace.

In France, November 1st is The Day of the Dead, and is a national holiday. In our old home many villagers would make their way to the churchyard to place pots of Chrysanthemums on family graves. They would then return home and set places at the lunch table for the departed. We were once invited to lunch with neighbours and I have to say I found it a bit creepy sitting next to a place laid for a deceased person. Nevertheless, we joined in the toasts, after which in true gallic fashion it all became rather jolly.

Here in the UK we celebrate Guy Fawkes night. As a small child I recall sharing a bonfire with neighbours and friends; cooking potatoes and chestnuts in the embers and being scared of jumping jacks and bangers. Things have changed now, and more people seem to go to organised firework displays, which are much safer and better for pets and wildlife. If you are intending to host a bonfire party please check the wood pile for Hedgehogs, and do ensure that all pets are safely indoors. Our Hedgehogs will always welcome a little help at this time of year before hibernating, so if you can spare a few cat biscuits (never fish flavoured) and a shallow bowl of water, it would aid them tremendously. If you spot a Hedgehog about in daylight, there is something wrong, so please contact Brackley Hogwatch who will always offer help.

For me, November has its own pleasures. The changing seasons are always gratifying in many ways. To walk the countryside on a cold crisp day and to return home to a cup of tea, a warm fire and a good book in a cosy corner is something I never tire of. Bliss.

Enjoy the gentle onset of winter.

Lynne



Extract from the Minutes of The October 2025 Farthinghoe Parish Council Meeting

Councillors present Cllr Mick Morris (Chair) (MM) Cllr Barry Willett (BW) Cllr Trevor Jarvis (TJ) Cllr Sophie Nobes (SN) Cllr David Chidwick (DC) Cllr Andrew Mills (AM) Mr David Weston (Clerk) (DW) Cllr Richard Butler (WNC Highways Lead) (RBu) Nick Henstock (WNC Assistant Director for Highways and Transport) NH Andrew Sierant (Incoming Clerk) AS

A422 Traffic Mitigation Project

NH explained that WNC were considering two options for the proposed weight limit, both with appropriate signage:

Option 1: the weight limit at the place of the 30mph speed limit signs at each end of the village.

Option 2: the weight limit at the roundabout A422/Banbury Road Brackley running through to A422/B4525 roundabout at Middleton Cheney.

It was resolved that FPC supports option 2, although It was acknowledged that the longer distance of this limit may prove more difficult to enforce. Cllr Morris mentioned Wiltshire County Council have long experience of circumstances similar to our own and promised to send NH the contact details within that council.

NH: WNC will consider cameras to support enforcement. There is also a large amount of work to be done to ensure that signage is correct on all surrounding routes and also to ensure traffic won't be displaced from the A422 to smaller roads causing problems elsewhere. The preferred re-route strategy being via A43/M40. WNC have not yet formally engaged with National Highways needing the plan fully formulated first before they do so. National Highways seems to have a concern over increased rush hour traffic at M40 J10 albeit they have not raised any such concerns at recent planning applications on J10 & J11 M40 regarding this issue.

Timescale: NH stated that he expects to have a WNC plan formulated, consultation to have taken place with other statutory agencies and a public on-line consultation completed within 4-6 months. A report would be sent to FPC in March 2026. If there are no unexpected issues, it is therefore feasible that a Weight Limit could be in place by the Summer 2026.

The 30mph Speed Limit extension previously requested by FPC : The speed limit review panel have apparently rejected our application to extend the 30mph limit although FPC have never been informed of this. They have suggested a review as part of the above mentioned mitigation work. They were sympathetic to the limit being extended but 40mph at the extension points then 20mph through the village (this being the current 30mph limit). MM pointed out that FPC would like to see the full detail of this Panel rejection and NH promised to send a copy to FPC along with the reasoning behind it.

Average Speed Cameras: The previous WNC regime turned off ALL speed cameras across the county. The new WNC regime will be making a decision on whether to reinstate them. The existing system is so depleted that a complete upgrade will be necessary. MM pointed out that Oxford CC had requested that as Government receives all of the fines then it, not Local Councils, should pay for camera installations (MM has now sent NH a copy of that OCC request)

Streetlighting: FPC are still waiting for an update from Cllr Herring who has been chasing WNC Director Stuart Timmiss for months for answers regarding A422 lighting upgrade (our Nov 2023 request remains unanswered) NH will also follow this subject on our behalf A422.

Drains from Baker Street to Limes Farm: NH said the plans of how to re-route the drains at the pinch point are in an advanced stage. The timescale is that the designs will be signed off and the work will begin early next financial year, there being no funding budget in this financial year. It will require a full road closure (up to 4 weeks intimated). With this, the water cascading from Baker Street across the A422 will also be addressed.

Crumbling drain repair A422 pinch-point: A temporary repair done two weeks ago has failed already, just like it has every 2 weeks for the last 3 years. NH will ask for a different type of repair to be tried rather than Tarmac. He asked that it be reported on fixmystreet and will follow it up himself. (NH was true to his word and the repair is complete using new technology) 2001hrs NH left the meeting

Regards

Mick Morris

VILLAGE NOTICES

CHURCH NOTICES

Church Cleaning

Tuesday, November 11th from 8.30 am.

Coffee Morning

Coffee, Cake and Chat

Friday November 14th Coffee from 10 -11am in the Church Vestry.

There will be a Raffle. Hope to see you there!

Confirmation

We are delighted to announce that we will be having a Confirmation Service in the Benefice on Sunday the 8th March 2026.

Anyone interested in being Confirmed, or discovering more about or asking questions about the Christian Faith, should contact the Rector, the Rev. George Frost. E-mail: rev@gfrost.name Telephone: 01869 810903. Confirmation is when a person confirms for themselves the declarations of faith made for them at their Baptism. Once a person has Confirmed their faith, they are blessed by the Bishop, and may receive Communion. In the time before Confirmation people meet with the Vicar (either in a group or one to one) to learn about the Christian faith, to talk, and to ask and explore questions that they may have. If you would like to explore being Confirmed, you are more than welcome. We would love to hear from you.

Parish Music

We are looking for someone to help with our Parish music, to help lead singing in the services and rehearsals. We are a welcoming group of parishes. If you enjoy music we want to hear from you. We have an existing scratch choir that meets before our monthly Benefice services to practice an anthem. We are also looking to restart a village church choir. If either of these sound interesting to you in any way we would love to hear from you.

For full details, or for any questions, please contact the Rector :

Reverend G. Frost, Rector of the Astwick Vale Benefice.

Telephone: 01869 810 903

E-mail: rev@gfrost.name

VICTOR TOLCHARD

Vic died unexpectedly on Tuesday, October 15th
His funeral will take place at St. Michael and All Angels, Farthinghoe
On Tuesday, November 4th at 11am

A Tribute to Diane Elizabeth Jones

Diane was born in Nethrop Banbury on 25th July 1954, grew up in Farthinghoe and lived here for most of her life. As a child she loved dancing and had ballet lessons. She also had a passion for horse riding with her sister Susan and her pony Sunny. As adults they enjoyed watching the Lipizzaners of the Spanish riding school and Swan Lake performed by the Bolshoi ballet.

Diane left school at 15 and went to work at a tearoom in Banbury making her mum Phyllis very proud. She then moved to the Crown Hotel in Brackley, where her passion for cooking and baking came from, and she continued to cater for friends and family for many occasions, making wedding cakes, christening cakes, birthday cakes and full buffet spreads. One of her many jobs was driving Rainbows coaches alongside her Dad George. She liked the job so much that she was still driving when 9 months pregnant!

In 1976 Diane married Jim and 3 years later in 1979 they had their first son Arron. Sadly, shortly after, life took a big change which led to her devoting her life to caring for Jim, which she did until her passing. In 1984 happy times returned with the birth of their second son Ryan.

There will be people who know Diane from the many things she loved to do and be part of, which included the band, horse riding and Country Markets. She was a member of the Bodicote Royal British Legion youth marching band for over 20 years with Arron, practicing twice a week and taking part in carnivals, remembrance parades and competitions. One of her proudest moments was playing on board HMS Illustrious for the 1994 poppy appeal. She also took part in the Battle of the Flowers on Jersey. On her passing someone said "she was a big part of the band, wasn't she?" To which a friend said "Absolutely! She lived and breathed the band". She also spent many an hour at Purston riding her favourite horses, Dolly and Georgie, and loved her time there and all the friends she made. She taught many friends and family to ride, would organise pub rides and take part in sponsored rides, with her sons occasionally riding with her.

Brackley Country Markets was something Diane was involved in for over 30 years starting in 1991 when it was WI Market. She would bake every week without fail, hundreds of cakes came out of her oven every year, which I'm sure everyone here has experienced at least once, and became renowned for her sausage rolls. Ryan has fond memories of the time they spent cooking and baking together. She also enjoyed being a member of Odd Fellows, Farthinghoe Village Hall, darts, fishing with her Dad and Bingo, to which she took her 3 granddaughters.

Family was so important to Diane, but so was the village. Village life, village events, neighbours and friends past and present. A close friend and neighbour recently said that, "for them, she was the only constant in the village and they don't know village life without her". Diane loved nothing more than a family gathering, outing, holiday or adventure, leaving us all with lots of treasured memories. Her granddaughters took after her with a love of music and singing, which they often did together. Diane was a 'larger than life' character and was loved by everyone that knew her. Some might say a little 'loud' others would say 'she had a heart of gold'

She was devoted to so many and so much, went far above requirements and would do anything for anyone and taught many so much. She was an absolute power house and showed great strength and courage over the last few years that was greatly admired. We thank her for all the love and laughter she brought to our lives. She will always be in our hearts.

Written by Aaron, together with other family members and friends.

VILLAGE HALL

BOOKS & BAKES – FRIDAY 28th NOVEMBER - 3.00 - 4.30

Come along and join us for tea/coffee & cake and lots of catch-up gossip.

Unfortunately, Lynne has decided that she will no longer be able to continue being involved with Books & Bakes and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking her for all the time and effort she put in, not only for the cakes she provided but also her efforts in making everyone feel welcome.

PANTO – SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER

The Panto Company are returning in December with another Panto, which I am sure will be as enjoyable as the last one, if not more so. See the poster following for further information.

Tickets are available via bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org or by phone – **07900 590808**

MAINTENANCE

During the last two weeks of October the hall has been re-decorated, giving it a much needed refreshing look and feel. We have also had new hinges fitted to the windows which have not been closing properly for some time (quite a long time in some cases) and replacement glass fitted where needed, all of which should make the hall a more comfortable and pleasant environment throughout the coming months.

REGULAR SESSIONS :

Ballet -	Monday 5.00pm - 7.00pm & Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm
Martial Arts -	Sunday 11.30am - 1.30pm
Pilates -	Tuesday 6.30pm - 7.30pm & Friday 9.30am - 10.30am
U3A -	Spanish 1st & 3rd Thursdays 2.00pm - 4.00pm
	Spanish for beginners 1st & 3rd Fridays 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Yoga -	Sunday 10.00am - 11.00am (Hayley)
	Thursday 9.30am - 10.30am (Lisa)

150 CLUB - OCTOBER WINNERS

1st Prize	-	£25	-	No.153	-	Lynne Lee
2nd Prize	-	£15	-	No. 49	-	Jacqui Hooper
3rd Prize	-	£10	-	No. 98	-	Lisa Wenmouth

VILLAGE HALL LIBRARY

If you are quite new to the village, then you may not know that we have a library where villagers can leave books for others to read, or collect book(s) either to borrow or keep.

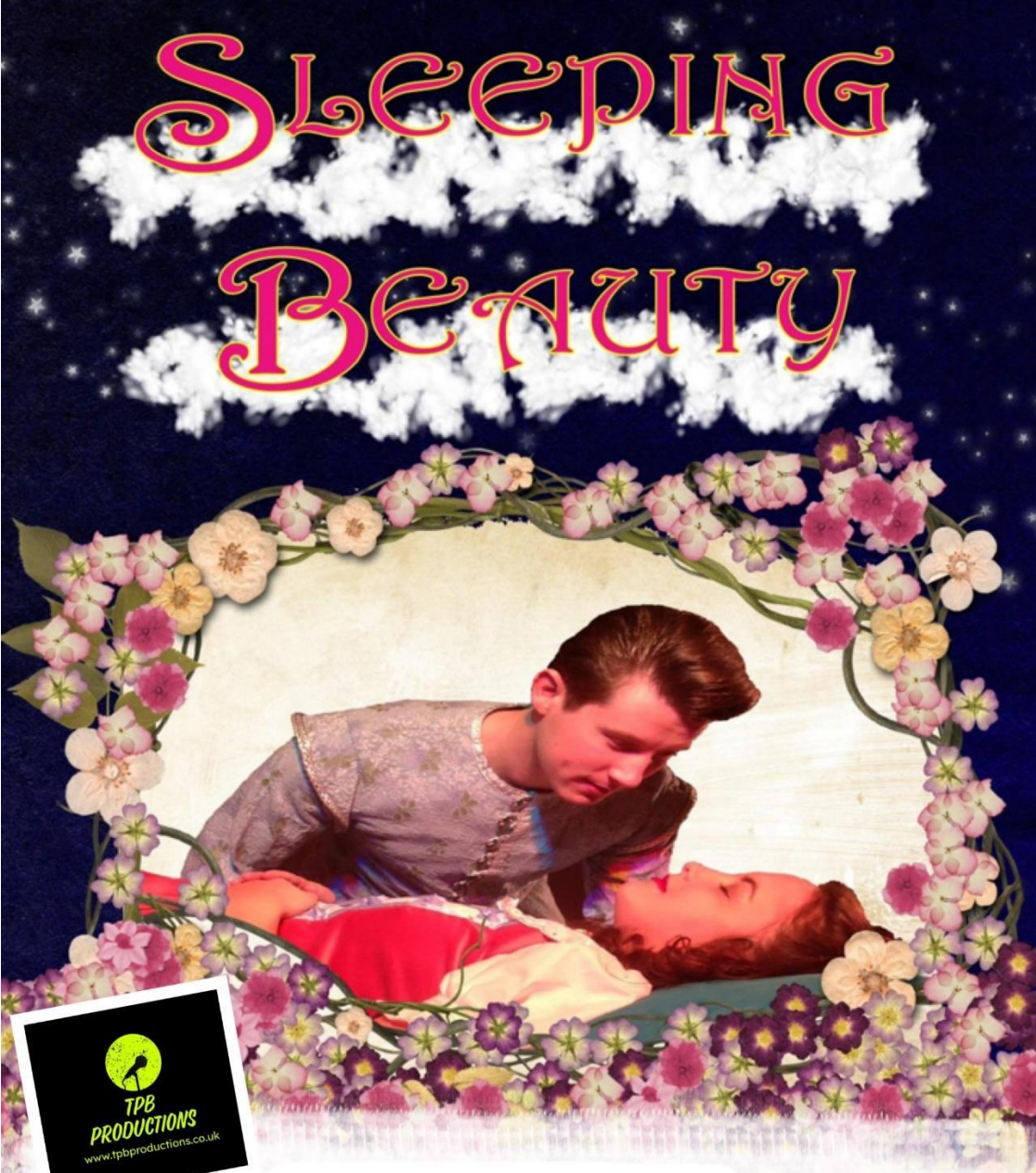
Access to the hall to do this can be achieved during Books and Bakes at the hall on the last Friday afternoon of each month. You can enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and homemade cake and browse the library and/or sit and chat with other villagers.

We have just cleared the room for the decorator who will be decorating the hall throughout the latter half of October and in the process we took quite a few books to Farthinghoe recycling centre. This was a mammoth task - sorting out tatty books with missing pages or scribbling on them or coffee spilt over them. Some books we felt were of very limited appeal. I would like to thank Hazel Lister, Jenny and Mike Phipps for all their help in this. We're hoping we will not have to repeat this task anytime soon!

When the hall reopens again, we would appreciate your kind contributions again - but please, only books that are clean, have all their pages and you have enjoyed and think other people would too. Otherwise, Farthinghoe Recycling Centre will take them.

Thank you,

Wendy Hancock
Village Hall Committee member



The poster features a central illustration of Prince Eric leaning over Sleeping Beauty, who is lying in a bed. The scene is framed by a lush border of pink, purple, and yellow flowers. Above the illustration, the title 'Sleeping Beauty' is written in a large, ornate, pink and yellow font, set against a dark blue night sky with white clouds and stars.

**SLEEPING
BEAUTY**



TPB
PRODUCTIONS
www.tpbproductions.co.uk

Farthinghoe Village Hall

Sleeping Beauty

**Sunday
21st
DECEMBER**

**Sunday
21st
DECEMBER**

Doors open 6pm - Start 6.30pm
Tickets - £5 - Under 3's Free

To book tickets: bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org

Rector's Ramblings

We are in the time of year for Remembrance. On the 1st November we remember All Saints, that shining throng of the Holy, Pious, and Lucky. On the 2nd we remember All Souls, everyone who has died in the light of God. On the 9th and 11th the country goes silent for two short minutes as we recall all who fight, die, or are wounded in war.

Why does the Church insist on Remembering at this time of year? If we were suitably thematic, the Church calendar the work of some fantasy author, we would do this at the darkest part of the year, a suitable time to think on the dead. But, in reality, at the darkest part of the year, when the nights stretch out, and the earth freezes hard we celebrate the light. In December I will write about the light of God in the dark winter. A light, that as the thoughtful poetry of our bible puts it, 'the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness could not understand it, and the darkness could not overcome it'.

A beautiful phrase that I find bears rereading. Instead, when the main work of the year is done, and the season lightly turns, we have this reflective time. We do not mourn or celebrate, instead we take a steady look at life and death, the cost of war, the value of peace, and the worth of a human life. We bring to mind the joys and difficulties of living; trial and waste, love and laughter.

We remember because we are a part of all we have been, because the price of forgetting is too high for us, and for the world. Because so much calls us to only think of today, or to fear utterly for the future. We remember that we have known love, we have survived loss. To ask, away from the clamour of the moment that once made things like the Schleswig-Holstein question the obsession of Europe, what causes are really worth defending and fighting and dying for? To remember that saints have walked in every age and place, so they might live here and now.

In November we remember. This will mean something different to each person. Remember also that you are the product of all this, but not passive, and may shape your future. Remember what you have come through, what joys you have found and where. Remember that God is over all, and His light shines even in the darkness.

George Frost

LOCAL EVENTS IN NOVEMBER.

Brackley Fireworks - Saturday 1st November.
St John's Site, Magdalen College School.
Gates open at 5pm. Fireworks 7pm
Food & drink stalls

Brackley History Society - Wednesday 5th November
Talk " Isambard Kingdom Brunel" by Andy Goodchild.
Brackley Methodist Church - 7.30pm
Members free - Visitors £3

Remembrance Parade & Service - Sunday 9th November.
Brackley Market Place
Parade 2-30pm - Service of Remembrance 3pm.

Banbury Remembrance Parade - Sunday 9th November.
High Street 10.00am - 2pm
Remembrance Service St Mary's Church.
Wreath Laying at the War Memorial in The Peoples' Park.

Egerton Hall Brackley - Friday 14th November
Street Food, drinks & music.
Tickets : www.wegottickets.com/biteclub

Evenley Village Hall - Tuesday 18th November
"Gardening in a Changing Climate " Chis Day - Buckingham Garden Centre - 8pm
Members £3 - Visitors £4 (Cash only) Raffle & Refreshments.

Brackley Christmas Market - Saturday 29th November
Lights & Lanterns
High Street - 3pm to 7pm

Christmas Lights Switch on - Sunday 30th November.
Banbury Market Place
11am - 18.00

New Year's Eve Party at The Fox

Join us for a Villagers' family and
friends party to see in 2026 at your local

Hot and Cold Buffet

Music and dancing

Free raffle

Midnight toast and fireworks

7.30 pm to 1.00am

Admission by ticket only

£25 Adult

£10 under 15's

For tickets contact The Fox or

Andy 07769 880668

Barry 07881 917212

John 07957 862192

Request from SNVB volunteer centre in Towcester



I'm writing to ask for your support with our volunteer car service, which provides vital transport for community members who need help getting to their medical appointments. We are already assisting several residents in Farthinghoe, and with more requests coming in, we urgently need additional volunteer drivers from your area.

This role is completely flexible — you choose when you're available, and there's never any obligation to take on a journey. Every offer of time, no matter how small, makes a real difference. Passengers contribute to expenses at 45p per mile, so volunteers are never out of pocket.

By spreading the word within your community, or even considering volunteering yourself, you can help ensure that local residents continue to receive the support they rely on.

Thank you so much for helping us strengthen your community through this service.

Warm regards,

Rachel

Tel: 01327 358264

Fax: 01327 358428

www.snvb.org.uk



Play our autumn raffle and be in with a chance of winning cash prizes!

Each year we run a raffle in the spring and autumn with fabulous prizes. Every ticket sold helps us care for people living locally with an incurable illness. The closing date is 19th November 2025 at 2pm. Play online at khh.org.uk/raffle

Upcoming events

Support your local hospice this December with our line-up of events:

Lights of Love – 4 December

We will be holding our annual Lights of Love event on Thursday 4 December at St Mary's Church, Banbury. We'd love you to join us for a special gathering where we come together to remember and celebrate the lives of those we have loved and lost. Find out more

khh.org.uk/lights

Big Give Christmas Challenge – 2-9 December

For one week in December, every donation made to Katharine House Hospice online through The Big Give will be doubled thanks to match funding. To help us maximise the funds raised, please consider making a donation in this week.

Banbury Christmas Tractor Run – 13 December

The much-loved Banbury Christmas Tractor Run will be back on 13 December and, as it's the 10th year of this mega event, make sure you get it in your diaries as it's not to be missed. The festive fleet of fairy-lit tractors will tour around local villages, spreading festive cheer and raising money for Katharine House Hospice. For more details and timings, visit khh.org.uk/tractor

Schools Santa Run – 1-19 December

This fun Christmas challenge is designed to be flexible for every school to fit it within the PE curriculum or as a fun extra-curricular activity. Find out more and sign up at khh.org.uk/schools-santa-run

Wanted! Volunteers to help us run our December events smoothly

The run up to Christmas is a busy time for our team, with a frenzy of festive events taking place to help raise vital funds to support the incredible work of our hospice. Could you spare some time to help us to make a success of our fabulous events by signing up to be a special Santa's Helper? Find out more at khh.org.uk/santas-helpers

Monthly email newsletter – keep up to date with your local hospice

Sign up to receive our Katharine House email newsletter and keep in touch with all our latest news and fundraising events at the hospice: khh.org.uk/newsletter

Emma Wilberforce

Marketing & Communications Manager

emma.wilberforce@khh.org.uk

Sunday Service Planner for the Astwick Vale Benefice November-December 2025									
	2 nd November <i>All Saints & All Souls</i>	9 th November <i>Remembrance</i>	16 th November 2 nd before Advent	23 rd November <i>Christ the King</i>	30 th November <i>Advent Sunday</i>	7 th December 2 nd Advent	14 th December 3 rd Advent	21 st December 4 th Advent	28 th December <i>Holy Innocents</i>
Aynho	11am Communion	10.15am Act of Remembrance	10.30am Benefice Communion			9.15am Communion	10am Morning Worship	10.30am Benefice Communion Farthinghoe	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at Croughton
Croughton	6pm All Souls Service	10.45am Act of Remembrance	10.30am Benefice Communion			9.15am Morning Prayer	11am Communion	4pm Carol Service	
Evenley	11am Morning Prayer	10.50am On Green Act of Remembrance	All villages invited to join together at Farthinghoe			5.30pm Evensong	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Carol Service	
Farthinghoe	9.15am Communion	6pm Act of Remembrance	All villages invited to join together at Farthinghoe			9.15am Morning Prayer	5.30pm Carol Service	10.30am Benefice Communion Farthinghoe	
Hinton-in-the- Hedges with Steane		10.50am Act of Remembrance	All villages invited to join together at Farthinghoe			11am Communion	11am Morning Prayer	6pm Carol Service	

For Christmas Services Please Check Separate Notice

For Christmas Services Please Check Separate Notice