



Culworth Newsletter

December 2023 and January 2024



Remembrance Sunday, Culworth, 12 November 2023

In spite of the morning being wet, nearly 40 people gathered in Culworth Church for an Act of Remembrance led by Gerald Cadogan. During the service the poppy wreaths from Royal British Legion, The Church and the Parish Council were laid on the altar.

Andrew Wilby, Chair of the Parish Council read the first lesson from Revelation 21.1-7

James Stewart read the second lesson from John 15. 9-17

Gerald Cadogan gave the address below.

“This annual coming together to remember those in the army, navy and air force who died in service in the two world wars and other twentieth century conflicts, and to give thanks to God for them, men and women, is a wise and helpful ritual. It reminds us of how much we owe still to them for the generally peaceful lives that their sacrifices have enabled us to live and enjoy. It reminds us of the responsibilities we all have for each other, as they showed in dying when they were fighting for their countrymen. And of course, it reminds us of those who died in our own families - parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts and uncles and cousins. We know well that in Culworth many of the names on the two memorials beside the pulpit still resound both here and in neighbouring villages, and those names will be read out at the war memorial shortly. We give thanks for them, and their bravery — think for example how short life expectancy was in Bomber Command, or the dangers of being in a submarine. And we pray for them and their families.

But we should also remember and pray for the people in civil defence and hospitals, who included conscientious objectors — and the many many civilians who have died in modern warfare. Their names are not on the memorials, but when we see what has been happening right now, in Ukraine, or Palestine and Israel, or many other parts of the world that hardly make it into the papers and TV news, it is not hard to recall the blitz in Coventry and London, and in Dresden and other German cities, let alone Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and how many people lost their lives — and continue to do so — outside the armed forces. Modern, industrial warfare is horrible.

We should remember too, the so-called enemy, many of them good patriots who joined up to do their bit for their country — just as our soldiers did for this country.

That brings us to peace. War is a pointless evil unless the contestants have policies and plans for what they will do when it is over, from the day after the armistice, as the ceasefire was called 105 years ago yesterday. In this country following the Second World War we have been fortunate that remarkable far-sighted plans were being made to ensure a better, better educated, fairer and healthier society as we know, especially in the NHS.

We must never stop praying for peace, and a generous outlook to others, especially if they are different, here in Britain or anywhere in the world. Those we commemorate today deserve nothing less. May they rest in peace, and light perpetual shine upon them."

At the end of the short service, the congregation walked to the War Memorial for the wreath laying ceremony at 11am. David Mold laid the Royal British Legion wreath, June Oxley that from the Church, with Andrew Wilby laying one on behalf of Culworth Parish Council. Around 60 people, some returning to Culworth, gathered to join in the ceremony led by Gerald Cadogan. Luke Annaly read the names of the Fallen before giving the Exhortation.

Of those present, one had been in the Army Cadets as a boy, another wore medals awarded to his father in both World Wars. Several wore their regimental ties and medals. Many of us are too young to remember the Second World War or even the Korean War but conflicts around the world are with us constantly.

Thank you to all those who attended to give thanks for the devotion to duty of so many. £272 will be forwarded to the Royal British Legion from the Church service.

You will hopefully have noticed that Culworth has acquired some poppies to adorn the village signs on the four main routes into the village. The Parish Council will aim to add further poppies for next year, which will be distributed across a wider range of sites in the village.

Obituaries

David Cliff died in hospital on November 2nd 2023, after a period of ill health. David and his wife Diana have been active in helping the residents in the Lodges. Latterly he could be seen in his electric wheelchair going around the village. He was a lovely gentleman who will be much missed. We send our sympathy to Diana and their family.

During the last few months, several former Culworth residents have passed away.

Mary Crawley, widow of Reverend Simon Crawley who was here from 1987 to 1994, died in Somerset on 20th September 2023 aged 90 years. Not only the mother of Nicholas, Priscilla, the late Juliet and Silas, she had 15 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. During the Crawleys' ministry here, Culworth Church had much refurbishment. They eagerly participated in fundraising for this project.

Carol Berry late of Laurel Villa, died in October 2023. Carol was the Church Secretary for a while. She was a very kind lady to many. We send our sympathy to her daughter and grandson.

Patrick Vercoe, who used to live in Warden House Culworth. He was involved in the Banbury Young Homeless project.

Culworth Snappers

Culworth Snappers are your local friendly camera club which meets every month in Forge coffee in Culworth. There is no meeting in December, but the first meeting of 2024 is on Thursday 25th January at 7.30pm in Forge Coffee.

2024 also marks the tenth anniversary of the Snappers. We are planning an exhibition of some of our favourite images, which will take place in Forge Coffee. Further details to follow.

The Club had recent photoshoots viewing the Deer Rut at Woburn and Starling Murmuration at RSPB Otmoor. Visitors to Otmoor are promised a murmuration every night but our previous visit was the exception to the rule! The recent visit on 19th November was a great success and produced some stunning images, as did the trip to Woburn.

Why not come and meet us at a club night? New members are very welcome. For further information contact John Emmett on 07867918960.



Carols on the Green, Christmas Eve



Please join us on Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December at 6pm for the usual gathering, where we will enjoy mulled wine, sausages and of course the singing of Carols with musical accompaniment. Please speak to Simon Theobald, or Simon & Patrina Martin with any offers of help with music or donations of wine for this good cause!

Culworth Film Night

Our next film night will be on Saturday 9th December. Doors open at 6.30pm, when we will be showing "A Haunting in Venice" starring Kenneth Branagh as Hercule Poirot. As usual ticket options include Film & Meal for £15, or Film only for £7.50. Please contact Julie Tinn to book on 01295 760855, 07769 730668, or jules.tinn@gmail.com.

Culworth Circular Walks

Want to walk round Culworth but can't find the right footpaths? On the first Tuesday of the month there will be a group walking round the Culworth footpaths. Each walk will last about 2 hours and will give those who are not sure of the footpaths a chance to see the lovely countryside where we live and have a chat with fellow villagers at the same time. Walks start at 10 from The Green.



Dogs are welcome as long as they can get over the stiles. The next walks are on Tuesday 5th December and Tuesday 2nd January.

Jenny Howse

News from St Mary's Culworth

A Christmas Note from the Rectory

In just a few weeks' time I and many others around the world will be celebrating the central event in the history of the earth. The very thing the whole story has been about (CS Lewis). We celebrate the birth of Jesus 'It is a great day of great joy and celebrated around the world.'

And yet, in the midst of all the trappings and celebrations of Christmas, it can be easy to miss why Jesus's birth is so significant. The key to Christmas lies not in the details of the shepherds' visit, or the wise men's journey, but in the identity of the one whom they came to worship.



In Jesus, God became 'flesh' and made His dwelling among us. In the very first chapter of John's Gospel, verse 14, we read that Christmas is all about Jesus! I imagine many of us are familiar with Handel's Messiah, and the words that ring out so beautifully 'Lord of Lords and King of Kings.' The sentiment is astounding – who would know these words are to be found in possibly the least read book in the Bible – Revelation Chapter 17 verse 14b. Here we are given a glimpse of the cosmic struggle between good and evil, as a vast array of powers and authorities that line up against God. Yet we are reminded that, in the end, it is through the humility and self-sacrifice of Jesus the 'Lamb', that they are overcome. Jesus puts aside the glories of heaven for a humble stall.

As the carol Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, puts it: 'Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord, Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity, Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel, Hark the herald angels sing. Glory to the new born King!

As we begin our journey towards the Celebration of Christmas Day. I pray that this year each one of us may see the blessings of following this 'New born King' - Jesus! The Birth of Jesus was announced to the Shepherds by the angel who described it as 'Good News of great Joy for all the People' And the heavenly hosts praised God for 'peace on earth'. Jesus had been born in Bethlehem (meaning the house of bread). He is the one who can satisfy the Spiritual hunger in the heart of everyone. Let us pray for Peace on Earth – in this country and throughout the world this Christmas – Amen

Love in Christ

Reverend Karen

The pattern of services in Culworth is as follows:

1st Sunday of the month 10am Benefice Holy Communion, 6pm Evensong Culworth

2nd Sunday of the month 11am Family Service

3rd Sunday 10am Mattins

4th Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion

5th Sunday 10am Benefice Communion

For baptisms, weddings and funerals please contact Revd Canon Karen Jongman, The Rectory, Queen's Street, Culworth, Banbury OX17 2AT
07980 881252 or email karenajongman@gmail.com

Christmas Services at St Mary's 2023

December 10th 11am Christingle Service. Please come and bring your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren along to a very informal service. Children love the simple message of Christingle and as always, the collection benefits the excellent and vital work of The Children's Society.

December 17th 6pm Candlelit Carol Service with all your traditional carols and readings, often with a touch of humour. Drinks and nibbles at The Old Rectory afterwards, (by kind permission of Ed and Nancy).

December 25th 11am Christmas Day Holy Communion led by Rev Canon Karen Jongman.

Christmas Candles

Started by the late Rosemary Courtney, it is part of Christmas Day service tradition that people can light candles to remember family members. Their names are read out at the start of the Service which commences at 11am and will be led by Reverend Karen Jongman.

If you are unable to attend, please send the names of those you would like remembered and any donation for the Church to Jose Rowling, The Forge Culworth or email josephine.rowling@gmail.com

Over the years donations have enabled the purchase of new altar linen, new coir doormats, and supported the automation of the winding of the Church Clock amongst other items.

Culworth Village Café



The village cafe is open on the first Saturday of every month from 10 till 12. This has been running now for 9 years and I originally started it as a way for people of all ages in the village to meet and have a chat and to get to know each other. There is no charge for the coffee, tea and home-made cakes but there is always a donation plate, the money going to the Village Hall and church funds. The village hall committee allow us to use the hall free of charge. We have a regular group of people who come but it would be lovely to see new faces and for the many newcomers who have moved into our village it is an opportunity to meet those of us who have lived here since the Stone Age. Just remember – FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH. Pop in for a few minutes or longer if you've got the time. The next Village Café meetings are on 2nd December and 6th January.

Macmillan Coffee Morning Thank you to everyone who came and supported this wonderful cause. We raised £305 (plus £30 gift aid) Thank You

Tales from the Auction Room This was a most enjoyable evening. In October Steven Bruce, an auctioneer, gave a talk entitled 'Tales from the Auction Room,' set up a quiz and also valued many treasures the guests brought along. The money raised was in aid of Culworth Church. We are extremely grateful to him and also the generosity of the people who came. Thank you all so much. Over £1200 was raised which will go towards ongoing maintenance of the church.

Culworth Benefice Services December 2023 and January 2024

Friday 1st December

6pm -7pm Chipping Warden Christmas tree light up

3rd December 1st Sunday of Advent

10am Chipping Warden Benefice Holy Communion
6pm Culworth Evensong

10th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.30am Chipping Warden Holy Communion
11am Culworth Christingle Service
Chipping Warden Christmas Lunch
5pm Moreton Pinkney Carol Service

14th December

3.30pm Culworth School Carol Service

17th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

9.30am Moreton Pinkney Holy Communion
3pm Chipping Warden Carol Service
6pm Culworth Carol Service

19th December

Chipping Warden School Carols in the church

20th December

2.15pm Culworth School Christingle

24th December Christmas Eve

11am Holy Communion for Christmas Edgcote
11pm Chipping Warden Holy Communion

25th December Christmas Day

9am Moreton Pinkney Holy Communion
11am Culworth Holy Communion

31st December 1st Sunday of Christmas

11am Edgcote Benefice Carol Service

7th January 1st Sunday of Epiphany

10am Culworth Benefice Holy Communion

14th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am Chipping Warden Holy Communion
9.30am Moreton Pinkney Morning Prayer
11am Culworth Family Service

21st January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am Moreton Pinkney Holy Communion
10am Culworth Mattins
11.15am Chipping Warden Family Service

28th January 4th Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am Culworth Holy Communion
10am Chipping Warden Mattins
11am Edgcote Holy Communion
5pm Moreton Pinkney Evensong

4th February Candlemas

10am Benefice Communion
6pm Evensong Culworth

Culworth Hill Field Trust Progress Briefing Note

26th November 2023

1. Overview:

- The opportunity to deliver a new community facility for the village arose when the land was kindly 'gifted' by Mrs Trott, for the nominal sum of £1 on part of the cricket field, known as Hill Field, named after Mrs Trott's family.
- Culworth Parish Council (PC) now own that land and have a long leasehold interest on the remainder of Hill Field. The cricket field and the pavilion are let on license to the Cricket Club during the cricket season. A children's play area has been established on Hill Field and adjacent to the existing cricket pavilion.
- A village ballot was held resulting in an overwhelming majority in favour of a new facility. Initial investigations indicated that funding for capital projects was available at that time.
- CHFT was formed to deliver and manage the new Community and Recreation Facility to replace the existing village hall and cricket pavilion, both of which are ageing and no longer fit for purpose. The constitution provided for one trustee from the Parish Council, the Village Hall Trust and the Cricket Club and two co-opted trustees with relevant business and financial backgrounds.

2. Funding:

- The £42k needed to design the new facility and obtain planning permission for the new facility was funded by donations from the PC and villagers. The funding for the Phase 1 Works came from the Sport England of £109k has been received, the balance of the cash was provided by Match funding of £50k, £30k from the PC, £14k from the VHT and £6k from the Cricket Club.
- The outlook of funding of capital projects has changed radically in the last five years following the worsening economic outlook, following Covid, Brexit and the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. It is no longer realistic to expect funding from the same sources as earlier successful projects such as the new community facility at Westbury and the refurbishment of Brackley Town Hall.
- The last cost estimate for the new facility was £974k; it is likely that cost is today would be in the region of £1.3m. We have secured a commitment to construction costs from HS2 of £75k and it is likely, subject to planning permission that the existing Village Hall site will realise circa £175k. In addition, it is estimated that we could raise another £100k from fund raising initiatives and events. This still leaves us with a significant shortfall.

3. Benefits of the Phase 1 works: The main benefits are:

- A much safer entrance and exit to Hill Field has been created along with much needed 'off road' parking for events, sports, and the play area, which is helping to relieve traffic congestion.

- The improved access will assist future construction and development and completion of the Phase 1 Works will help with future funding.
- The current planning permission for the new facility, establishes the principle of development on this site, and leaves open the opportunity to deliver a new Community and Recreation Facility, as planned, when funds permit.

4. Phase 1 Works Cost:

- The latest Final Cost Complete (FCC) for the Phase 1 works, including the improvement to the Cricket Facilities, was estimated to be £133,573. This would give us a potential surplus of £25,427 compared with the original budget of £159,000.
- Subject to the confirmation of the FCC, when all works have been completed, it is proposed that £16,667 of the match funding is returned to the original contributors, and the balance of £8,760 is retained by CHFT, to fund the consideration of alternative options for the new Community and Recreation Facility as per the table below.

Match Funding:	Original £k	Surplus £k
Parish Council (PC)	30,000	10,000
Village Hall Trust (VHT)	14,000	4,667
Cricket Club (CC)	6,000	2,000
Total	50,000	16,667
Surplus Match Funding	25,427	
To be retained by the CHFT	8,760	
Proposed Distribution of Surplus	16,667	16,667

- The Cricket Club have taken responsibility for the removal of the pile of subsoil and the use of the pile of topsoil to level the outfield. There is no provision in the FCC for this.
- Included in the FCC is an amount of £15,423 for the crossovers and bollards. The Parish Council have subsequently decided not to install bollards. They are also considering fencing off the play area for safety reasons; this cost will be their responsibility. The final surplus will depend on the FCC.
- The Parish Council is implementing a tree planting scheme on the Western and Eastern boundaries of Hill Field, in line with the church.

5. What Next?

- Complete all Phase 1 works and apply to the planning authority for a 'Certificate of Lawful Development'. Once granted, this will give us confirmation that the existing planning permission has been implemented.
- Commission Jon Green to consider all the options for a new Community and Recreation facility on Hill Field, in the context of the current economic and funding outlook, with initial cost estimates.
- After five years I have informed my fellow trustees that I will be stepping down as Chair of CHFT next May. With the current funding and economic outlook we are clearly in for the 'long haul' to deliver a much needed new community facility for the village. We need some new trustees with the relevant, fund raising, business and marketing skills to take this project onto the next stage. We plan to hold an event at Forge Coffee early next spring for all those who may be interested in helping. I would like to thank my fellow trustees, supporters and donors. This project can only be successfully completed with your continued help and support and a number of new committed trustees.

John Duggan

Chair Culworth Hill Field Trust (CHFT)



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

Have your say on 2025-26 school admission arrangements

Residents of West Northamptonshire are being asked for their opinion on the school admission arrangements for schools run by academies and trusts which are planning changes. Every year academies, governing bodies and trusts who act as their own school admission authorities must review the way places are allocated at their schools. If changes are planned, they have to first be consulted on.

From Monday 13 November, West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) School Admission Team have opened a formal consultation on the admissions arrangements for any mainstream schools whose admission authorities have asked us to co-ordinate their consultation for them. The consultation will take place between Monday 13 November and Sunday 31 December 2023.

Cllr Fiona Baker, WNC's Cabinet Member for children, families, and education, said: "I really encourage all parents, carers and guardians who may have a child at primary or secondary school to have their say in this consultation. The way in which places are allocated at a school is important to get right and that can only be achieved with the views and comments of those who have to go through the process included in the final decision making."

Following the consultation period, admission authorities will review their proposed admission arrangements for 2025 and determine them by 28 February 2024, ensuring they are published on the schools' websites by 15 March 2024. To view the list of schools consulting this year and to respond to the consultation, please visit: [Consultation on school admission arrangements for September 2025 intakes - West Northamptonshire Council - Citizen Space](#)

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 3rd December Benefice Holy Communion Chipping Warden 6pm Evensong Culworth

Tuesday 5th December Culworth Circular walk from The Green 10am

Saturday 9th December Film Night – A Haunting in Venice 6.30pm

Sunday 10th December 11am Family Christingle service

Tuesday 12th December 12.30pm Coffee and Chat ladies Christmas lunch at The Red Lion

Thursday 14th December 2.30pm School Carol Service in the church

Sunday 17th December 6pm Candlelit Carol Service followed by drinks and nibbles in the Old Rectory (by kind permission of Nancy and Ed Guinness)

Wednesday 20th December 2.15pm Culworth School end of term Christingle service in the church

Sunday 24th December 11am Benefice Christmas Eve Holy Communion Edgcote

Christmas Day 11am Holy Communion Culworth

Sunday 31st December 11am Carols at Edgcote

Tuesday 2nd January 2024 Culworth Circular walk from The Green 10am

Saturday 6th January Village Café Village Hall 10 till 12

Sunday 7th January 10am Benefice Holy Communion Culworth

Tuesday 9th January Coffee and Chat Village Hall 10 till 12

Sunday 14th January 11am Family Service

Sunday 21st January 10am Mattins

Sunday 28th January 9.30am Holy Communion



News from Katharine House Hospice

What's coming up later this winter? As we head towards the end of the year we're sharing some updates, ideas and events for the festive season. We couldn't continue to support our wonderful community without the help of people like you.

Lights, Tractor, Action! The much-loved RC Baker Tractor Run is back and once again the festive fleet will be making their merry way around Banbury and local villages on Saturday 16 December. Since 2016, the Christmas Tractor Run has already raised in excess of £97,000 – with £27,000 of that raised last year alone! Could you help to make it even more? Find the route map, timings and details of how you can donate to this event here: www.khh.org.uk/tractor.

O Christmas Tree... Our Tree-cycle scheme is back – and available in even more areas! So instead of worrying about how to environmentally dispose of your tree after all the festivities are over, you can make a donation to Katharine House Hospice and, in return, we will send one of our elves to collect and recycle your tree. Head to our website to find out more and check if your post code is included in the scheme. www.khh.org.uk/christmastree

Sowing the seed We're already starting to think about our Open Gardens for next year and sowing the seed with our supporters... Could you help us grow our scheme and sign up to host your own Open Garden? Why not encourage your neighbours to take part in a whole village event? Find out more about what's involved here: www.khh.org.uk/gardens

Could you spare a few hours? Katharine House couldn't continue to care for local people without the support of its amazing volunteers. So, if you have some time to spare, why not think about volunteering? The hospice has one-off opportunities as well as more regular roles, which are all listed on our website. www.khh.org.uk/volunteer

Challenge accepted We're lining up some incredible challenge events for 2024! As well as the return of the popular Abseil and Skydive, we've got some brand-new events coming up, including running, cycling and walking events. Why not tick something off your bucket list and support our hospice at the same time? Keep checking our website to find out more as we announce them: www.khh.org.uk/events

Digital monthly newsletter – keep up to date with your local hospice - Sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter and keep in touch with all our latest news and fundraising events at the hospice.

Culworth Parish Council News

There are seven seats on the Parish Council and currently only six Councillors. The vacancy can be filled by holding a bye-election if there is more than one candidate or otherwise by co-option. The vacancy will be advertised shortly but members of the community are encouraged to consider giving service to their fellow villagers in this way. The Council meets every other month for an hour or so on a mid-week evening and there are a number of ongoing responsibilities shared out amongst the members that keep the village a safe and pleasant place to live. If you feel able to put something back into the community in this way please look out for the advertisement when it appears or speak with one of the Councillors in the meantime.

Minutes of Parish Council Meetings

These are available on the Culworth Parish Council website (Hover over the link, Press CTRL & click): [Culworth Parish Council](#)

Hard copies can be obtained from the Parish Clerk on request.

Whilst the Parish Council funds the publication of the newsletter, the views expressed in it may not be those of the Parish Council. The editor reserves the right to make adjustments to the text and formatting for readability.

Please send items for the next newsletter to clerk@culworthparishcouncil.gov.uk or wilbyjoanne@gmail.com

The next copy date is 26th January for the February/March 2024 edition.

If anyone would like to take on the role of Newsletter Editor, please do get in touch with the Parish Clerk or Joanne Wilby. It's not an onerous role, I promise!

Want to know what is happening in the village?

The Parish Council's website (the Culworth Village website) as above

Or search for:

Culworth Facebook
Culworth Community Facebook
Nextdoor Culworth
Red Lion website and Facebook
Forge Coffee website

CULWORTH VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER



Hercule is back! Starring Kenneth Branagh

DOORS OPEN 6.30PM

TICKETS - £15.00 WITH RED LION SUPPER

£7.50 FILM ONLY

CONTACT JULIE 01295 760855

0776 973 0668 - jules.tinn@gmail.com

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