

Village News

Produced by The Hempnall Group of Parishes



NOVEMBER 2025

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NOVEMBER GROUP WALK

Walk from Poringland - Sunday 23 November 2025

The walk will start at 2:00pm from the Ridings in Poringland (NR14 7GE), where parking is available on the side of the road. The walk will start from 10 Sebald Crescent off the Ridings and will be about 3 miles on open fields, country and green lanes and a woodland area. Tea and cakes will be provided at the home of Daphne and John in Poringland. All welcome. If you would like to join the walk, please call 07801329419 so we don't leave without you.



WHIZZ BANG WHOOSH CRACKLE WHISTLE & POP

THE FRIENDS OF...
HEMPNALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

FIREWORKS

SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

HEMPNALL PLAYING FIELD
GATES OPEN 5PM FIREWORKS BEGIN 7PM

PRE BOOK TICKETS ONLY!

BOOKING DETAILS COMING SOON

BBQ

LICENSED BAR

MULLED WINE

SWEET TREATS

PLEASE NO SPARKLERS!

EMAIL: FRIENDSOFHEMPNALLSCHOOL@OUTLOOK.COM

Hardwick Village Hall **Autumn** **Cafe Mornings**



Thursday 6th November
10am – Midday
Coffee, tea, cake and chat

Bedingham PCC



Autumn Fayre

on

Saturday

8th November 2025

1:00pm to 3:00pm

in

Woodton Village Hall

*Raffle - Cakes - Bric-a-brac - Plants
- Refreshments*

All proceeds to St Andrews Church

For further details please contact: Jane

01508 518007 or

Margaret 01508 482421

CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT

at

All Saints Church

Woodton

Friday 19th

December 2025

6.00pm



Come and join us to sing your favourite
Christmas Carols



You are welcome to
stay afterwards for
light refreshments

CHRISTMAS



Topcroft Christmas

Bingo

Wednesday

10th December 2025

7:00pm for 7:30pm Start

at

Topcroft Pavilion

**The bar will be open and there
will be mince pies and great
prizes.**



A Christmas Craft Fair
will be held in **Hempnall Village Hall**
on Saturday 15th November 2025
from 10am – 1pm



in aid of St. Margaret's Church Hempnall

Why not come and find that special Christmas gift or card?



Coffee, tea & cakes, raffle
Further info -Please contact Jill Turner 01508499344
or email ydavy01@yahoo.co.uk



Hempnall WI

In October Hempnall WI members listened to a fascinating talk about taking a bus journey from Norwich up to southern Scotland and back again, simply using a concessionary bus pass. The speaker, Mr Phillips, displayed a map of all the places he had either passed or spent a day or two visiting. He did this to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer UK charity, a disease his wife had died from in 2015. The audience were asked about what they knew about each place and its importance.

November 5th is the annual meeting, when the past year is remembered, and the election of the officers and committee take place. There is also time for socialising since there is no speaker. The year is finished off on December 3rd with entertainment and special refreshments.

If you would like more details what is involved being a WI member, please contact Cindy Brookes, telephone 398521 or email cindylbrookes@icloud.com.

A Big "Thank You"

...to everyone who bought Bramley Apples and pears from my table at the gate, and the village shop. You helped to raise £90 for EACH, which has gone to the Nook in Framingham Pigot.

Coming soon will be the usual Christmas Quiz in aid of St Margaret's Church, Hempnall and EACH.

Pat Westley



Mobile Library Timetable

Village	Stop Name	Arrival Time	Departure Time	Postcode
Hempnall	Old Market Way (Bainard Rise)	14:10	14:30	NR15 2LZ
Hempnall Green	Three Horseshoes	14:35	14:55	NR15 2NN
Topcroft	The Old Chapel	15:00	15:15	NR35 2BL
Topcroft	Church Road	15:20	15:35	NR35 2BH
Hempnall	Road Green Farm	15:40	15:55	NR15 2NQ
Hempnall	Millfields	16:00	16:15	NR15 2NE
Hempnall	Roland Drive	16:20	16:35	NR15 2RB
Fritton	Village Green (post box and bench)	16:40	17:05	NR15 2QS

• 24 November 2025

• 22 December 2025

• 19th January 2026

Please note this information is subject to change or amendment both on a permanent and temporary basis. For all enquires about this route please call 01603 222303

Topcroft Parish Council

Meeting Dates 2025

All meetings are held in The Sports Pavilion, Topcroft Street, NR35 2BL

Monday 17th November 2025 - 7.30 pm

The agenda is displayed on village noticeboards and published on TPC's website <https://topcroft-pc.gov.uk> three days prior to the meeting. Planning meetings are scheduled as needed, and additional meetings may be arranged if necessary.

~ Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings ~

For further details contact the Clerk email:
clerk@topcroft-pc.gov.uk or Tel: 07774 734411

- Door to door dial-a-ride service
- Weekly members outings throughout the year
- Group hires for not-for-profit organisations

Borderhoppa Outings for November 2025

Mon 3rd Taverham Nursery Centre - £18.00

Mon 10th Beccles - £15.00

Mon 17th Bressingham Garden Centre - £8.00

Thu 20th Diss Pound Stretcher & John Doe's - £8.00

Mon 24th Bury St Edmunds Town - £18.00

To book or for more information please call 01379 854800
or visit our website www.borderhoppa.org



Items for our Food Bank are still needed; we are very grateful to all who continue to contribute during these difficult times.

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS: UHT Fruit Juice (not chilled), Tinned Meat, Biscuits, Jars of Pasta Sauce, Jars of Cooking Sauce, Tinned Vegetables, Pulses Dried or Tinned

Donating Food: Items for the food bank can be left at the back of St Margaret's Church, Hempnall, at the Group Office, Hempnall or in the porch at St Peter's Church, Brooke.

Donating Money: Regular giving is a great way to support the Food Bank

For further details please check out this website: <https://waveney.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

Woodton Parish Council

Autumn 2025 Newsletter



This has been the busiest six months ever for the Parish Council – read on to hear why!

But first of all the **BAD NEWS**:-



Fires in the Wood – We are appalled to report two incidents of fires in the Forest School this summer. How anyone can even think of planning these especially after long periods of hot, dry weather, potentially causing serious damage and danger to others and destroying other people's voluntary work is beyond belief. In addition, the two cameras in the Wood have 'disappeared'. Where are they? The police are fully aware of the situation. **BUT** – thanks to a large number of willing volunteers the Forest School has been rebuilt, looks fabulous and the school children are enjoying all that is on offer there. A huge thank you to all the helpers who were involved.



Speed Camera Theft & Vandalism – The two speed cameras on Hempnall Road have been damaged by vandals and, in one case, the battery stolen. Again, the police are onto the case, but we are horrified and very worried that there are people out there actively scheming in this way when the equipment is there to help keep our community safe. Please would everyone keep their eyes open and report anything suspicious immediately to the police.



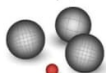
Speeding & Traffic Incidents – The police positioned their Black Box in Hempnall Road for two weeks in August. The data was interesting and revealing and we hope that the results will lead to more police presence in the village, especially at peak times. Traffic and potentially dangerous incidents on the B1332, in particular outside Woodton Primary School, have occurred and continue to worry us. We record and report all these to the police and highways but, despite our best efforts, nothing seems to move forward – but we will keep trying as safety has to be a top priority.



Now for **BETTER NEWS**:-



Community Wood & Ravens Den – The gates at the entrance to Raven's Den have been replaced, the refurbished shelter has been repainted and now sports a wonderful new raven sign on the gable end. The probationers have replaced much of the wooden edging on the paths and, as always, have tackled yet more bark spreading – an ongoing task!



Boules Court – A suggestion for the Raven's Den play area, but before pursuing the idea further, we would appreciate your thoughts and comments. Do you like the idea? Would you use it? So please get in touch.

Garage/Yard Sale – A new initiative but a very successful one with 30 households taking part. Refreshments were available raising £152.00 for the Village Hall funds. To be repeated? We think so, as it was a fun morning for everyone. So watch this space.



School Fete – More on this from the school, but what a fabulous event with over £2,300.00 raised on a sunny Saturday in September. Well done to everyone involved.

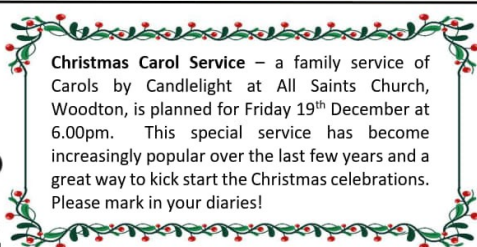
Woodton Parish Council

Autumn 2025 Newsletter



Halloween - Friday 31st October -

A fun event at dusk is being planned including a Pumpkin Trail, Treats, Dressing up, Games, Hot Dog Stand and much more. Keep your Spooky eyes open for more details!



Christmas Carol Service – a family service of Carols by Candlelight at All Saints Church, Woodton, is planned for Friday 19th December at 6.00pm. This special service has become increasingly popular over the last few years and a great way to kick start the Christmas celebrations. Please mark in your diaries!



Christmas in the Wood - Father Christmas will be making an appearance in the Wood

7/10 days before Christmas. Date to be confirmed so please keep an eye on the Community Page and Website for details. Would you believe it, but it's only a few weeks away so start thinking about writing your letters to Santa. These can be posted in the red postbox in the Wood or taken to the School during December. This is such a special occasion with presents for all and carols and, of course, **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**



S106 Funds - This valuable fund needs explanation and is available for carefully costed projects to benefit the village. In the last six months alone we have relayed the Village Hall car park, replaced gates, refurbished the Forest School and replaced wooden edging in the Wood all through these funds. We have not used the fully budgeted precept (ie YOUR money) for any of this work, as we always strive to keep the precept as low as possible.



East Pye Solar Project - This controversial project continues to concern us all. We have objected strongly to every stage of the planning process and will keep you posted on any further news.



Village Hall – We hope you will have noticed that the car park has been refurbished. In addition the probationers have repainted the outside walls and thanks to the generosity of Gutter Force the gutters, fascia boards and drainpipes have been cleaned and repaired. All this has made such a difference and doesn't it look good?!



Defibrillator

Defibrillator – There are a couple of British Heart Foundation links and U Tubes that we would encourage everyone to look at. They explain clearly what to do in the case of an emergency and how to use the defibrillator, which is situated in the porch at the Village Hall. The following links are on the PC website:-

1. Understanding defibrillators – what they are and how to use them
2. Defib Dani: Learn to use a defibrillator



King's Head Pub – Don't forget the pub is open every day except Tuesdays, for lunch, drinks and, of course the ever popular Roti. You will always receive a warm welcome - so don't forget to pop in. The Sunday summer band sessions have again been a great success and well attended - so roll on next year.



Harry Clarke's Legacy – Many of you will remember Harry with fondness and, due to a legacy from his estate, the Parish Council have funds to spend. We want something to commemorate Harry's life and dedication to the village and would welcome any ideas you may have. Please get in touch with Jane Wickstead (07786 106789).

We welcome your comments and suggestions for the Newsletter. You can find our contact details on the Parish Council website <https://woodtonpc.wixsite.com/woodtonpc> together with meeting dates and much more.

Business Awards return to celebrate success

Businesses based in the two districts are invited to nominate themselves in any of the ten categories for the chance to win a prestigious award.



- Business Growth
- Business Innovation
- Employer of the Year
- Environmental Impact
- Food and Drink Producer of the Year
- Insurance, Financial or Professional Services
- Manufacturing and Engineering Business of the Year
- New Business
- Small Business of the Year
- Tourism Business of the Year

Residents can also vote for their favourite Retailer of the Year and Pub of the Year. By voting, they'll be in with a chance of winning £100 of shopping and pub vouchers – with four lucky winners, two from each district.

Nominations close on Friday 12 December and winners will be announced on 18 March 2026 at a special awards ceremony at Norwich City Football Club.

To nominate your business or vote for your favourite retailer and pub, visit

www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/businessawards



**Friends of Seething
Church Christmas Fair
Saturday November 15th
2pm-4pm
at
Seething Church**



The Mill @ Hempnall COFFEE STOP

Everyone welcome for coffee, cakes
and more.

At Hempnall Mill Centre
9:30am-12:00pm

1st Monday of the month

**3rd November,
1st December**

All profits for The Hempnall Trust

The Hempnall Trust

Update on The Hempnall Trust since 2023

The Trust presented the challenges they faced to residents of Hempnall in April 2023



Since then, The Trust has been managing our finances more robustly. We have:

- Completed energy efficient initiatives, upgraded Cooker/Fridge/ light bulbs etc
- Reassessing grants that are payable by other sources
- Reducing the lunch service to once per week, and realigning costs
- Enhancing income via The Mill Bar by introduction of Food Truck Friday & the Beer Festivals
- The introduction of the volunteer run Monthly Coffee Stop

The Trust is now in a better place to carry on providing support to the members of our community that may be In Need, Hardship or Distress.

Going forward The Trust is looking to install solar panels & batteries to make full use of the large South Facing roof & to offset our electricity costs.

Thank you to all The Trustees, volunteers, staff, hirers, Food Trucks & residents for continuing to support The Mill & all of its activities.

The Hempnall Trust is a charity that was set up to help residents who are in need, hardship or distress and to support the community of Hempnall.

We can provide financial grants to those who need them. The Trust owns the Mill & Bar both of which are used to support the local community through lunch clubs, events & room hire in a listed building.

If you would like to find out more about any area of the Hempnall Trust please look at our website www.hempnalltrust.org.uk or email hempnalltrust@gmail.com

Events hosted by The Mill are updated on the Facebook page

www.facebook.com/themillbarhempnall & there is a regular What's On email.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list of events, please email hempnallmillbar@gmail.com

If you'd like to get involved with the Trust, Bar or run your own events please get in touch.

All Profits go back into the Trust to benefit Hempnall residents.

October and November 2025...

November 2025

Monday 3rd November 2025

The Mill @ Hempnall Coffee Stop

9:30am-12:00pm

The Mill, NR15 2LP [p.10]

Thursday 6th November 2025

Autumn Café Mornings

10:00am-12:00pm

Hardwick Village Hall, NR15 2AB [p.3]

Friday 7th November 2025

Killer Darts

from 7:30pm

The Mill Bar, NR15 2LP

Food Truck - Wild Thing

from 6:00pm

The Mill Bar, NR15 2LP

Saturday 8th November 2025

Bedingham PCC

Autumn Fayre

1:00pm-3:00pm

Woodton Village Hall, NR35 2NG [p.4]

Friends of Hempnall School

Fireworks

Gates open 5:00pm

Fireworks 7:00pm

Hempnall Playing Field, NR15 2NG
[p.3]

Monday 10th November 2025

Become a Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Champion

The Mill Hempnall, NR15 2NG [p.15]

Friday 14th November 2025

Food Truck - Peaky Pizzas

from 6:00pm

The Mill Bar, NR15 2LP

Saturday 15th November 2025

Christmas Craft Fair

10:00am-1:00pm

Hempnall Village Hall, NR15 2NG [p.5]

Saturday 15th November 2025

Friends of Seething Church

Christmas Fair

2:00pm-4:00pm

Seething Church, NR15 1DL [p.10]

Monday 17th November 2025

Topcroft Parish Council Meeting

7:30pm

The Sports Pavilion, NR35 2BL [p.6]

Friday 21st November 2025

Food Truck - Patron Paella

from 6:00pm

The Mill Bar, NR15 2LP

Sunday 23rd November 2025

November Group Walk

2:00pm

From Ridings in Poringland, NR14 7GE
[p.3]

Monday 24th November 2025

Mobile Library

[details on page 6]

Friday 28th November 2025

Food Truck - Jason's Fish & Chips

from 6:00pm

The Mill Bar, NR15 2LP

Saturday 29th November 2025

Hempnall Cinema

Doors 7:00pm, Film 7:30pm

Hempnall Village Hall, NR15 2NG
[p.13]

December 2025

Monday 1st December 2025

The Mill @ Hempnall Coffee Stop

9:30am-12:00pm

The Mill, NR15 2LP [p.10]

**Tuesday 2nd December to
Saturday 6th December 2025**

**Saxlingham Players Present
Cinderella**

2nd Dec - 7:00pm, 3rd Dec - 4:30pm,
4th Dec - 7:00pm, 5th Dec - 7:00pm, 6th
Dec - 2:30pm & 7:00pm
Saxlingham Nethergate Village Hall,
NR15 1AJ [p.16]

Friday 5th December 2025

Killer Darts

from 7:30pm
The Mill Bar, NR15 2LP

Food Truck - Wild Thing

from 6:00pm
The Mill Bar, NR15 2LP

Saturday 6th December 2025

An Evening of Christmas Music

7:30pm
St Peter's Church, Brooke, NR15 1JX
[p.17]

Wednesday 10th December 2025

Topcroft Christmas Bingo

7:00pm for 7:30pm start
Topcroft Pavilion, NR35 2BL [p.4]

Friday 12th December 2025

Food Truck - Peaky Pizzas

from 6:00pm
The Mill Bar, NR15 2LP

Sunday 14th December 2025

Celebration of Christmas

3:00pm
St Peter's Church, Brooke, 1JX [p.17]

Friday 19th December 2025

Food Truck - Churros & Chorizo

from 6:00pm
The Mill Bar, NR15 2LP

Monday 22nd December 2025

Mobile Library

[details on page 6]



HEMPNALL CINEMA

For many years Ned Potts ran the Hempnall Cinema Club, we have taken Ned's idea and hopefully we'll have as much success as Ned had, in bringing different films to Hempnall Village Hall.

Our first film was held on the 18th October, if you missed this, our next film will be shown on the 29th November at the village hall, we are, as yet, undecided what to show as our second film.

To book your ticket either messaging us on our Hempnall Cinema Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61581202903082>

or you can email hempnall.cinema@gmail.com . There will be posters in the village to remind you of this event.

All tickets are £5, they have to be pre booked and paid in cash on the night.

LONG STRATTON MEDICAL PARTNERSHIP

Swan Lane Surgery, Swan Lane, Tharston, Norwich, Norfolk, NR15 2UY. Tel: 01508 530781

Winter 2025 welcomes us and let us embrace this season of hope and festivities with hope, the right attitude and a healthy mind and body. AS I write each article for the parish magazine, it is a time of reflection for me as I look at how I have welcomed each month or season that has just passed. I think about it wondering what I have done to the best of my abilities, and what I have not done and reflected as to how to improve. Dawn Brighton, who has worked with us as an Administrator for many years, often advises me on what to write about. She sent me details about the National Self Care week 2025 coming in November – 17th to the 23rd. It made fascinating reading and there was no doubt that this had to be my topic.

The Self Care Forum (SCF) was established in 2011 by a coalition of 30 individuals from key organisations in primary care and public health, including the Department of Health and Social Care with a focus on raising awareness about the benefits of self-care. Since the very beginning, their work has been driven by the voluntary commitment of enthusiasts and pioneers in the field of self-care. <https://www.selfcareforum.org/events/self-care-week/>

The 8-point self-care plan mentioned in their website should be a mantra for us every week of the year. Who best to look after ourselves and yet it is easy to forget ourselves in the chaos we live in. We sometimes need a reminder. Let us look after ourselves. We are then in a better position to make effective small changes in our communities.

Key Components of a Self-Care Plan

1. **Positive Self-Talk:** Focus on positive affirmations and set a resilient mindset for your thoughts.
2. **Sleep:** Make quality sleep a priority to improve your mood and overall health.
3. **Mindful Eating:** Pay attention to what you eat and drink, which impacts your energy and well-being.
4. **Deep, Clean Breathing:** Practice deep breathing techniques to calm your body and mind.
5. **Reflection:** Make time for reflection to understand your needs and assess your current situation.
6. **Playfulness:** Engage in activities that bring you joy and a sense of play.
7. **Time Alone:** Schedule regular periods of alone time to recharge and connect with yourself.
8. **Physical activity:** Incorporate regular exercise, even short walks to boost mood and physical health.

Stay healthy and safe with a determination to look after ourselves.

~Mini Nelson~

Become a Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Champion

Do you **teach, work with or simply spend time with** young people and wish to have a better understanding of the signs and symptoms of poor mental health and importantly, how to promote positive mental health? Are you perhaps **a parent who currently feels they lack the confidence, knowledge and skills to approach and start a conversation surrounding mental health with your child?** Are you aware of what to look out for when it comes to **depression, anxiety, self harm, disordered eating and even suicidal ideation?**

If you wish to significantly increase this knowledge sign up for this one day, 8 hour course running as **a face to face event at The Mill, Hempnall (NR15 2NG) on 10 November 2025**

As an experienced Headteacher and lead in the field of mental health, I have trained over 500 teachers, sports staff, wellbeing leads and parents in my role as an MHFA Instructor. Please contact me on mike.a.crossley@gmail.com for further details.

There are spaces for 16 delegates. The cost for the course is £225 per person which includes the course materials comprising a **Youth MHFA One Day** bundle (comprehensive manual, workbook, action card) and in addition, all delegates receive **a Youth MHFA certification** from the national organisation **MHFA**.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

CHRISTMAS SONGS, ALPHABET, WORDS, NORFOLK PLACES

Pat Westley will be running her popular Christmas Quiz again this year, raising funds for EACH (The Nook) and St Margaret's Church, Hempnall.

Quiz sheets will be available from the

Group Office, in Hempnall (open Mon-Thu, 9:00am-12:30pm) and will also be available from the Hempnall Group website shortly (<https://hempnallgroup.co.uk/>). The cost to enter the quiz is £1.00 and there is a prize of £25.00 for the winner. All quiz sheets should be returned by the 10th January 2026.





Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

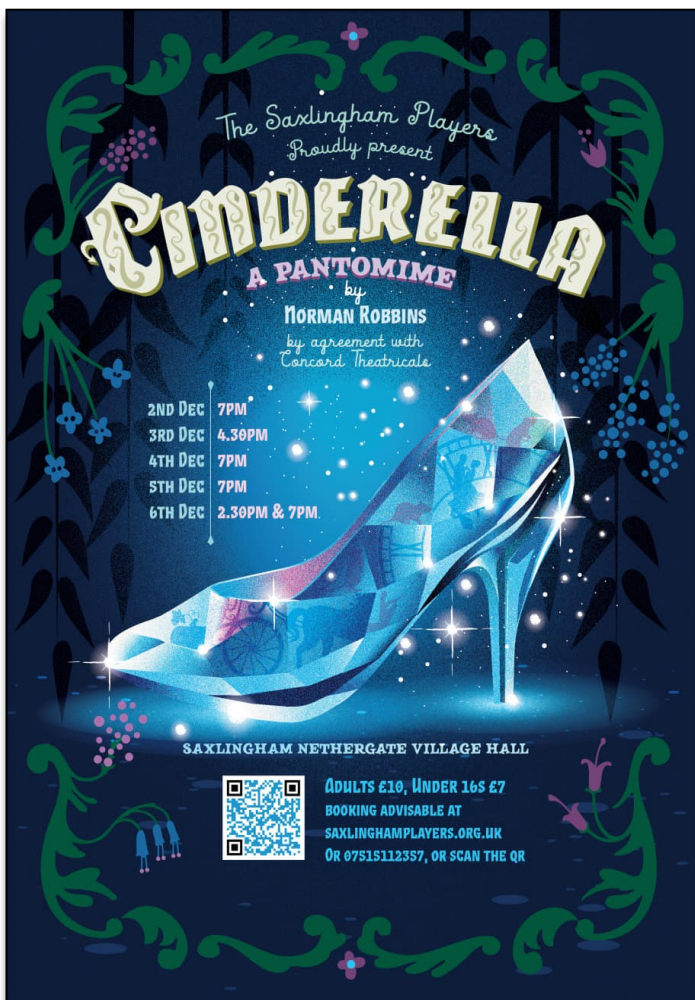
National Collection Week from 10th-17th November:

Shoe boxes are available from the Group Office, or you can fill your own box. Why not join with some friends to fill a box, or fill a box from your organisation or club? Perhaps you are unable to get out and about or just don't have the time to go shopping. Why not build a shoebox online!

For details see the website: <https://samaritans-purse.org.uk/>.

Boxes must be returned to the Group Office by Thursday 13th November before 12:30pm or left at Hempnall Church by Sunday 16th November at the latest.

The Group Office is open Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-12:30pm. Address: Group Office, The Rectory, The Street, Hempnall, NR15 2AD.



A FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 24TH - 4PM



SIGN UP NOW!

Contact us asap to join our community choir or children's nativity!
All abilities VERY welcome!
Fun rehearsals Sundays 4pm - Hempnall Church

REHEARSALS

30TH NOV

7TH DEC

14TH DEC

23RD DEC

Contact Hannah Gray 07801 355 758
or [f](#) LifeSpring Hempnall



JOIN US IN HEMPSTALL CHURCH FOR

A FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 24TH
4PM

Join our community choir or children's nativity!
Contact Hannah Gray 07801 355 758
or [f](#) LifeSpring Hempnall

Framingham Earls Singers
AN EVENING OF
CHRISTMAS MUSIC

AILE NG - CELLO
MARTIN ADAMS - ACCOMPANIST
ROB GOODRICH - DIRECTOR

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2025
7.30PM

ST. PETERS CHURCH, BROOKE
THE STREET, BROOKE, NR15 1JX

A CONCERT IN MEMORY OF REV LYNN CHAPMAN
SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

TICKETS £10 UNDER 16 FREE
AVAILABLE FROM WWW.FRAMINGHAMEARLSINGERS.CO.UK
OR CASH ON THE DOOR

Celebration of Christmas
East of England
COOP Band

One of East Anglia's premier
brass bands plays a selection of
Christmas Classics and Festive Fun!

Tickets: £10 includes mulled wine
& mince pie (age 16 and under free)

Call: 01508 558324

Sunday 14th December 3pm
St. Peter's Church, Brooke. NR15 1JU

Thought for the month.....

Remember, remember – the theme of November...

November is, within our church calendar, a time for remembering.



The month begins with All Saints' Day (1st November) and All Souls Day (2nd), celebrating, respectively, the saints of the church and **all** the faithful who have lived and died. This year in the Hempnall Group on *Sunday 2nd November at 10.30am in Woodton Church* – a building named as, and dedicated to, 'All Saints' – we have a *Holy Communion* to mark that. (There is also at the same time a Morning Worship service for All Saints at Brooke).

That same day (*Sunday 2nd November*) in *Hempnall Church at 3pm* and *Brooke Church at 6:30pm* we have our annual *Commemoration Services* to remember specifically those known to us and loved by us who have died.



On Remembrance Sunday (*Sunday 9th November*) we commemorate in all our parishes those who fought and died in the First and Second World Wars and other conflicts of the past 100+ years – especially, in our ceremonies in this country, those in which British personnel have been involved. We remember those who mourn. And we pray for peace.

These occasions, while each has a different context, are all opportunities to remember, to reflect and to realise anew the connections shaping us as communities and individuals.

Writing more than 1,600 years ago, right at the end of the fourth century CE, St Augustine of Hippo – one of the great figures of the early church – likened memory to 'a great field or a spacious palace, a storehouse for countless images of all kinds which

are conveyed to it by the senses.’ We draw from that repository in different ways during our lives and with different emotions. Probably very few of our memories just have ‘us’ in them, completely by ourselves: invariably, they include others – parents, family, friends, colleagues, people around us at a football match – who were part of the experience we’re recalling. We all have individual memories, personal to us, but they will still have that ‘social’ dimension. We are connected beings.

So let’s pause this month to give thanks in prayer for our connections both with those, unknown, from a distant past who have gone before us – long departed but still influencing our culture – and with those we’ve personally known and loved who have more directly impacted upon us.

*Lord hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember in the month ahead;
and bring us all, with them, to share in your peace
and in your eternal joy.*

And let’s pray, too for the courage and inspiration to live our lives in a way that honours the past, builds positively on our individual and collective legacies and offers hope for the future.

Amen

Liam Pilgrim

Acknowledgements: (1) Quotation from Augustine *Confessions*, Book X, 8 (Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1961 edn) cited by Elizabeth Culling, *Spirituality and Remembering*, Grove Spirituality Series 56 (Cambridge: Grove Books, 1996), p.3; (2) Prayer adapted from Church of England ‘Prayers for Remembrance’ at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/topical-prayers/prayers-remembrance> [accessed 22. 10.25]; (3) All images free online, including ‘All Saints’ via pixabay website.

Save the date...

Sunday 4th January 2026:

Licensing of the Revd Canon Susanna Gunner as part-time ‘House for Duty’ Associate Priest to serve in the Hempnall Group and the Brooke Benefice: Brooke Church: 2.30pm

We’re pleased to share that the Revd Canon Susanna Gunner (see *Village News* for October 2025) will be joining us immediately in the New Year and will be licensed by Bishop Ian of Thetford to both the Brooke Benefice and the Hempnall Group in a special service on Sunday 4th January, as above. Susanna is going to be living in the Hempnall Rectory but is being appointed ‘in common’ between our two benefices and it’s therefore very appropriate to hold the licensing at Brooke.

So, please put the date /time etc in 2026 diaries and let’s keep Susanna and her husband Ben in prayer as we all look forward to welcoming them on 4th January. It will be a great way to start the New Year.

Meanwhile, best wishes to all from

Liam Pilgrim and Jill Turner

Co-Chairs of the Joint Council of the Hempnall Group of Parishes

CHURCH SERVICES NOVEMBER 2025...

2nd November 2025 All Saints' Day 4 before Advent	10:30am	Morning Worship	Brooke Church
	10:30am	Holy Communion (and Patronal Festival)	Woodton Church
	3:00pm	Commemoration Service	Hempnall Church
	6:30pm	Commemoration Service	Brooke Church
9th November 2025 Remembrance Sunday 3 before Advent	10:00am	Remembrance Service	Brooke Church
	10:00am	Remembrance Service	Seething Church
	10:00am	Act of Remembrance	Bedingham Church
	10:50am	Act of Remembrance	Hempnall War Memorial
	11:15am	Remembrance Service	Hempnall Church
	10:50am	Remembrance Service	Fritton Church
	10:50am	Remembrance Service	Hardwick Church
	10:50am	Remembrance Service	Topcroft Church
	10:50am	Act of Remembrance	Woodton Church
	12:30pm	Act of Remembrance	Hardwick Airfield

16th November 2025 2 before Advent (Safeguarding Sunday)	10:30am	Holy Communion	Brooke Church
	10:30am	Morning Praise	Hardwick Church
	4:00pm	All Age Praise	Hempnall Church
23rd November 2025 Christ the King Sunday next before Advent	10:30am	Morning Worship	Brooke Church
	10:30am	Holy Communion	Bedingham Church
	6:00pm	Evening Service	Zoom
30th November 2025 Advent 1	10:30am	Morning Worship	Brooke Church
	10:30am	Holy Communion	Hempnall Church

Happy Birthday....

Children

- 🕯 Harry who will be 6
- 🕯 Jack who will be 6
- 🕯 Charlie who will be 10

Teenage

- 🕯 Georgie who will be 16



From the Registers....

Funerals

- ✝ Wednesday 1st October 2025, Clarence Barnes, aged 87 years. Funeral and burial at St Mary's Church, Shelton.
- ✝ Monday 6th October 2025, Ned Potts, aged 92 years. Funeral & Burial at St Margaret's Church, Hempnall.
- ✝ Wednesday 14th October 2025, Pamela Arnold, aged 93 years. Funeral & Burial at St Margaret's Church, Hempnall.
- ✝ Wednesday 22nd October 2025. Gordon Taylor, aged 71 years. Funeral & Burial at All Saints' Church, Woodton.
- ✝ Thursday 30th October 2025, Caroline Holden., aged 53 years. Funeral and Burial at St Andrew's Church, Bedingham.



Need Help?....

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Website Address www.hempnallpc.org

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Contact us....

Frances Atherton
Group Administrator

The Hempnall Group of Parishes and
Brooke Benefice

Mon-Thu 9:00am-12:30pm

01508 498157

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Items for the next issue....

Items for the Village News should be
Delivered, Posted or Emailed to:
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The Street, Hempnall, NR15 2AD
Email:

hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com

BEFORE

15th NOVEMBER 2025

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