

Culworth Newsletter

December 2024 and January 2025



The Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights have been seen across much of Britain several times in 2024, and on 10th October there was a particularly fine display which could clearly be seen over the village.

Carols on the Green – Christmas Eve

Don't forget to take a break from peeling spuds or wrapping last-minute gifts to come to The Green on Christmas Eve at about 6pm – rain or shine – for free sausages, mulled wine, and singing! Everyone is invited to come along – and bring your singing voices and instruments if you have them to add to the volume – to join in this festive occasion which marks the start of Christmas in Culworth for many.



Remembrance Sunday – 10th November

The day was damp and slightly chilly, but it was pleasing to have a good congregation of 45 with 5 children in church. There were two families where the father is currently a serving officer and five others who have served in the armed services.

With the congregation in good voice, five hymns were sung, including the National Anthem. Andrew Wilby, Chair of Culworth Parish Council, read a lesson from Revelations and James Stewart one from St Johns Gospel about loving one another. Gerald Cadogan gave a very fitting address.

At the War Memorial, beautifully planted around with red and white Chrysanthemums, the congregation swelled to about 70 people. During the short Act of Remembrance led by Gerald Cadogan, Luke Annaly read out the names of the fallen in both First and Second World Wars which was followed by the Exhortation and the two minute silence. No traffic passed during the ceremony. Wreaths were laid by David Mold on behalf of the Royal British Legion, June Oxley for the Church and Andrew Wilby for the Parish Council.

Thank you all for supporting this Act of Remembrance of not just past wars but also current areas of conflict in the World.

Remembrance Sunday address given by Gerald Cadogan



“106 years ago tomorrow morning, at 11 o'clock, the armistice came into effect and the fighting of the First World War stopped. Thereafter the 11th of November was known for a long time as Armistice Day when everything, but everything, stopped for 2 minutes at 11 – as I remember, and others here must too, from childhood. Even if, officially, it had become Remembrance Day in 1945, so as to honour also those in the armed forces who died in the Second World War. And that is what we are doing now, remembering with honour the people of Culworth whose names are on the memorial plaque by the pulpit – which will be read out at the War Memorial.

And with them we'll think of members of our own families and our friends' families who died. A cousin of mine lost her husband and her brother in a week in 1941: 27 years old, her hair turned white overnight, and stayed so till she died at 90.

We remember too those who were not in the armed forces who died, women and children, and civilian males, caught in the Blitz or similar violence anywhere in the world. They are to be honoured and cherished. Ukraine, Gaza, Beirut, Sudan and many other places make it all too clear, all too painful, that death from war is not confined to people in uniform. Every day we see the terrible fate of thousands of civilians caught up in local wars, with nowhere to escape to, but determined to stand by their families and friends and their property, whatever it is, that has such an important part in their human identity.

Finally we should remember the many people on the other side in this country's wars, who were not ideological fanatics, but were just being patriotic for their country and their cause, and suffered as much as those on this side, if not more. Think of the horror of being in the battle at Stalingrad.

All these, and their surviving families, need both our prayers and our recognition of what they achieved, and our gratitude for that. For this country, as for continental Europe, the time since 1945 – now 79 years – is the longest period of peace this part of the world has ever known. How right it is to say: We will remember them. And then keep silence.

And we must never cease praying for, and doing all we can to promote, peace and non-violence, as we shall be doing in the next part of this service. May God bless those who gave their lives, or were wounded. And may God bless all who work for a better and more loving world. Amen.”

A LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Season's Greetings from the Parish Council

Members of the Council join with me in wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

“Carols on The Green” will take place again this year at 6pm on Christmas Eve. Please join in with your neighbours, family and friends for this traditional event which happens every year come icy wind, snow, storm or tempest. Mulled wine and Mumford sausages will again be distributed free to all as we mark, as a community, the start of Christmas. In January the Council has to agree the Budget for 2025/6. It will be much the same as the current year covering, amongst other things, the costs of maintaining the village environment, the street lighting and now the maintenance costs of the children's play area.

For a number of years now the Council has been building a reserve towards the future cost of renewing the village hall facility and this will continue. It is a duty of the Parish Council within the Local Government Act, amongst its many other duties, to ensure the provision of a community meeting facility. Since 1938 this responsibility has been discharged by the Village Hall Trust. However, a few years ago it was recognised that the physical state of the old wooden structure required replacement as it was getting beyond economic repair and also was limiting its use to the community since it was no longer compliant with access and other modern standards. It remains a responsibility of the Council to seek a solution to the problem. As a result, the Parish Council, the Village Hall Trust and the Cricket Club [as tenant of the sports field] jointly formed the “Culworth Hill Field Trust” as an organisation to harness the support of local volunteers with relevant expertise to deliver what is a major complex project on behalf of the three partners and community.

Much has been achieved in acquiring the land, obtaining Planning Permission by discharging the Planning requirements such as the car park, and securing a large grant from Sport England to improve the field facilities. The plans for the new Village Hall were then undermined by the economic situation, Covid and the Russian energy crisis which caused all such relevant funding streams to be diverted elsewhere. CHFT is currently initiating a study of the alternative options open to the community - which will be a task for 2025.

So, there is much to do in the new year including the Local Government elections in May. We have to elect 7 Parish Councillors for the next 5 years to deliver a serious amount of legal responsibility on your behalf - for no thanks or reward by the way! I would encourage anybody who feels able to make a contribution of service to their local community to consider standing for election. To that end please get in touch with the Clerk, or attend a meeting or find out what is involved from a Councillor and then stand!

That is for 2025. For the rest of this year, please have a great Christmas and New Year!

Andrew Wilby

Chairman, Culworth Parish Council

Culworth Village Café

There will be a village café on **Saturday 7th December** from 10 till 12 in the Village Hall, and the following one will be on **Saturday 4th January**.



West Northamptonshire Council is the single unitary council responsible for providing a range of public services to residents and businesses in the areas of Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire. These services include:

- collection of your household waste
- maintenance of parks and open spaces
- street cleaning
- environmental health
- planning services



WNC also delivers the ex-NCC services of Education, Highways, Adult Social Care and Libraries. Culworth is in Silverstone Ward, represented by Councillor Alison Eastwood. Please contact her for WNC issues on alison.eastwood@westnorthants.gov.uk or 07967867726.

Culworth Snappers



2024 has been a busy and successful year for the Culworth Snappers, including an exhibition in The Forge to celebrate ten years of the club.

The next meeting will be towards the end of January (date to be confirmed) at Forge Coffee starting at 7.30pm. We will be looking at members' images on the topic of Shapes. The photograph on the left is from October's "Autumn" topic. If you are interested in joining us, or just want to come along and see what it's all about, we

generally meet on the last Thursday of the month.



Culworth Film Nights

The next Film Night at the Village Hall is on Thursday 12th December. The film will be "Thelma".

When 93-year-old Thelma Post gets duped by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson, she sets out on a treacherous quest across the city to reclaim what was taken from her.

Doors open at 6.30pm. Tickets - £15 to include Red Lion supper or £7.50 film only

Contact Julie to book on 0776 973 0668 – jules.tinn@gmail.com

The following Film Night will be on Thursday 9th January – film title to be decided.

St Mary's Culworth

Can You Help? Over the years the congregation in most churches has become smaller and smaller. This makes looking after our village church more reliant on fewer and more elderly people. We try our best to keep our church going but it is obvious that we cannot go on for ever. Eventually there will come a time when without help our beautiful village church will have to close and with no one to care for it goodness knows what will happen to it. Until decisions are made as to its future we do need help to keep it going. At the moment we fortunately do not need any major repair work done, mainly thanks to Martin who does most of the day to day repairs, but we could do with help on the regular cleaning rota, the flower arrangement rota and, when the time comes, the general churchyard tidy up, the Spring Clean and the mowing rota. Thank You.



Christmas Services 2024

December 8th 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 15th 6pm Candlelit Carol Service with all your traditional carols and reading, often with a touch of humour. Drinks and nibbles afterwards

December 25th 11am Christmas Day Holy Communion. (Rev Philip Ball officiant)



After a challenging year, the Churchwardens and PCC of St Mary's Church wish everyone in Culworth and beyond a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

The pattern of services in Culworth in 2025 is as follows:

1st Sunday of the month 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion – alternating churches in the benefice
6pm Evensong Culworth
2nd Sunday 11am Family Service
3rd Sunday 10am Mattins
4th Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion
5th Sunday 10am Benefice Holy Communion

We are fortunate to have a service every Sunday in our church and we will try to maintain this pattern. We are very fortunate to have a number of wonderful, retired clergy living near Culworth who are happy to help us out during the interregnum. All services requiring a priest are covered until after Easter 2025.

Church Wardens

Martin Rowling - 01295 760571 (josephine.rowling@gmail.com) Jenny Howse - 01295 768110 (jenny_howse@hotmail.com). During the interregnum, please contact the church wardens or the Rural Dean for any information on christenings, weddings and funerals etc. Rural Dean: Father Matthew Robinson - 01295 811364 (fathermatthew.r@icloud.com) The Vicarage, Church Avenue, Kings Sutton OX17 3RJ

Culworth Benefice Services

December 2024 & January 2025

1st December

10am Benefice Holy Communion Culworth
(Rev Celia Parkes)

8th December

9.30am Morning Prayer Moreton Pinkney
9.30am Holy Communion Chipping Warden
(Bishop Ed Condry)
11am Christingle Culworth

15th December

9.30am Holy Communion Moreton Pinkney
(Rev Greg Shaw)
6pm Carol Service Culworth

22nd December

9.30am Holy Communion Culworth (Bishop Ed Condry)
11am Holy Communion Edgcote (Bishop Ed Condry)
3pm Candlelit Carols at Chipping Warden with Nativity Donkey
5pm Moreton Pinkney Carol Service

24th December

11.30pm Midnight Mass Chipping Warden

25th December Christmas Day

9.30am Holy Communion Moreton Pinkney
(Bishop Ed Condry)
11am Holy Communion Culworth (Rev Philip Ball)
11.15am Holy Communion Edgcote (Bishop Ed Condry)

29th December

No services in the Benefice

2025

5th January

Carol Service Edgcote (Bishop Ed Condry)
6pm Evensong Culworth

12th January

9.30am Holy Communion Chipping Warden
(Rev Greg Shaw)
9.30am Morning Prayer Moreton Pinkney
11am Family Service Culworth

19th January

9.30am Holy Communion Moreton Pinkney
(Bishop Ed Condry)
10am Mattins Culworth

26th January

9.30am Holy Communion Culworth (Rev Greg Shaw)
9.30am informal service/café church Moreton Pinkney
11am Mattins Edgcote

2nd February

10am Benefice Holy Communion Chipping Warden (Bishop Ed Condry)

Don't forget...

15th December 2024 12.30pm Christmas Lunch & Grand Draw at Chipping Warden Village Hall. Tickets from Liz on 01295 660254

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 1st December – 10am Benefice Holy Communion, Culworth
Tuesday 3rd December - 10am Circular walk, beginning at The Green
Tuesday 3rd December – 7.30pm Village Hall AGM – all welcome
Saturday 7th December – 10am – 12 noon Village Cafe
Sunday 8th December - 11am Christingle Service at St Mary’s Church
Thursday 12th December – 6.30pm Film Night in Village Hall – “Thelma”
Sunday 15th December – 6pm Culworth Carol Service
Sunday 22nd December – 9.30am Holy Communion (Bishop Ed Condry)
Tuesday 24th December – 6pm Carols on The Green
Wednesday 25th December - 11am Culworth Holy Communion (Rev Philip Ball)
Saturday 4th January – 10am – 12 noon Village Cafe
Sunday 5th January - 6pm Culworth Evensong
Tuesday 7th January – 10am Circular walk, beginning at The Green
Thursday 9th January – 6.30pm Film Night in Village Hall, film tbc
Sunday 12th January – 11am Family Service Culworth
Sunday 19th January - 10am Mattins Culworth
Thursday 23rd or 30th January – Date to be confirmed – 7.30pm Snappers at The Forge “Shapes”
Sunday 26th January – 9.30am Holy Communion Culworth (Rev Greg Shaw)

Culworth Comedy Club hosted by Ryan Mold



Ryan grew up in Culworth, brought up by his grandparents. He recently had his first solo show as a stand-up comedian at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Ryan will be hosting the next Culworth Comedy Club at The Forge on Saturday 21st December. (*Photo Laila Pipara*)



As we head towards the end of the year, we want to thank you for all your support. We couldn’t continue to support our wonderful community without the help of people like you. Here’s the latest news and events from Katharine House.

We need you!

Do you want to gain valuable skills and experiences while meeting new people and doing something amazing for your community. We’re looking for more shop volunteers to join one of our 7 charity shops. You’ll be part of a friendly team, helping raise vital funds that support our care for patients and families. If this could be you, visit www.khh.org.uk/volunteer-shops.

Lights of Love

We'd love for you to join us for our annual Lights of Love event on Thursday 5 December at St Mary's Church, Banbury, where we come together to remember and celebrate the lives of those we have loved and lost. Find out more www.khh.org.uk/lights.

Tractor Run returns

On Saturday 14 December, a festive fleet of fairy-lit tractors will be taking a tour around local villages to spread some Christmas cheer and raise money for Katharine House Hospice. The super-popular Tractor Run will depart from Spring Hill Farm, Barford St Michael at around 5pm and travel through the local villages, chugging along into Banbury, as well as driving by Katharine House Hospice to wave hello! If you're in the area, it's a sight to behold! Find out more here www.khh.org.uk/tractor

Branching out

Our brilliant tree-cycle scheme is back, giving people the opportunity to get rid of their Christmas tree in a hassle-free, environmentally friendly way once all the festivities are over. You 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 postcode is included in the scheme. www.khh.org.uk/christmastree

Lions Clubs Message in a Bottle Scheme

Members of the public and other organisations can obtain a Message in a Bottle kit by contacting a local Lions club. Or alternatively, a kit can be ordered using a form on the public website - see: <https://lionsmessageinabottle.co.uk/>

More than 6 million Message in a Bottle kits have been distributed by Lions Clubs International (MD105) British Isles to people with conditions such as diabetes, allergies, disabilities and life-threatening illnesses.

Lions Clubs Message in a Bottle is a simple but effective way for people to keep their basic personal and medical details where they can be found in an emergency on a standard form and in a common location – the fridge.

Message in a Bottle helps emergency services personnel to save valuable time in identifying an individual very quickly and knowing if they have any allergies or take special medication. Paramedics, police, fire-fighters and social services support this Lions life-saving initiative and know to look in the fridge when they see the Message in a Bottle stickers (usually stuck on the fridge). The initiative provides peace of mind that prompt and appropriate medical assistance can be provided, and next of kin / emergency contacts can be notified.

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 wilbyjoanne@gmail.com

If anyone would like to take on the role of Newsletter Editor, please do get in touch with the Parish Clerk or Joanne Wilby.

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

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 Philip Ball. 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 automatic winding of the Church Clock amongst other items.

Paul Wharton

Studio & Gallery

Professional Artist's Studio

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Forge Culworth – in the garden!

www.paulwhartonartist.com

07768 897390



FORGE COFFEE

Mondays to Fridays 8:45am-4pm
 Saturdays 9am-4pm
 Sundays 9am-3pm

Thanks for all your support.

Available to rent for events and parties

For all our events, check our website:
<https://www.forgecoffee.co.uk/whats-on> or
 follow us on Instagram (@forge_coffee) or on
 Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/forgecoffeeshop>

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Pilates Solutions: Julie Russell

Hi everyone - I am a Culworth resident, and I am excited to be returning to Sulgrave Village Hall to teach regular Pilates Classes from the week commencing 3rd June 2024.

For more information you can visit my website
www.pilates-solutions.co.uk

If you are interested in joining or would like to ask me any questions my mobile number is 07778 673677. Email address
julierussell007@gmail.com.

Do you have a local business? Please tell us about it via the village newsletter.