

Wykeham Benefice News

October/November 2025

*A time to celebrate Harvest as well as our
freedom and gratitude to the fallen on
9th November, Remembrance Day*





Dawn in Epwell, 6.15a.m. on 5th September. Taken by Conway Freeman

SWALCLIFFE NEWS



SWALCLIFFE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 6th December 2025

from 12 noon to 3.30pm at Swalcliffe Church

Our highly popular Christmas Market takes place this year on Saturday 6th December.

There is an impressive selection of stalls selling locally made gifts and crafts, just in time for your Christmas shopping. You will



also be able to buy a beautiful Christmas wreath for your door, as well as other decorations for your festive table. There is a raffle too, with a chance to win an amazing luxury hamper. And if all that shopping makes you hungry and thirsty, you can refresh yourself with tea and cake or sausages and mulled wine.

Please come and join in the fun and get yourself in the Christmas spirit!

Entrance £2.50 with no charge for children under 15. Card payments can be made but please bring cash too. Net proceeds will contribute to essential fabric repair work in our beautiful Grade I listed historic church.

Please note that the stair climber will be in action for those with limited mobility.

Save the date: *Swalcliffe's Celebration of Christmas*, Monday 22nd December at 6pm in the church. A gathering for all the family comprising hearty carol singing, festive drama and competition!



SWALCLIFFE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 6th December 2025

At Swalcliffe Church

From 12 noon to 3:30pm

Swalcliffe is the place to be as the village hosts
another exciting Christmas Market

Come and enjoy

Market stalls with an impressive selection of high quality,
locally made gifts, crafts and decorations, just in time for
your Christmas shopping, or just to treat yourself.

Luxury Christmas Hamper Raffle

BBQ and mulled wine stall

Tea, coffee and cake stall

Entrance fee £2.50 (children go free)

Card payments available, but please bring cash too

Net proceeds will contribute to essential fabric repair work
in our beautiful Grade I listed historic church

www.swalcliffe.org

TADMARTON NEWS OF St Nicholas Church

We held our pet service at the end of July when we all brought our animal friends to church. Emily gave time to all our pets individually and we all shared what joy they brought to us. Emily then gave each one a blessing. Thank you Emily.

We held a fundraising walk on Friday 10 August. It was 8.5 miles from Rollright Church through Hook Norton and ended at St Nicholas. It was a very hot day but I am pleased to say that we all made it back. With Gift Aid we managed to raise over £2,700 a magnificent effort.

Our Harvest festival and supper is on Sunday 12th October at 6.00pm in the church for the service followed by supper in the Village Hall. It will be a bring and share supper and will be coordinated by Louise Hillman. Please contact her on 780214 to let her know you are coming.

We had our Quinquennial Church inspection earlier in the summer and goodness me it was thorough!!! When you use a building all the time you do not notice all the minor (and not so minor) parts that are crumbling. Our old buildings are a joy to behold but also need a lot of upkeep!

Chris Dean

The memorial at St. Mary's Church, Broughton

BROUGHTON WITH NORTH NEWINGTON

Filming has been taking place at Broughton Castle and we were pleased to be able to offer the church as a rest area for the film crew.

Churchwarden Andrew Taylor and Mike Cherry took to their bicycles once again to take part in the Ride and Stride for Churches on Saturday 13th September in aid of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. The Trust provides support to all our churches and Andrew and Mike were amongst others cycling around the benefice in order to raised funds for the Trust. There is still time to support this worthy cause, so if you would like to donate, please get in touch with Andrew; thank you.



Coming up in October and November:

We look forward to the very special Remembrance Sunday service on **Sunday 9th November**. This is always a very moving service and we encourage you to attend if you can.

Early notice that the Church Fayre will take place on **Saturday 13th December**. Further details can be found on the poster; we do hope you can come along and support us as we raise funds for the church.



Broughton and North Newington Winter Fayre

**Saturday 13th December from 2pm - 4pm
In St Mary's Church, Broughton**

**Tea, coffee and cake
Raffle; Tombola; books and crafts**

**Please come along and help us raise funds
for the church - cash only**

EPWELL NEWS

Allison Pollard - I hope that you won't mind if I single out another Epwellian who has recently died but Allison was well known within the benefice. We have just been honoured to celebrate a Thanksgiving Service for Allison, with her family, in her beloved garden at Gage Farm in Epwell. The family read poems and spoke beautifully about their energetic mother, grandmother and wife to Charles, as Allison seemed to have managed an impossible amount each day, living life to the full.

Sadly Allison died suddenly on 27th August from a brain tumour. She had only recently heard that she had stage 4 cancer. She was expecting to be operated on but she sadly died a mere few days before the operation.

A sudden departure of a loved one such as this, must be a dreadful shock for those who were close to Allison and we, as a Christian community, have the opportunity to remember them all in our prayers. We could ask God to hold them in His loving arms and cushion them through this difficult time. Our thoughts are in particular for Charles who has also now moved

to an apartment near his children on the edge of London. If anyone would like a forwarding address for Charles, please get in touch. My email address is carolyn.kdeg@zen.co.uk

Epwell PCC member Andrew McHugh, spoke of her unceasing contribution to our parish. Not only did Allison keep our churchyard lovingly but in recent years, organised a regular coffee morning, helped prepare for Lent Lunches, organise village walks and was often seen out on runs around the village, as well as, quietly taking care of those in the village who could not get out and about easily. Her nursing career along with her faith seemed to be the basis of her outreach to help others. This particularly came to the fore in 2015 when she became the Epwell representative for Polly's Kitchen, organising a collection point for donations and taking them to Polly to feed the homeless in Banbury. It was Allison who instigated the resumption of this support across the Benefice following the severe 8-week Lockdown in 2020 for Polly Preedy.

Below are Allison's own words from a Welcome leaflet we gave Rev'd Neil Bowler when he arrived in 2020.

"Around 5 years ago I set up a Polly Collection Box with Alasdair Lowe in St Anne's Church for people to donate to the Homeless in Banbury. This was a project that Ronald Hawkes suggested and had been taken up in other villages. It is supported by many people across the community mainly for donations of food and clothing. Polly has been undertaking her calling for over 30 years.

This has been very well supported since then and enabled Polly to offer her daily support and time once again for those with mental health problems and other issues who fall between the cracks of other agencies."



Allison Pollard

Allison will be greatly missed by many Epwellians and many in the Benefice. Carolyn Kdeg

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE AT ST. ANNE'S CHURCH – SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER 10.55A.M.

Everyone is welcome to join us at The Harvest Festival Family service which will be held on Sunday 12th Oct at 10.00am. The collection will go to support the valuable work done by the Farming Community Network and any donations of produce will be passed onto Polly, for the homeless people of Banbury. The most helpful donations would be tinned or packed food, not perishables. Thank you.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – Sunday 9th November at 10.55A.M.

Our traditional **Remembrance service** takes place on Sunday 9th November. We will gather in the village square near the war memorial at 10.55am and begin with prayers and a 2 minute silence. We will then move into the church for the service.

Julie Bruggenwirth

SIBFORD

ACTION STATIONS – On Monday 6th October work commences on the re-ordering of Holy Trinity Church to provide a community space, with a toilet, kitchenette and easy access for wheelchairs, prams and the less mobile. The work begins week commencing October 7th 2025 and estimated to be completed by 12th December but this is estimated. This is a massive achievement, especially by David Gill who has applied for all the Grants holding the vision which Revd. Ronald had over seven years ago.

Harvest Service 28th September, Holy Trinity Church 11am. The Harvest offering of food, tinned and packets will be taken to Polly Preedy as she continues to daily feed the homeless and needy in Banbury.

We will worship in the Village Hall whilst the work is under way, our first service will be the Lay Led Service on 13th October at 10am

The Coffee Stop continues to meet until the 30th September on a Tuesday morning in the church, offering a warm place to parents who have delivered their children to school, a chance to chat and have refreshments. Everyone welcome. We will take a break whilst the work is in progress and hope to restart at the beginning of the term in January.

Ride and Stride 13th September to raise money for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. We welcomed visitors taking part, offering refreshments. OHCT have been firm supporters of Holy Trinity church, recently awarding us £8,000 towards our reordering project. Barbara Foster

St Martin's Church, Shutford

SHUTFORD NEWS

We have had no weddings in Shutford this year but did welcome young Teddy and his family for his baptism in August. This was a joyous occasion using Rev Emily's new Baptism Order of Service.



We have a good team of clergy and lay people who ensure that we can keep our churches open, for worship most Sunday's and during the week. Our churches are village assets for everyone to use. However, we need younger members of our community to support us and even take the lead in organising events. Anyone wishing to be more involved with church activities or worship, should contact the rector or churchwarden.

12 people visited St Martin's Church during the annual Ride & Stride raising funds for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and the participants own churches.

There were representatives from Sibford and Broughton among the visitors.

The Remembrance Sunday service on 9th November, will have a Brass Band to play for hymns. A retiring collection will go to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, with poppy sellers in the village beforehand

A church building inspection has taken place with a report expected before the year end.

Ken Jeffs

Thoughts for your prayers -

Harvest - Being grateful for the rewards of harvest and the provision of food for us all. For farmers who struggle with the change of climate growing crops and feeding their stock. For those who can't afford to eat or to put food on the table for their families.

Remember the young who are venturing off to university or looking for work. The elderly who may struggle to find their old energy or purpose for life, the mentally ill and the sick.

Remembrance Day- Those who gave their lives so that we may live out our lives in freedom. For protection of that freedom. For those who suffer from conflict and for those trying to find safety and to rebuild their lives. For those who grieve.



The extended graveyard at Holy Trinity, Sibford with a swath of Cosmos

Tolerance - to end cultural prejudices, intolerance of others, antisymmetric movements and secular indifference.

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Therefore, be kind to one another tender-hearted and caring, forgive as God forgives you through Christ.

A prayer for Advent which starts on 30th November

Dear Lord God,

Awaken us, that we may be ready when your dear Son comes,

Awaken our spirit to receive him with joy into our hearts.

Teach us to listen so that we may know you and recognise your call.

Teach us to serve you with pure hearts

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

Services for October

Sunday 5th Trinity 16	Swalcliffe	10.30am	Benefice Eucharist	ES	Green
Sunday 12th Trinity 17	Sibford	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	ES	Green
	Shutford	9.30am	Holy Communion BCP	ES	
	Swalcliffe	9.30am	Holy Communion	JT	
	Sibford	10.00am	All Age Family Service	Lay led	
	Epwell	10.00am	Harvest Festival/Family Service	Lay led	
	Broughton	11.00am	Holy Communion	JT	
	Tadmarton	6.00pm	Harvest Festival	ES	
Sunday 19th Trinity 18	Sibford	9.30am	Holy Communion	ES	Green
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion	JT	
	Shutford	11.00am	All Age Family Service	Lay led	
	Tadmarton	11.00am	Holy Communion	JT	
	Broughton	11.00am	Holy Communion	ES	
	Swalcliffe	6.00pm	Evensong BCP	ES	
Sunday 26th Last after Trinity (ES away)	Shutford	9.30am	Holy Communion	JT	Green
	Sibford	9.30am	Holy Communion	BF	
	Swalcliffe	9.30am	Holy Communion	GE	
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion	HS	
	Broughton	11.00am	All Age Family Service	JT	
	Tadmarton	11.00am	Village Service	Lay led	



The end of Summer days at St. Nicolas Church, Tadmarton

Rector: The Rev'd Emily Robottom Scott (ES)

Mobile: 07561407431

Email: rev.emily@robms.co.uk

Associate Minister: The Rev'd Canon John

Tattersall (JT) CBE LVO

Abingdon House, Park Lane, Swalcliffe,

Banbury OX15 5EU

Telephone: 01295 780283 Mobile:

07711733978

Email: jhtatters@aol.com

Assisting Priests:

The Rev'd Brian Fairbank (BF), The Rev'd Allan Doig (AD), The Rev'd Canon Glyn Evans (GE),

The Rev'd Graeme Arthur (GA); The Rev'd Hazel Scarr (HS), The Rev'd John Smith (JS), The Rev'd Prebendary Olwen Smith (OS)

Services for November

Sunday 2nd All Saints (JT away)	Tadmarton	10.30am	Benefice Eucharist	ES	White
Sunday 9th Remembrance Sunday	Sibford	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	ES	Red
	Swalcliffe	9.30am	Holy Communion and Act of Remembrance	JT	
	Broughton	10.55am	Holy Communion and Act of Remembrance	JT	
	Epwell	10.55am	Remembrance Service	BF	
	Sibford	10.55am	Remembrance Service	ES	
	Tadmarton	10.55am	Remembrance Service	GA	
	Shutford	6.00pm	Remembrance Service	ES	
Sunday 16th Second before Advent	Sibford	9.30am	Holy Communion	JT	Red
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion	ES	
	Shutford	11.00am	All Age Family Service	Lay led	
	Tadmarton	11.00am	Holy Communion	JT	
	Broughton	11.00am		ES	
	Swalcliffe	6.00pm	Holy Communion Evensong BCP	ES	
Sunday 23rd Christ the King	Shutford	9.30am	Holy Communion	JT	Red
	Sibford	9.30am	Holy Communion	GA	
	Swalcliffe	9.30am	Holy Communion	ES	
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion	GE	
	Broughton	11.00am	All Age Family Service	ES	
	Tadmarton	11.00am	Village Service	JT	
	Sibford	9.30am	Holy Communion	JT	Purple
	Epwell	9.45am	Holy Communion	ES	
	Broughton	11.00am	Holy Communion	JT	
	Tadmarton	11.00am	Holy Communion	ES	
	Shutford	6.00pm	Evensong BCP	ES	

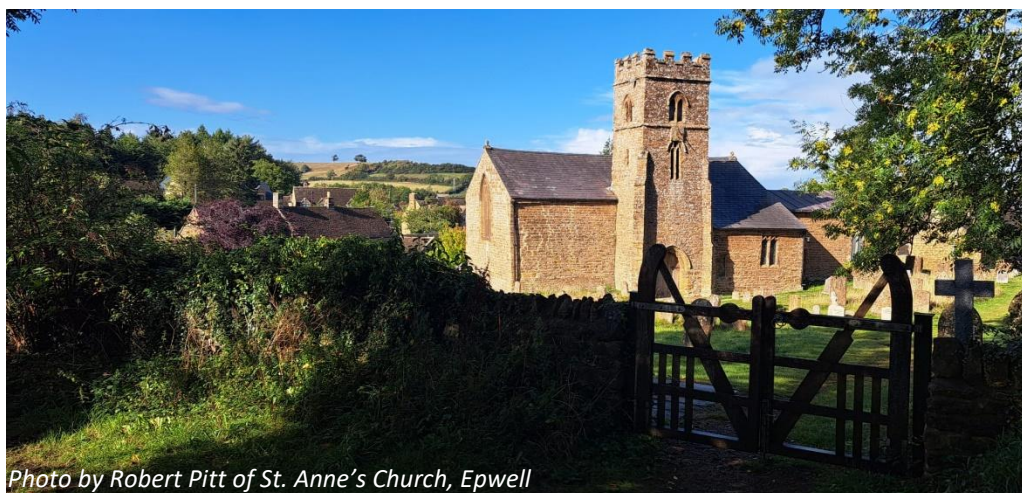


Photo by Robert Pitt of St. Anne's Church, Epwell

Readings for October

Sunday 5 th Trintiy 16	Habakkuk 1 v1-4, ch.2 v1-4	2 Tim. 1 v1-14	Luke 17 v5-10	Green
Sunday 12 th Trinity 17	2 Kings 5 v1-3,7-15c	2 Tim 2 v8-15	Luke 17 v11-19	Green
Sunday 19 th Trintiy 18	Genesis 32 v22-31	2 Tim. 3 v14-ch.4-v5	Luke 18 v1-8	Green
Sunday 26 th Bible Sunday	Isaiah 45 v22-end	Romans 15 v1-6	Luke 4 v16-24	Green

Readings for November

Sunday 2 nd ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY	Daniel 7 v1,3,15-18	Ephesians 1 v11-end	Luke 6 v20-31	White
Sunday 9 th Remembrance Sunday (non-eucharist)	Psalm 46	N/A	Matthew 5.1-12	Red
	Job 19: v23 – 27a	2 Thessalonians 2: v1 – 5 & 13 - end	Luke 20: v27 - 38	Red
Sunday 16 th The second Sunday before Advent	Malachi 4 v1-2a	2 Thess. 3 v6-13	Luke 21 v5-19	Red
Sunday 23 rd CHRIST THE KING	Jeremiah 23 v1-6	Coll. 1 v11-20	Luke 23 v33-43	Red
Sunday 30 th Advent 1	Isaiah 2: v1 – 5	Romans 13: v11 – end	Matthew 24: v36 – 44	Purple

Please send articles for the December, 2025 and January, 2026 edition of the Wykeham Benefice News by 12th October, 2025 to carolyn.kdeg@zen.co.uk

**Remembrance Day,
Sunday, 9th November**

The Royal British Legion - Your local representative for the Royal British Legion will soon start collecting for the charity. The link to their website below will allow you to read more about them and their 'Strategy' which is around three pillars – **Connect, Remember and Support**. Their support is for the whole Armed Forces community, serving personnel, veterans, families and the bereaved. As the RBL say, they must remain the constant so these groups can turn to them, whatever the need, whenever it's needed. Your donations are gratefully received.

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>

Photo taken at St. Mary's Church, Broughton