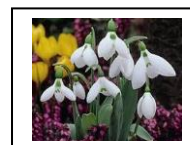


# Holcot Parish Newsletter

## Edition 1 – 2023



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Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter for 2023. Spring will soon be on its way and as usual Holcot has lots of forthcoming events to share with you, including some information about the Coronation. In this edition you can find out all about them and read the latest Parish Council news and church updates. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter will be Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you, Jenny  
[holcotvillagenewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:holcotvillagenewsletter@hotmail.com)

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### Grand Cake Sale

On 21st February: **GRAND CAKE SALE**  
In the Church Room between 10am and 12noon.  
Light refreshments and cakes to buy.  
We would love to see you there.



### Garage Sale

The popular **Garage Sale** is coming back! 29<sup>th</sup> April  
Keep hold of your unwanted items and make some cash. More details to follow.



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### **2023 Annual Holcot coach day-trip to London, with optional play at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre**

So, if you want to ensure that you don't miss out on this great day out, please let Phil or Heather know **NOW**, the date and the play have been chosen. Call 07785 347 297 or email [phil.scordellis@gmail.com](mailto:phil.scordellis@gmail.com)

Return 'fare' for the coach is a share of the total cost: usually around £18-22 per adult (deposit £25 with booking; refund of any change on the day).  
Under 19s £12 - if accompanied by paying adult.

(Tickets for the *Globe Theatre* option usually range from around £7 up to £40+)

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Have you noticed the various beautiful garden projects springing up around the village? These are now being regularly maintained by a group of volunteer residents; so far mainly women, but it needn't be exclusive! **No commitment! No gardening knowledge needed!!!** If **\*\*\* YOU \*\*\*** can spare a couple of hours now and again to join this group, to come, have fun, (and meet new people?), please phone or text your contact details to 07908 848 380.

Or, if you prefer, how about joining 'Friends of Holcot Village'?

Mostly men (but it's also not exclusive!) who provide a volunteer maintenance service - mainly on village trees, bushes, signs and the 'Washbrook'. It's usually on alternate Friday mornings, but no commitment to attend regularly. Please phone or text your contact details to 07785 347 297

## ***Update from Holcot Parish Council***

A short update as always, but a lot to cover.

**Parish budget and precept for financial year 2023/24** – As you may have seen published on the website, at January's Parish Council we agreed our budget for next financial year, and set the precept (the amount of money we request through Council Tax).

For the past 6 years we have held the precept at £17,500 through careful budgeting and making savings wherever we can, whilst providing and paying for the services that Holcot needs. In the budget discussions it was very apparent that we must, reluctantly, increase the precept to £19,500. The increase is in-line with inflation and is expected to add around £10 to Council Tax for a Band D household.

Key budget items, excepting inflationary pressures, include road safety where provision has been made for the expected increase in costs for the Sywell Road chicane.

**Road safety in Holcot** - Despite multiple promises, WNC Highways have still not costed the priority chicane on Sywell Road. Enough said.

Potholes are appearing regularly on Holcot's roads – please report them on [fixmystreet.com](http://fixmystreet.com). WNC Highways then decide what action is required.

In recent years we have experienced flooding on Sywell Road near the washbrook. Grips, ditches and drains have been cleared, and recent rain hasn't given rise to any problems.

We have again registered for Speedwatch. We will be asking for volunteers to help later in the year.

You may have seen on the website and local media that this year's local policing priorities include road safety.

We have written to Inspector Wakeman to remind him and his officers of how traffic speeds and HGVs affect our road safety, the history, and our plans. We have sought his help in getting some Police focus on what is our highest priority.

### ***Brief updates;***

- **Charlie Heasman** was co-opted to the Parish Council in November. Cllr Heasman has responsibility for the sector of all houses outside the village, and will represent the Parish Council in respect of the village hall. He will also take on the new responsibility focused on 'Climate Change and Environment' – more on that below.
- Late last year I attended an excellent conference on how Parishes can act concerning **climate change and the environment**. Over the years we have taken some actions – tree planting and LED lighting are two that come to mind – but the Parish Council perceive that there is more that we could do. Other parishes have undertaken a variety of activities, including declaring a climate emergency to increase community focus, bee- and insect-friendly planting, large scale tree planting, and emissions-focused changes. It is clear to the Council that we need help to identify and implement practical opportunities. Consequently, we would like to establish a **working group** to achieve this. If you are interested in taking part, contact Charlie ([charlesheasman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:charlesheasman@hotmail.co.uk)).
- We have purchased and installed on the village hall a **second defibrillator**. It will be monitored by the group that already look after the defibrillator on the kiosk. We intend organising a life-saving training session in the spring.
- As for previous royal events, we are planning to support community events for **King Charles's coronation**. James Bonsor is co-ordinating Holcot's activities – if you have ideas, or would like to get involved, please contact James ([jamesbonsor@btinternet.com](mailto:jamesbonsor@btinternet.com)). A Barn Dance for Saturday 6 May is already booked, featuring Maggie Scott and The Occasional Few – more details to follow.
- When we upgraded the very old streetlights in 2022 to more environmentally-friendly LEDs we had nine streetlights that were not upgraded because they were newer and reasonably energy-efficient. Coupled with our good fixed-price electricity contract effective until 2025, we have seen substantial savings from the LEDs, but expect that we are unlikely to get such a good electricity price from 2025. Consequently, we decided that **we should upgrade these non-LED lights** as soon as we can. We are unable to afford to replace all nine though – five were upgraded to LED in late-January, with the remaining four planned for 2024.
- Each year the Chair of the Parish Council calls an **Annual Parish Meeting** of all electors. This year's meeting will be held on 24 May at 7:30pm in the village hall. More details will be published nearer the time, but please save the date.

**And finally...** The best way to keep track of the work of the Parish Council is to observe the meetings (normally 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month in the Church Room – check the website for agenda), or read the minutes and updates on the website - sign-up for email notifications of new posts at [www.holcotvillage.co.uk](http://www.holcotvillage.co.uk). Any problems signing up, or to get a message out to Parishioners, email [editor@holcotvillage.co.uk](mailto:editor@holcotvillage.co.uk).

**Cheers**

**David Walker**

**1 February 2023**

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## HOPE|EXPLORED

### WHAT'S THE BEST LIFE YOU COULD EVER EXPECT?

There are few emotions more powerful than hope. It's a spark inside you that brings a smile to your lips; a light that shows on your face; a feeling that lifts your head and pulls you forward.

These days, hope like that often feels hard to come by. Maybe you've experienced your share of disappointments.

***But REAL HOPE is what the Christian faith claims to offer - a joyful expectation for the future, based on true events in the past, which changes everything about my present.***

Hope Explored is a 3-session series for anyone who is looking for a hope worth having.

**Session 1 - Wednesday 1st March - HOPE**  
**Session 2 - Wednesday 8th March - PEACE**  
**Session 3 - Wednesday 15th March - PURPOSE**

The structure of each session is simple: there will be refreshments and a chance to chat, we will watch a short film, and then there will be a discussion based on the film. Afterwards we will share a small meal (soup and bread) together.

All sessions will be held in the Holcot Church Rooms, and start at 10:30am.

***“Whatever you do or don't believe, this is your invitation to explore, to discuss, to question, to discover.”***

David Reith, Rector of Brixworth with Holcot  
[revdavidreith@gmail.com](mailto:revdavidreith@gmail.com)  
(01604) 880139



## CHRISTMAS

We had a very successful time at Christmas at both the Carol Singing and the Carol Service. It was great to see so many people at both occasions taking part and enjoying themselves. We also want to thank you for your generosity. The money collected at the Carol Singing was divided between the Salvation Army, who played for us, and the Church. The money on Christmas Eve was given to the church to pay towards some costly, but necessary, repairs. Thank you all again. See you next Christmas.

## CHURCH FUND RAISING

At Christmas, we held our usual Christmas Post Delivery event, which was well supported. We also sold Christmas cards at a very competitive price. Everybody commented on how good the quality was for the low price. We are hoping to repeat both events next Christmas.

For this year, we are holding our great cake sale on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 10-12pm. Then we are hoping to organise a garage sale, Tapas evening, village quiz, concert and quiz night.

Lots of things to look forward to. Keep watching the Church website for details.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### COFFEE AND CAKE

Our coffee mornings are continuing to be popular. These take place every first and third Wednesday (except during the season of Lent. See Church website for details.) and are preceded by a short service of Morning Prayer. You are welcome to either or both and will be greeted by good coffee, lovely cake and interesting chat!

### HOME GROUP

Our Home Study Group is continuing to run on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month in the Church Room. It starts at 10:30am with coffee and cake or biscuits and lasts about an hour. This time we are looking at the Parables and what they can teach us today. We hope to join this with a very simple Lent lunch. See website for details.

## HOLCOT CHURCH THUNDERBALL WINNERS

All winners are posted on the Church website at [www.holcot-church.org.uk/thunder](http://www.holcot-church.org.uk/thunder) If you would like to join us, it's £52 for a year and £26 for a half year, please contact Lesley Hunter via the Church website.

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## Regular Dates for your Diary

If you'd like to hire the Village Hall, or establish a regular user-group there, please contact the Booking Secretary via the website: <https://www.holcotvillage.co.uk/book-village-hall/>

### **Monday**

6.15pm Dance 'N' Tone karen.conway83@yahoo.com  
7.30pm Pedigree Paws dog training - Edwina (d.coe1@ntlworld.com)

### **Tuesday**

9.00am 'Pilates with Louise': 07766 807184, or email pilateswithlouise@gmail.com  
10.00-11.30am Mums & tots, (currently suspended – enquire with Miranda Parry 01604 781918)  
7.45-8.45pm Lucy & Frankie Zumba Fitness (weekly) £5/class, First class free! - francesca020788@hotmail.com  
\*6:30-8pm Holcot Hub- for Holcot children age 10 & up. Term time only. 50p entry. Just turn up.  
8:15pm Anglia Marine Model Club (Boat Club) – every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month during March to November - enquiries Laura Fletcher (laurafletcher50@hotmail.com) or Geoff Fletcher (geoff.s.fletcher@ntlworld.com)

### **Wednesday**

2.00-4.00pm Bowls (Weekly) – (currently suspended – but enquiries most welcome to Pat McGlasson 01604 781215)  
6.00-7.00pm 'Strictly'-style Dance classes (Weekly) £7/class - Julie 07736 032606 or [dancepod@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dancepod@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Thursday**

9.30-noon Art Club (Weekly) - Elizabeth Culley 01604 648566 / Pamela Mann 01604 495249  
4.00-5.00pm Yoga Classes (Most term-time weeks) – 07557 020 183 for info, or 07785 347 297 for dates/bookings  
Holcot & Walgrave Beavers (6-8yrs) and Cub (8-10yrs) Scouts currently meet at Walgrave; Contact Kim on 07815070878 or email [info@armarketing.co.uk](mailto:info@armarketing.co.uk)  
'IW' (previously the Holcot branch of WI): *monthly outings - or evening meetings in Church Rooms, Main Street*  
- Kim Mabbutt 01604 781936 or Janet Wadley 01604 78194

### **Saturday**

9:30-10:30am Lucy & Frankie Zumba Fitness (weekly) £5/class, First class free! - francesca020788@hotmail.com  
**Interested in Drama or on-stage singing/dancing?** Pantomimes, variety shows, workshops for young people, etc - Heather Wilson 07785 347 297