

## Holcot Parish Newsletter

### Edition 2 – 2025

Welcome to the newsletter! This one contains some very important information regarding the Parish Council. There are also a number of village events advertised. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter will be 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Anyone can contribute, so if you have any news or information relating to the village, please send them in. Please email contributions to [holcotvillagenewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:holcotvillagenewsletter@hotmail.com) Thank you and Happy Easter, Jenny.



### **Holcot's very own MIDSUMMER-EVENING PARTY**

**Saturday June 21st in the Village Hall**

**\*\*\* ALL WELCOME \*\*\***

- Music from our own village band 'HOBO' (Holcot Old Boys)
- Tickets £10; includes a delicious home-made supper

Bring your own drinks, and dance all night to your favourite music.

All proceeds go to the fabric fund of our Parish Church

To help with catering numbers, please book tickets in advance; email, text or call:

[phil.scordellis@gmail.com](mailto:phil.scordellis@gmail.com) 07785 347 297

[pamwholcot800@gmail.com](mailto:pamwholcot800@gmail.com) 07884 078 179

[sheila@sharpend-uk.com](mailto:sheila@sharpend-uk.com) 07712 763 408

#### **Forthcoming event in the Village Hall**



### **A Musical Evening with Lincoln Noel**

**on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> September**

**Tickets £15 on sale soon**

**All proceeds in aid of the Church fabric fund**

[pamwholcot800@gmail.com](mailto:pamwholcot800@gmail.com) 07884 078179

[sheila@sharpend-uk.com](mailto:sheila@sharpend-uk.com) 07712 763408

#### Need to hire a small meeting room?

Ideal for up to 12 people.

Kitchen - toilet - large table & seating - heated.

The Church Room

Main Street, Holcot

**For details: 01604 781438 or 07712 763408 or email**

[sheila@sharpend-uk.com](mailto:sheila@sharpend-uk.com)



## Update from Holcot Parish Council

A short update this time...

**Elections 2025** - Local elections will be held on 1 May 2025. After then we will have a shiny new Parish Council.

As there were eight nominations for eight seats the election is uncontested and nominees are duly elected. Thank you everyone who has put themselves forward.

Special thanks to those who have stood down from the Council at this election – thank you for your service.

**Green Hill Solar Farm** – The proposal covers 3000 acres of farmland, primarily spread across Northamptonshire (a total area of 4 times that of Pitsford reservoir). Around 150 acres of solar panels and equipment are proposed in Holcot. Details of the applicant and the opposition group are on the website.

Recently Green Hill Solar have held a targeted consultation. Their next step is to put forward to the Planning Inspectorate a draft Development Consent Order after which the Planning Inspectorate start detailed work. This will include further consultation.

**Road safety in Holcot** – There has been no substantial change since last time. The Parish Council continues to seek clarity on the **funding stream** so that focus can be applied to the next priorities – currently there are still technical matters to be resolved between WNC and the developers, which affects our access to s106 funding.

In the meantime, we have again met with Highways regarding road safety and maintenance, and met with our MP to help us drive forward road safety measures.

Community Speedwatch is again being held, 5 April-3 May. If you have an hour or more to spare, please get in touch with Chris Bailey (07970 702021 [inthehedges@mac.com](mailto:inthehedges@mac.com))

**And finally...** the website is our key communications channel – if you haven't already, please subscribe on the website for email notifications of new posts.

To get a message posted on the website and emailed to subscribers, email [editor@holcotvillage.co.uk](mailto:editor@holcotvillage.co.uk).

On a personal note, I have not stood for Parish Council this time. Thank you everyone for your support over the last 11 years.

**David Walker**

**6 April 2025**

## STATEMENT OF PERSONS NOMINATED

### Election of Parish Councillors

The following is a statement of the persons nominated for election as a Parish Councillor for

Holcot

Name of Candidate	Home Address	Description (if any)	Name of Proposer (*), Secondor (**) and Assentors	Reason why no longer nominated*
BAILEY Chris	(address in West Northamptonshire)		Burns Lesley M * Hanrahan Adrian M **	
BURNS Lesley Margaret	(address in West Northamptonshire)		Brawn Hilary M * Brawn Lionel F **	
DUNKLEY Marie	(address in West Northamptonshire)		Bailey Christopher R * Bonsor James **	
HANRAHAN Adrian Martin	(address in West Northamptonshire)		Bailey Christopher R * Burns Lesley M **	
HEWITT Tony	(address in West Northamptonshire)		Walker David * Walker Rosemary D **	
HIGHAM Paul	(address in West Northamptonshire)		Burns Lesley M * Taylor Sarah D **	
WATSON Deryck Edward	(address in West Northamptonshire)		Berry Alexis * Watson Jacqueline E **	
WATSON Jackie	(address in West Northamptonshire)		Bailey Christopher R * Watson Deryck E **	

## St Mary and All Saints Church.

### Hope at the Cross

If you've ever stood in silence at a war memorial, watched the news, or faced personal grief, you'll know that the world can be a painful place. There's much to celebrate—acts of kindness, love, and beauty—but also suffering we can't ignore. Maybe you've asked: *Why is the world like this? And is there any hope?*

Christianity takes these questions seriously. At its heart is not just a set of beliefs, but a person—Jesus. His life was extraordinary, but it was His death that changed everything.

Jesus was executed on a Roman cross, a brutal punishment reserved for the worst criminals. Yet, He was no criminal. Even those who sentenced Him admitted as much. Pilate, the Roman governor, declared Him innocent but caved to public pressure. Why, then, did He die?

Jesus' death wasn't a tragic accident; He claimed it was the very reason He came. He spoke of giving His life "*as a ransom for many*" (Mark 10:45). In other words, He died *for us*. The Bible explains that our greatest problem isn't just the brokenness around us, but the brokenness within us—our rebellion against God, which the Bible calls sin. We all know what it's like to feel guilt, shame, or regret. The Bible says this comes from being disconnected from the God who made us. But rather than leaving us to face judgment, Jesus stepped in. This is the heart of Christianity: not rules or rituals, but a rescue. It's not about what we do for God, but what He has done for us. And it changes everything.

Perhaps this is new to you, or perhaps you've heard it before but dismissed it. Maybe you have questions or even doubts. That's okay. Jesus didn't come for those who have it all figured out, but for those who are searching. His invitation is open to all: "*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest*" (Matthew 11:28).

So, where do you stand? You might not consider yourself religious, but this isn't about religion—it's about truth. If what Jesus said is true, then it's the most important news in the world. It's worth exploring.

**Rev. David Reith.**

### Services.

April 13<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday, 9am.

April 17<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday, 6pm meal followed by short service, all in the Village Hall.

April 18<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday Reflections at 9am.

April 20<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday service, 9am.

### CHURCH FUND RAISING

We are at the start of another year of Fund Raising to help maintain our beautiful Church and Churchyard. Everything looks so lovely and fresh at this time of year, but this all takes money. From the yearly roof, alarm, extinguisher, boiler, organ and clock services and tests to the "one offs" that always crop up.

The people of Holcot continue to be very generous in their support and we started the year off with a coffee and cake morning, which was very well attended.

We are now planning the years' events, with a Midsummer Party, a Quiz, a Christmas event as well as all the usual things. Details will be found on the Church and Village website. Please continue to support us.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

#### **COFFEE AND CAKE.**

We hold our coffee mornings in the Church Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Please feel free to join us for a short session of Morning Prayer at 10:30am, led by different people, followed by coffee and lots of lovely cake at 11am. You are very welcome to join us at either or both times.

#### **HOME GROUP.**

We also meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays to have some coffee and cake, followed by a short Bible Study, led by people of our congregation. At the moment we are still doing our Lent course. All are always welcome. Further details will be on the Church website.

If you are up for a good discussion and would like to learn more about the Bible, please come and join us. If you just want to come and listen, you would also be very welcome to join us too.

#### 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.



**Most Tuesdays in the Village Hall:**  
**SILVER SWANS 'Centre & Barre'**  
**(Ballet-based posture for 55+): 1.00-1.45pm**  
**ADULT TAP: 2.00-2.30pm**



For further details Contact 07909 966 695, or email [dance@gaynabrown.co.uk](mailto:dance@gaynabrown.co.uk)

All classes taught by Gayna Brown, Silver Swans Licensee & Life member of Royal Academy of Dance & Imperial Society of Dance.



9 ways in which dance can improve your life:

- ✓ Dance increases your energy levels
- ✓ Dance can help reduce stress and support weight loss
- ✓ Dance can reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease
- ✓ Dance slows ageing by improving the immune system
- ✓ Dance classes are a great way to expand your social circle/meet new people
- ✓ Dance can help diminish the symptoms of depression
- ✓ Dance improves balance, resulting in fewer falls later in life
- ✓ Dance increases cognitive ability by promoting new connections in the brain, and may even help stave off dementia in later life
- ✓ Dance whatever your age and wherever you feel comfortable, but if you're an older learner, the social benefits of joining a dance class will also enhance your sense of wellbeing.

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**Regular Dates for your Diary...**

All events normally in Holcot Village Hall, Back Lane, unless otherwise specified

\*For asterisked groups, please enter via Youth Wing (right-hand white door)

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**

6.30-9.00pm Balanced Pet Academy obedience classes for dogs Holly Harte [balancedpetacademy@gmail.com](mailto:balancedpetacademy@gmail.com)  
07892918771 (also occasional puppy courses: contact Holly for details)

**Tuesday**

9am-10am 'Pilates with Louise': 07766 807184, or email [pilateswithlouise@gmail.com](mailto:pilateswithlouise@gmail.com)  
1.00-1.45pm 'Silver Swans Centre & Barre' (Ballet-based posture for 55+): Gayna 07909 966 695, or email [dance@gaynabrown.co.uk](mailto:dance@gaynabrown.co.uk)  
2.00-2.30pm Adult Tap (same contact details - Gayna - as Silver Swans above)  
\*7.00-8.30pm 'Holcot Hub' youth club for children age 10-18. Term time only. 50p entry. Check dates & timing with [judith.coles@hotmail.com](mailto:judith.coles@hotmail.com)

**Wednesday**

6.00-7.00pm 'Strictly'-style Dance classes (Weekly) £7/class Julie 07736 032606 or email [dancepod@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dancepod@hotmail.co.uk)

**Thursday**

9.30-noon Art Club (Weekly) - Elizabeth Culley 01604 648566 / Pamela Mann 01604 495249-

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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. This ladies group meets for monthly events & outings: for more information contact Sheila Ashworth 781438 email: [sheila@sharpend-uk.com](mailto:sheila@sharpend-uk.com) or Pam Wilson 07884 078179 email: [pamwholcot800@gmail.com](mailto:pamwholcot800@gmail.com)

**Interested in Drama or on-stage singing/dancing?**

Pantomimes, variety shows, workshops for young people, etc - Heather Wilson 07785 347 297