Holcot Parish Newsletter
Edition 4 – 2026

Welcome to the last Newsletter of 2026. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter will be 5th February. If you have any news or events relating to the village, please send them in. Please email contributions to *holcotvillagenewsletter@hotmail.com*
Thank you, Jenny.
The Parish Council funds this newsletter, but the opinions expressed are those of the contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council.

WE'RE APPEALING TO HOLCOT'S YOUNGER GENERATION

You may not realise this, but Holcot's Parish Council, Village Hall, Friends of Holcot and ladies Gardening Group are all run by volunteers. The vast majority of whom are in their **70s and 80s**.

Although they give their time willingly, **they are running out of steam. Their energy levels and enthusiasm are not what they used to be.**

WE NEED YOUR HELP. URGENTLY.

So this is a **shout-out to all residents in the 30s-to-60s** age bracket: **please get involved with these groups.** Take the reins and join the party – and bring with you **your fresh ideas, your energy, your enthusiasm** and **your skills**.

Because, without your help, these vital village assets will cease to exist. Please don't let that happen. Embrace the challenge and join the party – and help shape the future of our lovely village.

For more information about any of the above groups, please email **editor@holcotvillage.co.uk**

Thank you all.



The Holcot Christmas Dinner will take place in the village hall at 1pm on Friday 4th December 2026. All residents who are over 60 and their partners are eligible to be included in the event. Their guests can also be invited. Invitations will be going out at the beginning of November when your choices of menu can be decided.
If you would like to be included and haven't received an invitation then please contact Mavis Sturgess on 07801 365579.
Once the meal and raffle are over we are very lucky to be entertained this year by our local band 'Hobos'. Their music gives everyone a chance to sing along or dance or to just sit back and enjoy. The price for the meal this year is £20 per head for residents and £25 per head for guests.
If anyone would like to donate a prize for the raffle for this event then please pass them to Mavis Sturgess, Peter Bonsor or Maureen Cooke who are on the committee. The proceeds from the raffle are then used to help with the running costs of this annual event.
I do hope that any newcomers to the village will come along and join in this festive afternoon. It is a great opportunity to meet the local residents and hopefully make some new friends.

Holcot Halloween Quiz

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Halloween Quiz. Based on the feedback we can safely say everyone had a great evening. Congratulations to our winners, both of the quiz itself and the fancy dress! A profit of £959.64 was made which was rounded up and then match funded by Barclays meaning Service Six received a fantastic £2000. Service Six is a mental health and wellbeing charity for children and young people, principally operating in Northamptonshire. Thank you, Rosie Walker

Last chance to secure your tickets for the mega fund-raising concert on Thursday evening, 19th November.

Hopefully you've seen these posters around the village?

Please order tickets asap - for you + your family & friends - by email to heatherwilson1950@hotmail.co.uk (She will reply with bank details for online payments)



MEGA HOLCOT *FUND-RAISING* EVENT

FROM EDINBURGH FRINGE TO HOLCOT:

An exciting evening of live music from **Holcot-born-and-raised PROFESSIONAL** singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist,

***** PETER MARCHANT *****



Peter *releases music under the name Megaphoney*, and has toured the globe, has featured on BBC Radio 1, soundtracked hit TV shows, and performed 61 *SELL-OUT* shows at this year's Edinburgh Fringe alone.

For one night only he brings his unique glam-inspired brand of rock'n'roll **to his home village**, performing songs everyone will know - plus his own material which has received a lot of attention from the BBC.

Peter has kindly waived his usual professional fee to maximise the fund-raising, which will be shared between several great causes:

(1) Proceeds from tickets @ £15 (or £20 at the door on the night - if available) go to **The Brain Tumour Charity**

(2) *Please bring **CASH** on the night to buy raffle tickets and bar-drinks-by-donation in aid of* **local charities including Holcot Parish Church fabric fund**

Where/when? Holcot Village Hall, Thursday 19th November
doors open 7pm, performance starts approx 7.30

Please order tickets asap - for you + **your family & friends** - by email to heatherwilson1950@hotmail.co.uk
(She will reply with bank details for online payments)

Holcot Village Ladies Gardening Group needs you!

The Group was originally established to create and tend new gardens in the Churchyard, and has since broadened its role to include new gardens at the Old School Site on Main Street, etc





If you'd like to help us keep these areas of the Village looking beautiful, and can you spare a couple of hours every now and then to come, have fun, (and meet new people?), please do join us.

Just phone Heather (01604) 781138 for dates/times etc. We look forward to welcoming you.

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St Mary and All Saints Church.

Light in the Darkness

Halloween is hard to miss. For a few days each year, our shops and streets fill with ghosts, skeletons, cobwebs and pumpkins. Children dress up, sweets disappear at an alarming rate, and things which are normally frightening are turned into fun. Perhaps that tells us something about ourselves. One way of coping with darkness is to make it into a joke. But some things really are dark. We live in a world where people suffer, where evil is real, and where death eventually comes for every one of us. Christianity does not ask us to pretend otherwise. The Bible is remarkably realistic about darkness. But it is also full of hope.

Speaking about Jesus, John's Gospel says:

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

That verse takes us straight towards Christmas. At Christmas, Christians celebrate not simply the birth of a baby, but the arrival of light into a dark world. Jesus came into a world of fear, suffering, sin and death … not to ignore those things, but to overcome them.

That is why the Christmas story begins to mean so much more when we remember the darkness.

The message of Christianity is not that darkness is imaginary, nor that we should simply laugh it off. It is that darkness does not have the final word.

As the nights draw in and Christmas approaches, that is a hope worth holding onto:

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

David Reith
Rector of Brixworth and Holcot
Tel: (01604) 880139
Mob: 07595 182 561

SERVICES.

Our servces take place every Sunday morning at 9am in the church and usually last around 1 hour.
On the first Sunday of every month there is usually coffee and cake in the Church Room after the service.
All are welcome. We are also holding our very popular Christmas Eve Carol service on December 4th at 4pm.
Please come and join us and start your Christmas celebrations.

CHURCH FUND RAISING

We are continuing to raise money to keep our lovely Church in good condition. Our next Fundraiser will be the usual village Christmas Post event. It will take place on Saturday December 12th, 10 to 12pm in the Church Room. Please come along, support us and let us do the delivery work.
There will be other events coming up. Please keep an eye on the Church and Village website for details.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

COFFEE AND CAKE

We hold our coffee mornings in the Church Room on the 1st and 3rd 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 2nd and 4th Wednesdays to have some coffee and cake, followed by a short Bible Study, led by people of our congregation. At the moment, we have been looking at Evangelism and all that means.
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 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.



Move it or Lose it!

A fun fitness class aimed at 60+. Everyone is welcome, regardless of age. All movements can be performed standing or seated. First class is free! Thereafter pay as you go, £6 per session. A comfy pair of shoes is all that is needed to participate. Any questions, please give Cynthia a ring 07470 073248.Holcot Village Hall Mondays 11-12pm
(Also at Brixworth Library Wednesdays 2-3pm
and Sywell Village Hall Mondays 9-10am)

SPECIAL OFFERS TO VILLAGE RESIDENTS !

For Holcot residents who'd like to **INTRODUCE**, or trial setting-up,
a new regular user-group in the **VILLAGE HALL**
(or to re-start a previous regular user-group that hasn't met there in the previous 12 months):
To get your group up and running and ***maybe even to provide free taster-sessions to your potential members***, **** book 4 initial taster sessions WITHOUT RENT ****
(There are of course a few conditions – for details, please email info@holcotvillagehall.co.uk)

Regular Dates for your Diary…

All events normally in Holcot Village Hall, Back Lane, NN6 9SL 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 make a Booking Enquiry on the Hall's NEW website: https://holcotvillagehall.co.uk/

Monday
11am–midday 'Move it or Lose it with Cynthia' - Fitness class for seniors cynthia.bouchaud@moveitorloseit.co.uk 07470 073 248

5.30-9.00pm Holly Harte - Dog training Holly Harte holly.1harte@gmail.com 07892918771 (times may vary, also occasional **puppy courses**: contact Holly for details)

Tuesday
9am-10am 'Pilates with Louise': 07766 807 184, or email 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

*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

Wednesday
6.00-7.00pm 'Strictly'-style Dance classes (Weekly) £8/class Julie 07736 032 606 or email dancepod@hotmail.co.uk

7.30-8.30pm Active Mummies Pilates clairelouisebrown83@hotmail.co.uk

Thursday
9.30-noon Art Club (Weekly) - Elizabeth Culley 01604 648 566 / Pamela Mann 01604 495 249

2.30-5pm 'Holcot Hotspot' social afternoon open to all adults (with optional social games); 3rd Thursday of most colder months. For dates & more details: phil.scordellis@email.com or 07785 347 297

Saturday (!!NEW starting 9th January!!)
Mornings: (times tba) 'Paint Along Class' (Once-a-month beginner-friendly acrylic painting workshops) Check dates & timing with Jane evgenia-teen@hotmail.com 07341669009

Holcot & Walgrave Beavers (6-8yrs) and Cub (8-10yrs) Scouts currently meet at Walgrave; Contact Kim on 07815070878 or email 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 or Pam Wilson 07884 078179 email: pamwholcot800:gmail.com