



Why Wear a Poppy?

During the First World War, much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. Previously beautiful countryside was blasted, bombed and fought over, again and again. The landscape swiftly turned to fields of mud: bleak and barren scenes in which little or nothing could grow. Bright red Flanders poppies (*Papaver rhoeas*) however,

were a delicate, but very resilient flower and grew in their thousands, flourishing even in the middle of chaos and destruction.

In early May 1915, shortly after losing a friend at Ypres, a Canadian doctor, Lt Col John McCrae was inspired by the sight of poppies to write a now famous poem called '**In Flanders Fields**'. McCrae's poem, in turn, inspired an American academic, Moina Michael, to make and sell red silk poppies which were brought to England by a French woman, Anna Guérin.

The (now Royal) British Legion, formed in 1921, ordered 9 million of these poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. The poppies sold out almost immediately and that first ever 'Poppy Appeal' raised over £106,000; a considerable amount of money at the time.

The following year, Major George Howson set up the Poppy Factory to employ disabled ex-Servicemen. Today, the factory and the Legion's warehouse in Aylesford produces millions of poppies each year.

In response to demand from Scotland, Earl Haig's wife established the 'Lady Haig Poppy Factory' in Edinburgh in 1926.

Over 5 million Scottish poppies are still made by hand by disabled ex-Servicemen at Lady Haig's Poppy Factory and distributed by RBL's sister charity Poppyscotland. *by Courtesy of Royal British Legion*



NEWS

FROM THE PARISHES

All Saints' Church HAMERTON

Harvest Festival and Food Bank Collection

Thank you to everyone who came to the service and stayed for lunch. Thank you, too, to those who donated goods for the Medway Food Bank in Huntingdon. Jim and Jane were kind enough to deliver the donations and only just managed to get it all in their car. We know the Food Bank was very grateful.

Village Social

It was good to see so many residents, old and new, at the recent get together in the village hall. Thanks to the new Village Team for putting on such a sociable evening.

Forthcoming Events

Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance - Sunday 11 November - In addition to the Benefice service at Alconbury at 10.15am to mark the centenary of the end of WW1, it is Hamerton's turn to host the Service of Remembrance.

This is attended by the Sawtry branch of the Royal British Legion and will start at 5pm in the church.

Other commemorative events in Hamerton will include the ringing of the bells as part of "Ringing Remembers", the placing of a "Silent Soldier" silhouette and the illumination of the war graves in the churchyard.

Christmas Fair

This very popular event will take place on Saturday 24 November from 10am - 2 pm.

What a great opportunity for some early Christmas shopping! There will be talented artisan crafts people and artists selling their wares. Of course there will also be tea, coffee and cake and the chance to catch up with the neighbours.

If you would like to help or contribute in any way, please contact one of

the Village Team (Kate, Jules and Ruth). If not, do just come along and invite your friends.

The Big Clean

On Saturday 8 December, the usual cleaning team will meet from 10am until 1pm to give All Saints a thorough clean to make it all shiny and sparkly before Christmas.

— **Volunteers, Old & New, are ALWAYS Welcome** —

If you feel able to lend a hand (or brush), please let Lesley know (sortwells@aol.com) or just turn up on the morning.

Whilst the church has some cleaning equipment, it would be useful if you could bring your own polishing cloths, dusters, vacuums, cobweb brushes, etc. Thank you.

As if the reward of seeing the church looking splendid wasn't enough, seasonal refreshments will be provided too!

Christingle and Carol Service by Candlelight

This traditional pre-Christmas service will be held on Saturday 15 December, starting at 2.30pm.

This year's event will be slightly different and it is hoped the earlier time will enable more young children to attend.

Children and adults of all ages are invited to come to the village hall from 2.30 pm to make their own Christingles before taking them up to the church for the candlelit service at 3.30 pm.

Refreshments will be provided in the hall. As usual, the collection during the service will be for the Children's Society and once again we would ask for donations of groceries and toiletries for the Medway Food Bank, Huntingdon.

Christmas is a time for giving and if you are able to, please bring your donations for those less fortunate, to the Christingle Service or leave them in the porch on the day. Thank you.

Carol Singing 15th December - Following the warm up during the Christingle and Carol Service, the carol singers should be in good voice as they progress through the village afterwards. Please give generously as all proceeds are split equally between the church (whose funds are at an all time low) and a local charity, yet to be decided.

Christmas Day As per usual, there will be a Communion Service at All Saints at 9.30am on Christmas Morning.

**All Saints' Church
WINWICK**

Remembrance Day

There will be **NO service** in Winwick on 11th November as an Armistice Day Service will be held at Alconbury, when all those who gave their lives in the 1st and 2nd World Wars will be remembered. Anyone wanting to attend this service will be very welcome.

Cake and Coffee Morning

The next get-together, with Book Sale, is on **Saturday 10th November** in the Church, from 10.00am until 11.30am.

Come along and enjoy a slice of cake, a cup of coffee and a chat – and we've got a good selection of books too!

Thank you to everyone who supports this every month.

Harvest Supper

Following the Harvest Festival service in the church, everyone made their way to the village hall, clutching the produce which was to be auctioned after the supper. Over 90 men, women and children were seated for the meal, which included pork, ham, tongue, quiches, baked potatoes, and various salads, followed by desserts of trifles, fruit pies, pavlovas, jelly and ice-cream and many more – and then cheese and biscuits, all for £12 per adult!

The raffle was drawn after the meal, (thank you Jane Capp, for once again organising it), then the auction started, with David Fowler, assisted by David Capp, officiating. The evening realised a profit (for the church and village hall) of **£2,305.38**. Thanks must go to everyone who took part; cooked and donated food for the meal, helped to serve the food, washed up after the meal, and bought items in the auction. Thanks also to everyone who turned up on Sunday morning to clear the hall.

Last, but not least - apologies to anyone I've forgotten to mention, your help is really appreciated.

Dates for your Diary

- Carol Service** Sunday 23rd December at 3.00pm
- PCC Meeting** Monday 7th January 2019 at Manor Farm at 7.30pm.
- Quiz Night** Saturday 23rd March 2019 with Fish and Chip Supper

Winwick Christmas Fair

**Santa's
Getting
Ready!
Are You...?**



Enjoy Some Christmas Cheer
Light Lunches • Mulled Wine • Mince Pies
• Christmas Decorations • Gifts •
Soaps Made in Winwick
and lots more ...

Saturday 8th Dec - 10am til 4pm
Winwick Village Hall

Harvest Supper

By the time this is published over 70 people will have enjoyed a delicious supper. Many thanks to all who contributed to this.

Harvest Festivals

We welcomed Alconbury School for their Harvest Festival on 17 October.

The church was packed with parents and grandparents who heard about Harvest through words made from the letters in harvest – sea, starve, share. Food collected was donated to Sawtry Foodbank and to Help for the Homeless in Cambridge.

Our harvest festival was held on 21 October. Many thanks to those who decorated the church.

Feasibility Study

Alconbury Parish Church are launching phase 2 of Project 21 to develop the church building.

We want to know what YOU want from YOUR church. Please spend 5 minutes completing the survey and you will also have the opportunity to win a £25 voucher.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Alconbury3/>

Travelling Nativity

For many years this set has been travelling round the villages during Advent spending one night at each house.

The box contains a knitted Nativity set suitable for all ages to play with/act out the Christmas story, Christmas story books, suitable for a variety of ages and colouring sheets/puzzles.

Contact **Jane Adams** 01480 891 032 or 0776 201 5579
jcoopeadams@gmail.com if you would like to take part.

Dates for your diary

Remembrance

Friday 9 November 6:30pm

Friends of Alconbury Church present a Special Screening of **Oh! What a Lovely War** with a Sausage Supper served during the interval
Tickets £15 from Gerry Aylott – 1 The Acre Alconbury

Remembering with Gratitude

Saturday 10 November 2-4pm in Alconbury Church will be a time to reflect on the brave men from Alconbury, Alconbury Weston and Alconbury Hill who died, fought or worked for peace in wartime. View memorabilia of World War I from village people, listen to the songs that were sung, admire the cascade of poppies and share a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Benefice Remembrance Service

Sunday 11 November Held in Alconbury Church, at 10:15 am.

Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 1 December 11-5 and Sunday 2 December 12-5

Listen to the Alconbury School Choir and Alconbury Community Choir. Refreshments, chocolate tombola, raffle, children's Christmas crafts, craft stall.

Come and admire our talented tree decorators and vote for your favourite.

Travelling Nativity

Sunday 1 December: Our Travelling Nativity starts its travels

Carols Round the Christmas Tree

Tuesday 18 December in Maypole Square at 6:30 pm.

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 23 December 6:00pm

Crib Service

Monday 24 December 3:00pm

Christmas Eve

11:30pm - Holy Communion by Extension

Christmas Day

9:30 am - Christmas Praise with Communion by Extension

Great Gidding Baptist Church

10 Main Street, Great Gidding

We meet on

Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30

to enjoy a time of discussion and fellowship - Living Room Style.

Do come along and join us.



Alconbury-cum-Weston, Buckworth, The Giddings, Hamerton,
Upton & Copmanford and Winwick



North Leightonstone Remembers ... 9th – 11th November 2018

Alconbury

Friday 9th November 7pm

Sausage Supper and Movie Night 'Oh what a Lovely War!' Contact:
Jane Adams 01480 891032 for tickets.

Saturday 10th November 2-4pm

Tea, coffee and biscuits served in the church, display and stories of
the men who went to war.

Sunday 11th November 10.15 am

The Benefice wide **Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving**
service involves all the parishes and everyone is warmly welcome.
Wreaths will be laid in memory of the fallen from all the six parishes
of our Benefice.

Buckworth

Saturday 10th November 10.00 – 3.00pm approx

Exhibits and activities in the church, including readings from War
Poems and music. Join for lunch at Noon.

Sunday 11th November 4pm 100 tolls of the church bell.

Great Gidding

As part of '**Ringing Remembers**', bells will be rung on
Remembrance Sunday at 10.50 - 11.10am (muffled) and between 6
and 7pm (open). Commemorative event (food/lighting of a beacon)
in Great Gidding Village Hall from 6pm.

Hamerton

A Silent Soldier will be in the village to give an opportunity for prayer
and reflection. War graves will be lit Saturday evening and Hamerton
will also take part in '**Ringing Remembers**' when there will be 100
bells rung on **Remembrance Sunday**.

Sunday 11th November 5 pm

The **British Legion Service of Remembrance**, with the Sawtry branch
of the British Legion, will end this special weekend with a final act of
Remembrance.

Upton

Saturday 10th November 4pm

We will be lighting the War Graves in the Churchyard. Prayer and
Reflection in the church, after which we shall go outside to light up
the graves.

Winwick

In common with other local churches, we will be taking part in
'**Ringing Remembers**' and 100 bells will be rung mid-afternoon on
Remembrance Sunday



From Our Vicar

This special Remembrance Edition of The Parishioner comes out a
week before we have our Benefice Remembrance Weekend.
When this idea was first mooted some six or eight months ago, I wasn't
sure we would have that much happening but, as you can see, the
weekend is full of varied commemorative events all over the Benefice.
My hope is that it is a real coming together of our parishes where we
appreciate what each other is doing - big or small, alone or together.

The two main services on Sunday at Alconbury and Hamerton are our
focus for worship and thanksgiving which bring us all before God in
silence, reflection and grateful thanks for all those who served in that,
and all wars.

We look to God in those services and throughout the weekend, to give
us His grace and peace as we learn from the people and stories of the
past.

St Michael's Church GREAT GIDDING

Church Services - November Closure of St Michael's

As you may have seen on the website, the church is currently closed for restoration work. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by mid-November.



Besides repairing damage arising from the theft of lead from the north aisle, the opportunity has been taken to remove the plaster from around the top of the north chancel arch to ascertain what work needs to be carried out here. With the church being built on clay without any foundations to speak of, the long hot summer has led to considerable movement. However the amount of restoration required is not as great as might have been feared.

Changes to Services Due to Closure

On Sunday 4th November, the Holy Communion service will take place at St John's Church, Little Gidding at 11am.

As it is anticipated that the church will be usable by mid-November, the service of Evensong on Sunday 18th November will take place in St Michael's. Please remember we have moved to 'autumn/winter times' and the service starts at 3pm.

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday (11th November) marks the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1. Whilst there is no service at St Michael's Church, there will be a Benefice Service of Remembrance at Alconbury Church at 10.15am.

At this service, the names of those who died in the Great War will be remembered. From Great Gidding, John DeVal will read out the roll and Patrick Jarvis will lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

Everyone is most welcome to come along.

Church Services - December St Andrew's Day

On Sunday 2nd December, as has become somewhat of a tradition on the first Sunday in December, the service will be at St Andrew's Church, Steeple Gidding to mark the Feast of St Andrew. The service will start at 11am, and there will be **no service** at Great Gidding Church that day.

Carol Service

Our Carol Service takes place on Saturday 22nd December. This year we have called the event "Carols with Blankets". Sorry it's not "Carols with Pigs-in-Blankets"!

Anticipating it could be cold, we suggest you bring blankets along with you. There will be some blankets available at the church. To help lubricate the voice as well as providing some internal 'central heating', this year there will be mulled wine and hot chocolate **beforehand**.

So come along from 5.30pm: the service begins at 6pm.

The service will include your favourite carols, as well as a couple of solos.

The readings, besides telling the story of the birth of Jesus, will include secular readings which have become Christmas favourites. Afterwards, in addition to mulled wine and hot chocolate, there will be mince pies.

Christmas Eve

Our Midnight Communion takes place on Christmas Eve, starting at 11.30pm. The celebrant will be the Vicar, the Revd Mandy Flaherty.

Bellringing on Remembrance Sunday

Whilst there will be no morning service this year at St Michael's this year, it is planned to ring the bells half muffled for ten minutes before the two minute silence, and for ten minutes after.

The organisers of 'Battle's Over', a national and international event to mark the Armistice, want to see as many cathedrals and churches participate by ringing their bells simultaneously at 7.05pm on the night of November 11th 2018. In true Gidding style, we plan to ring the bells 'open' (i.e. muffles removed) a little earlier in the evening; this in conjunction with the parish event that evening, of which there are details elsewhere in this magazine. (see centre pages)

Gidding Village Show 2018

It was another 'challenging' year, weather wise, for all of us growers, but entries still came flowing in and another successful show was enjoyed by winners and losers and the many who just came along to enjoy the sunshine, chat and delicious food on offer.

The judges were so impressed by the standard of entries, particularly in the baking, jams and chutneys. It seems that even a sweltering summer can't stop those who love to cook.

Thanks to all who helped and came along to make it such an enjoyable day.

Sue Jarvis - Show Secretary

WINNERS - 2018 VILLAGE PRODUCE SHOW

Vegetables	Neville Cook
Baking	Shirley Branson
Flowers	Julie Trolove
Jams and Chutneys	Claire Pullant
Craft	Julie Trolove and Nadine Brown
Children's Cup	Nadine Brown and Finn Brown
Overall winner	Neville Cook
Fox and Hounds Challenge	Shirley Branson

First World War Commemoration

During the evening of Remembrance Sunday (11th November), there will a commemoration in the Village Hall to honour those who fought and lost their lives and to mark the day, 100 years ago, when the guns fell silent at the end of the First World War.

At 6pm, a beacon will be lit. This will be followed with poems, readings and songs from WW1, as well as remembering those from this village who lost their lives at that terrible time.

We will then celebrate BATTLE'S OVER, marking the end of the Great War. There will be a bar serving wine, beer and soft drinks (at almost WW1 prices!) and **free hot dogs**, which will include a vegetarian option. Please come along and help us to remember, 100 years on, those who died for their country and to celebrate when the guns finally fell silent at the end of WW1.

Look out for posters & leaflets with further details.

A Grateful "Thank You"

We would like to thank Eric Gren and members of the Baptist Church for their generous offer of the use the Baptist Chapel during the closure of St Michael's. It was an extremely kind gesture of support.

St Margaret's Church

UPTON

MacMillan Coffee Morning

A BIG Thank You to everyone who supported the MacMillan Coffee Morning on Saturday 29th September. We raised a fantastic £330; the cake bakers excelled themselves and not a crumb was left!

Upton Harvest Lunch



We held our Harvest celebrations on Sunday 23rd Sept with our Harvest Thanksgiving service, followed by an excellent Harvest Lunch. As you can see from the picture, a good time was had by all!

Remembrance Weekend

Please join us on **Saturday 10th November at 4 pm** in church where we will have a short reflection, hymn and prayers before going outside to light up our War Graves and remember the fallen from Upton.

Our annual
Benefice Service for the Bereaved
will take place, this year at
All Saints' Church in Buckworth
on **Friday 24th November at 5 pm**

If you would like names read out before the altar please contact Revd Mandy Flaherty, Ken Maynard or Jim Hogg.

Everyone is most welcome.

All Saints' Church BUCKWORTH

From Up The Hill in Sunny Buckworth !

Service of Celebration

The Service of Celebration for Buckworth's Cricket Club-room's 60th year held in Church on Sunday 26th August was a great success, although most of the congregation were past residents of the village. There were some wonderful stories of when the clubhouse was first opened, a real snapshot of days gone by when life was so much simpler!

We all enjoyed tea, cake much talk afterwards!

Buckworth Flower Festival

Buckworth Flower Festival & Evening Concert, on Sat 8 Sept was a huge success!! Amazingly clever and beautiful flower displays, lovely autumnal wreaths made in the workshop.

Morning coffee and afternoon tea including the most delicious cakes served in the Cricket Club along with plate painting, bric a

brac and plant stall. Shame the weather couldn't have been kinder.

Despite all the calamities that befell the evening concert, including the Church organ producing some strange noises, the music and food was a triumph! The organist and soloist were of the highest quality as was the music.

In excess of £1600 was raised throughout the day ... well done, Kathryn and all the wonderful people who helped to make the day outstanding.

Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival the following day benefited from the beautiful flowers. Tea, coffee and cake was served afterwards.

Harvest Supper again held in the Cricket Club and again Chef Seamus and Elaine and Margaret produced some wonderful food!! £550 was raised for much needed church funds.



Some of our flower arrangers

The Cricket Club

www.buckworthcricketclub.co.uk

The 60 Years Celebration on Saturday 25 August with a hog roast ... games were played inside and out, Margaret won the "Bowling for a Pig", some of us played Bingo for the first time, ably assisted by the lovely Paula!

What a shame more members couldn't have been there, however, the hog was beautifully cooked by Archie Arnold, provided over 90 meals on the day with salads and puddings provided by our usual wonderful ladies. The Parish Council also contributed towards the expenses, the food being free to members and Buckworth parishioners.

Our Church is in Trouble!

Would you consider making a regular donation to ensure its future? It doesn't matter how much - every little would help towards keeping our village church open. The basic running costs for 2017 were £5019, basic income without fundraising £3158 ... and that's without some necessary restoration work! We are part of the new Parish Giving Scheme ... giving your donation via your bank is so easy!

Hazel Cooper

The Annual Service of Remembrance on 11th November will be held in Alconbury Church.

As part of the 100th Anniversary since the end of the First World, on Saturday 10th November, Buckworth Church will celebrate **A Day of Commemoration of the End Of the First World War and Those Who Died For Their Country In All Conflicts.**

There will be displays in Church, lunch, readings and music. Come and put your personal piece in the wooden poppy jigsaw. If you would like to do a reading, make music, choose a reading or a piece of music please get in touch with me (Hazel Cooper) or another member of the PCC as soon as possible.

If you have a family member who served in the First World War, we would be happy to include their names in the commemorative book. It is hoped to ring the Church bell 100 times on Sunday afternoon at 4pm. If you like to take part in this act of remembrance, please contact me (Hazel Cooper). The bell is very easy to ring.

"They gave their tomorrow for our today"

Dates for Your Diary

Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve Service

Sun 16 Dec at 6 pm.

Mon 24 Dec at 7 pm with Holy Communion

Benefice
NORTH LEIGHTONSTONE

NORMAL SERVICES

St Peter & St Paul, Alconbury

1st Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30 am	Sunday Rocks (Worship, Crafts and Café for All God's Family)
2nd Sunday	9.30 am	Holy Communion (Methodist)
3rd Sunday	9.30 am	Service of the Word
4th Sunday	9.30 am	Family Communion
Wed (except 3rd Wed)	7.30 pm	Midweek Communion
3rd Wednesday	12.30 pm	Communion (followed by lunch)
Morning Prayer	8.30 am	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs Only

All Saints', Buckworth

1st Sunday	6.00 pm	Evensong
3rd Sunday	11.00 am	Holy Communion

St Michael's, Great Gidding

1st Sunday	11.00 am	Holy Communion
3rd Sunday	3.00 pm	Evensong
Tuesdays	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Except 3rd Tuesday	8.00 am	Holy Communion

St John's, Little Gidding

2nd Friday	12.00 noon	Holy Communion (For more information contact Richard Scott 01480 890 286)
5th Sunday	11.00 am	Holy Communion

All Saints', Hamerton

1st Sunday	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
3rd Sunday	9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)

St Margaret's, Upton

4th Sunday	3.00 pm	Evensong
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All Saints', Winwick

2nd Sunday	9.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
4th Sunday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)