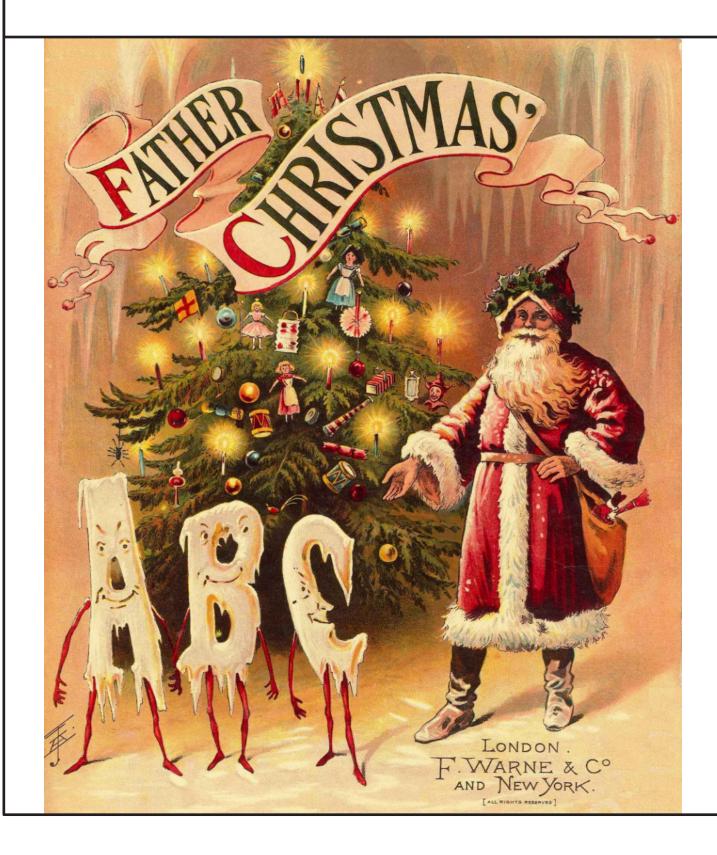
Doddington, Newnham & Wychling Newsletter

DECEMBER 2025



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CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE NOVEMBER 2025

7th December Advent 2	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer Morning Worship Morning Worship Holy Communion Holy Communion	via website & FB Teynham Norton Doddington Eastling
14th December Advent 3	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 10.30am 10.30am 4.00pm 5.30pm 6.30pm	Morning Prayer All Together Now Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Prayer Carols Carols Carols	via website & FB Lynsted Newnham Oare Throwley Teynham Stalisfield Norton
20th December	5.00pm	Carols	Wychling
21st December Advent 4	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 10.30am 10.30am 3.00pm 5.30pm 5.30pm	Morning Prayer Morning Worship Holy Communion Christingle Service Morning Worship Carols Carols Carols	via website & FB Teynham Norton Doddington Eastling Oare Newnham Throwley
24th December Christmas Eve	3.00pm 4.00pm 5.00pm 10.00pm 11.30pm 11.30pm	Christingle Carols Crib Service Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	Teynham Eastling Newnham Newnham Teynham Stalisfield
25th December Christmas Day	10.00am 10.00am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am 4.00pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong	Doddington Eastling Lynsted Norton Oare Teynham
28th December Christ 1	10.30am	Benefice Lay Led Service	Lynsted

Please check church notices and online for any potential change in services to those published above. www.kingsdownandcreekside.co.uk

Rector: Paula Jardine-Rose Parish Office: 01795 521831

Church Wardens Contact Details:

Newnham: Bruce Leckie (01795) 890550 Dave Buckett (01795) 890240

Doddington: Les Roberts (01795) 886332 Matthew Jevons (01795) 886341

Wychling: Contact Paula Jardine Rose-at Parish Office

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High Downs

It is nearly the end of 2025. This year has flown past, everyone I speak to, across all age ranges, comments on the speed with which this year has gone by and maybe we notice it the most when Christmas starts to get close. Just last weekend we started choir practice in St Mary's Church Eastling in preparation for the much-enjoyed Christmas Eve Carol Service.

As I write Advent begins in a week, on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, the start of the Christian calendar year, a season of preparation and waiting, a time to consider the significance of the birth of Jesus.

It is also a time associated with Advent calendars and when we are opening the windows imagine that we are seeing not chocolates, or animals, or the Christmas story, rather the things that the world greatly needs Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.

John Pritchard who was the Bishop of Oxford until 2014 and a former Archdeacon of Canterbury, has written several books on intercessions, which I often refer to. He has a special way of capturing the essence of something in the prayers he has written. For example, a run of prayers under the title 'December' has this one:

In December we count our blessings and mourn our losses. We love the Christmas season, and dread it. It comes as forecast, a huge tide of consumer spending and exhausting pleasure that recedes as quickly as does any tide. Yet we pray that the tide may leave behind in many lives signs of renewed joy and restored hope, flowing irrepressibly from Bethlehem's cave. (The Intercessions Resource Book, SPCK 2018)

The run up to Christmas is a hectic time of year, one indeed dreaded by many and yet also anticipated with joy by many others. It may seem to be all about the build up to Christmas Day, to giving and receiving presents. It is a time of giving and God gave us the greatest gift of all, as foretold in Isaiah: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel, which means God is with us.

A few weeks' ago, I heard the Bishop of Chelmsford, Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, preaching on the Radio 4 Sunday morning service from St Aphrahat, the Persian Church in Stockport. She spoke about the freedom to worship, and the faithful Anglican Church in Iran still surviving despite enduring considerable hardships. We often pray in our services for those who do not have the freedom to practice their faith openly.

The train of thought led me to think of the three Wise Men, and the carol *Three Kings from Persian Lands afar*, who travelled many miles following the star to see the baby Jesus, and who avoided going back to tell Herod where they had found the baby. Persecution was there right at the beginning.

How lucky we are in our Benefice, in our Diocese, in this country that we can enjoy and celebrate this gift of Jesus and remind ourselves in Christingle services, carol services, church and cathedral services far and wide during the lead up to Christmas of how this story of the birth of Jesus, in a stable in Bethlehem, unfolds every year, and we have the freedom to do this openly.

In December we are on a journey towards Christmas, the journey will have its ups and downs, its difficult times, inappropriate presents, over-indulgence, but it is also a journey of anticipation, a time of love, a time of giving and receiving. The quick consumer interlude will pass, but the gift of love and peace is always with us.

In John Pritchard's words:

In December the trees are bare, the ground cold and hard. Random weather events disturb our best-laid plans, and we relish the warm welcome of our homes. Be present, we pray, in these darker days as we hunker down and wait for the light that shines from Bethlehem's cave.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and happy new year ahead.

Pim Baxter

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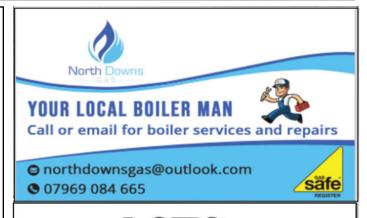
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<u>Buddies Parent and Toddler Group:</u> Friday morning (term-time) 9 to 10.30am. All children aged 0-4 and their carers are most welcome. New **Contact:** Amy – email: amykemp788@gmail.com

Doddington Ukulele Movement: Thursday evenings 8pm.

<u>Guitar Group</u>: The Chequers, Wednesdays 7.30-9.30 pm. All levels welcome. <u>bobbiallen@btinternet.com</u> <u>Yoga: every Tuesday 10am and Sundays. Bookings and contact details via https://bookwhen.com/https-chrisstookesyoga-co-uk</u>

Monthly

<u>Doddington Parish Council</u>: 2nd Monday 7.30 pm. Local residents welcome to observe, and there is a section for questions and comments from the public.

<u>Historical Research Group</u>: 4th Monday 7.30pm. Exploring local history and archaeology in the three parishes. Now back meeting regularly. Contact: Karen Potts karennpotts@gmail.com

Newnham Village Hall (unless otherwise stated) **Weekly**

U3A Art Group: Every Monday afternoon 1-4pm. Contact: Sue 01795 890627.

<u>Newnham Brownies:</u> 5.30pm - 7.00pm every Tuesday (term-time only). To join & find out more about Brownies, please go to www<u>.girlguiding.org.uk</u> to register your child's interest on the GO Membership system. You will be contacted within a few days about local packs and contacts.

Outdoor Gym Club- Start time changed from 11.15 am to 9.30 am every Wednesday

Monthly

Newnham Parish Council Meeting: 2nd Thursday each month at 7.30pm

Nearby towns and villages

Stalisfield Youth Club: Meet twice monthly in Stalisfield Village Hall 7-8.30pm.

Contact: Catherine Norwood, email: clnorwood@doctors.org.uk See last page for dates.

<u>Zumba:</u> Day and evening classes in Teynham, Faversham and Eastling. Contact Leigh Miles 01795 890149, 07873431952, leigh.fitness@btinternet.com, or www. milesdanceandfitness.com

Useful contacts

<u>Doddington Neighbourhood Watch:</u> To be kept informed of local incidents and general notifications issued by the Kent NHW police, please email: neighbourhoodwatch.doddington@yahoo.com

Suspicious happenings should be reported by phone on 101, or 999 in an emergency.

Scams – for help and advice with online scams contact Citizens Advice scams action on 080250 5050

Doddington and Newnham online: www.doddingtonkent.uk https://www.newnham-pc.gov.uk/

Facebook: Doddington Village and Newnham Village each have their own Facebook sites

Helen Whately: MP for Faversham and Mid Kent - email: helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

Address: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. Tel: 020 7219 6472

Terry Thompson: Ward Member for East Downs: TerryThompson@swale.gov.uk. Phone.07968 810638. **Rich Lehmann** - County Councillor for Swale East. Tel: 03000 415013 email- Rich.Lehmann@kent.gov.uk

Angela Dye is your Neighbourhood Watch contact for Newnham. email: angeladye@gmail.com



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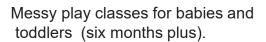
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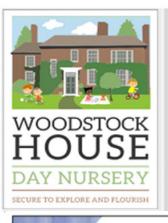
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Clerk: Wendy Licence 01622 739324

To email the Council please use: doddingtonpc@gmail.com

This is a brief summary of the meeting held on 13 November 2025

PROPOSED HIGHSTED PARK UPDATE

Ref: 21/503914/EIOUT Location: Land South And East Of Sittingbourne Kent

Ref: 21/503906/EIOUT Location: Land To The West Of Teynham London Road Teynham

The Public Inquiry has now concluded and parties await the Inspector's report which should be published in 2026. Residents who have kindly agreed to display signs objecting to the proposals can leave them in place for the time being if they wish. Otherwise they can contact Cllr Coates to arrange removal.

HIGHWAYS

County Councillor Rich Lehmann is looking into concerns regarding local road closures with misleading signage.

A road sweep of the Old Lenham Road has been requested. Kent Highways is still looking at the Ringlestone Road flooding by the pumping station, and the blocked soakaway. The Council continues to chase Kent Highways and is also liaising with the land owner.

THE CHEQUERS INN: ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

The application to renew the Asset of Community Value listing for The Chequers has been approved by Swale Borough Council.

PLANNING

The Appeal against the Enforcement Notice for The Retreat, Elverland Lane, Hill Top has been dismissed and the Enforcement Notice upheld. The site must be reinstated within six months.

Date of next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 8 December 2025 at 7.30pm at Doddington Village Hall

You are welcome to attend the meetings which include a public participation section where residents can, at the Chairman's discretion, address the Council for up to three minutes on any topic of concern.

www.hugofox.com/community/doddington-parish-council-13785/home/

Don't forget to sign up for email alerts.



KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME 2026



The KALC Community Awards Scheme is to acknowledge and give recognition to someone who has made a significant contribution to this community over a period of years. If you know of someone who has given this sort of service and merits an Award, then please do nominate them. The person must live or work within the Parish Council boundary.

Please send you nominations to the Clerk, email: doddingtonpc@gmail.com or 14 Trapfield Close, Bearsted ME14 4HT One nomination per person

Closing date for nominations: 31 December 2025

The award will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on 11 May 2026



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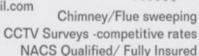
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Clerk: <u>clerk@newnham-pc.gov.uk</u>

This is a brief summary of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th November 2025

Full minutes can be found at www.newnham-pc.gov.uk

Matters Arising

Cllr Cockrill confirmed he had a site meeting arranged regarding the discharge of water into the chalk pit up passed Wineycock and had completed the Local Heritage list online, including the entire village, but there was no option to print the response. Cllr Dye had investigated wilding gardens and would be sharing further information.

Highways Improvement Plan

The HIP was considered and it was agreed that the most important issue was the layby and the continued flooding and that this item be the first priority. Other items raised were the missing 30mph/NSL sign outside 18 Wineycock and the fingerpost signs by the church. The junction of Faversham Road and the A2 was also noted. The HIP will be updated and a meeting requested with KCC.

War Memorial

It was proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded by Cllr Cockrill and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED** to contribute 50%, £350, towards tools for works at the war memorial.

Community Resilience

The Clerk and Cllr Cockrill had attended webinars on the change to digital telephones and community resilience. A discussion took place on how the village could be more resilient, highlighting that power cuts were the biggest problem. It was agreed to have a discussion with the Village Hall Committee about investing in a generator and wifi for the hall, to enable use during power cuts.

Highsted

Cllr Turner confirmed planning appeal had completed and the decision report was expected late spring / early summer 2026.

Land at Wineycock

Concerns had been raised again that items were being stockpiled for more fires on the Southern Housing 'waste land' next to the outdoor gym. Swale Borough Council had been on site and some of the area had been cleared, however they confirmed that they had not received any complaints about fires. Unless people are willing to complain, Swale BC are unable to take any action.

Next meeting: 11th December 2025



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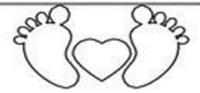
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Season's greetings and enjoy this Christmas Book Quiz for all the family.

- 1 How many ghosts appeared to Scrooge in Dickens' 1843 novella, 'A Christmas Carol'?
- 2 'Rover Saves Christmas' is a children's book written by which Irish novelist?
- 3 What is the title of Theodor Geisel's book about the joy of Christmas?
- 4 Which reindeer isn't mentioned in the poem "The Night Before Christmas"?
- 5 The first line of which book is, "Christmas won't be Christmas, without any presents, grumbled Jo, lying on the rug"?
- 6 Which Sherlock Holmes story is set in London during preparations for Christmas, when a valuable gemstone is stolen?

Answers in the January 2026 newsletter (or in books, or if you must, on the internet!).

The u3a Art Group meet regularly each Monday afternoon in the Newnham Village Hall and are currently looking for models for the life drawing section - no stripping required!

Male, female, any age welcome – tea & biscuits available.

For more details, please ring Sue on 890627 or email gunnersue564@gmail.com



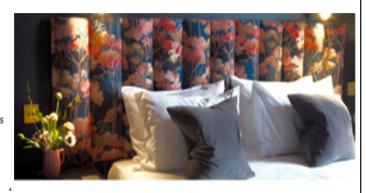
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Doddington & District Village Show

The 2026 show will be held on **Saturday 12**th **September** in Doddington Village Hall.

Please remember that the show is open to residents of Doddington, Newnham or Wychling, or anyone who is a member of an group that meets in these villages.

Please find below details of Craft & Photography Classes for the 2026 show. This gives you plenty of time to get cracking on your exhibits! And for 2026 we're adding a child's class!

ART & CRAFT CLASSES for 2026

- A Christmas Table Runner
- A Cushion Cover
- A piece of embroidery or cross stitch any item (if a picture, to be framed glazed or unglazed)
- A knitted or crocheted article
- A hand crafted Greetings card with envelope any medium
- An Upcycled Item see definition below *
- Any other craft item hard materials
- Any other craft item soft materials
- A pencil drawing, graphite only any subject.
 Up to A5 size, unframed
- Painting any medium. Up to A5 size, unframed
- Photography no larger than 152mm x 102mm
 - 'Winter Wonderland'
 - 'Bug Life'

Own interpretation!

Children's Class

- Painted Pebble ages 3-6yrs
- Painted Pebble ages 7-11yrs

*Upcycled = create a new product

The full schedule will be available in May and will have extra pages to give extra hints and tips for showing and staging your entries.

THE WARM HEARTS GATHERING

Doddington Village Hall

An informal family friendly winter gathering

Sunday 18th January

Bringing Light to Wintry January

Sunday 15th February

Bringing Warmth in the month of Love

10.30am

Children's Craft Corner

With warming refreshments

Time for a chat

Short act of worship

A relaxed way to connect with faith and community in the cold winter months

NEWNHAM VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

The winning numbers of the November draw were

1st 97

2nd 71

3rd 80

The Hall Committee would like to thank all our members for their continued support.

New members are welcome - numbers cost £2 per month. Contact Julie on 01795 890205 or julied103@hotmail.com for more information







The Children's Society

Everyone is welcome to our

Christingle Celebration

at Doddington Church on Sunday 21st December at 10.30am

Come and make your Christingle, hear its story and support the work of the Children's Society

Christmas trees 2025

Christmas trees are available again this year. The arrangement, unchanged over the last 35 years, is for you to contact us by email, phone or text to book a time for a visit here to inspect and select your tree. - then to return and collect it from late November or nearer Christmas.

Trees vary in size between 5ft and 16 ft in different shapes, colours and aroma with the larger sizes suitable for schools, churches, village halls and outside spaces.

The arrangement is for you to make a donation for your tree. This year 70% will be returned to your nominated Parish Church or charity of your choice, with the balance being divided between the listed 25 charities.

Last year, a total of £14,035 was donated to 50 local Parish Churches and all the charities.

Please contact us:

- By email on nashsfarmhouse@btinternet.com
- By phone on 01795 532596 or 07910 248 308

Many thanks.

Peter and Alison Howard, Nashs Farmhouse, Luddenham, Faversham ME13 0TQ



Do you remember The Millennium?

In our incredible digital world, there has never been such easy access to historical information so it seems amazing that events from around twenty-five years ago can't necessarily be found by 'Professor Google'. They say that journalists provide the "first rough draft of history." Historians do not cover events as they unfold but based on numerous sources including journalism, get to write a more finished "first draft of history".

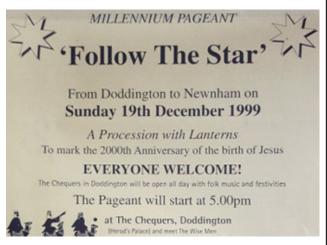
Here is a local village event that many of us enjoyed in December 1999 and thanks to journalists at the Faversham News we have a record of it.

About 300 village residents walked from West End, Doddington to Herod's Palace (The Chequers) then on to Bethlehem (Newnham), alongside Mary and Joseph (and yes, there were donkeys).

Scenes from the Nativity were encountered along the route including the Wise Men being interviewed on 'TV News' (part of the pageant, not ITV or BBC local news!). The George Inn provided the stable at the end of the journey, and a blaze of light announced the birth of Jesus with the angels and shepherds.

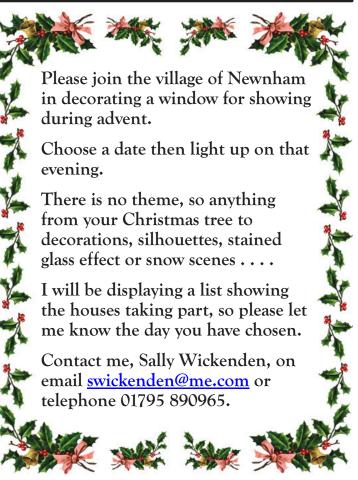
It was a truly amazing community event.

WDN History Group









Nature Notes

What to look for in December...

Mixed flocks of small birds. There's safety in numbers, and food is more easily found if lots of birds work together. So, in winter with just a few daylight hours available to find food, small birds will join up in mixed-species flocks which move together through woods, hedgerows and gardens. Commonly, these will include Great Tits, Blue Tits, and Long-tailed Tits, and may also include Coal Tits, Goldcrests, Chaffinches, and sometimes Nuthatches too. These flocks will be continually on the move, working their way round their local beat.

Plants in flower. A number of wild plants - especially annuals - will continue to flower for as long as the weather is not to cold and frosty. This is a useful adaptation for short-lived species as it allows them to produce as much seed as possible. For other wild plants, winter-flowering may just be a mistake, or a response to a changing climate to which they have not adapted: research has found that climate change has advanced flowering times in plants in Britain by a whole month, and that plants are flowering for longer. Plants I've noticed flowering in late November - and which may still be flowering in December - include **Butcher's-broom**, with its tiny, green flowers, and blue-flowered Chicory. If you are looking for an excuse to get outdoors over the Christmas period, the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland is running its annual New Year Plant Hunt from Thursday 1 January to Sunday 4 January 2026. This encourages everyone to walk round their local patch over New Year and record the plants they see in flower: there are more details at https:// bsbi.org/take-part/activities/new-year-plant-hunt.

Winter-flying insects. On warm days, those butterflies that hibernate as adults, such as Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell, may be drawn out of hibernation and be seen in the garden. However, waking up in mid-winter is generally bad news, as little food is available and just moving around uses precious stored energy. But for some of their relatives, winter is the main active time. This includes the December Moth and the Winter Moth, both of which are on the wing this month. The December Moth is dark and furry, as if wrapped up in a big winter coat. But the Winter Moth is a delicate, pale-winged insect (at least, the male is - the female is virtually wingless) which you may well spot in your car headlights as they flutter across the road in search of a mate.

Richard Moyse



Butcher's-broom



Chicory



Winter Moth, male



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Drop in for 1-1 support from 17 September 2025 at

Doddington Vicarage

The Street, Doddington, Sittingbourne ME9 0BD

Wednesdays 9am – 3pm



www.kentcht.nhs.uk/OneYou





Together in Boots

Join us for a monthly mindful walk through woodland

Leaving Doddington Church at 2pm and returning for tea and cake at 2.45pm



Humans and well-behaved dogs all welcome.

On Fridays 23rd January, 27th February, 27th March Enquiries to Lissie on 07790 287878 <u>lissie1710@gmail.com</u>

S&D Sewage Services

Lou, Dan & Alex (Sash) of S&D Sewage Services Ltd would like to wish all customers old and new a very Happy Christmas & New Year, and remember Shaun "The Big Boss" on 20/12/25 on the 5th anniversary of his passing.

We are open between Christmas and New Year so please give us a call or email.

SEE AD ON PAGE 12

HALF DAY 24/12/25 - CLOSED UNTIL 29/12/25 HALF DAY 31/12/25 - CLOSED UNTIL 02/01/26

DIARY OF EVENTS - 2025/26

5 th December 7.30pm 6 th December 2pm & 7.30pm 7 th December 2pm & 7.30pm	The Valley Players - Cinderella (see page 16 for details)	Doddington Village Hall
8 th December 7.30pm	Doddington Parish Council	Doddington Village Hall
10 th December 9.45-10.15am	Mobile library	Sunnyside, Doddington
11 th December 7pm	Newnham Parish Council	Newnham Village Hall
19th December 7.30pm	Cantiana Christmas Concert (See page 17 for details)	Newnham Church
21st December 10.30am	Christingle Celebration (see page 16 for details)	Doddington Church
20th December 5.00pm	Carol Service	Wychling Church
21st December 5.30pm	Carol Round the Christmas Tree (Refreshments afterwards)	Newnham Church
24th December 5.00pm	Crib Service	Newnham Church
18 th January 10.30am	Warm Hearts Gathering (see page 15 for details)	Doddington Village Hall
23 rd January 2pm	Together in Boots mindful walk (See page 19 For details)	Doddington Church

And see page 7 for regular events and activities



Did you know Newnham has a village WhatsApp group, where we share news, advice and information or ask for help when needed?

All villagers are welcome to join.

Contact Steve on 07540 898617

NEWSLETTER - AVAILABLE IN EITHER PAPER COPY DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR OR VIA EMAIL

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