# Holy Trinity Rothwell

Parish Magazine



## December 2025

# Holy Trinity Rothwell A place for everyone!

#### **Our Vision**

We are a Church which exists to know Christ in our midst, and to make Christ known beyond our walls

We aim to be an inclusive Church, offering a variety of worship styles ... a place for everyone!

#### We aim to be:

- Christ centred, making God known beyond our walls
- Inclusive and welcoming to all
- Prayerful and Spirit led
- A loving and caring Christian community

## We look forward to welcoming you!

## Safeguarding

Please contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer Zoë Deag on 07747 383704 or zoe.deag@gmail.com if you have any Safeguarding concerns.

### The Bone Crypt

The Bone crypt opening times:
October to March every second Sunday each month
April to September every Sunday

2.30 to 4.30 pm. Admission £3.

Please pre-book tours with Mick Coggins via



## **Magazine Articles**

mccoggins@googlemail.com

Please send all magazine articles for the January magazine to: <a href="magazineholytrinity@gmail.com">magazineholytrinity@gmail.com</a> by 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2025. Please note the Editor may edit articles, without consultation, and in all such cases her decision is final.

## Receiving weekly Pew News by email

Pew News is given out at church for each service. If you would like to receive Pew



News or the Magazine by email please inform our Benefice Administrator - Dawn Cooper on <a href="mailto:treshambeneficeassistant@yahoo.co.uk">treshambeneficeassistant@yahoo.co.uk</a>

## **Church Floodlighting**

Thank you to all that continue to support us with funding the floodlighting for church. If you would like to sponsor a day please contact Bea (Loddington) on 01536 711326 or Brenda (Rothwell) on 01536 710258

#### A message from Andy

"You knit me together in my mother's womb...

I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Psalm 139:12-13



As I write this, it is only October, yet already some of us are thinking about Christmas. The shops have begun to hint at it, the first adverts are creeping onto our screens, and perhaps a few of us are quietly making lists. But before we get there, we still journey through Halloween, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Sunday, and the season of Advent. Christmas may feel close, yet there is much still to come.

If you are a knitter, though, you probably started thinking about Christmas long ago. Our own Trinity Threaders certainly have. They are a wonderful group who meet at Holy Trinity Church every Monday morning to knit, crochet, chat, laugh, and support one another. Their hands are rarely still, and every year our town benefits from their creativity. It won't be long before the poppies appear again, bright against the autumn air. Soon the knitted soldiers will stand proudly along the church railings, quietly honouring those who served. And before we know it, nativity sets—each one handcrafted with love—will appear on sideboards and windowsills, reminding us of the story at the heart of the season.

All this made me wonder about Christmas jumpers. Most of us have one tucked away somewhere: perhaps a handmade treasure, or more likely a shop-bought creation in blazing colours. Some flash or sparkle, others jingle with tiny bells. They feature everything from penguins to

dinosaurs, and classics like stars, puddings, and snowmen. I must admit I am usually a bit of a bah humbug about Christmas jumpers. But recently I was reading *The Twelve Joys of Christmas* by Nicholas Papadopulos—something you might come across in church this year—and it made me think again.

He writes, "Christmas jumpers are tasteless. And here's the thing. God is tasteless too. That's actually the heart of the good news. God is without a shred of cultural aesthetic judgment... The psalm presents God as carefully weaving us into being, knowing our every stitch and every knot—knowing our depths and knowing our darkness—and yet still being born among us in Jesus, still loving us. God has no taste. God does not discriminate. God does not exclude."

And perhaps that is the real joy: that we are, each of us, fearfully and wonderfully made. Maybe this year I will wear my Christmas jumper with pride.

**Revd Andy Giles** 

## **Services in Tresham Benefice December 2025**

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>		
10.00 am	Holy Communion	Rothwell
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>		
9.15 am	Parish Communion	Loddington
10.00 am	Christingle Service	Rushton
10.45 am	Parish Communion	Rothwell
6.30 pm	Carol Service	Pipewell
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>		
10.00 am	Holy Communion	Rothwell
6.00 pm	Town Carol Service	Rothwell
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>		
9.15 am	Time for God	Loddington
10.00 am	Family Communion	Rushton
10.00 am	Tea & Toast Service	Thorpe Malsor
10.45 am	Family Communion	Rothwell
6.00 pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	Rothwell
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>		
7.00 pm	Rothwell Carol Singing	Market Square
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>		
10.00 am	Holy Communion	Rothwell
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>		
4.00 pm	Christingle Service	Rothwell
Sunday 21st		
9.15 am	Parish Communion	Rushton
10.45 am	All Together Café Service	Rothwell
4.00 pm	Carol Service	Loddington
6.00 pm	Carol Service	Rushton
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>		
4.00 pm	Carol Singing	Loddington

Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve	
3.00 pm	Crib Service	Thorpe Malsor
4.00 pm	Crib Service	Rothwell
6.00 pm	Christmas Family Communion	Rushton
11.30 pm	Midnight Mass	Rothwell
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day	
9.30 am	Family Service	Loddington
10.00 am	Family Communion	Rothwell
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>		
10.00 am	United Family Communion	Rothwell

Forthcoming Events			
5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Tree Festival	Holy Trinity	
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 6pm	Town Carol Service	Holy Trinity	
13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 10am to 4pm	Santa trail & Christmas	St Leonard's church,	
	Fair	Loddington	
14 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 6pm	Nine Lessons & Carols	Holy Trinity	
16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas buffet lunch	Rushton Village Hall	
16 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 7pm	Carol Singing	Market Square	
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 4pm	Christingle Service	Holy Trinity	
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 4pm	Crib Service	Holy Trinity	
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Holy Trinity	
10 <sup>th</sup> January at 7pm	Twelfth Night	Rothwell Methodist	
	Celebration	Church	

Readings	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Gospel
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 11:1-10	Matthew 3:1-12
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 35:1-10	Matthew 11:2-11
Sunday 21st December	Isaiah 7:10-16	Matthew 1:18-25
Weds 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 52:7-10	John 1:1-14
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 9:2-7	Luke 2:1-14
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 63:7-9	Matthew 2:13-23

## **Prayer for the Archbishop of Canterbury**

A prayer for Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, next Archbishop of Canterbury:

Almighty and everlasting God, the only worker of great marvels, send down upon your servant Sarah, called to be Archbishop of Canterbury and all who are committed to her care, the spirit of your saving grace, and that they may truly please you, pour upon them the continual dew of your blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our advocate and mediator, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

## **Thursday Club**

Thursday Club meets every other Thursday afternoon in the **Methodist Church at 2pm.** 



8 <sup>th</sup> January	60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Members
	Discussion and Constitution Update	
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Rowell Fair/Bailiff to Lord of the Manor	Frank York
5 <sup>th</sup> February	Meningitis Association	Dawn & David Canham
19 <sup>th</sup> February	"You Bet" TV Experience	Ian Horton
	Also "goat" soaps for sale	Ganders Goats
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Rainbows Hospice	Kerry Laurie
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Only Fools and Horses	Steve Dimmer
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Richard III Trip	
18 <sup>th</sup> April	Coffee Morning hosted by Thursday Club	

Barbara Farmer (07759 167994)

## **Marigolds Friendship Group**

We are an independent friendship group who meet at Holy Trinity Church. Come and join us, for friendship, support, tea, chat relaxed activities, speakers, music etc. on the second and fourth Monday of the month from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm. The group is aimed at people who find themselves alone; whilst it is mainly attended by ladies, gentlemen are welcome. Some of our events are open to anyone, not just those on their own. For more details please contact:

Julie Hindle 01536 392311

## **Heating and Resources**

We know that many of us are facing challenging times. The rising costs of utilities, food, and everyday essentials affect every household, and the church family is no different. We recognise the pressures many of you are feeling, and we are deeply grateful for the generosity you continue to show, even in difficult circumstances.

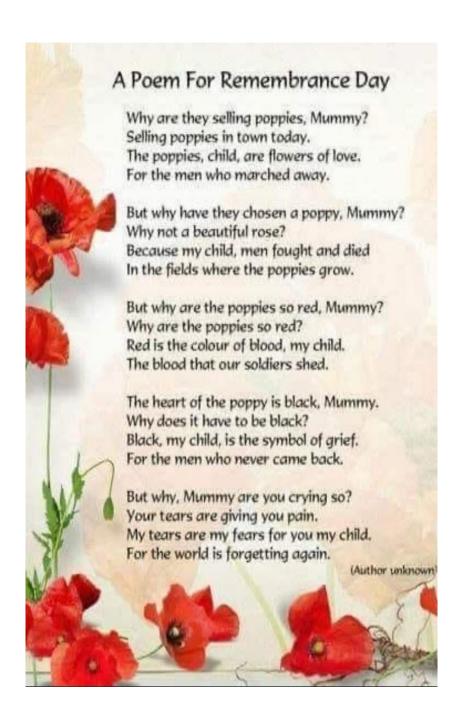
Because of these rising costs, we are doing all we can to use our resources wisely. One way we can care for both our finances and our environment is by reducing the days we heat the whole church building to Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. We will, of course, continue to provide heating for special events where this is included in the hiring fee, and small groups may still meet on other days using the warm area near the kitchen with the small wall heater. If you have further ideas for saving money or using our space more efficiently, we would love to hear them—your creativity is a gift to us all.

Alongside reducing costs, we are also exploring ways to grow our income with generosity and community at the heart. This includes planning more events, increasing activities, and making greater use of our venue. Your support—whether by attending, inviting others, or helping us spread the word—makes a real difference. If you haven't already, you might also consider signing up for *Easy Fundraising*, which allows a small donation to come to the church every time you shop online, at no cost to you. Every little act of generosity adds up.

And finally, a gentle reminder: if you are a UK taxpayer, giving by standing order rather than cash in the offertory plate allows the church to claim Gift Aid, increasing the value of your donation at no extra cost. Planned Giving also helps us budget and care wisely for the resources God has entrusted to us.

We are truly thankful for all the ways you support the church—your time, your presence, your ideas, your prayers, and your generosity. Together we continue to sustain and strengthen this important part of the Rothwell community.

Andy Giles



## Value for money

Recently, last October, I walked into the Holy Trinity Church Rothwell after the Family communion Sunday service.

I was surprised at first to hear two visitors taking the opportunity to play the piano. They played classical music and the sound was special. The visitors were very talented and it was wonderful to hear such music. I was very lucky. We are so fortunate to have talented musicians and for the musicians to have an opportunity to play classical music in the church. The visitors were very welcomed.

Secondly I was surprised to see the *Fairtrade* stall. Usually I see a stall with cards, chocolate and sweets... latter items I tend to avoid as I am always on a diet. This time the stall had clothes and hats... practical items as the weather is supposed to be getting colder... not the weekend of bonfire night. I was wearing a light coat!

The stall also had jewellery. Often I see jewellery over priced but this time I saw a selection of jewellery costing approximately £10 each... less than two pints of beer! I was spoilt for choice. Pam Shaw who was selling the items and with David Cooke's assistance help me choose a

pair of pink silver earrings. Earrings set was also £10. - bargain! There are many things nowadays we can buy for this price but I strongly recommend next time there is a stall you have a look too. You never know, you might consider buying a matching pair of earrings for a relative, friend or yourself.



Many of my friends have commented that they like the earrings- thank you Pam and David.

After listening to the music and buying the earrings I left the church feeling very happy.

Sarah Austin

## **Christmas Tree Festival 2025**5th - 8th December

The Christmas Tree Festival is getting close now and we hope to see you all there.

We should have close to 40 trees and about 20 stalls with second-hand books and jigsaws, gifts, hand-made crafts, guitars and plants, as well as tombolas and 'Brenda's Bumper Prize Raffle'!

We are still welcoming donations of bottles and other items for the tombolas and raffle plus volunteers to help move trees, act as door stewards, make cakes, serve refreshments and help sell at the tables.



Above all, we look forward to you joining us for what is always a wonderful community weekend.

Your support is much appreciated!

#### **Don't miss the Christmas magic!**

Jo Freeman



#### **Christmas Tree Stall**

Donations of sweets or chocolates for my Christmas Tree stall this year will be gratefully accepted.

Brenda Austin

#### **Bottles Wanted**

To raise muchly needed church funds, Dad and I will be doing a bottle raffle at the Christmas Tree Festival. We therefore need lots of donations of anything that comes in a bottle! We would be very grateful for anything you are able to donate.

Laurabeth Creasey

## Tresham Benefice Fellowship

After a very busy year for members the last outing was to *Gates Garden Centre* for the Christmas decorations! Then we all gathered together for a sumptuous Christmas Lunch at The Red Lion Rothwell, a lovely way to end the year.

We don't meet in December but we will start the new year with a meeting in Cransley village hall at 2pm on January 15<sup>th</sup> when a member of Northampton Council will be talking about her work with the local area partnership which promotes organisations such as ours. Please come along and support her.

We have talks February and March so look out for your email. So a very happy Christmas to all of you. We look forward to another busy programme in the new year.

Please contact me on my email address <a href="mailto:laurelspickett@gmail.com">laurelspickett@gmail.com</a>

Laurel Spickett

#### **Eco News**



As we near the end of 2025 we should like to thank everyone for their incredible support this year in all things eco. The response to the request for blister packs has been amazing and *Fairtrade* has been particularly successful to name just two areas of our work to help the environment.

There will be a big Christmas card at the back of the church, on the table where cards are posted. If you would like to send greetings to other church members while saving resources then please sign the card and donate money you have saved to the *Children's Society*, putting money in the collecting boxes nearby.

It's possible that in the New Year we will start to support the bra recycling scheme against breast cancer. We are still researching this project and there will be more information in next month's magazine. In the meantime, please don't throw away old bras.

There is now a box at the back of the church for used batteries ready for recycling.

#### **Happy Christmas everyone!**

Pam Shaw on behalf of the Eco team (Tel: 07717280584)

## **Charity of the Month**

For those who would like to donate to the Charity of the month, there is a collection box in church and any donations for refreshments after the Sunday morning sorvice will also go to the charity of the month. This more



service will also go to the charity of the month. This month's charity is *Crisis at Christmas* 



### **Weekend at Walsingham**

Our annual weekend visit to the Shrine at Walsingham took place in October, when four of us joined with ten people from other churches in the district.



As soon as we reach the village of Walsingham we are in a different world. It has been a place of pilgrimage since medieval times, and is known as England's Nazareth, following a vision from the Virgin Mary to Richeldis de Faverches, to build a house replicating the house where the Annunciation took place. It is a very peaceful place.

There are beautiful gardens, and three full size crosses are situated on a grassy mound in the grounds. As well as the Holy House, the church is almost as large as a cathedral, and it is always packed with visitors for the various services. Many of the services are quite emotional, particularly the Healing service and the Sprinkling of the Well, where we receive a Blessing with Holy Water. On the Saturday evening during the service everyone follows the Effigy of Mary through the gardens in the dark, carrying a candle and singing Ave Maria, creating a lovely procession of light.

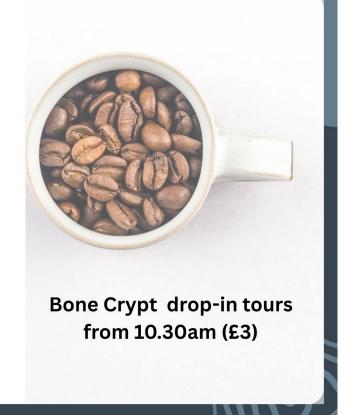
The food is really delicious and we all sit together on long tables, so it is all very friendly. It is a great atmosphere and we enjoy meeting other people from different parts of the country.

Janet Clements

# Winter Cafe & Warm Space

At Rothwell
Holy Trinity Church
Every Tuesday
9-12 noon
from 4<sup>th</sup> November

Complimentary
Hot food and Drinks



If you want to help in any way, including in the kitchen, welcoming people or helping the administration or tours for the Bone Crypt, there is a rota on the table near the cafe. Feel free to contact Ian Scales if you can make cakes or soup, etc. And if you are able to simply come along on any of the Tuesdays and enjoy the cafe, that would be very much appreciated. We have found that the more people who come along the greater the community buzz there is.

<u>iscales11@icloud.com</u> Ian Scales



Join us for an evening of festive music, community, and Christmas cheer!



# Thursday 11th December 6:00 PM HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, ROTHWELL

Come and sing your favourite carols, enjoy seasonal readings, and celebrate together.

All are welcome — bring family and friends!

★ O come, all ye faithful! ★



## Methodist Church

Market Hill, Rothwell, NN14 6BW

## Highlights:

Traditional Mummers' Plays | Pie, Peas & Mash | Hot Spiced Apple Juice | Raffle | Fun & Frivolity



#### TICKETS-£10

Gillian Sewell - 07769 748135 gilliandsewell4@gmail.com or purchase at the Rothwell Christmas Tree Festival



#### **Mothers' Union**



As part of our Rise Up campaign against gender based Violence our focus from

22<sup>nd</sup> November is on *16 Days of Activism against Gender based Violence*, when members from across the Diocese met at St John's Peterborough for a service led by Revd Michelle Dallistan.

The Mothers' Union is working with the United Nations and Women's Aid in Highlighting Domestic Abuse. At our Diocesan Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November at St. Mary's, Wollaston, our speaker was from EVE. This is a charity based in Northampton who work with other domestic abuse charities nationwide, to protect women and children needing refuge. Please also remember that men also can be affected by Domestic Abuse although it is less common. Our Branch will be displaying doves and prayers in Holy Trinity during this time.

We meet on 19 November to plan our very special next year celebration of 150 years of mother's Union.

## **Baby Basics**

Supporting new mothers and families who are struggling to meet the financial and practical burden of looking after a new baby <a href="https://baby-basics.org.uk">https://baby-basics.org.uk</a>



Pat and Sian are at The Church of the Latter Day Saints in Kettering, on Wednesdays (term time only) 10 till 12 Midday for deposits or requests for help. Please use the main entrance and ring the bell.

Penny Knight



## 16 Days of Activism

DAY 1 Pray for survivors and victims of domestic abuse.	<b>DAY 2</b> Visit the Restored website.	<b>DAY 3</b> Visit the Women's Aid website.	<b>DAY 4</b> Read Refuge's - Spotting the Signs webpage.
DAY 5 Put together a moving in /on pack for your local refuge.	<b>DAY 6</b> Pray for the RISE UP! campaign.	DAY 7 Print a RISE UP poster and put it on a toilet door in your church OR check and refresh current posters.	DAY 8  Plan a reflective for your church. Souls of our Shoes, Red Chair or Silks are great examples.
DAY 9 Talk to friends about gender-based violence.	DAY 10 Research your local refuge & share this with your group.	<b>DAY 11</b> Download the Bright Sky App.	<b>DAY 12</b> Knit purple hearts.
DAY 13 Commit to Thursdays in Black.	<b>DAY 14</b> Attend a prayer vigil.	DAY 15 Buy or make a white ribbon for yourself and all your allies.	<b>DAY 16</b> Read the Michael Kauffman poem.

## The Christingle Service

I wonder how many oranges will be used in our churches and schools this year as we celebrate a *Christingle Service*. For me, the lighting of the candle and the singing of '*Away in a Manger*' has always been one of the most profound moments of the Christmas season. To watch young children (and adults, too!), be stilled in the gentle candlelight and to sing gently of the birth of Jesus, is a powerful way to recapture the joy and wonder of Christmas.



The Christingle itself is a sign of God's love for the world, it is a promise of hope at times of darkness, it is a message that Jesus is indeed

the light of the world. As each candle is lit, we can see how each one joins together to banish the darkness. This is our calling – to live lives that burn brightly with the love of Jesus and to work together to bring hope.

My prayer for you, is that you will know the light of Jesus in your own lives this Christmas and that you will experience that joy that comes from welcoming the Son of God into our lives.

+ Desbie

The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin Bishop of Peterborough

Diocese of Peterborough - Magazine Resource - December 2025
Produced by the Diocesan Office, The Palace, Peterborough, PE1 1YB
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#### **Point to Ponder**

The infant Jesus did not have a welcoming committee when he entered this world in Bethlehem. His mother Mary laid him in a rough crib which she had hastily fashioned from a manger and wrapped him in strips of cloth as his first baby outfit. The story writer tells us this because "there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2 verses 1 to 7). It was a miracle in our eyes that the child survived such a birth under such squalid conditions!

The first to hear of this event in the history of the world were also his first visitors, local shepherds. The socially correct of that day looked down on them because of their rough and ready lifestyle. Ironically, they were also symbols of God's love in a religious tradition that Jesus would take to

describe himself. (Psalm 23, John 10 verse 11) These were God's choices in the first pictures we have of the birth of Jesus.

As he grew up and into the society of His day, he would encounter the faithful and the traitors in the whole spectrum of human nature. He came into the world as it is, in great poverty to enable it to discover the richness of the dimension of heaven and the love of God. He also enters the lives of everyone to assure us all, that the God who created everyone's humanity never leaves anyone desolate.

Christmas is the celebration of letting God be God in His love of humanity and in His creation. The overcrowded inn at Bethlehem reminds us He does not do deals with us. He does not select those we may think worthy of His attention and give them special favours. Divine love to be genuine can never be exclusive. God is the one, as the old Christmas carol puts it, who "feels for all our sadness, and He shares in all our gladness." Empathy is not a weakness of the faithful but a challenge to the traitors who deny the place of joy in a society that knows more tears of pain than laughter.

We know that we live in a world where people do not care for one another or make room for the vulnerable or the defenceless. However, the Festival of Christmas in letting us see God as He is, can also be a wonderful opportunity to let us reveal our humanity in its true colours. We must not overlook the incredible generosity that Christmas encourages, inspires, and renews in people of good will towards the needy, the war torn and the afflicted. This happens because love is in the very fabric of the universe and we reveal this truth in goodness, kindness, and generosity. The shepherds left the inn with joy when they saw the infant Jesus. (Luke 2:20) We also are never the same again when we allow the truth of His birth to be born in our hearts.

Canon George Burgon

## **Rushton Community Minibus**

Regular Weekly Shopping Trip with a choice of Locations



Every Friday (Except Bank Holidays)



8

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Asda Café - McDonald's - Starbucks

Fares – There is a fixed return fare of £4.50 for adults, £2.00 for juniors. (cash only)

Persons with concessionary bus passes travel free.

If you would like to join our service, please pre-book your seat before 12:00 on Thursday by

contacting:- Lisa Judge

Health and Wellbeing Officer Tel: 01536 713252 Mobile: 07908 913056

Email: heath and well being @roth well town council.gov.uk

The Rushton Community Minibus is owned and operated by Rushton Parish Council on a not-for-profit basis, and all income from fares, concessionary fares and private hire is used to operate and maintain the vehicle for the Rushton Parish and the local community.

If you would like any further information about this service or other services provided by the Rushton Community Minibus, please contact.

Mike Brightman

Minibus Coordinator 07850 236833 rushtoncmb@outlook.com



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Sacristy Officer:	Anne Sloan	
	kgb.sloan@ntlworld.com	

	Organisations	
Bell Ringers Practice, Weds 7.30pm	Jim Bence Rothwell.Northants.bellringers@ gmail.com	07807 561277
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Bible Study Group	Ian Foster 6, Cabot Close NN14 6SL	07704 209383
Bone Crypt Tours	Mick Coggins mccoggins@googlemail.com	
Children's Society	Wendy Maxfield wendymaxfield1@gmail.com	01536 350084
Choir	Norman Austin 19, Charles Street NN14 6AZ	01536 710258
Church Flowers Team	Christine Richardson c.m.richardson68@gmail.com	07763 407868
Holy Trinity Trust	Linda Saunders <a href="mailto:l.saunders2@btinternet.com">l.saunders2@btinternet.com</a>	07890 108620
Julian Group 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 10.45 am	Janet Clements janetclements1961@gmail.com	01536 507721
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Planned Giving & Gift Aid	David Cooke dc1832@aol.com	93, Connolly Drive NN14 6TN
Rotas	Hilary Read	01536 710866
Sunbeams Pre-School Group (term-time) Thurs 1.45 pm	Ann Chessum	01536 713875
Trinity Discoverers 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun 10.45 am	Zoe Deag zoe.deag@gmail.com	07747 383704
Youth Group	Laurabeth Creasey laurabethcreasey1@gmail.com	07765 436750

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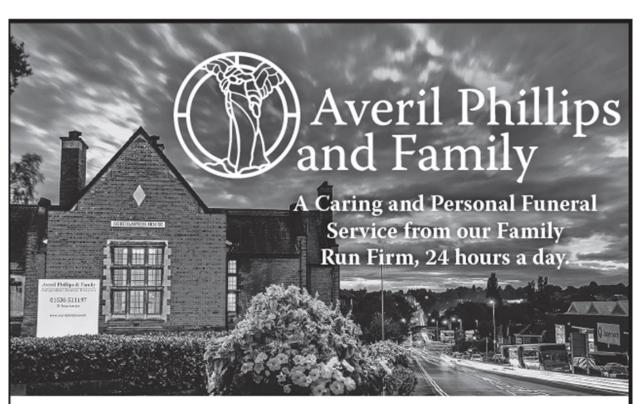
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