



Flag Flying Dates

9th January: Birthday of
The Princess of Wales
20th January: Birthday of
the Duchess of Edinburgh

HALAM NEWS

January 2026

If you would like to contribute to a future edition of Halam News please send your article (as you would like it to be printed) using the details at the bottom of this page by the 25th of the month for inclusion the following month. All content is included at the discretion of the Editor.



Bin Collection Dates

Green (Mon): 12th, 26th
Brown (Fri): 16th
Silver (Mon): 5th, 19th
Teal: No collection this month



Parish Pump



HOWARD GODFREY - 5th October 1950 – 4th November 2025

Very many thanks to all those who have supported me during the last few difficult months of Howard's life and since he died. To Mary and all at St Michael's, to neighbours, friends and all in Halam who have visited, sat with me, sent cards, letters, messages and flowers you have brought me much comfort. A huge thank you.

Howard was brought up on the Family Nursery on Mapperley Plains where he spent a happy childhood and teenage years with his parents Margaret and Harry and surrounded by aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. From school he went to Leeds University where he made friends which as from his earlier years, he kept throughout his life. For over 20 years he taught Housing Finance at Salford University an incomprehensible subject to many but one he made his own and understandable to many of his students and as I have heard from many of his colleagues he was held in great respect.

He had many interests, which sadly for Howard during the last 10 years of his life, were gradually curtailed by the onset and development of Parkinsons. He was a fanatical gardener growing bedding plants not just for our own garden but for friends and neighbours too. He was a keen walker; most holidays and weekends were spent walking. He enjoyed listening to music of all kinds and going to concerts. He had a keen sense of humour and was a master of spoof letters. In retirement he joined U3A and for a while was their treasurer.

Above all Howard was the best Husband, relative and friend. He was always very generous with his time for others, often driving many miles and spending hours on the road to visit and support his family and friends. Howard had deep resources of love and friendship which he gave unconditionally. I was so blessed to have been his wife for over 51 years. **Anne Godfrey**



Life Saving & Defibrillator Training

In support of the Women's Institute's 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' campaign, which aims to increase public confidence and training of CPR and help improve access to defibrillators, Halam WI and Halam Parish Council have joined together to organise a 'Life Saving and Defibrillator demonstration & familiarisation' session. This will be led by the East Midlands Ambulance Service on Wednesday 14 January 2026 at 7pm - 8pm at Halam Village Hall. There will be a demonstration along with a chance to have a go. Places are limited so we request that you contact Sara - halamvillagewi@gmail.com to book.

Wine Tasting

Once again, we had a wonderful and successful wine tasting at the Village Hall on the 29 November 2025. It was attended by over 40 people. Lots of fun was had tasting wines for Christmas. Special thanks to our daughter Meera for helping us to serve the wines. £365 was raised for The Social Action Club charity in Rainworth (we rounded it off to £500). Our thanks once again to those who attended and helped raise the money for a very worthwhile cause. **Sara and Ganesh Subramanian**

Halam Light Switch On & Tractor Run

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Village Hall Christmas Light Switch-On! It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces enjoying the festive atmosphere and admiring the dazzling decorations on the tractors. A special shout-out to Chris Denyer for coordinating the event, Jackie Thornewill for her incredible work decorating the hall, and Fran Critchley for generously donating those delicious Christmas cupcakes.

Catherine Blackburn



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Gingerbread House Competition

Many thanks to the Waggon for putting on such a fantastic community event at their Gingerbread House Competition on Sunday 14th December. The entries were amazing and the competition was judged by Katharine Kessler, editor of the Bramley Newspaper. Congratulations to the winners Lily Mclatchie in the children's category and Fran Critchley in the adults - also congratulations to the children's runners up - Alfie Bust, Jasmine Davies and Lily & Thea Taylor.



Halam WI

Happy New Year from Halam WI! As usual, there is no meeting this month but we are looking forward to welcoming our members to a new year of WI on Tuesday 3rd February at 7:30pm where we look forward to welcoming Halam resident Professor Paul O'Shea for his talk entitled "Science & Medicine - This Time it's Personal" - more information to follow soon. For more information and news from WI please follow us on Facebook and Instagram @HalamWI or email halamvillagewi@gmail.com



Halam School News



December has been a wonderfully busy time for everyone at Halam school.

At the end of November, many families went along to the Late Night Shopping event in Southwell. Choir sang a medley of both traditional and modern songs, making us very proud to watch them representing the school. We had a market stall selling pre-loved Christmas jumpers and reindeer food, as part of our work on the 'Global Neighbours' project.

We all wore Christmas jumpers and had a craft day in school, on 1st December. All children made an assortment of Christmas gifts to bring home to families at the end of the term. On 3rd December, Mrs Speed and Mrs Robson took choir to visit Edingley Care home in the afternoon. Choir sang lots of songs to the residents and were rewarded handsomely with sweets, biscuits and cake. Our Winter Fair took place after school on Friday 5th December. As always, our very dedicated PTFA set up a variety of stalls, all with a Christmas theme, to raise money for school. The fair was well attended and lots of lucky people won lots of prizes.

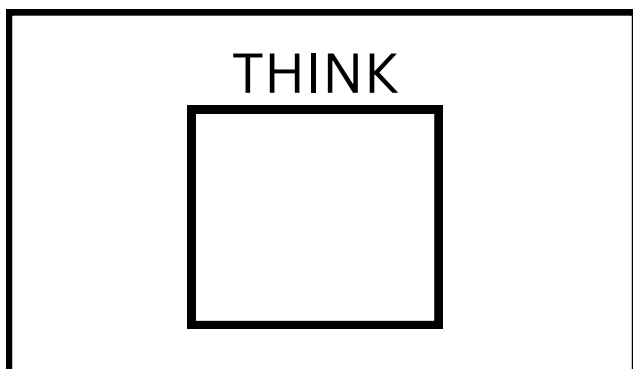
KS1 and FS2 children presented 'Baarmy Bethlehem' on 9th December. They performed both an afternoon and an evening show, both supported by KS2 with singing. A huge thank you to parents for super costumes and for huge attendance. The children really enjoyed their roles and were all superstars.

Grandparents attended 'Carols and Mince Pies' concert on 15th December. We sang a variety of carols, songs from the Christmas production as well as some children showcasing their talents on musical instruments. The following day was our annual Church Service. Oak class led a beautiful service, with readings and carols. Maple class recited a lovely poem and Cherries showed off some seasonal artwork. Thank you to all who attended.

Finally, we ended the term with Christmas dinner and a visit from Santa Claus (who brought every child a beautifully gift wrapped book) - we were thrilled that he managed to fit us in at this very busy time and all children enjoyed Party Day (Miss B. is amazing with the tunes and games!)

Dingbats

Last month: "Noel Noel" / "Last Christmas"





St Michael the Archangel



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Your churchwardens, PCC members, Readers and Rev. Mary wish everyone a happy and peaceful 2026.

GREAT NOTTS TOY APPEAL

Below is the letter received from the Notts Toy Appeal Trustees – many thanks to everyone who donated gifts.

'On behalf of the Great Notts Christmas Toy Appeal Trustees, I want to say a big "Thank You" to St Michael's church for supporting our appeal.

This year over 70 people from our community partners used our service to provide gifts for the disadvantaged children they support. We were able to supply gifts for over 2,200 children to open on Christmas Day.

Please thank all those who have donated gifts, collected in gifts or transported them to our centre. Each year demand for our service increases and we are well aware that there are a lot of choices when it comes to donating and we are grateful that you continue to support our charity. Your kind donations have made a great difference to many families this Christmas. Without you we would not be able to continue this valuable work. We wish you a happy and healthy 2026.'

Bev Lockyer, The Great Notts Christmas Toy Appeal

It was lovely to see so many at our Christmas services, thank you for your generosity. The total donated during the Carol Service and the Crib Service this year is £740.28. This means that we have been able to send £370.14 to Reach Learning Disability and £370.14 to Beaumont House Hospice, a wonderful result, thank you for your generosity.

You may have noticed that the area of the graveyard on the south side of the church, close to the boundary walls, has been cleared of brambles. This was made possible by a generous donation and the PCC hope to find a way of maintaining this old part of our churchyard so that it does not again become as overgrown.

After a very busy December we return to the usual pattern of services in January when the third Sunday will be a Christingle service followed by the opportunity to enjoy a coffee and chat.

Thank you for all your support

January services everyone welcome.

4th January: Second Sunday of Christmas - 11.00am Morning Prayer

11th January: The Baptism of Christ - 11.00am Parish Communion

18th January: Second Sunday of Epiphany - 11.00a.m. Informal – Christingle Service followed by coffee.

25th January: The Conversion of St. Paul - 11.00a.m. Sung Eucharist

Contacts: Priest - Rev. Mary Foden Currie 01623 479838 Wardens – Penni Wells 01636 813491 – Briony Dickinson 01636 812569

Food Bank: There is a collection point in the Church porch. Very many thanks to all who contribute during these very difficult times.

Message from Rev. Mary

Welcome to 2026. Happy New Year! I enjoy starting a new diary – all fresh. So, we step into this new year with all our hopes, fears and expectations. January 6th is the Feast of the Epiphany represented by the wise men travelling to see the Christ child. They signify all nations coming to worship.

'Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek; may we who with the wise men have been drawn to your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, Jesus.'

For our informal service on 18th January, we are celebrating Epiphany with a Christingle service. The orange represents the world and the candle the light of Christ warming our hearts. The tradition began in 1747 in a church in Germany. It was later adopted in Britain by the Children's Society in 1968. The name means 'Christ's Light.' So may this New Year bring peace where there is conflict. Thank you for all you do for our food bank and for one another. Every blessing, Rev. Mary





Report for Halam News: Halam Parish Council Meeting - 7.30pm on Thursday 11th December 2025 held at Halam Village Hall



Please Note: Official parish council minutes will be available after they have been approved at the next parish council meeting. Scan the QR code to link to the website.

Present: Chris Denyer (in the Chair), Simon Bust, Andrew Paris, Ganesh Subramanian and Charlie Wright

Apologies: Catherine Blackburn and Chris Bevans

Matters from Previous Meeting

Andrew Paris expressed his surprise at the previous parish meeting's planning decision to support a "planning in principle" application. He stated that all previous in principle and outline applications had been rejected because of lack of information, in particular lack of detail. He said that he thought that this had become a policy of the parish council. The Chair replied that this was not a formal policy and that each application was judged on its own merit.

Open Meeting

A parishioner also expressed the view that they thought that rejecting applications without full details had been a policy of the parish council in the past. They also stated that they felt that if this particular application in the open countryside, outside of the built-up area of the village, went ahead, then it could set a precedent for other potential developments outside of the village. The Chair explained that the parish council had no firm policies regarding planning, and that each application was decided individually.

Update from District Councillor

Cllr Penny Rainbow told the meeting that the application in principle for two new dwellings on Radley Road would be going to the Planning Committee, as the proposal represented a departure from the district council's plan.

She also stated that there was an application pending for 70 houses off Allenby Road (on the Halam Hill side), and she felt that this was likely to be passed.

The district council was currently setting its 2006-27 budget, likely to be the last before the implementation of the unitary authority scheme. The final scheme will be agreed in the New Year.

The district's food waste collection scheme is progressing and is like to start in the first quarter of 2026.

Cllr Rainbow informed the meeting that there are currently 34 complaints of breach of the Code of Conduct being investigated by the monitoring officer – these are complaints against both district and parish councils/councillors. Central government are looking at introducing more strict sanction against councillors.

Finance - agreed to pay:

1. flyers for the harvest tea
2. village hall cleaners
3. cost of the Christmas tree and lights
4. mince pies, mulled wine etc. for the tractor run event
5. replacement light in the male toilets
6. village hall fire safety check

After discussion, it was resolved unanimously to keep the village precept the same as last year at £8,000. The precept is the amount of money which goes directly to the parish council. It is added to householders' council tax bills across the parish. It has remained at £8,000 for the last two years, which means a real terms reduction in cost to the village.

Village Hall

Ongoing work includes weeding the carpark and refreshing the village planters. The Christmas tree and decorations will be taken down very early in January.

It was agreed that the light fitting in the female toilets should be changed to match the new one in the male toilets.

Clerk will obtain quotes for the January meeting for the redecoration throughout of the hall interior.

Clerk is getting costings for legionella testing, and the water lead testing is in hand.

The Events Team will be asked to see to the clutter that has accumulated in the committee room/store room.

Village Christmas Tree Lights Switch On/Tractor Run

The event was a very happy, inclusive free event that all the village could enjoy. It was well attended, and all there seemed to enjoy the mince pies and mulled wine. Thank you to all involved, and a special thanks to Jax Thornewill for decorating the village hall – it looked most festive. Thank you also to Fran Critchley for the wonderful Christmas cupcakes, and to Don & Ann Reid for the loan of the wine glasses.

Allotments: Nothing further to report this month.



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Roads & Hedges

Replacement finger-post at the cross roads – the possibility of having an old-fashioned style finger-post is being investigated. Further information and costings are required.

Lengthsman Scheme

There is a small amount of funding left in this year's budget. The firm that cleared the weeds under the railings will be approached to see if this money can be put to removing some of the moss and weeds from pavements/gutters in the village. It was agreed to apply for Lengthsman funding again for the coming year. The HR Committee to look at the costs and implications of employing our own Lengthsman rather than using contractors.

Biodiversity

This needs reviewing annually at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May 2026. Chris Denyer to circulate suggested biodiversity actions to form an overall biodiversity action plan for the parish council.

Planning

1 Radley Terrace, Radley Road: Single storey side extension and replacement wall
Agreed unanimously to support the application.

Planning Decisions: None this month

Date of next meeting

Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

Members of the public are reminded that they are welcome to attend any parish council meeting to find out about the work of the council. There is an opportunity to raise issues with the parish council at the meeting during the open part of the meeting.



District Cllrs Karen Roberts and Peter Harris Report for December 2025

Details are on the Council's website - see The Council - Calendar of Meetings for links to each of the papers and reports. There have been few meetings since our last report in November



December is another month with only one meeting of the Council and Planning Committee. The next Council meeting will be held later this month. In January there will be a meeting of the Policy and Performance Improvement Committee on which Karen Roberts sits. It will have a presentation from Cllr Claire Penny on her view of sustainable economic development in the District. At the time of writing, no specific questions for her have been published, but an up to date summary can be had at <https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/documents/s25002/12.01.26%20-%20PPIC%20Attendance%20by%20Cllr.%20Claire%20Penny.pdf>

At the same meeting there will be a debate on a report with recommendations on life chances for girls. Again, the full report is found at <https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/documents/s25003/12.01.26%20-%20Life%20Chances%20for%20Girls%20Report.pdf>

Any questions or queries about this should be directed to Karen.

Following Peter's question in September relating to the allocation of Government funds to support bus service infrastructure in Southwell and the villages, there still has not been a full response from the Leader of the Council - who has a key role on the East Midlands Mayor's scrutiny. At the December meeting Peter asked about how the Mayor is challenging the Government's decision to end electrification of the Midlands Main Line from Nottingham to London after major expenditure on the bridges to allow it has already taken place. Having faster electric trains will significantly improve choice for residents here - and its very recent decision to 'suspend' the improvements of the line to Birmingham in the Midlands Hub that is now entirely focussed on west of Birmingham do not bode well for the Government's interest in the East Midlands transport system. No full response was made but a written answer is expected.

The Council agreed to fly the Union Flag outside Castle House every day except when other occasions that warrant flying a different flag - such as flying the Nottinghamshire flag

The ending of the District and County Councils in 2028 has taken a huge amount of officer time and energy. Despite being opposed by the majority of residents, the Government insisted that a scheme was put forward last month. The new Councils will be decided by the Government from a range of options but most of which split the county into two halves, north and south. Southwell and the village's representation and voice will be made by one or possibly two councillors with a large number of villages and the town to support. At present there are four. Again, this will be decided by the Government and election to this post[s] will be in 2027. Karen and Peter have challenged the huge costs of this - and the likelihood of a deterioration in service as a consequence too.

The Government seems keen to increase centralisation with decisions taken in Whitehall and by the East Midlands Mayor rather than allowing decisions that affect residents at the closest to the people in the villages and towns.

Peter Harris and Karen Roberts