



HUNCOTE VILLAGE NEWS

ISSUE 86 – CHRISTMAS 2024

BROUGHT TO YOU BY HUNCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Also available on our website's Newsletters page - <https://www.huncote-pc.gov.uk/latest-newsletter.html>



Preparing your Council's budget for 2025/26

The parish council is currently reviewing its budget requirements for 2025/26, and would like to know about any ideas you may have for future projects for the village.

Is there something that you think the village needs? e.g. play equipment, facilities, events, activities?

We will need to obtain quotes for each project, so the sooner you let us know, the more seriously we can consider it.

All suggestions must be submitted to the Clerk or a Councillor no later than the parish council meeting on Thursday 9th January 2025.

A Christmas message from St James' Church

A warm welcome to our services and other events:

- Village Carol Service at Red Lion 7 pm, Friday 20 December.
- Carols & Crib Service 3 pm, Sunday 22 December - with a visit from Father Christmas, followed by refreshments in the Church Rooms.



- Christmas Eve Sung Mass with Carols 8 pm, Tuesday 24 December.



- Christmas Day Mass with Carols 9 am, 25 December.
- Last Thanksgiving Mass of 2024 9 am, Sunday 29 December.
- New Year Thanksgiving Mass of 2025 9 am, Epiphany Sunday 5 January.

Fr. Andrew and Members of St James Church would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year. Thank you for all your support in the past year to aid the maintenance of our buildings and also for your immense generosity to those less fortunate. God bless you all and you are all so lovely.

Wishing Everyone in Huncote a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As you will soon be putting the Christmas tree up in your houses (if you haven't already), we would like to remind you not to leave presents under the tree, where they can be seen from the front window, as burglars love window shopping.

Remember to keep your doors and windows locked, to prevent possible burglaries and the loss of any treasured items which might have been received or are intended to be gifted for Christmas. You're far better to be safe than sorry.

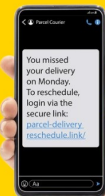
In the run up to Christmas when you will be out Christmas shopping please be extra vigilant and leave shopping out of sight in the boot of your car with the receipts removed from bags. Remember: if you leave it on show – expect it to go!

For advice on how to protect your home this Christmas see <https://www.leics.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>.

If you carry tools in a van for work we would strongly advise you to empty your van every night and lock your tools away. Always ensure your vehicle is locked when you leave it and whenever possible parked with the back doors up to a wall. Post coding your power tools and equipment also acts as a deterrent.



NEVER CLICK A TEXT LINK ABOUT A MISSED DELIVERY IT'S A GIFT TO A CRIMINAL



Never click on a link received via a text about a delivery, this could be a scam. Stop and think, you shouldn't have to pay a fee for a missed delivery. If you're unsure and you think you have a package arriving, remain vigilant and check delivery notifications very carefully to ensure they are genuine.

Check what you've ordered online and track your parcel through the websites of legitimate delivery companies.

If you have been a victim of fraud, please report to us on <https://www.leics.police.uk/ro/report/fo/v2/report-fraud-bribery-corruption/>.

You can also report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, or via [actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

Christmas greetings from Huncote Methodist Church

Dear Friends

I wonder if you can remember any gift that you were given last Christmas? I can remember one or two but not all of them.

What was the first Christmas gift and when was it given? The shepherds with a sheep just a few hours after the birth; the magi with their gold, frankincense and myrrh after months of travelling to worship the king; or was it the gift of a stable for the birth. There is so much myth surrounding the events of the birth. Did the shepherds bring a lamb, were there three wise men, did Mary travel on a donkey and what was the manger really like? When we consider the birth of Jesus at Christmas time, we need to search for the truth which has become surrounded with myth.

Christians believe that the truth about Christmas is that Jesus was the first Christmas gift. God gave Jesus to the world to be our Emmanuel – God with us! The best gift that we receive is usually the one that we talk about the most, or even the one that we remember the most. As we receive Christ afresh into our hearts may we be ready to share this gift with others. Christ is for all year not just for Christmas.

Happy and blessed Christmas to you all,

Rev'd Joy Langford – Huncote Methodist Church

PS. If you would like to meet me why not come to the church carol service 6pm of Christmas Eve.

Parish Councillor vacancy

Huncote Parish Council currently has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor following the resignation of Cllr Liam McEntee.

We would like to thank Mr McEntee for his contributions to the Council over his 5 years as a Parish Councillor.

Parish Councillors are both elected and/or co-opted to the council to represent the interests and expectations of all parishioners who live and work within the Huncote parish boundary. Parish Councillors have three main components to their role.

Decision Making –

Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.

Monitoring – Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.

Getting involved locally - as local representatives, Councillors have responsibilities towards their parishioners and local organisations. These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the Councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available, and may include:

- Attending meetings of local organisations
- Attending meetings of bodies affecting the wider community
- Taking up issues on behalf of members of the public
- Running a surgery for residents to bring up issues
- Working with other organisations to deal with local issues and concerns

If you would like to learn more about Parish Council's, what is involved as a parish councillor or if you wish to become a parish councillor and help support Huncote and drive the community forward, then please speak to any of the existing Councillors or contact the Clerk and they will be happy to speak with you.

Alternatively, more information can be found in the [About Your Council](#) section of our website.



Households urged to check eligibility for winter support schemes

[From 1 November, households in England and Wales receiving certain benefits including Pension Credit could be eligible for extra money to help keep warm during the cold weather until the end of March 2025.](#)

The Department for Work and Pensions' Cold Weather Payments are an automatic bank top-up of £25, triggered to be paid to eligible households when the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, zero degrees Celsius or below for seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to an eligible person's postcode.

The £25 payments will be paid automatically to households receiving certain benefits including, Pension Credit, Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Universal Credit and Support for Mortgage Interest. Councils are encouraged to share this information as appropriate.

Further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment/eligibility>

Check eligibility:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-if-youre-eligible-for-warm-home-discount>

Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange decision delayed into new year - Respond now

There is still time for Interested Parties to comment on the additional information requested from the Applicant by the Secretary of State for Transport on the development consent order for the HNRFI proposals.

The Secretary of State has explained she has extended the statutory decision deadline for her formal response until **10 March 2025**, as she is presently minded to refuse the application, but has given the developers until **10 December 2024** to provide answers to various questions and enable them to provide more information on the project.

Anyone can then review the documents on the Government's National Infrastructure Project Planning website (<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/TR050007>) and those registered as an interested party in the development can respond before the revised deadline of **31 January 2025**.



Don't forget to submit Self Assessment tax returns

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is [reminding anyone who needs to complete a Self Assessment tax return for the first time to cover the 2023 to 2024 tax year](#) to do so.

[Further information can be found on GOV.UK](#) and anyone who is unsure if they need to file Self Assessment can use the [free online tool on GOV.UK to check](#).

HMRC has a wide range of resources to help customers register for Self Assessment, including [video tutorials on YouTube](#) and [help and support on GOV.UK](#).

The deadlines for tax returns for the 2023 to 2024 tax year was 31 October for paper returns, although online returns can be submitted until 31 January.

How to contact your local Councillors

Should you have an issue to raise or a question about something going on in your community that you would like answers to, please don't hesitate to contact the Clerk or one of your local Councillors for help, support and advice.

Cllr ALEC KNIGHT (Chairman) - Alec.Knight@huncote-pc.gov.uk;

Cllr JILL CHEESMAN - Jill.Cheesman@huncote-pc.gov.uk;

Cllr ROY BAILEY - (0116) 286 6773 or rbailey.hpc@gmail.com;

Cllr MARK INGHAM - Mark.Ingham@huncote-pc.gov.uk;

Cllr KEITH CLARKE - Keith.Clarke@huncote-pc.gov.uk;

Cllr JON WELLS - Jon.Wells@huncote-pc.gov.uk;

Cllr SUE DICKETTS - Sue.Dicketts@huncote-pc.gov.uk.

1x PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Cllr MAGGIE WRIGHT (County Councillor) - 07815 450 031 or maggie.wright@leics.gov.uk;

Cllr MAGGIE WRIGHT (District Councillor) - (01455) 888 306 or cldr.m.wright@blaby.gov.uk;

Contact the PARISH CLERK (STUART BACON) on (01455) 844 539, 07875 291 366

or clerk@huncote-pc.gov.uk. Find us on the web at www.huncote-pc.gov.uk.

Would you like to know more about what is happening locally? Have you been keeping up to date with the Parish Council and what's happening in the village on social media? Why not look us up and 'Like' / 'Follow' us to be kept up to date with the latest news and info from the Parish Council and links to other helpful, informative and important news from our partners.



Facebook - [facebook.com/HuncoteParishCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/HuncoteParishCouncil)

Facebook - [facebook.com/Huncote](https://www.facebook.com/Huncote)

Instagram - [HuncoteParishCouncil](https://www.instagram.com/HuncoteParishCouncil) X (Twitter) - [@HuncotePC](https://twitter.com/HuncotePC)