

THE RENHOLD MAGAZINE

September 2026





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EDITORIAL SEPTEMBER 2026 AMANDA QUINCE

My abiding memory of summer 2026 is of Shuk, a Borough Council employee, who collected fifteen bags of rubbish from the Renhold turn to the Go Outdoors roundabout on the hottest day of the year. Our heartfelt thanks also go to another unsung hero, Claudia Dietz, who has given us such wonderful planning advice over the years as she leaves Renhold for pastures new.

As the children return to school and Parish life settles back to its familiar rhythm, we have to bid a sad farewell to the extraordinarily talented Lisa Larham who has led our village school with such energy, dynamism and brilliance. We wish her well as she approaches the next chapter of her life.

As we say goodbye to Lisa and Claudia, we also warmly welcome a new Headteacher and a new vicar to the Parish. We wish them both the very best of luck as they take up their new roles and we hope that they will both be very happy here. You will hear more about them both in our next edition.

We have thrown a spotlight on three very special people in this edition: Brenda Pell, a much-loved pillar of our community, who leaves footprints in the hearts of family, friends and legions of Renhold primary school children. Fiona Barker, who died tragically so young, and yet whose legacy lives on in a charity which shines so brightly

through her sister, Renhold resident Claire, and Andy Gilbert, who combines poetry, comedy and storytelling to create performances that are lively, entertaining and very different!

Our front cover this month, generously supplied by Henry Ransby and Sarah Flynn, links to the wonderful wildlife talk given by Tony Ploszjaski in June, who so eloquently explained that the real superheroes are not to be found in comic books but in our hedgerows, fields, ponds and gardens. Their special powers of adaptation to their environment are truly extraordinary.

It is great to see that our Parish organisations are going from strength to strength with new members recruited for the WI, a varied programme from Beetle Drive to Patronal Festival at All Saints, and open air services and afternoon tea at the Chapel. Please also remember to contact the Village Hall if you would like to join their team as they are looking for help and support too.

We are always looking out for new ideas and fresh content and, to that end, we have introduced a new puzzle page. Please let us know if you would like to take up this challenge and produce monthly puzzles for us, or if you have any other ideas that would help to boost our magazine's content. Enjoy!

SEPTEMBER 2026 NOTABLE DATES AND EVENTS

School Dates Autumn Term 1st September - 18th December
 Half - Term 26th October - 30th October
 Christmas Break 19th December - 3rd January

Date	Event	Time	Location
3rd September	WI	19:00	Renhold Village Hall
10th September	Parish Council Meeting	19:00	Renhold Village Hall
12th September	Pop-Up Cafe	10:00	Chapter House
14th September	Creative Club	19:00	Chapter House
16th September	Messy Church	15:30	All Saints' Church
18th September	Memory Café	11:30	Chapel
19th September	Churchyard Working Group	90:30	All Saints' Church
21st September	Donut Club (12-14)	18:00	All Saints' Church
Every Thursday	Renhold Clangers	19:00	All Saints' Church

Please be aware that all items for inclusion in the magazine – articles, notices of events and reports on activities need to be with the Editorial Team by the 8th of the month at the latest. We cannot guarantee inclusion of any content received after 6:00pm on Deadline Day.

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Photo on the front cover courtesy of Sarah Flynn and Henry Ransby



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POETRY RENHOLD PLEASE ANDY GILBERT

I was fortunate enough to visit the BEDFRINGE Festival to see the self-proclaimed, tongue-in-cheek comedy performer and spoken word artist Andy Gilbert. His *Poems from the Daily Mail* was a hilarious, comedic spoken word show inspired by real newspaper headlines. This satirical masterclass deservedly won Best Spoken Word Show at the Shaftesbury Fringe. You can read his entertaining *NHS Poem below*.

I need to see the doctor
But I've got no bloody chance
Because you have to plan your
illness
Three months in advance

It's an answering machine, again
That says I'm waiting in a queue
But I won't get to see the doctor
When I'm number forty-two

I shouldn't have to queue, at my age
I should be like Holly and Phil
Not waiting in a line
With those who aren't that ill

So, I turned to Doctor Google
I hope Doctor Google isn't right
For Doctor Google says I'm dying
And I won't survive the night

I been on lots of websites
And my prognosis isn't super
They'll put me on a waiting list
I should have gone with BUPA

So, I became my own doctor
I've vacuumed wax out of my ear
And shoved a wine cork up my
bottom
When I caught diarrhoea

Once, I lay on the kitchen table
Praying that I didn't slip
As I used a Black and Decker
To replace my dodgy hip

I tried to examine my prostate
But I needed much more lube
It looked so very easy
When I saw it on YouTube

I've operated on my haemorrhoids
Now my bottom is a mess
God save my throbbing rectum
And God save the NHS

"The UK's Number One Poetry Teacher"



QUICK FIRE Q & A WITH ANDY GILBERT

Which poet or comic has had the greatest influence on you?

Comedically, Rik Mayall has had the most influence on me. I have got a picture of him hanging on my lounge wall with a ticket stub from when I first saw him live in 1982. Performing at the Rik Mayall comedy festival the last two years was really beautiful. Poetically, I am inspired by Pam Ayres, Roger McGough and Wendy Cope. The lyrics of Ian Dury are also pure poetry and have been a big influence on me.

How did the idea of describing yourself as the UK's number one poetry teacher come to you?

I know there are lots of technical aspects and rules to poetry in terms of structure, and there is a brilliant book by Stephen Fry called 'The Ode Less Travelled' to explain all this. I thought it would be funny to claim to be the best at something in which there was no formal ranking system. I thought it would either amuse or annoy people, and it turns out it has done both.

How did winning the best-spoken word show at the Shaftesbury Fringe enhance your career?

It was nice to win an award, especially as it was voted for by the public. It is useful to put on posters and include in future show descriptions, but awards don't mean you are really the best. I see lots of comedy, theatre and music shows at the festivals I go to. I am amazed at the amount of talent there is out

there. I can't afford to go to the Edinburgh Festival, but I have performed at festivals in Leicester, Cambridge, Droitwich, Durham, Derby, Buxton Shaftesbury and Bedford. I can honestly recommend them all. I can see four or five high-quality shows for the price of one ticket to see a comedian with a higher profile. I tell everyone to go to fringe festivals. We don't put our best performers on the telly, in my view.

What advice would you give to an aspiring poet?

Advice I would give to anyone who writes poetry is that there is no such thing as a bad poem. If you enjoyed writing it and somebody enjoyed reading it, then it is a good poem. There is no need to force yourself to write. Poetry is where your heart gets a voice. Your heart will tell you when to pick up the pen. I also think to write poetry you need to read lots of poetry. All different poets and styles will give different aspects to your own inspiration.

What is your favourite poem and why?

I love poetry and choosing a favourite poem is impossible, so please forgive me for choosing a few. 'This be the verse' by Phillip Larkin - a real poetic punch in the face. 'Men and their boring arguments' by Wendy Cope - very funny and very true. 'You're the why' by Ian Dury - you'll thank me for bringing this to your attention. Love poetry of the highest order.

Q & A (continued)

What challenges did you face when putting your show together?

I enjoy writing so I don't see it as a challenge as such. Getting the timing right is important as, at many festivals, someone will be performing in that space after you. I would want to not take their time or delay them from setting their equipment up. Most festival slots are one hour so I try and get this aspect spot on. Audience members might be heading off to another show straight after seeing me and it's important not to inconvenience them. A one-hour show should be exactly that and deciding what to leave out can be tough.

What is it about poetry which makes you feel confident?

I am not a very confident person, and if you put your work in the public domain it can be a worry at times. I have to tell myself that poetry/comedy are subjective. I suppose when people say that they have enjoyed my work; it gives me the confidence to keep going.

At what life stage did you commit to your current stage persona?

I have been performing since 2019 with my stage persona of a sincere but deluded poetry teacher. I am 62 years old now. But that is a double bluff really because I really am 'The UK's number one poetry teacher'. Honest. Check the national poetry teacher rankings, if you don't believe me.

What pleases you most about live performance and does anxiety play any role in your stagecraft?

I really enjoy making people laugh and meeting people at my performances. I think anxiety and nerves affect every performer, but I worked out the physical symptoms of anxiety were the same as excitement. Now I tell myself it is excitement that I am feeling as I can't wait to get out there. This works for me and I think is true. I always ensure that any promotion for my show includes 'Strong language and contextual vulgarity' because I fully accept my work isn't for everyone. I like people to know the kind of poetry I will be performing.



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SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

Travel from church to church – by bike, by car, on foot

Clock up as many churches as you can, (often with a quick look inside, as many are fascinating) any time of day – but churches are generally open between 9:00am and 5:00pm

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Contact Jill Barrell 01234 870461 for further details and sponsorship form.



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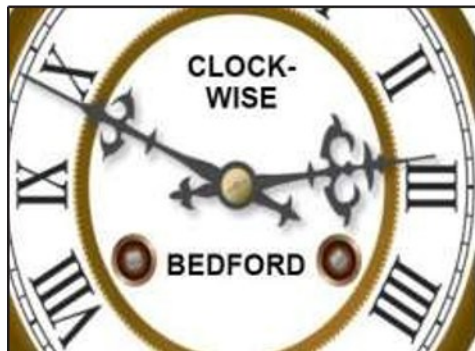
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RICHARD COOK WRAP UP CAMPAIGN

We wondered if you, your family or friends had coats that you no longer wear or need?

These preloved coats can make a real difference to vulnerable families and the homeless, during this winter.

Last year we collected over 100 coats for children and adults from the collection box at Renhold Primary School.

Wrap Up is a project run nationally by Rotary, and our local Bedford Rotary clubs have combined to run it in Bedfordshire. It's a project to help local charities get coats to those who desperately need warm clothing. They need warm, preferably waterproof coats for men, women and children. It's important the coats are clean and functioning (i.e. zips work, or there are buttons).

Hope Works has especially asked for "Large Coats" (or even bigger sizes) to enable people to get a few layers of clothing underneath.

Our plan is to distribute the coats to local charities in late November and December. The charity WRAP UP



helps the homeless (Hope Works), women and children in the local refuges (Bedford Women's Centre and Faces), and those severely impacted by the cost of living crisis.

If you have any coats you wish to donate, we will be collecting them in large "Wrap Up" Collection boxes at Renhold VC Primary School and All Saints' Church, during September and October.

Many thanks for your help with this crucial project.

RENHOLD THROUGH THE AGES

**All Saints' Church
Patronal Festival**

**Saturday 31st October
10:00am – 4:00pm**

An Open Day in Renhold Church – exhibiting photographs and memorabilia, featuring snippets of Parish and Church history.

More details next month – but please save these dates.

**Sunday 1st November,
All Saints' Day**

Our Patronal Day – rather like a birthday! It will mark 797 years from the time of the first Vicar (Geoffrey de Ranhal), noted on the Vicars' board.

If you have old photos or information that may be of interest please contact Jill Barrell (jbarrell251@gmail.com 01234 870461), or one of the Churchwardens.

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RENHOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL MAKES HISTORY

Exciting news! Renhold Primary has been officially granted LEAF Demonstration Bronze Level Standard. They are the first school in the whole of Bedfordshire to receive this prestigious recognition.

Who is LEAF and What Do They Do?

LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) is a charity that promotes and supports more sustainable farming, helping to create a resilient food and farming system for future generations. LEAF works closely with farmers, growers & partners across the UK and internationally, including those recognised through **LEAF Marque**, LEAF's environmental assurance system for more sustainably farmed food. Through the network, they translate real farming practice into meaningful learning experiences for schools.

Why Demonstration Schools Matter

The Demonstration School programme helps schools to recognise and build on what is

already happening, make clearer links between learning across subjects and activities, and use food and farming as purposeful context for learning. It brings good practice together in a more visible and coherent way, without adding new initiatives or expectations.

Experiential Learning

At the heart of the programme is experiential learning. At LEAF, this means learning that connects pupils with real people, places, and practices. These experiences help pupils to understand where food comes from, explore how farming choices affect the environment, and see sustainability as something lived rather than abstract.

What Do Renhold Pupils Do Now?

- * Be proud of your achievement
- * Be ambassadors
- * Look at food packaging to check for LEAF logo
- * Build on your work at school
- * Celebrate and share your success.



PUZZLE HUB

1. Can you match these European capital cities to their countries?

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Albania | A. Belgrade |
| 2. Belarus | B. Ljubljana |
| 3. Bulgaria | C. Minsk |
| 4. Cyprus | D. Nicosia |
| 5. Estonia | E. Nuuk |
| 6. Greenland | F. Sofia |
| 7. Lithuania | G. Tallinn |
| 8. Malta | H. Tirana |
| 9. Serbia | I. Valetta |
| 10. Slovenia | J. Vilnius |

2. Can you make 83 using multiply, subtract and add and all of these numbers once? 25, 9, 7, 5 and 2



3. How many words of four letters or more can you make from RENHOLD? Your target is 40!

4. Summer Quiz

- Which saint's day on July 15th is said to predict the weather for the next 40 days?
- Which famous landmark building grows 6 inches taller in the summer?
- Whose summer residence is Castel Gandolfo in Italy?
- What summertime outdoor game was inspired by an empty pie tin?
- Which two weather conditions are needed for a summer thunderstorm?
- What is the first well known line of Sonnet 18 by Shakespeare?
- Where was the first Butlin's holiday camp in 1936?
- In which Welsh county is the National Trust coastal path from Amroth – St Dogmaels?
- In which Gershwin musical would you find the song "Summertime"?
- What caused 1816 to be known as the year without a summer?

1 St. Swithun 2 Eiffel Tower 3 The Pope 4 Frisbee 5 Moisture and rapidly warming air 6 Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? 7 Skagness 8 Pembrokeeshire 9 Porgy & Bess 10 Massive volcanic eruption in Indonesia

4) Summer Quiz Solutions
3) Target 40

Puzzle hub solutions
1) Solution 14 2C 3F 4D 5G 6E 7J 8I 9A 10B
0) Solution 25 - 7 = 18
18 x 5 = 90
90 + 2 = 92
92 - 9 = 83

RENHOLD PARISH CLUBS

Group	Contact	Tel.	Day	Time	Place
Bridge Club - No Fear	David Israel	078166685798	Every Monday and Friday	9:45 am 1:00 pm	St. Mark's Church-Brickhill
Chapel Coffee Morning	Albert Browning	01234772689	2nd Tuesday	10:00 am 12:00 pm	Renhold Chapel
Creative Club	Teresa Trangmar	07788402441	2nd Monday	7:30 pm 9:00 pm	Chapter House
Dance Classes	Sarah Higgins	Sarahhiggins18@yahoo.com	Saturday	9:00 am 10:30am	Renhold Village Hall
KT Yoga	Katy	0798552032	Every Thursday	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Renhold Village Hall
Luncheon Club	Yvonne Potter	01234771495	2nd Wednesday	12:30 pm	Call for information
Mini Athletics	Ayrton Armstrong	07985 520232	Every Sunday	9:00 am 11:30 am	Renhold Village Hall
Pudding Club for Carers	Anne Grant	01234771811	1st Tuesday	2:00 pm 3:30 pm	4, Brookside
Reading Group	Pauline Capell	01234771858	1st Friday	4:00 pm	1 Church Close
Renhold Pre-school Group	Samantha-Grummit	01234771724	Term time	9:00 am 3:30 pm	Renhold School
Stitchers	Jackie Croot	01234870271	3rd Thursday	10:30 12:30 pm	Chapter House
Table Tennis	Ian Smith	07989470093	Monday Wednesday Friday	1:30 pm 10:30 am 10:30 am	Church Lane Community Centre
Tang Soo Do	David Roughly	07591266614	Monday	6:30 pm 8:00 pm	Renhold Village Hall
Total Warrior Kickboxing	Dan Jackson	07450235946	Tuesday	5:45 pm 8:15 pm	Renhold Village Hall
Yarn Craft Group	Marion Sutton	01234217647	Alternate Fridays	10:00 am 12:30 pm	Wilden Village Hall

THE FIONA BARKER MEMORIAL FUND IN SUPPORT OF COUNTRYSIDE LEARNING

In September 2006 my sister, Fiona, was tragically killed in a car accident just three weeks before her wedding to Anthony.

Fiona was a keen horsewoman and passionate about the countryside and she was a great supporter of the Charity, Countryside Learning. My parents, Ann and Gordon Barker, together with Anthony felt it would be fitting to establish a Memorial Fund in Fiona's name.

The Charity's mission is to educate, inform and inspire children, parents and teachers, so they can enjoy and appreciate the countryside while having a greater understanding of the wide range of issues surrounding it.

The Charity facilitates countryside visits for primary schools. Not only do these visits enhance learning in school and the knowledge of countryside careers, but they increase teacher confidence in outside learning.

I am extremely proud to be a Trustee of a Charity where 97p in every pound donated goes directly to its work with children. The statistics on the Charity's impact speak for themselves. Last year 21,000 children from 401 schools visited 42 venues. 70% of pupils who took part were from urban areas, and 42% of the children were from schools with above average (25%) free school meals.



This is a small Charity with a big impact. Fiona's Fund has enabled the Charity to establish three Countryside Classroom Days; one on the Hatfield Park Estate in Hertfordshire; one on the Cranborne Estate in Dorset and the third at Chiddingstone Castle in Kent. This has given Countryside Learning an opportunity to promote its work to a wider audience.

The Fund also recently received a grant from the Gale Family Charity Trust, for the Southill Estate to hold an Estate Day for school children from Biggleswade and Sandy. Over 100 children attended and they were given various talks and activities.

To mark the 20th anniversary of the Fund we will be holding a small event in London in December. To gain an insight into the wonderful work of this small Charity you may like to watch a short video on the Charity's website <https://www.countrysidelearning.org/about-use>

Claire Barker, Renhold,
Registered Charity No. 327091

NORTH BEDS RAMBLERS' WALKS

Please note change of start time for afternoon walks, Summer start 13:30
Come and join us. We walk every Saturday afternoon approx. 6 miles and twice a month in the morning for approx. 12 miles. Or try our "Ramble" on first Saturday morning each month slightly shorter, slower pace.
For further details please contact:- Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729
Facebook; North Beds Ramblers. For our latest walks programme visit - <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire>

September 5 th am	"Ramble" Mowsbury Park	4.5 miles
5 th pm	Mowsbury Park via Renhold, Birthday walk No 9 🎂🎂🎂🎂	7 miles
September 12 th am	Riseley	11 miles
12 th pm	Stagsden	6 miles
September 19 th pm	Rowney Warren	7 miles
September 26 th am pm	Yardley Hastings	6 miles

RENHOLD WI

Renhold WI enjoyed a wonderful summer social evening at The Polhill Arms, where members were delighted to welcome lots of new ladies along to join the fun. The evening was filled with games, laughter, great conversation and, of course, a few drinks, making it a relaxed and enjoyable way to spend a summer's evening. It was fantastic to see so many new faces, and we hope to welcome them back again soon.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 3rd September** at the Village Hall, when **Martin Roberts** will be joining us to discuss all things gardening. Whether you're an experienced gardener or just starting out, it promises to be an interesting and informative evening. New members and visitors are always very welcome.

RENHOLD MEMORY CAFE

If you are affected by memory loss, our monthly Memory Cafe is a safe and supportive place to meet socially with others, over a cake and a cuppa, and to join in activities if you wish.

We also reserve a separate table for carers, within full view of the people they support, where they can relax and exchange information.

Just turn up at Renhold Baptist Chapel in Woodfield Lane MK41 0LH

on the third Friday of the month at 11.00am. The venue is suitable for wheelchairs, and some parking is available right outside.

Our next meeting dates will be on Friday 18th September and Friday 16th October.

For more information please contact Teresa Moon at teresa.moon@tibbsdementia.co.uk or text 07930 999573.

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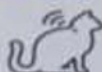
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Nurse Home Visit



Pet Sitting



Microchipping



Pet Taxi



Dog Walking



Website

INCREDIBLE FACTS ABOUT RENHOLD WILDLIFE

Yellow Archangel

The seeds of this flower are attractive to ants who disperse them.



Orange Tip Butterfly

Female Orange Tips can 'taste' with their feet to check whether the host plants for their eggs (and subsequent caterpillars) contain the required mix of mustard oils.



Hummingbird Hawk Moth

This day-flying moth flaps its wings 80 times a second, so fast that it creates a buzzing sound. They can hover and fly backwards like a real hummingbird.

Vapourer Moth Caterpillar

The exotic appearance of this caterpillar is intended to ward off predators. When it pupates, it sheds its spines but recycles them in its cocoon as additional protection against predators.



Wren

One of our smallest birds, wrens have a song that is louder than a motorised lawn mower (90 dB). Males build between six and twelve nests, leaving it to the female to choose the best one.



Bee Orchid

The flowers have developed to look like a bee and their scent mimics female bee pheromones. Male bees are attracted to 'mate' with the flowers and in doing so spread the pollen from plant to plant. They are the county flower of Bedfordshire.



INCREDIBLE FACTS ABOUT RENHOLD WILDLIFE



Barn Owl

Barn Owls are found on every continent except Antarctica. As well as having exceptional hearing and vision for hunting, their eyes can also spot the ultraviolet light emitted by rodents' urine.



Common Hawker Dragonfly

Common Hawkers can fly backwards or even upside down. They have five eyes, including three used as simple stabilisers.

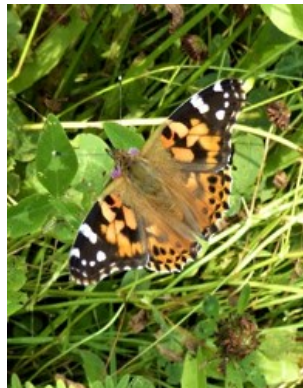
Kingfisher

Kingfishers have a transparent third eyelid that they can deploy like a pair of goggles when they dive into the water to catch fish.



Painted Lady Butterfly

Painted Lady butterflies undertake a nine thousand mile multi-generational migration from Africa to the Arctic each year, involving up to ten successive breeding cycles. They are the world's most widespread butterfly, found everywhere except Australia and the Antarctic. They have been numerous in Renhold this summer.



Photos and compendium supplied by Tony Ploszajski from his Wildlife Talk at All Saints' Church Renhold

A TRIBUTE TO BRENDA PELL



Brenda sadly passed away on July 20th at Bedford Hospital

Brenda was perhaps best known in the village for the 28 years that she worked at Renhold Lower School.

Being with the children gave her a great deal of pleasure. Even after retiring, she continued to help the children with their reading every Monday. Many former pupils still fondly remember Mrs Pell looking after them at lunchtime, giving them extra special care and attention whenever they were upset and encouraging them to read for pleasure; a joy that would last them a lifetime.

Brenda was a large part of the Renhold Church community. For many years she regularly attended

services and loved to sing with the church choir. She enjoyed attending church social events with her large circle of friends in the village and was also one of the church bell ringing team.

Amongst other local interests, Brenda served on the committee of the WI, attended Renhold Wives' Group and also enjoyed weekly keep fit classes at the village hall.

In her later life, Brenda continued to enjoy living at South End Farm with her family all close by. She lived there for most of her adult life and loved it dearly.

She will be greatly missed by her three children, four grandchildren, two great grandchildren and step granddaughter and all of her extended family and friends.

Brenda's funeral will be held at All Saints Church, Renhold on Tuesday September 1st at 11:00am, followed by a family cremation.

Donations to the Royal British Legion, in recognition of Brenda's pride in her beloved father's service in the Royal Navy, can be made via the donations tab on the funeral director's website

www.abbott-funerals.co.uk

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SERVICES SEPTEMBER 2026

Date	Time	Service
Tuesday 1st September	11:00	Funeral of Brenda Pell
Sunday 6th September	10:45	Parish Communion for Red Ensign Sunday
Wednesday 9th September	19:30	Night Prayer (<i>Online only</i>)
Sunday 13th September	11:00 18:00	All-age Worship Evensong with Hymns (<i>BCP</i>)
Wednesday 16th September	10:00 15:30	Holy Communion - Said (<i>BCP</i>) Messy Church
Sunday 20th September	11:00	Parish Communion
Wednesday 23rd September	19:30	Night Prayer (<i>Online only</i>)
Sunday 27th September	11:00	Harvest Festival with Communion

LETTER FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

After a full and lively summer, we're delighted to begin with wonderful news **Renhold has a new Vicar!**

Following an interview on Tuesday 14th July, we are thrilled to announce that **Reverend Melissa Carter** has been appointed as **0.5 Part-Time Vicar of Renhold**. Melissa will lead our ministry and mission as we move forward together. Alongside this, she has also been appointed **0.5 Part-Time Chaplain to Bedford School**. Though different in setting, the rhythms of school and Parish life complement each other beautifully and will enrich both communities.

Melissa will be moving from Dover, where she currently serves as Team Rector. She will be **licensed at All Saints' on Wednesday 25th November at 7:30pm** by the Right Reverend Dr Andrew Rumsey, the new Bishop of St Albans.

Melissa would like to share the following words: *"I am thrilled to be joining you soon as your new vicar. I was made to feel so welcome on my interview day, I am looking forward to ministering and worshipping alongside you and getting to know the wider community. The heart of my ministry has very much been pastoral and children's ministry, so I am very keen to get to know the local school and families and support you in developing your children, young people and families services and events."*

I am quite a contemplative person and I feel most spiritually connected with God in nature, so the beautiful surroundings of Renhold will be a real blessing to me and my guide dog, Taylor. I will be moving up with my husband, Antony, and our other dog and three cats. I look forward to getting to know you all and may God bless us as we step together into this new chapter that He has planned for us".

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone for your dedication and hard work throughout the vacancy. Your commitment has sustained the life and mission of the Church. Please keep Melissa in your prayers as she prepares to join us.

Our full schedule of services and events continues. After a summer pause, **Donut Club, Messy Church and Renhold Clangers (Handbell Group)** all resume in September.

Finally, we are seeking a new **Treasurer**, as the brilliant Andrew Coutts prepares to move away. If you feel you could help, please speak to Andrew to learn more about the role
email:renholdastreasurer@gmail.com.

God bless, Sarah and Alan



Lisa Larham came to Renhold School straight from university in June 2011, following her teaching training course. On the day of her interview, we were having a 'Kite-flying' day. The field was full of children with their brightly coloured kites, and Lisa went straight onto the field and helped all the children with their knotted strings. At her interview, we knew instantly that she was the right person for the role of Year 4 teacher.

Lisa has been the most inspirational and fantastic teacher since that day. As she grew in confidence, she instigated the Renhold Bake-Off and took over the production of the Christmas play and the summer Leavers' concert. She went from strength to strength in her teaching and was loved by the staff and the children. At that time, Renhold School was a National Support School, so she was able to share her outstanding practice with other schools.

Lisa's talent for teaching Design and Technology was recognised in 2011, when she won a national award for

Outstanding Newcomer, and became involved in a project to design a new curriculum for Design and Technology. In 2018 she won the Inspirational Teaching of Design and Technology (Primary) Award, at the National Design and Technology Excellence Awards, organised by the Design and Technology Association.

In 2018, when I retired after 29 years at the school, Andrea Ward became headteacher. Lisa became her Deputy Head and continued to provide exciting experiences for the children while supporting Andrea in her new role.

Lisa took over as Headteacher two years ago, and under her leadership the school achieved its best ever Key Stage 2 SATs results, whilst continuing to develop its immersive and inspirational curriculum. Lisa has now stepped down from the role of headteacher after 15 years at the school and is beginning a new phase of her career. Her kindness, creativity and talent will be much missed. We send her every good wish for her future.

RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Free CPR and Defibrillator Training for Renhold Community

The Parish Council has arranged some community training events, open to Renhold residents, which will cover CPR training and the use of a defibrillator. This training will be run by the East Anglian Air Ambulance Service, and the session is free to attend. There will be two sessions run to make the training as accessible as possible to the village. They will be on **Wednesday 21st October 2:00-3:00pm at Renhold Village Main Hall** **Wednesday 21st October 6:00-7:00pm at Renhold Village Main Hall**. Each session will be limited to 25 spaces each to ensure the training is as effective as possible, offered on a first come, first served basis. No prior experience is needed; you just need to bring yourself. Please kindly sign up in advance to the free session, if you would like to attend, by emailing: clerk@renhold-pc.gov.uk

New Defibrillators Installed by Parish Council

Residents might have recently spotted two new devices in the Parish, one at the entrance to Cranbourne Gardens and one at the entrance to The Spires development off Maskell Drive. The Parish Council are in the process of also installing a

third device at Aspire and will update residents on the location of this in due course. You will notice that these units are stand alone. They do not require an electricity supply to them, which makes them ideal for being in a rural location whilst also being accessible. The equipment is being regularly checked by a local volunteer, with the checks recorded and linked to a national database that enables the local emergency services to know that the devices are active and available, should they be needed.

Proposed Residential Development – Planning Application for up to 330 Dwellings at Land off Hookams Lane Update

Renhold Parish Councillors have submitted an objection to this application, which was prepared by a planning consultant. The objection is available to view on the Borough Council Planning Portal alongside the other documents for this application, it has also been recently shared on the Renhold Parish Council website under the News section, if you would like to read it.

It is hoped there will be an update on the latest status of this application at the September Parish Council meeting.

Please remember you can still submit comments to the planning application: 26/00724/MAO Outline application for up to 330 dwellings, open space, drainage, footpath improvements and vehicular access with all matters reserved other than access for Land Off Hookams Lane, it is best to do this by using the application reference 26/00724/MAO, and sending an email to Bedford Borough Council who will be



RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE (continued)

determining the application as the local planning authority. The email to use is: planning@bedford.gov.uk

Renhold Parish Council Meeting Dates

Do add the following dates to your diary: 10th September, 15th October, 19th November, 14th January, 25th February, 1st April (venue to be confirmed), 13th May, 17th June and 22nd July. All these meetings will commence at 7:00pm. They will be held in the Renhold Village Hall apart from 1st April which is to be confirmed. As always, agenda details will be shared across various local platforms so do keep an eye out. Everyone is most welcome to attend and members of the public can raise any items they have during the Open Forum agenda item.

Reminder River Great Ouse Water Data available

A local organisation BedsGOVET, a charity that monitors water quality along the Great Ouse in Bedfordshire are sharing their data with local communities. Renhold Parish Council are continuing to share this monthly data on the Renhold Parish Council website as and when it is received, so do head to <https://renhold-pc.gov.uk> to view the latest data. To learn more about the

work BedsGOVET do, and how you can get involved, go to their website which has lots of useful information at: <https://bedsgovet.org>

How to stay up to date with Local Matters

There is a new Renhold Parish Council website. It is full of news items, and there is lots of useful information on the website. Head along to <https://renhold-pc.gov.uk> You can also subscribe to the website to receive email alerts when updates and new items are published. This is replacing the former village circulation list and by subscribing to the Parish Council website you can keep up to date with all the Renhold news, road closures, and other important local matters. To do this, head to the bottom corner of the page and just add your email in here:

Contacting the Parish Council

Please remember everyone is welcome to contact the Clerk or any Councillors about local matters. A full list of contact details is available as usual in the Magazine directory, so do make a note. The best way now to contact Lizzie, Parish Clerk is on clerk@renhold-pc.gov.uk To contact a Parish Councillor, the pattern is place their forename followed by @renhold-pc.gov.uk

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.. and there's always time for tea & biscuits!

Curious? Why not come along to a meeting - Guests are always welcome. £6 entry including tea, coffee & biscuits.

We meet at Renhold Village Hall on the 1st Thursday of the month - 7pm - 9.30pm

For more info:

Visit our Facebook page: [Renhold Women's Institute](#)
or drop us a line at: RenholdVillageWI@gmail.com

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26th September at 7:00pm

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Bring your own alcohol drinks

Contact: Alan Bloomfield 01234 351162

Keith Timms 01234 772605

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Fynnius Fogg

On July 4th, 105 locals enjoyed an evening with Fynnius Fogg; a group known to many for their sixties and seventies music; not least because one of their members lives in Renhold.



There was lots of foot-tapping and some people were singing along. (If only I'd remembered my school work as well as the lyrics of the pop songs!)

The event raised £3,250, for BOLD, a charity that supports adults with learning difficulties and challenging behaviours through practical skills. They run a café, 'A Different Brew' at 106 Clapham Road near Sainsburys that's well worth a visit.

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMES

	Arrive	Depart	September	October
Renhold, Green End	10:00	10:15	1, 15, 29	13, 27
Renhold, Lay by, Salph End	10:20	10:35	1, 15, 29	13, 27
Renhold, Home Close	10:40	10:55	1, 15, 29	13, 27
Renhold, Ravensden Road	11:00	11:15	1, 15, 29	13, 27

All information correct at the time of printing as per the Bedfordshire Mobile Library Website.

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RENHOLD CHAPEL: ALBERT BROWNING

Preachers for September 2026 All Services start at 10:30am

6th September
13th September

Mr P Bridle
Mr R Crane

20th September
27th September

Mr S Guest
Mr R Knight

While staying in Norfolk, where the sea breeze made the heat wave more acceptable, we visited the nearby Bircham Windmill. From this vantage point the view of rural life, trees and hedgerows, fields of crops and the harvest being brought home could be enjoyed. A couple of miles away, a water tower reminded me of my younger days when working on the top of Ravensden water tower with a similar view.

As youngsters climbed the five floors of the mill, I indulged in a few minutes of nostalgia, remembering my village school summer holidays, a whole six weeks of bliss! Harvest time, and the old binders, threshing machines and wartime petrol/paraffin Fordson tractors were still in use. The best part of harvesting for me was being with the cart horses and I, being too small to work the machinery, had the job of leading them. If I got too close, the men loading the sheaves would say, "Mind he doesn't tread on you, but being close to the gentle giants was a great feeling. They always responded to "Gee Up and Whoa," especially when bribed by a tit-bit from my pocket. At the end of the day, with feeding and grooming

done, they would treat me to a ride back to their paddock. Great days!

Harvest Festival or Thanksgiving was a major occasion, when most people grew crops in their gardens and churches, chapels and farmers gave their produce to elderly locals and those who needed a little help. Those were the days when most villagers knew one other. Jesus told many stories about sowing, reaping and harvest, some full of advice and all with consequences. Matthew, in his account Ch10: v8 records that Jesus expects His followers to pass the message on :- "Freely you have received, freely give." There's not much going for free these days, so take a look at what He offers, and then ask yourself, What can I do?

September gives plenty of opportunity for you to give to others. Gifts and donations to Bedford Food Bank; Towels, Clothes etc. to SMART. Coffee Morning on Tuesday 8th September 10:00am 'til midday in support of McMillan. Extra Coffee Morning on Thursday 24th September with a visit from the Village Agent. Harvest Thanksgiving Service Sunday October 4th 10:30am. Everyone Welcome!

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RENHOLD PARISH DIRECTORY

Organisation	Name	Contact Details
Bell Tower Co-ordinator	Yvonne Potter	01234 771495
Churchyard Volunteers	Teresa Trangmar	07788402441
Churchwarden	Alan Bloomfield	RenholdASChurchwardens@gmail.com
Churchwarden	Sarah Tomlinson	RenholdASChurchwardens@gmail.com
Church Lay Vice Chair	Alan Bloomfield	renhold.rev@gmail.com
Church Secretary to PCC	Jill Burrows	RenholdASChurchwardens@gmail.com
Church Treasurer	Andrew Coutts	renholdtreasurer@gmail.com
Church Verger	Keith Timms	RenholdASChurchwardens@gmail.com
Messy Church	Caroline Coster	carolinejcoster@gmail.com
Preschool Group	Sarah Grummitt	01234771724
Renhold Chapel	Albert Browning	01234 772689
Renhold School	Head Lisa Larham	01234 771724
Renhold Village Agent	Amanda	0800 039 1234
Village Hall Bookings	Susan	07523667232
Women's Institute	Caroline McEwen	07545340209

Bedford Hospital	Reception	01234 355122
NHS Direct	(Non-emergency)	Medical Helpline 111
Bedford MP	Mohammed Yasin	01234 346525
Borough Council	Reception	01234 267422
Borough Councillor	Nicola Gribble	07955530234
North East Bedfordshire MP	Richard Fuller	01767 313385
Police	PCSO Stephen Tarbella,	999, 101, 01234 841212
PC Abi Holt, PC Vito Napoli	Kim Roberts	
Samaritans		113123
Tibbs Dementia/Rural Champion	Teresa Moon	079309995

Susan Brunson	susan@renhold-pc.gov.uk	01234 266281
Fiona Cardinale	fiona@renhold-pc.gov.uk	07762881009
Margaret Dean	margaret@renhold-pc.gov.uk	01234 771520
Nicola Gribble (Chair)	nicky@renhold-pc.gov.uk	01234 771994
Darren Rayner	darren@renhold-pc.gov.uk	07825950673
Julie Roberts	julie@renhold-pc.gov.uk	07766478974
Paul Sawford	paul@renhold-pc.gov.uk	01234 870836
Martin Warwicker (Vice Chair)	martin@renhold-pc.gov.uk	07983156845

Lizzie Barnicoat	parishclerk@renholdpc.gov.uk	01234 771702
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