

CHAIR'S REPORT DECEMBER 2025

REMEMBRANCE DAY

At the November meeting I advised that I would initiate a conversation with the Royal British Legion and Buckden Churches Together about having the main Act of Remembrance on Remembrance Day at 11am at the War memorial rather than in St Mary's Church.

I began this with an email to the Chair of Buckden Royal British Legion with a copy to each of the Churches in the village. I reminded them that the advice from the Royal British Legion nationally is that "Although it may be bookended by formal and/or religious ceremonies, the Act of Remembrance at its core is simple, brief and non-religious." It also added that the Act of Remembrance should be "relevant for the community attending and encourages and allows for wider participation in Remembrance".

Unfortunately, the RBL Chair does not agree with the RBL national view, but feels that any change is a matter for Buckden Churches Together, although the Buckden Poppy Appeal Organiser strongly supports a change.

I have therefore contacted Buckden Churches Together, but before doing so I emailed the Chairs of all the other Parish Councils in Huntingdonshire. Of the 24 Parish Councils that replied 7 have no War Memorial and 1 has it in their Parish Church. Of the 16 Parishes with a War Memorial 12 have their 11 o'clock Act of Remembrance at The War Memorial, often preceded or followed by a Church Service, 2 have theirs earlier and 2 have a Church Service only.

One of the organisers of Buckden Churches Together has suggested that I will be invited to their next meeting to discuss a way forward.

As we need to find a way to include the whole village then such a discussion is precisely what I have been hoping would happen.

ELECTIONS MAY 2026

The Clerk circulated an email from HDC setting out the procedure for the Elections next May which will include all 15 seats on Buckden Parish Council.

Although this is some months ahead, I hope that everyone will consider whether they wish to continue as they will have to be formally nominated by Thursday 9th April, four weeks before any possible election on Thursday 7th May

MILL ROAD BUFFER ZONE

We have been advised by Cambridgeshire County Council that there has been a delay in supplying some of the signage materials for the 30 mph Buffer Zone at the top of Mill

Road. The Council's contractor has been advised that they will be in receipt of them by Tuesday 2nd December and they have reprogrammed the works to be delivered on site on Friday 5th December.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND CHRISTMAS MARKET

The event was well attended and, thanks in particular to Jess, the lights were sorted. My only thought is that the switch-on should be between 4.30 and 5.00 rather than as late as 5.30, a suggestion readily agreed to by the Market organisers. Other issues regarding the problems with the lights this year and for future years will be dealt with by the Village Maintenance Committee.