

Partnership

*The Community Magazine for the Parishes
of Newton Flotman & Swainsthorpe
June 2026*



We are very grateful for the financial support associated with the printing costs of this Parish Magazine provided by: **St Mary's Church, Newton Flotman & Swainsthorpe Parish Councils, Newton Flotman Village Centre and our advertisers.** Without this support, this magazine could not be distributed free of charge to every household in our villages.

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Parson's Page

I always think that June is a beautiful month; the sun lingers much longer in the sky, the air is filled with the joyfulness of birdsong, and there's the heavy scent of flowers in bloom. It's a time when all of nature resounds with the praise of God.

In the 12th century Hildegard von Bingen wrote these words which express how God's spirit is flowing through creation:

*'I, the blazing life of divine wisdom,
I set alight the beauty of the plains, I radiate the waters,
I glow in the sun, the moon and the stars.
With wisdom I order all things right. I beautify the earth.
I am the breeze that nurtures all things green.
I am the rain coming from the dew that makes the field laugh with the pleasure of life.*

I call up tears, the perfume of holy work. I am the yearning for good.

God is not distant from our world but intimately present within it.

As we enter summer, let's enjoy nature and allow it to bring us closer to our creator. Perhaps you could visit your local churchyard and take time just to pause and appreciate the glory of God revealed in the trees, flowers and insects. Newton Flotman's church has a brilliant trail to help you do this.

May you experience God's sustaining presence in the beauty of June.

Reverend Rachel Hayden

Holy Communion at Home

Are you unable to get to church but would like to receive Holy Communion at home? There is a tradition in the Church of England that Holy Communion is taken to those at home who are unable to get to church because of illness or other circumstances.

Home Communion normally takes place once every four to six weeks and can be a one off or for a longer period of time. If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home or find out more, please contact me on 01508 826971 and I will be happy to have a chat or arrange a visit.

Reverend Rachel Hayden



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Church Contact Details

For home visits, Communion at home, or to enquire about Christian faith, please contact:

Rev'd Dawn Davidson (Team Rector),
dawndavidson@btinternet.com tel: 498924 The Rectory, The Street,
Saxlingham Nethergate, NR15 1AJ

Rev'd Rachel Hayden (Curate) revrachelhayden@gmail.com 01508 826971

Lesley Cox (Reader) coxlesley16@gmail.com

Church Buildings and Church yards

On matters to do with the church buildings or churchyards, please contact one of the church wardens:

Kirsten Remer 01508 471580 St Mary's Newton Flotman

Susan Peters Corbett 01508 470539 - St Peter's Swainsthorpe

To donate to St Peter's Church, Swainsthorpe, contact the treasurer
Andy Haggith - 01508 470921

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For enquiries please contact: Jackie Baker 01508 470415

Church Room for Hire Newton Flotman

The Church room at St Mary's in Newton Flotman is available for hire at £7 per hour. It is suitable for meetings and small birthday parties. It has kitchen facilities and disabled access. Please call Caroline Wolfe on 01508 471238 for availability.

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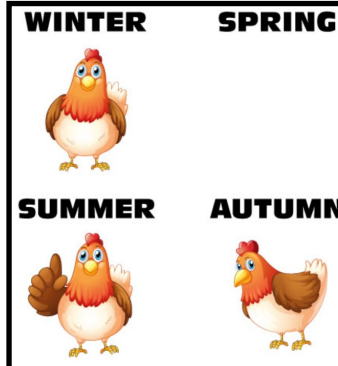
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Worship Events in June

St Mary's, Newton Flotman

Sunday 7th	11:00	Morning Worship - Lesley Cox
Sunday 14th	11:00	Holy Communion - Rachel Hayden
Sunday 21st	11:00	Sunday Space - Lesley Cox
Sunday 28th	11:00	Morning Worship - Lesley Cox

St Peter's, Swainsthorpe

Sunday 7th	09:30	Holy Communion - Rachel Hayden & Lesley Cox (Preaching)
Sunday 14th	09:30	Swainsthorpe Special - Philip Simmons
Sunday 21st	09:30	Swainsthorpe Special - Kirsten Remer
Sunday 28th	09:30	Swainsthorpe Special - Lesley Cox

For all other churches in the Tas Valley benefice please visit
www.tasvalley.org

Keeping the villages in touch:  Visit us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/newtonflotmanvillage/
 Swainsthorpe's private group for residents:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/151438831588930>


 **Saturday Village Café** 
 Church Room 10-12

Come and join us in Newton Flotman for home made bakes & a cup of something hot.

Room Booking

Newton Flotman Village Centre:
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Newton Flotman Church Room: Caroline Wolfe 01508 471238
 Swainsthorpe St Peter's: Jackie Baker 07858 740763

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ST MARY'S CHURCH Newton Flotman

It's been quite a busy few weeks! We 'did our bit' for Christian Aid week – total tbc but we raised £68 at the bric-a-brac sale during Village Café – thank you to all who

donated items and spent their cash and to those who filled the collection envelopes and dropped them off!

The crafty creatives in the congregation have been busy creating a banner to highlight the work being done to raise awareness of sustainability and climate care as a church - see Hilary and Richard's article on the next page.

There was food for thought for those who gathered to watch the *People's Climate Emergency* film and participated in subsequent discussion. Thank you to Richard and Hilary for hosting this event at the church.

Why not find a place in your lives for the monthly Sunday Space? It starts from 10.30am for brunch, followed by an informal interactive time of worship. This month's service falls on Father's Day, 21st June!

Talking of 'Spaces', Summer Space will be retuning on Thursday mornings in August!

Thank you to all of you who tend and look after the graves in our churchyard – don't forget there is the opportunity to be guided in prayer and contemplation on the prayer trail, especially as the plants and wildlife are blooming and buzzing.

Kirsten Remer
churchwarden kirstenrem@gmail.com

Olive House Open Week

Staff and residents at Olive House are getting ready to throw open their doors to the local community as part of Care Home Open Week, taking place from 15th to 21st June 2026. Whether you're a friend, family member or local neighbour – everyone's welcome!

Meet the Team daily 2pm-4pm

Wednesday 17th June Carnival 2 - 4.30pm

Thursday 18th June Treble Makers 2-4pm

Friday 19th June Footie Friday 3.45pm

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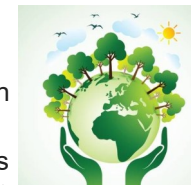


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Newton Flotman Climate Care

Eco Church.



St Mary's Newton Flotman is part of the A Rocha Eco Church scheme. We have a silver award.

To celebrate ten years of the scheme, participating churches in Norfolk attended a festival in Norwich Cathedral on May 10th.

Our gifted crafters from the *Crafting for a Cause* group produced a brilliant banner, depicting our eco journey, using only recycled or up-cycled materials. The banner demonstrates our commitment to caring for God's creation and all who live in it through:

- Prayer
- The Climate Care Group,
- Tree planting around the village
- Crafting for a Cause
- The prayer trail
- Recycling
- Using public transport
- Buying Fairtrade
- The creatures that share our churchyard.



Along with others, we paraded our banner around the boundaries of the cathedral grounds praying God's blessing on his creation.

Come and see the banner in church. The church is open on Saturday mornings for our Village Cafe, or you are welcome to join us on a Sunday morning for our services at 11am.

Why not give our new Sunday Space a try? On the third Sunday of the month come for brunch type refreshments at 10.15am, followed by a fun, interactive service suitable for all ages.

We conclude our Sunday Space with the Irish Blessing. We share that with you now.

May the road rise up to meet you.
 May the wind be always at your back.
 May the sun shine warm upon your face;
 the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
 may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

For more information about our Climate Care Group contact Richard.

Hilary & Richard Beach
 Newton Flotman Climate Care
Richard.beach1508@gmail.com

Newton Flotman Parish Council Annual Report 2025/26

The Parish Council has again actively sought to serve the needs of the residents of Newton Flotman throughout the last twelve months through the decisions we have taken on everybody's behalf.

I am going to continue the trend I have adopted for the last three years and base my comments on four areas - planning, environment, social and people. I will finish with a comment about the future of local government in Norfolk.

Planning

In October 2025 the **Newton Flotman Neighbourhood Plan** was adopted by South Norfolk District Council.

The Parish Council is now using the **Newton Flotman Neighbourhood Plan** "Design Guidance and Codes" when making decisions and recommendations to South Norfolk District Council about planning applications. This has been helpful to us in the recent planning applications we have examined, and we have been pleased to see that planning applications have been received which have abided by these codes.

Some of the list of **Community Action Projects** identified in the Neighbourhood Plan are being developed by the Parish Council:

- We are in contact with South Norfolk District Council about the pedestrian access to Smockmill Common although this is going to be a long-term project.
- Plans are in progress to plant some fruit trees in the Village Hall grounds to make a Community Orchard beside the grove that was planted three years ago.
- A subgroup of the Parish Council is developing plans for the Old Bridge which will include display boards at either end of the bridge, giving information about the bridge and mill history and the fauna and flora in the river and riverbanks around the bridge.

The completion of the **Long Stratton by-pass** has had a knock-on effect on the volume of traffic on the A140 Ipswich Road passing through the village as we expected. We have been participating in a consultation with the Strategic Transport Sustainability, Infrastructure & Development Department in Norfolk County Council about this issue and had a meeting with Ben Goldsborough MP for South Norfolk. The Parish Council will continue to lobby for improvements to be made to the junction of the A140 Ipswich Road and Flordon Road. One of the Community Action Projects identified in the Neighbourhood Plan was an improved pedestrian crossing on the A140. We are lobbying for this to be part of any improvements to the junction of the A140 Ipswich Road and Flordon Road.

The **19th round of the South Norfolk Village Cluster Housing Allocation Plan** by South Norfolk District Council which includes the approval for 25 houses on a field off Alan Avenue is in the 'hearing stage' which is being conducted by an independent inspector. Once the hearings have been

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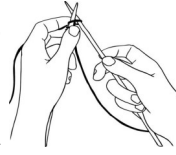
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Crafting for a Cause

We are a small, friendly group who meet to bring and share crafting skills which are put to use to raise money for good causes.



This year we will be raising funds for 'Little Lifts', a Norfolk based charity which aims to provide thoughtfully handpicked gift boxes to people affected by breast cancer.

We meet twice a month – every first Wednesday afternoon and every 3rd Saturday morning, in Newton Flotman church room. We quite often have the materials needed for items to be made, so there needn't be any cost to individuals.

If this sounds like something you would like to be involved in, give us a call and be part of our fund-raising efforts - please ring Vicky on 07598 325840 or Hilary on 07806 762296.

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completed the Inspector will inform the Council of any changes to be made to the plan. This will be followed by a final report and then the plan will be adopted by the Council. I would expect this process to take a further six months. We could see a planning application from FW Properties for the 25 houses on the field beside the 31-house construction site in the near future.

Construction is underway of the 31 houses on the field beside Alan Avenue. The Parish Council has been monitoring the work to ensure that it conforms to the conditions set out by South Norfolk District Council which we will continue to do in the coming year. Speaking to the builders Adobe Construction recently, they told me that they expect to have the sight open in May at which point we can go and see what they are doing there and what the new houses look like!

Environment

At the suggestion of one of the councillors, a subgroup of the Parish Council is developing ideas for walks around the village to identify its history, flora and fauna. These should be 20 – 30 minutes long.

The Parish Council are continuing to support the work of the Climate Crisis group which Richard and Hilary Beach lead.

Social

The **Youth Club**, which is run on our behalf by the YMCA, had a successful year with regular attendance of 10 young people. We are continuing to partner with the YMCA to provide this service for the young people of Newton Flotman.

There was a successful **VE Day 80** celebration on 8th May 2025 in the evening which included presentations from two ARTS groups, a sing-a-long of 1940s music and lighting of the beacon at 9.30pm.

We are pleased to see that the **Village Hall and Social Club** are continuing to be increasingly self-sustaining which means that they have not required the Parish Council to provide them with as much grant money as they had in previous years. We continue to support the **Church and Partnership Magazine** with grants to help them with the ground's maintenance and printing costs.

People

During the last year our former long standing Chairman, David Gibbs, died.

One of our co-opted members on the Parish Council, Karen Elliot, has resigned as she is moving to a new part of Norfolk. We will miss her knowledge and enthusiasm in the Parish Council. As a result of Karen's leaving, we now have an opening for a new Councillor.

Our bus shelter cleaner – Pam Moyes – continues to do an excellent job keeping the bus shelters at the bottom of St Marys Close and on Ipswich Road clean and tidy.

Our parish clerk Maria has again provided an excellent service to the Parish Council and the residents who have been in contact with the council throughout the year. [continued on next page].

Future of Local Government in Norfolk

Finally, I would just note that the status of the reorganisation of local government in Norfolk is changing. For the residents of Newton Flotman there are three changes affecting us in the future:

- **Change to the ward for the Norfolk County Council elections on May 7th 2026.** Newton Flotman was in the Forehoe ward. Norfolk County Council have made changes to the electoral boundaries as a result of a review undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission in May 2021 which means that from the election on May 7th we are now part of the Long Stratton ward with a new County Councillor.
- **New Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk.** – The government will be introducing a regional mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk who will have devolved powers and budget. We will be voting for the new Mayor in the elections in May 2028. We are monitoring the situation and attending meetings to keep abreast of this development and those of the change to Unitary Authorities.
- **Abolishment of the 9 councils in Norfolk (Norfolk County Council and district councils) and introduction of 3 Unitary Authorities** – The Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announced in March that he has decided to implement, subject to Parliamentary approval, the proposal for 3 unitary councils in Norfolk. Norfolk County Council website states that they will start in April 2028. Elections for the new councillors will take place in May 2027 i.e. next year when shadow authorities will be set up to run for a year. We are monitoring this development to see if the change will result in increases to the Parish Council areas of responsibility and assets.

The Parish Council will continue to serve the needs of the residents of Newton Flotman throughout the coming year.

Dr Paul Weeks
Chairman

Newton Flotman Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets every month (except August and December) on a Tuesday evening. Forthcoming meetings are being held on:

Tuesday 23rd June, 7:30pm, Village Centre

Tuesday 14th July, 7:30pm, Church Room

The public are very welcome to attend parish council meetings and there is always an opportunity for you to ask questions and to have your say. Minutes of all meetings are posted on the Parish Council website – www.newtonflotman-pc.gov.uk

Newton Flotman Parish Council is on Facebook. Follow the Parish Council at <https://www.facebook.com/NewtonFlotmanPC>

Contacting the Council

clerk@newtonflotman-pc.gov.uk | 01508 447688

As a reminder to our patients that we monitor for their Diabetes, please book your annual blood test in your month of birth, this will then be followed by a review with one of our diabetic nurses.

You can find really useful information about the condition and seasonal recipes on the Diabetic UK website <https://www.diabetes.org.uk/>.

Let us all enjoy Summer 2026.

Mobile Library for June

The mobile library will be visiting Newton Flotman and Swainsthorpe on Wednesday 17th June. Use it or lose it!

You need to be a library member to use the mobile libraries - remember to bring your library card with you. We look forward to welcoming you on board. For any questions about mobile libraries, email the team at central.mobiles.lib@norfolk.gov.uk.

Village	Stop Name	Arrival Time	Departure Time	Postcode
SWAINSTHORPE	THE CHURCH	09:50	10:05	NR14 8PN
NEWTON FLOTMAN	GROVE DALE	12:00	12:20	NR15 1QG
NEWTON FLOTMAN	JOY AVE	12:45	13:05	NR15 1RD
NEWTON FLOTMAN	SCHOOL ROAD	14:20	15:30	NR15 1PR



South Yare ART TRAIL

Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th June 2026
Open 10am to 5.30pm - Free Entry

37 Artists open their studios to the public where you can see, experience & buy art.

Art Trail | Exhibition
Open Gardens | Demonstrations
Refreshments

Please see website to plan your visit
www.SouthYareArtTrail.co.uk

SUMMER FETE

Saturday 4th July
1pm to 4pm
VILLAGE GREEN, SWAINSTHORPE

INCLUDING:

- RAFFLE • BOTTLE TOMBOLA •
- DRINKS TENT - PIMMS AND G&TS • PLANT STALL •
- SPIN THE WHEEL GAME - PRIZE EVERY TIME! •
- ART TENT • ICE CREAMS • CHILDREN'S GAMES •

AND MORE...!

- REFRESHMENTS - CHOOSE FROM A DELICIOUS SELECTION OF HOMEMADE LIGHT LUNCH AND AFTERNOON TEA TREATS •

PLUS • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT - ACTS TO BE CONFIRMED •

Long Stratton Medical Partnership

Swan Lane Surgery, Swan Lane, Tharston, Norwich, Norfolk, NR15 2UY

This month, I have opted to discuss diabetes. **Diabetes** is a long-term (chronic) condition caused by too much glucose (sugar) in the blood. It is also known as diabetes mellitus.

Type 1 Diabetes occurs when the body produces no insulin. Insulin is a hormone that lowers the level of glucose (a type of sugar) in the blood. It is often referred to as insulin-dependent diabetes. It is also sometimes known as juvenile diabetes, or early-onset diabetes, because it usually develops before the age of 40, often in the teenage years.

Type 2 Diabetes occurs when not enough insulin is produced by the body for it to function properly, or when the body's cells do not react to insulin. This is called insulin resistance. Type 2 Diabetes is far more common than Type 1 Diabetes.

At present there is no routine screening for diabetes as there is no current evidence to support it as a regular national screening test. There are certain risk factors that can lead to Type 2 Diabetes and it is important to be aware of these factors and the symptoms that may suggest Type 2 Diabetes.

Risk factors:

- Obesity and inactivity
- Family history of Type 2 Diabetes
- Ethnicity. People of Asian, African, and Afro-Caribbean ethnicity are 2–4 times more likely to develop type 2 Diabetes than white people.
- Women with a history of gestational diabetes (this occurs in the pregnancy period).
- Polycystic Ovary Syndrome
- Metabolic Syndrome. Insulin resistance is commonly associated with the metabolic syndrome, defined as a combination of raised blood pressure, dyslipidaemia, fatty liver disease and central obesity
- Certain medication like long term steroids, statin and some water tablets
- Low fibre diet.

Symptoms that may suggest Type 2 Diabetes:

Symptoms such as increased thirst, increased frequency of passing urine (micturition), blurred vision, unexplained weight loss, recurrent infections, and tiredness. Note: these may be mild or absent.

Signs such as acanthosis nigricans (a skin condition causing dark pigmentation of skin folds, typically the armpit, groin, and neck), which suggests insulin resistance.

Prevention is always the best option. Eat sensibly, drink water abundantly, ensure safe drinking of alcohol and adequate exercise.

The poster features the Little Hands Norwich logo at the top left, which includes a stylized bird and the text 'Little HANDS'. To the right, the text 'Little Hands NORWICH' is written in a cursive font, with small floral icons. The main heading reads 'WE ARE COMING TO NEWTON FLOTMAN VILLAGE CENTRE! Join Us Weekly on Tuesdays!'. Below this, there are four rounded rectangular boxes. The first box, titled 'SESSION TIMES', shows two clock faces: the first indicates 10.30am to 12.00pm, and the second indicates 1.00pm to 2.30pm. The second box provides booking information: 'Secure your space via our booking system 'BookWhen' and pay for you session on: <https://bookwhen.com/littlehandsnorwich>'. The third box says 'We look forward to welcoming you and creating memories together, one little hand at a time.' with a heart icon. The fourth box contains a welcome message: 'Welcome to Little Hands Norwich, a Parent, Baby, Toddler, Early Years Group. Join us weekly on Tuesdays at 10.30am-12pm and 1pm-2.30pm. Our sessions are led by Annaliese, an experienced Early Years Practitioner at Newton Flotman Village Centre. Little Hands Norwich is a welcoming, nurturing stay and play group, providing opportunities for children aged 0-5 years to explore, play and discover through both indoor and outdoor spaces and engage in holistic, sensory and imaginative play experiences. As a new Parent, Baby, Toddler & Early Years Group, we would really appreciate your support in spreading the word. Please like, share and follow our page 'littlehandsnorwich' on Facebook & Instagram.'

Partnership Deadline

The next edition of Partnership will be for July 2026. Deadline 14th June. Contributions by email to caroline@uv6.com or call **07855 838553**. The editor reserves the right to edit copy and print as space permits.

What's On In Our Villages

Social Club - Newton Flotman Village Centre

Friday 5th June - Peaky Pizzas

Friday 12th June - Tatos Food Van

Friday 19th June - JP's Street Food

Friday 26th June - Live Music with Kevin Barry - Snack'n'Dash

Youth Club - Newton Flotman Village Centre

For 8 -16 year olds - Wednesdays 6-8 pm (term time)

Cherry Tree Café

Wednesdays - 10am to 12 midday - Newton Flotman Village Centre

Village Café

Saturdays - 10am to midday - Newton Flotman Church Room

St Peter's Swainsthorpe

Saturday 20th June - 10-12pm - Andy & Jill's Coffee Morning

Film Night - Newton Flotman Village Centre

Tuesday 16th June - Song Sung Blue

Bar open from 7pm; Film starts at 7.30pm

Summer Events

Saturday 4th July - Swainsthorpe Village Fete - 1-4pm

Puddleducks Preschool Summer Fayre - 1-3pm 11th July

FIGS Afternoon Tea - at 'The Croft', Swainsthorpe - Saturday 23rd August

Sunday 30th August - Newton Flotman Village Fete - 12-4pm

Including Wacky Walkies Dog Show from 12pm

Outreach Post Office

Wednesdays 11:30am -12:30pm - Newton Flotman Church Room

Mobile Library

Wednesday 17th June

Crafting for a Cause

1st Weds of the month, 2 - 4pm, Newton Flotman Church Room

3rd Saturday of the month - 10-midday at Village Café

Village Walks

2nd Saturday of the month

For more details contact Richard Beach 07963006091

Parish Council Meetings

Tuesday 23rd June, 7:30pm - Newton Flotman Village Centre

Tuesday 14th July, 7:30pm - Newton Flotman Church Room

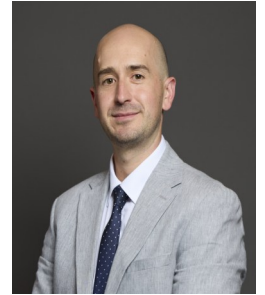
Wednesday 8th July, 7.30pm - Swainsthorpe St Peter's

Room Booking - see page 4

From Our MP

I usually use my contribution to the Partnership Magazine to focus on local issues that shape the day-to-day lives of residents in Newton Flotman and Swainsthorpe.

But sometimes it is important to reflect on issues that affect communities not just here in South Norfolk, but across the country. I therefore want to take this opportunity to address the growing divisions within our society and the rise in antisemitism.



As I am sure many will know, on 29 April in Golders Green, two Jewish men were the targets of a terrorist attack. This was a deeply disturbing act of hatred directed at British Jews, which has understandably shaken the Jewish community and caused real concern across the country. My thoughts are with those affected, and with Jewish community who will be feeling the deep impact of these events.

What concerns me just as much as the attack itself is the wider pattern it reflects. Antisemitism does not appear overnight. It grows slowly, often in ways that can be overlooked and is the result of attitudes and behaviours that have been allowed to develop.

We have witnessed the warning signs in recent years, from rising tensions on our university campuses to arson attacks, vandalism of places of worship, and incidents of intimidation directed at Jewish individuals simply because of their faith.

Antisemitism is an evil, plain and simple. It has no place anywhere in our society and we must stand against it.

That means ensuring that every hate crime is properly reported and thoroughly investigated, that victims of antisemitism and discrimination are supported, and that the bodies and services responsible for keeping our communities safe have the resources and backing they need to respond effectively. Beyond that, it means all of us being prepared to confront antisemitism wherever it appears - whether in our communities, our workplaces, on social media or amongst friends and family.

At its core, this is about the kind of country we want to be. Britain is at its best when it is open, tolerant, and respectful - when people of all backgrounds, faiths and beliefs are able to live side by side in safety and dignity. If we are serious about protecting the values that bring us together, then we must be willing to confront prejudice directly, stand up for one another, and refuse to allow division and intolerance to rise within our communities.

Ben Goldsborough MP