

March 2024 • No. 530

FREE

CONTACT

Church & Community Newsletter

BLEDLow RIDGE • BRADENHAM • PIDDINGTON • RADNAGE • WEST WYCOMBE



Bridal Path Between West Wycombe
and Downley - Photo Credit S. Chester

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Church Services Page 39

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Letter from your church The Churchwardens

March is bookended this year by St. David's Day and daffodils and Easter Day landing on March 31st. Two days where the brightness of yellow and gold (for celebration) give light and delight to all of us.

We desperately need lifting out of February's persistent rainy days - so March, even if it is rainy, brings a welcome relief as Spring is finally here.

Travelling down from North Wales in the last half of February it was obvious that the whole country is sodden with so much rain. It will take all of Spring to finally dry out; so full were the rivers and fields and flooding all along the way South. Spare a thought for the rest of our Nation struggling like us. Definitely more potholes in Shropshire though if that's possible.

Whatever pressures your work life brings this season, make a promise to yourselves to find the balance between home and work. We so often miscalculate and either we suffer or our loved ones suffer. Diarise time together or time with friends to catch up and enjoy the lighter evenings. And - clocks go changing again on Easter weekend - 'Spring forward, Fall back'

Palm Sunday this year we will celebrate at St. Botolph's Bradenham. We have two donkeys again - Madam and Tootles who are desperate to come, but they do need a lift with a horsebox. Anyone out there who can offer one, please let me know before 24th March.

I guess you've probably all seen the advertisement for a new Contact magazine Editor. If you have a little time and the wish to see this Church and Community magazine thrive then do think about this. There is already a team on board and it just

needs a helmsperson. Someone maybe who is starting out in media studies and who has a love of words and writing and wants to get some experience in overseeing a community project. Michael Staines, who many of you remember, kept the original printer machine in the Loft room in West Wycombe. He produced the first of many copies which still exist today. It has been going a long time and is a worthy cause and always has been - so many of us wish to see it continue. We have the fantastic new look to keep up thanks to Susie and her skill and the printer. Let's keep it going well into the future.

I will end by saying community is everything. If you gauged your footfall between the villages I think you'd find you connect all five as you shop, walk, pass through, visit family and friends, probably countless times.

Christ himself walked the length of the Holy Land connecting all who came to know Him. You can come to know Him as we celebrate this Easter in all the villages.

As I write, tomorrow, we begin Lent on Ash Wednesday - and at Easter we celebrate a life that connects people and places, hearts and souls. Come and join us at Easter this year.

Have a happy time together with whoever makes you smile and laugh or go find the Easter Bunny with all that chocolate!

Happy Easter to each village and to each of you as you celebrate Spring and your Risen Lord.

Reverend Anne Cooper



From the Registers

Baptisms

Henry Cheshire
St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge

Funerals

Pat Pilbeam
St Mary's, Radnage

Burial of Ashes

Rita Jarvis
St Mary's, Radnage



If you are looking to get in contact for a **Baptism** or **Wedding** within the **Benefice churches** please contact our **Benefice administrator** by emailing admin@westwycombebenefice.org.uk

In the case of funerals, if the funeral director is unsure of who to contact please pass on the details above.

We are currently seeking our next Benefice Treasurer

The role of the **Benefice Treasurer** is to manage and reconcile the **Benefice bank account** and to provide **monthly reporting** to the **Benefice Council**. In detail to receive income from the four parishes and the fees from life events (weddings and funerals), and then to calculate and make the relevant quarterly payments to the parishes and to the **Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance (ODBF)**, to reimburse the clergy expenses and to pay the **Benefice administrator**. An accounting system has been created using **Microsoft Excel** and full training and support will be given.

If you feel you could help or would like any further information, please do get in touch.

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Bledlow Ridge

News from St Paul's Church

As March begins we are already well into Lent going on to Holy Week and then celebrating Easter and the resurrection on the last day of the month.

During Lent we make a special effort to draw nearer to God either by testing our self-discipline by giving something up or by making space for more prayer or bible reading or reading a theological book. The church of England is helping us this year by providing the leaflet Watch and Pray. It gives a short reading and meditation for each day and then encourages us to watch more closely to see where God is working in our lives and goes on to lead us into prayer. If you would like a copy and have not yet got one, please speak to Anne or Veronica or one of the churchwardens.

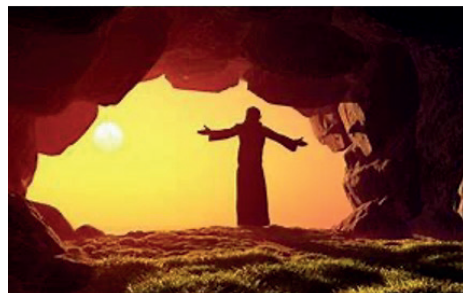
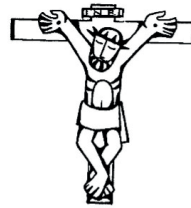
Our leaflets are based on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book Tarry Awhile by Selina Stone. Tarrying is a Black Christian spiritual practice which answers 'yes' to the question Jesus once asked his disciples. Whether in the vibrancy of music and singing, or in hushed silence, people of all ages actively wait for an encounter with God that will transform what we know, what we feel and what we experience day to day.

Everyone in the benefice is invited to come to our church of St Paul here on Bledlow Ridge to share any issues that may have been raised by the leaflets. Thursdays 7th, 14th and 21st March at 7.30pm. Veronica will try to add anything from the book that helps our understanding of the week's theme. Each meeting will start with coffee

and chat and go on to end with Compline and a time of silence. We will aim to finish by 9.00pm.

The last week of March will be kept as Holy Week. Sunday 24th March is Palm Sunday and we meet at Bradenham at 11.00am to remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem knowing that the crowd who celebrate him now will soon turn against him. On Thursday we gather at West Wycombe at 6.30pm as Jesus met with his disciples to have supper with them for the last time. He called them to serve one another after his example of washing their feet and asked them to remember the way in which he gives his life for them by sharing bread and wine.

On Good Friday we gather at Bradenham at 11.00am to follow the traditional Stations of the Cross walking with Jesus as he



carries his cross to the place of execution where he is nailed to the cross and gives up his life for us.

Then it is Easter Sunday, we sing Alleluia and share the joy of knowing that Jesus has conquered death and bought eternal life for all of us.

Happy Easter Everyone!



Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council News

www.bledlow-cum-saundertonparishcouncil.org.uk

Please do visit our website where you can read the minutes of previous meetings and the agenda, which is published the week before each meeting. There is information on footpaths, parish maps, how the Parish Council works and a list of local clubs and organisations.

If you have any comments, queries or questions then please contact our clerk, Tracey Martin, on clerk@bcspc.org.uk or on 07843 975097. Please note that the clerk works part-time hours.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 11th March 2024 starting at 7.30pm at Bledlow Village Hall.

The Parish Council met on Monday 12th February 2024 at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall - draft minutes of the meeting can be found on our website:

www.bledlow-cum-saundertonparishcouncil.org.uk.

At the Parish Council meeting grants were approved for car park works at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall and Playground replacement at Bledlow Village Hall.

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Bledlow Ridge HP14 4JJ

Planning Applications with Parish Council Comments

23/08061/FUL Yewdsen House Chinnor Road Bledlow Ridge

Householder application for construction of part single, part two storey rear extension and insertion of 1 x dormer window to rear following demolition of existing conservatory and dormer windows to rear

Bledlow cum Saunderton Parish Council object to this application:

- 1) The proposed extension contravenes the 50% rule and total cubic capacity
- 2) The visual effect on the vista and skyline as viewed from Radnage would be impacted

24/05121/AGD Juniper Wigans Lane Bledlow Ridge

Application for approval of details of siting, in the form of the proposed finished floor level of the agricultural building; and any changes to the existing ground levels in relation to the surrounding finished land levels for construction of agricultural building for use to store farm machinery granted under planning reference: 23/08115/PNP6A

Bledlow cum Saunderton Parish Council has no objections to this application.

24/05164/CLP Rose Cottage The City Bledlow Ridge

Certificate of lawfulness for proposed construction of single storey detached outbuilding for use as garage/garden store/home office

Bledlow cum Saunderton Parish Council has no objections to this application

24/05165/CLP Rose Cottage The City Bledlow Ridge

Certificate of lawfulness for proposed construction of single storey detached outbuilding for use as gym/studio

Bledlow cum Saunderton Parish Council has no objections to this application

24/05215/MINAMD Crofters Chinnor Road Bledlow Ridge

Proposed non-material amendment to permission for installation of solar panels to agricultural barns A, B and D granted under planning ref: 21/08241/FUL

Bledlow cum Saunderton Parish Council has no objections to this application

24/05295/PNP6AI Ashmore Farm 21A Haw Lane, Bledlow Ridge

Prior approval application (Part 6, Class A) for construction of agricultural building for use to store hay and straw bales, farming machinery, tractors and trailers

Bledlow cum Saunderton Parish Council has no objections to this application

Planning Applications with Buckinghamshire Council Decision

23/08115/PNP6A Land At Juniper Wigans Lane Bledlow Ridge

Prior approval application (Part 6, Class A) for construction of agricultural building for use to store farm machinery

Details required to be Submitted

23/07716/ADRCOS Parcel 3343 Chinnor Road Bledlow Ridge

Application for approval of details subject to condition 7 (Ecology) of Planning



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approval 22/05741/FUL

Permit - detail Reserved by Condition

23/05878/FUL Fowlers Dene Chinnor Road Bledlow Ridge

Change of residential curtilage, demolition of existing house and outbuilding, erection of new replacement dwelling and outbuilding, associated landscaping terraces, new entrance to paddock and orchard and closure of existing western entrance

Application Permitted

23/07131/FUL 33 Haw Lane Bledlow Ridge

Householder application for proposed first floor front extension with associated amendments to roofscape

Application Permitted

23/07905/VCDN Crofters Chinnor Road Bledlow Ridge

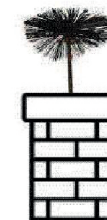
Variation of condition 8 (planting/landscaping) attached to 23/06864/FUL (Demolition of existing dwelling, garage and outbuildings and erection of replacement dwelling, detached garage/bin store and associated alterations) to allow for alternative condition in relation to planting/landscaping

Application Permitted

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Bledlow Ridge Village Hall



Village Breakfast @ The Hall
9.30 – 11.00
Saturday 2nd March
 Looking forward to seeing you

The first Village Breakfast Club was a great success,

Plenty of chat and laughter, with everyone enjoying the convivial atmosphere. 42 Breakfasts were served. With lessons learnt on how to streamline the ordering and cooking process and staff recruitment and training! (There are still vacancies) We are looking forward to doing it all again on

Saturday 2nd March.

On the menu Bacon rolls, Bacon and Egg rolls, Sausage Rolls, American Blueberry or banana Pancakes, Croissants. Bottomless Teas and Coffee. All for £4 per person.



Litter Clear Up
Sunday 17th March 2 pm .
Meet at the Village Hall

The annual village Litter Clear is taking place. Pickers and Bags provided. Let's clean up before Spring Growth. Your chance to make a difference. It's always amazing what variety of items and the large amount we collect off the verges around the village.

Followed by Free Tea and Cakes in the hall at 4.30 pm.

Friendship Club

November Meeting: Shelagh welcomed everyone, we then discussed arrangements

for our Christmas party in December. We then welcomed Jane Tucker from the Chinnor Railway, who gave us a very interesting talk about the railway from the original line to it closing down then the re-opening by volunteers. The volunteers who maintain the actual line have the same training as the professionals. It was interesting to hear about all the behind the scene jobs there are to keep it running and safe. We finished as usual with tea, cakes and chat.

December Meeting: The hall looked very festive with the Christmas tree, we started our party with a glass of sherry kindly provided by Nigel and Shelagh, with Christmas music playing in the background. We then had a lovely afternoon tea, the free raffle and exchanged cards.

January Meeting: Shelagh welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2024. We then welcomed back Dave and Deborah Rixon who showed us their film on the City of York. It's a lovely city with lots of history to explore. We then had tea and cakes and discussed where we should go for our Annual Lunch in March.

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- headaches
- neck pain
- postural problems
- trapped nerves
- muscle strain
- tendonitis
- back pain
- sciatica
- tennis elbow
- frozen shoulder
- sports injury
- knee pain
- tension

The Ridge Evening WI

We were pleased to welcome three visitors to our February meeting and hope to see them again! We started off with a short talk by Alan Mace about the Risborough Area community Bus Service which comes through Bledlow Ridge on Wednesday and Friday mornings, and he encouraged us to use it if we can and spread the word. It starts and ends at the George & Dragon in Princes Risborough and travels along Chinnor Road and Haw Lane and timetables were circulated.

Our speaker for the evening, Catherine Jones, gave us an up-beat talk, starting from school-life to assessment and training as an Army Officer, to the many challenges of becoming a romantic novelist. As she said at the beginning, forget everything you think a romantic novelist might be like, and as she told her story, we realised why! Her life seemed like a whirlwind, when after marrying a fellow officer in the Bomb Squad, they moved around the globe, with three children, one move required them to move house six times in 4 years 8 months! She first became involved with writing for a magazine for army wives and all her first books had an army theme. She then changed her theme to the “Jilly Cooper” style and went on to write many successful novels under her pen

name, Kate Lace. Catherine told us a bit about many of her book themes and most of the ones on sale were bought, so keep an eye on their circulation!

At our March 6th meeting, 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Dr Jill Evers will be telling us about the “Geology of the village of Bledlow Ridge and surrounding area 500 Million Years Ago” in 45 minutes!

We are always keen to welcome new members and if you feel you would like to know more about us, either enquire at theridgeeveningwi@gmail.com or come along to a meeting as a visitor (£3 donation), without obligation to join us.

Bledlow Ridge Horticultural Society

Our next event is the Annual Supper on the 23rd March in the Village Hall and when you read this, there might be some tickets still available. If you are interested, please contact any Committee member or use the Contact details on our website....www.bledlowridgehortsoc.org.uk.

“Plants of the Season”. Paul is a professional nurseryman so really knows his plants and We are then into April with the welcome return of Paul Green, who will cover how to grow them, and as with his previous visits, the transit van will be full of suitable plants for attendees to indulge in a little “retail therapy”. That’s on **Thursday 18 April at 8pm** in the Village Hall and is open to all.

Our website has now been updated with reports of previous meetings and events, and contains the details of the rest of the year activities, including the Plant Sale and the two Outings. Here’s a reminder of what is to come.....

7.30pm Sat 23 Mar - Annual Supper

8pm Thursday 18 April - Paul Green “Plants of the Season”

Sun 10am 12 May - Bring and Buy Plant Sale

Tuesday 11 Jun - Full day outing to gardens at Broughton Grange and Coton Manor

Tuesday 16 July - Free full day to RHS Wisley for members only

2.30pm Sat 7 Sep - Annual Show

8pm Thursday 17 Oct – Gill Ferguson “Photographing Flowers and Gardens”



We welcome cricketers of all ages and ability and the senior section is looking to strengthen. Indoor nets have started at Princes Risborough School and will continue on Sunday afternoons from 4-7pm (the first hour is for juniors only) until 24th March after which we will go outside on Wednesday evenings, 6pm, weather permitting. Just show up or contact me, John Rolfe, on j.rolfe444@btinternet.com



This recognises the efforts that the committee, volunteers, team captains, coaches, and everyone else involved has put into revitalising the club. This has included repairing the courts, participating in men’s, women’s and mixed local leagues, starting social tennis, running summer tournaments,

7.30pm Thursday 21 Nov - AGM + Carolyn Foster “Gardens to visit – near and far”

Please note that our Bring and Buy Plant Sale has been moved to 12 May to accommodate the Ridge Run. Now is a good time to divide perennials, take cuttings of house plants, and to sow flowers and vegetables, so pot a few more up, bring them along on the day and they’ll find a good home.

or 07873 516568. Work has already started again on the ground and will make it look even better than last year.

There is good news from the café too. It has reopened on Fridays and Martina has plans to extend this soon (if not already, by the time you read this).

For further details about the club go to www.bledlowridgecricketclub.co.uk

Bledlow Ridge Tennis Club

We had some amazing news in January. We’re very proud to announce that Bledlow Ridge Tennis Club has been selected as the winner of the 2024 Bucks County LTA Award for Club of the Year, in competition with some of the biggest and most successful clubs in Bucks.

installing floodlights, and of course having fantastic coaching from our partners JWT Coaching. We’d like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped us achieve this.

In January, both our women’s and men’s team had success. Our women’s team beat Stewkley 10-6 at home – congratulations

to captain Gill Tope, Jane Lawrence, Carol Tribe and Sue Vince. Our men's team beat league leaders Little Chalfont 12-4 at home. Congratulations to our team of Ben Stoolman, Charlie Lawrence, Joe Tuckey and captain Stefano Tomaselli.

In February half term, JWT Coaching held another fun and successful tennis camp for juniors – which is always very well received.

We are holding our AGM on Wednesday 6th March and look forward to reviewing a successful year and looking ahead to the coming season. All members are very welcome to join the AGM.

We are an extremely inclusive and welcoming club and would love to have more members. There's something for everyone - young or old, beginner, intermediate or experienced player – so if you'd like to join us, please visit www.bledlowridgetennis.co.uk

Nature Notes

Hundreds of twittering finches gather in bare winter treetops. We hear bullfinches sing, they are elusive so it's a delight when you do spot the astonishingly rosy pink chest. Stonechats are not tree birds, posts are high enough perches for them and they nest near the ground: there are two pairs below Lodge Hill. Long-tailed tits, puffs of blush feathers with black and white highlights, "tut" as they flit along hedgerows.

Near Sprigs Holly we saw two foxes a few minutes apart, probably a pair because they barked and responded to each other. We heard one rustling closer in the leaf litter, it froze as soon as it saw us. Time stood still for those few moments until it turned away and vanished back into the woods.



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Bradenham

News from St Botolph's Church

St. Botolph's remains beautiful always and looks even better now that the chancel and beneath the tower have been replastered. Our paintings of the Stations of the Cross are being rehung in the correct order in readiness for our service on Good Friday.

Our lovely tree, generously provided by the National Trust, has come down, as have the evergreens which were put in place before Christmas. It was very pleasing to have so many people in the congregation for our services on Christmas Eve, and to chat with so many over mulled wine after the services. St. Botolph's is a very welcoming place and is becoming more and more used. We know there are visitors during the week who come in for rest and contemplation; everyone is always very welcome. Bot's Books remains popular, as does the supper shared on 'reading' nights. We also host history groups and others interested in our church. The church recorders have almost finished recording all the details of our church, including the textiles and the stained glass windows. The finished product will be a wonderful record of this splendid building.

Our church wardens will be pleased to hear from other groups wishing to bring groups. Their contact details are in the front of this

newsletter. We are fortunate to have such active people; they do an enormous amount for us all. Pete and Jean Baldwin care for the graveyard, which is just springing in to life and of which we are very proud.

A special date for the diary is a service on Good Friday to commemorate the Stations of the Cross. (Friday 29th March 11am) The congregation move around the church following the path of Christ from Pilate's palace to the place of execution. This is made very special in Bradenham as the church has a set of water colour paintings from the 1930's depicting Christ's progress.

Lastly all welcome to celebrate Easter on Sunday 31st at 11am and there might even be an Easter Egg hunt afterwards!!!

One tiny nugget to ponder: When Jesus was interrogated by Pilate, he spoke Aramaic whereas Pilate spoke, we assume, only Latin. So there must have been a translator, mustn't there?

Bradenham cricket club

Bradenham Cricket club is a long established and integral part of the village. We play 2 Saturday teams in the Kookaburra Mid Bucks cricket league, starting April through to early September. We are fortunate to play our home games in an area of outstanding natural beauty, and you would be hard pushed to find a more picturesque setting to play cricket.

The club is always delighted to welcome new members of all abilities (players, umpires,

scorers) so if you would like to join us, please go to Bradenham CC. Buckinghamshire (play-

cricket.com) where you will find a 'contact us' email, or pop in on a Friday night for a chat and a drink from the bar. Our indoor nets are held at Cressex Community School from 4th

February 9.00 till 11.00 for 9 weeks. Costs are £10 adults and £5 for under 18s.

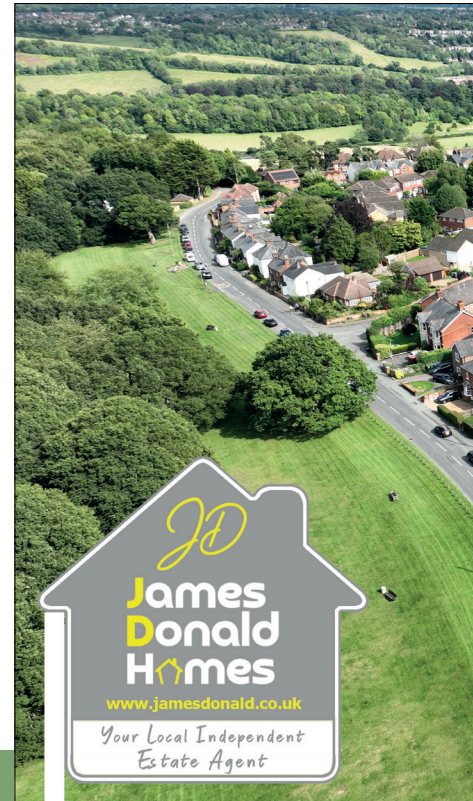
Notes from Bradenham Parish Council

At its January meeting the Council set the 24/25 budget and precept (the money we ask for from Buckinghamshire Council) to pay for the functioning of the Parish Council. It has been necessary to ask for £9,059 in 24/25 in order to balance the books. This amount will be identified on your council tax bill. The increase is mainly due to increased charges for grass cutting in the 30mph zone. We also need to budget for a third dog bin. This service is the responsibility of the parish council.

We have budgeted for a village fete again; always a popular event. We always need to put money aside for maintenance. The Parish Council has kept its precept virtually unchanged in recent years, thereby reducing our reserves; obviously we cannot continue to do this indefinitely. The Council has decided to put a Biodiversity policy in place even though it does not own any land.

The Council does, however, maintain the pond and will take it into account when commenting on planning applications.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on March 11th @ 7pm in the Cricket Club. As usual, all are welcome.



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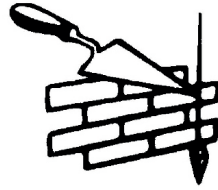
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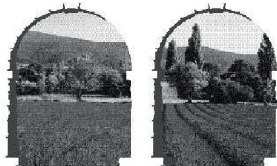


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Piddington

Piddington Horticultural Society News

On 26th January 2024, the Horticultural Society arranged for the senior villagers to have a 3-course meal plus coffee and mints. We were then entertained by members of the Glee Club Choir with several well-known songs ranging from The Beatles to Whitney Houston. The villagers were then able to select a small gift before leaving for their homes.

Diary Date – the next quiz will take place in the Village Hall on Friday 19th April, 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. £7.00 per person. To register your interest/team please call Georgina on 01494 88150. We look forward to seeing you.

Piddington Village Hall

Our thanks go to the Horticultural Society for continuing to organise the event the Senior's Annual Dinner in the Village Hall at the end of January, which is always very well received by all who attend.

Our reinforced and reinvigorated committee continues to make great strides in seeking to increase the activities taking place in the Hall. Their efforts have been significantly enabled by our new website, which sits within the Piddington and Wheeler End Parish Council site and includes a new automated booking facility that we will continue to refine as we gain more experience in its use. Details of the facilities offered by the Hall and the list of our committee members are all on the website along with the ways to contact us and to make bookings. Our party bookings are increasing nicely and there has also been an increased utilisation by our regular group bookings, all of which is very welcome. Not only is it good to see an increase in the use of the Hall, but the additional income that we are able to generate will help us to build up our funds to potentially support a number of enhancements to the hall that we

would like to deliver over the next few years. On the events front, we will have held a Bingo night on 17th February by the time this edition of Contact Magazine is published. Planning is underway for a Painting Party on Friday the 22nd March, the Horticultural Society Quiz will take place on Friday the 19th April (as trailed above) and we are going to arrange a Eurovision Night in the Hall on Saturday the 11th May, when we can gather to savour the annual spectacular (and complain about the scoring) on the large screen TV in the Hall. Lastly, we are also looking at holding an event to celebrate the D-Day 80th Anniversary at some point towards the end of the first week of June. So, much to look forward to and we will provide more details on the events from late in March onwards in the next edition of Contact Magazine and, of course on our new website.

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Radnage

News From St Mary's Church

"In like a lion, out like a lamb" has always seemed a straightforward enough proverb: when March starts, it's still winter, and by the end of the month Spring has begun.

In March there is a promise in the air and nature has a way of lifting spirits to hope in better days. You will have enjoyed the snowdrops and the wonderful Sundays in February which raised much needed funds. A huge thank you must go to all (including many from the community) who made cakes this year and served teas, and to all those who walked to church and brought children and four legged friends; a warm welcome was extended to all on both Sundays. Final total raised - £1,105.34.

The beginning of the month still brings a few more weeks of Lent and you are welcome to join in with the 'Watch and Pray' Lent booklets which contain reflections right through Lent. Underlying all that we do in this life is the thought of that other being who we need to give our time to know. Make this the year when you find out more and join in the reflection days.

By the end of this month along with Spring, we will be celebrating the joy of Easter Day and at St. Mary's you will be welcomed into your church. Come to see the Easter Garden, come to be with others on one of the most special days in the church calendar. Don't tell anyone... but there just might be an Easter egg hunt in the churchyard.

Question??? Can you remember who told you your first Bible story. Church of England statistics show that the number of

children in 2014 who heard Bi-ble stories was 107,000 by 2019 that had dropped to 88,000. Which is why in our C of E primary school in Radnage we are introducing Open the Book at the Bible story. Wanting to give something back to the community? Anyone with 20 minutes to spare once a month can join the team of volunteers to re-enact the stories for a new generation of children. No having to learn lines, just a willingness to participate and have some fun along the way. Get in touch with Rev. Anne at anne.cooper9@btinternet.com

Mothering Sunday will see Associate Archdeacon Chris Bull taking the 10.00am service, please do come and support him – his presence among us is always welcome. His wisdom and support has steered us past another marker post– a new Rector.

Please continue to pray for Rev. Penny Nash as she, husband Jez and her family prepare to come among us - when the renovation programme for the Rectory is completed.

As one new member approaches us, another sadly waves goodbye and from all the team at St. Mary the Virgin, Radnage, we wish Alison Rimmer, churchwarden extraordinaire a happy and blessed retirement as she moves to Dorset. Lucky Dorset...!

A Happy and Joyous Easter at the end of the month to you all from all at St. Mary's.

St. Mary's is a place of exceptional beauty with a peace that is palpable. Please do visit and sit awhile. You may help yourself to drinks from our station in the Sanctuary (near the altar).

WI News:

Our February meeting was extremely interesting. Tom Way, a renowned wildlife photographer, gave us a talk “Wild Life on your Doorstep”. All the wonderful wildlife around us from deer to hedgehogs, and from owls to foxes. Tom also showed us his wildlife images from around the world and described the stories behind taking the images. His images of big game were truly breathtaking.

Future Meetings

March – Willie Reid will tell us about 18th century Wycome and how the Royal Military College was set up here in 1799 by Maj-Gen John Gaspard le Marchant, an outstanding cavalry commander.

April – Francis Carshaw, who has given us several talks before is sharing her knowledge of pearls and art deco jewellery. She will talk about her life in France, her love of pearls and

her own collection of Art Deco jewellery. There will also be a sales table.

May – Ann Brown, who lives in Radnage, will talk about learning to fly later in life.

We have many interesting and stimulating events planned for the rest of the year, and further information about any of our activities can be found at our website, radnage.wil@outlook.com

Other News:

We have a regular walking group, led by Mavis Towell. 2 Walks a month, one short, one longer, finishing with lunch. Walks start at 10.30 am and should finish around 2.30pm. There is a £2 charge for non-members and everyone is very welcome. If you are interested in joining, please contact Mavis by email, mavis.towell668@btinternet.com. Please check beforehand in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Our informal Supper Club is thriving; we aim to have them every 2 months. This is very popular, and a relaxing evening. If you would like to come, or host, please contact us on radnage.wi@outlook.com.

We have a Bring and Buy table at meetings which is always popular. Do have a sort out and bring along anything that you no longer have a use for, books, kitchenware, sewing/ knitting odds and ends, or general bric-a-brac, it may be just what someone else is looking for, and all takings go to boost our funds.

YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO JOIN US!

We are always happy to welcome new members, so if you are new to the village, we would love to meet you.

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80th Anniversary of D Day -

Beacon Lighting 6th June and Community Fun Day on 8th June 2024

In remembrance of the 80th anniversary of D Day we would like to in-vite all the residents of Radnage to come together for the Beacon Lighting ceremony on Thursday 6th June at 9.15pm at Radnage Village Hall

From Prime Minister Rishi Sunak: “D-Day on 6 June 1944 was the largest Naval, Air and land Operation in history, involving many hundreds of thousands of brave men who had to leave their families at home, not knowing if they would ever return home, a feat we hope will never have to take place again.

The heroism of those who landed on the shores of the Normandy beaches, represented a beacon of light for the world during a particularly dark period of war. It is therefore fitting that local communities throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK Overseas Territories and those along the shorelines of Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword beaches in Normandy, France, should light Beacons on 6 June 2024, in ‘tribute to the light of peace that they brought out from the misery of darkness during that dreadful campaign, of which many unfortunately did not return.’”

There will also be a Fun Day party on the 8th June at Radnage Village Hall

Further details to follow. Please mark the date in your diaries

Can you help?

We have a number of people putting this Village event together. We’d love to make it more interactive. If anyone has any ideas, suggestions for fun things to do on the day, or if there is anyone out there

that can help and run entertainment or fete type stalls on the day, please email Lisa at parish.clerk@radnage.net

Speeding

Please Remember

- Know the limits and look for signs (Speed limits are a maximum)
- 20’s plenty when kids are about
- Concentrate – Distracted drivers speed
- Slow down when entering any village

Please help us by driving slowly.
Thank you.

Fly-Tipping

If you see rubbish that has been illegally left, PLEASE REPORT IT - giving as many details about the incident and the waste as you can with a photo if possible! It is easy to do and there is no need to make your name public. If it is not reported it cannot be dealt with.

www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk

Please Keep Dogs Under Close Control & Pick Up After Your Pooch!!!

It is especially important for the many children and families who use the village hall playing field for sport & recreation. Please look out for the Dog Warden in our area.

Thank you for being
a responsible pet owner.

Planning Applications

All Planning Applications received will be considered by the Parish Council. RPC will assess the merit of an application based on our set criteria before commenting, taking into account valid concerns of local residents.

Residents with views on a particular application are strongly encouraged to respond individually (on Public Access) with their own comments (in addition to any from RPC). You can keep up to date with all local planning cases via Public Access.

Applications currently under consideration will also be noted on our website: www.radnage.net/council/

Useful information to cut out and keep -

- Planning: Visit: www.wycombe.gov.uk and click the Planning button
- Fly Tipping: Visit: www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling/fly-tipping/ or Tel: 01296 480771
- Potholes: Report a problem and view information at: www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk

Telephone 01296 382416 for urgent pothole issues.

- Rights of Way problems: (footpaths and By ways maintenance and access)

www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/public-rights-of-way/report-a-rights-of-way-issue/ or visit www.buckscc.gov.uk and search ‘rights of way’. To report an issue, you will need to log in and then select the ‘Report an issue’ menu item. If it is your first time, you will need to register.

- Dog fouling: Contact the Wycombe District Dog Warden Tel: 01494 412 247
- Find out about matters relating to your property at My Wycombe: <http://mywycombe.wycombe.gov.uk/myWycombe.aspx>
- Waste & Recycling: Find out more about the recent changes at: www.buckscc.gov.uk/hrc

Check the recycling centre webcams at: www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres

Next Meeting of the Parish Council -

Our next meeting, the Ordinary meeting of The Parish Council will be held at 8pm on Thursday 14th March 2024.

Meetings are held in the Village Hall.

You can contact the Council at parish.clerk@radnage.net and information can be found via the website at www.radnage.net



The Royal British Legion

Opening Times

Fri. 6:00 to 11:00pm
Sat. 8:00 to 11:00pm
Sun. 12.30 to 5.30pm

Forthcoming events at Radnage RBL in 2024:-

March - 16th Curry Night • 23rd Music Night

The Alaskan Gold Rush

The rush to find gold and make your fortune in Nome, Alaska is not as well known as the Klondike rush which came before it. The Klondike had previously attracted thousands of prospectors, known as 'stampedeers'.

The 1896 Klondike Gold Rush was in Canada's Yukon Territory and centered around Dawson City. By 1899 some stampedeers were still there either eking out a living

working for established mines, their dreams of wealth dashed. They were either too poor or too embarrassed to go home. For the average stampeder the beaches had a distinct advantage although the season wasn't long - due to the ice they could only be worked from June to October. Even so they could not be staked, so claims were open to everyone. Also the prospectors did not have to haul their finds over narrow mountain passes and could now easily be reached by boats. All they needed was a shovel, a bucket & a rocker in order to separate the gold from the sand - the rush was on again!

Things couldn't last of course and by 1909 the population had plummeted to 2,600 folk - the rush was over!

Commercial mining still occurs in Nome though and every year independent optimistic prospectors still turn up to look for that elusive yellow metal.




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West Wycombe

News from St Paul's Church

How lovely to see the signs of Spring - the snowdrops, crocus and daffodils all popping up in recent weeks and the days are definitely longer!

We have enjoyed a very special series of services within the Benefice which began with the Candlemas service led by Revd Anne. We have also welcomed Revd Graham Archer from CPAS who, with CPAS a Benefice Patron, has been very supportive in the recent appointment process. Our service on the Sunday before Lent was taken by Canon Tim Harper, formerly Area Dean in the Amersham Deanery and Rector at St Mary's, Old Amersham. He spoke of the Transfiguration of Christ and the moments in life when we suddenly realise the significance of an unexpected event or a surprise person and those moments can become very precious.... he advised us to keep our eyes open! You may also have seen Canon Tim in various episodes of Midsomer Murders when invited to take on the role of a local vicar!

As I write this we're about to enter the season of Lent with the traditional Ashing Service on Wednesday, the first day of Lent. In her introduction to the Lent course, Revd Veronica wrote "Lent is given to us each year as an opportunity to 'spring clean' our spiritual life – a chance to try to draw nearer to God and prepare to share in Jesus' passion and the joy of the resurrection at Easter." and it is still possible to join in the Thursday evening Lent meetings if you would like to, running on to 7th, 14th and 21st March 7.30pm at St Paul's Bledlow Ridge. Mothering Sunday will be celebrated at St

Paul's on 10th March when we'll welcome Canon Chris Bull, Associate Archdeacon to St Paul's, he is very supportive of all the Benefice churches. There will be services across the Benefice on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and on Easter Sunday Revd Andi Chapman will take our Easter service at St Paul's which is a wonderful day of celebration.

The work required to update and make the Rectory fit for purpose becomes more complex as we hear more but it really will be such a good and necessary result. Unfortunately the extended work has delayed the arrival of Revd Penny but it's essential that the Rectory is in good shape for her to take up the post and her licensing date is already pencilled in for 15th July, to be confirmed when Bishop Alan returns to office. Positive and exciting times ahead for the church and community!

Snowdrop Sunday was very successful with lots of visitors enjoying the beautiful snowdrops and delicious Teas. Our thanks to Sir Edward for giving us all the chance to walk around the Park and to all the amazing bakers and volunteers



who enabled the event to take place. Over £1200 was raised for church funds which was an amazing result. Thanks too from the Chiltern Branch of the MND Association to everyone supporting their Snowdrop Sunday too but which hasn't actually happened as I write....

We were very sad to hear the sad news of Dee Bevan who passed away this month. Dee was well known to the village and people of all ages having been a member of staff at West Wycombe School for many years. Dee was very kind and supported church and community events whenever possible and will be sadly missed; our thoughts and prayers are with all Dee's family and friends.

Two dates for your diary! **The Coffee and Craft event in the Village Hall on Saturday 2nd March 10.30 - 2.30** is always fun and with remarkable creations from local crafters, do come along if you can, the event is in aid of West Wycombe churches. **On Saturday 9th March there will be a Coffee Morning in St Paul's between 10.00 and 12.00** and this time featuring an

illustrated presentation by the local branch of Remap. These are a team of remarkable and varied engineers who create and adapt bespoke equipment for individuals with a disability or sometimes for a community cause. They have adapted the organ bench at St Paul's for much easier use as well as creating our new parish events notice board which will soon be placed at the gate to the churchyard. For further examples of their inspiring work look at Custom Disability Equipment & Aids South Bucks UK | REMAP as well as the national Remap website. No job is too small or too large and can range from adapted drone controllers to house gadgets and ramps into the drive or garden, it's all about enabling and increasing independence. The two engineers visiting are also looking forward to the coffee and CAKE! Please do come along and support the morning and hear - and see - the amazing work that they do.

Enjoy the longer days and approach of Spring - and here's hoping that the sunshine will edge out the rain!

Alison Rimmer, Church Warden

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News from your Parish Council



As I write this piece in early February we have not yet found a replacement Clerk, so I will continue in the role for as long as is necessary. Parish Councils are legally constituted bodies and have to function efficiently and continuously for the benefit of their residents.

We have for many weeks tried to resolve the flooding issue near Kitty's Lodge, now made worse by rising groundwater levels. We hope that by the time you read this a solution will have been found. We have highlighted the issue of the area becoming an ice rink in freezing weather, that the school children and all pedestrians, if they don't want to get soaked, are being forced to cross at the Pedestal Roundabout which is not easy when all drivers are concentrating on the roundabout traffic and do not readily let people cross and that if you walk along the verge it has become a quagmire.

We will be holding our annual **Spring Litter Pick on Saturday 13th April from 9.30 – 12 noon**. We will be based in West Wycombe Village Hall and high viz jackets and equipment will be supplied. Tea and home made cake will be available. We look forward to seeing you.

Residents in West Wycombe Village who must use plastic bags for waste and recycling collection will be pleased to know that a delivery should have happened already but if not, then it is due in March. We used to receive a delivery twice per year, but this has now changed to just in March.

The Clerk has had a face to face meeting with the local highways manager and supplied a long list of all the outstanding work which should have taken place in our parish – everything has been reported on Fix My Street and the contractors who took over the work last April have actually undertaken almost double the amount of work.

Since the sale of The Church Room our meetings have taken place in West Wycombe Community Library and we will continue to meet here unless we expect more people to attend - for example, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall.

Our dates for meetings in 2024 are as follows: 14th March, 11th April, 9th May, 23rd May – Annual Parish Meeting, 13th June, 11th July, 8th August (if required), 12th September, 10th October, 14th November, and 12th December. All meetings start at 8pm and the agenda is issued a week before the meeting and is available on the website (see below) and on our Facebook page.

FixMyStreet

The Fix My Street website is there for you to report potholes, damaged kerb stones, broken signs etc. – please visit <https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>.

Please remember, to get the latest information on: Parish Council activities; social events; Bucks Council; Thames Valley Police; government legislation; footpaths and many other things that may affect our community go to www.westwycombeparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The Parish Council has a Facebook page .

The Clerk works part-time for the Parish Council; however, we are always happy to receive emails or messages on the answer machine and these will be replied to as quickly as possible.

Sharon Henson, Clerk to the Parish Council
clerk@westwycombeparishcouncil.gov.uk

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West Wycombe Chamber Choir Spring Concert

**Saturday 23 March 2024 at 7:00pm,
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Dementia Carers Respite, for Buckinghamshire Residence

Adults £10 Concessions £8
£1 discount if purchased in advance

Phone: 07795 680253

We will be performing the repertoire which we will be singing on our forthcoming tour to Italy at the end of May. At present we have filled 54 places, and there are two last places available, so, it's not too late to join us and go on our tour! Our chosen charity for this concert is, Dementia Carers Respite, for Buckinghamshire residents (see below). Dementia is a terrible illness and it is so difficult for the loved ones of the sufferer as well, which makes this newly formed charity so worthwhile. Please come along and support it.

Our annual Quiz Night took place at Bledlow Ridge Cricket Club on Saturday 3rd February at 7:30pm. It was another social event for our choir, their families and friends and time for us all to sharpen up our General Knowledge! A big thank you to Bledlow Ridge Cricket Club, who hosted the evening, and to our amazing quizmaster Pete and Marie. We very much value these social times that we have together as well as the singing events that we put on. It all adds to the friendly and sociable atmosphere that we have in our choir.

We had a very good turnout to our first rehearsal in January and it was good to see some new faces. We have between 45 and 50 regular members. However, we are still looking for Basses, so if you are a bass who wants to sing or know one that does, please consider joining our friendly and sociable choir. Other voices are still welcome of course! It's not too late to join and go on our tour to Italy. We practice every Wednesday at West Wycombe School from 7:30pm to 9:30pm. For further information contact



either Barry on 07795 680223 or Michèle on 07795 680253, or visit our website, <https://westwycombechoir.org.uk/> Why not give us a call?

Finally, we would like to wish Alison Rimmer of the PPC all the best in her forthcoming retirement. She has been a great friend of our choir over the years and we thank her for the many acts of kindness and generosity of time she has given to us. She will be sadly missed.

Barry Hodkinson, Musical Director.



West Wycombe Community Library

There are some gifts for sale in the Library, a percentage of which is donated to the Library funds. Please come in and have a look. We are now open every weekday, thanks to our new volunteers.

Some of the Monday crochet ladies are attending Mobility Exercise sessions at the village hall after the Library. The sessions are intended to help anyone with limited mobility and are suitable for any age group. The sessions are every Monday and start at 1.30pm - 2.30pm and are £8.50 or £6.50 for over 60's. Come along if you need some help with mobility.

Denise Hurst

Our opening times are as follows

Monday 10am - 12 noon
 Tuesday 10am - 12 noon
 Wed 10am - 12 noon
 Thursday 10am - 12 noon
 Friday 10am - 12 noon
 Sat CLOSED



Clara's Corner

We are so excited to welcome you into the enchanting world of Clara's Corner, our cherished soft play haven designed for children seven and under.

Why Clara's Corner? Our personal journey as parents led us to this moment. Inspired by our daughter's need for a space where her imagination could run wild and free, we created Clara's Corner. It's a realm where the wonders of childhood are celebrated, a playground rich with adventures like slides, rope bridges and lovable woodland characters. More than the joy of play, we were driven to construct a haven of health and safety. We've poured our hearts into every detail—from the non-toxic, sustainable materials to the surplus sheep wool padding to the state-of-the-art fresh air filtration system. Each element within Clara's Corner is deliberately chosen with the utmost care, reflecting our deep commitment to the well-being of all children who come to explore and grow with us, helping to create the best citizens of tomorrow.

we've designed Clara's Corner to be a serene retreat. Our carefully managed booking system ensures a more intimate experience, free from the buzz of fluorescent lights and loud music, fostering a soothing atmosphere where every child feels welcomed and valued.

Our vision extends beyond play. We dream of Clara's Corner as a community cornerstone, a place of connection and cherished memories for parents and children alike. We're here to adapt to your needs, offering quieter days for those who prefer them and always eager to accommodate any special requirements your child might have.

This journey is just beginning, and your feedback is the compass that guides us. Together, let's shape Clara's Corner into a place that delights, supports, and unites us all.

www.clarascorner.co

We recognise that soft play areas can sometimes be a sensory overload. That's why



West Wycombe Weather Station Chorley Road - Eileen Chapman

Week ending	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm	Sunshine hours
Jan 7 th	2	10	54	7
Jan 14 th	-1	7	0	11
Jan 21 st	-6	11	2	20
Jan 28 th	1	14	9	16



Read Contact Magazine online

www.westwycombevillage.co.uk/contactmagazine/



Spacious hall for hire

West Wycombe Village Hall provides a hall and rooms for hire to the public. It is located in the village centre and has dedicated car parking.

The venue is suitable for wedding receptions, business events, parties, presentations, filming and more.

The large main hall can accommodate up to 120 people and is equipped with a stage and a hatch to the kitchen which is directly accessible from the car park.

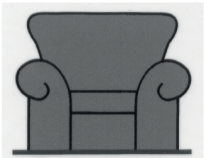
To book email Emma on emma009797@icloud.com



westwycombevillagehall.co.uk

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Unit 2D, Fryers Works
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High Wycombe
Bucks. HP12 3BW
Phone: 01494 461481
Mobile: 07809 140988

West Wycombe Village Hall

westwycombevillagehall.co.uk

Monday	Morning	Pip - Phonics with Robot Reg pip@robotreg.co.uk
	Afternoon	Exercise & Mobility class 1pm, ollyreedfitness@gmail.com
	Evening	West Wycombe Art Group wwag.secretary@hotmail.com
Tuesday	Morning	Available
	Afternoon	Available
	Evening	Jennifer Zumba jennifer.morais.zumba@outlook.com Masque Player masqueplayers2022@gmail.com
Wednesday	Morning	WW Toddler Group wwbabytoddler@gmail.com
	Afternoon	Crochet Club 4.30pm, ga.watkins@yahoo.co.uk
	Evening	Cycle club (first Wed of every month)
Thursday	Morning	Available
	Afternoon	Available
	Evening	Masque Player masqueplayers2022@gmail.com Happy Hounds Dog Training www.huntshappyhounds.co.uk/
Friday	Morning	Available
	Afternoon	Available
	Evening	Available
Sat.	Morning	Available
	Afternoon	Available
	Evening	Available
Sunday	Morning	Available
	Afternoon	Available
	Evening	Yoga with Laila Lailanippres2@gmail.com

The hall is available for private and regular hire
Please email Emma at emma009797@icloud.com
for further information.

Church Services

Sunday 25 Feb - 11am <i>Lent 2</i>	Eucharist <i>Reverend Anne Cooper</i>	St Botolph's, Bradenham	Gen 17.1-7,15-16 Rom 4.13-25 Mk 8.31-38
Sunday 3 March - 10am <i>Lent 3</i>	Eucharist <i>Reverend Anne Cooper</i>	St Mary's, Radnage	Ex 20.1-17 1 Cor 1.18-25 Jn 2.13-22
Sunday 10 March - 10.30am <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Eucharist <i>Reverend Chris Bull</i>	St Paul's, West Wycombe	Ex 2.1-10 2 Cor 1.3-7 Lk 2.33-35
Sunday 17 March - 10am <i>Passion</i>	Eucharist <i>Reverend Veronica Beaumont</i>	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	Jer 31.31-34 Heb 5.5-10 Jn 2.20-33
Sunday 24 March - 11am <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Eucharist <i>Reverend Andi Chapman</i>	St Botolph's, Bradenham	Isa 50.4-9 Phil 2.5-11 Mk 14.1-15.47
Thur 28 March - 6.30pm <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	Eucharist with washing <i>Reverend Andi Chapman</i>	St Paul's, West Wycombe	Ex 12.1-4(5-10)11-14 1 Cor 11.23-26 Jn 13.1-17,31-35
Fri 29 March - 11am <i>Good Friday</i>	Stations of the Cross <i>Reverend Veronica Beaumont & Reverend Anne Cooper</i>	St Botolph's, Bradenham	Isa 52.13-53.12 Heb 4.14-16;5.7-9 Jn 18.1-19.42
Sunday 31 March <i>Easter Sunday</i>	Eucharist 10am <i>Reverend Anne Cooper</i>	St Mary's, Radnage	Acts 10.34-43 1 Cor 15.1-11 Jn 20.1-18
	Eucharist 10am <i>Reverend Veronica Beaumont</i>	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	
	Eucharist 10.30am <i>Reverend Andi Chapman</i>	St Paul's, West Wycombe	
	Eucharist 11am <i>Reverend Ivor Cornish</i>	St Botolph's, Bradenham	
Sunday 7 April <i>Easter 2</i>	Eucharist 10am <i>Reverend Ivor Cornish</i>	St Mary's, Radnage	Ex 14.10-31;15.20-21 1 Jn 1.1-22 Jn 20.19-31
Sunday 14 April <i>Easter 3</i>	Eucharist 10.30am <i>Reverend Anne Cooper</i>	St Paul's, West Wycombe	Zeph 3.14-20 1 Jn 3.1-7 Lk 24.36-48
Sunday 21 April <i>Easter 4</i>	Eucharist 10am <i>Reverend Veronica Beaumont</i>	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	Gen 7.1-5,11-18;8.6-18;9.8-13 1 Jn 3.16-24 Jn 10.11-18
Sunday 28 April <i>Easter 5</i>	Eucharist 11am <i>Reverend Andi Chapman</i>	St Botolph's, Bradenham	Gen 22.1-18 1 Jn 4.7-21 Jn 15.1-8

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COUNTRY AND VILLAGE PROPERTIES

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