

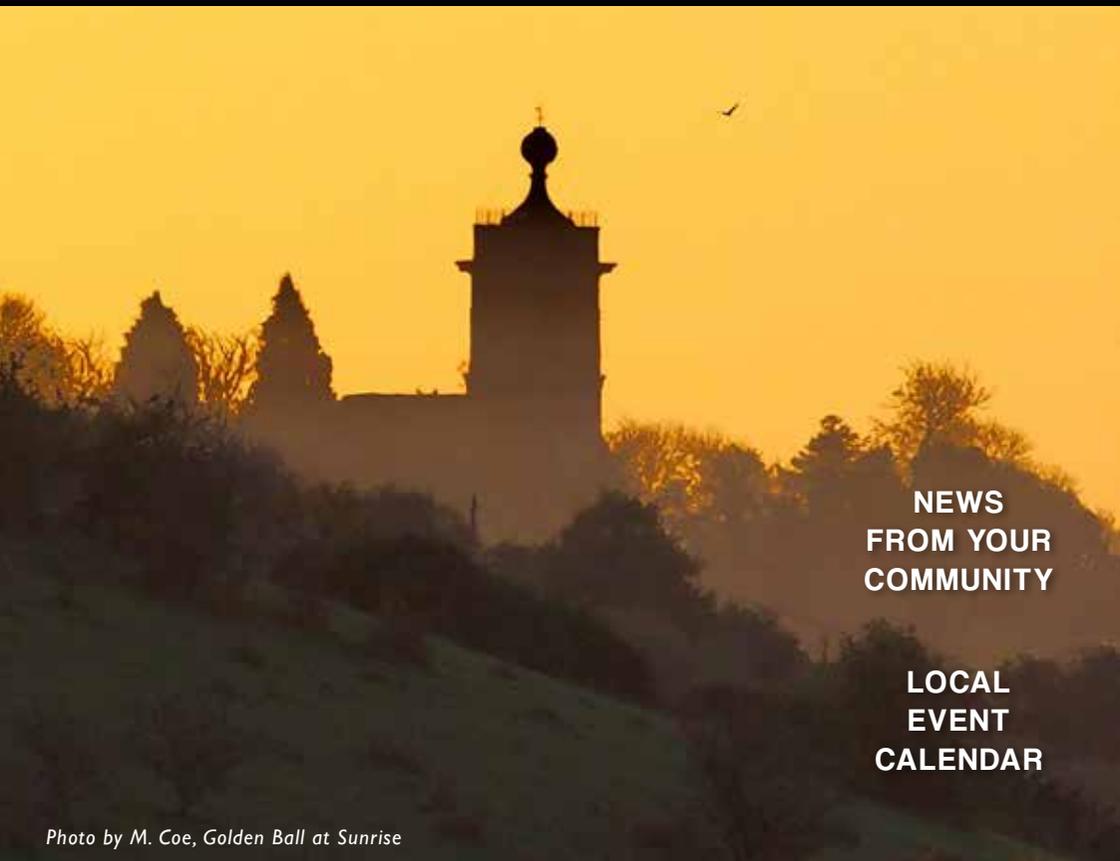
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CONTACT

Church & Community Newsletter

BLEDLow RIDGE • BRADENHAM • PIDDINGTON • RADNAGE • WEST WYCOMBE



**NEWS
FROM YOUR
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**LOCAL
EVENT
CALENDAR**

Photo by M. Coe, Golden Ball at Sunrise

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Editor	admin@westwycombenefice.org.uk
Treasurer:	Lucy Stupples - 01494730937 lucy@autumncottage.net
Advertising:	advertscontactmagazine@gmail.com
Design	susie@theyetis.com

CORRESPONDENTS

Bledlow Ridge	Bob Simmons - 01494 481402 ridgenws@gmail.com
Bradenham	Richard Langridge - 07711 053845 richard.langridge123@gmail.com
Piddington	Paul Thomas - 07939 384970 prt97@hotmail.com
Radnage	Peter Hague - 01494 484003 peterradnagenews@gmail.com
West Wycombe	Susie Chester westwycombecontact@gmail.com

MINISTRY TEAM - www.achurchnearyou.com

Parish Office - 07598 738037 admin@westwycombenefice.org.uk	
Interim Rector	Reverend Lance Sharpe 07938 762570 priest.westwycombe@gmail.com
Permission to Officiate:	Revd.Veronica Beaumont 07958 701913 veronica.beaumont75@gmail.com

CHURCH WARDENS

West Wycombe:	No Churchwardens at present
Bledlow Ridge:	Geoff Ley - 01494 481527
Bradenham:	Peter Baldwin - 01844 275813 Richard Langridge - 07711 053845
Radnage:	Rosy Oliphant - 01494 482356 Jennifer Stringer



Welcome

Dear Friends

March sees us well into the season of Lent which started on the 18th February. Lent is a special season when Christians traditionally have prepared for Easter through reflection, penitence and fasting.

Incidentally, our Muslim friends will be similarly well into the month of Ramadan where they fast from bread and water in the daylight hours and enjoy community meals together (Iftar) after sunset.

Many faiths have times of spiritual disciplines, such as prayer and fasting, in order for their followers to pray and reconnect with their faith and reset for the future. Even non-religious worldviews see the benefit in things such as mindfulness and meditation and taking holidays and leisure time.

With the Spring coming and the lighter nights, the dark, cold and wet days are generally behind us. In the busyness of life and all the concerns we have either at work, in the family or in our community or even nationally maybe we could be kind to ourselves; be mindful, be prayerful, open our eyes to the beauty of creation, breathe deeply and get a new sense of perspective whatever our faith or none.

When visiting my grandchildren recently, I was struck by how much time they, my daughter and Alison and I spent on our

phones and tablets. Maybe in the Lenten season it may be an idea to give up our modern dependence on the small screen even just a little bit. It may not be fasting in the traditional sense, but it may be just as hard!

Remember the old children's TV programme, *Why don't you?* which aired between 1973-1995? In the theme tune to the show there was a lyric, 'why don't you switch off your television set and do something less boring instead?' I'm sure some of you can hear the music and sing the words now in your thoughts! How relevant are those words for us today, not with our TVs so much, but with our modern digital devices.

Wishing you a blessed Lenten season.



Every blessing.
Revd Lance Sharpe

Did you know - I'm available for home pastoral visits for those who can't get out so easily. Please contact me on 07938 762570 if you'd like to arrange a visit.

Events

in Bledlow Ridge, Bradenham, Piddington,
Radnage and West Wycombe

MARCH

Baby and Toddler Group
Every Term Time Wed 9.15-11.15
West Wycombe Village Hall

Bingo Night
Sat 7th March 7pm
Piddington Village Hall

National Trust Tenants AGM
Sun 8th March 10.30am
West Wycombe Village Hall
peterbate.tant@btinternet.com

WI Radnage - Coffee Morning
Friday 13th March 10.30am
The Apple Orchard, West Wycombe
see page 30

Daffodil Sunday Walk
Sun 15th March 10.30am -3pm
West Wycombe Park
www.facebook.com/stpaulswestwycombe

SEN Coffee Morning
Monday 16th March, 9.30-11.30am
The Apple Orchard, West Wycombe
www.yetnuggets.co.uk

Botanical Watercolour Workshop
Saturday 21st March
The Walled Garden, West Wycombe
www.westwycombewalledgarden.com

Winter Lunch Club - Over 60s
Saturday 21st March
The Walled Garden, West Wycombe
www.westwycombewalledgarden.com

Annual Public Meeting
Tuesday 24th March, 7-9pm
St Lawrences Church, West Wycombe

WI Radnage - Coffee Morning
Friday 27th March 10.30am
The Red Lion, Bradenham
see page 30

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Easter Trail
28th March - 12 April
West Wycombe Village
www.westwycombepreschool.com

Classical Music Concert
28th March 7pm
St Lawrence Church, West Wycombe
www.ticketsource.co.uk/west-wycombe-chamber-choir

Comedy Club
28th March 7pm
Piddington Village Hall

Easter Bunny Wreath Workshop
Monday 30th March
The Walled Garden, West Wycombe
www.westwycombewalledgarden.com

APRIL

Street Food Evening Easter
Friday 3rd April
The Walled Garden, West Wycombe
www.westwycombewalledgarden.com

Would you like your event included?
Email: westwycombecontact@gmail.com

Village Easter Party with local band The Barnstormers
Saturday 4th April
The Boot, Bledlow Ridge
www.thebootbledlowridge.co.uk

Table Top Sale
Saturday 12th April 10am - 1pm
Piddington Village Hall

Horticultural Society Spring Quiz.
17th April
Piddington Village Hall

Baby & Child First Aid
Tuesday 21st April
The Walled Garden, West Wycombe
www.westwycombewalledgarden.com

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Mon. 16th March
9.30-11.30am

The Apple Orchard, West Wycombe

yetnuggets.co.uk



Bledlow Ridge

News from St Paul's Church

This year the whole of March falls in Lent – Ash Wednesday which marked the beginning of Lent, was in mid February and Easter when it ends, is at the beginning of April. 40 days when we reflect on the time of prayer Jesus spent in the desert preparing himself for his ministry and the temptations that he would face living a human life.



Many people look upon Lent as a time to give something up – like Chocolate or alcohol. This is a good exercise in self-control and can be good, too, if the money saved is given to a good cause. However, the call of Lent in the words of Joel is, “Come, return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.”

Seen in this way, we recognise Lent as a time to make space to rebuild our inner resources by turning towards God and strengthening our faith. We rebuild our priorities so that when the storms of life come or when we feel paralysed by the many pressures of life, we find greater inner strength to cope.

I, Veronica, have recently come across words written by John Wynburne when he was rector of Beaconsfield which express our situation well.

‘Our culture today is mainly concerned with the external, the physical and the material. We have more to live with and less to live for. We have more meetings but less meeting; communications have never been better and relationships so bad. We live longer lives but for many not happier ones. We need to give more attention to the things that belong to the spirit. We need to cultivate our relationship with God, to direct our focus away from our self-centred preoccupations and towards the Lord and Giver of Life.’

To help us this year Revd Lance is leading a weekly Lent group (full details elsewhere in this magazine) and the diocese of Oxford are providing us with daily emails ‘Come and See’ and a weekly video from our Bishop focusing on the eucharist (to enrol visit www.oxford.anglican.org).

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Parish Council News - Bledlow-cum-Saunderton

The Next Meeting: Mon.9th Mar, 7.30pm at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall.

The Parish Council met on Monday 12th February 2025

- A gentle reminder about hedge cutting
- Fix My Street Updates

With bird nesting season just around the corner, it's a great time to give hedges and shrubs a quick tidy up. Once birds start nesting, we all do our best to leave them undisturbed, so an early trim helps keep our gardens looking lovely while giving wildlife the space they need.

- Stay Informed with Bledlow cum Saunderton Parish Council

Keep up to date with parish news, local projects, events, and progress on the Neighbourhood Plan by joining our mailing list. Subscribers receive clear, timely updates straight to their inbox.

To sign up, visit the Parish Council website.

FixMyStreet has been upgraded so residents can report problems such as damaged gates, broken bridges, missing signposts, or overgrown paths using the new Public Rights of Way category.

Photos and exact map locations can be added, and reports are automatically passed to our Rights of Way team through an improved, integrated system. This means faster routing, fewer duplications, and clearer updates. Report an issue here: <https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk>



Services at
St Paul's,
Bledlow Ridge

1st March, 11am - Family service

15th March, 9.30am - Eucharist

29th March Palm Sunday -
Eucharist with Procession and Passion



Scan for Website

Visit our website for Meeting Minutes and Agendas
• Local Information • Club information

Parish Clerk: Tracey Martin (Please note that the clerk works part-time hours.)
Email: clerk@bcspc.org.uk • Mobile: 07843 975097.



Revised Bledlow-cum-Saunderton's Neighbourhood Plan Parish Survey

Work has begun on updating the Parish's Neighbourhood Plan. The Work Group revising the plan wants to take into account the views of everyone who lives or works in the Parish. To achieve this, we will be posting an invitation to complete a survey to every household during the second half of April 2026.

Completing the survey is everyone's best opportunity to influence the revision of the plan. It is inevitable that there will be new development within the Parish over the next 20 years, our aim is to ensure this is handled as sensitively as possible in a way which preserves the character of the area.

In addition, if you are a member of a local club, society or other local group and would like someone to come and talk about the

Neighbourhood Plan, please email NP@bledlowcumsaundertonparishcouncil.gov.uk

If you would like to be kept up to date on the revision of the Neighbourhood Plan as it evolves and other Parish Council matters, please sign up here: <https://mailchi.mp/520567427dc7/sign-up-to-newsletter>

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The Ridge Evening WI

At our February meeting, Ian Merry of sonaturalcosmetics.co.uk of Aylesbury gave us an insight into what kind of products and chemicals go into skin care products.

A few years ago, after his wife and business partner had a reaction to one product, they set about looking for alternatives. This led to them receiving 18 months training from a specialist using completely natural plant based products and setting up their own business. We discovered that a lot of products described as natural are allowed to call them so, even with only a small amount of natural material, but mostly contain synthetic and petroleum based products. Many cosmetic ingredients apparently cause skin irritation for some people. He covered moisturiser, shampoo, lip balm, hand cream, body lotion, sun cream, deodorants etc and commented that products containing palm oil has caused mass deforestation.

You can buy their products at the shop in Aylesbury or online. His talk led to a lot of questions, much interest and more healthy skin!

JOIN US AT NEXT MEETING
Wednesday 4th March, 7.30pm
Village Hall, Bledlow Ridge

Dr Jill Eyers will be talking about "Volcanoes, the Fires of Life".

If you would like to know more about us, please come as a visitor for a couple of months (£3 donation), and see whether you might like to join. There is no obligation although we are always keen to welcome new members to our friendly group.

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Bledlow Ridge Horticultural Society

Well, both our Jan and Feb meetings will have gone by the time you read this, so our next event is the Annual Supper on the 21 March in the Village Hall. The member's price remains at £25 (non-members £30) which includes a buffet of homemade food including a very tempting array of desserts, complimentary wine, cheese and coffee.

By popular demand following last year's response to his performance, Eddie Cullen is returning to "wow" us again with "The Voice of the Legends". Enjoyable entertainment is therefore guaranteed. *There are still a few tickets left*, so if you are interested, please contact any Committee member or use the contact form on our website.

We are then into April with "Best things since Sliced Bread". That's the title that returning nurseryman, Paul Green, is using for his choice of the best plants around and, as usual, he will come with his transit van full of plants from his nursery to sell, so come prepared ! That's on **Thursday 16 April at 8 pm in the Village Hall** and is open to all.

Then on **Sunday 10 May** it's our **Bring and Buy Plant Sale**, so this is an early reminder that if you are dividing, sowing or even discarding plants, pot them up, bring them along on the day and they'll find a good home. There will again be a sundries table for unwanted garden tools, gardening items, etc., so tidy up that shed as well !

Looking further ahead we have a free "drive yourself" visit to **RHS Wisley in June** for BRHS members only (normal entry charge £19.80 pp), and a coach trip for members and non-members to visit the gardens of Bourton House and Hidcote Manor in July. There's certainly plenty to look forward to.

www.bledlowridgehortsoc.org.uk



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Bledlow Ridge Cricket Club - Home of The RidgeBears
www.bledlowridgcricketclub.co.uk

As I write this in early February, it is to be hoped that the non-stop rain which seems to have been falling for an eternity, will mean a dry summer for cricket in 2026. Either way the season will be upon us sooner than we know and we are already gearing up for another successful year.

Outdoor Nets: Planning permission for our replacement outdoor nets project came through in the nick of time, and before the season starts a state-of-the-art facility will have been installed, with thanks to all those who supported the fundraising effort. Maintaining it will be everyone's responsibility so no spikes, no food, no waste and no dogs please (thank you dogwalkers).

Management Committee: Our new "Mancom" met for the first time in January with Oli White now in the Chair and Gemma Reddington the new Secretary. Our thanks to Dave Wells for his dynamic contribution as Chair over the last three years; he will be staying on the Committee (to develop fundraising) as will former Secretary Ian Murdoch, to whom thanks also. Special mention of Mike Stevens who has stood down as Treasurer after 30 years or so in the role during which time the

club has grown and developed considerably. We welcome Robbie Mitchell as our new Treasurer.

Cricket: Pre-season starts with an inter-club match on April 18th before the league season kicks off in earnest for our three teams on Saturday May 9th, continuing through to September 5th. We are pleased to confirm that the 1st XI is now up in Division 3. In addition to 18 rounds of league matches, other highlights will include our annual senior Six-a-Side tournament to be held in June, the Junior Tournament in July and Cricket Week in the first week in August. We are delighted to announce that we have been granted a fixture against the MCC on the Tuesday of that week: it will be an all-day match starting at 11.30 and promises to be a wonderful showpiece for the club. We practice outdoors on Wednesday nights from 6pm from early April.

We welcome new players. Please contact me on j.rolfe444@btinternet.com for a chat.

Juniors and Junior-Seniors: As a prelude to all this, arrangements are being made for specialist professional coaching for many of our promising players aged between 14 and 25 (The Bearcademy?!). This is Mike Winson's initiative, to both enhance individual and team skills and establish BRCC as an aspirational club for players of all ages. From mid April Jamie Unwin and his coaching team will be running our junior sections practice sessions and match schedules while from May, Chris Palmer will be running the All Stars and Dynamos for those 5 years and upwards.

Social: As ever Friday nights will be one of the recurring highlights of the summer with thanks in advance to Andy Gowers, Wayne Gough and the BBQ teams and Humphrey Grimmett and the teams running the bar; also to all other volunteers such as umpires and scorers.

Diary Dates

Sundays until 31st March inclusive
4-7pm-
Indoor nets at Princes Risborough School

Saturday 18th April, 25th April, 2nd May
- **Preseason matches**

Friday 17th April - **Junior registration and first practice night**

Friday 15th May –
All Stars & Dynamos begin

Saturday 9th May –
League season begins

Sunday 7th June –
Annual Senior Six-a-Side

Sunday in July (date tbc) –
Junior Tournament

Monday – Friday 3rd-7th August –
Cricket Week (Tuesday 4th v The MCC)

Saturday 26th September –
Annual Dinner

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Bledlow Ridge Tennis Club

We recently held our Annual General Meeting, and it was great to see so many members able to come along. Many thanks to the Cricket Club for letting us use their pavilion once again, and to everyone who took the time to attend and contribute. The AGM minutes are now available on our website for anyone who would like to read through them.

Despite the wet winter weather we've been experiencing, matches have started for our tennis doubles teams. It has been lovely to see teams back in action and welcoming visitors to the club.

While rain threatened to stop play on a number of occasions we have completed five matches at the time of writing:

- The ladies doubles team has played at home against Chesham and away at

Bierton. Both games included some great rallies, although both ended as a loss for Bledlow Ridge

- The men's doubles team had more success, while they had a loss against Tring, they followed it up with a win against Lacey Green & Loosely Row
- Our mixed doubles team has played and lost one game at home against Wendover, on a particularly cold and drizzly night

All of these matches included exciting tiebreaks and a lot of deuce points. We really appreciate all of our players who have been coming out to compete in matches on cold days and dark evenings. Spring is around the corner.

Our Singles Box League is now up and running for the new term. It is proving as popular as ever, with plenty of friendly but competitive matches being played. We have five boxes of players all eager to enjoy some singles matches against others from the club.

Regular sessions continue to offer something for everyone:

- Weekly indoor pickleball sessions are still running at the Wades Centre in Risborough. They are open to all club members and run every Tuesday from 6-8pm costing £8 per player.
- Sunday morning social sessions, which now include both tennis and pickleball, start at 9.45 / 10am every Sunday
- Junior Club Night runs every Wednesday at 6.30pm, open to 11 to 16 year olds, providing a friendly and informal session for younger players.

Looking ahead, Friday night social doubles will restart on Friday 24th April, timed to coincide with the reopening of the Cricket Club bar, which always adds to the sociable end-of-week atmosphere and is something many members look forward to.

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 1st April –
Start of the new membership year

Saturday 9th May –
Working Party

Sunday 21st June –
Men's & Women's Singles
Tournaments

Sunday 26th July –
Mixed Doubles Tournament

Sunday 6th September -
Men's & Women's Doubles
Tournaments

Friday 18th September –
Annual Dinner

Saturday 10th October –
World Pickleball Day

Sunday 13th December –
Christmas Tournament

As ever, new faces are always welcome, whether you are keen to play regularly, try something new, or simply enjoy being part of a friendly village club.

For more details on our activities please visit www.bledlowridgetennis.co.uk/



Buy Tickets Online Today



FREE DRINK FOR MUMS
at the Village Hall

Daffodil Sunday

Sunday 15th March

West Wycombe Park
10.30am - 3pm

ADULTS £5
Concessions £3.00
(Under 3s FREE)

Refreshments Served in Village Hall from 10.30am - 4pm

Only Assistance Dogs allowed in the grounds.
Entry tickets also available on the day at the gate - CASH only

In aid of **St. Pauls Church, West Wycombe**



Country Notes

When weather is wet and grey it's cheering to see vivid green moss creeping up bush stems like bright woolly socks.

Moss is a very ancient plant known to have medicinal characteristics and was used in both world wars to treat wounds because of its antiseptic qualities. It absorbs carbon dioxide, stabilises soil and shelters myriads of tiny invertebrates. Birds gather moss and weave in dry grass to form a neat cup, then add leaves, feathers,

hair, wool, to make a cosy nest for eggs and fledglings. The female song thrush uniquely lines hers with mud for extra strength and insulation while her mate sings from the tallest tree in their patch. He has more than a hundred short repeating phrases in his repertoire and sings loudly from dawn to dusk, rain or shine



Bledlow Ridge Village School
www.bledlowridge.bucks.sch.uk

It is nearly half term, and it has been a very busy one in school. Year 5 celebrated success at a recent football match against another local school, while pupils have been developing their love of language through learning and performing poetry for the recent poetry competition.

children's enthusiasm for reading, writing and books. There is also an exciting art competition coming up that children can take part in, titled In or On the Ocean. We are really looking forward to seeing some amazing pieces of work.

In March, we will be holding another enrichment week. This time the theme will be We Are Authors, building on the

Work is also beginning on this year's Ridge Off Roader, one of the school's biggest fundraisers of the year.

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The Boot at Bledlow

The Boot a bit of recent history

Hopefully many of you will have enjoyed the odd drink or something to eat at our local pub, The Boot. However, you may not be aware that the pub is actually owned by a wide range of people in the village. This all came about in 2010 when a local group set up 'Save The Boot Group' (STBG).

For a few years, it had been an Italian restaurant called Darusso's, but slowly this business hit troubled times and the owner sought planning permission for developing the site into a number of houses. The STBG gathered local support, culminating in almost 140 local residents attending the planning committee meeting to object to the planning application.

Wycombe District Council members eventually voted in favour of the proposals put forward by the village to save the pub and maintain it as a local asset available to the community. The New Boot Ltd was formed with a Board of Directors, most of whom still live in the village. 162 local residents funded the purchase of the premises and The Boot, as we know it today, was opened on December 18th 2010.

Since then, there have been three couples

from the village successfully acting as tenants, such that villagers and people from further afield have been able to enjoy a drink or something to eat. There have also been events of varying nature over the years enjoyed by many of the locals.

The pub is a valuable asset that adds value to properties in the village as well as offering a meeting place for many families and friends to get together. Your support is as vital as ever to make sure that our pub survives in these challenging times for the hospitality industry. Thank you and next month there will be more about the history of the pub and even its name!

Dates for your diary:

Mother's Day Sunday March 15th - treat your mother to a special lunch to celebrate the years she has been part of all your lives. She can enjoy a glass of mimosa as a treat from The Boot as well!

Village Easter Party Saturday 4th April – there is a live local band, The Barnstormers, who many of you will know treating customers to an evening of music and dancing!

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Bradenham

St Botolph's Church

Amongst all the rain and heavy downpours which turned Bradenham Green into a lake and an impossible place to park outside the church, members still managed to hold a Holy Communion service at the end of January and on February 8th, the last of the Morning Prayer services.

Calling All Families!

From now on, whilst we will retain the popular Eucharist service at the end of the month, we will have a Family Service at the start. This is designed especially for Mum's and Dad's and little ones. Run by teachers and volunteers, it introduces youngsters to the fun and joy of the Christian message, with songs, hymns and simple activities.

All are welcome and if you would like to help, please contact the Church Wardens via the numbers in the front of the book.

Calling All Meditors!

During the 6 weeks of LENT, St Botolph's is putting on a special service on SUNDAYS at 4.48pm

These "4.48" services are designed to be a quiet place for reflection. Classical music is played, candles are lit, and occasionally

thoughts and prayers are said. It is simply a "hole in the week" when we can sit, meditate, pray or share our thoughts and feelings about the world and about the things that matter to us. It is not led by anyone but people drop in for 5mins or for 50. A space to be used. *All welcome.*

Bot's Books

This week also saw the regular meeting of Bot's Books. This group continues to flourish with new members joining and even a bigger variety of home cooked food, desserts and drink on display and later consumed! The group do discuss the books: this week saw a lively discussion on Christina Rossetti's The Goblin market as well as praise for Michael Morpurgo's Alone On a Wide Wide sea.

The next date is April 14th at 7.00 on Tuesdays. All welcome. Contact the churchwardens for more details.



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The Parish Council

Retirement Of Deirdre Hansen

Last month saw the departure of our long-standing and much respected Council clerk, Deirdre Hansen. Many people think a Parish Clerk simply takes the minutes but it is much more than that.

A good clerk is the backbone of the parish: keeping the council within its legal requirements, updating councillors on the Law, providing guidance and advice, as well as – in Deirdre's case – providing a wealth of local precedent and guidance gleaned from 25 years experience. Over that time, Deirdre has dealt with many challenges including liaising with the National Trust over the maintenance of tracks and footpaths, helping the parish council control speeding traffic, working with the Ministry of Defence in new developments across the RAF base and most recently grouping together with other parishes to fight disruption from work on HS2 and campaign for traffic calming measures along the A4010 (a measure which entailed a presentation to the House of Commons Select Committee). There were often complicated planning decisions to put before the councillors, pressure to obtain action from the district and now county council, (especially after

events like serious flooding), provision of dog-bins, maintenance of notice boards and bus shelters and even measures to control escaping horses and goats. Through it all, Deirdre remained calm and rational and was a fount of good sense and advice. On behalf of the Council, we all wish Deirdre a happy and successful retirement. She will be missed.

The Council would also like to welcome our new clerk Ryan Henwood Bennett, who was for some years clerk at Croxley Green Parish Council and comes with a deep knowledge and understanding of local government. We welcome him to Bradenham.

Summary of Meeting

At the Bradenham Parish Council meeting on 12 January, Councillors met to discuss several matters of interest to the village. The Council first took time to say a heartfelt thank you to our outgoing Parish Clerk,



Services at
St Botolph's,
Bradenham

8th March, 9.30am - Family service

22nd March, 11am - Eucharist



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Deirdre Hansen, who is retiring after an incredible 25 years of service and welcome in our new clerk, Ryan Bennett. Councillors went on to discuss matters on the agenda including renewing the invitation for the National Trust to attend our meeting. The issue of the continuing vacancy of houses in the village, as well as the Manor, was discussed and attempts to improve the condition of the village trackways were debated. The Council also agreed to continue responsibility for the village defibrillator, making sure this important piece of equipment continues to be maintained and available for our community when it is

needed most. Members discussed ideas for sprucing up the pond area in Bradenham, and will be looking at options to enhance this much-loved part of the village for everyone to enjoy. Finally, residents can look forward to the launch of a new Bradenham Parish Council website, which will make it easier to find information, view documents and keep up to date with Council news and activities.

Members of the public are invited to attend parish meetings where the first 15 minutes is always open for local people to raise issues.



Bradenham Fete

The 2nd village fête takes place on Sunday 7th June 2026 in the picturesque village of Bradenham. It's like taking a step back in history with Grade II listed cottages, St. Botolph Church and the slightly sloping cricket pitch. Cricket has been played here since the 1890's!

It has been said that sometimes matches took place between women and men. The village fête has been organised with the old-fashioned theme that reflects the village history in mind.

The events team work closely with the cricket club and Botolph Church members to bring this unique event for the local community to enjoy and raise much needed funds for local charities. We have attracted more craft stalls but more are needed and the team are hoping to entice plant stalls to attend. We now have ample catering units. The Cricket Pavilion will again be open for drinks and nibbles not forgetting ice cream.

The Red Lion will be serving traditional scones with cream and jam plus tea. Not to be missed as last year they sold out.

Look out for next month's Contact where all activities will be advertised. We are also looking for volunteers for the day to help in various roles.

For further information please contact the events team on 0777 6148165.

Note: The John Hampden Book Stall will be selling second-hand books at Bradenham fete. If you have some good quality books you would like to donate to the stall, please drop them off in the church. Thank you in advance.

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Piddington

Piddington Village Hall

Activities this year are revving up nicely and plans are in place for a mix of events including well established regulars, a reprise of more recent successes and a few new additions.

Whilst our committee is pretty well established, we would very much like to find somebody who would be willing to take on the role of secretary for our monthly meetings. It is not an onerous task but is a vital one nonetheless and would only require a commitment of about one to two hours per month. If you might be interested in getting involved in this way, please let us know and you would be made very welcome.

Dates for your diary:

Bingo Night – 7th March

Bingo Night returns, offering a fun-filled evening for the whole community. Join us at 7pm for the chance to win some great prizes. It's just £7 to play, and all proceeds will go towards supporting the next bingo session.

The Comedy Club – 28th March

By popular demand, The Comedy Club returns with a fantastic line-up guaranteed to deliver plenty of belly laughs. It promises to be a brilliant night out. Doors open at 7pm and tickets are £15, available from Tracy on 07779 583833.

Indoor Table-Top Sale – 12th April

Held in the Village Hall from 10am to 1pm (set-up from 8.30am). Tables are £10 – to book, contact Heather on 01494 880692. Refreshments will be available to purchase on the day.

Horticultural Society Spring Quiz – 17th April

Village Hall Quiz Night – 19th June

Includes a delicious charcuterie board for each team. £12 per person, teams of up to 6. To register a team, email Heather at willis42@yahoo.com.

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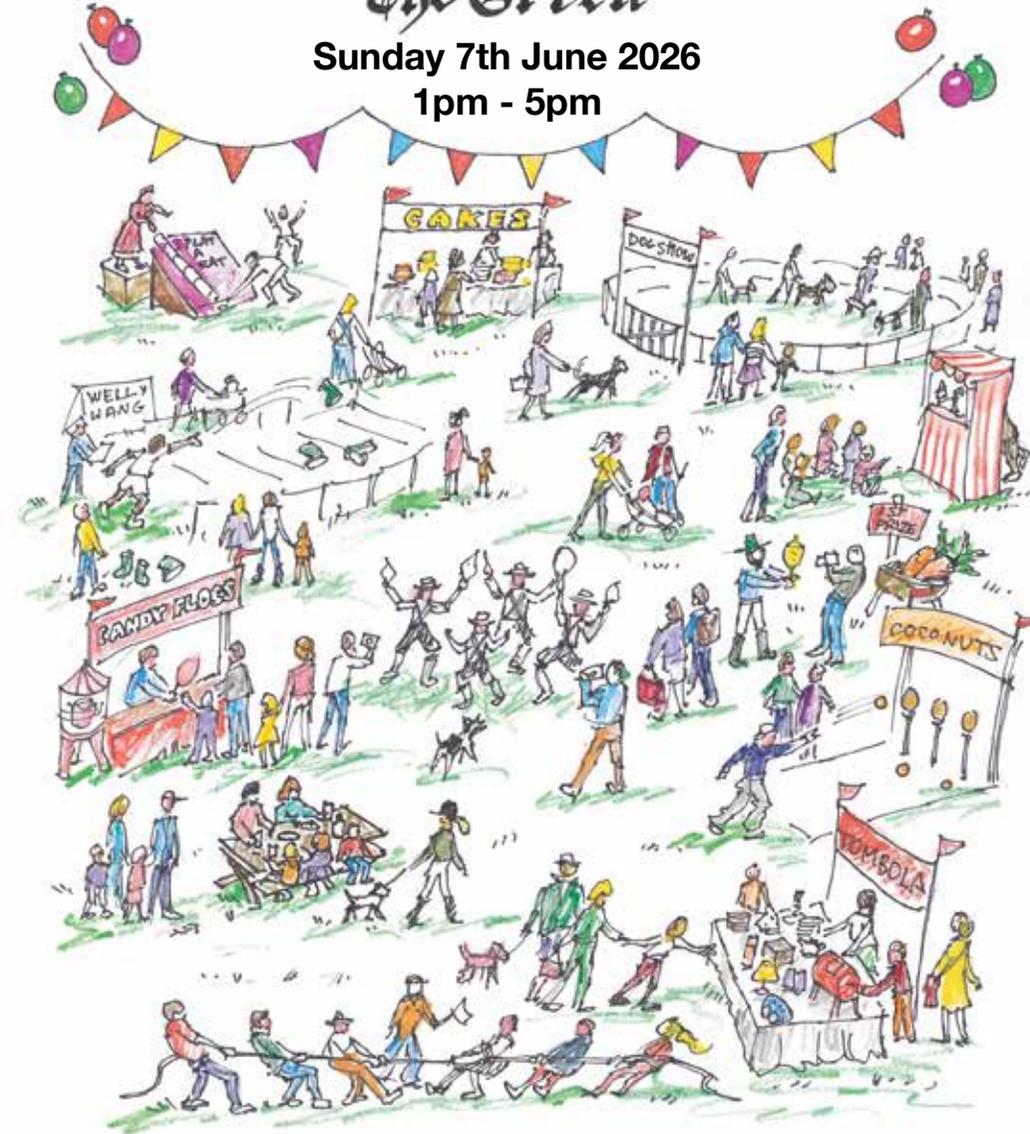
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Bradenham Village Fete
The Green

Sunday 7th June 2026
1pm - 5pm



Horticultural Society



On January 9th, we were pleased to welcome 41 Senior Villagers to the annual dinner. Feedback received was really positive.

The ambient lighting set up by Nigel made all the difference to the atmosphere, the roaming magician worked his magic and left people suitably baffled. The welcome drink was much appreciated and the catering by Jon Christie was first class. After the meal we were once again entertained by the Luminotes Choir.

At our recent meeting we planned our fundraising events for 2026, these dates for your diary are as follows:

17th April – Spring Quiz

2nd May – Coach trip to RHS Wisley

12th July – Piddington's Open Gardens

22nd August – Annual Village Show

9th October – Autumn Quiz

We are also planning a seed planting session for children in the spring; the children will be encouraged to grow the seeds and show the results at the village show. Further details of this and all the above events will be publicised in Contact and on the Piddington Facebook pages.

All profit from the events goes towards the annual dinner for Piddington residents aged 65 and above. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

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Radnage

News From St Mary's Church

Many thanks to Rosy Oliphant and all her helpers for the delicious coffee, tea and cakes served at the two Snowdrop Teas, and thank you to everyone who attended and supported the church. We are also grateful to Jan Lancaster who donated two of her beautiful paintings of St. Mary's Church, surrounded by snowdrops. These were sold by silent auction with all the proceeds going towards the upkeep of the church.

Children are welcome

A Family Service takes place in the church at 11am on the third Sunday of the month.

The service lasts about 40 minutes. There is no communion.

All ages are welcome and catered for!

Children may.....

- Choose a hymn for the following month
- Do a reading
- Give out and/or collect hymn books and service sheets
- Ring the bells
- Help with the collection
- Hand out biscuits (and eat them) when we give out coffee, tea and squash after the service.
- And, it's always fun to play outside in the churchyard!!
- If it's your birthday month, you will receive a candle and we will all sing 'Happy Birthday' to you!!

Parking is so easy as the whole of St Mary's Meadow is available. Just drive up the road past the church, turn right to park, and walk along the path through the churchyard to the church.

We look forward to seeing you and your family each month!



National Church Awards

Congratulations to Libby Watts who was named "Young Architect of the Year"

for her restoration projects at Turville Church. Libby grew up in Radnage and has been masterminding the restoration work at St. Mary's for some years now. Here is a photo of Libby with her proud father, Simon Watts.



Services at
St Mary's,
Radnage

1st March, 9.30am - Eucharist

15th March, 11am - Family Service



Our February meeting was an inspiring talk by Neil Hussey- 'The Physical Chain'. Neil

Hussey is a local PT & fitness coach. He explained the benefits of exercise and how exercise affects all aspects of our physicality at all times of our lives. We learned that all exercise is beneficial, and we can do it in 3-minute sessions!

Our March meeting is a talk given by Paul Barwick titled 'The White Mouse' which is what the Gestapo called Nancy Wake 'because of her talent for evading capture and imprisonment. Her bravery and strength in terrible circumstances will inspire us all.

April - 'Volunteering for the Prison IMB' by Amanda Hucks

May - RESOLUTION MEETING followed by "Life at the Royal Ballet School" by Neil Skidmore

June - GARDEN VISIT 'Red Kites, Bledlow Ridge' by Les and Mag Terry

July - "Beauty in Sculpture" by Graham King

August - SUMMER SOCIAL Venue tbc

September - 'Geology & Landscape of Radnage' by Gill Ayres

October - "Pictures from the Past" by Nigel French

November - AGM - "Line Dancing" by Tim and Tracy Mullett

December - 'Exploring The Arctic' by Mary Scott

Radnage Womens Institute

WI Coffee Mornings

We meet on 2nd Friday at 10.30am and 4th Friday at 10.30-11.30 in varying locations.

March Coffee Mornings:

13th March, 10.30am Apple Orchard

27th March, 10.30am | 11.30am Red Lion,

Please just turn up if you can/you would like to join us, and order and pay for your tea/coffee and it will be brought to the table. If you would like a lift just let Jane know as there are a couple of ladies with space in their car

Further meetings are in the pipeline, but the venues are yet to be announced!

Bring and Buy Table

Have a declutter and bring along anything that you no longer have a use for, books, kitchenware, sewing/ knitting odds and ends, or general bric-a-brac. This is a useful and fun way to add to our funds.

You are very welcome to join us!

We are a thriving and social group, and our numbers are growing. We have now over 50 members. Tea and cakes at every meeting. (Sometimes wine!) We always celebrate Members birthdays with some chocolate! We have interesting speakers, and there is always a lively discussion after the meeting. If you are new to the village, come along to one of our meetings to see what we are like before you join! There is a nominal charge of £5.00 for non-members. Our meetings take place on the first Wednesday of the month, we meet in Radnage Village Hall. Please aim to arrive at 7.15 for a 7.30 start.

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To Book contact - Jenny Bowie on jennyb2801@btinternet.com 07771 602144
or Kay Brown on 07984 530664 brownsskoda@yahoo.co.uk



Radnage Parish Council

Next Meeting

Village Hall, Wed 12th March - 7.30pm



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Forthcoming Events:

Saturday 7th March 2026

Bingo

Sunday 5th April 2026

Easter Sunday Breakfast from 9:30am

Saturday 9th May 2026

Race Night at 8:00pm

Radnage Afternoon Tea & Cake

We meet on the third Thursday of each month from 2.30 - 4.30pm, as a village social activity at Radnage Village Hall. Tea, coffee and cakes are included. A £2 per person donation is asked towards hall costs and charity.



Please join us if you can, we would love to see you.

If you can help set up, help serve teas & coffees or bake a cake please email Charmaine Gallagher.

I also run a craft group every Tuesday afternoon 2.30-4.30pm in Radnage Village Hall. Please bring your own project for a chat, tea, coffee and cake while you are crafting! £2pp donation asked to cover hall costs. Please just turn up or email me on the above if you're interested.

Charmaine Gallagher
ggalla8301@ntlworld.com.



West Wycombe



Parish Council News - West Wycombe

The Next Meeting: Wed 11th Mar, 8pm at West Wycombe Village Hall.

News from St Paul's Church

Snowdrop Sunday was very successful. The weather was so lovely, and everyone enjoyed the refreshments in the Village Hall, as well as the craft stalls.

Our thanks go to Sir Edward and Lady Lucinda Dashwood for enabling visitors to admire the carpet of snowdrops in the park. Many thanks also to those who 'maned' the gate, baked cakes, served the refreshments and washed up, that made the day so special.

We are hoping for fine weather again on Daffodil Sunday, 15th March from 10am - 4pm when, once more we appeal for cakes, and helpers to cover all the necessary tasks that make these events run smoothly. Any help you can offer please let Ros Hilborne

know on 07592752139, or our administrator at admin@westwycombenefice.org.uk

Finally, just a gentle reminder that, in order to keep going, we do need to increase our monthly income. Like every other organisation, there is a struggle to cover costs in the current economy.

Meanwhile enjoy the spring, burgeoning bulbs, nesting birds and longer daylight hours.

Beverley Cope

News from your Parish Council

Saturday 21st February saw our first Community Litter pick of the year, thank you to all those who came along to give a helping hand in giving West Wycombe parish a good old spring clean!

Thank you to our volunteers who regularly pick up rubbish around the parish. Sadly, there seems to be far more rubbish on our roads, pavements, and grass verges/hedgerows. You could help by just picking up any litter that may blow on to your property or on the path outside your house, this would be very much appreciated, every little bit makes a difference.

We still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor and would like to hear from you if you have any questions or information about this position. Most of our Parish Councillors have full-time jobs as well. Why

not come along to one of our meetings to say hello and meet us all? Our next meeting is on Wednesday 11th March at 8pm in the West Wycombe Village Hall.

Parish Council Meetings

West Wycombe Parish Council meetings take place on the second Wednesday of every month except August. Meetings are held in West Wycombe Village Hall at 8pm. Agendas and minutes of every meeting are on our notice boards as well as on our website www.westwycombeparishcouncil.gov.uk



Services at
St Paul's,
West Wycombe

8th March, 11am - Eucharist

22nd March, 9.30am - Family Service



Visit our website for Meeting Minutes and Agendas
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Weather news from Chorley Road

Thank you to Eileen Chapman

Week Ending	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm	Sunshine hours
4th Jan	-2	7	0 snow	10
11 Jan	-8	7	27	24
18th Jan	-2	9	43	7
25th Jan	4	11	52	2



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West Wycombe Chamber Choir

We are currently practising for our Easter Concert which will consist of music that we will be performing on our tour of Northern Spain at the end of May.

The date for our Easter Concert is Saturday 28th March at St Lawrence's Church at 7pm. The money raised will once again go towards the church so please support us, so that this building can be preserved for future generations. Tickets cost - £12 adults and £10 concessions, great value for a good evening's entertainment. You can purchase tickets on line at www.ticketsource.co.uk/west-wycombe-chamber-choir or by following the QR code on our concert poster. Alternatively, you can ring the box office on 07795 680253 or even obtain tickets on the door on the concert evening. Once again thank you for your wonderful



support at our Christmas Concert, it is very much appreciated.

On the social side, choir members took part in their annual quiz. It was hosted by Bledlow Ridge Cricket Club and we thank them for their usual friendly hospitality. This is one of many events our choir run for its members, and we appreciate the efforts of Michèle our Choir Manager in arranging them.

We are currently finalising the celebrations for our 20th year Anniversary. Yes it was 20 years ago on the 1st March that we had our first practice in the Church Rooms in West Wycombe. Twentyfive people turned up that night and we still have 8 of the original members with us. Since then the choir has grown to 60+ members and we now meet on a Wednesday evening in the village school hall.

We are very much looking forward to kicking off our celebrations with our Black Tie Dinner at the Princes Risborough Golf Club. It is an evening of nostalgia and as you would expect, there may even be a little bit of singing! We thank all the members

that helped to organise this event especially Richard Sainter and Sharon Henson.

During April and May the choir will be practicing on some Sunday afternoons in St Lawrence church for the forthcoming tour and the church will also be open for refreshments. So, if you are out for a walk, then do pop in for a cuppa and cake whilst enjoying some free entertainment.

We are very excited about our Summer Concert and Picnic on Saturday 11th July at 3pm in West Wycombe Park, hosted by our patron Lady Lucinda Dashwood. This concert is FREE and for family, friends and loyal supporters of the choir, and will be a ticket only event. Fingers crossed that the weather on that day will be as beautiful as the grounds! If you are interested in attending, then look out for more information in the April edition of Contact.

If you are interested in joining the choir, then do get in touch. We are a very friendly and welcoming group and we sing a vast range of music for all tastes. Contact Michèle 07795 680253

Barry Hodgkinson. Musical Director

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Kensham Farms

We have been busy preparing for our annual Red Tractor farm assurance inspection. This has involved uploading 196 documents to the Red Tractor portal (I've just counted !) followed by an inspection of the grainstores and farm buildings.



This is mainly all good practice but involves a great deal of work. It is essential for us because without Red Tractor certification we would not be able to sell our wheat.

The frustrating part is that we are not paid a premium for Red Tractor certification but wheat that is imported from abroad does not have to abide by the same rules.

If you buy bread at the supermarket it is very unlikely that any of it will have a Red Tractor sticker on it because the bread will have been made with a blend of UK wheat and wheat imported from abroad.



The imported wheat is typically very high protein varieties that are not possible to grow in the UK. Around 15 years ago Hovis marketed a loaf as being 100% British: this was done by contracting British farmers to grow Canadian Hard Red Wheat in the UK and then blending this high protein flour with the flour from the usual UK milling varieties (I know this because we were one of the contracted growers !). The problem was that the Canadian varieties were not very suited to the British climate and were very

low yielding and therefore not economic to grow in the UK and so after a couple of seasons the project was abandoned.

All wheat varieties grown in the UK are classified into 4 groups by UK flour millers:

- Group 1 (high grade breadmaking)
- Group 2 (low grade breadmaking)
- Group 3 (soft wheats used for biscuits, cakes etc)
- Group 4 (animal feed)

The majority of wheat grown in the UK are Group 4 varieties which are largely for pig and poultry feed. These are the highest yielding varieties but do not need to be high protein.

We only grow Group 1 varieties for breadmaking as the chalky, flinty Chiltern soils are less fertile and so we are unable to achieve the high yields that the Group 4 varieties are capable of. However, we are able to achieve consistent milling quality (usually !) which means we are able to command a milling premium for our wheat. This premium can fluctuate wildly depending on the quality of the harvest and supply and demand.

We sell all our wheat through Openfield who are a farmer owned co-operative and supply flour mills all over the UK. We commit all our grain to pools and then leave the selling to Openfield. Typically the pools are over a 3 month period and once all the grain has been delivered the farmers receive the average price for the grain traded over

the pool period. So if we sell in the Autumn pool the grain is collected from the farm between October and December and then the pool pays out at the end of January. We usually split our sales between Autumn, Spring and Summer pools so we get paid 3 times per year.

This has proved to be a reliable method of selling grain over the years and helps to even out the peaks and troughs of the market.

Charlie Edgley

BRIAN R KINCH Painter & Decorator



**OLD DASHWOOD HILL
STUDLEY GREEN**

**brkinch@gmail.com
07801 810874**



Have you seen us out & about in the village? We love to spend time out of preschool & have begun our adventures with great enthusiasm .

We have conducted a traffic survey, looking at the range of coloured vehicles we can spot from high up the hill & how many wheels we can see, have travelled into the town centre to visit the library, buy fresh produce for both café & baking & enjoyed the bus ride there & back! So many learning opportunities for our little ones & such fun to have a change in our day.

We have also started a language programme where we introduce the entire setting to 4 special words each week over a 20-week period, giving them 82 new words to hear, use & understand. This is new to us & we are excited to see the impact this will have

on our little learners. (There is a lot more to this programme & with a whole team approach, we are certain the changes will be positive across the board.)

We like to allow child led learning where possible & jump on the children's ideas, extending them & helping their vision come to life.

If you are looking for an early years setting from September '26, pop us an email to book a visit & come & see what we are about: wwpspg@gmail.com

Sarah Gowers, Deputy Manager

West Wycombe Preschool
www.westwycombepreschool.com



West Wycombe Cricket Club

Although it doesn't feel like it Cricket season is only a couple of months away and there are a number of things happening at your village club that we would like to make you aware of.

The First big event for us is going to be on the 29th March where, as a club we will be taking part in the ECB Get Set Weekend. This is a great day for us as club to get the pavilion and ground ready for the season and this year we are asking the community for some help. If you are available to volunteer for short time period during the day to help with some grass cutting, weeding, painting, cleaning etc that would be amazing. It is also a great way to come and meet the club and find out what we do, as we would always love new members either with our Senior or our Junior Sections.

Junior Cricket. Believe it or not this year is our 10th anniversary of our first ever junior section which started with our ECB All Stars Cricket Session Started by Chris Rowley. We are really lucky to have Chris lead our Junior section alongside his wife Tabs as he was in the original ECB team that designed and delivered All Stars Cricket and Dynamos Cricket. We have made so much progress as cub since then and now have players from 5 years old through to our under 14s squad

this year, with 4 age groups playing games. We are always looking out for new players in all of our age group, no matter what their experience levels of the games. If you have a child aged between 5 and 8 we have our All Stars section on a Sunday morning and you can register your interest now at www.allstarscricket.co.uk, for those aged 8-11 years old our Dynamos section is run through our great coaching team at Active Sport and you can register your interest at www.dynamoscricket.co.uk, and finally if you would like to join our junior section between under 12s (year 7 in school) and Under 14s (Year 9 in school) please go to www.active-sport.co.uk where you can book both winter training sessions and summer membership which starts straight after the Easter Holidays.

For any questions about the club and how to join us or to see when we have games coming up please go to our website at www.westwycombe.play-cricket.com

We look forward to meeting as many of you as we can in the Summer!

Church Services

For information contact Administrator on
admin@westwycombebenefice.org.uk or 07598 738037

March			
Sun 1 Mar <i>Lent 2</i>	9.30am Eucharist	St Mary's, Radnage	Genesis 12:1-4a Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17
	11.00am Family Service	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17
Sun 8 Mar <i>Lent 3</i>	9.30am Family Service	St Botolph's, Bradenham	Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42
	11.00am Eucharist	St Paul's, West Wycombe	Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42
Sun 15 Mar <i>Lent 4 Mothering Sunday</i>	9.30am Eucharist	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	1 Samuel 1:20-28 Colossians 3:12-17 John 19:25-27
	11.00am Family Service	St Mary's, Radnage	1 Samuel 1:20-28 John 19:25-27
Sun 22 Mar <i>Lent 5 (Passion Sunday)</i>	9.30am Family Service	St Paul's, West Wycombe	Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45
	11.00am Eucharist	St Botolph's, Bradenham	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45
Sun 29 Mar <i>Palm Sunday</i>	11.00am Benefice Eucharist	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	Matthew 21:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 27:11-54

April			
Thu 2 Apr <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	6.30pm Eucharist and stripping of the altar	St Paul's, West Wycombe	Ex 12.1-4, 11-14 1 Cor 11.23-26 Jn 13.1-17, 31-35
Fri 3 Apr <i>Good Friday</i>	2.00pm Devotional Service	St Botolph's, Bradenham	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sun 5 Apr <i>Easter Day</i>	9.30am Eucharist	St Mary's, Radnage	Acts 10.34-43 Col 3.1-4 Jn 20.1-18
	11.00am Eucharist	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	
Sun 12 Apr <i>Easter 2</i>	9.30am Family Service	St Botolph's, Bradenham	Acts 2.14a, 22-32 1 Pet 1.3-9 Jn 20.19-31
	11.00am Eucharist	St Paul's, West Wycombe	
Sun 19 Apr <i>Easter 3</i>	9.30am Eucharist	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	Acts 2.14a, 36-41 1 Pet 1.17-23 Lk 24.13-35
	11.00am Family Service	St Mary's, Radnage	
Sun 26 Apr <i>Easter 4</i>	9.30 am Family Service	St Paul's, West Wycombe	Acts 2.42-47 1 Pet 2.19-25 Jn 10.1-10
	11.00am Eucharist	St Botolph's, Bradenham	



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From the Registers

Weddings

Talis Montero
and Daniel Livadas
St Lawrence, West Wycombe

Funerals

Penelope Tye
St Lawrence, West Wycombe

Burial of Ashes

Judith Blofeld
St Botolph's, Bradenham

Kenneth Rose
St Botolph's, Bradenham

A Church for the Whole Family

FAMILY CHURCH SERVICES

Sun. 1st March, 11am

St Pauls, Bledlow Ridge

Sun. 8th March, 9.30am

St Botolph's, Bradenham

Sun. 15th March, 11am

St Mary's, Radnage

Sun. 22nd March, 9.30am

St Pauls, West Wycombe



Parish Office - 07598 738037
admin@westwycombebenefice.org.uk