

CONTACT

Church & Community Newsletter

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FROM YOUR
COMMUNITY

LOCAL
EVENT
CALENDAR



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www.achurchnearyou.com

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Permission to Officiate:	Revd. Veronica Beaumont 07958 701913 veronica.beaumont75@gmail.com



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Welcome

Dear Friends

Over coffee after a recent service, several people mentioned hymns that they would like to be included in future services. I have also had to talk to families about the hymns that they wished to include in special services, baptisms, weddings and funerals. It has made me think about hymns – what are their purposes, what do we want from them or what can they give to us and to our worship.



My dictionary {or nowadays Google} tells me that a hymn is a song or lyrical poem of praise, or devotion, typically addressed to God or a deity. They are commonly used during religious services and are marked by metrical structures.

Perhaps the most widely known are the carols that we sing at Christmas which tell the familiar story of the birth of Jesus and lift our spirits as we remember the happy times that we associate with that time of year, rather more than expressing the wonder of the incarnation of God.



And that is a clue – our memories – particularly of happy schooldays. The reason why “All things bright and beautiful” is a favourite with so many. But the purpose of

hymns is far richer and more layered than many people realise. At their best, hymns are theology, prayer, memory, formation, and community – sung! and can enrich our worship adding another element to our liturgy.

Hymns can teach the faith as they express doctrines in a memorable, poetic form in a way that congregations can understand more easily than in wordy prose and can more easily be taught to children. They can often illuminate and interpret the readings of the day and draw connections between biblical themes.

There is no doubt that our hymns draw us together as a community bringing us together in a single voice of prayer. We are united in body, mind and spirit through melody and harmony, breath and rhythm. When we sing: - we join the voices of past centuries; participate in the worship of the global Church and express unity with Christians we will never meet.

...Continued on Page 4

I am always pleased to have requests for particular hymns, but I will not promise to use them unless they are relevant to or clarify the bible readings or theme of the day or are emotionally relevant to a time of penitence, adoration, offering or joyful praise. It is good to begin with a call to worship possibly introducing the theme of the day and certainly to be sent out on a high note with a sense of mission. I like it

when a hymn sung on Sunday leaves a tune on my brain that continues to remind me of God's presence throughout the week.



Happy Singing
Revd Veronica Beaumont



About Contact

You might think CONTACT, being originally a parish magazine, would receive funding from the Church of England but no - it is ENTIRELY paid for by advertising and generous individuals who donate varying amounts - just so you can read the magazine you are holding in your hand. It is also a not-for-profit organisation. Behind every issue of Contact is an extraordinary team of dedicated volunteers and staff—each playing a vital role in bringing your community magazine to life.

At the heart of it all are our **five village correspondents (Bob, Richard, Paul, Peter and Susie)**, the eyes and ears of our communities. They gather local stories, share important updates, and ensure every village has a voice.

Supporting them is our **Church Administrator, Rayne**, who brings everything together - collecting editorial from across all villages and churches, compiling service timetables, and carefully checking every detail to ensure accuracy.

Keeping everything on track behind the scenes is our **Treasurer, Lucy**, who manages finances, pays bills, issues invoices, and oversees donations with care and precision.

Our **advertising coordinator, Kirsi** plays a crucial role in the magazine's success, expertly managing ad placements while sourcing a vital stream of income that keeps the Contact thriving.

Then comes the creativity. Our **Designer, Susie**, transforms all the collected content into the beautifully presented magazine you see in print and online.

Before it goes to print, our **Proofreader, Richard**, applies his expert eye for language and detail, ensuring every page reads perfectly.

Our local print delivers the magazine to a team of **five volunteer coordinators** who organise the dividing of copies so each village is ready for delivery.

And finally, the people who bring Contact directly to you - our **incredible delivery volunteers**:

16 in Radnage, 17 in West Wycombe, 11 in Bradenham, 20 in Bledlow Ridge and 7 in Piddington Together, they ensure the magazine arrives through your door.

All of this - every role, every page, every delivery - is powered by volunteers.

Contact is more than a magazine; it's a true community effort, created with care, collaboration, and commitment

DONATE



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.

From the Registers

Funerals

Anne Paull

St Lawrence, West Wycombe

Romola (Rom) Sumpter

St Mary's, Radnage

Burials

Susan Llewellyn

St Botolph's, Bradenham

Burial of Ashes

Angela Colsell

*St Paul's,
West Wycombe*

Susan Smith

St Mary's, Radnage

Ernest John

Wentworth
*St Paul's,
West Wycombe*

Liam McMonagle
St Mary's, Radnage



Baptisms

Maya Collins

St Botolph's, Bradenham

Event Calendar

Would you like your event included?

Email: westwycombecontact@gmail.com

MAY

Art Fair

Fri 1st - Mon 4th May
Manor Farm, Bradenham
www.theartexhibitionists.co.uk

Street Food Evening

Friday 1st May 5pm-9pm
The Walled Garden, West Wycombe
www.thewalledgarden.com

Paranormal Evening

Friday 1st May 8pm - 2am
Hellfire Caves, West Wycombe
www.hellfirecaves.co.uk

David Attenborough's 100th Birthday

Sat 9th May 7pm
St Botolph's Church, Bradenham

Bring and Buy Plant Sale

Sun 10th May 10-11.30am
Bledlow Ridge, Village Hall

Chamber Choir Music and Refreshments

Sunday 10th May 4 - 5.30 p.m.
St Lawrence church

Open Garden

Tuesday 12th May 2 - 5 p.m.
Haws Lane, Bledlow Ridge

British Cactus & Succulent Society

Saturday 16th May
West Wycombe Village Hall
high-wycombe.bcss.org.uk

Summer Fete

Sunday 17th May 12-3pm
West Wycombe School
www.westwycombepreschool.com

Ridge Off Roder

Sunday 17th May 9.30am
Bledlow Ridge

Chamber Choir Music and Refreshments

Sunday 17th May 4 - 5.30 p.m.
St Lawrence church

SEND Coffee Morning

Thurs 21st May 9.30-11.30am
The Walled Garden, West Wycombe
www.yetinuggets.co.uk

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Psychic and Wellbeing Fayre

Sun 24th May 10am - 4pm
Village Hall, West Wycombe
www.hauntedblessings.co.uk

Street Food Evening

Friday 29th May 5pm-9pm
The Walled Garden, West Wycombe
www.thewalledgarden.com

Paranormal Evening

Friday 29th May 8pm - 2am
Hellfire Caves, West Wycombe
www.hellfirecaves.co.uk

Horton's Steam Fair

Sat 30th - Sun 31st May
Pedestal Field, West Wycombe
www.hortonssteamfair.co.uk

JUNE

Bradenham Fete

Sunday 7th June 1-5pm
Bradenham Village Green

Wolf Boy Outdoor Theatre

Sat 13th June 11am - 2pm
The Walled Garden, West Wycombe
www.thewalledgarden.com

Quiz Night

Friday 19th June
Piddington Village Hall

Summer Solstice

Sun 21st June 5pm - 9pm
The Walled Garden, West Wycombe
www.thewalledgarden.com

Paranormal Evening

Friday 26th June 8pm - 2am
Hellfire Caves, West Wycombe
www.hellfirecaves.co.uk

West Wycombe Brass Band

Sunday 28th June 2.30pm
West Wycombe Park
www.wvbb.co.uk

St Lawrence Church Open

Sunday 28th June
St Lawrence church

Wellness Festival

Sunday 28th June
Piddington Village Hall

JULY

Radnage Garden Open

Sunday 5th July,
in aid of St Mary's Church, Radnage

Hellfire Motor Vehicle

The Big Meet 2026
Saturday 18th July, 10am-4pm
The Walled Garden, West Wycombe,
hellfiremotorvehicle.club

Community Picnic

Sunday 19th July 12-2pm
West Wycombe Hill (by school),

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

West Wycombe Brass Band

Sunday 26th July 2.30pm
West Wycombe Park
www.wvbb.co.uk





Bledlow Ridge

News from St Paul's Church

Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 3rd May 12.00 midday following 11.00am Family Service and Baptism

As is the practice of the Church of England, along with our sister churches we hold our Annual Parish Meeting and our Annual Parochial Church Meeting before the end of May. The difference between these meetings is that everyone who lives in the parish is entitled to attend and vote at the Parish meeting which exists simply to elect our church wardens but only those who are on the electoral roll of the parish can vote at the Parochial meeting.

The Parochial meeting or APCM is when our Church Council and Deanery representative are elected, and our annual accounts are adopted. It is also the annual opportunity for everyone to say what they would like from their parish church. Since Eileen's death we have been discovering the many tasks that she quietly undertook and now need someone to take up responsibility. Very many thanks to those who have already taken over some of these. We desperately need PCC (Parish Church Council) members. This is not an arduous job as we only meet less than 6 times a year but it is essential for us to have sufficient

representatives to ensure that the church continues to meet the needs of the whole village and fulfils its call to mission.

We will be welcoming Alexander Messenger to our church family as he is baptised as part of the Family Service at 11.00am on 3rd May.

The Eucharist for this month will be on Sunday 17th May at 9.30am which is also the day for the Ridge Off Roader so there will be road closures from 0925 to 0935 and 1025 and 1035. Parking has kindly been arranged for us in the Village Hall car park so this should not be a problem as long as we arrive before 9.25am.

May remains part of the Easter season with Ascension day on Thursday 14th and Pentecost or Whit Sunday on 24th. The last day of the month is Trinity Sunday with a Eucharist at West Wycombe at 11.00am. The church returns to the colour green and what is often referred to as Ordinary time. It is a time to take an overall view of the life and teaching of Jesus, who or what is God and what it means to live as a Christian today.

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Parish Council News - Bledlow-cum-Saunderton

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Council taking place on Monday 11th May 2026 at Bledlow Village Hall starting at 7.30pm

The Parish Council met on Monday 13th April 2026 at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall.

The RSPB and The Chilterns Conservation Board, who oversee the Chilterns National Landscape (AONB), discourage feeding red kites.

Here are some of the reasons why:

1. Feeding them encourages red kites to become bolder than they naturally would be and to fly too close for comfort. They have sharp claws and a wingspan of around six foot.
2. Feeding encourages concentrated numbers of kites in one area and from expanding their range and looking for new breeding territories and sources of food. Locally this discourages songbirds and ground nesting birds from feeding and successfully bringing up their young.

3. The scraps of uncooked and cooked food that people feed red kites do not present a balanced, healthy diet. Please recycle food waste in the weekly collection.
4. Red kites can drop scraps of food onto neighbouring gardens and properties, which is a health risk and attracts rats and vermin; It can also pose a danger to domestic pets.

Bledlow cum Saunderton Parish Council strongly advises all its residents to comply with this advice.



Scan to read the Chairmans Report



Services at
St Paul's,
Bledlow Ridge

Family Service
Sunday 3rd May 11am

Eucharist
Sunday 17th May 9.30am



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.

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The Ridge Evening WI
The island of St Helena was the topic of Martin Patmore's presentation to us in April. With a population of 4,000, and a dramatic rocky terrain, this British Overseas Territory is 1200 miles west of the Namibia coast and 2500 miles east of Brazil.

Until they managed to create enough flat land to build an airport in 2017, all visitors had to go by sea - 6 days from South Africa. We heard about the very friendly people, the lovely fresh fish from its abundant marine life, climbing the 699 steps of Jacob's ladder, the love of cricket and their growing of high-quality coffee. Napoleon was exiled and died there in 1821. Martin has donated his fee and donations to Thames Valley Air Ambulance and we thank him for sharing with us his super photos and recent experience of his visit.

At our May 6th meeting, 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Sue Mitchell will be telling us

JOIN US AT NEXT MEETING
Wednesday 6th May 7.30pm
Village Hall, Bledlow Ridge
Guest Speaker Sue Mitchell

all about Raptors and will be bringing live tethered birds with her.

There will definitely be owls!

If you would like to visit (£3 donation) please come along to our friendly group or enquire at ridgeeveningwi@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

New Correspondent for Bledlow Ridge section of Contact Magazine.

The role entails emailing community contacts for editorial once a month and collating text into a word document for the Graphic Designer. Approx unpaid 2 hours a month (10 months a year)

For more information email Bob Simmons - ridgenws@gmail.com

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Bledlow Ridge Horticultural Society

After yet another very successful and enjoyable Annual Supper in March and a visit from our favourite nurseryman, Paul Green, and his plants in April, it's now time to turn attention to our renowned Bring and Buy Plant Sale. So book this free event in your diaries for Sunday

10 May 10.00am to 11.30am at the Village Hall.

There should be vegetable plants, shrubs, perennials, house plants and bedding plants at tempting prices (cash only please) grown by members and friends and a sundries table for unwanted tools and gardening items. As the name suggests, if you've got some spare plants or items of your own, please bring them along and someone will give them a good home. To make it easier, plants can either be brought along and delivered on the day to our "Plant Reception" table or preferably delivered to Wendy (next to the Hall) on the Saturday afternoon 2pm - 4pm so that they can be priced ready to sell at the "off".

Should you require a bit of sustenance during your visit, we are pleased to announce that our Potting Shed Café will this year have tea/coffee, bacon/sausage rolls and homemade

cake, with all proceeds going to the Village Hall.

It's then a "member's only" visit to the RHS gardens at Wisley in Surrey on Tuesday 9 June. Our £10 Annual Membership covering all meetings plus discounts for other events is a real bargain anyway, but because we are affiliated to the RHS, we will all get free entry, saving £18.40p on the standard adult entrance. Put your name down, make your own way there to arrive at 10.45am, collect your ticket and the day is yours.

To find out more on any of the above, please talk to one of the Committee or use the contact form on our website

www.bledlowridgehortsoc.org.uk



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

The most significant thing to have happened at the club in the last month, perhaps in the last year, is the launch of our new outdoor nets.

The project commenced just over a year ago thanks to a fundraising auction with generous pledges made by both members and friends of the club. Our thanks to all those who donated, attended the dinner and bid for prizes and to George Grose and the Superstars team for running the auction. Oli White later procured match funding from Sport England to enhance other fundraising activities and we are grateful to Bledlow Ridge Parish Council who stepped up with a grant to enable us to reach our target.

With funds in place the physical work could begin. George Dance's telehandler enabled us to demolish the old facility in one morning – meaning that the rest of us could spend more time standing around drinking coffee - and we are grateful to various individuals plus Brackley Rugby Club for taking (seemingly) miles of old carpet and to

Vertus for helping us dispose of 50 tonnes of spoil. Paul Spittles provided us with a large quantity of topsoil so we could reseed areas of the car park which had taken the weight of large trucks during the installation by Dura Sport who completed their work in only eight days.

Early signs are good: a much-superior practising surface and much more realistic bounce. The netting system is designed so that balls cannot escape out of the corners or into the adjacent lane and there is plenty of room at the back for wicketkeepers to practise.

We ask all members and villagers to respect the new facility and to only enter the area to practise wearing appropriate flat-soled footwear. No children (unless practising) no dogs (unless practising!) and no food please.

The Ridge Academy

The Ridge Academy was launched on the last day of March when the new nets were used for the first time. Yours truly (regrettably, not an Academy member) survived possible public humiliation when asked to face the very first ball which was bowled by a teenager, in front of 50 spectators. Happily, the season's first delivery passed safely out of reach down the legside, something of which veteran Mark Dakin would have been proud.

Twenty players working in small groups, mostly teenagers but including the somewhat older Ben H and Isaac from which you can draw your own conclusions, have been invited for six, weekly specialist coaching sessions to understand and improve technique. This first of these proved highly successful and we are grateful to Matt, Cam and Connor for imparting their knowledge.

The Senior season

Senior pre-league season matches started on 18th April and league fixtures for our three teams commence on Saturday 9th May. We play in the Cherwell Cricket League every Saturday and there are friendlies or cup matches on a number of Sundays. Spectators can enjoy the Clubhouse Café from 10am on Saturdays and the bar is open later in the day for those who would like a different kind of refreshment.

The annual Sid Bird Six-a-side tournament takes place on Sunday 7th June for which bets are already being taken and probably lost. Cricket Week starts on Monday 3rd August with an all-day match versus The MCC on the Tuesday and ends with the Tommy Beattie Trophy Evening T20 against Risborough Rugby on the Friday evening.

Tommy is already rehearsing his speech which may turn out to be very similar to the last one and the one before that, and...

Junior Cricket

Juniors practice is under way on Friday nights with and Allstars and Dynamos due to start on 15th May. As before, the Friday night BBQ will be busy and the bar also. Thanks to Jamie Unwin and his team of coaches for arranging more than 80 matches across 9 age groups.

Welcome

The club welcomes players of all ages, men and women, boys and girls. The 3rd XI will again play home matches at West Wycombe (another beautiful venue). New players can contact me, John Rolfe – 07873 516568 – j.rolfe444@btinternet.com, or just come to practice at 6pm on a Wednesday night. New friends and spectators are of course, very welcome also.

Please contact us via the website or contact me, John Rolfe, direct: j.rolfe444@btinternet.com

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Bledlow Ridge Tennis Club

1st April marks the start of a new membership year at Bledlow Ridge Tennis Club. It also marks the end of a busy period of league matches as the winter season comes to an end.

The true start of the summer season is when the cricket club bar reopens on a Friday evening and we all enjoy catching up off court after our popular Friday night social tennis and pickleball sessions. The cafe at the cricket club also offers an idyllic spot for lunch outside after a tennis or pickleball lesson or match.

Tennis and pickleball are year-round sports, and while we don't stop, except in the most extreme weather, most of us enjoy the longer days and warmer temperatures on court. We will move into our summer league matches, tournament season will soon begin and in the meantime our singles box league continues with a new term.

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the UK. Our pickleball players are regularly on court and, in addition to friendly club games and social sessions, they have just started playing competitively against other clubs, with their first game in April against Widmer End. If you are interested in giving pickleball a try please email pickleballbrtc@gmail.com for more details.

Match Reports:

In the men's doubles league, we enjoyed a 5-3 home win against Tring on 7th March, with a team consisting of Chris Rawson, Tom Dawson, Stephen Davidson and Robbie Mitchell. We then faced a tougher test away to Princes Risborough on 21st March, where Ivan Rogers, Thomas Fodor, Tom Dawson and Stephen Davidson represented the club.

Our women's doubles team have also been in action against strong opposition. They faced the eventual league winners, Leighton Buzzard, with Jane Lawrence, Jenny Litchfield, Alex Murray and Carole Tribe playing, and also took on Berton, represented by Jenny Litchfield, Joanna Lucas, Alex Murray and Holly Gage.

In mixed doubles, there was a great result with a win against Chesham, thanks to Jane Lawrence, Dirmuid Jennings, Charlie Lawrence and Cathy Armstrong.

As always, we are delighted to welcome new members, whether you are looking for competitive matches, social tennis, or to give pickleball a try in a friendly village setting.

Dates for Your Diary

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 Tournament

Friday 18th September –
Annual Dinner

Saturday 10th October –
World Pickleball Day

Sunday 14th December –
Christmas Tournament

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Bledlow Ridge School

The summer term brings a change to uniform, with summer uniform coming out of the wardrobe, and hopefully this will bring some welcome sunshine!

The school fundraising team have organised a fun colour run, which will see the children running around the field, jumping over obstacles and being covered in paint. This fundraiser is always great fun and raises much-needed funds for the school. The Ridge Off Roader is also happening in May, and this is the school's biggest fundraiser of the year, which sees runners from across Bucks, Oxfordshire and beyond complete the challenging course. Please do come out and cheer the runners on!

Year 3 will also be off to West Wycombe to meet Geology Jill to do some important research of the area. "We Are Artists" will be the enrichment week this term, and we can't wait to see the creations the children produce.

Sports Day is also happening, and the children all try so hard at the events and, most importantly, have fun!



Country Notes

After some dry weather in March the soil was right for farmers to crack on with tilling, rolling and drilling. “Drill in the dust and the barns will bust” so the saying goes, but there is far too much weather to come between now and harvest to set any store by that old adage. We saw hares boxing in the fields below Lodge Hill, watched ravens tumbling on the wind, and walked along footpaths twinkling with the starry flowers of wood

anemones. April sunshine should bring out orange tip butterflies. Every May I hope to hear cuckoos on the Ridge but rarely do. I’ve seen them most often in water meadows where the females lay their eggs in reed warbler nests, or in Yorkshire dales or Welsh mountain valleys where there are plenty of meadow pipit nests.



The Boot at Bledlow Ridge

In recent articles about The Boot in Contact magazine, we talked about how it was purchased by the local residents to save it from being developed into houses.

The pub is a vital part of the Bledlow Ridge community, offering a place for villagers and those from afar to meet and enjoy a drink, something to eat or both, with family and friends. Whether it be lunchtimes or evenings it acts as an important cog in the atmosphere that makes Bledlow Ridge a lovely village to live in.

be the heartbeat of village life, keeping the community spirit alive week after week.

There was a report released last year by Loughborough University called the Open Arms report which found that more than 60% of pub-goers see their local pub as an important space for community interaction and 40% said it was the main place they socialised outside the home. The author Dr Thomas Thurnell-Read explains, “Pubs provide a sense of stability and familiarity in a world that can otherwise feel isolating.” For rural communities where opportunities for social interaction on the high street are limited, this role is even more vital. In areas where people may live miles apart, the local pub may be the only regular meeting place they have.

The end of March this year was the fifth anniversary of the unique sign that sits proudly at the front of the pub having been handmade and erected by a number of locals. The imagery was by created by designer Simon Clay from West Wycombe with key input from the previous tenant of the time Adele Schram de Jong. The sign itself was made voluntarily by villager Ian Darkins and erected by Roy Boddy, another villager. Everyone was keen to add their input to making a new sign that would stand out, and it certainly does! It only emphasises the real charm of rural community pubs. They’re not just places to ‘grab a quick drink’; they can

British pubs and publicans have been at the heart of their local areas for centuries, meeting social needs and connecting communities, but new research has put a figure on just how much social value they

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National Garden Scheme – Red Kites Garden Opening 12 May

There are around 3500 gardens open to the public in the UK under the National Garden Scheme and since 2009, the garden at Red Kites in Haw Lane has been one of them.

This year for the NGS, we currently have 2 Open Afternoons for the public and 3 private bookings. Tuesday 12 May 2pm - 5pm is the date of our Spring public opening. Admission is £6pp and tea/coffee and homemade cake

£4 (cash please, no cards), with all proceeds going to the NGS’s charities, the main ones being MacMillan Cancer Support, Hospice UK, Marie Curie and Parkinson’s UK.

bring. Groundbreaking research from Pub is The Hub, the not-for-profit organisation that helps pubs to diversify and provide essential local services and activities, called 'Pub is The Hub: Social Value' has established that for every £1 spent investing in the provision of services and activities in the pub an average of £8.28 of social value is created.

It confirms that pubs offer social value that supports community cohesion, job security, well-being, increased social interaction and resilient communities. The report also reveals that pubs help people to overcome social isolation and replace the loss of services in rural areas.

So why highlight all this research on local pubs? The Boot exists because of locals not only using it, but also the fact that so many purchased shares with the sole intention of keeping it open and accessible, even though there was no real benefit to the individual shareholder. If there is a benefit it is that it adds value to local property prices. Like many of the other village assets which rely on us to support them, the Pub is no different. Today more than ever, with village pubs closing at an alarming rate,

your support is vital for the success and continuity of the Pub.

With this in mind we wanted to draw people's attention to the fact that a number of people over the years have moved away from the village or sadly passed on. Their shares are not held by locals anymore and so do not have the same emotional and supportive link that they once may have had.

Therefore, a number of shares exist which could be purchased by those of you who are interested.

An opportunity to support a local community treasure; owned by community shareholders with the purpose of retaining a sustainable, successful village pub. If you are interested in acquiring any of these types of shares then please email thenewbootlimited@gmail.com where more information is available and possible contact details for those who wish to sell due to a change in circumstances.



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Bradenham



St Botolph's Church

Nature and the coming of Spring has been very much on our minds this month. Since the last issue in March, the church has welcomed over 1,896 visitors.

OK, not the two legged variety, although we were very pleased at the good turn out for our new 9.30am FAMILY SERVICE, involving children's prayers, games and reflection. We even had a four year old take to the pulpit to give us a sermon!

The visitors we are mentioning here have – I think – 6 legs.

I'm talking about LADYBIRDS.



None of us knows how it happens but every year, without fail, hundreds of ladybirds, it would seem, appear in the church, often within the frame of the 300-year-old West Door, as it is opened after winter.

So we then spend about 2 weeks gently gathering them up and putting them out on the bushes outside. We even take them to High Wycombe which needs all the wildlife it can get.

The odd thing is, we never see the "mummy" ladybird or the lava stage of the insects – the ladybirds just appear at the first sign of

Spring. And every one a Christian.

5 Funfacts About Ladybirds

- They are actually beetles not birds.
- Their coat is red or red and black or orange, as God had a sense of humour and told them to blend into their surroundings
- They are the gardener's best friend (sorry, Monty's Tim) as they eat hundreds of aphids (whatever they are).
- Their life cycle is only about 4-7 weeks
- The collective noun for a group of ladybirds is – wait for it – a "loveliness". Ahh....

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

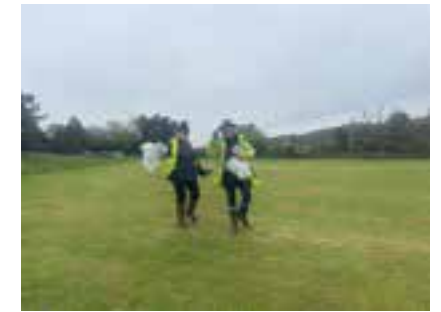
We are pleased to welcome back to the church the Blue in Green Trio who will be leading the music in a special concert to celebrate the life of David Attenborough. David reaches his centenary in May and

so to pay tribute to the great man, we will be having an evening of music, poems and video clips celebrating him and the world of nature around us this Spring. Seats are free so no need to book but first come, first seated.

This is on: Saturday May 9th at 7.30pm – 9.30pm. Facilities provided by the local cricket club with thanks to Steve and the team.

Thanks to Paul and all the villagers who turned out for the village Litter Pick, on Saturday 11th, despite the wind and the

rain. Much was collected and the village and surroundings is already looking ready for summer!



Bradenham Village Fete

The date for the village fête is Sunday 7th June from 1pm until 5pm in beautiful Bradenham Village. Village fêtes are an essential platform for community cohesion, bringing people together and are an amalgamation of enterprise, charity and community spirit. A fun day for all the family.

This unique event, organised and fundraised by Bradenham Residents, attracted support from our local Walters Ash Garage working from their premises opposite the Bradenham Hill junction for over 30 years. Benefiting from 8 bays with ramps, they can service, MOT and repair all makes and model of vehicles. We are also delighted to have the support of our local Walters Ash CO OP store. It is good that local businesses are getting involved in our charity community event

It is good to combine local businesses and charities, enabling us to organise an afternoon of fun with activities, food and laughter. Bradenham Cricket Club will have the bar open for a quick top up and they are even selling ICE CREAMS

A Candy Floss machine will be situated next to the food stall.

Last month we mentioned a prize is waiting for the winner who names the activity performing in the main area. The clue: this involves 2 different species of animals. One is very dominant. Any ideas? Leave your answer by ringing the Events Team on 07776148165, not forgetting your name and contact number. GOOD LUCK

We are looking for volunteers to help in the various activities on the day. CAN YOU HELP?

This is a charity event and we are fundraising for YoungCarersBucks and our beautiful St Botolph Church which will be open as usual all day.



Services at
St Botolph's,
Bradenham

Family Service
Sunday 10th May 9.30am

Eucharist
Sunday 24th May 11am

Reflection

I am always struck by the prayer of the Blessing said at the end of each service: "The peace of God that passeth all understanding ..."

It's sometimes hard to contrast the beauty of Spring in the Chilterns with the continuing worries about the Gulf War. With every day bringing disaster heaped upon disaster, it can be a disruptive and worrying time, especially for those members of our parish of Bradenham who work with or who are in the armed forces. At this time, our thoughts are with them.

We pray that the fields may throw up rare flowers this May – white lilies, the symbol of peace.

A woman who went by the oddy named St Julian of Norwich, whose shrine can still be

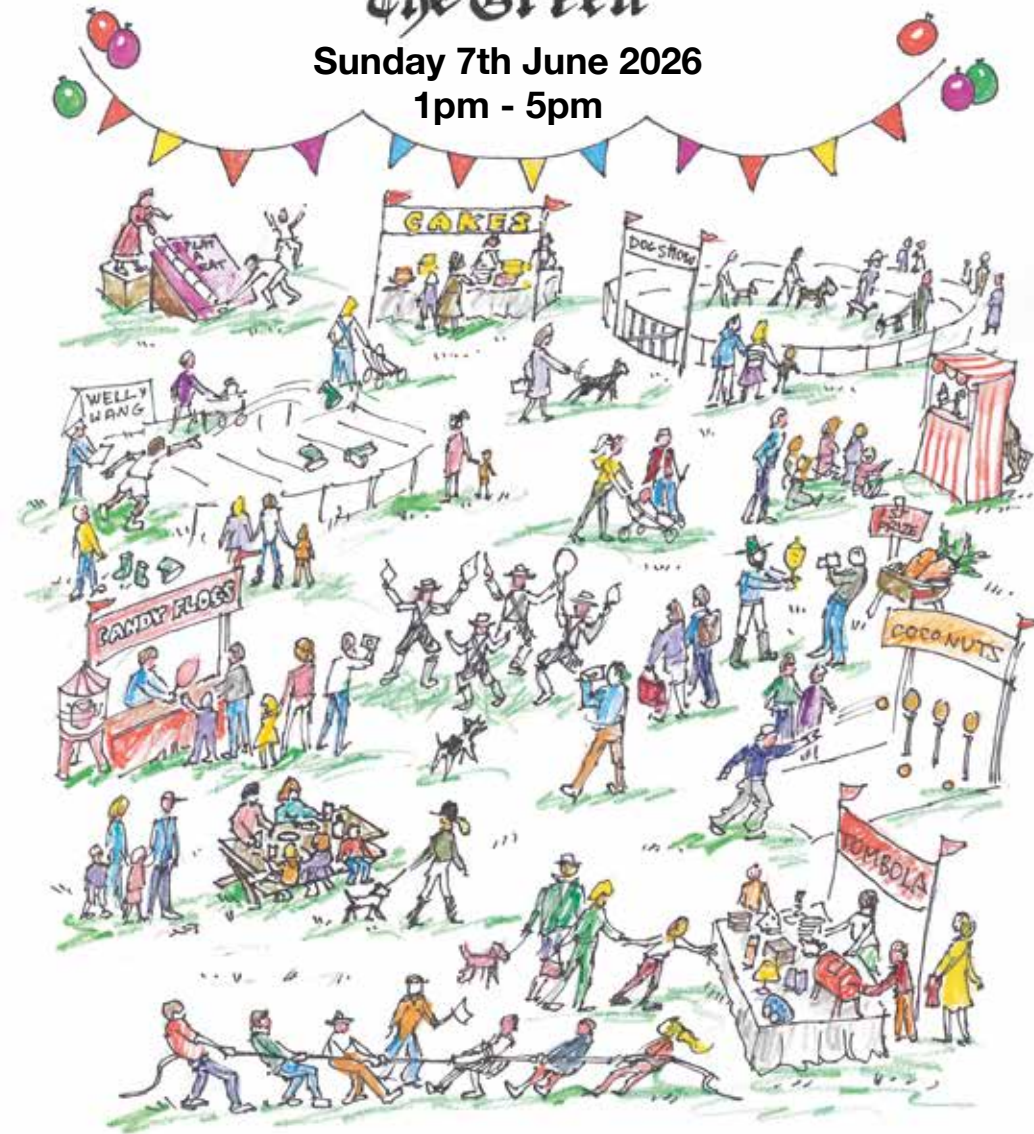
seen, wrote in 1368: "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well." That hope, in a Europe devastated by the Black Death, is an inspiration for us all. We need to hope at such times as these and find comfort in the daily things: family, friends, health, even school and jobs, and Nature's everyday miracle unfolding around us.

And if that doesn't work, slip into St Botolph's, have a coffee and ring the bells. It will do you good, sounds great and reminds you that some things endure: the bells you are ringing were made 75 years BEFORE the lady in Norwich.

Bradenham Village Fete The Green

Sunday 7th June 2026

1pm - 5pm




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Piddington

Piddington

It has been so good to see the back of the incessant wet weather that plagued us during the first three months of this year.

Now that the clocks have gone forward, it is a pleasure to watch the community of dog walkers setting off across the fields beyond Piddington Lane on sunny afternoons and evenings, without the need to wear dry robes or the equivalent to protect them from the elements. Allotments holders have also been hard at work alongside the Old Oxford Road in anticipation of the

better weather. Having said that, it was a bit of a shock to discover a ground frost this morning (especially having spent the last few days reseeding the grass in my back garden!) and this probably means that the only things continuing to grow for the next week or so are the potholes on the local roads. Such is village life in rural Buckinghamshire these days.

Horticultural Society

Horticultural Society's Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place on Friday 22nd May in the Village Hall at 7.30pm and all are most welcome. We are a small group of people who work tirelessly to raise funds for the Seniors' annual dinner and we meet approximately four times a year. Anyone wishing to join the committee would be

especially welcome. We look forward to seeing you at the Village Hall.

Piddington's Hidden Gardens

Following the success of this event last year we are hoping to be able to increase the number of gardens on show this year on Sunday 12th July. If you would like to show your garden please contact Louise Cloke on 07772 672753 for further details.

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Piddington Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee is keen to welcome new members to its ranks and is particularly looking for people with skill sets in minute taking for its monthly meetings.

This is not an onerous task but is so important for the smooth running of hall business. Additionally, our fundraising committee would love to welcome more people to join its efforts to generate funds to support essential maintenance work within the hall and thereby help to ensure the long-term operation of the hall and its role in the life of the village community. If you are interested and have the time to support the village hall, please contact us via fb or the VH website.

Our planned events for the next few months include:

Quiz Night – Friday 19th June.

The Village Hall is holding a quiz night with a difference, where each team will be given a charcuterie board on their table to enjoy. The Quiz will take place on Friday 19th June at 7.30 pm; it will comprise 6 rounds of questions with prizes for the winner, and there will be a raffle prizes. All monies raised will help with hall funds and its continued use.

To let us know if you want a team (and we need 6 teams) please call Heather on 01494 880692 or message Heather on fb.

Wellness Festival – Sunday 28th June.

All day event with lots of taster sessions and a raffle with great prizes from stall holders. All monies towards to the hall. This is an uplifting and vibrant event so come early to book your taster session.

Easily Does It Painting Party - 5 October

Details tbc nearer the time.



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Radnage



News From St Mary's Church

We celebrated on Easter Sunday with a wonderful morning communion service by the Reverend Lance Sharpe. The church was full with all of us singing lustily to the accompaniment of our organist, Don Timms.

The church looked splendid with spectacular floral arrangements, and a glorious floral arch at the entrance. Thank you to all involved in the music and the flowers and thanks, also, to Lottie, the granddaughter of Lindsay and Claudia Wilcox who, aged 11, read the second reading beautifully.

Garden Sunday will take place on Sunday, 5th July. The church will again be a delight as the flower ladies always create glorious arrangements. The day will start at 9.30am with a Songs Of Praise, a very short service with favourite hymns, followed by bacon butties at The Old Rectory, and a Bloody Mary at the Sir Charles Napier. Neil and Michelle Skidmore have organised twelve gardens to be open for your enjoyment. There will be a raffle, run by Rosy Oliphant, with a barbecue and sundowners at the Village hall at the end of the day. This is

our major fundraiser so thank you to all involved. It's a lovely village occasion with time to wander around and chat with your neighbours and acquaintances.

The church building and churchyard are overseen by BACC, being the Buildings and Churchyard Committee Steve Head is our chair, with Linsay Welham in charge of the churchyard plan, recording all the burials and ashes plots. Caroline Hands does sterling work in liaising with the Diocesan Advisory Committee to obtain approval so we can undertake works, whether it be felling a tree, repair of the bells, or major work such as the ongoing extensive repairs to the internal church walls. Others assist with routine servicing of the alarm, the gutters, the boiler, and the water and gas provision. We meet one week before the PCC meeting so decisions can be discussed

and approved at that meeting so no time is lost!!!

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place at St. Mary, The Virgin, on May 17th following the 11.00am Family Service with the Reverend Lance Sharpe in the chair. All of those on the church electoral roll and all members of the congregation are invited to hear about what has been happening over the past year. PCC

members will be elected, a report will be presented on the church building and the recently-audited financial statements will be presented. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be served! Please join us for this annual get-together.



Radnage Womens Institute
At our April meeting we had a talk given by Amanda Hucks on Volunteering for the Prison IMB.

Amanda gave a very interesting talk about her experiences of volunteering with the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB), ensuring proper standards of care and decency in prisons and immigration detention centres. She had lots of stories to tell and we had lots of questions. A great evening!

WI Coffee Mornings

These continue to be very popular, we meet twice a month: at 10.30am on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at 10.30-11.30 in varying locations.

FRIDAY 8th MAY 2026

Meet at the Potting Shed Café at Studley Green Garden Centre

FRIDAY 22nd MAY 2026

Meet at The Walled Garden, West Wycombe

Please just turn up if you would like to join us, just order and pay for your tea/coffee and it will be brought to the table. If anyone needs a lift, please just email or text Jane.

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. To get in touch with us please email Radnage.wi@outlook.com or phone Jane on 01494 482046

FUTURE MEETINGS in 2026

6th May - RESOLUTION MEETING followed by "Life at the Royal Ballet School" by Neil Skidmore

3rd June - GARDEN VISIT 'Red Kites, Bledlow Ridge' hosted by Les and Mag Terry

1st July - Beauty in Sculpture by Graham King

5th August - SUMMER SOCIAL at the hall

CPR Training

After the success of our CPR training session, a further one is booked for 16th May 9.30-12.30 at £25pp – including refreshments.

If you would like to attend please send Jane your name and I will log you.

Please spread the word to local residents and other halves as all are very welcome. It is a good session.

Services at
St Mary's,
Radnage

Family Service
Sunday 3rd May 9.30am

Eucharist
Sunday 17th May 11am

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Radnage Parish Council

Next Meeting



RADNAGE PARISH COUNCIL HAS A NEW WHATSAPP CHANNEL

Thursday 13th May tbc
The Annual Meeting of the Parish is 20th May tbc

Your Parish Council:

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Cllr Mr Aidan Hancock
Cllr Mr Keith Mathews
Cllr Mr Sam Martin
Cllr Mrs Charmaine Gallagher
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Sun. 12.30 to 5.30pm

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 9th May 2026
Race Night at 8:00pm

Saturday 16th May 2026
Bingo at 8:00pm

Saturday 13th June 2026
Bingo at 8:00pm

Saturday 11th July 2026
Bingo at 8:00pm

Saturday 18th July 2026
Vintage Day Car Event and BBQ
12:30 - 5:30pm

Saturday 8th August 2026
Bingo at 8:00pm

Sunday 30th August 2026
Swing and Soul Band
8:00pm till late

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.



Gallagher, Barbara – and everyone who has helped and contributed by making cakes, setting up & clearing away.

Lots of children have also been visiting after school and love their cakes & juice! Please join us if you can, we would love to see you.

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!

A £3/£4pp donation is asked according to numbers turning up.

£500 has been raised from this event and the money will go to Macmillan

Thanks go to Carol & Nigel Turner, Shelley & Aidan Hancock, Robert & Lucy Green, Graham & Dee Pearce, Jenny Bowie, Gerry

Charmaine Gallagher
ggalla8301@ntlworld.com



West Wycombe

News from St Paul's Church

What a glorious Easter Sunday service we had last month, celebrating the Risen Christ. Alleluia!

It was lovely to have a full church, with some familiar faces who, for various reasons, rarely get a chance to come to church. Also, there were many visitors who had come to spend the day with family, so it was a pleasure to meet them too.

We have Ann Ferguson, Sharon Henson and Carrie McDonald to thank for the beautiful arrangements of fresh flowers from their own gardens, and the Preschool children for the dear little Easter Garden on the Chancel steps in front of the altar.

Moving on now, we have our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (A.P.C.M.) on Sunday 31st of this month, directly after the 11am service, It's a good time to take stock of where we are, ask questions and vote for any officers as appropriate. So please make a note to attend if you can.

Enjoy the lengthening days and ~ hopefully ~ warmer weather. Let's hope April will not fool us, but bring us days of sunshine and gentle rain overnight.



Masque Players of West Wycombe

Masque Players enjoyed great success with our spring show in West Wycombe Village Hall. The evening was called, 'Please Don't Touch the Artwork' and was in fact an immersive evening of an art exhibition and four plays.

We were thrilled to be able to collaborate with West Wycombe Art Group who provided paintings by their talented members which were also available for sale. The first half featured a one act play called 'Art Heist' which was written by Jack Bradfield and directed by Alison Rogers. This was an ambitious piece about three art thieves who break into a gallery to steal the same painting. They are controlled by a security guard until she loses her power over them and chaos ensues. We had so much fun putting this on; solving problems such as how exactly can we make a 2p spin across the stage? And how long to run the smoke machine to get the best laser effect?

In the second half, we were treated to three sketches skilfully directed by Kimberley Andrews and these featured two security guards, a live version of The Scream and Mona Lisa having a lively debate, and an interesting interpretation of a life drawing class.

We are currently planning our summer season which is likely to include improvisation workshops. We always welcome new members whatever experience they have and are a friendly and inclusive group. For further information, visit our website which has a contact form:

www.masque-players.co.uk



Services at
St Paul's,
West Wycombe

Eucharist
Sunday 10th May 11am

Family Service
Sunday 24th May 9.30am

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Kensham Farms

With farming being so dependent on the weather we always make sure that we have maintenance jobs to do in the workshop when it is too wet to work on the fields.



Our latest workshop job has been rebuilding the wear plates under the combine header (the distinctive wide cutting table at the front of the machine). During harvesting the wear plates are sometimes in contact with the ground and with the abrasive Chiltern soils they wear over time. Our combine harvester (John Deere S790) has completed 4 harvests and some of these wear plates had worn through. There are nine plates under the header, and the cost of new ones are £1,010 EACH! To save money we purchased plate steel from the local blacksmiths (E&R Meakes) of the same thickness and then made the new plates ourselves for a fraction of the cost.

Historically, the combine harvester is the

only machine where we have had a strict replacement policy of buying a new one every 5 years (as soon as finishing paying for the old one). However, in the current uncertain times and with agricultural inflation spiralling we have decided to keep the present machine for longer and accept higher maintenance costs. This decision has also been influenced by the fact that after 2 poor consecutive harvests the machine has not completed as many as hours as would normally be expected. Since the year 2000 I have kept a log of how many hours the combine harvester does each year with the highest being 341 hours in 2012 (2,008 acres harvested) and the lowest last year of 187 hours (1,892 acres harvested). In those years when crops yield well and conditions are damper the combine obviously has to work much harder than the years when conditions are dry and yields are poor. Over 25 years the average has been 250 hours.

We have also had to replace a snapped bracket on our McConnell rollers and E&R Meakes were able to organise the laser cutting of a new bracket of the same specification for a fraction of the cost of buying from the manufacturer. With farming currently in the economic doldrums we have to save money wherever we can and this is a good example of utilising the expertise in the local community.

On the fields we have begun the last application of fertiliser to the crops which will hopefully coincide with some showery

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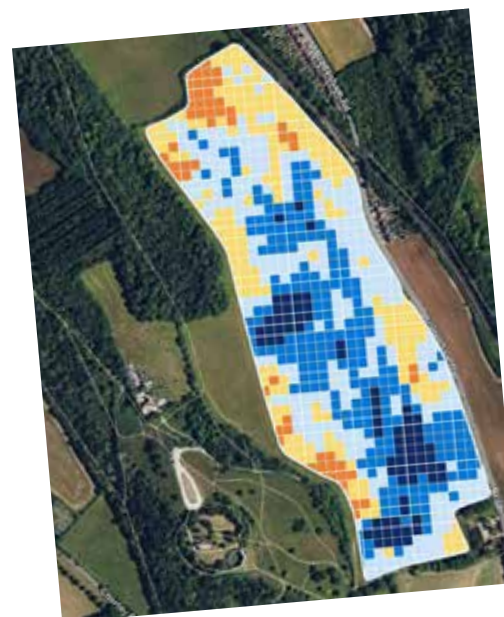
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weather to ensure efficient uptake of the nutrients. For this last application we use satellite imagery of the crops (assessing green leaf area over the field) which is then entered into software to produce a variable rate application map which is then sent to the fertiliser spreader (see screenshot of Flint Hall field next to the Bradenham Road). At this timing the aim is to maximise the potential of crops with the thicker areas (more yield potential) receiving slightly more fertiliser and the thinner areas (less yield potential) slightly less. At the earlier application the aim was to even up the crops and so the thinner areas received more fertiliser and the thicker areas less.

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...Continued on Page 40

This is one of the obvious ways in which technology helps to make us more efficient.

Shortly, we shall also start the main fungicide programme on the wheat to ensure that the last emerging leaves are protected from disease to maximise green leaf area for photosynthesis.

This first application coincides with the emergence of the second last leaf of the wheat and will then be followed by 2 further applications (usually a 3-week gap) to coincide with flag leaf (last leaf) and lastly ear emergence.

When choosing wheat varieties, it is always a compromise between disease resistance and the suitability for bread making, with flour millers often reluctant to try new

varieties of wheat that may have better immunity to the various diseases that wheat is prone to.

As well as a fungicide the next spray application will also contain a plant growth regulator (pgr) which helps to shorten and strengthen the stem, encourage a strong root system and even out tiller growth. The last thing that we want is to have a crop that lodges (goes flat) at harvest.

As usual, the most crucial thing for the wheat is the weather: ideally plenty of sunshine for photosynthesis during the day interspersed with rain showers for uptake of nutrients 00.

Charlie Edgley



Parish Council News - West Wycombe

The Next Meeting: Wed 13th May, 8pm at West Wycombe Village Hall.



Visit our website for Meeting Minutes and Agendas
 Parish Clerk: Sarah Smith (Please note that the clerk works part-time hours.)
 Email: clerk@westwycombeparishcouncil.gov.uk
 Mobile: 07843 990085

West Wycombe Launches Centenary Restoration Appeal for the Village War Memorial

As our war memorial approaches its centenary, our community are coming together to ensure this important piece of our shared heritage is preserved for future generations. To coordinate and carry out the restoration works we are launching the West Wycombe War Memorial Centenary Appeal, a community led effort to restore the memorial in time for its centenary in 2028.

Our memorial stands in St Lawrence's churchyard on West Wycombe Hill. It has weathered nearly a century of exposure. Time, biological growth, and surrounding overgrown trees and vegetation have all contributed to its gradual deterioration. Professional conservators have advised that restoration work and future periodic cleaning — including stone conservation, and essential site clearance — is now required to protect the structure for the next hundred years.

To deliver this work, the project has set a fundraising target of £3,000, which will be raised through a combination of community donations and grant applications. Every contribution, large or small, will help ensure the memorial continues to stand with dignity as a place of remembrance for the men of West Wycombe who gave their lives

in the First and Second World Wars.

A Revised Timeline to 2028

Thanks to the efforts and research of Ellen Carter we have now established that the memorial was actually built and dedicated in 1928, not 1927 as per the Historic England listing entry. This gives us some more time and the opportunity to re-dedicate the memorial mirroring the 1928 dedication ceremony. It also gives us precious more time to discover more about the memorial, men it commemorates and their families while also allowing more time for grant applications and fund raising activity.

This revised timeline, while being more historically accurate also ensures that all work is carried out safely, professionally, and with full community involvement.

...Continued on Page 42

Weather news from Chorley Road

Thank you to Eileen Chapman



Week Ending	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm	Sunshine hours
8th Mar	6	15	35	12
15th Mar	0	13	17	18
22nd Mar	0	19	8	38
29th Mar	-1	15	18+hail	23



... A Community Effort and Thanks

We are incredibly grateful to a number of people who have stepped forward and offered their support and expertise. Sir Edward Dashwood has kindly agreed to be our patron, he and his team have already cut back much of the overgrowth and tidied up the memorial resulting in it being able to catch the sunrise and be visible from the road, as intended when the site was chosen, for the first time in many years. Reverend Lance Sharpe has clarified the churches position and continues to lead on liaison with the diocese, while also being the Padre to the Bucks Army Cadets who we are keen to involve where appropriate and able. Ellen Carter and Susie Chester have been a font of knowledge, providing all manner of historical articles and photographs allowing us to learn more about the memorial, how the idea was conceived, funded, installed and commemorated. Simon Cope has shared his research into the men the memorial commemorates and their families from our community. Martin Cook has provided his time, expertise and introductions to conservators in his professional capacity as a renowned stone carver. Sara Eaglesfield and Tim Walker from the St Lawrences Church Trust are keen to collaborate and be involved and we have a growing list of supporters who have expressed an interest in keeping up to date and being involved with the project. Three professional conservators have already visited and shared their expert advice and opinion, we have a quote and are expecting another two shortly. All are positive and enthused about the project, quality of construction and materials and how well it should clean up. Finally we'd like to thank the West Wycombe Parish Council

who have agreed to give authority for the work to be carried out under the 1923 War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act.

How You Can Help

Please scan the QR code to register your interest and join our mailing list and be kept up to date.



There are many ways for you to help and participate, perhaps you know more about the memorial or have a family member commemorated by it, have some photos or stories to share, some expertise or experience from any range of fields and could offer some time to help. We intend to raise as much as we can from grant funding, inevitably this won't cover the full cost, any donation you can make, no matter how big or small will help us achieve our goal. We recognise fully that times are challenging and uncertain at the moment, if a small regular or irregular donation would be easier it will be equally gratefully received.

Funds raised will be held by the West Wycombe Charitable Trust which is a registered charity with our thanks to the trustees.

As we look ahead to 2028, this project gives us a rare opportunity to honour the past, strengthen our community, and ensure that the sacrifices of West Wycombe's servicemen are never forgotten.

Community Picnic Sunday 19th July 12-2pm



I wanted to create a Community event to bring everyone together. There has been a lot of new neighbours joining our community. Lets all come together for a big picnic on West Wycombe Hill (by the school.)

Bring your picnic blankets and food (please no BBQ or Fires). Please take your rubbish home. Please keep dogs on leads so no one has their sausage roll stolen!

There are public toilets in Meads Yard (below the school).

Also being the lower part of the hill, if you want to get an ice cream from one of local businesses it is just a short walk.

Susie Chester
susie@theyetis.com

West Wycombe Village Hall		
westwycombevillagehall.co.uk • westwycombev@gmail.com		
Mon	Morning	Pip - Phonics with Robot Reg • pip@robotreg.co.uk
	Evening	West Wycombe Art Group • wwag.secretary@hotmail.com
Tue	Evening	Jennifer Zumba • jennifer.morais.zumba@outlook.com
		Masque Player • masqueplayers2022@gmail.com
Wed	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)
Thur	Evening	Masque Player • masqueplayers2022@gmail.com
		Happy Hounds Dog Training • www.huntshappyhounds.co.uk/
The hall is available for private and regular hire. Email Emma at emma009797@icloud.com for further information.		



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event

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hayley.devereaux@careuk.com



West Wycombe Chamber Choir

Our 20th Anniversary Year started with our Easter Concert which was a great success, a full house and beautiful music to sing and listen to. Thank you to everyone who attended. A special thank you to all those who help at our concerts, time after time, you are an invaluable part of the choir.

We will be off to our 4th European tour, this time to Spain on 27th May. We will be performing three concerts in beautiful churches and cathedrals. 53 people are going on tour which includes choir members and some family, and we will be staying in a 4 star luxury hotel in Segovia to continue our anniversary celebrations. Fingers crossed that we have good weather as there is also some sightseeing to be done. We will be rehearsing in St Lawrence church prior to our tour. Do pop in for some free entertainment from 4 - 5.30 p.m., on Sunday's 19th & 26th April and 10th & 17th May. However, come earlier if you wish as refreshments will be available during the afternoon.

Our annual Walk and Cream Tea organised by the Radnage folk in our choir takes place on Sunday 7th June. Our choir is not only about singing but also socialising and this is our Summer social activity and always an enjoyable event. Thank you in advance to the organisers.

Our Summer Concert is taking place at West Wycombe Park at 3pm on Saturday 11th July, by kind permission of our Patron, Lady Lucinda Dashwood. It is a free concert but entry is strictly by ticket only for family,



friends and loyal supporters. It will be an opportunity to picnic together and listen to the choir performing many of their favourite songs spanning our twenty years. Once again fingers crossed for good weather! If interested, do get in touch.

For further information about the choir or to join the choir phone Michèle 07795 680253 or visit our website <https://westwycombechoir.org.uk/>

Barry Hodkinson. Musical Director



West Wycombe Preschool

www.westwycombepreschool.com

What a wonderful end to the Spring term we had! We came together at St. Paul's Church to sing & enjoyed an egg hunt with our families, beautiful weather allowed our Easter Treasure Hunt to run across the holidays & our literacy corner had a glow up as we built a reading nook in the bay window to encourage a love of stories with our little ones.

Books, poems, nursery rhymes, story sacks & spoons, helicopter stories & more all pour into our literacy with the children & it is 1 of our main areas of learning, alongside communication & personal, social & emotional development. Once these areas of learning are bubbling along nicely, we then extend the focused learning to cover all areas of development. That being said, if our children demonstrate a passion for another area, we will follow that interest & scaffold their knowledge.

The team had a well deserved break where they recharged their batteries & enjoyed some time in the sun with their families ready to start the Summer term refreshed & full of enthusiasm for the Summer term.

We have been lucky enough to secure a technology grant from Waitrose that will help us fund a large screen to be able to deliver Neli, our speech & language

programme to all our 3 & 4 year olds. This might also be used for yoga but we believe screen time for our children is simply not overly necessary, using a tablet to research a question might be the exception to the rule here.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Treasure Hunt over the holidays, It raised £250!!! Big thank you to the Marshall family at West Wycombe Village Store for selling the maps for us.

Our open day was well attended & it was lovely to meet so many new families who are joining us in September.

We have 1 or 2 final spaces available for the term ahead so do pop us a message if you would like to view our setting.

Email Jo at wwpspg@gmail.com or call us on 438996.

Sarah Gowers, Deputy Manager



West Wycombe Cricket Club

The Summer Season is now under way, which is an exciting time, and we would still like to welcome more new players to both our senior and junior sides for this year.

If you are interested in playing some friendly cricket on Sundays for our adult team, please do get in touch with us either via our website <https://westwycombe.play-cricket.com/>, or our Facebook page. We have a full list of fixtures for the summer, and our home games are played in the beautiful surroundings under West Wycombe Manor House on the Dashwood estate.

We also have a small but thriving Junior section and we welcome children of all experiences and abilities of the game between the ages of 5 and 14 to join us.

For those children aged 5 and 8 you can still find a few places available on our All Stars Cricket programme on Sunday Mornings between 9 and 10:00 am. These can be booked at www.allstarscricket.co.uk

8 and 11 year olds come and join our Dynamos Cricket programme again on a Sunday morning between 9 and 10:30. By joining this programme it also allows your child access to play fixtures in our Under 10 and Under 11 age group teams (depending

on your child age) and bookings for this is at www.dynamoscricket.co.uk and look for Active Sport (West Wycombe Cricket Club)

11 and 14 year olds (Years 7 - 9 in school) come and join our junior section led by our professional coaches from Active Sport High Wycombe, by looking at www.active-sport.co.uk. Training sessions for these are Saturday mornings between 9 and 10:30 along with a full fixture list of midweek fixtures.

Quiz Night

Our annual Quiz is back in June which will raise much needed funds to keep the club running. It is on Friday the 19th June 2026 in the Village Hall. We are looking for teams of up to 8 people at £5 per person. There will also be a raffle on the night. To book a table or for further information either contact us through our Facebook page or email us at westwycombecricketclub@gmail.com



West Wycombe School

High praise for West Wycombe School progress as key areas graded 'Expected standard' by Ofsted

"Pupils are proud to be part of this inclusive school, where all are treated with kindness. There is a calm and kind atmosphere here. Staff know pupils well and foster a culture of mutual respect and care." This is one of the key findings of the latest Ofsted inspection report for West Wycombe School, part of Great Learners Trust, following a visit from His Majesty's Inspectors in February 2025, and the first since June 2023.

West Wycombe School has been graded 'Expected standard' in six areas: Achievement, Curriculum and teaching, Early years, Inclusion, Leadership and governance, and Personal development and wellbeing. 'Expected standard' means that "the school is following the standard set out in statutory and non-statutory legislation and the professional standards expected of them". Inspectors also said that safeguarding standards are met, meaning that "the

school has an open and positive culture of safeguarding. All legal requirements are met."

In the 2023 and 2020 visits, under the previous Ofsted inspection framework, the school's overall effectiveness was rated 'Requires improvement'. This new report therefore evidences major progress for the school, which inspectors noted has "undergone significant change since the last inspection."

Among the comments in the published report are that:

- "Overall, pupils achieve well. They are ready for the next stage in their education. This is reflected in outcomes in the key stage 2 statutory tests that are close to or above the national average."
- "The school has high expectations of each

pupil, no matter what their need is. Leaders promote a school culture where diversity is celebrated and every pupil is valued."

- "Leaders have put in place a suitably broad, ambitious and well-sequenced curriculum that builds pupils' knowledge effectively over time. They know where it is working well and where further refinements are needed."
- "Children have a positive start in the early years and are well prepared for Year 1."
- "Leaders continue to make decisions in the best interests of all pupils, particularly those who are disadvantaged, have special educational needs and/or disabilities, or face other barriers to learning and/or wellbeing. They ensure that these pupils receive the support they need to succeed."
- "Leaders and staff help pupils to be confident and kind citizens who respect other people's differences."

The report highlighted one area that 'Needs attention', which is where "expected standards are not met but leaders are likely able to make the necessary improvements". This focuses very specifically on ensuring pupils' attendance continues to rise to at least the national average for all groups. Positive action already taken by the school was noted during the inspection.

Rachel Lee, Executive Headteacher of West Wycombe School, said:

"At West Wycombe, children have always been at the centre of everything we do. We believe that happy children learn best, and when children believe in themselves, amazing things can happen. We hold high aspirations for every child and are passionate about helping

each one to flourish; academically, socially and emotionally. It is particularly gratifying to read the 'What it's like to be a pupil at this school' section of the Ofsted report.

"The inspectors comments directly state and substantiate that pupils are proud to be part of this inclusive school, where all are treated with kindness, and that there is a calm and kind atmosphere here. Staff form trusting relationships with pupils, as these are at the heart of the school, and foster a culture of mutual respect and care. Pupils feel safe and well cared for, have a secure sense of belonging, and leave school well prepared for the next stage of their education. The report also notes that pupils benefit from a wide range of trips and visits that are matched carefully to their learning and develop their sense of responsibility through the leadership skills roles the school offers.

"All in all, this report is testament to the hard work and dedication of West Wycombe staff in driving school improvement. We have a clear vision for the school, and its place within the community, and we continue to move forward."

Gareth Ventin, Head of School, added:

"I am incredibly proud of the caring, close-knit environment we have created together, where strong relationships between children, staff, families and the wider community truly matter. Everything we do is guided by our motto, 'nurturing potential, inspiring minds, excellence for all'. This reflects our commitment to providing a high-quality, well-rounded education while ensuring every child feels safe, supported and valued within our friendly village school."

Church Services

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



**ST PAUL'S CHURCH,
BLEDLOW RIDGE**

Address	Chinnor Rd, Bledlow Ridge HP14 4AJ
What3words:	///doubts.hazelnuts.flicked
Church Wardens	Geoff Ley - 01494 481527



**ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH,
BRADENHAM**

Address	Bradenham Wood Ln, HP14 4HF
What3words:	///reporters.paused.suspend
Church Wardens	Peter Baldwin - 01844 275813 Richard Langridge - 07711 053845



**ST MARY'S CHURCH,
RADNAGE**

Address	Cherry Ln, Radnage HP14 4DU
What3words:	///doubts.hazelnuts.flicked
Church Wardens	Rosy Oliphant - 01494 482356 Jennifer Stringer



**ST PAUL'S CHURCH,
WEST WYCOMBE**

Address	High St, West Wycombe, HP14 3AH
What3words:	///bring.winner.famed
Church Wardens	No Churchwardens at present

May

Sunday 3 May <i>Easter 5</i>	9.30am Eucharist	St Mary's, Radnage	<i>Acts 7.55-60 1 Pet 2.2-10 Jn 14.1-14</i>
	11.00am Family Service with baptism	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	
Sunday 10 May <i>Easter 6</i>	9.30am Family Service	St Botolph's, Bradenham	<i>Acts 17.22-31 1 Pet 3.13-22 Jn 14.15-21</i>
	11.00am Eucharist	St Paul's, West Wycombe	
Sunday 17 May <i>Easter 7</i>	9.30am Eucharist	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	<i>Acts 1.6-14 1 Pet 4.12-14;5.6-11 Jn 17.1-11</i>
	11.00am Family Service	St Mary's, Radnage	
Sunday 24 May <i>Pentecost</i>	9.30am Family Service	St Paul's, West Wycombe	<i>Acts 2.1-21 1 Cor 12.3-13 Jn 20.19-23</i>
	11.00am Eucharist	St Botolph's, Bradenham	
Sunday 31 May <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	11.00am Benefice Eucharist	St Paul's, West Wycombe	<i>Isa 40.12-17,27-31 2 Cor 13.11-13 Mt 28.16-20</i>

June

Sunday 7 June <i>Trinity 1</i>	9.30am Eucharist	St Mary's, Radnage	<i>Hos 5.15-6.6 Rom 4.13-25 Mt 9.9-13,18-26</i>
	11.00am Family Service	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	
Sunday 14 June <i>Trinity 2</i>	9.30am Family Service	St Botolph's, Bradenham	<i>Ex 19.2-8a Rom 5.1-8 Mt 9.35-10.8</i>
	11.00am Eucharist	St Paul's, West Wycombe	
Sunday 21 June <i>Trinity 3</i>	9.30am Eucharist	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	<i>Jer 20.7-13 Rom 6.1b-11 Mt 10.24-39</i>
	11.00am Family Service	St Mary's, Radnage	
Sunday 28 June <i>Trinity 4</i>	9.30am Family Service	St Paul's, West Wycombe	<i>Jer 28.5-9 Rom 6.12-23 Mt 10.40-42</i>
	11.00am Eucharist	St Botolph's, Bradenham	

Eucharist - A traditional service of thanksgiving sharing consecrated bread and wine together.

Family Service - a shorter, more relaxed church gathering designed to be accessible and engaging for people of all ages, including young children.

For pastoral visits requests for those who can't get out so easily.
 Please contact Rector on 07938 762570

A Church for the Whole Family

FAMILY CHURCH SERVICES

Sun. 3rd May 11am

St Pauls, Bledlow Ridge

Sun. 10th May, 9.30am

St Botolph's, Bradenham

Sun. 17th May, 11am

St Mary's Radnage

Sun. 24th May, 9.30am

St Pauls West Wycombe

Sun. 7th June, 11am

St Pauls, Bledlow Ridge

Sun 14th June, 9.30am

St Botolph's, Bradenham

Sun. 21st June, 11am

St Mary's Radnage

Sun. 28th June, 9.30am

St Pauls West Wycombe



Parish Office - 07598 738037

admin@westwycombebenefice.org.uk