

CONTACT

Church & Community Newsletter

BLDLOW RIDGE • BRADENHAM • PIDDINGTON • RADNAGE • WEST WYCOMBE



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CHURCH WARDENS

West Wycombe:	No Churchwardens at present
Bledlow Ridge:	Eileen Maunder - 01494 481371 Geoff Ley - 01494 481527
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Dear Readers

At the time of writing this, we are about to move from our Vicarage in Wales, so it is with a sense of excitement and trepidation that we are preparing to move half-way across the country to begin a new chapter with you all in the West Wycombe Benefice. I am due to be licensed as the new Rector of the Benefice by Bishop Steven on the 1st December in St Paul's Church in Bledlow Ridge.

I'm sure that after such a long interregnum, people are interested to know just a little about me and my experience in ministry and my family. My name is Lance Sharpe, I'm 56 years old and have been married to Alison for 31 years. We have three adult children, Josh (27), Abi (25) and Michael (22). Our daughter, Abi has two children of her own, Charlotte (7) and Ellie (5). As you'll tell from my accent, I grew up in the Midlands near the town of Cannock in South Staffordshire just 10 miles from the City of Wolverhampton and the large town of Walsall. Alison grew up in Hemel Hempstead and her parents now live in Chesham, which is one of the reasons we wanted to move to Buckinghamshire, so we were nearer to them.

I've been in Christian ministry, both stipendiary and self-supporting, both lay and ordained for about 25 years and have worked as a hospital chaplain for nearly ten years before moving into rural parish ministry. I was originally a Pentecostal minister before being introduced to the Anglican liturgy as a chaplain, which led me on a journey becoming an Anglican in October 2016. I was ordained Deacon in November 2016 in Morrision Hospital Chapel in Swansea and then ordained Priest in 2017 in Brecon Cathedral. I continued

as the Senior Chaplain in Swansea until 2019 when I moved to become a Priest in the West Radnor Ministry Area in the small town of Rhayader in the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, and then latterly in the village of Newbridge-on-Wye just 8 miles to the south of Rhayader.

I'm the sort of person that notices connections, so coming from the Upper Wye Valley in Wales, I see the Wycombe itself means 'Wye valley' albeit a different River Wye! Then, it's from one Wye valley to another to work with the congregations in the benefice in the service of Christ to our communities. We're coming in a special time of year that we call 'Advent' when Anglicans prepare themselves for Christmas and the celebration of the incarnation of God himself in the person of Jesus.

With lots of services planned over Advent and Christmas, you'd be most welcome to join us in worship. You'll find the schedule in the magazine and we both look forward to meeting you all and getting to know you.

May you have a blessed Advent, Christmas and New Year.

Lance, Rector

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From the Registers



Baptism

Oliver Keen
St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge

Funerals

Eric Higgs
Chilterns Crematorium

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

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

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Bledlow Ridge



Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council News

The next meeting will take place on Monday 9th December 2024 starting at 7.30pm at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall.

The Parish Council met on Monday 11th November 2024 at Bledlow Village Hall - draft minutes of the meeting can be found on our website.

News from St Paul's Church

November was the month of remembering and we thought about the way in which we remembered in order to understand and in understanding we are enabled to move forward. December and then January are the months of moving forward.

The church's year begins on Advent Sunday and this year we will be following the gospel of Luke.

We begin on 1st December with the very exciting move forward, the Licensing of our new Rector and the welcome to Lance and Alison Sharpe as they come to work among us. We are especially privileged as the service is to be held here at St Paul's at 6.00pm with the Bishop of Oxford.

we will have our traditional carol service of approximately nine lessons, carols and poems. On Christmas Eve at 5.00pm everyone from 0 to 100 will gather for our Crib service. We will sing our favourite carols and the younger ones will tell the story as the crib figures are gathered. Our Christmas Day celebration of the eucharist will be at 10am.

The last eucharist of the year will be at St Paul's West Wycombe on 29th December taken by Revd Lance at 10.30am.

In January we continue to look forward in the season of Epiphany as we learn just who is this child that has been born. As the church's year continues we will follow the life of Jesus leading up to his passion, death and resurrection. Then, after Easter we will learn of the early church and learn more of Jesus' teaching.



*Veronica, the Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council
Wish Everyone a Happy and Peaceful
Christmas and Every Blessing
in the coming year.*

Throughout the season of Advent we will think about the fact that God so loved us that he sent his Son to share in our humanity and our world. We will

be working towards all of our celebrations and preparing spiritually to welcome again God incarnate as the child Jesus. Christmas Cottage Nursery will come to church on Tuesday 10th December at 3.00pm to hear the story, sing the carol choruses that they have learned, wear costumes of the characters they are learning about and look their most endearing for the Mums and Dads. Bledlow Ridge School make their valued annual visit to church for their carols and Christmas presentations on Friday 13th December. We have real hopes of working more closely with the school during the coming year.

Our regular eucharist when we welcome the benefice will be on Sunday 15th, the 3rd Sunday of Epiphany, at the usual time of 10.00am and then on 22nd Dec at 6.00pm

- Buckinghamshire Councillors provided information on the following: Christmas Angels Campaign, Pension Credit Surgeries, and a Prevention Campaign. Details about these can be found on the Parish Council Facebook page and website. Alternatively, contact the Parish Clerk for further information.
- The draft budget for 2025-2026 was discussed, some amendments were made and this will be presented for approval at the December 2024 meeting.
- Lastly, we would kindly ask that if you are out walking at night, please wear high-visibility clothing, especially on parts of the road without pavements, as it is hard for drivers to see pedestrians in these areas.

Meeting Minutes and Agendas • Local Information • Club information
Visit our website for www.bledlow-cum-saundertonparishcouncil.org.uk

If you have any comments, queries or questions then please contact our
Parish Clerk: Tracey Martin clerk@bcspc.org.uk or 07843 975097.

Please note that the clerk works part-time hours.

Planning Applications with Parish

24/07426/ADRC Crofters Chinnor Road Bledlow Ridge

Application for approval of details subject to Conditions 2 (Materials), 10 (Eco) and 11 (Lighting Design Strategy) of planning ref: 23/07905/VCDN

For information only, no comment required

24/07551/CLP The Jays Chinnor Road Bledlow Ridge

Certificate of lawfulness for proposed siting of mobile structure to provide ancillary accommodation

Parish Council Comment: Bledlow cum Saunderton Parish Council object to this application due the size / length stated being in excess of a mobile or static. The materials in construction appear to be for a permanent structure which isn't acceptable in green belt or AONB and would set a precedent.

Planning Applications with Buckinghamshire Council Decision

224/07217/CLP The Jays Chinnor Road Bledlow Ridge

Certificate of lawfulness for proposed siting of mobile structure to provide ancillary accommodation

Refuse Certificate of Proposed Use

24/06805/FUL Druels Cottage Chinnor Road Bledlow Ridge

Householder application for insertion of windows and doors to existing residential outbuilding

Application Permitted

24/07239/ADRC Morlands Farm Chinnor Road Bledlow Ridge

Application for approval of details subject to Condition 05 (AMS and TPP) of Planning approval 24/05560/FUL Permit - detail Reserved by Condition

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Festive December Events at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall

Join us this December for a wonderful lineup of events to celebrate the season. Whether you're catching up over breakfast, picking out the perfect handmade gifts, or enjoying festive carols, we have something for everyone. Mark your calendars and come celebrate with us!

Saturday 7th Dec | 9:30 - 11:00 AM Breakfast Club

Our second Breakfast Club of the season is here! Join us for a cozy morning with neighbours and friends, delicious breakfast options, and unlimited tea and coffee. It's the perfect way to start the weekend in warm company.

Sunday 8th Dec | 10AM - 4PM Sally Evans Craft Fair

The much-anticipated craft fair returns! Discover a fantastic selection of high-quality, English-made gifts that are perfect for thoughtful Christmas presents. Enjoy browsing handmade creations and treat yourself to delights from our café, offering homemade cakes, tea, and coffee. A festive shopping experience not to be missed!

Wed 11th Dec | 7:30 PM Traditional Carol Concert

Embrace the holiday spirit with a magical evening of carols featuring performances by the West Wycombe Brass Band and the talented Bledlow Ridge Village School Choir. This special event is a true community favourite and a beautiful way to kick off the holiday season.

Tickets are just £4 and include mince pies and mulled wine – the perfect treats to accompany the festive sounds of the season.

We look forward to celebrating with you at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall! For further details about these events, please feel free to reach out. See you there!

Bledlow Ridge Village Hall

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Friendship Club

We recently had a very interesting talk from Bucks Age UK who told us about the work they do supporting older people. They left us with booklets which contained lots of useful contact details. If they are unable to help with a problem they can tell you where you can get help.

October Meeting: We welcomed back Dave and Debra Rixon who showed us part of a film they had made in Norway. The scenery was stunning with mountains and waterfalls. They will be returning next year to show us the remainder of the film. We then, of course, finished with tea, cakes and chat.

December Meeting:

Wednesday 18th December at 2pm in the Village Hall when we will be having our Christmas party.

January Meeting:

Wednesday 22nd at 2pm in the Village Hall. Visitors are always welcome.



The Ridge Evening WI

At our November meeting, we were very pleased to welcome two new members, taking our total to 32. We spent some time talking about the proposed WI Strategic Vision document for 2025 to 2030 which is out for consultation. This was followed by a lively discussion on topics for future speakers and how we promote ourselves. Our AGM commenced with a financial review by our Treasurer Eileen Maunder, an Annual Committee Report by our Secretary Wendy Boddy and a thank you address to this year's Committee and Members by the President Beryl Reeves.

Our blind food tasting of own-brand supermarket purchases was well received and the winners in each category were:

Cocktail Sausages - Tesco, Cheese Straws - M&S, Chocolate - Aldi.

Our next meeting on Wednesday 4th December will be our 54th Birthday Party where we will enjoy a splendid buffet supper, in-house surprise entertainment and a charity raffle.

We do not meet in January. At our first meeting of 2025 on Wednesday 5th

February, our speaker Hayley Scott will be telling us about "The Forensic Experience"!

We are very keen to welcome new members, and if you think you would like to know more about us please just turn up at one of our meetings as a visitor where you will receive a warm welcome. Enquiries may be made to theridgeveeveningwi@gmail.com

*We wish all our friends & neighbours,
the Compliments of the Season
and a Peaceful New Year.*

Bledlow Ridge Horticultural Society

2024 has again been a successful year for the Hort Soc with the Supper, Plant Sale and Show all very well supported, and numbers at our five speaker meetings remained encouragingly high. We have welcomed some new members this year and hope that more will join us next year when they have seen what we have to offer in 2025.

Firstly, the Annual membership for 2025 will remain at just £10, which covers free entry to all 5 meetings, plus discounts on the Supper, Outings and seed/plant orders from Dobies. The Committee are all standing again and are pleased to have been joined by Louise Luyk, but if anyone else is interested in joining us, have a word with any Committee member who can tell you what is involved.

Our website ...www.bledlowridgehortsoc.org.uk...shows what we've got planned for 2025 as well as reports on last year's events and the contact details for the Society. Non-members are very welcome to all of these apart from the free evening visit to The Plant Specialist in June.

8pm Thursday 16 Jan – Paulo Arrigo “Franchi's Seeds of Italy”

8pm Thursday 20 Feb – Timothy Walker “Here we go again”

7.30pm Sat 22 Mar - Annual Supper

8pm Thursday 24 April – Andrew Mikolajski “A History of the Garden”

10am Sunday 11 May - Bring and Buy Plant Sale

6.30pm Tuesday 19 Jun - Free evening visit to The Plant Specialist

8.30am Tuesday 8 July – Full day outing to Ulting Wick & RHS Hyde Hall

2.30pm Sat 6 Sep - Annual Show

8pm Thursday 16 Oct – Michael Brown “Death in the Garden”

7.30pm Thursday 20 Nov - AGM + Kerry Austin “Everything you need to know about Roses”

So for our first meeting in 2025 we welcome the return of Paulo Arrigo of Franchi's Seeds. With the effects of global warming becoming more obvious, it is time to consider growing flowers and vegetables from warmer climes such as Italy, and Paulo is definitely the man to listen to for that as well as how to cook your produce. Which is a good lead-in to the announcement that tickets for the March Annual Supper will be available at this Jan meeting on a “first come, first served basis” and have been held at last year's prices, i.e. £25 for members and £30 for non-members.



Bledlow Ridge Cricket Club

www.bledlowridgecricketclub.co.uk

The Annual Club Dinner took place at The Boot in October and the near-record attendance who enjoyed a three-course meal, included a strong contingent from our Junior Section. Our “senior-junior” players and a large group of parents were seated on separate tables to ensure that bottles of wine and fish and chips did not inadvertently get mixed up.

A number of awards were made both for cricketing prowess and for general contributions to the club. The 1st and 2nd Player of the Year Awards went to Shaun Dryden (age undeclared) and Freddie Grimmett (aged 15 years) respectively. Captains Sam Rolfe and Jovan Sahota gave the Captains Award, for which the criteria is whatever they make it, to Malekei Shard (aged 16) and to Jon Gardiner (a bit older). Sam commented that at least two players of 16 years or under had played for the 1st XI in every league match during the season so that when it came to deciding the Young Player of the Year there had never been so many good candidates. The trophy went to 14 year-old Nevin Korala who broke into the 1st XI after a series of strong performances for the 2nd XI, took four wickets on his debut and deservedly kept his place for the rest of the season. Jonah Pedrette received a trophy for his debut club century while Freddie Grimmett and Josh Brooks were each awarded a trophy for their debut “five wickets in a match”.

Chairman Dave Wells thanked various people who had contributed to the club off the pitch in many ways, including our umpires and scorers and in particular Humphrey Grimmett who was the main committee's unanimous choice as Clubman of the Year for contributions too many to mention. With four cricketing sons of whom Freddie mentioned above is the oldest, his association with the club is assured for a good while yet. Of equal significance were the awards of Life Membership to two legendary figures Martin Harris and Rik Dryden, whose many services have included between them: raising, managing and captaining teams, running the Junior section and its related tournaments, preparing pitches, arranging fixtures, umpiring, scoring and running quizzes. And probably more.

In recent previous articles we have mentioned three major projects, namely to improve the car park, to upgrade ground machinery and to replace the outdoor nets. These are slowly beginning to take

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place although all will entail fund raising, in particular replacement nets which will require significant investment. Timescales will depend on our ability to raise funds of our own and to find match-funding sources. More on these as time goes on.

Dates for the diary include the Club AGM will take place on the first Friday evening in January (followed by a club evening) and indoor nets at Princes Risborough School which will run for seven Sundays, 4-7pm commencing 16th February.

The Clubhouse Café at Bledlow Ridge Cricket Club

Our lovely Clubhouse Café, situated on the club site, has been thriving since re-opening earlier this year. And it's not just for the cricket season! You can enjoy great coffee and tasty bites (brunch, lunch, home baked cakes or afternoon tea) all year round, Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10am to 4pm.

Martina and her team offer a cosy and friendly place for meeting & mingling, working 'away from home', or if seeking some company, a quiet corner, or refreshment whilst enjoying our beautiful Chilterns scenery on foot or in the saddle. The lovely green space of our ground, the onsite kids' play park and

thoughtful selection of children's indoor play items make it a great place to while away a bit of time with your little people. And canine friends are very welcome too. We know we're biased, but it really is a special place to come and treat yourself.

Don't just take our word for it, some of the café's recent reviews say it all ...

"A lovely café ... a little gem."

"A welcoming café with great food, fantastic cake and a great community feel."

"A cracking brunch!"

"The environment is warm and welcoming ... and I highly recommend the bacon rolls."

"Service with a big smile in convivial surroundings."

The café gives such a lot both to the cricket club and the wider community, and your support really does make all the difference. See more by googling 'The Clubhouse Café at Bledlow Ridge', follow on Facebook or Instagram for café news, and please do

come and experience the atmosphere and delicious refreshments for yourself.

A date for your diary ... The café and the club are hosting a 'festive fun day' on Saturday 14 December. Santa will be visiting in the morning to collect gifts to deliver to children at Stoke Mandeville hospital. Hot drinks, hot dogs, mince pies and mulled wine will be served. The bar will be open from midday. And whilst the grownups enjoy the refreshments, the kids will be entertained with gingerbread biscuit decorating, a hot chocolate bar and a 'minute to win it' festive themed games selection. We are also hoping to enjoy a bit of carol singing later in the afternoon. It promises to be a day full of festive spirit, bringing together the cricket club family and the wider community. All very welcome!

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Bledlow Ridge Tennis Club

2024 Highlights

It's been a fantastic year for our club, as 2024 Bucks County LTA Club of the Year. This was also our first full year with floodlights installed, which has opened up even more opportunities for evening play. We have been able to host more evening matches and our Friday evening social doubles sessions can now continue throughout autumn and winter.

Court Updates & Winter Play

Our courts have been spruced up and are ready for 2025. But 2024 isn't over yet and there is still more time to play tennis. We don't stop for winter and have even got a fun Christmas mixed tournament planned for December—date to be confirmed soon.

If you're not already a member of the club, why not join us. Whatever your level of tennis there is something for you. We have lessons for adults and kids of all abilities, we play regular matches with other clubs or maybe you just want to play tennis with your family. Visit our website at www.bledlowridgetennis.co.uk to find out more.

We're excited for another fantastic year of tennis, events, and camaraderie. Stay tuned for more details and thank you all for your continued enthusiasm and support.

We wish all Contact readers a lovely festive season!

2025 Key Dates

Looking ahead, 2025 will be an exciting year with plenty in store. Here are some key dates to mark on your calendar:

- Tuesday, 14th Jan - Annual General Meeting
- Tuesday, 1st April - Start of New Membership Year
- Saturday, 10th May - Working Party
- Saturday, 7th June - Open Day
- Sunday, 22nd June - Men's and Women's Singles Tournaments
- Sunday, 13th July - Mixed Doubles Tournament
- Sunday, 7th September - Men's and Women's Doubles Tournaments
- Friday, 19th September - Annual Dinner

Country Notes

Autumn was calm and misty, no frosts or wind to hurry us into winter. The slow gentle fall of leaves carpeted footpaths with fresh colours daily as we rustled along golden tunnels through the beech woods. Birds gathered in large flocks - redwing feasting on the berries of churchyard yews, goldfinch plucking at the fluffy seed heads of thistles. Linnets burst from hedgerows with bouncy

flight and soft chirrups to skitter over the fields dropping down into the stubble to feed, and starlings lined up on pylons and electrical cables with a great chattering of tweets, whistles and clicks. There are always a few roe deer grazing in the fields below Lodge Hill, alert and cautious, they head for the security of a hedge if disturbed.

Bledlow Ridge Primary School

The Autumn term is always filled with lots of exciting extracurricular events as well as the fun of day-to-day school life.

The Parent volunteers have been very busy organising some wonderful events for the children and families some of which include World Kindness Bake Sale, Wreath making workshop with mulled wine and mince pies, Winter fayre on the 6th December 2-4pm at Bledlow Ridge School and the exciting annual Children's disco.

These events take a lot of work, and this is very much appreciated by the school community.

The school have been able to purchase some new playground equipment as just one of the area's where the money raised has been spent. Every penny raised directly benefits the children within school.

There also some other key events happening within school before the end of term, in November the school will be running an Anti-Bullying Week, this week aims to reinforce the message to children that bullying in any form is never acceptable. Also in November the children will be able to wear their own clothes in support of Children in Need, the school is proud to support this important fundraiser every year.

In the spirit of Christmas there will be the traditional Carol Service at St Paul's Church and a Christmas lunch for the children in enjoy. On behalf of Bledlow Ridge School we wish the community a peaceful and enjoyable break.



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Bradenham

News from St. Botolph's

The autumn season has been very busy: this is very pleasing as we continue to extend the use of the church as a community facility.

Bradenham Arts Festival, initiated and organised by Pete Baldwin (Church Warden) was very successful. There was an exhibition and sale of art by local artists in the church for a week; a number of Sales were made. The church hosted the bi-monthly meeting of Bots Books. The next meeting will be on November 19th when Robin Thorogood, author of the Marlow detective series will be the speaker.

Every Sunday evening at 5.48 a period of quiet contemplation, took place in the church, although these will now be discontinued and resume in the Spring.

The popular Bradenham calendar, created and made by the residents, is now available in the local church.

Two history talks were given by Pete during the Festival week; these proved very popular. There was a Jazz and Poetry night on October 19th. Film nights are proving popular. Recent screenings were The Kings Speech and War Horse, both well attended. Admission is free but donations are welcomed. The next screening is of "A Christmas Carol" at 4pm on Saturday 21st December; it is hoped families will come together. Refreshments are provided; wine for adults and soft drinks for children

The acoustics in the church are excellent and are proving popular with choirs for rehearsals.

Special services

There have been two special services as usual this autumn.

Harvest Festival

The church was beautifully decorated by volunteers before the day. Evergreen, flowers, and gifts made a lovely display; much admired by visitors and the congregation. The harvest gifts were taken to The 'One Can' charity for the local area.

Remembrance Day

November 10th was Remembrance Sunday and we had quite a crowd gathering by the lych gate for the 11am silence and laying of wreaths. The Last Post was played very well by a pupil from The John Hamden School. The congregation was quite large, including several RAF officers. In this uncertain world there seemed to be a significant number of people who felt the need to congregate to remember those who gave their lives for our freedom. We should continue to cherish it.

Forthcoming Services

24th November - Christ the King - 11am Eucharist

22nd December - 11am Eucharist

Carol Service 5pm December 24th and Midnight Mass at 11.30pm.

Notes From The Parish Council

The Council met on Monday November 11th. Cllr Paul Oborn was in the chair as Teif Jones was away. Other councillors present were : Peggy Ewart, Trevor Hunt, Richard Langridge, and Paul Wooster. Cllr Robert Carrington - Ridgeway West was also present.

The Council discussed the readiness of the village to adjust to changing weather patterns and noticed once again, that the roads around the village, especially on the A4010, is frequently flooded. It was suggested that BCC be contacted again to ask if the drains along Bradenham Woods Lane, could be cleared. Some years ago, local subscription re-created the village pond, but with each passing year, silt from the road is filling up the pond, which has to then be cleared by local volunteers. It was noted that the sump at the pond end of the drain had never been properly maintained by the council.

The Council also discussed the problem of over-growing hedges along the pavements in the village and contact will be made with the relevant authorities to cut them back, so pedestrians can walk along them in the dark winter nights.

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be in the new year; 13th January 2025.

The Council would like to wish all the residents and visitors to Bradenham, a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2025.

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Piddington

Piddington Horticultural Society

The quiz night on 1st November was well attended with 8 teams taking part. It was a very enjoyable evening with much whispering and discussion. The winners were HWH3 and a total of just over £450 was raised towards the next Seniors' Dinner.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the evening such a success, especially to Tom for setting the questions and Melanie, who so ably compered the evening.

Important: There will be a "New Year" Dinner for the Seniors living in the village

We held the Village Hall's AGM on 5th November to meet the annual governance requirements in line with Charity Commission guidelines. The Treasurer reported on the financial performance of the Village Hall and, overall, we have been able to maintain our funds at a satisfactory level despite a significant outlay on electrical and safety upgrades to the hall that totalled over £3000, and work to cut back the trees behind the hall that were threatening to cause damage. Consequently, our overall funding position was below the target end-of-year balance of £10,000 that we strive to maintain to meet major unforeseen circumstances, but it has been climbing quite steadily back towards that level. A return to the reserve fund level of £10,000 will be the key aim of our budgeting for next year. An imminent and probably unavoidable cost will be the replacement of our ageing central heating boiler, which

in 2025. Once again, the dinner will be held in the Village Hall and take place on Friday 24th January; due to rising costs, a nominal charge of £5 per person will be made. If you live in Piddington, have reached the age of 65, and have not previously received an invitation to the annual dinner then please contact Louise on 07772 672753 or email louisehammond@icloud.com. Invitations will be distributed in early January to qualifying residents.

Piddington Village Hall

will need to take priority. We retain the desire to re-surface the main hall floor but the affordability of that refurbishment in the face of more pressing matters is a recurring issue. We remain most grateful to Maureen Muschallik for her sterling work as our Treasurer, and for her continued oversight of the regular users of the hall and its cleanliness. Following last year's appeal for additional members to join the Hall committee, it has been a pleasure to welcome the new members whose energy and initiative has helped to make this a very active and successful year for events within the hall and its overall administration. The increase in the size of the committee has enabled us to meet the terms of the covenant that governs the running of the hall, whilst at the same time helping to spread the load. Their achievements have been most notable, and it will be a pleasant challenge to build upon this year's successes

next year. As Chair of the committee, my heartfelt thanks therefore must go to my other fellow committee members for their efforts over the past year and for their willingness to continue to do so.

In addition to the sad loss of one key member of our team earlier in the year, it is inevitable that a number of colleagues will be stepping down or back from their roles in the coming year. Indeed, the Charity Commission recommends a maximum service of around 9 years for trustees to ensure a regular refresh of talent. Some of us have driven a coach and horses through that guideline but it is a challenge in such a small community to maintain committee membership at the levels required and it is so important that we do. Simon Digby is stepping down from the committee after some 30 years as a former Chair and member, and a huge vote of thanks must go to Simon for all that he has done for the Hall in that time; he has been a stalwart who will be sorely missed from the committee. After many years as Secretary, Ann Ferguson will be handing over the reins but will stay on the committee to help guide those who follow her in the role as we have decided to rotate the duties of Secretary to both spread the workload and to give some members experience of the duties involved. Maureen Muschallik will be supported as Treasurer by Agnes Gill, who after a transition period will take on the role in full. We are delighted to welcome Val Maylor as a new committee member, and we look forward to working with her in the coming year.

After four years as Chair, I will step aside this December to remain as a committee member, and the Chair's role will also rotate across the committee membership following the same approach being taken to the Secretary. Our hope is that over the next 12 months we will develop a pool

of expertise that can take the committee forward over the coming years. My thanks go to Tracey Gray for her support as Deputy Chair over the past year and to all committee members who have made such great strides in modernising the organisation of the Hall and its growing list of events and private bookings.

Forthcoming Functions:

As we rev up to the Christmas season, by the time you read this edition we should have already enjoyed the Christmas Party, and the other events that are currently in the calendar are as follows:

Sunday 15th December, 6.30pm
Annual Carol Concert with the West Wycombe Brass Band.

Come and join us yet again with traditional Christmas music, seasonal fare and much good humour! This event is funded by the Village Hall.

Tuesday 31st December:
New Year's Eve Family Party from 7 pm until 12:30 am. Enjoy music and a raffle as we wait to see in 2025 with the odd party game thrown in to boot! It is open to all, please just bring along two plates of food/snacks/cake as your entry contribution.

Friday 24th January:
Horticultural Society Organised "New Year" Dinner for Seniors

Finally, may I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Paul Thomas Chair of Piddington & Area Village Hall Committee

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News From St Mary's Church

"You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights." — Maya Angelou

Over the Christmas Season St. Mary's will welcome many of you who like Maya have needed patience and time to sort out the chaos of life in a safe place. Many have come here just to sit quietly with God. The visitors book 'speaks' of those times if you care to read them. You are welcome to join us once again to share in the Christmas services. We have never needed them quite so much as we do in these last months of the year; with the news of our Archbishops resignation many of you will wonder where the church is head-ing.

St. Mary's has survived many crisis' many times of sadness, many moments where we wish we had done things differently.

Maya speaks of the little things but we have also seen those tragic things and which make us stop and wonder about man's inhumanity to man.

We can only say, we are here for you all and we will do our best to make you feel welcomed, loved and supported this

Christmas and into the New Year.

I read this recently – 'John the Baptist warned his hearers to prepare a way for the Lord – to make a clear and level pathway. This involves removing any boulders that stand in the way, and filling in any potholes (ha!). The boulders are the things we have done that we should not have done; and the potholes are the things we have failed to do which we obviously should have done. The more, as individuals, family or congregation, we are focused in this way, the less we will be overwhelmed by the commercialisation of Christmas.'

First of all we will move, as will the rest of the Benefice, through Advent with its flavour of preparation and this time we will have our new Rector to meet. Please pray for him and his family as he begins his ministry among us all.

Look out for the main services through December, they are all listed on the back inside cover. There is a small service we do each Sunday in Advent which is not listed

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but at which all are welcome. We light each Advent candle through December even if it is not a first Sunday at Radnage. It has become a bit of a tradition for a few of us to come to St. Mary's + one dog and share the lighting and a few thoughts. It takes place around 10am. Do come and join us.

We then move on into the main services with the Crib service at 3pm on the 24th loved by the families, led by Rev. Lucy and the anticipated joy of the 7pm service of Carols with Readings. Then we meet on Christmas Day and welcome the Christ child once more. Timeless traditions many of you love. We look forward to sharing this special time with you.

January will bring us the festival of Epiphany and so we move on into the New Year with hope in our hearts as always at the start of the year. Here's another quote for you.

“Year’s end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.” — Hal Borland

All of us at St. Mary the Virgin, Radnage wish you and your loved ones a Blessed and Happy time this Christmas. Go safely and well through this season and a Happy and Peaceful New Year to you all.

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Radnage Womens Institute



NOVEMBER was our AGM meeting. Jane, our President, reviewed all our activities and talks given over the past year. She congratulated Dee and Janet, for finding us some really interesting, entertaining and informative speakers. We now have 52 members, with an average of around 30 ladies attending each meeting. Both Jane, as President, and Ann, as deputy Treasurer delivered an annual report. It is good to know that we are in exemplary financial health! Thanks were made to all those who had contributed to the running of Radnage WI over the last year, both committee members, or ordinary members. All the committee agreed to stand for office again, and were voted in accordingly.

Our speaker was Emily Breen, who gave us a really interesting talk entitled All Things Compost. Not only was she informative about compost, she also gave us an insight into how waste is managed in Buckinghamshire, both for compost and for energy creation.

DECEMBER we shall have an evening of live 70's music and the usual delicious Christmas mince pies and mulled wine.

JANUARY We do not have a meeting in January, but instead we have a fish supper. If you were not at the meeting, and would like to come, please contact us via our website radnage.wi@outlook.com. Or email our President jane@fouracreslodge.co.uk for details.

OTHER NEWS:-

Just a reminder that Cath has suggested a car share for ease of getting members to meetings on dark winter evenings. Cath is happy to co-ordinate lifts especially in the winter— please let her know if you would like to be part of this or would prefer to be picked up when dark. Cath will organise. If you would like a lift to a meeting or be part of group that can travel together, please let Cath know at wavyblonde@googlemail.com or make a note on the clipboard at the next meeting.

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

BRING AND BUY TABLE

This raises additional funds and is always popular. 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. Remember one woman's junk is another woman's treasure!

YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO JOIN US!

We are a thriving and social group, and our numbers are growing. There is always a cup of tea (sometimes wine!) and delicious cakes. 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.

Radnage Parish Council wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Radnage Parish Council

Next Meeting

Village Hall, Wednesday 9th January 2025, 8pm

Your Parish Council:

Chair: Cllr Mr Darren Ungless
Vice-Chair: Cllr Keith Mathews
Cllr Mr Aidan Hancock
Cllr Mr Cris Everett
Clerk: Ms Lisa Stibbs

Planning Applications

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

We are Looking for New Councillors !

Please do consider joining us to help make a difference to the community and the wonderful place in which we live. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk.



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Opening Times

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

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 14th December - Christmas Dinner

The Royal British Legion



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As the Radnage correspondent I
would like to take this opportunity of
wishing all contributors and readers

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&

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West Wycombe

News from St Paul's Church

Firstly we welcome Rev. Lance Sharpe, his wife Alison and their family to the Rectory, in advance of the Licensing service on 1st December. We wish them many happy and fulfilling years in our midst.

The Craft and Coffee event in the Village Hall on 2nd and 3rd November was a great success in every respect. Many thanks to the helpers, especially Angie for her organisation, and Michal for the beautiful wreath to raffle. For future events we would love to have some more helpers as we are, at present, few in number.

Our thanks to Rev. Andi for taking our All Souls service on 3rd Nov., a poignant occasion when names of our dear departed are read out and candles lit in their memory. Though few in attendance it was much appreciated and meaningful.



On 10th Nov. about 50 people gathered for the Remembrance service at the War Memorial, where we paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the 2 World Wars and further conflicts, to insure the peace, justice and freedom in our world today. We will remember them.

Our gratitude to Rev. Chris Bull for leading this service, and to Phil, Veronica and

Summer Wayman for playing The Last Post and Reveille. Wreaths were laid at the base of the War Memorial.



We are delighted that the sound system and hearing loop have now been installed in church thanks, in no small measure, for the professional advice and administration by Mike Henson.

From 5 - 9pm on 6th Dec. the Christmas Tree Festival takes place in church, displaying all aspects of Pantomime this year, so come and enjoy a warming drink and cake while you vote for your favourite tree.

At 2pm on 7th Dec. there will be a Cello concert in church, so come and listen to those mellow tones as respite in this busy season.

At 10.30 on 8th Dec. Andi will be taking his last Eucharistic service in West Wycombe as he leaves the Benefice at the end of the month to take up his next R.A.F. posting. It is with warmth and great gratitude for his

service here that we pray he will find much fulfilment in the coming years.

Also at 4pm on 8th Rev. Lance will be taking a carol service here.

On Christmas Eve we shall be having our Christingle and Crib service at 10.30., always a great hit with excited children. This will be led by lay members of the church, with much congregational participation!

On Christmas morning Rev. Lance will be taking the 10.30am service, especially appreciated by those not attending a midnight service elsewhere.

In January 'normal service' will be resumed, but just an advance notice of 'Snowdrop Sunday' on 9th February in West Wycombe Park. The gates will be open from 10.30 - 3pm, and refreshments served from 10.30 - 4pm in the Village Hall.

We wish everyone the Christmas you're hoping for, whether peaceful or exciting, and may the New Year (continue to) bring Joy and Blessings to our world.

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Dates for Diary:

Festival of Trees
- Fri 6th Dec 5-9pm

Cello Concert
- Sat 7th Dec 2pm

Eucharistic service
- Sun 8th Dec 10.30

Carol Service
- Sun 8th Dec 4pm

Christingle & Crib Service
- Christmas Eve 10.30am

Christmas Service
- Christmas Day 10.30am

Snowdrop Sunday in
West Wycombe Park
- Sunday 9th February 10.30



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Councillors of West Wycombe Parish Council

Wish all residents of West Wycombe a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Parish Council meetings

Parish Council meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month, in West Wycombe Village Hall.

All meetings start at 8pm and the agenda is issued a week before the meeting and is available on our website (see below) and via our Facebook page.

Keep in Touch!

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

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

Steven Marshall,
Clerk to the Parish Council

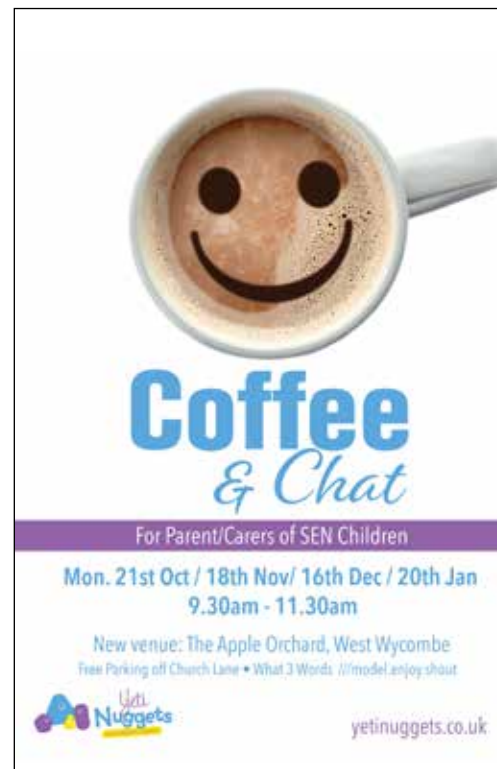
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West Wycombe Community Library

Our opening times are as follows
Monday - Friday 10am - 12 noon

NEW Library Phone Number 01494 475747

Don't forget to pop in and see us at the Christmas Fayre on Fri 6th Dec. We will have a few stalls inside the Library as well as Tea and Coffee, Mince Pies and Stollen, Mulled Wine and a delicious Caribbean Chicken Curry with rice. We also have a marquee outside in the courtyard with candles and jewellery for sale. Please come and support the Library.



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West Wycombe Preschool

As we move towards the winter season, the children are excited for cold walks, muddy puddles & even snow! The changing seasons always spark interest & offer us huge learning opportunities & we use these to teach with, such as ordering conkers in size, making alternating patterns from nature or simply using large leaves as paintbrushes. We love nature!!

We are reintroducing the zones of regulation that support children to be self regulated & ready to learn, play & carry out tasks. We believe that once a child is content & settled at preschool, they are then able to play, socialise & learn. Some of our little ones are looking at blending letter sounds, others are just exploring the letter that starts their name, which is always such an exciting journey. Other themes that we have looked at have been fireworks night, Remembrance Day & how the soldiers helped us & of course

Diwali which was colourful & fun. Coming soon will be Christmas which we know will be exciting for everyone.

You may have spotted us on the hill recently & exploring the hill. How lucky are we to have such glorious surroundings just beyond our gate!

Pop us an email if you would like to register your little one to start in September 2025 with us wwpspg@gmail.com & Jo will come back to you.

Sarah Gowers, Deputy Manager
West Wycombe | 37

West Wycombe Chamber Choir Christmas Concert

For all the family

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West Wycombe Chamber Choir

Our Christmas Concert is on Saturday 7th December at 7pm at St. Lawrence Church, West Wycombe. We would love to see you there to enjoy and celebrate this lovely time of the year with us. There will be lots of Christmas music and opportunities for you to join in as well, and it will put you in the Christmas spirit and prepare us all for Christmas Day. Just as importantly, the money raised at this concert is going towards the upkeep of this beautiful and historic church. No one wants to see it close, so by coming to this concert you not only have a good time but you can help us keep it open for future generations to enjoy. There will be a raffle and cash or card bar. Tickets cost £12 for adults and £10 concessions. Tickets bought in advance receive a £1 discount per ticket. Please phone the box office on 07795 680253.

The choir is also singing Carols at John Lewis, Booker on Saturday 21st December from 10:30 to 11:30. The money raised will go to the Child Bereavement Trust. A number of local choirs have been invited to sing there over the pre-Christmas period and we are very pleased to be one of them.

Two social events that we are running are the Choir's annual Christmas Dinner and a trip to the Royal Albert Hall. This year we are holding the dinner at The Boot on Bledlow Ridge, on Wednesday 11th December. It is an enjoyable occasion where we can all relax and enjoy good food and company. Our outing to the Albert Hall takes place on

Thursday 5th December, where we are going to enjoy an evening of Christmas music with John Rutter no less!

As you can see, we are a very sociable choir that not only sing together but also socialise together. Perhaps we are a choir that may suit you. Our Spring Concert on Saturday 5th April will feature Choruses from The Messiah. Why not come and join us? Our rehearsals take place in West Wycombe Primary School on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 during term time and start on Wednesday 8th January. Further information from Michèle, Choir Manager, on 07795 680253.

Barry Hodkinson, Musical Director.



Snowdrop Walk

Sunday 9th February

West Wycombe Park
10.30am - 3pm

Book in Advance £3 Adults £2 Concessions

Only assistance dogs allowed in Park.

Family - £15
Adults - £5
Concessions
£3.00
(Under 3s FREE)

CASH ONLY

In aid of
St. Pauls Church,
West Wycombe

Refreshments Served in Village Hall
10.30am - 4pm (CARD ACCEPTED)

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Week ending	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm	Sunshine hours
6 th Oct	0	19	37	18
13 th Oct	-2	17	44	11
20 th Oct	3	20	42	9
27 th Oct	6	21	5	16

West Wycombe Village Hall westwycombevillagehall.co.uk

Mon	Morning	Pip - Phonics with Robot Reg • pip@robotreg.co.uk
	Afternoon	Exercise & Mobility class 1pm, • ollyreedfitness@gmail.com
	Evening	West Wycombe Art Group • wwag.secretary@hotmail.com
Tue	Evening	Jennifer Zumba • jennifer.morais.zumba@outlook.com Masque Player • masqueplayers2022@gmail.com
	Wed	Morning
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
Please email Emma at emma009797@icloud.com
for further information.

Church Services

December

Sun 1 Dec <i>Advent</i>	10.00 am Eucharist	St Mary's, Radnage	Reverend Anne Cooper	<i>Jer 33.14-16 1 Thess 3.9-13 Lk 21.25-36</i>
	6.00pm Licensing Service	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	Bishop Steven Croft	
Sun 8 Dec <i>Advent 2</i>	10.30am Eucharist	St Paul's, West Wycombe	Reverend Andi Chapman	<i>Mal 3.1-4 Phil 1.3-11 Lk 3.1-6</i>
	4.00pm Carol Service		Reverend Lance Sharpe	
Sun 15 Dec <i>Advent 3</i>	10.00am Eucharist	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	Reverend Veronica Beaumont	<i>Zeph 3.14-20 Phil 4.4-7 Lk 3.7-18</i>
Sun 22 Dec <i>Advent 4</i>	11.00am Eucharist	St Botolph's, Bradenham	Reverend Ivor Cornish	<i>Mic 5.2-5 Heb 10.5-10 Lk 1.39-45(46-55)</i>
	6.00pm Carol Service	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	Reverend Veronica Beaumont	
Tue 24 Dec <i>Christmas Eve</i>	10.30 am Crib & Christingle Service	St Paul's, West Wycombe	Nicky Cronbach & Beverley Cope	<i>2 Sam 7.1-5,8-11,16 Acts 13.16-26 Lk 1.67-79</i>
	3.00pm Crib Service	St Mary's, Radnage	Reverend Lucy Green	
	5.00pm Carol Service	St Botolph's, Bradenham	Reverend Ivor Cornish	
	5.00pm Nativity Service	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	Reverend Veronica Beaumont	
	7.00pm Carol Service	St Mary's, Radnage	Reverend Anne Cooper	
	11.30pm Midnight Mass	St Botolph's, Bradenham	Reverend Lance Sharpe	

Wed 25 Dec <i>Christmas Day</i>	10.30am Christmas Day	St Paul's, West Wycombe	Reverend Lance Sharpe	<i>Isa 52.7-10 Heb 1.1-4(5-12) Jn 1.1-14</i>
	10am Christmas Day	St Mary's, Radnage	Reverend Anne Cooper	
	10am Christmas Day	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	Reverend Veronica Beaumont	
Sunday 29 Dec <i>Advent 4</i>	10.30am Eucharist	St Paul's, West Wycombe	Reverend Lance Sharpe	<i>1 Sam 2.18-20,26 Col 3.12-17 Lk 2.41-52</i>

January

Sunday 5 Jan <i>Epiphany</i>	10.00am Eucharist	St Mary's, Radnage	TBC	<i>Isaiah 60: 1 - 6, Ephesians 3: 1 - 12, Matthew 2: 1-12</i>
Sunday 12 Jan <i>Epiphany 2</i>	10.30am Eucharist	St Paul's, West Wycombe	TBC	<i>Isaiah 43: 1 - 7, Acts 8: 14-17, Luke 3: 15 - 17, 21 - 22</i>
Sunday 19 Jan <i>Epiphany 3</i>	10.00am Eucharist	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	TBC	<i>Isaiah 62: 1 - 5, 1 Corinthians 12: 1 - 11</i>
Sunday 26 Jan <i>Epiphany 4</i>	11.00am Eucharist	St Botolph's, Bradenham	TBC	<i>Nehemiah 8: 1 - 3, 5 - 6, 8 - 10, 1 Corinthians 12: 12 - 31a Luke 4: 14 - 21</i>



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