CONTACT Church & Community Newsletter

BLEDLOW RIDGE • BRADENHAM • PIDDINGTON • RADNAGE • WEST WYCOMBE



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	Revd.Anne Cooper 07721 338030

CHURCH WARDENS			
West Wycombe:	No Churchwardens at present		
Bledlow Ridge:	Eileen Maunder - 01494 481371		
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	Jennifer Stringer		



Dear Readers

As I write this opening address to this month's magazine, I find myself reflecting on my three years of living and working at RAF High Wycombe, as well as being part of the local community, especially being part of the West Wycombe Benefice. Little did I know when I first arrived that I'd be spending Sundays with such a warm hearted, accepting, and inclusive community of people.

From the time I drove past St Botolph's upon moving into the area, to conducting midnight mass and other services across the benefice, my time spent within the churches have been of joy, praise, and hospitality. I will always recall with happiness the moment at the end of one service where the recessional music was the theme tune from Star Trek Voyager, which I had mentioned during the sermon. This sense of fun and joy is something that I will always remember.

So often in our world, we see complexity and ambiguity on the world stage which can cause great concern to the future of humanity. Yet, I believe, that it is often in the simple ways of joy and fun that we see the best of human nature, and the wonders of creation that speak of a love than cannot be comprehended or put into the English language with ease. It is my hope that as we journey through February and into spring, we can enjoy the beauty of the world that

is on our doorstep, for as it is written in the Gospel of St Matthew:

"And why do you worry about clothes?
See how the flowers of the field grow.
They do not labor or spin.
Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these."
Matthew 6:28-29

My thankfulness for being part of this community over the last few years cannot be expressed fully here, and as I depart on the next stage of my time in the RAF, I pray that the hospitality I've experienced from you, may always be a joy to remember.

With peace and all good,

Revd Andi Chapman Stn Chaplain RAF High Wycombe PtO Oxford Diocese



From the Registers



Baptism

Dash Donovan St Mary's, Radnage

Burial of Ashes

Alexander Bainbridge St Botolph's, Bradenham

Funerals

Pamela Brooks
Amersham 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.



Kids Parties At: Clara's Corner







Clara's Corner, Chorley Rd, West Wycombe, HP14.3AP



Bledlow Ridge

News from St Paul's Church

Christmas at St Paul's Bledlow Ridge was both the same as usual and very different. Our services were all very much the same as we have had traditionally but there were many differences.

We began by welcoming the Christmas Cottage Nursery for their crib service but are sorry to say that this is for the last time as the nursery is closing. This leaves the question as to how can we make sure that these young children and their parents continue to hear about Jesus?

The school carol service came next and we enjoyed worshipping together and have great plans to strengthen our partnership.

On the Sunday before Christmas we had our carol service which like past years included poems as well as carols and readings. It was very heartening to have 15 folk volunteering to read a lesson or poem. Sadly we learned that Eileen, one of our churchwardens, had fallen and broken her hip and it did not take long to learn how much we owe to her in the day to day running of our church and particularly on our special occasions. We were able to pray for her swift recovery as well as offering thanks for all that she does for us.

As we all know Geoff's wife Anne has been unwell for some time and it is almost impossible to understand how he has managed to look after her, maintain his business and take on so much for us as a church. His son had organised to spend the Christmas weekend away as a family where they could be together in supporting Anne and giving Geoff the chance of a rest.

Wonderful. Well done him.

So Christmas Eve Crib service and Christmas morning eucharist without the two people who have kept this church running supremely efficiently for more years than I can calculate quickly. Geoff made sure that the church would be opened and shut each day — thank you to Peter. And our knitted animals were on hand. Service sheets from previous years were used, young readers volunteered and all went well even if we were a bit rocky with the sound system and numbers down on previous years. It was great to have Lance to talk to the children.

Christmas morning was down on numbers but with the help of lvor we worshipped through our carols and sharing the eucharist.

I can report that Eileen had a successful hip replacement and is now home and progressing well. Geoff is back on duty.

Unfortunately, John became unwell immediately after Christmas and was admitted to hospital. Already tired I spent time with him over a few days and picked up Norovirus which seems to have knocked me out and recovery is being very slow. I thank God that I was fit enough to enjoy the Christmas services and it is wonderful to know that Lance is now with us to lead us through this exciting time of moving forward.

Veronica

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Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council News

The next meeting will take place on Monday 10th February 2025 starting at 7.30pm at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall.

The Parish Council met on Monday 13th January 2025 at Bledlow Village Hall.

- The precept was set for 2025-2026 with a band d rate of £15.45 which is a 2.86% increase on the previous year with the Parish Council receiving £21,331.97
- Planning application responses were discussed and approved

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

24/07836/FUL Pound Scots Chinnor Road

Construction of a new self-build, four-bedroom, 2-storey detached family home and external garage on an infill site within the settlement boundary of Bledlow Ridge village

PC Comment: No objection

24/08049/CLE Crofters Chinnor Road Bledlow Ridge

Certificate of existing lawfulness to confirm building works have commenced (but building works are not yet completed) under planning application 21/08241/FUL

PC Comment: No objection

24/07615/FUL 49 Haw Lane Bledlow Ridge

Householder application for demolition of existing rear outbuilding and construction of replacement outbuilding to side of house

PC Comment: No objection

Planning Applications with Buckinghamshire Council Decision

24/07190/FUL Wigans Farm Wigans Lane Bledlow Ridge

Erection of storage barn following removal of stables

Application Refused

24/07591/ADRC Windrush Chinnor Road Bledlow Ridge

Application for approval of details subject to condition 2 (materials and finishes) of planning approval ref: 24/05522/VCDN

Application Permitted

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24/06989/CLE Crofters Chinnor Road

Certificate of lawfulness (existing) to demonstrate that the demolition works undertaken from 1 July 2023 can be taken to have lawfully commenced the development for which planning permission was granted under planning references: 21/08241/FUL and 22/05043/FUL

Refuse Certificate of Lawful Use

21/08708/FUL Tudor Stud Farm House & Tudor Stud Cottage Chinnor Road

Erection of 2 x detached and 2 x pairs of semi-detached dwellings (6 in total) with associated landscaping, hardstanding and infrastructure and creation of new access from Chinnor Road with enlargement of residential curtilage of Tudor Stud Farm

Permission with Planning Obligation



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Friendship Club

February Meeting: Dave and Deborah Rixon will show the second half of the video of their trip to Norway 2pm in the Village Hall on Wednesday 26 Feb



The Ridge Evening WI

We all enjoyed our December Birthday Party festive supper with wonderful food, wine, and happy laughter and we were again pleased to welcome another new member. Our raffle proceeds were donated to the Christmas Day lunch for the lonely and vulnerable in High Wycombe area organised by the wonderful volunteers at St Andrew's Church.

At our 5th February meeting we will be hearing from Hayley Scott who will tell us about The Forensic Experience and on March 5th we will be learning all about the "world of fungi", 7.30pm in Bledlow Ridge Village Hall.

We are 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 theridgeeveningwi@gmail.com

Bledlow Ridge Horticultural Society

January may have gone, but we've got plenty of events lined up for you in the rest of 2025. There's still a Plant Sale, 4 Meetings with interesting speakers, the Annual Show, an evening visit to The Plant Specialist at Missenden, I full-day coach trip to the gardens at Ulting Wick and RHS Hyde Hall in Essex, and of course the Annual Supper. All the details are on our websitewww.bledlowridgehortsoc.org.uk

Our next meeting is at 8.00pm on 20 Feb when Timothy Walker makes a very welcome return. One of our most popular and entertaining speakers, Timothy will this time ask "Can the Americans garden?" and answer it in his own inimitable way

The Annual Membership for 2025 can be paid at this meeting and remains at £10 which includes free admission to all the talks plus continued discounts to events such as the Supper, outings and seed/plants orders. Non-members are still very welcome to these events but will not get the discounts.

Then it's on to Saturday 22 March for our Annual Supper in the Village Hall, which

includes a sit-down buffet with a tempting range of food and homemade desserts, complimentary liquid refreshment, a convivial atmosphere and professional entertainment. Tickets will be on sale at the 16 Feb meeting (cash or cheques made out to "BRHS"), and we are pleased to say that we have held the price of tickets for a third year at £25 for members and £30 for non-members, despite most of the costs associated with the Supper significantly increasing. So it still remains excellent value. If you want to know more, please contact any Committee member or use the contact form on our website.

Bledlow Ridge Cricket Club

www.bledlowridge cricket club. co.uk



The Annual General Meeting took place in early January and in addition to completing the constitutional requirements the club's management was able to formally announce a number of new developments.

The Ground

Firstly, Charlie Carter, who has been managing the upkeep of all the ground except the cricket square, will now take over responsibility for the square as well. Despite only just moving out of his teens he is already very experienced and last summer he was even able to spend a day at Lords helping to prepare the test match wicket there. He will of course benefit from help from other club members as required.

A 3rd XI and Women's cricket

Secondly the club will be running a senior Saturday 3rd XI for the first time ever. This is a significant step forward as it will help to provide a pathway between the junior and senior sections while offering cricket to those members who are not always able to get a game for the first two elevens.

Despite looking for another ground for much of last summer we had not been able to identify anywhere suitable until at the eleventh hour West Wycombe's beautiful ground became available for nine Saturday home fixtures.

Thirdly, in 2025 we will be adding a senior women's section to the existing girls' teams.

All this means that we can offer more cricket to more men, women, boys and girls. Please contact me (details below) or the club via the website www.bledlowridgecricketclub. co.uk if you are not already a member but would like to join and are interested in finding out more.

New Projects

Finally, the club also announced plans to update some of its ageing ground equipment and facilities and launched a large project to replace the outdoor nets which were installed in 2007 and are past their best years.

To support these developments the club needs to continue flourishing off the pitch. The Chair, Dave Wells, presented a summary



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of what the "All Aboard" programme has achieved to date and how fundraising and sponsorship projects such as the 200 Club, shirt sponsorship and perimeter advertising are vital to all the above initiatives.

To launch the new nets project we have given it the name "Nets Generation" and are planning an Auction lunch or dinner to be held later in the Spring. Gifts and pledges will be needed as will people to bid for them. More anon on this. The 200 Club stands at 135 – if we can get to 200 this will provide a significant income stream year in, year out. In addition, we will be seeking financial support in various ways from the local community and hopefully beyond. All ideas and personal contacts are welcome.

Dave thanked the many people who help run the club on a voluntary basis including the bar and BBQ teams and also thanked our various umpires and scorers.

Diary Dates

Indoor nets at Princes Risborough School will run for seven Sundays 4-7pm commencing 16th February for which as previously, the junior section has the first hour and the seniors, the last two. The season itself kicks off with an inter-club match on Saturday 19th April and there is a full cricket schedule from this date onwards until the league season ends early in September. Plenty of cricket for everyone.



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Bledlow Ridge Tennis Club

December Tournament & Matches

Tennis truly is a year-round sport, and we don't let winter slow us down. We rounded off 2024 with a festive and informal Christmas tournament, complete with mulled wine, mince pies, and plenty of cake—a perfect way to celebrate the season on court.

Following the tournament, our mixed doubles team faced Lacey Green in a spirited match, ending in a well-fought draw. Meanwhile, our men's team capped off the year with a fantastic home victory against Horsenden, securing their spot at the top of the league. Congratulations to both teams.

Our women's team will have kickstarted their 2025 season by the time you read this, with matches scheduled from mid-January.

2025 Key Dates

Nicholas Coe DO

Registered Osteopath

With the new defibrillator now installed on the Cricket Club pavilion—right next to the tennis club—we're organising defibrillator training sessions to ensure everyone feels confident using it if needed.

In addition, we're continuing to enhance our facilities, with plans to repair root damage on one of our courts as part of ongoing improvements.

By the time this magazine reaches you, our Annual General Meeting will have taken place, setting the tone for a busy and exciting year ahead. We already have a number of events in the calendar:

- 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

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.





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Country Notes

When fog cloaked the Ridge fields disappeared into the gloom, horizons vanished, trees became grey skeletons. But on a sparkling frosty day it was lovely to crunch over frozen mud and icy grass, and to see tree bark patterns brought into relief by the low sun. Birds which had skulked in hedges for days took wing - skylarks, meadow pipits and finches flitted over

the stubble. A flock of golden plovers flew by purposefully their pale chests flashing silvery in the sun. A raven soared over Yoesden croaking to announce that this was his patch and a woodpecker drummed to stake his claim on the wood too. Days like these are a joy and banish the grey clouds and murk of winter.

Save the date - Safari Supper Sat 15th March 2025

Come and join us for the Safari Supper. It's such a good way to meet other villagers and have a great night out. We will be kicking off at the Cricket Club at 6.30pm with a welcome drink. Then onto different locations for your starter and main course and finally back to the Cricket Club for

dessert. Ticket price is £22.50/person. If you would like to know more or book your place please get in touch with either Gillian on 07944 070986, gillian@mouse-nous.com or Claire claire.sloan@gmx.com.

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Bledlow Ridge Primary School

As always the new term has been packed full of exciting learning and enrichment opportunities, the new running track has been a huge success especially in the wet muddy weather. The range of after school clubs is also very popular and we are very proud of the clubs that we offer, there are two new clubs to further add to these which are Judo and Street Dance which have proved very popular!

The annual Ridge off Roader date has been finalised and this event will take place Sunday 18th May, this is one of the biggest fund raisers for the school and attracts runners from across the County and beyond, the most crucial role to fill in the Chief Marshall Role, if you think you may be able to help please contact Quinton Newell qnewell01@gmail.com.

The external trips offer a fantastic way to reinforce the things the children have been learning in the classroom, this term Year 2

are off to the Oxford Science Museum, Year 3 will attend a fascinating Egyptian history workshop and Year 4 will also attend a workshop about the Greek history. Year 6 will be going to the Warner Brothers Harry Potter Tour which is always very exciting.

Year 6 will soon be undertaking their Bike ability training so look out for them around the village showing off some fantastic bike skills, and finally the whole school will enjoy a Pantomime Production in school which will be great fun.

Charity Disco, 15th February 2025, Bledlow Ridge Cricket Club, all welcome

I am organising an event to raise money for the wonderful Hector's House charity, who offered my family and I soo much help and support.

We have booked a DJ, bar and food will be available.

We would really like for you to come along and help support this worthy cause and join us in a night of Live, Love, Dance.

Tickets now on sale, £20 (over 18s only) please contact Ruth ruthprojects@yahoo. co.uk for ticket sales and further information.

Wendy





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VIRTUS were delighted to welcome so many residents from the local Bledlow Ridge and Saunderton communities at The Boot pub towards the end of last year. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to informally meet the VIRTUS team and find out more about the VIRTUS Saunderton Data Centre Campus.

We appreciate that many people still will have questions about the development and to that end, we have updated the Saunderton Community page on our website with a more complete list of FAQs and further imagery.

Please use this QR Code to directly access the information pages regarding the Saunderton Data Centre Campus, designed for residents to find out about the site.



FAQS

Does a data centre campus emit any light or noise pollution?

The approved planning consent for the site has stringent requirements that are designed to limit the impact on the local environment with regards to noise and light. For clarity, there are minimum levels of light that must be achieved to meet health and safety compliance, but this will be designed to minimise light spill outside of the confines of the site.

I have heard data centres use a lot of electricity—will this affect my supply or prices?

Our power comes from a different place to the power supplied to your homes or business. Essentially it comes straight from the power station and is pre-contracted to VIRTUS. As we have procured a direct contract with an energy provider which does

not affect supply to the local area, thereby also avoiding an impact in the way of increased prices. As the UK energy market is regulated, we pay the same market rate for power as everybody else.

When does the build phase start and when will it be finished?

Construction is likely to start around April 2025. Our aim is to carry out the heavier work over a period of around 18 months, with a minimum impact as far as possible. Following this, we will be constructing the 4 buildings on a phased basis and expect to have the site complete by the end of 2028.

Will this data centre campus be visible to villagers?

This campus is designed to blend into the natural environment and provide an aesthetic lift from the

previous derelict site. Although largely hidden, you will be able to see our plant-green roofs that blend into the Chiltern Hills from a few angles. We have worked with the local planners to ensure that the development doesn't look out of place or have a negative impact on the area.

How many people will be working there when the campus is live?

If we use our other data centre campus as a guide, there will be around 50 VIRTUS employees across the campus. Our customers will also have people working on site, so we would estimate a maximum of 200 at any one time. During the construction phase there may some additional people working on site.

Why is the campus secure, with 24/7 security? Data centres house lots of servers which are the property of our customers. Therefore, there are systems and information on servers which are confidential or private. In the same way that we all have passwords to protect our various online accounts, VIRTUS has data centre security to protect the infrastructure within our data centres.

Is the waste heat going into the atmosphere? What will that do to the climate?

At certain times during the year, waste heat in the form of warm air will be released from the chillers. The air will then cool naturally, with no lasting impact on the atmosphere. VIRTUS select and operate high efficiency chillers, that utilise free cooling' functionality, using the properties of the heat exchangers to cool the process water without the need to run compressors, resulting in lower electricity consumption. There are no 'emissions' from the chillers, in terms of particulates that have any adverse impact on the atmosphere. We use some of the waste heat to provide heating for the facility (for example in the office areas) and are exploring other potential uses on-site.

Are any hazardous materials used or handled at the site?

No – data centres don't contain any hazardous materials nor do we use them during the construction of the site. During construction, all contractors are obliged to follow UK guidelines to protect the environment and these are rigorously monitored by VIRTUS during the works.

I have heard that data centres use a lot of water – is this true, and will it affect my supply?

No-some old data centres do use a lot of water. However, this campus will be state-of-the-art designed. It has a closed loop cooling system, which means that once we fill it up with water, that's it-no more water needed to cool the data centre and its IT equipment.

What are you going to do with the 25 acre site which is not being used by the campus?

As part of the planning consent, this area was agreed to be left natural. VIRTUS will manage the area (including any footpaths within it) and ensure that the flora and fauna is not affected by the data centre operations. We are still welcoming any suggestions from the community as to what would be most suitable for this space.

Will the data centre employees have dedicated parking on site?

Yes, we will have parking, including EV charging stations on site. We will also encourage our staff to use public transport as much as possible.

Will this development create new jobs?

The development will create in excess of 50 new jobs.

Is there any way that the local community can benefit from improved broadband connectivity by making use of the fibre ducts at the site?

As we construct the data centre infrastructure, we are building out the fibre ducts around the site, which are essentially just empty tubes at this moment in time, which our customers can pull in their own fibre when they require it at a later date. This fibre will be owned and managed by them. It may in time be possible for us to make available access to the fibre infrastructure to an established fibre to the premises provider such as a Gigaclear etc. It would then be up to them to establish whether a local scheme is viable. At this stage in the construction of the campus there is no fibre yet pulled through the ducts, but we can revisit this idea at a later date if it would prove useful to the community.

What will you do to minimise traffic in the local area?

As part of our process, the vast majority of traffic movements will enter/exit from the A4010 to come from under the railway bridge. However, there will be some infrequent instances where deliveries will need to pass through Bledlow Ridge (to avoid the low railway bridge). Any abnormal loads will be planned in accordance with guidance from the Highways Authority.

What are you going to do about the potholes in the road on Haw Lane?

VIRTUS expects any contractors work for us to install measures that minimise the potential of damage to Haw Lane. If this does occur, we will reinstate as requested by the local Highways team.

Where do I go to ask questions directly to VIRTUS?

You can always ask our team any questions you might have by emailing:

saunder to n community @virtus dcs.com



Bradenham

News from St. Botolph's

Christmas is always a busy time for St Botolph's, and this year saw the addition of Christmas Film Night in the calendar. The church hires in the big screen and surround sound to give a spooky evening entertainment, with many saying that this version of A CHRISTMAS CAROL with computer generated animation starring the legendary Jim Carey, was the best they had seen.



Christmas Eve saw two services: the traditional Christmas Carol service at 5pm attended by over 90 people and the Midnight Mass when over 35 people decided to see Christmas in with a communion service, followed by mince pies and mulled wine. On both occasions the church was filled with carol singing. Congregations still participate in these traditional services, enjoying the singing accompanied beautifully by our regular organist, Ben. When given the opportunity children love to sing familiar carols. Sadly, with fewer school assemblies, the carols are less well known than they

used to be. (This is a personal regret for me personally because I think we do children a disservice if we deny them the pleasure of singing together (P.E.).) With the big Christmas tree, kindly donated by the Trust, the lights, candles and manger inside the church and candles decorating the path all the way down to the car park, the church looked at its warm and welcoming best.

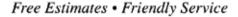
Funds were raised for the ongoing maintenance of the church (remember:parish churches like St Botolph get no direct funding from the Church of England so money raised is raised from local benefactors) and several people joined the St Botolph's Whatsapp group, highlighting up and coming events and volunteering initiatives. (if you would like to join the Whatsapp Group (no obligation to attend services) leave a message or ring Richard Langridge (Churchwarden) on 07711 053845.

The next service will be on Sunday, February 23rd, at 11.00am.

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The Village

The Christmas period saw a busy time at Bradenham, kicked off by the lighting of the Christmas Tree on the Green, kindly donated by the National Trust, and drinks and food (ably organized by the Bradenham Events Committee) in the Cricket Club. The following evening there was an exciting wreath-making session with participants making some superb wreaths. This was followed by a Christmas tea at the Red Lion

tea rooms on Sunday 8th (now voted as the Best Teashop in Bucks, so thanks to Lisa and Trevor!) and on December 18th, the final Great Big Christmas Quiz of the Year when the magnificent Christmas hamper was won by Mark and his family, followed by traditional Christmas games and fun. Many thanks to all participants and organisers.

A belated Happy New Year to You All!

The Village Fete.

Looking forward to 2025, the biggest event planned is the resurrection of the Bradenham Fete after a gap of several years. The Bradenham Events Team are proud to announce Sunday 8th June as the date of the fete, which will take place on the Village Green from 12 noon to 5pm. There will also be a Dog Show.

We are working in association with the Cricket Club, the Parish Council and St. Botolph's. The fete will support the charity: Young Carers, Bucks.

For more information, or if you or your Group would like to participate in this exciting event, please call: 07776 6148165

Bot's Books

This November's book club hosted an illustrious visitor: Robert Thorogood, the writer of the Marlow Mystery Books and creator and writer of the highly popular Death in Paradise television franchise. Robert entertained the Club with stories of how he got into writing and the inspiration behind the TV series, and was very happy to answer

questions. Our thanks go out to him for a delightful evening.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, March 4th at 7.00pm in St Botolph's church and if you would like to come along please do. There is no requirement to have read the books; only to bring along a POT LUCK and be ready to chat the night away!

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scan the QR code or email wycliffeclub@audleyvillages.co.uk









Piddington

Piddington Horticultural Society

By the time that this edition of Contact Magazine has been circulated, we will have held the Seniors' Annual Dinner for 2025, but the planning of future events continues with all of the profits intended to go towards next year's dinner. First, the next quiz planned by the Horticultural Society will take place on Friday 25th April in Piddington Village Hall. We are then hoping to have an "Open Gardens" event around the village on Sunday 22nd June, along with a plant sale and refreshments at the Village Hall. Further details will follow, but if you would like to open your garden for this event please contact Louise on 07772 672753. The Annual Village Show will take place on Saturday 30th August.

Please put these dates in your diary and help make the Horticultural Society's fundraising in 2025 a success. All profits go towards the Seniors' Annual Dinner.

Piddington Village Hall

The run-up to Christmas included the traditional Children's Party and this December, 25 youngsters from the village and the local area enjoyed themselves to the full, with the entertainer Simon Says as the star of the show.....until Santa arrived of course! It was at times difficult to tell if the parents who stayed throughout the event did so out of parental duty or because they enjoyed it just as much as the little ones did. Two weeks later, The Village Hall held the 51st Annual Carol Concert with the West Wycombe Brass Band, and sufficient mulled wine has provided and consumed to lubricate the audience's vocal chords. As ever, it proved a very enjoyable evening for all who attended and our thanks go to the band for their festive musicality and to the members of the committee who oversaw the event.

Now that we have entered the New Year, the Village Hall Committee is beginning to turn its thoughts to the programme of events for 2025 and the budget that we will need to set to support our activities and the continued running of the facility. The list of jobs that have to be tackled and projects that we would like to run with is beginning to grow, and we recognise that we are going to need a fundraising drive to have a chance of tackling them within a reasonable timescale. Top of the list will be the need to replace the hall's ageing boiler, and the resurfacing of the floor in the main hall is another

priority. However, the combined cost of the two pressing projects will probably be over £10,000. Fortunately, there are opportunities to request supporting funds from a range of sources, but it is the norm these days that grants are offered on a "matched funding" basis. This means that we need to have sufficient resource to make our own contribution, which in some cases can be as high as 80% of the total cost. The committee are actively investigating a range of fundraising options, including "Gofundme", so that we can try to grow our funds without necessarily having to





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significantly hike the cost of hiring the hall, because it is so important that we continue to encourage and support the wide range of activities that are currently held there. So, this is an initiative to watch out for as the new year progresses and if anyone has any ideas to help us achieve our fundraising aspirations, please let us know!

Our list of planned events for 2025 is beginning to come together and when the Village Hall Committee meets next in early February, we will firm up the annual programme and set a budget to support it. However, the first half of 2025 is shaping up nicely. A Quiz Night will take place on Saturday 1st March from 7 to 10 pm and if you would like to enter a team, please contact Heather on 01494 880692; it will be £6 per person to play in teams of six, and hot sausage rolls and roast potatoes will be

provided along with a raffle to raise funds for the Hall. Later in the month, Bingo will take place on Saturday 29th March from 6 to 10 pm for an entry fee of £11, with refreshments available and a raffle. The month of May could be particularly busy, with a Painting Party in the planning stage for 2nd May, and we will reprise last year's inaugural Eurovision Song Contest evening on Saturday 17th May from 8 to 11 pm, so start thinking about your costumes now! We particularly look forward to supporting the activities around the 80th anniversaries marking the end of World War 2 in Europe and the Far East, and await the government's detailed proposals before deciding precisely what we will do and when.

In the interim, we hope that everyone enjoyed the festive season and have begun the New Year is a positive way.

K

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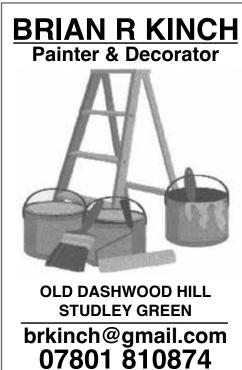
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Radnage

News From St Mary's Church

Since the last issue St. Mary's has been in constant demand with the Christmas services. It was good to welcome many of you to those services and to enjoy carols and worship together. Rev. Lance officiated and preached on the first Sunday of the year at the Epiphany service.

Look out for him around the benefice as he continues to meet you all.

St. Mary's has been open through January and continues to offer a safe place to come and pray through the Winter months. Yes, the weather is cold but we supply coffee and tea making facilities for anyone passing whether it be dog walkers or ramblers. Many now know that they can find a half way stop along their walks for a hot drink and a treat for the dogs.

There will be tea and delicious cakes available from 2pm.

Candlemas is on February 2nd. Candlemas sees the official end of Christmas with the story of Mary and Joseph taking baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem, also for Mary's official purification after childbirth. This story gives us the two characters of Simeon and Anna from Luke 2:22 -38.A man chosen by the Holy Spirit and a prophetess each with a message for the parents. A baby to



bring Good News to the world but also that a sword bluow pierce Mary's heart. After Candlemas we turn towards Lent and Easter. Light shining in the darkness draws us forward into a new chapter. As with Mary, in time, we will understand.

February is the month of the Snowdrop teas which you are always welcome to attend. Bring your dogs they are welcome, drop in after a walk or just come to enjoy the cakes. This year they will take place on February 9th and 16th from 2pm to 4pm. The churchyard is a carpet of white at this time of the year and it is not to be missed.

The snowdrops may bring nature to life, but Christ brings Life to nurture us.

Come to St. Mary's Church to find the peace and calm you crave.

the WI

Radnage Womens Institute

By the time you read this, Radnage WI will have had their January meeting, a delicious fish supper. Our membership in the last year has increased enormously and 47 of us enjoyed an evening of friendship

and wonderful food, cooked by our members. Thanks to all of the Committee and those who volunteered to provide such a tasty meal.

Our last meeting of the year was a celebration of 70's music, greatly enjoyed, accompanied by mince pies and mulled wine.

We have an exciting programme for the coming months, in February we have an extremely interesting presentation on the work of Community First Responders by Steve Head. Steve will follow his talk by demonstrating how the equipment is used. Just a reminder that our meetings are open to all, so please tell partners, friends and neighbours who would find this talk Informative.

In March Susie Roddick will give a talk on the Tanzania Charity, and how after 30 years involvement, the differences that have been achieved. In April we will learn about the Suffragette attack in Saunderton, in May we have our Resolution Meeting, with a short light hearted quiz. There are some extremely interesting meetings to follow: a talk on diplomatic doings in Russia, visit to Daws Hill vineyard, our social evening at the sailing club in Bourne End, a history of tattoos, photographing wild life, and talks from a pharmacist and an actor. Meetings are always stimulating, not to mention the cake!!

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

Bring & 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 brica-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.



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Radnage Parish Council

Next Meeting

Village Hall, Wednesday 12th March 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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Forthcoming Events

Saturday 1st Feb. - Rugby Six Nations Scotland v Italy @ 2.15pm

Ireland v England @ 4.45pm

Saturday 8th Feb. - Rugby Six Nations

Italy v Wales @ 2.15pm England v France @ 4.45pm

Sunday 9th Feb. - Rugby Six Nations Scotland v Ireland @ 3.00pm

Saturday 15th Feb. Bingo @ 8.00pm

Saturday 22nd Feb. - Rugby Six Nations

Wales v Ireland @ 2.15pm England v Scotland @ 4.45pm

Sunday 23rd Feb. - Rugby Six Nations Italy v France @ 3.00pm

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Radnage Friendship Club

Radnage Friendship Club is the modern-day version of what used to be called the 'Senior Citizens Club'. We are a small group of like-minded individ-uals who enjoy good food and good company!

The format of meetings has been changing over the years and no longer includes the mixture of outings, afternoon teas and 'bingo' sessions as in years gone by. Nowadays, the club organises monthly gatherings at local pubs for lunch and a Further details are available from Margaret chat which has proved to be very popular.

Over recent times, a number of our favourite haunts have been closing so we have been introducing some new venues for lunch. The January lunch, for example, was held at 'The Grouse & Ale' in Lane End. Blaylock (483346) or Val Davis (483785).

Tea in the Village Hall

Chairmaine Gallagher and others are organizing Afternoon Tea and Cake in the village hall.

Tea is from 2.30pm to 4.30pm and costs £2 (payable in cash only)

This event happens on the third Thursday of each month and the next one is - Thursday 20th February 2025

Charmaine can be contacted on ggalla8301@ntlworld.com





Valentine's Day

14th February, 5 PM - 9 PM

Roses are red, violets are blue, This Valentine's evening, we've planned it for you!

Candlelit tables, a gentle glow, The warmth of sparkling wine will flow.

Savour delights from food trucks divine, A feast for two, with hearts entwined.







Snowdrop Walk

Sunday 9th February

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

CASH ONLY

West Wycombe Park 10.30am - 3pm

Only assistance dogs allowed in Park.

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

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



Sunday 16 Feb - West Wycombe Park

From 11am to 4pm (last entry 3.30pm). Stroll at your leisure in the beautiful surroundings, with stunning lakes and woodland paths. Enjoy the wonderful displays of Snowdrops and wealth of other plants. Tea/coffee and homemade cake will be available to purchase in the Village Hall on West Wycombe High Street. The main drive in the park is wheelchair accessible as are some of the paths (weather dependent). Tickets are £3.50 for adults and £2.50 for kids in advance (£5/£3 on the day). Under 3s go free and there is no charge for people with MND and their carers. Please note that the park admits assistance dogs only. Advanced tickets via https://Snowdropsunday2025.eventbrite.co.uk

For any questions please contact chiltern@mndassociation.org



MNDAChiltern



MNDA Chiltern

www.mndassociation.org

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West Wycombe

News from St Paul's Church

It was with great joy that we attended the licensing of Revd. Lance Sharpe on Advent Sunday, Ist. December, followed by the lovely reception in Bledlow Ridge Village Hall.

Thankfully Lance has recovered from the fractured ankle that he incurred from a fall at the Rectory.

The Christmas services, namely the carol service, lead by Lance on 8th Dec., the Crib and Christingle service on 24th Dec., (with 20+ children and attendant family members having great fun embellishing the Christingles) and the Christmas morning service were enjoyed by a good number of participants, as was the Christmas Tree Festival on 6th Dec. which included delightful entertainment by a group of young musicians.

We were pleased to be able to make a donation to The Children's Society from the Christingle proceeds.

An update on recent work carried out include repair to the organ box and bellows, tarmac on the drive, plus gravel spread on the bend thereof, lights in the vestry replaced with L.E.D. lighting, fire extinguishers checked and septic tank emptied. Phew!

Just a note that our Parish Share has alarmingly increased once again, in line with

the cost of living, so we really appreciate your good attendance at fund raising events, and do thank you for that.

We now look forward to Snowdrop Sunday on 9th. Feb. and would be more than grateful for any help on the day. If you are able to do some baking and/or serving refreshments in the Village Hall, any time between 10am and 4.30pm, please contact Ros Hilborne on 07592752139 or email johnroshilborne@gmail.com

In addition to this we do need some more volunteers on the fundraising committee. Once again please contact Ros, who is a busy lady but obviously can't do it all on her own, besides these activities are sociable occasions and a good way to make friends.

We hope you've been able to derive some pleasure from the sunny, frosty scenery of recent weeks, as we now look forward to spring flowers and busy nesting birds.

Blessings to all.

Beverley Cope



News from West Wycombe Parish Council

As this is the first issue of Contact for 2025 we would like to wish all our residents a Happy New

Year. Although by the time you read this Christmas may be a distant memory, we would also like to thank everyone involved in making the 2024 Festive Fayre on Friday 6 December such a huge success - it was wonderful to see so many people in the village enjoying the yuletide spirit.

Our Parish Clerk Steven Marshall decided to resign from the role and left at the end of November; at time of writing we are in the process of trying to recruit a new Clerk, and we very much hope that by the time you read this we will have been successful in doing so. In the interim period our former Clerk Sharon Henson very kindly agreed to return to help us out and ensure that we could continue to function effectively - our sincere thanks go out to her.

2025 is a local election year in Buckinghamshire - the election is scheduled to take place on Thursday I May, and this includes the Parish Council. Two of our current Parish Councillors have already indicated that they will not be seeking re-election. Have YOU thought about becoming a Parish Councillor? The role is an interesting and varied one which will allow you to involve yourself in the life of your local community and really make a difference. The

position is a voluntary one, so how much time it involves is within your control; most of our current Parish Councillors have full-time jobs as well. The Parish Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month (excluding August) and most of the day-to-day issues are dealt with by the Clerk, who is a paid part-time employee. If you are considering standing for election you may wish to attend one (or all!) of our meetings in February, March and April to get a feel for



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36 | West Wycombe West Wycombe 37

how we operate - we are a friendly bunch and work collaboratively for the benefit of all our residents and local businesses and organisations; and we are staunchly non-party political! If you would like to speak to one of us about what is involved, or find out more about the process of standing for election, please contact us via the Clerk and we will be happy to respond.

As people may have seen in the local press, funding for Buckinghamshire Council's Community Boards is being reduced, and the areas that they cover are being rejigged. The Community Boards have provided a means to access Buckinghamshire Council funding for local projects, so this will unfortunately mean that in the future if we want to ask for financial support for anything we will be contending with more people for less money.

On the subject of money, each year a portion of your Council Tax - known as the

precept - comes to West Wycombe Parish Council to fund the work that we do. At our January meeting we decided to set this at £45,000 for the 2025/26 financial year. This represents an increase of 3.45% on the current year, which we believe strikes a sensible balance between covering our costs, which are rising like everyone else's, and not over-burdening residents at a time when there is continuing pressure on household budgets. It's worth noting that the precept has been kept at the same level for the past two years, and that Buckinghamshire Council are planning a 4.99% increase.

Unfortunately at the start of the year, possibly due to longer nights at this time of year, we had a few instances of fly-tipping in the local area, including at the Pedestal Playing Field - and as this is land that we manage we have had to bear the cost of having this removed. If you witness fly-tipping at any time please report this to

Buckinghamshire Council via FixMyStreet, and include as many details as possible - if you are able to safely photograph or film the perpetrators then this can be enormously helpful in bringing them to justice - significant fines can be imposed if they are caught.

Our next meetings are due to be held on Wednesday 12 February and Wednesday 12 March, both at 8pm in West Wycombe Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend, and there will be an opportunity during these meetings to raise questions or put something forward for our consideration.

FixMyStreet

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

fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/.

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

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

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

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Thank you to everyone who supported the Library for the festive fayre. The mulled wine & hot chocolate went down well

Please do visit the Library. We have the

The Chiltern branch of the MND Association will be holding their annual Snowdrop Sunday event on Sunday 16th February - Many thanks to Sir Edward for allowing us the use of the Park again for this valuable fundraiser. Please note that it is only the main Park which is open to visitors and not the private gardens.

Not only is the sight of snowdrops a VERY welcome herald to Springtime, but it's also a wonderful opportunity for members of the Branch, their carers, families and friends to enjoy time out together. The afternoon also

most recent books to borrow & we're also able to request books from other Libraries.

We've got two cozy sofas and lots of seating round the table. The fire is lit if it's really cold

Snowdrop Sunday - Save the Date

raises awareness of - and funds towards the fight against this cruel condition. Hot drinks with delicious cakes and savouries will be served in the Village Hall throughout and there will be a very warm welcome! I am so looking forward to coming back to the village to help with the event, and to meeting up again with visitors and friends.

Any contributions of cake will be greatly appreciated but most of all, it will be lovely to see you!

Alison Rimmer

West Wycombe Weather Station Chorley Road - Eileen Chapman



Week Ending	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm	Sunshine hours
3 rd Nov	4	15	2	9
10 th Nov	5	16	trace	0
17 th Nov	3	7	l	16
25 th Nov	-4	12	49 +Snow	14
I st Dec	-2	16	45	9
8 th Dec	2	12	63	7
15 th Dec	4	9	20	4
22 nd Dec	I	13	20	11
29 th Dec	3	11	10	7

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Happy 150th Birthday to West Wycombe School!

2025 is a very special year for us at West Wycombe School- this year marks 150 years since the school opened!

The school was built in 1874 but didn't open for pupils until 1875 and here we are 150 years later. We really enjoyed starting the SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS!

Our first assembly as we started the Spring Term was dedicated to starting our sesquicentennial celebrations. We began with a special letter from Mr Cusden, legendary headteacher from 1979 to 2003, written in 2010. Mr Cusden sadly passed away in 2021, but during our School Assembly we said a special thank you to him for his legacy in developing the school we know and love.



Please scan the OR code to hear his kind words and fond memories of the school.

We marked the occasion by asking 10 special VIPs a total of 150 questions about the school, including 'What is your favourite part of the school?', 'What makes West Wycombe School so special?' and 'Where



is the best place to hide at West Wycombe School if you're playing hide and seek?".

As we explored the school's history, the children were in awe as we explored some old school artefacts, including Victorian Finger Stocks and a school magazine written in 1927!



Friends of West Wycombe School - FOWW



team for organising the Sesquicentennial Cake! There was enough for every child to have a piece and they absolutely loved it. What a lovely way to mark the start of

Huge thanks to Ellen Carter from the our year celebrating 150 years of West Wycombe School.

> We also celebrated a special achievement that day- we're up to 170 students in our little school!

Our amazing week was only the start of it- we have a big reunion coming up on Saturday 26th April at 5 pm where we'll really push the boat out to celebrate our very special school. All are welcome- we'd love to meet some ex students as well as our local heroes who make West Wycombe so special.

Ed Tang, Head Teacher

Save the Date - School Reunion to Celebrate 150 Years Saturday 26th April at 5 pm

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Kenshams Farm

The Hidden Threat Beneath Our Crops: Root-Knot Nematodes

Farming has always been full of challenges, but this past winter brought us a new one that my late father Bryan never encountered in his 69 years at Kensham Farm: root-knot nematodes. These microscopic pests, known scientifically as Meloidogyne naasi, have caused some of the worst crop failures in living memory, all because of the exceptionally wet conditions we experienced.

A Winter Like No Other

From October 2023 to March 2024, we had twenty-eight inches of rain-nearly matching the average annual rainfall of the past decade in just six months. The fields were waterlogged, and while some of our winter wheat and barley came through looking promising, other fields were complete failures. Fields behind the Walled Garden and either side of the Bradenham Road were particularly bad. It has been a long time since we have had crops fail to make it through the winter like this.

When we sent soil samples to a specialist plant clinic, the results were shocking. The root-knot nematode levels in our worst field were 2,285 in a 200 ml sample of soil—well beyond the normal range of I to 67. These pests attack the roots of cereal plants, and with the wet conditions helping them spread, they left parts of our fields' barren.

Adjusting to the Damage

The damage forced us to make some tough decisions. On 19% of our winter wheat fields, we had no choice but to spray

everything off-both the surviving wheat and any grassweeds-so we could reseed with spring wheat. In other fields where patches of winter wheat survived, we overdrilled with spring wheat, hoping both crops will mature around the same time. It is not an ideal solution, but it is the best we can do under the circumstances.



Rethinking Farming Practices

This infestation caused us to question some of the farming practices we have adopted over the years. For three decades, we have grown continuous milling wheat and moved toward shallower tillage to save on diesel and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. But these practices, combined with the loss of neonicotinoid seed dressings, have created conditions that seem perfect for nematodes during a wet season.

Now, we are considering a return to deeper tillage to break up the soil and disrupt the nematodes' breeding grounds. It is frustrating because the push for reduced cultivations came with good intentionscutting fuel use and being kind to the soil. But if it means losing crops to pests like these, we may have to rethink our approach.



Fighting Back

We are not giving up though. This autumn, we have tried something new: planting a special oil radish variety from Germany. The idea is that the radish will trick the

nematode larvae into hatching prematurely, breaking their life cycle before they can do more damage. Of course, this brings its own challenges. In the spring, we will need to manage the radish carefully, incorporating the whole plant into the soil to release a fumigant and ensure it does not provide a bridge for any surviving nematodes.

Lessons Learned

This experience has been a tough reminder of how unpredictable farming can be. We are constantly adapting to weather, pests, and changing regulations, but this year has been especially difficult. Still, I am hopeful that with some adjustments we can learn from these setbacks and adapt-whether it is changing our tillage practices or experimenting with cover crops like oil radish.

Charlie Edgley

West Wycombe Village Hall westwycombevillagehall.co.uk				
_	Morning	Pip - Phonics with Robot Reg • pip@robotreg.co.uk		
Ω O	Afternoon	Exercise & Mobility class I pm,• ollyreedfitness@gmail.com		
_	Evening	West Wycombe Art Group • wwag.secretary@hotmail.com		
ā	Evening	Jennifer Zumba • jennifer.morais.zumba@outlook.com		
Tue		Masque Player • masqueplayers2022@gmail.com		
	Morning	WW Toddler Group• wwbabytoddler@gmail.com		
Wed	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

February

Sun 9 Feb 4 before Lent	10.00am Eucharist	St Mary's, Radnage	Reverend Lance Sharpe Reverend Anne Cooper	Mal 3.1-5 Heb 2.14-18 Lk 2.22-40
Sun 2 Feb The Presentation	10.30 am Eucharist	St Paul's, West Wycombe	Reverend Lance Sharpe	lsa 6.1-8 Cor 5.1- Lk 5.1-
Sun 16 Feb 3 before Lent	10.00am Eucharist	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	Reverend Lance Sharpe	Jer 17.5-10 1 Cor 15.12-20 Lk 6.17-26
Sun 23 Feb 2 before Lent	11.00am Eucharist	St Botolph's, Bradenham	Reverend Lance Sharpe	Gen 2.4-9, 15-25 Rev 4.1-11 Lk 8.22-25

March

Sun 2 March Next before Lent	10.00am Eucharist	St Mary's, Radnage	Reverend Lance Sharpe	Ex 34.29-35 2 Cor 3.12-4.2 Lk 9.28-36
Sun 9 March Lent 1	10.30 am Eucharist	St Paul's, West Wycombe	Reverend Lance Sharpe	Deut 26.1-11 Rom 10.8-13 Lk 4.1-13
Sun 16 March Lent 2	10.00am Eucharist	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge	Reverend Lance Sharpe	Gen 15.1-12, 17-18 Phil 3.17-4.1 Lk 13.31-35
Sun 23 March Lent 3	I I am Eucharist	St Botolph's, Bradenham	Reverend Lance Sharpe	lsa 55.1-9 1 Cor 10.1-13 Lk 13.1-9
Sun 30 March Mothering Sunday	10.00am Eucharist	St Mary's, Radnage	Reverend Lance Sharpe	Josh 5.9-12 2 Cor 5.16-21 Lk 15.1-3, 11-32



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