

CONTACT

Church & Community Newsletter

BLDLOW RIDGE • BRADENHAM • PIDDINGTON • RADNAGE • WEST WYCOMBE



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Isobel Connell and Will Lacey

Contents

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Letter from Church | 3 |
| From Registers | 4 |
| Bledlow Ridge | 6 -14 |
| Bradenham | 16 -17 |
| Piddington | 19 -20 |
| Radnage | 25-32 |
| West Wycombe | 36-46 |
| Church Services | 47 |

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CONTACT TEAM

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Treasurer: | Lucy Stupples - 01494730937 lucy@autumncottage.net |
| Advertising: | advertscontactmagazine@gmail.com |
| Design | Susie Chester • susie@theyetis.com |

CORRESPONDENTS

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Bledlow Ridge | Bob Simmons - 01494 481402 ridgenws@gmail.com |
| Bradenham | Richard Langridge - 07711 053845 richard.langridge123@gmail.com |
| Piddington | Paul Thomas - 07939 384970 prt97@hotmail.com |
| Radnage | Peter Hague - 01494 484003 peterradnagenews@gmail.com |
| West Wycombe | Susie Chester - 07957512803 westwycombecontact@gmail.com |

MINISTRY TEAM - www.achurchnearyou.com

| | |
|---|--|
| Parish Office - 07598 738037. admin@westwycombenefice.org.uk | |
| Interim Rector | Reverend Lance Sharpe 07938 762570 priest.westwycombe@gmail.com |
| Permission to Officiate: | Revd. Veronica Beaumont 07958 701913 veronica.beaumont75@gmail.com |
| | Revd. Anne Cooper 07721 338030 anne.cooper9@btinternet.com |

CHURCH WARDENS

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| West Wycombe: | No Churchwardens at present |
| Bledlow Ridge: | Eileen Maunder - 01494 481371 |
| | Geoff Ley - 01494 481527 |
| Bradenham: | Peter Baldwin - 01844 275813 |
| | Richard Langridge - 07711 053845 |
| Radnage: | Rosy Oliphant - 01494 482356 |
| | Jennifer Stringer |



Only a few of us will be aware that 5th March is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, while many more will be enjoying pancakes the day before, calling it pancake day rather than the old traditional Shrove Tuesday. When we mention Lent we will probably be asked "What are you giving up for Lent?" So what are we planning as we begin this holy season?

Are we going to fast from a favourite food or from a meal once a week?

Are we going to read a chapter from the Bible each day or make an extra donation to our favourite charity? There are countless choices and opportunities to take part in the traditional practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving so that we can try to move close to our Lord and be ready to share in Jesus' passion and come to understand more of the gift of eternal life earned for us.

This year, instead of just asking what are we going to do, let's ask ourselves why we are doing it. What is our purpose and goal? Thinking about the 'why' along with the 'whats' also helps us take the focus off our own efforts and performance. If our willpower gives out and we eat that piece of chocolate that we vowed to give up, it's just another opportunity to turn to the Lord and offer up our weaknesses to him. It's just another opportunity to realise how much we need his grace and power in our lives.

Dear Readers

So go ahead and make your Lenten resolutions and try your best to keep them. But remember why you are doing those things. It's so that God can fill you with all the love, mercy and grace that he wants to give you.

If you would like a special book or set of readings to use during Lent please don't hesitate to ask one of the clergy for recommendations. We are offering two Lent groups both on Thursdays (March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10) one at 2.30pm at Veronica's (Edgehill, Stanley Road, HP12 4DB) and the other at 7.00pm at The Rectory. Both will be led by Lance, Veronica and Anne and will follow the same course "Hear our Prayer" produced by the Bishop of Bradford.

Bishop Philip encourages us to follow the course by asking us to give ourselves marks out of 5 for our prayer life. Unless you can give yourself 5/5, the course is for you. Each session looks at the prayer life of an Old Testament figure, relating it to the prayer life of Jesus thus helping us to reflect on our own prayer lives. We will also have a time of prayer together.

Wishing you all a blessed and fruitful Lent.

Veronica

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Church News



Licensing

It was a wonderful welcome by everyone on the 1st December when the Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft welcomed me as the new interim Rector of the West Wycombe benefice at a service at St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge.

Despite hobbling around, due to a broken ankle, I was able to receive Bishop Steven's licence with representatives from all four churches in the benefice, the Wycombe Deanery, community leaders and patrons in attendance.



Bishop Steven mentioned steps in the journey of working together which seemed ironic with me in an orthopaedic boot! However, since then my ankle is much better, although not yet at 100%, it should be soon (hopefully)!



It was good to see that our Area Dean Canon Dave Bull was in attendance too, who had just been announced as the next Bishop of Buckingham. My personal thanks to everyone who worked so hard over the interregnum and on the day itself to make Alison and I feel so welcome and for the lovely tea and cakes afterwards in Bledlow Ridge village hall.



Although the post is a three-year interim one, in the service I did ring the bell (or tried to) seven times to indicate the length of time in years I imagined we might be here.

I look forward to continuing to get to know everyone and settling into the Benefice.

Every blessing

Lance, Rector

A licencing service is not just some quaint tradition from times past, it is important for the worshipping and wider community to see their Bishop, especially since Steven is our Diocesan Bishop which was an extra privilege. A Rector or Vicar's mandate comes from the Bishop with whom he or she shares the 'Cure of Souls' in the Benefice. It is more than symbolic then for the Bishop to be seen to grant that trust with the agreement of the people of the Benefice to the new minister.



From the Registers



Burial of Ashes

Dorothy Ayres – Chilterns
Crematorium

Funerals

Michael Cooper
St Mary's, Radnage

For Information on Services, Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals or General Enquiries,
within our Benefice Churches (Bradenham, West Wycombe, Bledlow Ridge and Radnage).

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What's on at The Walled Garden?



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Bledlow Ridge

News from St Paul's Church

We were invited by both Radnage and High Wycombe to see their lovely snowdrops but unfortunately couldn't make it. Now it is March and this year, March falls almost completely within the church's season of Lent. This is when the liturgical colour changes to purple which means that our altar frontals and the clergy stoles will all be purple. And each year the crocuses on the left of the church door come into flower and announce to the world that Lent is here by showing off their wonderful purple blooms.



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (5th March) when we have a service at West Wycombe at 6.30pm. As our foreheads are marked with the sign of the cross in

ashes we are called to recognise our own mortality with the words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" but we are also shown the way forward to eternal life "Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ". We are then given Lent, a time when we can try to move closer to Christ. To help in this there are many books and leaflets, please do not hesitate to speak to the clergy for suggestions. You may also consider the Lent groups on Thursdays at either 2.30 or 7.00.

This month the Eucharist will be at St Paul's Bledlow Ridge at 10.00am on 16th, the Second Sunday of Lent.



Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council News

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

The Parish Council met on Monday 10th February 2025 at Bledlow Village Hall.

- Grant Applications were considered from Bledlow Ridge School and Bledlow Ridge Village Hall, both applications were approved. Full details can be found in the minutes on the Parish Council website.
- 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

APP/K0425/D/24/ Ashridge House
Chinnor Road

3350131 - 24/06133/FUL Appeal against refusal of permission. Householder application for demolition of single storey utility room and addition of two dormer windows together with internal alterations and changes to windows and doors (part retrospective)

Appeal allowed with condition

24/07551/CLP The Jays Chinnor Road
Bledlow Ridge

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

Grant Certificate - Proposed Development



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The Ridge Evening WI

We were pleased to welcome a new visitor to our first WI meeting of 2025. There was quite a lot of information about forthcoming WI County events to consider, and we voted on the 2025 Resolution

Options. The top one will be put forward to the National Federation AGM in June leading to further action.

Our speaker, Richard Langridge, gave us a very informative history of the National Trust owned village of Bradenham, which was mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086. He talked about the early inhabitants, their occupations, farmers, clothiers, bodgers, including villeins (slaves), as well as Bradenham Woods, Bradenham Manor and St Botolph's Church and the changes that had occurred over the centuries. He then brought us up to date with the location of the Royal Air Force Strike Command Operations Centre, built under its hills. After learning that the Manor and some houses are empty, we continued the meeting with a lengthy discussion on what could be done to help preserve this lovely village. We were surprised to learn that St Botolph's Church is open all the time, tea or coffee available.

At our 5th March meeting we will be hearing from John Tyler who will be informing us about the fascinating "World of Fungi". If you would like to know more about us, please come to a meeting where you will receive a warm welcome from our friendly group, or enquire at theridgeeveningwi@gmail.com, where it can be arranged for someone to accompany you.



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Bledlow Ridge Horticultural Society

It's time to celebrate the arrival of Spring..... And there's no better way than enjoying a very entertaining evening in a friendly atmosphere, with homemade food, tempting desserts, complimentary wine and an hour or so of professional entertainment. So why not come to our Annual Supper on the 22 March in the Village Hall ?

The member's price for the Supper has been held at £25, and that for non-members at £30. There are a few tickets left, so if you are interested, please use the contact form on our website (www.bledlowridgehortsoc.org.uk) which contains details of our future events and reports on past ones or talk to any Committee member.

All our events are open to non-members with the exception of the free evening visit to the Plant Specialist on Thursday 19 June. However as Annual Membership is just £10pp, the member discounts for our events easily covers the fee.

Looking a bit further ahead, on Thursday

20 April at 8 pm in the Village Hall and open to all, we have the return of Andrew Mikolajski with "Pin me to the Wall". Andrew is a lecturer on garden history and design so there should be lots of interesting information on climbers and wall-covering shrubs. (nb. Tickets for our all day coach trip to the impressive gardens at Ulting Wick and RHS Hyde Hall in Essex on Tuesday 8 July will be on sale at this meeting.)

Then on Sunday 11 May it's our Bring and Buy Plant Sale, so this is an early reminder that if you are dividing, sowing or even discarding plants now, pot them up, bring them along on the day and they'll find a good home.

Bledlow Ridge Cricket Club

www.bledlowridgecricketclub.co.uk

Nets Generation - New Outdoor Nets Project

To support today's and future cricketers the club has started a project to raise £50k to replace the current nets. We are kicking off the fundraising with an Auction of Pledges Dinner at The Boot on the evening of Friday 4th April.

We will also be running an online auction prior to and during the dinner. This means that anyone can bid, whether attending the dinner or not, whether a club member or not. The more the merrier. We will post information on social media so anyone from the village (and beyond) can take part.

It also means that the club needs pledges. If you feel you can pledge an 'item' or an 'experience' (round of golf, holiday home, a trip somewhere etc) then we would be grateful if you would get in touch

New Players

The club welcomes new members of all ages, men and women, boys and girls. We are delighted to have heard from some senior cricketers who are planning to join the club this season as well as others returning to play for us after spells away. Our junior section has a full fixture list too and now that we have a senior 3rd XI there will be more cricket for everybody.

Indoor Nets

Indoor nets are already underway at Princes Risborough School on Sunday evenings: 4-5pm (juniors U11, U12, U13) 5-7pm (seniors + older juniors) and new members are welcome. Feel free just to turn up and introduce yourself or if you prefer, please get in contact first. Outdoor net practice takes place for seniors at 6pm



As we head into March, the tennis season is starting to warm up at Bledlow Ridge.

Recent Match Play

Our three doubles teams – Men's, Women's, and Mixed – have been out representing the club and the village, battling it out on the courts. We've had some exciting matches with a real mix of results – a bit like the weather! Our Men's doubles team powered to a brilliant win against Great Missenden, while our Women's team had a tough match against Stewkley. Our Mixed doubles team battled hard and earned a well-deserved draw at home against Lacey Green. Well done to all the players. The matches have all been played in a fantastic, friendly spirit, and we always enjoy catching up with our opponents afterwards – often over a cuppa and some biscuits.

AGM Round-Up

Our Annual General Meeting, held recently in the Cricket Club pavilion, was a great success. It was brilliant to be back in person after a couple of years of Zoom meetings, and we had a fantastic turnout. A big thank you to everyone who came along. It was great to see such a mix of members, from our newest recruits to some of our longest-standing players. We had a very productive meeting, discussing:

on Wednesdays and will start as soon as the weather allows in April.

Junior Cricket Dates

Friday evening cricket starts at 6pm 25th April through to 18th July register now at the club website

All-Stars and Dynamos starts 5pm 16th May through to 18th July registration opens soon

Bledlow Ridge Tennis Club

- A healthy financial update for the club, ensuring its continued stability.
- The growing popularity of our pickleball court, showing the increasing interest in this fun sport.
- Plans for ongoing maintenance and improvement of our facilities, including addressing some root damage on one of the courts to keep them in top condition.
- Discussions about how to engage more juniors in tennis, securing the future of the club.

Looking Ahead to Spring

As we move into spring, now is the perfect time to dust off your rackets and get back on the court! Bledlow Ridge Tennis Club caters for all abilities, from complete beginners to those looking for a more competitive game. It's a great way to get some exercise, meet new people, and have some fun. Whether you're looking to play in matches, have some coaching, or just enjoy a social hit, we'd love to welcome you.

Get in touch to find out more about membership and what's happening at the club. Visit our website at www.bledlowridgegetennis.co.uk to find out more.

Country Notes

On any walk around the Ridge you are sure to see one or two kestrels. They hunt prey by hovering on the wind, head static, pointed wings beating, black-tipped tails spread like fans. Their beautiful plumage is chestnut brown with dark flecks, black teardrop marks beneath the eyes, males with grey head and tail. A sleek bird hunched over yellow talons on a branch or telegraph wire is likely to be a kestrel on its favourite perch and you will spot it there often. In summer you may see six or seven above the south facing meadows, sharing the hunting ground. They drop down in stages with a final plunge into the grass to catch their prey, usually a vole, and then fly to a nearby perch to devour it.

Bledlow Ridge Primary School

The Spring term is continuing to be a fun and engaging time at school, the Parent Association have some great events organised to raise vital funds for the school, these include an Easter Egg hunt, a First Aid course for parents and a colour run which is always great fun for the children. The Ridge off Roader is not far away and is taking place on Sunday 18th May and lots of planning behind the scenes is taking place. The Summer Fayre is also shaping up to a great event and this is a lovely day for the school and wider community and everyone is welcome on the 12th July.



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Natural Connections

Did you go to school in Bledlow Ridge? Do you remember the trees on the field being planted?

What a wonderful legacy! Those young trees are now providing shade from summer heat and homes for wildlife. In fact the time has come to begin managing that area as a young woodland and a new resource.

You are invited to drop in and share your memories & see how the trees have grown. On Saturday 8th March a new hedge will be planted to create a woodland edge and launch "Natural Connections", a 12 month project building connections between children, families and the community, with our local environment.

It is easy to be so familiar with the woods and fields around us that we drive by hardly noticing. This project is about noticing, building awareness, valuing and working together to build on what we have. Biodiversity – the richness and abundance of nature - has declined so dramatically in the last 50 years, even here in the heart of the Chilterns. Everywhere still looks green and pleasant, or it soon will do as the buds begin to open. But the 2023 State of Nature report reminds us that since the 1970s:

- 16% of all species assessed are at risk of being lost from Great Britain.
- Distributions of pollinator species have decreased by 18% on average.

- 19% of all species studied have, on average, declined in number.
- 54% of all plant species have decreased their distribution.
- Farmland birds have declined by 58%.

For our children to enjoy the wildlife we know now when they grow up, and gardeners and farmers to have the pollinators we are familiar with, we need to notice and act, and doing that with others is empowering. Everyone is invited to take an interest, share their memories & knowledge, participate and encourage others to notice and connect with nature and their local community.

The NW Chilterns Community Board and Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council are supporting the project including practical conservation work and community art in partnership with Chiltern Rangers and local artist Dan Wilson. Opportunities to take part will be advertised widely, but do drop me an email for dates as they are planned mlyon@bledlowridge.bucks.sch.uk



Saturday 8th March, Bledlow Ridge School, 10am-12noon

To take part register for free places

www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/chiltern-rangers-cic-30860341747

Children under 14 to be accompanied by an adult. Do leave the car at home & walk if you can; pop by to see what's going on if you'd like to.



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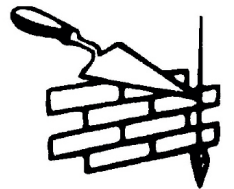
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Bradenham

News from St. Botolph's

We have had 2 Holy Communion services since our last CONTACT and have now wrapped up our decorations from the two Christmas services including a Carol Service (with over 80 people in the congregation) and a Midnight Mass (around 30 in attendance).

Attendance

Attendance remains fairly static at around 35 for each monthly service, but drawing on people from across the Benefice. The Parochial Church Council is always touched and grateful for the affection for the church shown by villagers and a willingness to support its work. Three villagers distribute CONTACT magazine and another does regular monthly flowers. Yet like many in the village, we are saddened by the continuing depopulation of the rental cottages. The National Trust, who own Bradenham, seem faced by almost insurmountable demands on its finances and the challenges placed upon them by the new Department of Energy guidelines for electricity consumption (all rental properties to have an Energy Performance Certificate rating of 'C' by 2030 – most properties in the village are "E") and the higher standards for mould removal, infestation and damp proofing in the new Renters Rights Bill, (scheduled to become law in early summer 2025). Currently 5 properties are empty and 14 in WestWycombe. Following on a protest from the Parish Council, the matter was raised in parliament by our local MP Greg Smith, MP for Mid Buckinghamshire , also joined parish and county councillors in a walk around the village to view local properties and discuss the implications of properties lying empty.

Attendance and funding from marriages has also been hit by the Manor lying empty, with the licence for PGL Holidays turned down by Bucks County Council and no apparent plans for new tenants. The Church will soon be introducing a monthly "giving" scheme so those who wish to, can contribute regularly, as the Church receives no financial support from the Church of England. Please contact the churchwardens at the front of this booklet if you wish to join this.

The Whatapp Group – Friends of St Botolph, however continues to grow, with seven new members enlisting over Christmas, and it has now has a membership of 59.

The website has now been updated and it is a terrific source of information for both the church and the village. It offers a comprehensive guide to the church and events in the village. Many thanks to Pete Baldwin for doing this.

It is on: www.bradenhamvillage.org.uk

Meetings

The two church wardens together have attended a number of meetings at Benefice & Ministry level and perhaps one of the most interesting was the recent Churchwardens meeting, now known as the Benefice Committee, on Jan 7th 2025 in which the Rev: Lance Sharpe was welcomed and ideas and

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guidance for the 4 churches was discussed.

We also saw the sad departure of Rev: Andi Chapman (RAF) who is moving to a new post at RAF Northwood and thank him for his guidance and support over the last two years.

Events

There was a flurry of events around Christmas, with a very successful showing of "A Christmas Carol". Two "Bot's Books" have been held; one attended by author, Robert Thorogood, and a theatre trip last

week to see and meet Peter James and his play: Picture Me Dead. Everyone in the village is looking forward to the Bradenham Village Fete, planned for Sunday, June 8th, and do contact the Events Committee if you wish to get involved. See poster. A further concert from the TIMELESS group is planned for April 26th and another from Blue on Green in the summer. The JHGS Concert is also planned for June 19th.

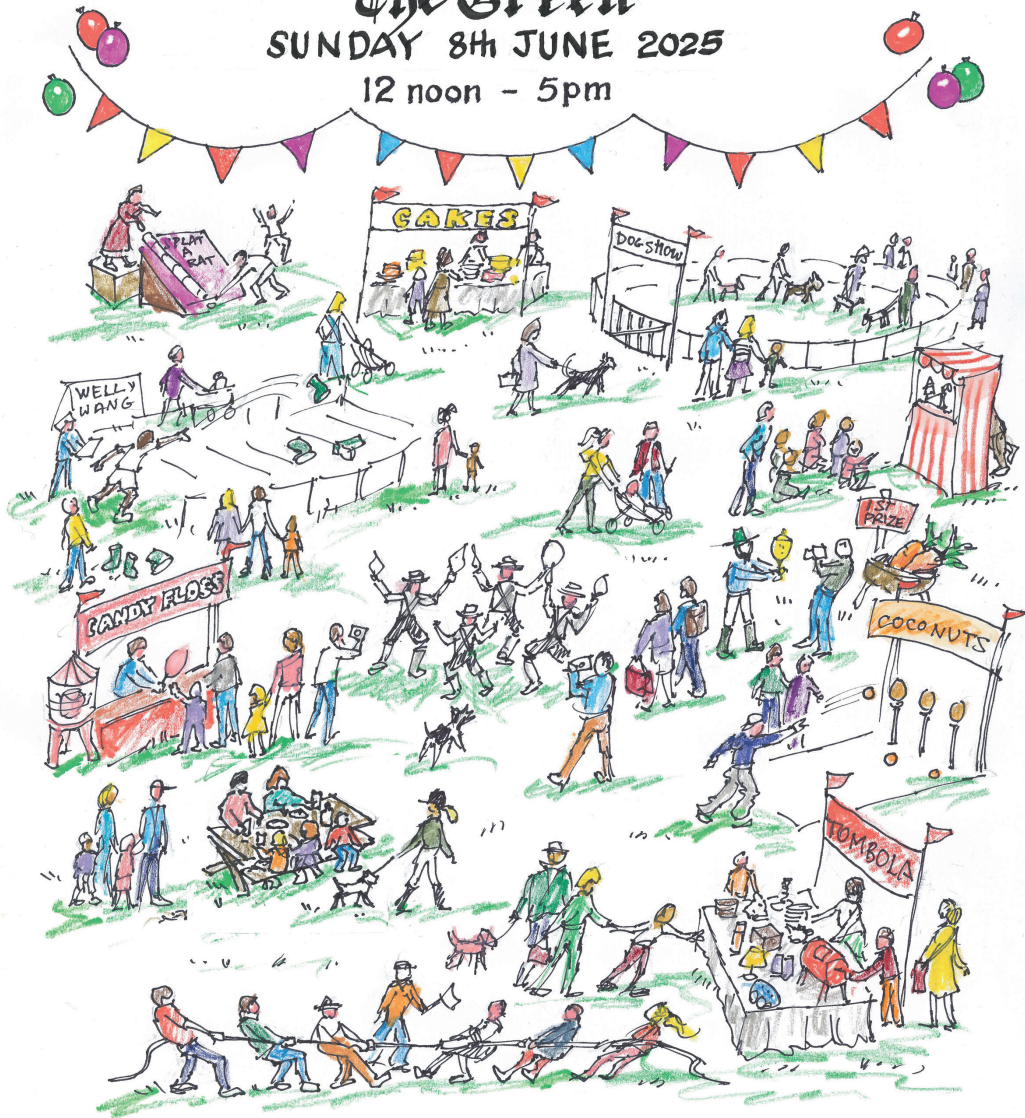
Contact - Contact continues to be delivered with Peggy's volunteers and 3 new volunteers, covering the area and even beyond. We note Peggy's decision to move away from her role as editor and distributor, but would like to thank her for her many years service in this role.

Bradenham Village Fete

The Green

SUNDAY 8th JUNE 2025

12 noon - 5pm



Working in Partnership with:
St. Botolph's Church,
Bradenham Cricket Club
and Parish Council

EVENTS TEAM ENQUIRIES 0776148165
bradenhamfete2025@outlook.com

EVENT
CHARITY: **Young Carers Bucks**



Piddington

Piddington Horticultural Society

The next quiz planned by the Horticultural Society will take place on Friday 25th April in Piddington Village Hall. We also have an "Open Gardens" event planned around the village that will take place 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 and further into the future, the autumn quiz will take place on Friday 26th September. Further details to follow nearer the date.

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 Village Hall committee has agreed an outline budget for the next financial year that should ensure that we cover our annual operating costs and protect the existing level of reserve funds. However, we do still need to grow a healthy in-year surplus

to build up sufficient funds to address predicted maintenance costs over the next year or so. Work will therefore continue to promote the increased use of the hall and the growth in income that will drive.

Our list of planned events for 2025 is shaping up very well, with the events for the next 3 months to include:

March

There may just be time to enter a team to our Quiz night on 1st March from 7-10pm: exceptionally, the quiz will be held at Studley Green Community Centre as our Village Hall is booked for the full weekend. Entries are £6pp, with 6 to a team, and a raffle and bar will be available.

Bingo will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday 29th March from 6 to 10 pm for an entry fee of £11, with refreshments available and a raffle.

April

On Friday 4th April, from 7 pm until 10 pm, local historian Simon Cains has kindly agreed to give a talk on "Piddington and Highwaymen", which should be of interest to all of the family. There will be no charge for the event, although any donations would be greatly appreciated as contribution to the Village Hall's current fundraising initiative. Some light refreshments, in the form of tea and cakes, will be available on the evening.

On Sunday 13th April from 8-30 until 11-30 am, we will be running an Easter Egg raffle and table top /carboot sale, at a cost of £10 per table. To book your table call 01494880692.

May

The month of May could be particularly busy, commencing with a Painting Party taking place on Friday 2nd May at 7 pm: bring your own drinks! To book your place please call 01494 880692; tickets cost £30. All paints /canvas and step-by-step instructions will be provided along with nibbles.

On the evening of Friday 9th May we will be holding an exhibition in the Village Hall to mark the 80th anniversaries of the end of World War 2 in Europe. If anyone in the village has any family memorabilia from that period, (including newspaper cuttings, photographs and/or film footage) that you would be happy to loan for our displays, please email the Village Hall committee via piddingtonhallcommittee@gmail.com.

We are particularly keen to add some colour and detail to the suggestion that the furniture factory in the village contributed to the construction of the wings of the RAF's Mosquito fighter bomber during World War 2.

On Saturday 17th May from 8 to 11 pm, we will reprise last year's inaugural Eurovision Song Contest evening, with accompanying costume competition! More details in next month's edition of Contact Magazine.

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Radnage

News From St Mary's Church

St. Mary's churchyard was giving a very good impression of the hope that comes with Spring. The February snowdrops put on a great show and despite the grey days we have had all month, these brave little flowers bring a joy to all who see them. We are not of course the only church in this area of the Chilterns to have snowdrop displays and we are in healthy competition with West Wycombe Park! Having said that, we do have the Snowdrop Teas ably run by Rosy and her team who made a healthy much needed profit for the church. The atmosphere on the days always encourages good fellowship with everyone who walks through the door.

Speaking of flowers we have another call for volunteers to help with the flower displays in church and to join the team of gifted ladies led by Carol Wheeler. She can give help and training to anyone who wishes to try their hand at flower arranging. Ladies and gents welcome to join. Contact Carol on carol.wheeler1@gmail.com.

The team put together a stunning display of flower arrangements for Michael Coopers funeral. Many of you came to the church to support Julie and the family. Radnage has been so fortunate to have such a kind soul in its midst and to have in many gardens and homes part of his gifted talented legacy. The churchwardens would like to thank all those who made this a very special day.

As we move into March we will have a new Bishop of Buckingham recently consecrated at Canterbury Cathedral. On March 1st at 11am we will welcome Bishop Dave Bull as he takes up his post. The welcome service will take place at All Saints High Wycombe. Another special occasion in the life of the church. All are welcome to attend this service.

If you are looking for help in preparation for Lent and Easter the Ministry Team are implementing study days with new material

to study each week of Lent. Look out for the publicity that will be posted on the regular email list or get in touch with the Rector at priest.westwycombe@gmail.com

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 5th March and this year there will be a 6.30 service at St. Paul's West Wycombe – do come along and begin your Lent journey with the Ashing service.

Cleaning spiritually is just as important as a thorough cleaning in our homes! Sam our regular cleaner does a grand job once a month for us but we do need extra volunteers to clean the church. It's not an onerous job and if done with others it's another part of that fellowship thing I was talking about. Join the rota and clean for St. Mary's once a month. The more folk we have the better and we gain a shining church. Please contact Caroline Strange on church.secretary@radnage.net

British Summer time begins on Sunday 30th March (Spring forward, Fall back!). This is a 5th Sunday in the month and the service this year will take place at St. Mary's Radnage. We will be celebrating Mothering Sunday on this day which for many is joyous but also difficult time

Traditionally this was about the church gathering all in the area to come under its roof to be loved and healed, to remember their baptism and to be given support as a mother gives to her children.

It has commercially become something else now, but its roots are in loving people where we find them, be it in church or on the edges of the communi-ty.

In answer to this sensitive time for those who find Mothering Sunday a time to avoid is the 'Footprints' service which will take place in St. Peter and St. Paul Medenham SL7 2HF on Friday 21st March at 7.30. See the poster elsewhere in Contact. It has become a much loved service, a place of heal-ing over the years for all families who have lost a much loved child at whatever age.

As always please do come and sit awhile at St. Mary's, the door is always open, the tea and coffee always on offer. You are welcome.

Garden Sunday 2025 – SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY 08 JUNE 2025

We are already starting to make plans for this year's Garden Sunday and have a date set!

Please put the date in your diary and watch this space for further information.

If anyone would like to join our planning committee we would love to hear from you so please get in contact with one us below:

Lisa - 07833 590828, Rachel - 07824 376325,
Ann – 07780 221468, Rosy – 07717 471567

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Radnage Womens Institute

For our February meeting we had an extremely interesting presentation on the work of Community First Responders by Steve Head. We had a very good turnout, with lots of visitors. Steve followed his talk by demonstrating how the equipment is used. Lots of interest from us all. The role of a Community First Responder is entirely voluntary. All volunteers are trained by UK Ambulance Service. The South Central Ambulance Charity supports over 1200 Community First Responders, medical students, military police and fire co-responders. A very responsible and caring role for which I am sure we are all very grateful.

In March Susie Rodick 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 And Buy Table :

This raises additional funds and is always popular. At the last meeting we raised, together with the raffle, over £30 . Have a declutter and bring along anything that you no longer have a use for, books, kitchenware, sewing/ knit-ting 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 Church of England Primary School

Radnage Church of England Primary School has been rated one of the best-performing primary schools in Buckinghamshire in a recent article published in the Bucks Free Press.

The newspaper article stated, “ With 88 per cent of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths , Radnage Church of England Primary School comes in seventh place.”

Greg Smith MP, together with Councillors Shade Adoh and Robert Carrington visited the school at the end of January to offer their congratulations and meet Headteacher Sam Browne, together with Head of Governors Michael O’ Donohue and Reverend Lance Sharpe. After attending the school’s Open Celebration Worship, the visitors were shown around the school and met the children in their class rooms.



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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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The Royal British Legion

Opening Times

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

Forthcoming Events

8th March - Monthly Bingo

22nd March - Music Night with Radio Generation - to celebrate the Branch Chairman's birthday

20th April - Easter Sunday breakfast

26th April - St. George's Day meal

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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)

The next Afternoon Tea is on Thursday 20th March

If you can help set up or bake a cake please email Charmaine, she can be contacted on ggalla8301@ntlworld.com

Clothes Bank

The Air Ambulance has a clothes bank set up in the village hall car park. Please donate any surplus clothing you may have to this worthy cause.

Radnage Winter Lunch Club

THE RADNAGE WINTER LUNCH CLUB IS BACK!!

We are very excited to announce that the first Winter Lunch Club since COVID took place on 24th February 2025.

Our next lunch is planned for 12.30pm on Monday 24th March 2025 at RADNAGE VILLAGE HALL, at a cost of £5pp for 2 courses.

This lunch is open to everyone in Radnage over 60 and is very well attended, so a great social event in the Radnage calendar!

Please note - the deadline for booking (for catering purposes) is Monday 17th March, thank you.

If you would like to attend this lunch in March, OR join the mailing list for future winter 25/26 dates... please email Jennyb2801@btinternet.com

Or call JENNY BOWIE ON 07771 602144 / 01494 506099 or KAY BROWN ON 07984 530664

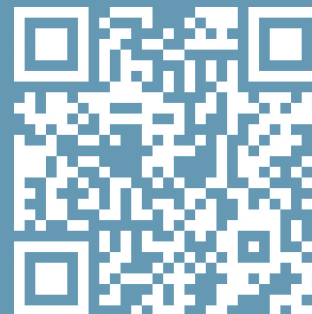
We also need volunteers to make this happen – to set up, prepare the food, serve and clear up etc.

Please contact Jenny or Kay if you can volunteer to deliver these lunches as part of a team (we aim to put 3 teams together so you only need to deliver 2/3 meals each winter)

We hope to see you at one of our lunches.

Kids Parties At:

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West Wycombe

News from St Paul's Church

Well, despite the present outlook, spring never misses its turn. Isn't it wonderful how the bulbs start pushing up through thick and thin, regardless of the weather. I hope you've been able to enjoy the snowdrops. Snowdrop Sunday on the 9th February raised over £1200 which was a very welcome contribution to the coffers, in view of ever arising expenses and, most importantly, it was a lovely social event shared with friends and newcomers alike.



Do look out elsewhere in Contact for the Lent courses that Revd. Lance will be running after Ash Wednesday, which is on 5th March. (don't forget the lemon for your pancakes on Shrove Tuesday). There will be a Lent course during the day and another in the evening, convenient for whichever suits you best.

After that, all that remains for this month will be Mothering Sunday which, this year will be held at St. Mary's, Radnage at 10am on 30th. March. I hope you can get there but if you need a lift contact me on cope.fish@sky.com and we'll see if we can help.

Many Blessings, until next month.

Beverley Cope

Now we look forward to this month's 'Craft and Cakes' event in the Village Hall on 9th March from 11 - 3pm. Hope to see you there.



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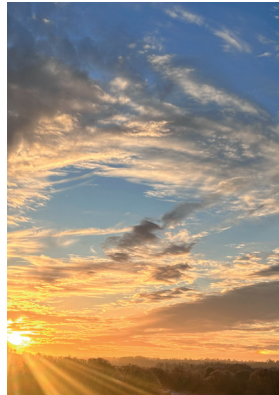
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A big thank you to Wendy Jeff's for crocheting lots of baby blankets - 4 boxes which were taken to Stoke Manderville.

Thank you to Anne Abraham for knitting over 60 baby hats which were also donated to Stoke Manderville. Wendy and Anne have also crocheted lots of blankets for adults.. They've been really welcome by everyone at the Library.

West Wycombe Weather Station Chorley Road - Eileen Chapman



| Week Ending | Min Temp °C | Max Temp °C | Rainfall mm | Sunshine hours |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| 5 th Jan | -3 | 12 | 13 | 12 |
| 12 th Jan | -6 | 12 | 29 +Snow | 10 |
| 19 th Jan | 0 | 11 | 0 | 4 |
| 26 th Jan | 0 | 10 | 21 | 3 |

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| | 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 |
| | 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
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PUBLIC MEETING

The future of St Lawrence Church UPDATE (AKA the Golden Ball)

25th March 2025

7pm-9pm

At St Lawrence Church
West Wycombe Hill Road
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For More Information:



West Wycombe Chamber Choir

Our Spring Concert is on Saturday 5th April, at 7 p.m. At St. Lawrence Church, on the hill, West Wycombe when the choir and soloists will be performing Choruses from The Messiah by Handel. This is the first time the choir have sung this work, so they are very excited about it.

The concert will be in aid of the RNLI who have a local supporters branch raising much needed funds. The RNLI is a charity that provides lifeboats, coastal safety and other services in the UK and Ireland. They are independent of the government and get less than 1% from them. The majority of the income is from charitable donations so we hope that you will support this concert. There will be a licensed bar and raffle available. Tickets are £12 adults and £10 concessions (senior citizens/children under 12yrs). Tickets available on the door, however, if purchased in advance receive

a £1 discount. Contact Michèle - 07796 680253.

Social Event is for everyone - 60/70/80's evening of fabulous music to listen or dance to. Why not join us? Friday 21st March, 7.30 p.m. West Wycombe Village Hall, High Street, West Wycombe HP14 3AB. Licensed Bar and Raffle available. Bring your own table food. Tickets £12 each. Accompanied children under 12 yrs free. Contact Michèle 07795 680253 or Charmaine 07425 159071

The choir ran a very successful quiz in January, an annual event. We thank everyone who helped run this event and all those who came. This month we will be celebrating the choir's 19th birthday, of course with cake and a celebratory toast. If you fancy joining us, enjoy singing with a group and would like to make new friends, then we're the choir to be in. For more information please contact Michèle (Choir Manager) 07795 680253 or Barry (Musical Director) 07795 680223 or see our website <https://westwycombechoir.org.uk> or Facebook page <https://facebook.com/Westwycombechamberchoir>

Future Events

Summer Term starts 23rd April

Starlight Express,
Troubadour Wembly 27th April

Cream Tea and Walk at Radnage date tbc
Choir w/e tour to Alison Rimmer's Church,
Weymouth 27th - 29th June
Summer Concert 12th July

Friends of West Wycombe School

2025 is a special year for West Wycombe School as it celebrates 150 years since it opened its doors to its first pupils in January 1875. We are still working on our plans but we have two dates for everyone to mark in their calendars for this year.

At 5pm, Saturday 26th April 2025, we will be having our 150th Birthday Party open to everyone to attend (past pupils & current pupils and their families and everyone from the community). It is not ticketed and we will have food and drink to purchase. Please come and join us in celebrating and more details to come in upcoming months.

Our annual Summer Fete with West Wycombe Preschool will be on Sunday

8th June this year and we look forward to welcome school families as well as the community.

We wanted to thank everyone in the community who has supported us in the last year as we would not be successful in our fundraising without the support of school families and the community and local businesses. Thank you.

foww@wwglt.co.uk

History of West Wycombe School

Education in West Wycombe Village

To try and piece together West Wycombe School history, I have been looking at West Wycombe School archive, newspaper archives and local archive as well as asking former pupils. A thank you also goes to Simon Cains for his help which is very much appreciated. I am still researching and organising and we would love to hear any stories of the school and see any photos you have of the school or its past pupils and if possible scan to add to the school archive. So whilst we are getting the school entire history organised, I thought you may enjoy a start to the school history.

Whilst the current West Wycombe School opened its doors to its first pupils in January 1875, it was not the village's first school. In 1839, a single open plan room was built at the bottom of the hill below the caves to be used as a National school for 80 children. The site was provided by Sir John Dashwood King, Bart. The building still stands today but is now a residential cottage known as Flint Cottage. On 2nd December 1839, it opened with its first mistress Caroline Dobson. It had a total of 4 mistresses/masters until it closed at the end of 1874 due to the West Wycombe Board School opening

West Wycombe School

The West Wycombe Board School was established as a result of the UK Parliament 1870 Education Act. The Act created the school board system to build and manage schools. The boards were to be locally elected and received their funding from local rates. But education was not free or compulsory. It was not until 1880 that compulsory school attendance between the ages of 5 and 10 became law.

In 1874, the main parts of the Victorian building were built which consisted of the school and headmaster's house with office. The architect was Mr Burnham of Wycombe



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and the builders were Messers Smith and Fletcher of Lane End. Newspaper articles reported the school would accommodate 200 children and consisted of school room 46 by 18 feet for mixed scholars, an infants school room 30 by 18 feet and 2 classrooms 16 by 15 feet. The cost of land was £117 and cost of buildings £1675. Whilst this was reported the actual school in 1875 opened with 3 rooms not 4 as the newspapers imply. There was a 4th room built later.

In 1875, the school had a bell tower which rang to call pupils to school, although in a later year's entry in the school day book it was noted that when the bell rope had broken that the pupils arrived anyway. There were 2 entrances at the front of the building, one for the boys to enter and another for the girls and infants. For many years, the education of boys and girls were separate.

In trying to capture its history of 150 years, there are so many elements – site development, what school life was like, who were the teachers and heads, changes to education, school name changes, school challenges and its pupils and hopefully over this year we can share more.

The school however is more than its building and relies heavily on its pupils willingness to learn and every head teacher in the 150 years has contributed to the school as it is today.

1875 – 1879 Mr Thomas Browne

1879 – 1882 Mr Thomas Charles Corke – interim

1882 – 1923 Mr George Holland

1923 – 1955 Mr Richard E Belsham

1955 – 1979 Mr Kenneth Holdbrock

1979 – 2003 Mr Michael “Mick” Cusden

2003 – 2016 Mrs Alison Cobb

2016 – 2017 Interim heads

2017 – 2020 Ms Abi Preston

2020 – 2021 Mrs Tabitha Rowley – interim

2021 - Mr Ed Tang

The fact that between 1882 – 2003, the school only had 4 head teachers in 112 years is astonishing.

At the 150th anniversary assembly, Mr Tang shared with all the pupils and staff, Mr Cusden's letter written for the school living memory project. We would love to add to this memories project, all memories are welcome. We would love to hear more about the school air raid shelter that was under what is now the staff car park.

Please contact Ellen Carter, cartere75@outlook.com if you have any memories or photos to share and if you have a question about the school history, I will try and find the answer for you.



Coffee & Chat

For Parent/Carers /Grandparents of SEND Children

FRIENDLY GROUP, SHARE EXPERIENCES, TIPS, KINDNESS

- Mon. 17th March** - The Apple Orchard
- Mon. 28th April** - The Walled Garden
- Mon. 19th May** - The Walled Garden

9.30am - 11.30am



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West Wycombe Preschool have a Clothing Bank in their driveway

We can accept the following items:

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Kensham Farms

The snowdrops have signaled the first signs of spring – a time of hope and opportunity – although many of you will continue to feel unease from the impending changes to inheritance tax or the threat of bird flu or foot and mouth. Unwilling to accept the budget as a fait accompli, we were one of the 1,400 plus tractors that descended on Whitehall on 10 February 2025 for the Change Your Tune Starmer tractor rally organised by Save British Farming. What a fantastic day and show of support that was – tractors were nose to tail and six abreast in Whitehall, which along with neighbouring Northumberland Avenue, had reached capacity by 2.45pm.

What struck me as we set off from Beaconsfield Services and along the A40 on the approach to London in a convoy with 60 other local farming families was the incredible support from the great British public. It's as close as I will come to feeling what it must be like to be a celebrity. Throughout the journey, there was so much support from drivers honking their horns, and pedestrians waving, cheering and giving us a big thumbs up. The number of people with their cameras out and videoing the tractors as we made our way down Regent Street and around Trafalgar Square was fantastic. We brought smiles to groups of school children and the sightseeing couple on the top deck of the N551 bus were delighted to be within touching distance of a tractor as we sat at (one of many) red lights.

My message to any farmer who is feeling anxious or alone – please believe me when I say that the people of this country have so much heartfelt support for every single one of you. I know it may be hard to believe at times, but everything I saw on the day showed that farmers do have the support of the nation and I was humbled and incredibly moved to experience it firsthand. But as fun as it was to hear over enthusiastic horns

blaring “La Cucaracha” and “Baby Shark” outside Downing Street, we were there to deliver a serious message - highlighting the resilience of British farmers and their determination to weather the government storm and see the wrongs of the budget corrected. We were addressed by Tom Bradshaw, along with other industry representatives and prominent farmers. I was astonished to hear that between the October 2024 budget and 10 February, the NFU alone has met with over 400 MPs. All of them were united in their aim and continue to work tirelessly in coalition to represent us all. Their message was clear - we won't give up and neither should you.

The wing mirrors of our tractor proudly sported “Stop the Family Farm Tax” flags and Lacey's Family Farm, Bolter End carries a large campaign banner at its entrance. If you would like to join us in showing your support for the NFU campaign, members and the public can find roadside banners, flags, flyers, car stickers and much more at the NFU shop website <https://shop.nfonline.com/>

Annaliese Nelms (Alex's wife)

Church Services

March

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Sun 2 March <i>Next before Lent</i> | 10.00am Eucharist | St Mary's, Radnage | Ex 34.29-35 2 Cor 3.12-4.2 Lk 9.28-36 |
| Wed 5 March <i>Ash Wednesday</i> | 6.30pm Eucharist | St Paul's, West Wycombe | Joel 2.1-2, 12-17 2 Cor 5.20-6.10 Mt 6.1-6, 16-21 |
| Sun 9 March <i>Lent 1</i> | 10.30 am Eucharist | St Paul's, West Wycombe | Deut 26.1-11 Rom 10.8-13 Lk 4. 1-13 |
| Sun 16 March <i>Lent 2</i> | 10.00am Eucharist | St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge | Gen 15.1-12, 17-18 Phil 3.17-4.1 Lk 13.31-35 |
| Sun 23 March <i>Lent 3</i> | 11am Eucharist | St Botolph's, Bradenham | Isa 55.1-9 1 Cor 10.1-13 Lk 13.1-9 |
| Sun 30 March <i>Mothering Sunday</i> | 10.00am Eucharist | St Mary's, Radnage | Josh 5.9-12 2 Cor 5.16-21 Lk 15.1-3, 11-32 |

April

| | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|---|
| Sun 6 April <i>Lent 5</i> | 10.00am Eucharist | St Mary's, Radnage | Isa 43.16-21 Phil 3.4-14 Jn 12.1-8 |
| Sun 13 April <i>Palm Sunday</i> | 10.30am Eucharist | St Paul's, West Wycombe | Isa 50.4-9 Phil 2.5-11 Lk 22.14-23.56 |
| Thur 17 April <i>Maundy Thursday</i> | 6.30pm Eucharist & Stripping of the alter | St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge | Ex 12.1-4, 11-14 1 Cor 11.23-26 Jn 13.1-17, 31-35 |
| Fri 18 April <i>Good Friday</i> | 2.00pm Devotional service | St Botolph's, Bradenham | Gen 15.1-12, 17-18 Phil 3.17-4.1 Lk 13.31-35 |
| Sun 20 April <i>Easter Day</i> | 9.30am Eucharist | St Mary's, Radnage | Acts 10.34-43 1 Cor 15.19-26 Jn 20.1-18 |
| | 10.00am Eucharist | St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge | |
| | 11.00am Eucharist | St Paul's, West Wycombe | |
| Sun 27 April <i>Easter 2</i> | 11.00am Eucharist | St Botolph's, Bradenham | Acts 5.27-32 Rev 1.4-8 Jn 20.19-31 |

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