

# LITTLE HADHAM

## PARISH NEWS

APRIL 2026

Your local free magazine printed & distributed by St Cecilia's Church



**REVD TAYO MEETS  
THE KING...P.5**



## LETTER FROM

# The Rectory

### THE POWER OF SMALL GOODNESS

Last month, I wrote on “the good, the bad... and the rest of us.” Most of us would probably identify with the latter group: ordinary people striving to do our best in a world that isn’t always straightforward.

Recently, my thoughts have turned to the understated goodness that helps to hold communities together. This form of goodness rarely receives public recognition, and I often wonder why it seems to slip by unnoticed.

There are no front-page stories about the neighbour who checks in on someone living alone, the person who tidies the churchyard, the parent volunteering at the school, the friend who listens in difficult times, or the bell ringers whose melodies drift across the village reminding us of the church and days gone by.

Such gestures may not appear dramatic, yet without them, village life would lose its warmth.

Communities are shaped not just by grand gestures.

They are built by countless small acts of kindness repeated day after day.

These everyday actions are often underestimated, and we may overlook their true power.

Even something as simple as a smile and a “hello” as we walk along the village roads can make a significant difference.

Jesus once said that offering someone even a cup of water in kindness matters. The small things we do for one another are never insignificant. Our drops of kindness may not change the world overnight, but they can ripple further than we imagine.

Jesus began with only a handful of followers. Today, billions trace their hope back to those small beginnings.

We cannot resolve every conflict reported in the news or fix every injustice in society, but we can influence the atmosphere around us. We can choose patience instead of irritation, kindness instead of indifference, and compassion instead of judgement. When enough ordinary people make these choices, the world becomes a little brighter.

This is part of what the Christian faith seeks to nurture, not perfection, but hearts gradually shaped by love. Churches are not just places to hold services; they remind us of the kind of people we can become. People who learn, slowly but surely, to reflect the grace they themselves have received.

In a world that can seem chaotic, goodness often works quietly. Goodness is not weakness; it may be the most powerful force we possess.

So, hats off to the good people around us.

Revd T.

## LITTLE HADHAM PARISH NEWS

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To find out more about the life of our Church, please visit our website:

[www.riverashchurches.org.uk](http://www.riverashchurches.org.uk)

### EDITORIAL DEADLINE

All articles for inclusion and payment for advertising in the next issue **must** be received by the **15th** of the month.

(BACS preferred, email the editor for details.)

Editor reserves the right to edit copy received, and add or omit pictures where necessary.

View the Parish News Online including back issues:

[www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk/parish\\_news.html](http://www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk/parish_news.html)



### FROM THE REGISTERS OF ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH

We commend to God's care Fiona Carolyn Susan (Sue) Knight (89) of The Ford, Little Hadham whose funeral and burial service took place on Thursday 26th February at St. Cecilia's Church

## ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

If you would like to advertise in our magazine, please contact the editor at: **littlehadhampn@gmail.com** for more details.

The Parish News is funded and distributed freely by St Cecilia's Church. We really appreciate the support of all our advertisers to help cover our overheads and keep the Parish News in print. Please support them and shop local.

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We offer ads at 4 different sizes and prices from a full page to an eighth of a page, with discounts for taking a year at a time. We can also insert flyers for a small fee.

You can also offer support by making a donation to the magazine, contact the editor for details.

The magazine is written by many contributors who report for themselves or for a club or organisation they represent. The church and production team does not necessarily agree with the opinions aired in any article printed here.

# HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHURCH?

HELEN WALKER

## FRANCES ELIZA BURY



I hope you enjoyed learning a little bit about James Marshall Bury – first rector of Little Hadham – last month.

This month we are moving

on to his wife, Frances Eliza Bury, who is remembered in a brass plaque on the same right-hand wall of St Cecilia's church, close to the altar.

Frances Eliza was born in 1840 in Islington, the second daughter of John Jackson, at the time the headmaster of Islington Proprietary School and who became Bishop of Lincoln (1853-1868) and later Bishop of London (1869-1885). She was one of eleven children, only one of which was a boy...and he sadly had a very short life, dying aged 8 in 1868.

Of the ten girls in the Jackson family, the seven that married were all wedded to clergymen! But then the Church was probably the only social circle they were exposed to in the Victorian era...

Frances married James Marshall Bury in September 1864 in the parish church

of St Mary in Riseholme, Lincoln and set up home in Tickhill (in what is now South Yorkshire) where James was already installed as vicar, until 1868 when the family, which now included daughter Mary and son William, moved to Sudbrooke, Lincoln, only a few miles away from where they were married.

In total Frances and James had thirteen children, including twin boys born in 1871. The youngest son, Guy Francis, was born when Frances was already 43 and is also commemorated in St. Cecilia's church. More about Guy next month...

We don't have very much information about Frances and what her role was in the various parishes where James ministered or specifically in Little Hadham, but a typical rector's wife at that time would have been expected to assist her husband in the community as well as managing the household. Frances may have been involved in visiting sick or elderly parishioners, running Mothers Meetings, perhaps distributing food to the poor, teaching in Sunday School or leading a ladies' choir, as well as raising her large family. We can see from census information that she was assisted by several servants and the children had a governess, at least until they were old enough to go to boarding school.

1864. Marriages solemnized at the Parish Church		in the Parish of Riseholme			in the County of Lincoln			
No.	Wives Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
14	September 20 <sup>th</sup>	James Marshall Bury	34 <sup>th</sup> years	Bachelor	Wicar of Riseholme	Tickhill in the County of York.	William Bury	Master of a Ship in the County of York.
		Frances Eliza Jackson	24 <sup>th</sup> years	Spinster		Riseholme.	John Jackson	Bishop of Aberdeen.

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by *Wm. Bury* Vicar of Riseholme.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *James Marshall Bury* and *Frances Eliza Jackson* in the Presence of us, *Wm. Bury* Vicar of Riseholme.

Frances died on 25 March 1902 aged just 61, leaving an estate worth £3,196, which is equivalent to around £500,000 today! She is buried in the churchyard of St Cecilia's church.



## REVD TAYO MEETS THE KING!

Last month our very own Revd Tayo went to meet King Charles as he hosted select Nigerians in the UK at St James' Palace. We thought you'd like to see some photos.



# EASTER SUNDAY 5 APRIL 2026

As many of you will know we have an annual tradition at St. Cecilians of using the trunk of our wonderful Christmas tree to create a symbolic Easter Cross, which is deliberately left bare and austere to then be adorned with Spring flowers on Easter Day.

This year we will be celebrating Easter at St. Marys in Albury...so we are taking

our tradition with us and we invite you all to join us in celebrating the risen Christ by bringing whatever flowers you like in a small posy to attach to our Easter Cross to bring it to life. Each year this sombre cross is transformed by the resplendent colours of Spring, reminding us that Jesus is risen and alive! We look forward to seeing you there to share in the joy of Easter!



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# DOWN AT THE DOCTORS

ANDREW WILKINSON, PRACTICE MANAGER

[www.muchhadhamhealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.muchhadhamhealthcentre.co.uk)



This month I thought I would start with a little housekeeping to help keep the practice running smoothly. As my mother often says, "a tidy house is a happy house." In a busy GP practice the same principle applies, a few small things done properly can save a surprising amount of time, confusion, and occasionally the odd medical mystery.

## SAMPLES, PLEASE...

If you have been asked to provide a urine or stool sample, please remember to return the request form that comes with the sample pot. Recently a few samples have been left in the black collection bin with no paperwork attached.

While we admire the trust placed in us, unidentified samples are a bit like lost luggage at the airport, we know they belong to someone, but without a label we have no idea who. Unfortunately, that means the test will need to be repeated, which is not anyone's favourite activity!

Please also make sure that all samples are dropped into the collection bin by 12.30pm, as this is when the courier arrives to whisk them off to the laboratory.

## HOSPITAL BLOOD TESTS AND RESULTS

Another issue that crops up from time to time is patients contacting the practice for blood test results or investigations arranged by a hospital consultant during an outpatient appointment or hospital stay.

In these situations, the results are sent directly back to the consultant or hospital department that ordered them, not to the GP practice.

To add another layer to the puzzle, if those tests were carried out at hospitals outside our immediate area e.g. Lister, Addenbrooke's or Broomfield, we are unable to see the results on our system. Quite often patients end up bringing us a copy themselves, which we then scan into their records. Helpful, yes — but perhaps not quite the seamless digital NHS we keep hearing about.

While Wes Streeting and his team are championing the future of NHS digitalisation, the reality is that until the various systems learn to speak to one another properly, both practices and patients will occasionally find themselves caught in the technological crossfire.

## COVID VACCINATION CLINIC – SATURDAY 2ND MAY

On a more positive note, as mentioned last month we will be running a COVID vaccination clinic at Much Hadham Health Centre on Saturday 2nd May for patients aged 75 and over and those who are immunosuppressed.

Eligible patients will receive a booking link, similar to the one used for our flu clinics, allowing you to choose a convenient appointment time.

As this will be the first time we have run a Covid clinic at the health centre, parking will be limited. If you live in Much Hadham and are able to walk, we would be very grateful if you could do so. This will help ensure that patients travelling from surrounding villages can find a space.

A short stroll, a quick vaccination, and hopefully a bright spring morning, not a bad way to start a Saturday - I might even have a sticker for you!

Best wishes

*Andrew*



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Little Hadham Parish Council meets the first Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall. There is no meeting in August or January. All residents and press are welcome to attend the meetings.

## MEETING DATES – ALL MEETINGS COMMENCE AT 7.30PM

		7 Apr	5 May	2 Jun	7 Jul	1 Sep	6 Oct	3 Nov	1 Dec
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Agendas are posted on noticeboards and the Little Hadham Parish Council website.



Plans for the Summer Fayre are well underway, but we still need more volunteers to help the event be the success it should be on the day. Please contact [clerk@littlehadham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@littlehadham-pc.gov.uk)

## LITTLE HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL – JOIN VIA ZOOM

Join your Parish Council meeting via zoom. Give you a chance to see what

is happening in the village without leaving your front room. You only need to click on the QR code on the agenda on the noticeboard and website. Register for the meeting and you will be welcomed to the meeting. You can choose to be anonymous and not turn on your camera.

## ISSUES RAISED AT THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Met with the Highways team and were informed our key contact is retiring at the end of the month. An update follows:

- Defective SID on the Albury Road has been reported
- A classified traffic count will be undertaken in March. The information gathered will help inform traffic modelling of the revised junction and signal timings.
- The Smithy relocated bus stop – local residents will be informed about the outcome of the consultation and timescales. Site works are expected to resume in Q1 2026/27.
- Blocked gully outside 5 Ford Cottages - This fault (ref. 102001919808) was reported via HCC's highways fault reporting system on 13 February 2026 and is under review by local engineers.

- During periods of heavy rain, water runs off of the carriageway at Ford Hill and into the garden of Ford Hill House. Enquiries will be made with Highways Maintenance to see if Ford Hill can be put back on a gritting route.

## DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

As the parish council is the first tier of local government, representing residents' needs you can make a difference. Ensuring local voices are heard on planning, development, and services. Reviewing planning applications and commenting on them to the principal local authority, influencing development. Driving local projects, supporting community groups, and addressing issues like litter, safety, and transport.

Financial Management: Deciding how to set the precept and spend public money for the benefit of the community, ensuring value for money.

We have a vacancy and would love to hear from you, if you'd like to hear more about the role. Contact the clerk on: [clerk@littlehadham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@littlehadham-pc.gov.uk)

Little Hadham Parish Council Website - <https://littlehadham-pc.gov.uk/>  
We now have a new PC website and would ask for any ideas as to content.

## ALLOTMENTS

We have 2 vacant allotments. If you wish to take on a wonderful project for the new year, please contact: [clerk@littlehadhamparishcouncil-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@littlehadhamparishcouncil-pc.gov.uk)



## LITTLE HADHAM COMMUNITY GROUP – FACEBOOK PAGE

The group is for residents to share information about the village: roads closed, trees down, events in the village, etc. This is our Facebook page and is about our village and what is going on.

## LITTLE HADHAM RAMBLERS

– our walks are scheduled for:

### Wednesday 7th April

### Wednesday 6th May

We start from the Village Hall at 10.00, with a return between 11.30-12.00. There is a lunch available at the Warm Spaces Café. Always a delicious choice of soup, filled jacket potato or a main meal. Dogs welcome.

The walks will be loaded onto the Parish Council website through Komoot.

Christopher  
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**THE HOOPS INN**  
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## THE HOOPS INN, PERRY GREEN

PETKO SHARANKOV

Anyone passing through Perry Green over the past few months will probably have noticed that work is well underway at The Hoops Inn.

After a period of closure, the pub is currently being carefully restored and prepared for reopening by owners Tiffany and Tom Stokely together with a small team working to bring this much-loved village pub back into everyday use. Care has been taken to respect the character of the building while refreshing the space so that it still feels like the traditional village pub many people remember.

Many people in Perry Green and the surrounding villages have shared memories of The Hoops over the years, and we hope the next chapter will add many more.

The intention is simple: to reopen The Hoops as a warm and welcoming place that once again sits at the heart of village life. Somewhere neighbours can meet for a drink, families can gather for a meal, walkers can stop along the way, and visitors exploring the countryside or spending time at the nearby Henry Moore Foundation can find a welcoming place to pause.

Food will play an important role, with a menu built around seasonal cooking and classic pub dishes prepared with care. Wherever possible, ingredients



will be sourced from producers and suppliers in Hertfordshire and Essex, supporting local farmers and food businesses while reflecting the landscape around the village.

Alongside the kitchen, the bar will focus on well-kept beers, good wines and a relaxed atmosphere that feels true to the spirit of a traditional English pub.

There is still work to be done before the doors reopen, but the team is looking forward to welcoming the community back very soon. More updates will follow as the reopening approaches.

In the meantime, thank you to everyone locally for the encouragement and interest already shown. It means a great deal to see how much The Hoops matters to local residents, and the team looks forward to welcoming people back through the doors.

Cammas Hall

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# LITTLE HADHAM GARDENING CLUB

ANNE WILLETT

We do not meet in April so our next club event will be our Plant Sale at Little Hadham Village Hall on **Saturday 9th May at 9:30am**. Please remember to pot up any plants you do not need when tidying your gardens to support the club.

Our next evening meeting will be on the **19th May at 7:45pm** when there will be a talk by Brian Shaw on Marks Hall Estate.

In February I visited a snowdrop garden in Hertford owned by Annie Godfrey from Daisy Roots Nursery and saw for the first time a novel way to show off your snowdrops. I asked what these hanging beauties were and what they were called, hence the following article about kokedama. I know it's too late for snowdrops this year but in the Autumn you could plant some snowdrop bulbs in pots ready for preparing some kokedama.

## HOW TO MAKE A SNOWDROP KOKEDAMA.

The word kokedama translates as 'moss ball' and is a traditional Japanese art form.

To make a kokedama, the root balls of small plants are wrapped in moss and hung up for decoration. Your kokedama can be used to adorn walls, fences, balconies, shady alleys or hanging from trees.

You will need:- Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*), wreathing or sheet moss from florists or scraped from your lawn, rich loamy compost with added moss and leaf mould if available, garden twine and scissors .

Step 1: Starting in Autumn, bring on clutches of snowdrop bulbs in small pots of humus rich loam.

Step 2: As soon as flower buds start to appear in late winter remove the growing bulbs from their pots, taking care not to damage the roots and retain a decent ball of compost. Gently wrap the root ball in a blanket of moist moss, pushing it into the compost. Ensure the ball is completely covered with moss.

Step 3: Starting carefully, use the twine to secure the moss around the snowdrops. Keep wrapping and tightening as you go, creating a firm ball with no straggle bits. The thread should be well hidden so don't worry about going around a few extra times.

Step 4: Use a loop of garden twine cut to the desired length to hang your snowdrop ball from the branches of a tree. Place out of direct sunlight and keep hydrated as it is susceptible to drying out. Watering – dunk in a bucket of water and let it soak for a few minutes then hang up to dry. Do this twice a week in winter and daily in the summer months if using alternative plants.

Don't worry if you only keep it going for a few months, the plant can be planted in the garden afterwards.

Try using a young pot grown ivy (*Hedera helix*), violas or cyclamen for a different effect.



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## QUASI RINGS AT A STRIKING COMPETITION IN HARLOW

Quasi was at St. Mary's Churchgate Street in Old Harlow ringing in the Bartram Trophy 8-bell striking competition in March. Seven bands of ringers took part Quasi was ringing for St Michael's Bishop's Stortford and came a creditable third being pipped by winners Old Harlow, which had home advantage and a joint band from Radwinter and Ashton. This was all good practice for the next competition at Great Hormead in April.

We were especially pleased to have as part of our band, Esme, a young ringer for whom this was a first competition. Competitions are a fantastic opportunity

for us to gain practice on other bells, as no two towers are the same. We have to concentrate hard on our accuracy and timing, enabling us to improve and develop our ringing skills. The events are relaxed and informal with just enough friendly competition and plenty of tea and cake.

Quasi

Contact us at [hadham.bells@gmail.com](mailto:hadham.bells@gmail.com)

Find out more about Bellingringing by scanning the QR code here with your mobile phone camera.



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 Est. 2022



## FOXES, FROGS AND FOREST FUN

Spring has arrived and the forest is coming back to life. Fresh green leaves and shoots are appearing, while daffodils, snowdrops and primroses are brightening the woodland floor. The children have loved spotting these early signs of spring during our outdoor sessions.

Inspired by foxes captured on our trail camera, we held a special fox-themed session. The children searched for signs of fox burrows, learned about how these clever animals live and created beautiful fox crafts using card and soft orange wool.

World Book Day was another highlight. After sharing favourite stories, we set off on a woodland adventure inspired by *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, complete with obstacles from the story along the way.

We also enjoyed working with willow. The children crafted their own magic wands, while our Home Ed group built a living willow wigwam.

They also had great fun making catapults from Y-shaped sticks and elastic, testing their aim with cotton wool balls.

Mother's Day activities were another special moment. Children explored flower play, made petal tea and created beautiful hanging decorations using wooden discs and natural materials.

NIKKI & LOUISE

[www.woodlandrangers.co.uk](http://www.woodlandrangers.co.uk)

 woodlandrangersuk

For World Frog Day, we learned about the frog life cycle and explored homemade "frogspawn" sensory play.

We're now looking forward to welcoming children to our Easter Club, with Easter egg hunts and hot cross buns toasted on the campfire.



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# LITTLE HADHAM VILLAGE HALL NEWS

JOAN MCKINLAY

[www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com](http://www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com) | [vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com](mailto:vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com)

## AGM

We would like to invite and welcome as many people as possible to our **AGM on Tuesday 14th April from 7.30pm**. Please come along and support us. After the official business of the AGM, which will be as short as we can make it, we will have some social time with wine and nibbles available.

Many of you will know that the management committee has operated without a chairperson in place for the past year. However, with the AGM this month we have an opportunity to elect someone new to this post. The AGM is also an opportunity to celebrate the dedication and hard work of all our volunteers and members of our management committee. Stuart Izzard from Community Development Action (CDA) will be giving a short talk about the benefits and opportunities within volunteering and how the CDA supports village halls throughout Hertfordshire. Stuart supports our Digital Inclusion Workshop every week and will be a familiar face to many. If you would like to find out more about your village hall or potential volunteering opportunities, join us and have an informal chat with the volunteers who make the village hall a welcoming and vibrant place to be. We look forward to seeing you.



## RED CHAIR COMMUNITY CINEMA PRESENTS:

The Choral (2025) - **Monday 13th April**

Drama (Film synopsis on website)  
Cert 12A. Runtime: 1hr 53mins.

- Doors Open 2pm - Film Starts Promptly at 2.30pm
- Entry tickets £5 per person
- Licenced Bar / Ice Creams / Tea & Cake

## FOUR ACRES VINEYARD TOURS

**Saturday 18th April.**  
(Morning & afternoon).

10% of wine sales will be donated to the village hall. Please book online via our website Book online: FREE

## AFTERNOON TEA & MUSIC

**Monday 20th April.**

Book online: £20 per person  
(Live music performance)

Enjoy a leisurely afternoon with a traditional afternoon tea and live music from the talented Jenny Salmon.

## WELCOME CAFÉ DONATIONS

We are delighted that so many of you enjoy a lunch or a coffee and cake at our café every week. Our volunteers can serve up to 30 home cooked meals each week, so we know that their hard work and all time they put into preparing and creating delicious meals week after week is valued.

To keep this popular weekly activity viable, we apply for grant funding. It is not a given, that grant funding will be awarded and it cannot be guaranteed to cover the total overall cost of running the café for 42 weeks of the year.

If you value the cafe, please don't forget to make a cash donation towards the homemade hot meal or the tea/coffee and cakes you have enjoyed before you leave. Your support is always greatly appreciated.

## CRAFT STALLS REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS

**Summer Fayre: Saturday 22 July 2026 & Christmas Fair: Sunday 22 November 2026**

If you are a crafter or maker and would like to have a stall at either one or both of these

events, please email: [vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com](mailto:vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com) at your earliest opportunity to receive details.

## KEEPING YOU BUSY AND CONNECTED DURING THE WEEK

Details of events held at the hall are available to view on our website along with information on regular activities and fitness groups [www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com](http://www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com).

If you would like to know more about anything in this article please contact Joan McKinlay on: 07789 098 071 or email: [vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com](mailto:vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com)

LITTLE HADHAM VILLAGE HALL - SG11 2BP  
Book online: [www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com](http://www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com)

## Afternoon Tea & Music

Featuring contemporary live music performed by Jenny Salmon

**Monday**  
**20th April 2026**  
**2pm to 4.30pm**

**Tickets £20**  
**per person**  
Now available to book via our website

All proceeds towards village hall maintenance projects



# THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMORIES

DAVE WILLETT

After another successful Community Breakfast in the Village Hall on Thursday 12th March, something interesting happened. The team was enjoying a well deserved brunch after we had cleared everything away. A man came into the hall and asked us if he could park his car in the car park before going out for a walk.

Before anybody could answer, he explained why. His father had been the Headteacher of Little Hadham Primary School some 50 years ago. He probably went there himself. He had grown up in the area as a child. He explained that he had fond memories of the school and Little Hadham. He still remembered the local footpaths and knew exactly where he had planned to walk, including the footpath by the side of the school.

He had travelled from Kent to relive those important memories. If only we had had the time to interview him for a longer story of his memories. How could we say no to his request? We hope he enjoyed his walk down memory lane.

And that reminds me...Another 50 people attended this successful Community Brunch, great food, great service and great company for all the groups who book in with their friends. If you haven't booked in yet, why not do so. You won't be disappointed. It's always on the second Thursday of each month from 10 am to 12.

FOUR ACRES VINEYARD, LITTLE HADHAM

## WINE Tasting

FREE visit to Four Acres Vineyard

- Enjoy a tour through the vines and apple trees
- Introduction to the process of wine and cider making.
- Wine and cider tasting
- Opportunity to purchase wines from the vineyard

Saturday 18th April 2026  
Morning or afternoon tour available

For details on how to book, please see our website  
[www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com](http://www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com)

10% of sales donated to Little Hadham Village Hall

## Welcome Cafe

Every Wednesday  
10am to 2pm

Crafting Group & Board Games

No price list.  
Your donations & awarded grant funding support the community cafe

Lunch available from 12.30pm.  
Please ask inside.

Closed during August

# WHAT'S ON IN APRIL @ LH VILLAGE HALL

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### MONDAY'S

Mum's Matter	10am - 11.30am	Drop in: Parents group supported by NHS Midwife.
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### TUESDAY'S

Pilates	9.30am - 10.30am	Claire	Email: <a href="mailto:cstacey1412@gmail.com">cstacey1412@gmail.com</a>
Brownies	5.30pm to 7pm	Cassey	Email: <a href="mailto:littlehadhambrownies@gmail.com">littlehadhambrownies@gmail.com</a>

### WEDNESDAY'S

Welcome Cafe	10am - 2pm	Drop in: Coffee & Chat. (Lunch Menu)	DONATIONS
Chair Yoga	11am - 11.45am	Mark Cox	M: 07368 293062
Tai Chi & Qi Gong	1pm - 2pm	Sarah Baker	M: 07740 701102
Digital Inclusion	2pm - 3.30pm	Drop in: Help with your digital device	FREE
Fit Steps	6pm - 7pm	Jacqui Howard	M: 07731 454228
SOMA Sound Bath	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Denise Smith	Email: <a href="mailto:dslreikihealing@gmail.com">dslreikihealing@gmail.com</a>

### THURSDAY'S

Afternoon Bowls Club	2pm - 4pm	Mike	Email: <a href="mailto:mikebennett12@aol.com">mikebennett12@aol.com</a>
Hatha Yoga	7pm - 8pm	Kirsty Smith	M: 07903 035180

### FRIDAY'S

Forever Fit	11am - 12pm	Daisy Osborne	M: 07585 309933
Fancy Feet (Children's Dance)	4pm to 5.30pm	Hannah	Email: <a href="mailto:fancyfeetacademy@hotmail.com">fancyfeetacademy@hotmail.com</a>
LH Bowls Club	7.30pm - 10pm	Annette Luedtke	Email: <a href="mailto:annetteluedtke@gmail.com">annetteluedtke@gmail.com</a>

### FORTNIGHTLY

Darts & Games Social	2pm - 4.30pm	Drop in: Tuesday 7th & 21st April	COST: £3
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Please check dates for Darts & Games sessions during January and February, as not on alternate Tuesdays

### MONTHLY - Please see website for full details

Community Brunch	10am - 12pm	Book via website: Thursday 9th April	DONATIONS
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### OTHER

**Monday 13th April - Red Chair Community (Afternoon) Cinema:** The Choral (2025) Cert 12A  
Doors Open 2pm Film Starts Promptly at 2.30pm. Entry £5. Refreshments available to purchase.

**Saturday 18th April:** Four Acres Vineyard Tours: Morning & Afternoon - Book online FREE

**Monday 20th April - Afternoon Tea & Music:** Book online tickets £20 per person

See website menu for full details of 'What's On': [www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com](http://www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com)

'Drop in' - just turn up When contact details are listed - please phone / email before attending.

We have had a wonderfully busy and enriching half term at Little Hadham Primary School, filled with exciting opportunities for learning across the curriculum.

This term we have also been celebrating World Book Day, and what a brilliant start we had. KS2 children joined a special online event with Michael Rosen, alongside Allen Fatimaharan, Sandra A. Agard, and Emily Hanna-Grzebrook, for Global Food Stories. They loved listening to food-related tales from around the world and exploring how different cultures use food to spark imagination, build worlds and bring characters to life.

One of the highlights of this week was our fantastic World Book Day celebration, which truly captured the children's love of reading. Our "Story in a Box" event was a tremendous success, and we were absolutely blown away by the creativity, imagination and effort shown by every child. The school hall was transformed into a magical gallery of stories, with beautifully crafted boxes bringing favourite books to life. From brave heroes to mysterious worlds and much-loved characters, every creation told its own unique story.

Throughout the day, classes visited the hall to explore the displays, and the atmosphere was filled with excitement and enthusiastic book talk. It was a joy to hear children recommending stories to one another, recognising familiar tales and discovering new books they were inspired to read. The project clearly sparked wonderful conversations at home too, and we are very grateful for the support families gave in helping bring these ideas to life.

Also, we marked Science Week with a strong focus on environmental awareness. In a whole-school assembly for Years 1–6, we explored the issue of single-use plastics and their impact on our planet, encouraging the children to think carefully about more sustainable alternatives. This learning was then deepened through class workshops, where pupils investigated these important ideas in greater detail.

All classes enjoyed a series of exciting, hands-on science workshops that explored sustainability in creative and practical ways. Activities included sessions on Up-cycled Notebook Workshop, where children learned how everyday materials can be transformed into useful new items, and sessions on healthy living with Green Up Your Act, which inspired the children to think about how we can care for ourselves, our communities, and the planet. The visitors were full of praise for our pupils, commenting on their curiosity, enthusiasm, and knowledge, as well as for our beautiful forest school and polycrub. Through these workshops, the children explored how human actions affect the environment and considered meaningful ways to protect our oceans, waterways, and natural world — all in a memorable and engaging way.

We were also incredibly proud of our Year 5 pupils, who recently took part in the HFL Education Annual Mathematics Challenge. Working in teams, they demonstrated excellent problem-solving skills, resilience and teamwork as they tackled a range of tricky and engaging mathematical tasks. Their positive attitudes and collaboration were a real credit to the school.

It has been a busy but rewarding few weeks. We are very proud of all our pupils and, as always, grateful to our families and wider community for their support in helping make these experiences so memorable.



## ASK US A QUESTION...

www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk  
01920 459 944

**I've found myself in a really difficult financial situation and I don't know where to turn. I was made redundant recently and now I'm finding it hard to keep up with my bills and am getting into debt - what can I do?**

Money problems can feel overwhelming, but the most important thing to remember is that you don't have to face this alone. We know that times are incredibly tough for lots of people right now, and Citizens Advice is here to help you find a way forward.

Make sure you've been paid everything you're entitled to by your former employer. You can check what your rights are on the Citizens Advice website.

If you're finding it difficult to stay on top of bills, free budgeting tools like the one on the MoneyHelper website can help you understand what money you have coming in and going out each month, and where you might be able to cut costs.

Before you start, try to find your most recent bank statements, payslips, debit and credit card statements or bills, and receipts for things you usually pay for in cash. Make sure you include all your expenses, for example money you spend on your partner or family.

If your budget just doesn't add up and you need help to afford essentials like bills and food, you can find out how to get help with your bills as well as what cost of living support is available on the Citizens Advice website.

Please don't ignore bills or letters about money that you owe. You should collect and organise all debt-related documents

to create a comprehensive list of all your debts. It might feel overwhelming when you see everything written down - but try not to worry, the important thing is that you're taking action to sort things out.

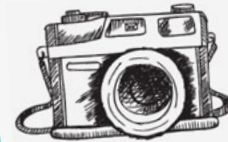
If you're behind on household bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. Take a look at the Citizens Advice website for more information about what bills to prioritise and how to manage debts. You can then speak to the organisations you owe money to - they might let you pay smaller amounts or take a break from payments.

For other types of debt like credit cards or loans, gather all the information on what you owe, create a budget, and contact your creditors to set up an affordable repayment plan. This might seem scary, but it's an important first step.

Lots of people miss out on benefits they're entitled to, so it's worth checking what you can get on the Citizens Advice website. Claiming benefits might also let you get access to other financial help like cost of living payments and discounts on energy and transport.

*Whatever your situation, you don't have to face this alone - get in touch with us and we can help. Our advice is free and we won't judge you - most people are two to three pay packets away from crisis. Our advisers can help to check if you're eligible for any benefits or financial support, and explore all the options for dealing with your debts. Call our Message Line 01920 459944 or visit [citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk](http://citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk) for our advice options. Or you can come and see us on Mondays between 10 and 12.30 at The Manor House, High Street, Buntingford.*

## Notices



### COVER PHOTOS

Calling all budding photographers! We are always on the look out for lovely photographs of the village for our front cover. With our new design, it no longer matters if there is a space at the top to put writing over, just something that works with the dimensions we use on our cover which is almost square.

Seasonal photos or photos of events from the village always welcome. Please send them to the editor at: [littlehadhampn@gmail.com](mailto:littlehadhampn@gmail.com)

### VILLAGE HALL

### AGM



TUESDAY 14th APRIL

7:30 PM

Please come along and support us. After the official business of the AGM, which will be as short as we can make it, we will have some social time.

WINE & NIBBLES AVAILABLE!

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10:00AM - 10:30AM  
EVERY FOURTH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

**ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH,**  
MUCH HADHAM | SG10 6DH



**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
9:15AM - 10:15AM  
SECOND & FOURTH SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH

**SUNDAY EVENINGS**  
5:00PM - 5:30PM  
FIRST SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH | EVENING WORSHIP

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH,**  
ALBURY | SG11 2JQ



**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
9:15AM - 10:15AM  
EVERY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

**ST. THOMAS' CHURCH,**  
PERRY GREEN | SG10 6DU



**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
9:15AM - 10:15AM  
EVERY FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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# TALKING BOWLS...OR SOMETHING

Much Hadham Bowling Club: Recreation Ground, Much Hadham SG10 6DL

We are all getting excited about the re-opening of the Green for another summer of Bowls and Croquet - almost certainly around the middle of April.

After all the dreary winter months the vision of glorious sunshine, with bowl or mallet in hand, cool drink on hand, good company both old and new, is very appealing.

The Green is looking in fine fettle and the surrounding hedge has been reduced by 2 feet which gives a more inviting atmosphere.

To show off all this and encourage new members, we are holding a Open Day for both Bowls and Croquet. The date is Saturday 2nd May from 10 am to 4 pm. Equipment will be provided and Members will be on hand to give guidance if required. There will be no charge or commitment, free refreshments will be available and the weather is guaranteed (we just hope it will be fine) so make a note in your diaries.

You can just turn up but it would be helpful if you give us a call in advance (01279 842 637) with approximate time.

## FORTHCOMING EVENT

**Saturday 11th April**

**GRAND NATIONAL TEA PARTY**

WATCH THE BIG RACE, have a flutter in the sweepstake and enjoy a delicious salad with smoked salmon, avocado and blueberries

Bar opens 2:30pm

£7.50 pp

GF and V available if booked in advance

**FOR BOOKINGS**

**please call 01279 842 637**

Come along and try your hand but be warned you may be smitten! looking forward to seeing you.



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# Lawn Bowls & Croquet "OPEN DAY"

at  
**Much Hadham Bowls & Croquet Club**  
**Saturday 2 May 2026**  
**From 10.00am until 4.00pm**

A friendly Club with a vibrant Social Calendar  
Plenty of parking  
Free refreshments available  
Whether you are a beginner or already a bowler  
All are welcome



Find us on Facebook

Website - [www.mhbc.uk](http://www.mhbc.uk)

Bowls & Croquet Clubhouse,  
Recreation Ground,  
Much Hadham, SG10 6DL

Tel : Ken on 01279 842637

# THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

KEN MCDONALD, SECRETARY

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)



Horses were once very important in everyday life. This changed quickly with the advent of tractors, trucks and the motor car.

Horses were used extensively in agriculture; they also hauled delivery carts and buses and everything in between. Some of us may remember the horse-drawn milk float or the coalman and rag-and-bone man. There were blacksmiths, smithies and forges in most towns and villages.

We still have blacksmiths who work in metal, making gates, weather vanes, tools and farm implements, as well as shoeing horses. A farrier is a specialist in equine hoof care.

Whilst blacksmiths and farriers are quite rare today, there are reminders of this aspect of our heritage around The Hundred Parishes, for example in the names Forge Green at Hildersham, Anvil Cross in Great Hallingbury and Smith's End Lane in Barley. The area has five pubs called The Three Horseshoes – a name which probably came about because they had a nearby farrier, ready to deal with a customer who arrived with a horse that had lost a shoe.

Today, dwellings with names like The Old Forge or Anvil House often reveal their earlier lives.

Much Hadham Forge is still in use, part of Much Hadham Forge Museum. The museum usually opens Friday to Sunday, April to December, 11am to 5pm. It is housed in a series of listed buildings, dating from the 15th to 19th centuries. The forge itself dates from the 17th century; today's blacksmith runs forge experience days.

Ashdon once had three blacksmiths in the village. Now, one of Ashdon Museum's excellent displays is a representation of a blacksmith's shop with all the tools and equipment that he would have used. The museum is open April to October from 2pm to 5pm on Sundays and bank holidays and is well worth a visit.



*Aythorpe Riding – weather vane at Forge Cottage*



*High Easter – weather vane at Anvil House*



*Castle Camps – former forge, closed 1989*



*Bartlow – The Forge*



*Barkway – Old Forge*



*Much Hadham – Forge Museum*



*Braughing – Old Forge*



*Matching Green – Forge Cottage*

# THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

JILL GOLDSMITH

[www.eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk)

I wonder how many of you loyal followers visited the Victoria and Albert Museum and spotted the Countess of Warwick in the Marie Antionette Style exhibition? They had the picture of Daisy dressed as Marie Antionette at her Bal Poudre at Warwick Castle in February 1895. The Gardens open for the main season from the beginning of April, including our Information Room, if you wish to learn more about how the ball, described by the local press as “unmistakably the most splendidly organised and artistically perfect function of the kind that has been given during the present century”, resulted in the Countess becoming a Socialist.

After the snowdrop season in February, there is always lots of work to be done at the Gardens to get spring off to a good start. It's a time for finishing the pruning of the apple and pear trees, the roses



and the soft fruit and winter infrastructure jobs, such as rebuilding compost bins; starting the war on the garlicky alliums that will spread more if they flower and set seed; and sowing the first wildflower and vegetable seeds.

On lovely sunny March days such work is a joy. The daffodils come out around the Gardens, the first of the blossom and new leaves appear and with them the bumblebees.

So, by the time the gates re-open for the first **Open Thursday of the season, on 2 April**, the

Gardens will be tidy and a glorious tableau of lush greens, with daffodils still looking lovely, primroses and cowslips too. For the monthly **Sunday Open Day on 12 April** the cherry trees in the walled kitchen garden will be covered in blossom and the apple and pear trees coming into flower. There will be tulips and maybe the first roses. The Gardens open at 11am on Thursdays and on Sunday Open Days - refreshments available. For more information go to our website **www.eastonlodge.co.uk**



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The next meeting for the Society will be on **Thursday 23rd April**, Much Hadham Village Hall 7.45 pm for 8pm. This will be a Members' Evening - members to bring along a school photograph or object - maybe an interesting event in their life and give a brief talk.

Our meeting for May will be on the **28th May**, this is TBA - Visit to de Havillands Museum Hatfield. This will be finalised later.

If anyone would like more information on the Society or Meetings please do get in touch with me:

**[katieh69@btinternet.com](mailto:katieh69@btinternet.com)**  
for further information.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 23rd.

## HADHAM CROSS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

KATHY HAMILTON

### PREACHERS FOR SERVICES AT 11am

5th April	Andrew Mayo	Spicer Street St. Albans
12th April	Kathy Hamilton	Hadham Cross Congregational Church
19th April	John Fosker	Therfield Congregational Church
26th April	Andrew Proudfoot	Therfield Congregational Church

**All are welcome to our Sunday Services at 11am**

Our next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on **Wednesday 8th April** 10am- 12 noon. Please do come and join us for coffee/tea cake and a chat.

Our next **AFTERNOON TEA** meeting will be on **Thursday 30th April** 2pm - 4pm Please do come and join us for coffee/tea cake and a chat.

**Church Deacons: Brenda Coleshill 01279 842 800 | Kathy Hamilton 01279 843 756**

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# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

BRENDA KAIN

## MELANZANA PARMIGIANA

I am away on holiday as I write this recipe for you, weather not brilliant but we don't care. Just glorious to be away. A short recipe as I forgot the deadline, but we had this last night. I had it as a starter but at home we always have it with lamb chops. It makes a great side dish and it's even good if served cold.

### INGREDIENTS:

2 sliced Aubergines

Tomato sauce, make your own or use a good passata like me

Mozzarella (as much as you like) cubed

Grated Parmesan

Fresh Basil

### METHOD:

1. Fry or bake the aubergine slices until nice and coloured. I brush with olive oil
2. Put aside and drain if there is any oil



3. Build the dish by putting a layer of tomato sauce, then aubergine slices on top and sprinkle with mozzarella cubes. Repeat until you fill your dish
4. Generously cover with Parmesan
5. Bake in the oven at 200c, roasting oven aga, gas 6 approx. I've even put in the air fryer in appropriate dish at 200deg for 20 mins
6. Whichever method you cook with, cook for about 20 mins and you'll end up with a lovely squidgy dish of baked aubergines in a cheesy tomato sauce
7. Top with fresh basil

Be very careful when you start to eat otherwise I promise you'll burn your tongue!

**Westmill Art Exhibition 2026**

will be taking place on Sat 30th & Sun 31st May  
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# PARISH SERVICES APRIL 2026

BENEFICE OF: LITTLE HADHAM | MUCH HADHAM | ALBURY

Date	Day	Church	Service / Event	Time
02-Apr	Thursday	St Andrew's Much Hadham	Maundy Thursday	7pm
03-Apr	Friday	St Andrew's Much Hadham	Joint Walk of Witness	Noon
03-Apr	Friday	St Andrew's Much Hadham	Good Friday Reflection	1 - 3pm
05-Apr	Sunday	St Mary's Albury	Easter Day	9.15am
05-Apr	Sunday	St Andrew's Much Hadham	Evening Worship	5pm
12-Apr	Sunday	St Andrew's Much Hadham	Easter 2	9.15am
<b>19-Apr</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>St Cecilia's Little Hadham</b>	<b>Easter 3</b>	<b>9.15am</b>
<b>23-Apr</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>St Cecilia's Little Hadham</b>	<b>Midweek BCP</b>	<b>10am</b>
26-Apr	Sunday	St Andrew's Much Hadham	Easter 4	9.15am

## DONATING TO ST. CECILIA'S

As well as the Parish Giving Scheme, cheques and cash, we have now caught up with modern technology and have Contactless Giving in the Church. You can also donate via our QR code. — Thank you.



ST CECILIA'S CHURCH  
LITTLE HADHAM

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN OUR SERVICES