

# LITTLE HADHAM

## PARISH NEWS

JANUARY 2026

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



**CHURCH SERVICES ARE  
CHANGING IN 2026 -  
SEE P.4 FOR DETAILS**



## LETTER FROM

*The editor*

As Revd Tayo is away, I thought I would take this opportunity to write to you this month and let you know that this is indeed still your beloved *Little Hadham Parish News*, same as ever, but with a fresh new design for 2026.

You will still be able to find all our regular articles and events where you would expect to find them as well as all the usual useful adverts for local trades and businesses.

We hope you like the new look - if there is anything else you would like to see in the magazine then do let me know, this is YOUR local magazine and we work hard to include everything we think you will find of interest that is relevant to the village.

We are still on the lookout for a replacement for Rural Ramblings since Cherry decided to hang up her pen. If anyone has a flare for writing and would like to write an observational column about life in the village do please get in touch with a sample piece of work. Could be a lovely new hobby for the year ahead.

So for any ideas or feedback on the new design please contact me on: **littlehadhampn@gmail.com**.

In the meantime I hope you enjoy this issue - we have some important information for you on p.4 about the changes that have been made to church services this year as well as ways you can support the church by either going to services, volunteer roles or with financial support. You don't have to be religious to support our church, St Cecilia's is the backbone of our small community

and generously enable this magazine to be produced and distributed to you all (free of charge!) to keep us all up to date with what is going on in our village.

We are fortunate to have so many regular contributors to our magazine from here in the village and in neighbouring Much Hadham, as well as further afield. I'm hugely grateful to the businesses that advertise with us (and help cover our printing costs,) and our wonderful editorial contributors who keep us up to date with what is happening around the village from the Parish Council to the Village Hall Committee, the Primary School, The Doctors Surgery, the Gardening Club, Millennium Wood, the local Bellringers, the Bowls Club, Much Hadham Forge Museum, the History Society and the adorable Woodland Rangers. As well as regular interesting contributions from the Hundred Parishes Society, Citizen's Advice and The Gardens of Easton Lodge (which I visited for the first time this year and had the most lovely day out!)

We are very lucky to have such an active community with lots of wonderful people working tirelessly to ensure there is always lots to do and get involved in if you should so chose.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to all our contributors, advertisers and St Cecilia's - without you, we wouldn't have this magazine. I wish you all and all our readers a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

*Anne*

## 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 commended into Gods care Geoffrey Day, (73) of Cradle End, whose burial took place on 1st December.

## 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.



# CHURCH SERVICE DATES ARE CHANGING AT ST.CECILIA'S

KARIN GREEN churchwardenstcecilias@gmail.com



From January 1st the church services in the benefice of Albury, Little Hadham and Much Hadham will be held on fixed Sundays every month.

St. Mary's Albury, on the 1st Sunday, St. Andrews Much Hadham, on the 2nd and 4th Sunday's and **St. Cecilia's Little Hadham on the 3rd Sunday**, all 5th Sunday services are held at St. Thomas Perry Green. All the services start at 9:15am.

You can support the Church by coming to the service on the 3rd Sunday, we would love to see you.

If you can't make it to a service, you can support us in various other ways.

- By setting up a regular monthly payment through the Parish Giving Scheme. The Parish Giving Scheme provides a simple and secure way to give to our church. Set up your payment monthly, there are options to increase your gift yearly, in line with inflation and the option to gift aid your donation.

The telephone number is 0333 002 1271 and our unique Parish Code is 320 632 068.

Or simply scan the QR code below to go to a easy online donation page.

- Maybe you are budding flower arrangers or like to put flowers in a vase.
- Could you help us keep the church clean, we meet for an hour a month on the first Friday of the month.
- Maybe you could help keep the church open by offering to open and close the church.
- Could you help distribute the Parish News

For further information please contact

Karin Green  
Churchwarden  
01279 771 532  
churchwardenstcecilias@gmail.com

## 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 ALTAR FRONTAL

KARIN GREEN churchwardenstcecilias@gmail.com



When you come into the Church, the Altar is covered with cloth, both on top, which is white and on the front which is coloured. The front cloth, called an Altar Frontal is changed depending on which Liturgical season we are in.

**Purple:** Penance & Preparation - Advent & Lent

**White:** Purity - Christmas & Easter

**Red:** Sacrifice - Palm Sunday -Pentecost - martyr's days

**Green:** Hope - ordinary time

**Gold:** Joy & Celebration-Easter Sunday & Christmas Day

At St. Cecilia's we have 4 Altar Frontals as our White and Gold fronts are combined.

Our purple frontal was in a very sorry state and about to fall apart.

We have been very lucky that Gilly Bhatt offered to restore it. She painstakingly took it apart, sourced some replacement fabric and then hand-stitched all back together, in time for Advent.

The result is amazing. (as you can see from the before and after photos).

Your next chance to see this is in Lent 18th February—2nd April.

Do go and have a look.

Thank you very much Gilly.



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# LITTLE HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CAROLE PAGE

[www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk)

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

|       |         |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 3 Feb | 3 March | 7 Apr | 5 May | 2 Jun | 7 Jul | 1 Sep | 6 Oct | 3 Nov | 1 Dec |
|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

Agendas are posted on noticeboards and the Little Hadham Parish Council website.

## 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 email the clerk for the link. Simply click on the link and you join the meeting. You can choose to be anonymous and not turn on your camera.

## AN UPDATE ON HIGHWAYS ISSUES IN THE VILLAGE

- Ringway's Street Lighting Contracts Manager has confirmed that the street lighting assets on Standon Road, reported under fault reporting reference 4901004481044, were fixed last Wednesday. This fault highlighted a discrepancy between the reference numbers marked on the street lighting assets and those recorded in the inventory.
- Albury Road** - The road closure on 20 – 24 October was implemented to repair a link box. HCC does not have forward visibility of emergency works, the decision to close the road would therefore have been made by UK Power Networks and its subcontractors. To make a complaint, please contact

UKPower Networks using the following link: Roadworks: delayed or over running works | UK Power Networks or tel: 0800 31 63 105

- Bus Stop at the Smithy** - Out of a total of 40 people consulted, 90% (36) support the proposal, 5% (2) oppose the proposal and 5% (2) are not sure. This is a suitable mandate for relocating the northbound bus stop from Hadham Ford Road to The Ford (west of The Smithy) and constructing a new section of footway to the relocated bus stop. To avoid the costly lowering of a telecommunications chamber, it is proposed to construct the new footway on a curved alignment rather than parallel to the edge of the carriageway.
- SID on the A120** - to be considered with Phase 3.  
  
This forms part of the scope for phase 3. Paul has received a draft task order from Jacobs setting out the work they will be doing, and what the cost will be. Paul raised some queries and is still awaiting the final version. Paul to chase. No design done yet, task order needs to be in place first.

- Traffic light phasing on the A120** – East / West traffic is currently prioritised, but with Phase 3, North/ South will be the priority. Proposed moving the traffic lights back towards the VH to make the access to and from the lights a single vehicle width. Also taking out the central islands at Albury Road and putting in pedestrian crossings on the A120 (West side) and Albury Road. This may make it less enticing for traffic to use the old A120 as a cut through. The road surface on the junction is in a poor state and needs repairing. It is now being considered for carriageway repair in 26/27. Timescales for phase 3 – awaiting proposal from Jacobs with costings. Design this financial year and implementation in the next year.
- Potholes** - Crossroads on the Ford – this was raised at the PC meeting. The holes are deep enough to see the exposed sensor loop cables for the traffic lights. And has been reported via HCC's Highways fault reporting system. This was assigned the reference number 401004570858. Subsequently received an email informing that 'We have assessed the fault at this location, and it doesn't currently meet our criteria for repair.' It is understood from colleagues in the Asset Management team that this section of The Ash is one of a number of locations being considered for inclusion in the 2026/27 carriageway resurfacing programme.

## LITTLE HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

[www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk/](http://www.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 3rd February**

**Wednesday 3rd March**

**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.

As another year gently comes to an end, Little Hadham Primary School has been brimming with festive cheer. Our classrooms and corridors have echoed with joyful voices, music, and moments that remind us just how special this time of year is. The past few weeks have been a wonderful celebration of togetherness, learning, and shared happiness.

Last week, the whole school came together for a special Rights Respecting assembly to mark International Human Rights Day, led confidently by our School Captains. The children explored Articles 4 and 41 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, discussing how governments must protect children's rights and how these rights sit alongside national laws. The captains invited everyone to consider why International Human Rights Day matters, prompting thoughtful responses about raising awareness, protecting people and celebrating the rights we have. The children also learned that the day is held annually on 10th December, commemorating the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, and reflected on these ideas through the picture book *I Have the Right to Be a Child* by Alain Serres. The assembly concluded with the captains sharing the rights most important to them, including having a voice, being listened to, freedom from discrimination, and the right to rest and play, inspiring everyone to think deeply about the importance of rights for every child, everywhere.

Drum roll... the 2025 Little Hadham Primary School KS2 Times Tables Rock Stars battle was on fire! From

1st–12th December, our pupils battled it out with incredible speed, accuracy, and determination, making this year's challenge both fierce and fun. Huge congratulations to our overall winner, who showed outstanding skill, though every participant impressed with their dedication, progress, and enthusiasm. Times tables fluency is the secret weapon for confident maths, helping pupils tackle trickier reasoning and problem-solving with ease, and just a few minutes of daily practice can make a huge difference. Well done to all our KS2 Rock Stars—what a brilliant display of effort, talent, and friendly rivalry!

Year 6 had a truly memorable way to round off their first term with an exhilarating trip to Alexandra Palace for a day of ice skating. From the moment the children arrived, the excitement was palpable, and it stayed with them throughout the day. Everyone threw themselves into the experience with beaming smiles, laughter echoing around the rink, and a sense of enthusiasm that was infectious. It was heartwarming to see such teamwork and friendship on display: children helping each other lace up skates, steadying wobbly steps, and offering encouraging words as they ventured onto the ice. A few inevitable slips and tumbles only added to the fun, as each fall was met with determination, perseverance, and a courageous effort to get straight back up again. Once on the ice, the children's joy shone even brighter as they skated, twirled, and danced around the enormous Christmas tree in the centre, accompanied by festive music and twinkling lights, with a light

dusting of snow adding an extra touch of magic. Alexandra Palace provided the perfect setting for such a wonderful experience, and the day concluded with a well-earned hot chocolate that was eagerly enjoyed by all. While there may be some tired legs and sore muscles the following day, the children returned with hearts full of laughter, camaraderie, and treasured memories from a truly fantastic end to their first term in Year 6.

As we close the door on this term, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported our school over the year. Your generosity, encouragement, and sense of community make a real difference to our children each and every day.

*We wish all our families and friends a restful, joyful, and peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year.*

With warmest wishes,

*The Little Hadham Primary School Team.*







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### JUDI WHEELER

The Brownies' were busy doing community service, all dressed in Christmas Jumpers. They decorated the Church Window and were rewarded with hot chocolate and chocolate Brownies.

If you have a daughter wanting to join please email Casey on: [littlehadhambrownies@gmail.com](mailto:littlehadhambrownies@gmail.com)



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# LITTLE HADHAM GARDENING CLUB

ANNE WILLET



“OUR WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP ON THE 25TH NOVEMBER WAS A GREAT SUCCESS WITH 20 ATTENDEES PRODUCING A GREAT SELECTION OF AMAZING WREATHS.

We do not meet in January so our next meeting will be in **February, on the 17th** when we will have our Ploughman's Lunch. This meeting will start at 12.30pm followed by a 'Millennium Wood update' by Jon Kemmish. Further details will follow next month.

Our Wreath Making workshop on the 25th

November was a great success with 20 attendees producing a great selection of amazing wreaths.

Our Club Supper on Saturday 29th November was very enjoyable with tasty food, (thanks to a new chef, Charlie), a raffle, a short quiz and good company.



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# CAMPANOLOGIST CHRONICLES

QUASI      hadham.bells@gmail.com  
www.riverashchurches.org.uk/river-ash-churches-bellringers

## QUASI'S VISIT TO ELVEDEN CHURCH OF ST ANDREW AND ST PATRICK, FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF GRIMES GRAVES

One of the enjoyable things about bellringing is discovering the history of other churches and bell towers. In July, ringers from St Michael's, Bishop's Stortford, together with friends and family members visited Elveden Church in Suffolk, which was originally dedicated to St Andrew and has a remarkable history. The Elveden Estate was gifted to Maharaja Duleep Singh in the 1860s as a peace making attempt. The prince and his family had been significant members of London Society and were admitted to the Royal Court by Queen Victoria. He is buried in the churchyard together with his wife and one of his children. The graves are frequently visited by members of the Sikh community.

The bells are installed in a tower detached from, but next to the church; a Memorial Tower built by a later owner of the estate, Lord Iveagh of the Irish Guinness family. The tower is connected to the church by a covered cloister. The church was extended by Lord Iveagh, and the new section dedicated to St Patrick. Our ringers spent a pleasant morning ringing the 8 bells in the tower and exploring the church before heading off to Grimes Graves, a neolithic flint mine near to Thetford in Norfolk. An unlikely



*Outside St Andrew and St Patrick's, Elveden*

destination for bellringers perhaps but the ringers wanted to see the rebuilt mine entrance building which had just won a design award for the work completed by local building contractor Hutton Construction Ltd, one of the sponsors of the recent restoration project for the bells at St Michael's Bishop's Stortford. We descended the newly installed ladders into the pit where projections onto the walls added to the experience, illustrating the development of the 5,000 year old mine workings. Despite the rain, we had a great day out.

Quasi

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



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## FESTIVE FUN AND FOREST CREATIVITY AT WOODLAND RANGERS

December was a month bursting with festive cheer and hands-on creativity at Woodland Rangers, where children embraced the magic of the season through nature-inspired crafts and outdoor adventures. Using materials gathered straight from the forest floor, the groups created an array of Christmas treasures, from pinecone Christmas trees to beautifully decorated natural baubles. Sticks collected during woodland walks were transformed into jingling bell sticks, adding music to the winter air.

The Home Education group took their skills to the next level, confidently using knives for whittling to craft charming wooden Christmas gnomes. They also put their drilling and sawing experience to good use, building delightful wooden reindeer to take home.

With colder weather making fire-lighting more challenging, the children learned to make their own natural firelighters using pinecones, kindling, string, and melted wax. Their excitement at seeing how well they worked was a highlight of the session.

Younger children enjoyed mixing seeds and oats to create special reindeer food for Santa's visit. This activity also opened a conversation about the deer that roam the woodland, sparking enthusiasm as the children dashed

around spotting moss, leaves, and berries - favourite snacks for local wildlife.

In the final week of term, Woodland Rangers were delighted to lead a Golden Morning session at Little Hadham Primary School, where pupils crafted wooden Christmas tree sculptures using real tools.

The term ended with gingerbread icing, campfire hot chocolate, and, for the older children, the ever-popular S'mores. Woodland Rangers thank the Little Hadham community for their support throughout 2025 and look forward to welcoming new families in 2026.





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Victims of domestic abuse in more rural areas are often unprotected and isolated from help. A 2019 report\* into domestic abuse in Yorkshire highlighted a number of shocking facts, including that the more rural the setting, the higher the risk of harm to the victim.

If someone you know is causing you harm or distress – or if you are worried about a family member or friend – you can call or email us in confidence for help and advice on your options.

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# LITTLE HADHAM VILLAGE HALL NEWS

JOAN MCKINLAY

[www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com](http://www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com)

We invited you to reserve places at our Community Breakfast to help us celebrate Christmas on Thursday 11th December and you certainly didn't disappoint! A full house of 71 people enjoyed an extended menu of Bucks Fizz or orange juice, granola fruit cup followed by a choice of a full English breakfast and toast, Egg Benedict or Egg Florentine. Thank you to our kitchen team Jan, Carole and Brenda and our servers Mark, Richard, Peter, Gina and RoseMarie all of whom worked tirelessly to get food out to all our guests.

To keep everyone entertained, musician Jenny Salmon led choir members from the local area including members from our very own village hall choir, to perform a selection of festive songs. A large hamper was raffled, kindly donated by Joy, a lady who is a keen fundraiser and attends many of our events. We raised an amazing £290 from the raffle and another £621 in donations in support of hall hire and the breakfast items served. Thank you to everyone for their generosity and support. All profits from our events go towards improvements and maintenance of the building. Next Community Breakfast – Thursday 8th January. Please book online via our website.

## WELCOME CAFÉ AND DIGITAL INCLUSION WORKSHOP

The Welcome Café is open again each week from Wednesday 7th January between 10am to 2pm followed by our Digital Inclusion Workshop, open from 2pm to 3.30pm. No booking required, just come along.



## VALENTINE BINGO - MONDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2PM TO 4PM

Come and join in the fun at our valentine themed Bingo Afternoon.

Cost £8 per person.

Available to book now online, pay at the door.

Bar available for wine, beer, non-alcoholic drinks & ice cream.

(Please note that as a charity we are unable to issue cash prizes).

Spaces available to book online via our website. Select What's On from website menu – then select Events from the drop-down menu to find listing. Alternately email: [judithwheeler1@aol.com](mailto:judithwheeler1@aol.com)

## 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. Our popular monthly afternoon cinema is back in February with a new Spring programme of films. See our website for upcoming films and events. [www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com](http://www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com).

## LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY IN THE NEW YEAR?

We are currently looking for help with:

- Our Welcome Café, particularly if you enjoy cooking or baking
- Support at events, including setting up tables and chairs / other roles available
- Meeting weekend hall hirers to open and close at end of hire

We hope to be able to carry out work to freshen up the exterior wooden cladding once the warmer weather returns. If you are interested in helping with decorating or maintenance projects, please get in touch via email: [vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com](mailto:vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com)

Our thanks as always to everyone who has supported the hall by coming along to our activities and events. Without all of you, our village hall wouldn't be the friendly and welcoming community asset that many have come to rely upon and that we all value. Happy New Year!

Contact Joan McKinlay  
07789 098 071

[vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com](mailto:vice-chair@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)



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**Email:** [dianastortpark@gmail.com](mailto:dianastortpark@gmail.com)

**Web:** [stortfordpark.physio](http://stortfordpark.physio)



# WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY @ LH VILLAGE HALL

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### MONDAY'S

|              |               |   |  |
|--------------|---------------|---|--|
| Mum's Matter | 10am -11.30am | <b>Drop in:</b> Parents group supported by NHS Midwife. |  |
|--------------|---------------|---|--|

### TUESDAY'S

|          |               |        |                                       |
|----------|---------------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| Brownies | 5.30pm to 7pm | Cassey | Email: littlehadhambrownies@gmail.com |
|----------|---------------|--------|---------------------------------------|

### WEDNESDAY'S

|                   |                |   |                 |                  |
|-------------------|----------------|---|-----------------|------------------|
| Welcome Cafe      | 10am - 2pm     | <b>Drop in:</b> Coffee & Chat. (Lunch Menu)   |                 | <b>DONATIONS</b> |
| 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   | <b>Drop in:</b> Help with your digital device |                 | <b>FREE</b>      |
| Fit Steps         | 6pm - 7pm      | Jacqui Howard                                 | M: 07731 454228 |                  |

### THURSDAY'S

|                      |             |              |                              |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Love to Sing         | 10am - 11am | Jenny        | M: 07823 884445              |
| Afternoon Bowls Club | 2pm - 4pm   | Mike         | Email: mikebennett12@aol.com |
| Hatha Yoga           | 7pm - 8pm   | Kirsty Smith | M: 07903 035180              |

### FRIDAY'S

|               |               |                 |                                 |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Forever Fit   | 11am - 12pm   | Daisy Osborne   | M: 07585 309933                 |
| LH Bowls Club | 7.30pm - 10pm | Annette Luedtke | Email: annetteluedtke@gmail.com |

### FORTNIGHTLY

|                      |              |  |                 |
|----------------------|--------------|--|-----------------|
| Darts & Games Social | 2pm - 4.30pm | <b>Drop in:</b> Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> January | <b>COST: £3</b> |
|----------------------|--------------|--|-----------------|

Please check dates for Darts & Games sessions during January and February, as not on alternate Tuesdays

### MONTHLY - Please see website for full details

|                     |             |   |                  |
|---------------------|-------------|---|------------------|
| Community Breakfast | 10am - 12pm | <b>Book via website:</b> Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January | <b>DONATIONS</b> |
|---------------------|-------------|---|------------------|

### OTHER

Red Chair Community (Afternoon) Cinema is not operating during January; however, we will be back in February with a new Spring programme.  
Please see website for upcoming film screenings.

**Citizen's Advice** will be visiting our **Welcome Café on Wednesday 18th February between 10.30am and 12.30pm.** If you have any issues you wish to discuss with them, please come along. Their expert advisors can cover topics such as Power of Attorney, Energy Efficiency, and Benefits for older people. Alternatively, make an appointment to see one of their highly trained advisers.

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.

**LITTLE HADHAM VILLAGE HALL**  
**THE FORD, LITTLE HADHAM - SG11 2BP**

**MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

**2.00pm to 4.00pm**



**VALENTINE THEME BINGO!**

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**[www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com/What's On](http://www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com/What's On)**

**or Phone: 07789 098071**

## JOIN US AND MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE TO PEOPLE'S LIVES

Citizens Advice East Herts is on a mission to rebuild and expand our face-to-face advice service, which has been significantly reduced since the pandemic. We know that our phone and email service suits many of our clients, particularly those who can't get into towns during the working day or people in rural locations with poor transport. However, we also know, because you tell us, that many of you miss the face-to-face interaction with an adviser, and for some this is an essential service for many different reasons, such as a hearing impairment, or a language barrier.

So, since May we have doubled the opening hours of our outreach sessions at the Methodist Church in Bishop's Stortford, open on Tuesdays from 10 to 2pm, and in September we opened a new outreach at Hertford Library on Wednesdays from 10 am to 2 pm. We have also extended our hours at Ware Priory, on Tuesdays from 10 to 1pm and at the Manor House, Buntingford on Mondays from 10 to 12.30.

All this means that we need more trained volunteers to guide people through online information and deliver advice in these outreaches. If you're passionate about making a difference in your community, are

## ASK US A QUESTION...

[www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk](http://www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk)  
01920 459 944

looking for a challenging and fulfilling volunteer role, and can offer us a day a week, please do consider lending your time and skills to support this work. Volunteering with us can bring huge benefits to you too, gaining skills and confidence, as well as joining our friendly team.

We have spaces available on our adviser training programme starting January 14th at the Manor House in Buntingford. You don't need any previous experience, just an appetite for learning and competent IT skills. You'll attend classroom sessions in Buntingford, one day a week, for 12 weeks, followed by shadowing experienced advisers until you are ready to go solo advising clients on the phone or in person.

Trainees will learn how to advise clients on housing, employment, benefits, consumer issues, debt and more.

Please contact us on **training@citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk** before the end of December if you would like to join the course or phone 01920 454 892.

*Citizens Advice East Herts is here to help you; if you need advice, call our Message Line 01920 459 944 or visit [citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk](http://citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk) for our advice options. Or you can come and see us on Mondays between 10 am and 1230 pm at the Manor House, High Street, Buntingford – we will find out more about your problem and help you find a way forward.*

## Notices



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AnneRobson  
Trust





# ★ Quiz Night ★

What was the name of...?

Which film featured...?

What is the fastest...?

Who was the first person...?

How many times did...?

In what year was the...?

When did the battle of...?

Which came first, the...?

What is the smallest...?

Why did...?

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# WHAT'S ON AT THE VENUE HUB AT MUCH HADHAM BOWLS CLUB

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WOW the enjoyment levels keep rising!

The 7 piece Ware Rhythm Blues String Band on Sunday Afternoon 30th November was a great success. Music from the 60s, 70s and 80s had feet tapping, voices singing and some dancing (and no doubt some reminiscing).

Two weeks later our 'Fine Dining' evening.

An excellent 'french' 4 course meal that included moules, smoked salmon, chicken dijon or duck l'orange, green salad with cheese, creme brulee or fruit salad.

Many wore black tie. Tony B selected excellent background music that later 'morphed' into popular songs that most got to their feet. No-one was in a hurry to leave so we called time at 11pm!

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Sat 10 Jan

#### "ELVIS" RETURNS

A sell-out last year - and we are expecting the same this year.

Bar opens at 6:30pm for a 7pm start

Food: "Elvis' favourites" included

£17.50

later with DJ Tony B

### Sun 25th January

#### ROBBIE BURNS LUNCH.

A light-hearted but traditional celebration including the Selkirk Grace, parade and address to the Haggis and toasts.

Includes traditional 3 course meal (cottage pie alternative to haggis if preferred)

£17.50 pp

Bar opens 12:30pm for 1pm start.

Later with DJ Tony B

### Sun 7th February

#### AN AFTERNOON OF FUN WITH BINGO AND A QUIZ

Bar opens at 2 pm for a 2.30 pm start

£7.50 pp

includes a pasta bake

## ..... ADVANCE NOTICE .....

### Sat 21st February


#### CHINESE NEW YEAR

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One of the pleasures of taking a stroll round any of the towns and villages within the Hundred Parishes is enjoying the variety of gardens which enhance the settings of homes. They are thriving testaments to those within these communities whose horticultural skills add to the local sense of pride.

Last October the RHS published its State of Gardening Report which highlighted the many reasons why gardens are so important. Within the UK they cover almost a million hectares, more than three times the area of National Nature Reserves. Many local gardens include a variety of trees as well as an increasing range of flowering plants, some from other parts of the world so that the flowering season is extended. This provides not just winter and spring colour but also pollen and nectar for any pollinating insects that are active at that time. Well-vegetated gardens are havens for other forms of wildlife too including hedgehogs and many common birds, especially if supplementary food and nesting sites are provided.

Last spring the Essex Wildlife Trust asked residents to complete records of house sparrows visiting their gardens as these once common birds are now in serious decline. The reasons for the decline of urban populations include the reduction of invertebrate food such as caterpillars, which are essential for rearing nestlings, and a shortage of suitable nesting sites in modern houses. 501 gardens were surveyed and the information gathered suggested that older properties were more likely to provide nesting sites for these birds who also favoured gardens

with a pond. By growing a wide variety of flowering plants and installing clusters of nest boxes in your garden you may be able to provide a suitable habitat for encouraging house sparrows to thrive. For information about the project see [www.essexwt.org.uk/house-sparrow-project](http://www.essexwt.org.uk/house-sparrow-project)



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MEMORIES OF VISITING  
OUR GARDENS AND  
THAT WE FEATURE IN  
YOUR NEW YEAR'S  
RESOLUTIONS!

Happy new year greetings from the Gardens! Before Christmas we had some mild, soggy days of work at the Gardens – unbelievably the wildflower spiral and the roses in the walled kitchen garden were still flowering! Hopefully into January we will have had some really cold weather to kill off the bugs and keep the snowdrops from flowering too early!

January is a month for doing more winter jobs. Before Christmas we planted new hedging and trees in Warwick Corner and Laburnum Walk; and set up a new animal trail. But there is a lot more to do: Philadelphus and more trees to plant, as well as the pruning of all

the apples, pears, quince and fig tree and the soft fruit. This will be a chance to continue our gradual training of the apples and pears on the walls and on their espalier wires.

And then we will be getting ourselves ready for snowdrop season. We have lots of fresh woodchip to top up rough paths and tidy hidden corners of the Gardens, as the tree surgeons have been busy, taking down diseased trees and dangerous branches. And we have been sourcing some additional snowdrop merchandise for those of you who like to take home a souvenir. Advance tickets for our three snowdrop open days are already available and information

can be found on our website and social media.

We hope your seasonal reminiscences have included happy memories of visiting our Gardens and that we feature in your new year's resolutions! Might you also want to organise a Group Visit for one of the Clubs you belong to? These are good value, including a guided tour and refreshments and can involve our Guides and Archivists pulling out particular exhibits and stories if your group has a particular interest. To arrange a Group Visit email us on [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk) or leave a message on 01371 876 979.

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# HADHAM CROSS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

KATHY HAMILTON



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|              |                  |                                 |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 4th January  | T.B.A.           |                                 |
| 11th January | John Fosker      | Therfield Congregational Church |
| 18th January | Tim Wells        | Wormley Church                  |
| 25th January | Andrew Proudfoot | Therfield Congregational Church |

Our next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on **Wednesday 14th January** 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 29th January** 2pm - 4pm  
Please do come and join us for coffee/tea cake and a chat.

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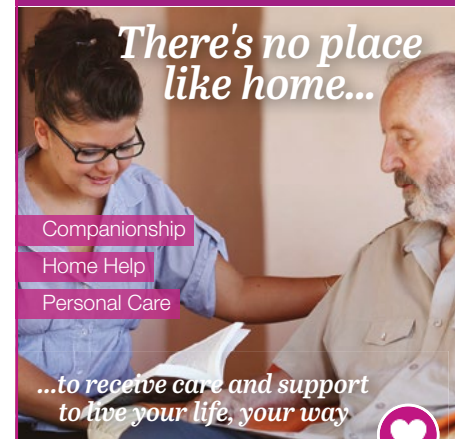
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JACK KILDUFF



Isabel Hospice's Christmas tree collection and Recycling service returns to local residents sustainably recycle their Christmas Tree!

Isabel Hospice's much-loved Christmas Tree Collection and Recycling Service is back this January, giving residents across eastern Hertfordshire an easy, eco-friendly way to recycle their real Christmas trees while supporting local hospice care.

**From 9th to 12th January 2026**, volunteers will collect trees from designated postcode areas across eastern Hertfordshire. Last year, over 1,500 trees were collected, raising an incredible £23,000 for the charity's "Together at Christmas" campaign.

A suggested donation of £15 helps fund vital services such as the Inpatient Unit, Hospice at Home, and Clinical Nurse

and Paramedic Specialists. Even a £28 donation could pay for an hour of specialist nursing care at the Inpatient Unit, making a real difference to local families facing life-limiting illness.

To participate, ensure your tree is undecorated and under 6ft (or cut in half), and visible from the roadside.

Booking is quick and easy via the Isabel Hospice website and by letting Isabel Hospice collect and recycle your Christmas tree, you are not only helping the environment, but you are also making an immeasurable difference to local families facing life-limiting illness.

Learn more and book your collection at:

[www.isabelhospice.org.uk/treecycle](http://www.isabelhospice.org.uk/treecycle)



# PARISH SERVICES JANUARY 2026

BENEFICE OF: LITTLE HADHAM | MUCH HADHAM | ALBURY

| Date   | Day      | Church                            | Service / Event                 | Time          |
|--------|----------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 4-Jan  | Sunday   | St Mary's Albury                  | Epiphany                        | 9.15am        |
|        |          | St Andrew's Much Hadham           | Evening Worship                 | 5 - 5.30pm    |
| 11-Jan | Sunday   | St Andrew's Much Hadham           | Baptism of Christ               | 9.15am        |
| 18-Jan | Sunday   | <b>St Cecilia's Little Hadham</b> | <b>Epiphany 2</b>               | <b>9.15am</b> |
| 22-Jan | Thursday | <b>St Cecilia's Little Hadham</b> | <b>Midweek BCP</b>              | <b>10am</b>   |
| 25-Jan | Sunday   | St Andrew's Much Hadham           | Epiphany 3 / Conversion of Paul | 9.15am        |

## PLEASE NOTE: CHURCH SERVICE DATES ARE CHANGING AT ST.CECILIA'S

As mentioned on p.4, From January 1st the church services in the benefice of Albury, Little Hadham and Much Hadham will be held on fixed Sundays every month.

St. Mary's Albury, on the 1st Sunday, St. Andrews Much Hadham, on the 2nd and 4th Sunday's and **St. Cecilia's Little Hadham on the 3rd Sunday**, all 5th Sunday services are held at St. Thomas Perry Green. All the services start at 9:15am.

You can support your Church by coming to the service on the 3rd Sunday, we would love to see you.

### 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.



# ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN OUR SERVICES