



# LITTLE HADHAM PARISH NEWS

MAY 2025

**DON'T MISS THE GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE**  
**Saturday 10th May**  
From 9:30am at the Village Hall

Little Hadham Parish News is distributed free by St Cecilia's Church

# Letter from the Rectory

## The Sun, An Accessory!

Greetings, firstly allow me to introduce myself:

I am Revd Tayo Wale Falope, (Revd Tayo) and in a few days, by the time you are reading this, I would have been licensed as the Priest in Charge, of the benefice comprising of St Mary's Albury, St Cecilia's Little Hadham and St Andrew's Much Hadham. I served as "Interim Minister" for the past one year and had to drive from Watford for services and events. Now, I would be living next door to you; at the Rectory in Much Hadham with my family. I look forward to getting to meet and know you.

Today, I start my writing to you, taking over from Father Simon Vivian, a fine and lovely gentleman and my first topic has to do with the weather which I dare say, is the most talked about thing in the UK.

Just the other day, our eldest daughter was about to go out and seeing the sunshine pierce through the window, she decided to dress accordingly, sleeveless with no layers at all. As always, experience teaches very nicely. She steps out into the lovely sunshine thinking it is "Lagos sunshine in Watford." A few minutes and steps later, after sunshine and wind, she was back in the house to put on her jumper and coat, and yells "this sun does not give any warmth, it is just an accessory."

I found that funny, but thinking on it later, the sun is meant to mean light and warmth or heat! However the sun is shining, and people wear jackets, jumpers etc although some are "brave" if you ask me and come out lightly dressed.

Do we dress warm in the sun for lack of faith in what the world-renowned English weather can do - snow, rain, sunshine all in one day or because the sun shines yet the wind is cold?

How can the epitome of heat - the sun, be so present and yet, the chilly wind also has a say? The beauty of the sunlight and the coolness of the wind together all at once. Perfect harmony in diversity at its best! What a lesson from nature and subtly delivered as well.

God sure has His way of showing and teaching us how to live in harmony by this awesome example.

I look forward to being your neighbour whatever the weather, do have a delightful spring season and enjoy God's blessings.



*Revd T.*

## LITTLE HADHAM PARISH NEWS

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## 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, Little Hadham**

Nothing from the registers this month.

## ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

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

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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.



# Meet Hadham's Rosebuds THE WORLD'S FIRST BROWNIES



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## We Welcome Revd Tayo Wale-Falope

We are pleased to announce that The Reverend Tayo Wale-Falope, who was the Interim Minister in the Benefices of Braughing, Furneux Pelham and Stocking Pelham and Albury, Little Hadham and Much Hadham has been appointed as Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Albury, Little Hadham and Much Hadham for three years.

Tayo was licensed on Saturday April 26th at St. Andrews.



**Girlguiding**

**Brownies**

**HELP NEEDED**

At Little Hadham Brownies.

Can you spare 1.5 hours a week on a Tuesday 5.45-7.15pm

Please contact  
Paula  
[bishopstortforddistrict@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk](mailto:bishopstortforddistrict@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk)



## Jan Finn - Editor of the Parish News circa 1992 - 2019



We remember Jan Finn - who passed away peacefully on the 15th March with her family by her side. Her funeral was held on the 4th April in Braintree. She will be sadly missed by her husband Alan and daughters.

Many of you will remember Jan no doubt from her years living in Ash Cottage down by the traffic lights and for being Editor of the Little Hadham Parish News for almost 27 years up until November 2019.

The family have requested that no flowers be sent but instead, if you would like to donate to [www.lewybody.org](http://www.lewybody.org) that would be very much appreciated.

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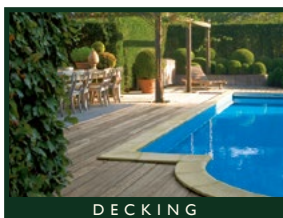


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# Little Hadham Parish Council

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

	<b>6th May</b>	3rd June	1st July	2nd Sept
7th October	4th November	2nd December		

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

## Highways Update

### Speed and Traffic Surveys

– are now complete.

**SID** - A meeting is scheduled to discuss the best location for the Speed Indicator Device on the A120. One suggestion is near the school. The feasibility of installing a speed camera on the hill down towards the traffic lights at the Ash is being looked into.

**The pedestrian crossing at the Smithy** - Due to the road being used as a diversion route for roadworks at the end of March, the work on the Smithy will commence in May.

**Pavement clearing on the A120** – To go in future scheme. Forwarded to maintenance colleagues to look at certain areas.

**War Memorial** – Chevrons have been installed

**Speeding through the village** – the 30mph repeater signs have been replaced along from the traffic lights to the Ford.

**Potholes in Chapel Lane and at the crossroads on the Ford** – this was raised at the PC meeting. The

holes are deep enough to see the cables for the traffic lights.

## Neighbourhood Plan

We have 8 volunteers for the Neighbourhood Plan and have a startup meeting organised to discuss the way forward. There are still opportunities to contribute. If you are interested in volunteering to help with a Neighbourhood plan for Little Hadham, please do contact Carole on [clerklittlehadham@gmail.com](mailto:clerklittlehadham@gmail.com). The time commitment would be to give at least 4-6 hours a month of their time (potentially more some months and less in others). Anyone with planning experience would be particularly welcome!

## Parish Assembly

There is little interest from the village. So far, I have been unable to get a commitment from the various groups in the village to present their progress over the last year or set up a stall to show what they can offer. Therefore, the Parish Assembly will be a short meeting before the Parish Council meeting on the 6th May. Shame there is not more interest in our village. The

usual turnout for the Parish Council meetings is generally 10-18 people from the village. When there is an issue that affects the village, we see over 40. If there was no longer a Parish Council, we would have no voice in what happens in our village.

## Little Hadham Ramblers

– our walks are scheduled for:

**Wednesday 7th May**

**Wednesday 4th June**

**Wednesday 2nd July**

We start from the Village Hall at 10am, with a return between 11.30-12pm. 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 uploaded onto the Parish Council website.

## 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.

## 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.



## Distributor for the Parish News

We are looking for someone to help deliver Parish Magazines to the local distributors. This is a once-a-month job.

If you think you can help, please contact Karin Green

**01279 771 532**

for more details.

[clerklittlehadham@gmail.com](mailto:clerklittlehadham@gmail.com) | 01920 870 809 | 07825 011 975

## Down at the Doctors

Andrew Wilkinson, Practice Manager

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



Last month, we launched our new cloud-based telephony system. Although there were a few bumps along the way during the initial setup, we've now found our rhythm and are beginning to enjoy the benefits of its new features.

One particularly handy function is the call-back option. On the rare occasion you are held in a queue, you can request a call-back, hang up, and carry on with your day. The system holds your place in the queue and rings you back when it's your turn—modern convenience at its finest. It also includes a call recording feature, with recordings stored instantly and readily available should the need arise.

Oh, the joys of modern technology!

And now, over to our Lead Pharmacist—she's brilliant at what she does, even if she may need a little something to treat her obsession with a certain Northern football club...

Hi, I'm Dilusha, a Clinical Pharmacist for Stort Valley PCN, working at Much Hadham Health Centre and Church Street Surgery. With 25 years of experience (eek, showing my age!), I made the switch from hospital to primary care to be more directly involved in supporting patients and managing their health conditions.

I specialise in medication prescribing, reviewing treatments for patients with multiple conditions (polypharmacy),

and ensuring prescriptions are safe, effective, and optimised for the best health outcomes. I love working at Much Hadham Health Centre, where I've built strong relationships with both patients and staff. It's a truly special surgery, and I always feel like part of the family here.

Outside of work, I'm a passionate Manchester United fan—match days are serious business in my house, though lately, they've been a rollercoaster of emotions! I also have a creative side and love to crochet and paint, hobbies I picked up during lockdown.

I moved to Bishop's Stortford over two years ago with my husband and our three children—twin girls (11) and a boy (8). Life is busy, with lots of running around and keeping our household of five in order, but I wouldn't have it any other way. Whether I'm helping a patient manage their medications, cheering on United, or working on my next crochet project, I always put my heart into everything I do.

If you need a medication review, I'd love to help! I am available on Tuesdays at Much Hadham so please book an appointment with me.

Many thanks to Dilusha for her contribution.

Best wishes  
Andrew



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Nikki & Louise  
[www.woodlandrangers.co.uk](http://www.woodlandrangers.co.uk)  
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This April was a momentous month for the Woodland Rangers as we celebrated our first anniversary! Turning one year old was a milestone we were thrilled to share with the children and their families. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Little Hadham community for their unwavering support throughout our incredible journey over the last year.

The birthday celebrations were filled with joy and delicious treats. Our youngest Rangers showcased their creativity by icing cakes, while the Home Ed group took the celebrations to the campfire, baking indulgent chocolate orange cakes on the fire to mark the occasion.

Last month also saw an array of other activities that brought learning and fun together in the great outdoors. To honour World Frog Day, our older children got hands-on building amphibian homes, blending conservation efforts with creative engagement.

Home-educated children embraced teamwork as they learned survival skills, including constructing sturdy stretchers that were strong enough to carry each other on.

To mark Mother's Day, our Woodland Squirrels designed delightful flowerpots, which they planted

sunflower seeds in, to give as gifts to their mothers.

The term wrapped up with Easter festivities, including an exciting Easter trail through the forest.

For the Little Hadham Primary School after school club, the term ended on a sweet note. Around a crackling campfire, children toasted marshmallows and made delicious s'mores. They also showcased impressive fire-lighting skills using flint and steel.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for a vibrant summer term. Highlights will include a family day on May bank holiday and the eagerly awaited return of the holiday club during May half-term, now open for booking.





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or  
Pop in to the village hall Welcome Cafe  
any Wednesday between 10am and 2pm



# Little Hadham Gardening Club

Anne Willett

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 20th May** at Little Hadham Village Hall when we will have a talk by Liz Lake on 'Bridge End Gardens'. Doors open 7:45pm for 8pm start. Members free, non-members £5. Refreshments included.

## Plant Sale

Our annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning is on 10th May, so when tidying your gardens and dividing perennials this year, please pot up some extra plants for sale and bring them along to Little Hadham Village Hall before 9.30am. This is an important fund raiser for the club so please support us.

## Growing edible flowers

Many vegetables and herbs, including chives, courgettes, mint and runner beans have edible flowers. You can then use them in salads and to flavour and decorate drinks, while some are large enough to stuff with cheese and fry.

It's worth noting that the flowers of some plants, such as narcissus and foxgloves are toxic, *so unless you know the flowers are edible, don't eat it.*

Nutritional benefits – many edible flowers are high in vitamins A and C, which promote a healthy immune system, and are rich in beneficial antioxidants.



**How to sow** – Most edible flowers, including chamomile, chives, cornflowers, courgettes and marigolds can be grown from seed. Sow them in the ground or in a pot on their own or with other flowers or veg in a sunny spot.

**How to grow** – Bergamot, lavender and pinks are easy to grow from plug plants or young plants. Roses and scented pelargoniums are best bought as plants.

**Harvesting** - Pick flowers regularly to encourage more blooms, harvesting them on a dry morning for the best flavour. With courgettes, pick the male flowers only, to avoid reducing your vegetable harvest. These grow on a long, thin stalk, rather than an

immature courgette. Eat only the petals and avoid eating any blooms that may have been sprayed with pesticide.

**Storing** - once they have been harvested, use edible flowers immediately or store in the fridge for a couple of days in a plastic bag. Crystallised flowers will keep in an airtight container for several months.

**Bergamot (Monarda)** – have a mild sweet flavour and can be used to flavour teas and add as a garnish to salads.

**Courgette** – the flowers are considered a delicacy in some circles. Remove the stamens and dip them in a light batter and deep fry, or for a more decadent dish, fill them with cream cheese first, gently twisting the end of the flower over to hold the cheese in place.

**Cornflower**- have a sweet, spicy, almost clove-like flavour and can be used to make an attractive salad garnish.

**Chamomile**- have a warm, apple-like flavour and should be used fresh or dried, in teas.

**Rose** – have a wonderful fresh flavour. Use them fresh or crystallised on cakes, or gently simmer the petals in water to make your own rosewater.

**Chives** – have a spicy, oniony flavour and can be used to add a kick to salads and soups.



**Primrose** – crystallise the petals and use them as a pretty decoration on cakes.

**Lavender** – can be overpowering, so use sparingly in cakes, biscuits and lemonade.

**Viola** – have a sweet, mildly spicy flavour. Crystallise the flowers whole for cakes, or sprinkle the petals on salads.

**Pinks (Dianthus)** – have a spicy, clove-like taste. Use them to perk up salads.

# Millennium Wood

Jon Kemmish

[sales@jklandscaping.co.uk](mailto:sales@jklandscaping.co.uk)

We had a great afternoon celebrating 25th Anniversary of the planting of the wood on Sunday 13th April. It was a beautiful day with around 35 people there all enjoying a BBQ, a drink and chatting with friends. Talking about their memories of the wood and how they had been involved over the years.

Mrs Rogers kindly organised and ran a raffle on the day raising £49 for the wood which is amazing and so very kind and generous. It was also lovely for the many volunteers that were there on the day to sit, enjoy and admire all the hard work with the clearing of a large area of brambles that has now really opened up the wood.

A lady came up with her 2 children and a delicious homemade cake that we all shared along with toasted marshmallow smores cooked up on the camp fire enjoyed by the children and 'big' children come to think of it!!

All in all it was a great way to spend a lovely sunny afternoon with huge thanks to all that helped on the day as well as my daughter Poppy for doing an amazing job setting up the bunting and food and my father Robin for helping with the BBQ.







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# Little Hadham Village Hall News

Joan McKinlay

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

Our AGM was held on Tuesday 8th April with the main item of business to elect and appoint trustees to the village hall management committee. At this meeting as expected, Jan Williamson resigned from her role as Chair. As no one put themselves forward to be elected to the post of Village Hall Chair, the role has unfortunately had to remain vacant.

On behalf of the members of the management team I would like to say thank you to Jan for her unfaltering commitment to the role of Chair over the past 8 years. Jan remains on the management committee as an appointed trustee and as hospitality lead, enabling her to concentrate on what she enjoys most, cooking for the Welcome Café, Community Breakfast and managing a bereavement group. We are also sorry to lose Mike Smith from the management committee and his appointed role as representative of Red Chair Community Cinema. Thank you, Mike, for all your help and support over the years.

As Vice-Chair for the past 6 years and non-resident of Little Hadham, I will continue to work with our much-valued trustees to ensure that the Village Hall continues to function as it should and lead regular management meetings until a new Chair is in post. In the meantime, I am delighted to say that we have retained our bookings secretary Denise Armstrong, minutes secretary Janine Peart and have elected a new treasurer, Alice Dain. Thanks also to all our appointed trustees who have continued to be on the committee: Carolyn Westlake, Annette Luedtke, Peter English, Richard Mardell, Judi Wheeler, Gina Turnstill and Jan Williamson.

The village hall management committee usually consists of up to 5 elected trustees and 9 appointed trustees. Appointed trustees are traditionally found from our village hall user groups and are appointed to represent their group along with supporting and contributing to the work of the village hall as a registered Charity. If you are interested in helping your village hall as a member of the management committee or as a volunteer, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Joan McKinlay: [vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com](mailto:vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com).



## Community Breakfast is Celebrating VE Day – Thursday 8th May

Our monthly Community Breakfast is celebrating VE Day in style on Thursday 8th May and we are delighted to announce that Jenny Salmon and the Benego Choir will be entertaining us with songs from the 40's. Join in the fun and dress up in 1940's dress or come as you are. We hope that those of you that attend the Community Breakfast enjoy the menu options available and the endless cups of tea, filter coffee, cakes and pastries on offer. Please be reminded that we rely solely on cash donations from all attendees without which, the Community Breakfast would not be able to meet its costs. Minimum suggested donation £7 per person. Booking is essential for Community Breakfast with reservations

available via the village hall website. This will be a popular event with a limit on the number of spaces available. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

## Monthly Air Fryer Demonstration – Monday 12th May

Join Jan, Carol and Lisa on **Monday 12th May** from 7pm as they once again, entertain enthuse and encourage us with a range of tasty recipes cooked up in an air fryer. Please book via the village hall website: 'What's On'/Events. A suggested minimum donation of £7 per person is requested for your wine and dine taster session held at the end of the demonstration.

## Hands On Cooking Support – Starts Thursday 29th May

Led by Ella Bisschoff, you are invited to join her for 'Hand's on Sourdough', to be held on the last Thursday of the month from 10am to 12pm. Starting on Thursday 29th May, please bring an apron, a bag for a starter (jam jar) and a small bake. Your 'Hands On' experience is to include - enough dough for experimenting, sourdough starter in a jar and something freshly baked to take home. To attend please phone Ella on M: 07970 249787. Suggested minimum donation £5.00.

## Bishop's Stortford Sinfonia at Little Hadham Village Hall - Saturday 31st May

Tickets are available to purchase now via our village hall website for 'Afternoon Tea and Bishops Stortford Sinfonia Strings' on Saturday 31st May 2025, event starts at 2.00pm.

Enjoy an afternoon with friends and family while enjoying live music performed by Bishop's Stortford Sinfonia Strings. The programme includes Holst – St Pauls Suite Jig and Ostinato, Elgar – Serenade for



Strings and much more.... It is a perfect afternoon for music lovers. To enjoy beautiful music and a delicious afternoon tea, simply book via our website: [www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com/What'sOn/Events](http://www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com/What'sOn/Events) - Tickets are £20 per person. If you do not have access to email or the internet, bookings for events can be made in person on Wednesdays at the weekly Welcome Café and Digital Inclusion workshop. We look forward to seeing you.



# What's On in May @ LH Village Hall

See website [www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com](http://www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com) for latest details

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### MONDAY'S

**Mum's Matter** (Mother & Baby Group) **10 – 11:30am**

### TUESDAY'S

**Brownies** **5:45 – 7pm** **Term Time Only**  
**Bereavement Group Meeting** **Every THIRD Tuesday of the month (1-1 every other Tuesday from 10am - 12:15 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY ring Jan 01279 771 272 or Ron Bunce mob: 07903 194 991)**

### WEDNESDAY'S

**Welcome Cafe** **10am – 2pm** No need to book just drop in and enjoy!  
**Druman Chair Yoga** **11am – 11:45** Mark Cox 07368 293 062  
**Tai Chi & Qi Gong** **1pm -2pm** Sarah Baker 07740 701 102  
**Digital Improvers** **2 – 3:30pm** Jan 07710 325363  
**Fitsteps** **6 – 7pm** Jacqui: 07731 454 228  
**Tai Chi & Qi Gong** **7:30-8:30pm** Sarah Baker 07740 701 102

### THURSDAY'S

**Mike's Bowls Club** **2 – 4pm**

### FRIDAY'S

**Friday Fitness Group** **11am -12noon** contact Daisy Osborne 07585 309 933 or email: daisy.af.osborne@gmail.com

**Indoor Bowls** **7:30 – 10pm** **except 2nd Friday**

## FORTNIGHTLY

**Tuesday 13th & 27th** **2 – 4pm** Darts, games and social (£3 per session)  
**Tuesday 6th & 20th** **2 – 4pm** Turn up & Play Scrabble (£3 per session)  
 Annette: 07926 088 202

## MONTHLY

**6th** **7:30pm** Parish Council Meeting (main hall)  
**10th** **9:30am** Little Hadham Garden Club Plant Sale, Refreshments and Bric A Brac  
**12th** **7 – 9pm** Air Fryer Demonstration - pay on entry £7 (**change of date**)  
**8th** **10 – 12 noon** Community Breakfast morning  
**BOOKING ESSENTIAL** on website: [littlehadhamvillagehall.com](http://littlehadhamvillagehall.com) or email vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com  
**31st** **2pm – 4.30pm** Afternoon Tea & Bishop's Stortford Sinfonia Strings  
 Booking essential £20 per person. Book on line [www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com/what's On/Events](http://www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com/what's%20On/Events) or pop into the cafe on Wednesday between 10am – 2pm to purchase tickets.

# NOTICEBOARD

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To find out more, please visit  
[www.annerobsontrust.org.uk](http://www.annerobsontrust.org.uk)

AnneRobson Trust



**Friday 9th May**

**7pm**

Membership Required. For information email:  
[redchaircinema@littlehadhamvillagehall.com](mailto:redchaircinema@littlehadhamvillagehall.com)

**Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline**

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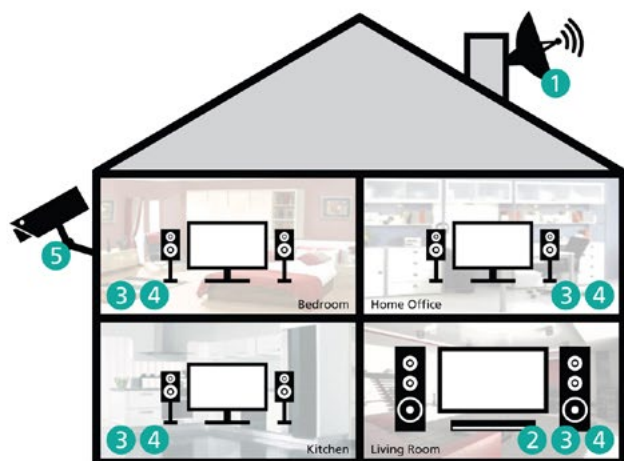
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SCAN ME

# St Cecilia's Church Bells

## Quasi

### "Saved by the Bell".

Bells are all around us, including in our expressions:

'Saved by the bell' is used when we want to escape a situation.

'Pull the other one, it's got bells on it!' when someone is trying to fool you.

We could use the following puns in our bellringing;

Hell's bells - a really bad practice session

Bit ropey - a bad practice session

Got roped in - you joined a bell ringing group

It can take it's toll - excessive bell ringing group

On a light hearted note, here's some bellringing jokes;

"I just joined the local church's bell ringing group. They said they would show me the ropes!"

"Hi, I'm the new campanologist. Reply - Aha, I thought your face rung a bell"

Patient goes to the doctors, thinking he has tinnitus (ringing in his ears). The Doctor replies "Don't you think it might be significant that you only hear this ringing in your ears when you're in church!"

Is it time for church already? I tolled you so.

Policeman ask the bellringers "Alright who's the ringleader?"

I can't remember do I Ding, or Dong?

I'll stop now as I think I can hear you all groaning.

Quasi - the one whose name also rings a bell.

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# The Hundred Parishes Society

Ken McDonald

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



A barn is essential for a working farm, to store produce, tools and machinery and to house livestock. The Hundred Parishes has many fine examples of ancient barns which are still in use today, albeit sometimes for a purpose not envisaged when they were built. Some have been converted into homes while others have quite varied new uses.

In 1994, Thorley church purchased a dilapidated 16th-century barn which, following restoration, opened for community use as St Barnabas Centre. At Duddenhoe End, the thatched Hamlet Church started life as a barn.

Ashdon and Westmill village halls both began life as barns in the 17th century.

Great Bardfield and Great Saling each have an ancient barn that has been converted into a retail outlet with café, respectively The Blue Egg and Timbers.

In Chrishall, the Red Cow pub offers accommodation in the adjacent 500-year-old thatched barn.

In Little Easton, the Countess of Warwick converted one of her barns into the Barn Theatre. It was used by many famous performers of the early 1900s and still occasionally serves that purpose, on other days being part of a tea room and events venue called Little Easton Manor.

In Great Bardfield, a Grade-I listed, 16th-century brick barn at Great

Lodge now serves as the Anne of Cleves Barn wedding venue.

In Widdington, Grade I-listed Priors Hall Barn is a fine example of a medieval barn, dating from the 14th century and now owned by English Heritage. It is said that 400 oak trees were used in its construction. The large doors on either side could be opened for threshing, with the draught blowing the husks away from the grain. Priors Hall Barn is free to visit, open at weekends from April to September.



*St Barnabas Centre, Thorley*



*Hamlet Church, Duddenhoe End*



*Ashdon village Hall*



*Westmill village hall*



*Priors Hall Barn, Widdington - inside*



*Priors Hall Barn, Widdington - outside*



*Barn Theatre, Little Easton*





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## Talking Bowls...or Something

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

We are back! At the time of writing with such brilliant weather, we have opened the Green for bowls and croquet a little earlier than normal but have obviously missed some beautiful dry and sunny days. Dilemma; do we worship Helios for continued sunshine or Zeus for some rain on the Green. Well the watering system is back in action after huge expense on pump repairs and tank replacement (we bought our first house for less) so at the risk of upsetting Farmers & Allotment holders - Helios wins!

Hopefully it did not pass notice, that over the winter months we turned the Clubhouse into a very successful VENUE HUB. All events were, or very close to "maxed out" and judging from the plaudits we received, everyone who came seemed to have had a great time.

The varied events were - Italian Fine Dining; Halloween; Cabaret evening with Jill Oxborrow; a Christmas social afternoon; Cabaret with 'Elvis'; Burns Night; Bingo evening; St Patricks Day Craic and Grand National Afternoon. Still to come and one we hope will prove to be the best of all is **Thursday 8th May** when we will try to re-capture the joy, relief and exuberance of the celebrations 80 years ago following the ending of the devastating WW2 in Europe.

Try to make it - entrance by ticket only - £12.50 including food - and available by phoning 01279 842 637.

**BUT BACK TO BOWLS ....** We have few new members joining this year and a warm welcome awaits them. This, now with a full season in front of us, is an excellent time for others to try out the game, so why not come along a Wednesday evening - say 6 pm on and you too will be made very welcome.

Jack



## Croquet in Much Hadham

at the Recreation Ground, Much Hadham SG10 6DL

The Bowling Green is now open for croquet. If you are interested in joining us, come and have a go - we supply mallets, balls and friendly advice.

Call Shirley on 01279842637 to find a time and date that suits you.

Enjoy a cup of tea and a biscuit in the Clubhouse and find out more.





# Braughing Fair & Wheelbarrow Race

**Saturday 12th July 2025 | 12 noon until 6pm**

Our preparations for the Braughing Fair and Wheelbarrow Race are now firmly underway.

The categories for the races, and the entry fees, remain the same as last year as per the table here:

(One thing for which the price hasn't risen this year!)

There is no theme for your fancy dress so let your imaginations run wild.

**The entries open on Monday 12th May at 8am** so please go to our website to enter. [www.braughingwheelbarrowrace.com](http://www.braughingwheelbarrowrace.com)

Age	Advance Entry Fee	On the Day Entry Fee	Info
6 - 12 years old	£5	£7	
13 - 17 years old	£8	£10	
Adult & Child Race	£10	£15	Child must be between 6 and 17 years of age
Adults Men/Women/Mixed	£10	£15	

Prizes for Race Winners & 'Best Dressed Wheelbarrows'

## Dog Show Timetable

**Saturday 12th July 2025**

Entry Fee: £2 per class

You can enter in advance via our website from Monday 12th May: [www.braughingwheelbarrowrace.com](http://www.braughingwheelbarrowrace.com)

### 1:15pm Beautiful Bitches

Open to female dogs of all ages and breeds. Judges are looking for attractive dogs in good condition.

### 1:30pm Handsome Hounds

Open to male dogs of all ages and breeds. Judges are looking for attractive dogs in good condition.

### 1:45pm Cutest Puppy

Open to all dogs under 1 year of age. The title speaks for itself!

### 2pm Best Young Handler (8 to 16 years old)

Open to children aged between 8 and 16 with any breed, age and

gender of dog (The child must be able to control the dog at all times)

### 2:15pm Best Rescue Dog

Open to any breed, age and gender of rescued dog.

### 2:30pm Dog The Judge Would Most Like To Take Home

Judges are looking for friendly dogs of any breed, age and gender, with good personalities.

The Judges' decision is final and remember it is just a bit of fun!

Dogs entered at owner's own risk

PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG (bags available at dog show registration)

KEEP DOGS ON A LEAD AT ALL TIMES

Any incident involving a dog is the owner's responsibility.



## Volunteers to help clear up on Sunday 13th July

A big thank you to the people who go to the Ford and help sweep up the sand from the beach on the Sunday morning each year. You know who you are – you just turn up without being asked – thank you.

This year we would be very grateful for extra helpers on Sunday morning from 9am onwards to clear the fields, stack the bales, take down banners, move rubbish bins, litter pick, etc. If you are free for an hour or so to help, with a pair of gloves and some cable tie snippers, it would be very much appreciated.

## Sponsorship Opportunity

We are hugely grateful to all our sponsors who generously support the event each year. You will have noticed their banners on display and their names in the programme. The event relies on this support to ensure that this annual event continues and delivers funding for village amenities.

If you, or your Company, would like to be a sponsor, please do not hesitate to email us at:

[info@braughingwheelbarrowrace.com](mailto:info@braughingwheelbarrowrace.com)

We look forward to hearing from you.

**BFWR Committee**



## THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

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

May is a lovely month at the Gardens, with flowers everywhere: alliums, foxgloves, irises, roses, to name a few. The Italian Garden beds will be lined with helianthemum. The herb border in the Walled Kitchen Garden will be in flower. There will still be blossom – deep pink hawthorn in the Glade; and the purple of the rhododendrons in the Japanese garden. And there will be wildflowers too...the last of the bluebells at the beginning of the month, followed by orchids and of course the wafting cow parsley in Laburnum Walk.

Marking the end of the Second World War in Europe, 8 May 1945 was a hugely significant day for the airmen and women at Easton Lodge, as elsewhere. The 80th anniversary of VE Day falls on a Thursday so the Gardens will be open for those who wish to reflect on the significance of this day in a tranquil environment. Our history of the airfield will be on display, with photos and stories of those involved. This Thursday as other Thursdays, the Gardens are open from 11am–3pm, with hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes available from our refreshments kiosk. On Thursdays, visitors can chat to our volunteer gardeners and buy our seasonal produce.



Our **18 May Sunday Open Day** will focus on Easton Lodge's Tudor history. Queen Elizabeth I granted the estate at Little Easton to Henry Maynard in 1590 and he owned a lot of other land in the local neighbourhood too. Our Archivists will present a special display and there will be a range of fun activities for children, including archery for the older/stronger ones, provided by White Dragon archery and making cordage bangles, with Discover Bushcraft. Colchester Waits will play Tudor music on shawms, bagpipes, fiddles and recorders. There will be Tudor foods to sample and a range of stalls. There is more information and links to advance booking of tickets on our website: [www.eastonlodge.co.uk/event/may-open-day-our-tudor-story](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/event/may-open-day-our-tudor-story).

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The History Society met in March when Chris Lydamore gave an interesting talk on "Excavations at Grange Paddocks". This was such an interesting talk which everyone enjoyed.

Our May meeting will be on **29th May**. This will be a possible visit to The Verulamium St. Albans but details will be available later. Should any non-member wish to join us on this visit you will be made very welcome - please do get in touch with me (Kathy Hamilton) for further details.

Our June meeting will be on **26th June**, when Alistair Hodgson will be giving a talk on "The History of De Havillands". All are welcome.

You may wish to join the Society. We do have an excellent programme arranged - you may come along as as visitor to see what we are about - and hopefully you will join us.

## Hadham Cross Congregational Church

### PREACHERS FOR APRIL SERVICES AT 11am

4th May	Roger Amos	Sawbridgeworth Congregational Church
11th May	John Fosker	Therfield Congregational Church
18th May	Andrew Proudfoot	Therfield Congregational Church
25th May	Mike Hilllyer	Oakwood Chapel Harlow

Our next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on **Wednesday 14th May**, 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 May**, 2 - 4pm - All are welcome for tea/coffee cake and a chat.

Do come and join us on Sundays at 11am - you will be very welcome.

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



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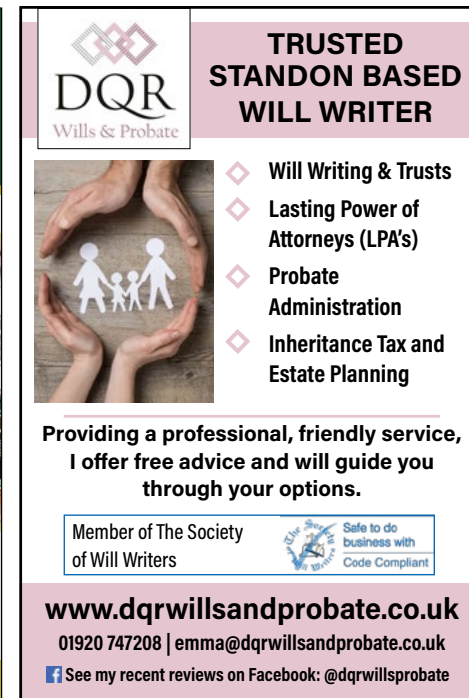
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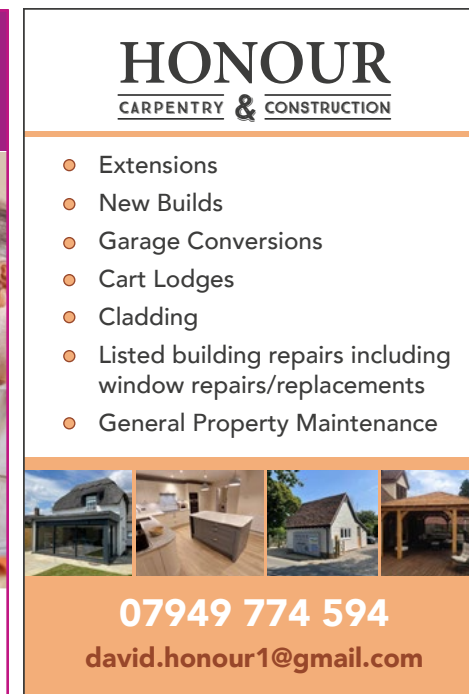
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[www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk](http://www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk)

01920 459 944

### In these days of everything digital, how can I talk to someone in person at Citizens Advice East Herts about my problem?

You can come to our Contact  
Centre at the Manor House  
in Buntingford open every  
Monday from 10am to 12pm.

### What is the Contact Centre for?

While most people can contact us by  
calling our message line on 01920  
459 944 or sending an email, we  
know that some people may not have  
internet access or be confident on  
the phone. The Contact Centres are  
for anyone who needs a bit of extra  
help to get the advice they need.

### How do they work?

It's a bit like a triage service at a  
hospital where you are assessed to  
see if you need a doctor or a nurse.  
We'll listen to you, so we can work  
out what help you need. We can  
talk you through the options for this,  
set you up on our system, arrange  
for an adviser to call you back for an  
advice session, arrange a face to face  
appointment or point you in the right  
direction for any additional help.

### Can you give full advice at these sessions?

There isn't always time to give full  
advice, which could take 20-40  
minutes and you might need to bring  
extra paper work or documents. If it's  
not too busy, we will do what we can  
to help you move forward with your  
problem, but we wouldn't have time,

for instance, to help with applying  
for benefits, so we would need to  
make an appointment for this.

### What if I want face to face advice?

We can arrange that, if it's the  
best way to help you. We can  
see you at the Manor House, or  
another venue in East Herts such  
as Bishop's Stortford Library.

### What kinds of issues do people come to you with?

In the last year, we've seen 99  
people at the Manor House, with a  
massive range of issues including  
problem debt, housing problems,  
child access issues, consumer  
issues and scams. No problem is too  
big or too small – if we can't help,  
we will find someone who can.

### What should I do if I have an urgent problem?

Our Message Line on 01920 459  
944 is always the fastest way to  
get in touch. We try to get back to  
messages within 24 hours, although  
we are closed at weekends. If you  
miss our call back, our advisers will  
try two more times to get in touch,  
we really want to make sure you get  
the help you need. During opening  
hours (10am to 4pm) the Message  
Line has an option to speak with an  
adviser straight away if you prefer.

Or you can visit our website:  
**[citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk](http://citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk)**  
where you can find lots of  
useful links to information that  
might help with your problem.



# Parish Services May 2025

Benefice of: Little Hadham | Much Hadham | Albury

	Easter 3 <b>4th May</b>	Easter 4 <b>11th May</b>	Easter 5 <b>18th May</b>	Easter 6 <b>25th May</b>
<b>St Andrew's</b> Much Hadham			9:15am <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> <i>Tayo</i>	
<b>St Cecilia's</b> Little Hadham	9:15am <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> <i>Tayo</i>			9:15am <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> <i>Tayo</i>
<b>St Mary's</b> Albury		9:15am <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> <i>Tayo</i>		

## OTHER SERVICES:

Thursday 22nd May	10am	Little Hadham Communion	<i>Tayo</i>
Thursday 29th May	7:30pm	Ascension Day Benefice Holy Communion	<i>Tayo</i>

## 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**