

LITTLE HADHAM PARISH NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025



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

Letter from the Rectory

Embracing The Rhythm Of The Seasons

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Has Autumn made a bold entrance into your life this year sweeping in briskly, bringing with it a sudden chill and the unmistakable scent of the season? Or has it arrived more gently, slipping in with soft mornings, cooler evenings, and a scattering of golden leaves along your path before you even realised?

However, it comes, one thing is certain: Autumn always arrives. With it comes a gentle reminder that our lives move in rhythms as shaped by God, the Master architect of creation. As the crowning work of His hands, each of us experiences this seasonal shift in our own way. For some, it brings the challenge of darker nights and shorter days; for others, it is a welcome invitation to don cosy jumpers, savour warm drinks, and slow our pace.

But have you ever wondered how the trees respond to this season? Though they cannot speak with words, their vibrant colours tell a story. The trees do not resist change or cling stubbornly to what must go. Instead, they turn golden with grace, release what they no longer need, and settle into a period of rest; a beautiful lesson in wisdom.

This season, creation preaches a quiet sermon: there is beauty in letting go. As the church prepares to enter

Advent—the season of anticipation, we are reminded by the trees that shedding is not loss, but preparation for the new or renewal. By releasing their leaves, trees make space for new growth when spring returns. In much the same way, we too are invited to release old worries, heavy burdens, and all that does not serve us well, trusting that God will bring new life in His time.

In the rustle of leaves and the softened light of shorter days, there is a gentle whisper from heaven: Slow down. Release. Breathe deeply. Notice the beauty that surrounds you and the beauty that dwells within. Embrace God's rhythm for renewal.

Let us raise a toast to change, to the quiet courage of the trees, to the peace that comes from trusting God's seasons, and to the sacred art of making peace with change.

There are some mind-blowing pictures of autumn. Would you want to send me some? Please send them to revdtayoreplies@outlook.com



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

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



From the Registers of St. Cecilia's Church, Little Hadham

There are no entries from the register this month.

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.

So if you run a business or service and would like to invest in your local magazine and reach over 500 homes each month with your product or service, we'd love to hear from you.

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.

Harvest Festival at St Cecilia's Church

Helen Walker

We celebrated Harvest Festival at St Cecilia's Church on Sunday 12th October and were pleased to welcome both familiar faces and some first-time visitors. It was a special time to give thanks for all the good things in our lives as well as to spare a thought for those around the world who are less fortunate.

Thank you to all who gave up their time in the preceding days to make the Church look glorious in splendid autumn tones, not only with flowers but fruit, conkers, pine-cones and even a loaf of home-baked bread!

A special 'Thank You' goes to TESCO at Bishops Park for supplying the wonderfully styled corn sheaves made from bread, which have become a regular Harvest Festival feature at St. Cecilia's, taking pride of place at the nave altar.

Little Hadham Brownies had a lot of fun creating their beautiful autumn display in their usual window and we are already looking forward to when they return to the Church to decorate the window space for Christmas.

After the service, refreshments of sausage rolls and mini apple pies were enjoyed by all!

All the generous donations of tinned and packet food have been distributed to food banks in Bishops Stortford.



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Little Hadham Parish Council

Carole Page

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

4th November

2nd December

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

Little Hadham Parish Council – Live Streaming

At the October Parish Council meeting we trialled live streaming. Two residents logged into a zoom meeting and were able to take part in the meeting. The object of the streaming is for the meeting proceedings to be viewed by people at home and to make the Parish Council meetings more accessible.

What needs doing in Little Hadham to improve our village

A resident at the Parish Council meeting offered these suggestions:

1. Distribute a leaflet providing successes in our village.
2. A suggestion sheet for people to give their ideas to be in the Village Hall and on the Parish Council website.
3. Do we want another HadFest?

East Herts Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

Public Consultation – Cllr Williamson responded and can tell what he knows. Joint initiative cc and eh. Designed to improve walking and cycling routes across parts of the district in order to encourage active travel. The project has been

ongoing for 2-3 years. Focused on larger towns and larger villages, so Little Hadham is not included in the schemes. The public consultation ends in November. The County Council has arranged for stalls on dates at venues across the district where the public can engage. Action: clerk to find out when the Bishops Stortford meeting is rescheduled.

Citizen Advice Bureau

– asked for a contribution. The CAB provided the stats for Little Hadham over the last year as being impressive, given the small population.

1. we advised 18 people from a population of 1,200 which is 1.5 % of the population
2. we dealt with a total of 71 issues (3.9 issues/client)
3. the top three issues were benefits (31) debt (9) housing (9)
4. we achieved financial gains for Little Hadham residents of £19,058

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

The growing season is ending for most veg this year. If you'd like to try your hand at growing please email CouncillorCarolynWestlake@littlehadham-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 5th November

Wednesday 3rd December

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.

Carole Page
clerk@littlehadham-pc.gov.uk

clerklittlehadhamgmail.com | 01920 870 809 | 07825 011 975

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LITTLE HADHAM Neighbourhood Plan

Exciting News:

Launch of the new Little Hadham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group!

We are delighted to announce the formation of a new **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group** for our parish. This group, made up of 8 local residents—including 2 parish councillors—has begun the important work of developing a Neighbourhood Plan to help shape the future of our community.

The Parish Council is fully committed to this initiative and will support the steering group in every way possible. Over the coming months, we will be reaching out to as many residents as we can through public meetings, surveys, and other forms of engagement. Your input will be vital in ensuring the plan reflects the needs and aspirations of everyone in our parish.

If you would like to get involved, share your views, or even join the steering group, we warmly invite you to contact the chair of the steering group, Councillor Mark Moore at cllrmarmore@littlehadham-pc.gov.uk

We look forward to working together to create a plan that benefits us all.

**Your voice matters—
please get in touch!**

How could the new Neighbourhood Plan shape our community's future?

The Neighbourhood Plan will play a pivotal role in shaping our community's future by ensuring that local voices directly influence how our area develops in the years ahead. Here's how the group will make a difference:

- **Community-Led Vision:** The steering group, made up of local residents and parish councillors, will lead the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan that reflects the unique needs and aspirations of our community, rather than decisions being made solely by the district council's planning department.
- **Statutory Influence on Development:** Once adopted, the Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory development plan for our area. This means planning authorities and inspectors must consider its policies when deciding on planning applications, giving our community real influence over what gets built, where, and how.

- **Setting Local Priorities:** The plan can specify what types of development are needed—such as affordable housing, improved infrastructure, or better public spaces—and where these should be located. It can also set design standards and identify priorities for things like pedestrian links, open spaces, and community facilities.
- **Wider Engagement and Representation:** The steering group is tasked with engaging as many residents, businesses, and local organisations as possible, using public meetings, surveys, and other outreach methods. This ensures the plan is genuinely representative and that everyone has a chance to contribute ideas and feedback.
- **Ongoing Dialogue and Accountability:** The group will maintain regular communication with the parish council and the wider community, reporting on progress and ensuring transparency. It will also act as a forum for discussion, help resolve conflicts, and keep the project on track.

In summary, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group aims to give our community the tools and authority to shape its own future—by setting out a clear, shared vision and ensuring that any future development meets our collective needs and values.



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Down at the Doctors

Andrew Wilkinson, Practice Manager

www.muchhadhamhealthcentre.co.uk



A big thank you to everyone who attended the flu clinic at Little Hadham Village Hall on 4 October. It was wonderful to see so many of our patients, and I am grateful to the doctors and nursing team for their hard work on the day.

In just three hours, we vaccinated 948 patients, with some also receiving the "golden ticket" of a pneumococcal vaccination where eligible.

As we prepare for the COVID-19 vaccination clinic this Saturday at the same venue, we are looking forward to welcoming our patients aged 75 and over for their seasonal protection.

A special mention must go to our fantastic car park team — Bob and Kay Kerr, Paul Barnes, and Hugh Labram — who ensured everyone arrived and left safely.

On 23 September 2025, the DHSC and NHS England introduced a new initiative called Jess's Rule.

Jess's Rule encourages GP teams to review a diagnosis if a patient presents three times with the same or worsening symptoms, or if their treatment plan is not working.

This rule is named in memory of Jessica Brady, who sadly passed away from cancer in 2020 at the age of 27. Despite having over 20 consultations in the months before her death, her cancer was not diagnosed.

What Jess's Rule means:

Re-checking symptoms: If you return three times with the same or worsening concerns, your GP team will review your diagnosis.

Better safety: It reduces the risk of serious conditions, like cancer or sepsis, being missed.

Listening carefully: Your concerns matter — you are the expert in your own body.

You can read more here: www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/jesss-rule-three-strikes-and-we-rethink/

At our practice, we already make time to discuss complex or ongoing cases in our clinical meetings. Sharing knowledge and experience across our team helps us to provide the safest and best possible care — Jess's Rule reinforces the importance of this approach across the NHS.

Best wishes

Andrew

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In Perfect Harmony: Ware Choral Society & Wood Bros

When Ware Choral Society musical director, Rosie Howarth, visited the showrooms of Wood Bros (Furniture) Ltd recently she was genuinely surprised by how responsive inanimate furniture could be to her persuasion! All a bit of fun, of course, but symbolic of the fusion

between the worlds of furniture production and choral music represented by the sponsorship agreement between WCS and Wood Bros made last month.

The benefit to the choir is fairly obvious. Putting on concerts with professional soloists and orchestras is an expensive business, and in balancing the books there is only so much that can be asked of audiences and members in ticket prices and subscriptions. The financial contribution that a commercial family company is able to make can make the difference between performances that get by and those so good they can change lives.

For Wood Bros, the benefits are also clear. It promotes their large and



inspirational Ware showroom as well as raising the company profile to a wider audience. Their reputation has been built up by producing furniture and upholstery of the highest quality since 1924, but making really good furniture is about more than technical and material excellence – it's about craftsmanship, and is a life-enhancing product. By showing they want to be associated with an organisation that seeks to bring joy and inspiration to the local community, Wood Bros are looking to emphasise their wish to be part of that community, and the difference that beautiful furniture can make to the lives of people using it.

So there we have it: Wood Bros and Ware Choral Society – bringing life to furniture, and furniture to life!

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Little Hadham Gardening Club

Anne Willett

Our next meeting is our **Christmas Wreath Workshop on Tuesday 25th November**. Please contact a committee member for more information. This is followed by our **Club Supper on Saturday 29th November** in Little Hadham Village Hall. Doors open 7pm with sit down at 7.30pm. Cost is £20 per person including wine and soft drinks. Menu this year is:- Mains - Chicken Supreme or Beef Lasagne or Mild Vegetable Curry with Dessert of Lemon Meringue Pie or Mixed Berry Cheesecake or Fruit. Please contact a committee member to book your place.

Top Plants for Autumn Colour



Amelanchier trees are beautiful, small trees that are attractive in all seasons. In March, the branches have star-shaped flowers, just as the coppery pink young leaves unfold. In July, the trees are studded with dark red berries. In autumn, the yellowish-green leaves turn scarlet and crimson.

Most **Asters** (now called Symphyotrichum) flower in late summer and autumn, bringing



welcome late colour to borders. Symphyotrichum (Little Carlow) is one of the best, producing vibrant, light purple flowers. Plant in a sunny, airy position to ensure maximum flowering. After flowering, cut back hard.



Known as the **Beautyberry**, **Callicarpa bodinieri var. giraldi 'Profusion'** produces large clusters of stunning and unusual purple berries in mid-autumn, overlapping with the golden purple leaf tints and then lingering after leaf-fall.

Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy' is a multi-stemmed tree with purple, heart-shaped leaves which turn a dramatic yellow in autumn. Its deep crimson, pink or sometimes white pea-like flowers give a dramatic spring display before new leaves appear.



Autumn Crocuses (Colchicum) flower in September and October. The large blooms suddenly appear from bare earth without any leaves – hence the common

name, naked ladies. Colchicum 'Waterlily' has striking, double flowers with pinkish purple petals.



With colourful fruits and foliage, crab apples look wonderful in autumn. **Malus 'Evereste'** is flushed with red-flushed, orange-yellow fruits in autumn that complement the orange-yellow leaves. It is an excellent tree for smaller gardens, with a pleasant conical shape.

Most **Nerines** are tender greenhouse bulbs, but Nerine bowdenii can be



grown outdoors in a warm, sunny border backed by the shelter of a wall. They will reward you with a late display of lipstick-pink flowers.



In autumn the foliage of **Acer Palmatum** turns red, orange and yellow. Grow in a prominent spot with shelter from both late frosts

and hot sunshine. The best colour is produced on neutral to acid soil.

Other plants good for colour:-

Dahlias will continue to flower until the first frosts, if regularly deadheaded and fed

Euonymus europaeus turns a spectacular shade of red before the leaves fall

Euonymus alatus also turns a beautiful crimson in autumn

Chrysanthemums flower well into autumn and are excellent for cutting

Ornamental grasses are at their best in autumn, and combine well with all kinds of perennials and shrubs

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Nikki & Louise

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From Conkers to Cauldrons: Autumn Adventures down in the woods!

October has been bursting with activity at Woodland Rangers, where we've been making the most of a mast year - nature has gifted us an abundance of conkers, seeds, and acorns. These treasures have fuelled imaginative play and crafts, while still leaving plenty for wildlife to enjoy.

Children have delighted in crafting conker soap by boiling and whisking conkers into a frothy, natural cleanser. Giant marble runs made from tubes and pipes sent conkers and acorns racing through the forest, while drilled conkers transformed into spiders and woodland creatures. Our Home Ed group even engineered mini vehicles with conker wheels!

At Little Hadham Primary School, the after-school club explored nature's lifecycle by potting conkers and acorns, hoping to grow their own trees.

Diwali was joyfully celebrated with vibrant chalk rangoli patterns, clay Diya lamps, and magical coloured flames in the fire.

Making the most of this year's apple bounty, Home Ed children enjoyed caramelising apples over the fire, creating a sweet, sticky treat perfect for chilly woodland mornings.



Little Hadham Village Hall News

Joan McKinlay

www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com

The weekly and monthly activities organised by our management committee and volunteers have been in full swing since returning in September and we are delighted to say that they are doing well and are generously supported. As always, none of these events or activities would be possible without our hard-working volunteers. To demonstrate how committed they are to the village hall community a new Events Committee was created over the summer to hear new ideas and help support the ever increasing running costs of the village hall. The first event organised by this committee was a Bingo evening held on Monday 6th October. This was a popular event and hosted more than 40 people. Thank you to everyone who came along and thank you too, to those who donated raffle prizes. Some events are not intended to raise a lot of money for the hall as it is equally important for people just to enjoy a good night out. If you enjoyed yourself and would like to come again or missed out last time, **Bingo is back on Monday evening 3rd November and Monday afternoon on 1st December.** Please reserve your places online via our website to guarantee your attendance. Entry payment taken at the door.

It helps us enormously to know how many people to expect to our events and this particularly important for catering for our community breakfast. Please book online via our website and if you want to sit in a friendship group, please nominate one person to book on your behalf so you can sit together. One of the aims of our monthly community breakfast is to enable people to feel comfortable coming on their own, make new connections and enjoy the friendly atmosphere created by you all.



MONDAY (EVENING)
3RD NOVEMBER
2025
7.00pm to 9.00pm

Bring your friends and family.
Have fun playing bingo and winning prizes.
£8 per person (Pay on the Door - Cash/Card)
Includes Welcome Drink & Nibbles
Licenced Bar



MONDAY (AFTERNOON)
1ST DECEMBER
2025
2.00pm to 4.00pm

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Both dates available to book:
www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com/What's On
LITTLE HADHAM VILLAGE HALL
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SG11 2BP

Bingo Evening: Monday 3rd November - 7pm

Gather up your family and friends and have a fun night out at our Bingo Evening on Monday 3rd November between 7pm and 9pm.

Cost is £8 per person (Please note that as a charity we are unable to issue cash prizes). Bar available for wine, beer and non-alcoholic drinks. Spaces available to book online via our website Select What's On from menu – then select Events) or email: judithwheeler1@aol.com

'Love to Sing' – Singing just for fun!

'Love to Sing' will be held on the first, third and last Thursday of the month between 10am and 11am in the Elm Room. Cost is just £7 per session, pay as you go. To express your interest, please contact

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Hands on Sourdough – Dates available in November

Led by Ella Bisschoff, you are invited to join her for a 'Hands on Sourdough' session. Cost is just £5 to cover ingredients. Book via the village hall website or phone Ella M: 07970 249 787.

Red Chair Community (Afternoon) Cinema

Red Chair Community Cinema presents a programme of recent film releases. Please see our website for further dates and titles.

Monday 17th November: The Salt Path (2025) Cert 12A

Entry is £5 per person.

Refreshments available to purchase.

Doors open: 2pm Film starts: 2.30pm.
No need to book, just turn up.

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

Looking for a volunteer opportunity?

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

Contact Joan McKinlay M: 07789 098 071 - Email: vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com



Red Chair (Afternoon) Community Cinema
Little Hadham Village Hall SG11 2BP

Monday 17th November 2025
The Salt Path (2025)

Drama Cert: 12A
Runtime: 1 hrs 55 mins

Entry £5 - Pay on the Door

Doors Open: 2.00pm - Film Starts: 2.30pm
Refreshments available to purchase from the bar.



www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com

What's On in November @ 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

Brownies	5.30pm to 7pm	Cassey	Email: littlehadhambrownies@gmail.com
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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	
Tai Chi & Qi Gong	7.30 - 8.30pm	Sarah Baker	M: 07740 701102	

THURSDAY'S

Love to Sing	10am - 11am	6 th //20 th /27 th	Jenny M: 07823 884445	COST: £7
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	Phone M: 07585 309933
LH Bowls Club	7.30pm - 10pm	Annette Luedtke	Email: annetteluedtke@gmail.com

FORTNIGHTLY

Scrabble	2pm - 4.30pm	Drop in: Tuesday 4 th / 18 th November	COST: £3
Darts & Games Soc.	2pm - 4.30pm	Drop in: Tuesday 11 th / 25 th November	COST: £3

MONTHLY - Please see website for full details

LH Ramblers	10am at LHVH	Drop in: Weds 5 th November (allow 2hrs)	FREE
Community Breakfast	10am - 12pm	Book via website: Thursday 13 th November	DONATIONS

Bereavement Group every third Tuesday of the month from 10am -12.15pm.

By appointment only Jan H: 01279 771272

OTHER - Please see website for full details

Bingo Evening	7pm - 9pm	Book via website: Monday 3 rd Nov	Tickets £8
Red Chair Afternoon Cinema	Doors Open:	Drop in: Monday 17 th November	Entry £5
The Salt Path (2025) Cert 12A	2pm	Refreshments available to purchase	
Hands on Sourdough	9am -11.30am	Book via website: Thursday 27 th Nov	COST: £5

See website menu for full details of 'What's On': www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com

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

NOTICEBOARD

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REMEMBER TO SEND US YOUR CHRISTMAS MESSAGES FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE!

**We'll put them here on the noticeboard for all your friends
and family in the village to see.**

Send your messages to us at: littlehadhampn@gmail.com

Must arrive by 15th November.

**Donations to support your local magazine
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£10 but anything is appreciated.) Printing
costs have more than doubled in the last
decade but we still very much want to
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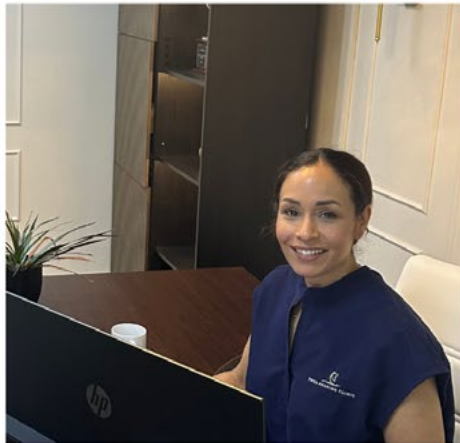
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St Cecilia's Church Bells

Quasi

St Cecilia's Church in Little Hadham has 6 bells in its tower. The number of bells vary from tower to tower. In the Hertfordshire area we have the following:-

12 Bells in Bishop's Stortford

8 Bells in Aspenden, Braughing, Hunsdon, Much Hadham, Sawbridgeworth, Ware.

6 Bells in Albury, Anstey, Brent Pelham, Furneux Pelham, Great Hormead, Great Musden, Little Hadham, Little Munden, Stansdon, Thorley, Westmill, Widford.

3 Bells in Eastwick, Sacombe

The number of bells in a tower determines what sort of 'methods' (- music) can be played. The methods have names and follow with the following, which informs the ringer how many bells are include for example Plain Bob can be Plain Bob Doubles or Plain Bob Triples.

Minimus - means 4 bells are changing places.

Doubles - means 5 bells are changing places.

Minor - means 6 bells are changing places.

Triples - means 7 bells are changing places.

Major - means 8 bells are changing places.

If you want to give bell ringing a go and keep the tradition going, go to <http://riverashchurches.org.uk/river-ash-churches-bellringers> for information.

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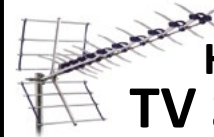
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The Hundred Parishes Society

Ken McDonald

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



On a fine September day, I caught an early train to Ware before tackling the longest walk on the Society's website. Station Walk number 18 covers 17 miles (28 kilometres) between Ware Station and Stansted Mountfitchet Station. Although I walk regularly, it was some years since I last covered that distance in a day so I carried a mobile phone just in case. An advantage of this route is that it heads north for several miles and then turns east, so for much of the way the sun is behind to give the best views. After leaving Ware, the route is all in lovely countryside, passing through eight of our hundred parishes: Wareside, Standon, Thundridge, Braughing and Albury in Hertfordshire and then Farnham, Manuden and Stansted Mountfitchet in Essex. Through these parishes, only Standon and Stansted contributed much more than the occasional farmhouse. They, along with Gravesend in Albury, also offered opportunities for refreshment. The route follows a series of good paths and tracks, rising and falling between river valleys. It passes over the River Lea just after the start, spends several miles along the Rib valley, and crosses the Ash and the Stort. The journey crosses the Greenwich Meridian, the original route of Roman Stane Street and the former Buntingford railway line. It passes

beside Barwick Ford, Standon Lordship, Patmore Heath and Stansted Windmill and there are sightings of distant churches, water towers and much more. But the best views are of unspoilt, rolling countryside and occasional wildlife.

I completed the walk, accompanied for the last 6 miles by my wife Janice after lunch in Gravesend. Altogether, a most enjoyable day – and the legs only ached a bit for the next few days! Having completed this challenge, I can return to the many shorter routes on our website.



Stansted Mountfitchet windmill.



Thundridge - ford and footbridge over the Rib.



Knights Court in Standon.



Near Latchford in Standon parish.



Chatter End, Farnham.



Stansted Mountfitchet - Hole Farm.



Patmore Heath in Albury.



Harcamlow Way, north of Standon.



East of Patmore Heath, Albury.

Ask us a Question...

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After last winter, I'm really worried about falling behind on my energy bills again as we head into the colder months. We're careful about what we use but with small children it's hard. What can I do if I'm struggling to keep up with payments?

It's understandable to feel anxious about energy bills at this time of year. If you're struggling to afford your bills, it's important to act quickly; support is available and there are things you can do to ensure you're not overpaying.

The first thing is to contact your energy supplier - they're responsible for helping you come to a solution, like setting up an affordable repayment plan if you've fallen behind.

Energy bills can go up and down for many reasons, and if you think your bills don't look right, you should check to see if they're based on accurate readings. You might be getting estimated bills if your smart meter has stopped automatically sending readings, or if you have a non-smart meter and haven't sent a reading for a while.

If you see the word "estimated" or the letter "E" next to the readings on your latest bill, that means it's estimated. If this is the case, submit an up-to-date reading to get an accurate bill. A working smart meter does this for you, so if you have one and suspect it's not automatically sending readings, or if you'd like to get one installed, then speak to your supplier.

To help make your home easier and cheaper to heat, you might be able to apply for support with the cost of energy efficiency upgrades like insulation, a new boiler or a heat pump. Schemes like the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme or Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS) are run by energy suppliers and local councils. There are details of schemes available locally on the East Herts Council website at www.eastherts.gov.uk/community-and-health/environmental-sustainability/home-

and-business-grants-schemes-and-advice

We can help with vouchers and grants to help you pay your energy bills. These are usually for emergency situations, like if you've lost your job and can't afford to top up your meter. We can then help you to find a long-term solution such as increasing your income, reducing costs, or resolving debt issues. If you're behind on your energy bills, there are grants available and you'll need to work with us to get advice on your overall debt situation in order to access these.

There is more information on the Citizens Advice website at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-help-paying-your-bills/grants-and-benefits-to-help-you-pay-your-energy-bills/.

If you need extra non-financial help - for example, because you're disabled or of state pension age - you can apply for support from your supplier through the Priority Services Register (PSR). Being on the register means your supplier can take readings for you if you struggle with this and there's no one else who can do it for you, and ensures your bills are in a format you can understand. The supplier will also be more sympathetic if you get behind with your energy bills. See the full list of eligibility criteria and how to sign up on the PSR website here www.thepsr.co.uk/.

Remember, you don't have to face this alone. If you're struggling to afford your energy bills, take a look at our East Herts website at www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/utility-bills-warm-homes/ and download our Cost Saving Tips from www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/documents/CAEH-Cost-Saving-Tips-v8.pdf for ideas on how to save money and improve your home's energy efficiency.

For energy support or any other advice, call our Message Line 01920 459 944 or visit citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk for our advice options.

What's on at the Venue Hub

at Much Hadham Bowls Club

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

Our CABARET evening on Saturday, 4th October was a great success, GOOD ENTERTAINMENT - GREAT FOOD.

Next up:-

Friday 31 Oct - it's HALLOWEEN

dress the part (optional) for a fun evening Tony B is host and DJ Tasty hot food - bar opens 6.30pm Free drink for the best dressed

£12.50 pp

Sunday 9 Nov - AFTERNOON BEETLE DRIVE

if you have never been, they are great fun. Food included Peter Reed is the MC

£7.50 pp

Sunday 30 Nov Lift those winter blues

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Sat. 6 Dec - AN EVENING OF FINE DINING

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In November, with the gate shut to visitors, our volunteers enjoy the last autumn colours and the low rays of sunshine, which make the trees and structures shine out and bring some warmth to the Italian Garden and walled kitchen garden. There are still a few flowers and fungi, and we keep an eye out for the many signs of the birds, hares, badgers and deer that consider the Gardens as their home. We start working through the planned list of autumn/winter jobs and take joy from imagining how they will secure the Gardens' splendour and improve them for next season.

Away from the Gardens, our Archivists have their own winter jobs. They have plans to scan more of the historic photos we hold, with a view to producing albums that visitors can browse. They also plan to do further research on the last Viscount Maynard's management of his estate -

you can spot many of the houses he had built for local people, because of their M or Stag badges. We are keen to find out to what extent his approach provided a model for his granddaughter, when she took responsibility for the management of the estate and as the Countess of Warwick. We Trustees will be working on plans for future conservation projects. And volunteer, Gary, will deliver talks about the Countess of Warwick and her Gardens to local groups - if you wish to arrange for a talk, please contact us through the website or through the enquiries line: 01371 876 979.



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The Hadhams History Society Meeting for September was cancelled due to a very important meeting that was being held by the Parish Council on proposed housing developments in Much Hadham.

Our November Meeting will be held in Much Hadham Village Hall at 8pm when Stephen Ruff will be coming along to give a talk on "The Buntingford Line".

I still have one or two books for sale written by Martin Adams "The Names on Much Hadham War Memorial".

New Members are always welcome to join us - you will be made very welcome. If anyone would like further details of meetings/programme please do not hesitate to get in touch with me katieh69@btinternet.com.

Hadham Cross Congregational Church

PREACHERS FOR SERVICES AT 11am

2nd Nov	Tim Wells	Wormley Church
9th Nov	Mike Hillyer	Oakwood Chapel Harlow
18th Nov	Roger Amos	Sawbridgeworth Congregational Church
23rd Nov	Sam Pakala	Oakwood Chapel Harlow
30th Nov	John Fosker	Therfield Congregational Church

Our next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on **Wednesday 12th November** 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 27th November** 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.

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BUNTINGFORD REPAIR CAFE

Sue Nicholls

First event a great success!!

We held our first ever Buntingford Repair Café at the Seth Ward Community Centre, in Buntingford on 27 September which was opened by our hugely supportive MP, Chris Hinchliff. He spent time learning how the café will help people retain their items rather than sending them to landfill and having to buy new.

We are immensely grateful to all our volunteers, including our dedicated and knowledgeable repairers who were able to mend electrical items ranging from kettles to vacuum cleaners as well as old items brought out of the loft and made fit for purpose again. Our skilful seamstresses put back together beloved clothing and our blade sharpener made tools as good as new. In all, we managed to fix twenty four items on the day and advise others whether a spare part was required or the item was indeed beyond repair.

A café wouldn't be a café without tea and cake, and there was plenty of delicious homemade cake available served by friendly volunteers. We extend our thanks to them as well as all our bakers.

All in all, it was a hugely enjoyable community event which brought people together and served a practical purpose. We are grateful to Buntingford Town Council for their generous initial grant that helped us set up our first event.

We will return to Seth Ward Community Centre on **24 January 2026** for our next Repair Café. So have a root around your home for those items you keep meaning to get fixed or were destined for landfill and bring them along.



Can't wait until then? Braughing Repair Café are hosting their next event on **Saturday 8 November**. Visit www.buytickets.at/braughingrepaircafe to book your items in for free or email braughingrepaircafe@gmail.com



If you are interested in volunteering at our next event or would like more information, contact us at repaircafebuntingford@gmail.com. Visit our Buntingford Repair Cafe Facebook page for news and information.



Parish Services November 2025

Benefice of: Little Hadham | Much Hadham | Albury

Date	Day	Church	Service / Event	Clergy	Time
02-Nov	Sunday	St Cecilia's Little Hadham	4 Before Advent	Revd Tayo	9.15am
02-Nov	Sunday	St Andrew's Much Hadham	Said Eucharist	Revd Tayo	5 - 5.30pm
09-Nov	Sunday	St Mary's Albury	Remembrance Sunday	Revd Tayo	9.15am
09-Nov	Sunday	All Churches	War Memorial Service		10.50am
16-Nov	Sunday	St Andrew's Much Hadham	2 Before Advent	Revd Tayo	9.15am
16-Nov	Sunday	St Andrew's Much Hadham	Said Eucharist (High Church)	Revd Tayo	5 - 5.30pm
23-Nov	Sunday	St Cecilia's Little Hadham	Christ The King	Revd Tayo	9.15am
27-Nov	Thursday	St Andrew's School Much Hadham	St Andrew's Day	Revd Tayo	9.30am
27-Nov	Thursday	St Cecilia's Little Hadham	NO Midweek BCP	Revd Tayo	10am
30-Nov	Sunday	St Thomas' Perry Green	Advent Sunday	Revd Tayo	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



All are welcome to join our services