



# LITTLE HADHAM PARISH NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH ST CECILIA'S**

**Sunday 14th December CAROL SERVICE - 6pm**

**Sunday 21st December ADVENT 4 - 9:15am**

**Wednesday 24th December CHRISTINGLE - 6pm**

# Letter from the Rectory

## The Lonely Tree

I took this photograph during a recent walk with a friend. At first, I simply admired the beauty of the scene but later, viewing it on my computer, it spoke to me in a new way. Does it say anything to you? Please share your thoughts.



One tree stands apart from a nearby cluster, with a few shrubs growing at its base. The shrubs remind me of people who pass through our lives, present for a purpose and a fixed time. They are not companions.

Across the field, other trees stand together, their branches overlapping, sharing shelter and strength.

A simple picture of life: some are surrounded by warmth and companionship, whilst others stand quietly alone.

As Christmas approaches, I find myself thinking of that solitary tree. While many are wrapped in celebration, some face the season in undesirable silence.

Even in villages, where everyone knows each other's names and stories, loneliness can take root.

Perhaps this year, we can bridge that gap across the field. A word, a visit, a shared cup of tea or coffee. Small gestures, yet they remind someone they are not forgotten.

Let's share our blessings and make sure no one stands alone this Christmas.

*Revd T.*

## LITTLE HADHAM PARISH NEWS

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

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

## EDITORIAL DEADLINE

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

(BACS preferred, email the editor for details.)

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

View the Parish News Online including back issues: [www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk/parish\\_news.html](http://www.littlehadham-pc.gov.uk/parish_news.html)



**From the Registers of St. Cecilia's Church, 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](mailto: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.



# Toys at Christmas

Share Joy, Make a Difference!

There will be a collection of toys at Christmas time again this year which are distributed to local children in need.

Toys can be left at the back of St Cecilia's Church, to the left of the font. The Church is open during the day. The toys will be collected on the afternoon of **Friday 12th December**. Toys should please be new or in nearly new condition and ready to distribute.

Thank you very much. James (Williams)(01279 842 805 - please contact James with any queries)



## Alan White 16th June 1948 — 30th October 2025

His father, Percy, was born in Little Hadham, his mother, Maud, had moved to the area to become a land army girl during the war. They moved to Boundsfield, Cradle End, where Alan and his sister, Janet, were born. Alan always had a smile and time for a chat. He will be missed.



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)

## Down at the Doctors

Andrew Wilkinson, Practice Manager

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



## Time to Man Up

Let's talk about something most men would rather avoid — the prostate. It is a small gland that can cause big problems if cancer develops, yet a quick check could make all the difference.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the UK, with 1 in 8 men diagnosed in their lifetime. But not every man needs a test straight away — what matters is knowing the symptoms and when to get checked.

Possible warning signs include:

- Needing to wee more often, especially at night
- Difficulty starting or stopping urination
- A weak flow or dribbling
- Feeling like your bladder hasn't emptied properly
- Blood in your urine or semen
- Pain in the lower back, hips, or pelvis

These symptoms don't always mean cancer, often it is just an enlarged (but harmless) prostate — but it's always worth checking.

If your GP thinks a check is needed, it usually starts with a digital rectal examination (DRE) (yes, the famous "glove and finger" moment!) and a PSA blood test. The DRE takes seconds, the PSA test is a blood

sample, and together they can help spot any early warning signs.

Women routinely go through cervical smears and mammograms so us men need to man up! A bit of awkwardness is nothing compared to peace of mind.

If you have symptoms, are over 50, or over 45 with a family history of prostate cancer, talk to one of our GPs here about whether an examination and test might be right for you. A quick chat could save your life — and yes, you can still make jokes about it afterwards!

There will be no article in January, but I will be back with you the following month.

From all the doctors and staff at the Health Centre, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year.

Best wishes,  
Andrew



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We hope you are all well and enjoying this autumnal weather. Here are some of the things Little Hadham Primary has been up to recently!

## Poetry By Heart Celebration

In the week before half term, the whole school was alive with the magic of words as every class took part in our Poetry By Heart celebration. Each class learned, rehearsed, and performed a poem, and what a wonderful showcase of rhythm, expression, and confidence it was!

Learning poetry by heart helps children enjoy the beauty of language, build memory skills, and explore sounds and patterns in words. Performing to an audience also boosts confidence and gives children the chance to share their voices proudly.

There were a few excited nerves on the day, but the children's reflections showed just how much they enjoyed it. Keeley in Beech Class loved the rhythm and the funny ending to her poem, especially saying "elelelephony"! Robin, also in Beech, enjoyed performing a tongue twister with "tangling trunk" actions. Jack from Lime Class said he felt nervous but found the actions helpful, and he loved hearing other classes perform. Louis in Maple Class praised the younger children's version of Miss Polly and said that learning poems by heart means "you always have them with you."

The performances were a joy to watch, and the enthusiasm across the school was infectious. It was clear the children valued both performing and listening, capturing exactly what Poetry By Heart is all about!



## Lest We Forget

On Remembrance Sunday, our School Captains represented Little Hadham Primary with real dignity at the village Service. They laid a

poppy wreath on behalf of the school and demonstrated a depth of respect and maturity that made us all incredibly proud. Their presence was a heartfelt reminder of the importance of honouring those who have served and sacrificed.

Our reflections on remembrance continued throughout the week. During Tuesday's whole-school assembly, the Captains shared The House by the Lake by Thomas Harding — a beautifully illustrated book that helped us explore the themes of conflict, memory, and hope. They then guided the school in a two-minute silence, giving every child and adult the space to pause, reflect, and truly consider the significance of remembrance. It was a powerful, unifying moment for our community.



## Tag Rugby Triumph!

Ten of our brilliant Year 5 and Year 6 pupils represented Little Hadham Primary School at a recent Tag Rugby Festival — and what a performance they delivered! Competing against teams from several local schools, our players won an incredible seven out of seven matches, finishing the festival completely undefeated.

Not only did they showcase impressive skill, teamwork, and determination, but staff from other schools also commented on what fantastic team players they were throughout the day. Their sportsmanship was just as outstanding as their scoreline.

A huge congratulations to all involved — we are incredibly proud of you. With talent and teamwork like this, who knows... we may well have a few future England players in our midst! Watch out, England Rugby Team!

## We Are Now a Silver Rights Respecting School!

We are delighted to share that our school has been awarded the Silver: Rights Aware level of the UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools Award.

This achievement recognises the strong work happening across our school to embed the values of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into everyday learning, behaviour, and school culture. During the recent assessment, our assessor met with staff, governors, parents, and — most importantly — our brilliant children. They spoke confidently

and passionately about their rights and how they apply them in real life. One child summed it up perfectly:

*"Knowing your rights is like a superpower."*

The assessor praised our whole school community for its knowledge, enthusiasm, and commitment to children's rights. She highlighted the way our curriculum encourages empathy, global citizenship, and meaningful conversations about important issues such as equality, the environment, and world events. We are incredibly proud of this achievement and excited to continue our journey as we now work towards the Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award.

This week, Little Hadham Primary celebrated Anti-Bullying Week 2025, with the theme Power for Good. The week began with Odd Socks Day on Monday, celebrating what makes everyone unique. Throughout the week, children took part in activities and discussions about how kindness, empathy, and positive actions can make a difference. They explored ways to address bullying, both in person and online, and how to support others. As an Empathy and Rights Respecting School, we encourage children to understand and care about the feelings of others, reminding everyone that using their power for good helps build a community of respect, kindness, and understanding.

As we head full speed into Christmas mode at Little Hadham Primary, we're bracing ourselves — in the best possible way — for the joyful chaos that the season always brings! From glitter that mysteriously appears everywhere to rehearsals echoing through the corridors, it's a wonderfully busy time of year. We look forward to keeping you updated as the festive fun unfolds and sharing all the memorable moments with our village community.



# Millennium Wood

Rachel Seifert

rachel.seifert@gmail.com

The woods are certainly changed now that we are nearing the end of Autumn. The floor is covered in a carpet of leaves, dotted with the last of the apples which have fallen from the trees. There is still some greenery hanging on, but now it is the underrated shades of brown which are to be appreciated.

The trunks are bared to the elements, silhouetted against the grey, leaving the wood feeling more open and sparse than just a few weeks ago. Though with careful exploring there is still plenty to be found. The trees are full of birds, great and blue tits as well as long tailed tits, and of course the friendly robin who is now looking ready for his season. The squirrels are running around collecting what they can find whilst they can.

But the stars of the show are definitely the fungi that have appeared in the damp and decay of the Autumn. I have to confess I am not up on my fungi species, but something which I am keen to resolve in the coming weeks as the kids are keen to find out their official names! Until that point, we have been relying on our descriptions... There are ones which look like elf mushroom caps, there are the frilly fairy steps, one we have named the 'gruffalo', and a very beautiful snowflake one. There is also a remarkable one which almost looks like miniature deer antlers.

As the weather has suddenly changed and the temperature dropped to what is more typical of this time of year, there will be more changes on the way in the woods as it gets ready for the winter.





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# Little Hadham Gardening Club

Anne Willett

We do not meet in December but the committee would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Please note in your diaries our next meeting will be on **17th February 2026** for our Ploughmans Lunch. Details to follow next month.

## Best Winter Flowering Clematis.

Winter-flowering clematis bring cheer to the garden in the duller months. There are several varieties, with some of the most common and easy to grow being varieties of Mediterranean native *Clematis cirrhosa*, which includes 'Freckles', 'Wisley Cream' and 'Jingle Bells'. These are hardy enough to grow outside in the UK during winter and flower at some point between November and February. These evergreen climbers can be grown through other plants, such as climbing or rambling roses, where they extend the season of colour and interest, flowering when the rose is dormant.

Other winter clematis include *Clematis napaulensis* and *Clematis urophylla* 'Winter Beauty', which are only borderline hardy so need a reliably mild spot.

### How to grow:-

Grow *Clematis cirrhosa* in moist but free-draining soil in a sheltered spot in full sun. Its roots should be

kept as dry as possible in winter, so make sure the soil does not hold water for too long, adding compost or grit if necessary, as this will help to avoid the roots rotting during long periods of cold, wet weather. Tie stems into their support initially, after which they will twine themselves. Cut back lightly after flowering.

Borderline-hardy winter clematis must be planted somewhere mild, and in colder parts of the country may only be viable in a conservatory or greenhouse. Prune lightly after flowering.

### *Clematis Cirrhosa* 'Wisley Cream'



One of the first *Clematis cirrhosa* cultivars, 'Wisley Cream' bears greenish flowers that mature to a creamy white, from November to March.

Height x Spread: 4m x 1.5m



### *Clematis Cirrhosa* 'Jingle Bells'

This Christmas-flowering variety blooms from December through to March, bearing large, creamy-white flowers.

Height x Spread: 5m x 2m

### *Clematis cirrhosa* var. *balearica*



This variety has creamy-white flowers with delicate pink freckles from December to February, with a more subtle effect than the more heavily speckled 'Freckles' variety.

Height x Spread: : 2.5m x 1.5m

### *Clematis x Cartmanii* 'Avalanche'

Flowering in warmer parts of the country from February to April,



*Clematis* 'Avalanche' bears masses of white flowers against a backdrop of dark-green leaves. Unlike varieties of *Clematis cirrhosa*, it thrives in partial shade. Although hardy to -7°C, it may suffer leaf damage in cold winters.

Height x Spread: : 4m x 2m



### *Clematis Napaulensis*

Native to Nepal, *Clematis napaulensis* flowers from November to March. Green buds open to flowers with large, purple stamens. This species needs a reliably mild spot, a greenhouse or well timed protection with fleece, as it is only borderline hardy.

Height x Spread: 3m x 1.5m



# Campanologist Chronicles

Quasi

hadham.bells@gmail.com

[www.riverashchurches.org.uk/river-ash-churches-bellringers](http://www.riverashchurches.org.uk/river-ash-churches-bellringers)

Articles from the BBC and The Telegraph have highlighted the importance of the bell ringing tradition in the UK, the challenges of finding enough volunteers to cover all bell towers, and the social and mental benefits of the craft. Publications such as The Ringing World and the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) are involved in recruiting new members through various initiatives like 'Ringing 2030'

## Why Bell Ringing is in Decline

**Shortage of Ringers;** There are significantly more ringing towers than active ringers in the UK, leading to concerns about church bells falling silent.

**Ageing Membership;** The tradition is facing a demographic challenge, with efforts underway to attract younger people to the craft to ensure its survival.

## Efforts to Revitalise the Tradition

**Recruitment Initiatives;** Beginners are always welcome and have a training plan to map their development.



**Community involvement;** If any community group would like a bell tower visit, please contact us to arrange.

## The Benefits of Bell Ringing

**Social Connection.**

**Mental & Physical Activity.**

**Cultural Heritage;** Church bells are seen (or heard) as an important part of England's sound and cultural heritage, with bell ringing playing a significant role in national celebrations.

**Where to find out more.**

Go to <http://riverashchurches.org.uk/river-ash-churches-bellringers> for information



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## Hibernating Hedgehogs and Towering Trees: A month of outdoor discoveries

November has been a month full of excitement and exploration at Woodland Rangers. We kicked off the half term with Bonfire Night fun. Children made edible sparklers using chocolate, dipped breadsticks and colourful sprinkles, then enjoyed real sparklers safely held in carrots under close adult supervision.

For Remembrance Day, children made poppies using sticks and red wool, taking time to reflect on the meaning behind the day.

As the weather turned colder, we explored how animals survive in winter. Children learned about hibernation and woodland creatures like hedgehogs, building cosy shelters to help them through the chilly months. We also looked at nocturnal animals, discovering which creatures are active while we sleep. Pinecone owls were a big hit, and older children even dissected owl pellets found in the woods to investigate what owls eat.

Nikki & Louise  
www.woodlandrangers.co.uk  
f woodlandrangersuk



During National Tree Week, we turned our attention to the trees around us! Learning how they support the woodland ecosystem and provide homes for wildlife. Children explored bark textures, leaf shapes, and the importance of tree roots.

We've stayed warm with hot chocolate around the campfire and stories under our shelters. With December on the horizon, we're excited for a festive season filled with creativity, community, and Christmas cheer.





# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



# Little Hadham Village Hall News

Joan McKinlay

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



In the lead up to Christmas, our thoughts reflect on the busy year it has been again for all our volunteers and for all those who have come

along to enjoy the many activities and events that we have hosted this year. We started the year with Tea and Bingo in February followed by decorating the hall in March to celebrate Village Halls Week and the work of our volunteers. The highlight of this year must be Afternoon Tea featuring Bishops Stortford Sinfonia held in May. In October, November and December the events committee hosted successful Bingo events and a Darts and Games Social which started in September continues to go from strength to strength with tea and cake a plenty. Our weekly Welcome Café, Digital Inclusion Workshop and monthly Community Breakfast and Red Chair Community Cinema are also continuing to do well, and we are always delighted to see new people coming along to see what their village hall has to offer.

## The Digital Inclusion Workshop

(Held every Wednesday) - If you were ever in doubt whether to come along, this is what one of our attendees had to say.

*'Last week I had a couple of problems, not least that I had opened a spam email! The team were so welcoming, they reassured me and sorted out the issues that I had. What a wonderful service this is for elderly members of the community. A big thank you to Jo, David and Stuart and to your team for arranging this. Also a few months ago David set up a translation app on my phone for me. This enabled me to communicate so*

LITTLE HADHAM VILLAGE HALL - SG11 2BP

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*easily with my French friend, we are both in our eighties and find the language barrier difficult. Because of this amazing technology we have communicated more in the last few months than we have since 1957, when we exchanged our first letters' - Janice Downing.*

Closed for Christmas break 10th December - returns **7th January**



**Bingo Afternoon:**  
**Monday 1st**  
**December - 2pm**

Come and join in the Christmas fun at our Christmas themed Bingo Afternoon. Cost £8 per person. Book 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)

## Welcome Café

The Welcome Café will have a Christmas lunch on **Wednesday 3rd December**. Please book at the café if you wish to have a meal on that day. The following week **Wednesday 10th December** will be the last café opening for the year. The café will re-open on Wednesday 7th January 2026

## Community Breakfast - Thursday 11th December

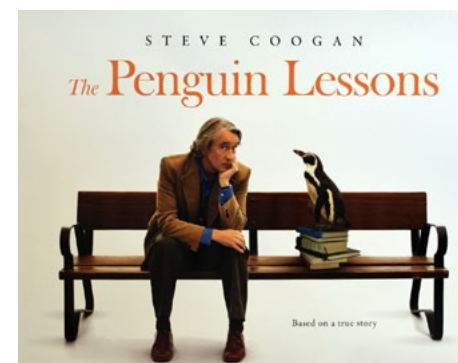
Celebrate Christmas with us at our monthly community breakfast. Christmas menu and choir led by Jenny Salmon. This will be a popular event. Please book online early to avoid disappointment. [www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com/What'sOn/Events](http://www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com/What'sOn/Events) - This event is not grant funded. Your generous cash donations enable the Community Breakfast to keep going.



**Red Chair Community (Afternoon) Cinema**  
**Monday**

**15th December:** The Penguin Lessons (2024) 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.



Since September our Red Chair Community Cinema has presented a programme of monthly afternoon blockbusters with the help of Moviola a non-profit organisation that helps community led venues negotiate affordable film licences for their 310 subscribers. Moviola offer their subscription service without charge which makes accessing recent film releases and the appropriate film licences so much easier for us.

If you haven't experienced our popular afternoon cinema yet, you have missed Mr Burton, Bridget Jones Mad About the Boy and The Salt Path. Our next film screening is The Penguin Lessons on Monday 15th December. We have a range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, tea, coffee and ice creams available before the start of the film and during a fifteen-minute interval. We try to make your cinema experience as authentic as we possibly can. See our website for details.

## 'Keeping you busy and connected during the week

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



## 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 Jenny via email: [jennysalmon123@yahoo.com](mailto:jennysalmon123@yahoo.com) or phone her on: 07823 884 445

## 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

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. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you again in the new year.

Contact Joan McKinlay: **07789 098 071** - [vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com](mailto:vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com)

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**Thursday's 10am to 11am**  
(Excludes second Thursday of the month)

The group chooses their own songs and Jenny will help you bring them to life.... all while laughing and enjoying yourself. You do not need to be able to sing or read music.... You just need to LOVE TO SING!!!

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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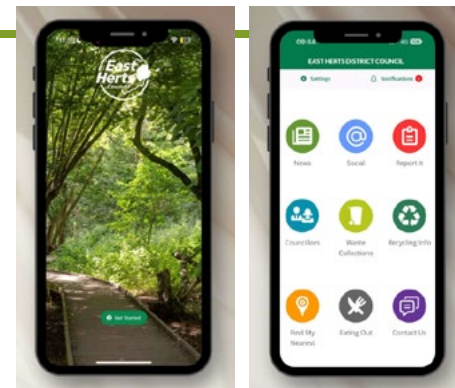
the **humbline**  
graphic design

## Bin update from the District Councillors

Vicky Burt, Sue Nicholls

Every one of us in East Herts has been impacted by the recent changes to our waste collection service. That has meant some inconvenience and adjustment but it's change for a very good reason. We all share a planet with limited resources. We can't carry on simply throwing everything away and the new waste service is designed to encourage us to think about what we chuck, to help us recycle more and waste less.

Early results suggest that it is doing just that. The amount of non-recyclable stuff we bin has fallen by about 43% since July, going from around 4000 tonnes per month to about 2400 tonnes. Paper recycling has jumped from about 100 tonnes to a combined paper/card figure of about 750 tonnes! And together with residents across East and North Herts, our combined food collection is converting around 1000 tonnes of food waste into fertiliser while generating enough electricity to power about 600 homes.



And there's more good news: to help make bin day easier, **East Herts Council has created a free app for smart phones** - available from both the Google Play and Apple App stores. It gives you personalised bin day reminders, a clear guide on what goes into each bin and much more. Just search for "East Herts Council" and hit download. It's a small but practical step that will help households adapt to the new collection system.



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# What's On in December @ LH Village Hall

## 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: <a href="mailto:littlehadhambrownies@gmail.com">littlehadhambrownies@gmail.com</a> |
|----------|---------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## 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 |                  |
| Tai Chi & Qi Gong | 7.30 - 8.30pm  | Sarah Baker                                   | M: 07740 701102 |                  |

## THURSDAY'S

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

## FRIDAY'S

|               |               |                 |                                                                               |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Forever Fit   | 11am - 12pm   | Daisy Osborne   | M: 07585 309933                                                               |
| LH Bowls Club | 7.30pm - 10pm | Annette Luedtke | Email: <a href="mailto:annetteluedtke@gmail.com">annetteluedtke@gmail.com</a> |

## FORTNIGHTLY

|                      |              |                                                                     |                 |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Darts & Games Social | 2pm - 4.30pm | <b>Drop in:</b> Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> / 23 <sup>rd</sup> December | <b>COST: £3</b> |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|

## MONTHLY - Please see website for full details

|                     |              |                                                             |                  |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| LH Ramblers         | 10am at LHVH | <b>Drop in:</b> Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup> December (allow 2hrs)  | <b>FREE</b>      |
| Community Breakfast | 10am - 12pm  | <b>Book via website:</b> Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December | <b>DONATIONS</b> |

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

|                                                                             |                                                                 |                                                                                        |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Christmas Bingo Afternoon</b>                                            | 7pm - 9pm                                                       | <b>Book via website:</b><br>Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec                                 | <b>TICKETS: £8</b> |
| <b>Red Chair Afternoon Cinema</b><br>The Penguin Lessons (2024)<br>Cert 12A | Doors Open 2pm<br><b>Film Starts</b><br><b>Promptly: 2.30pm</b> | <b>Drop in:</b> Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December<br>Refreshments available to purchase | <b>ENTRY: £5</b>   |

Welcome Café & Digital Inclusion Workshop – Closed from 10<sup>th</sup> December – Open again 7<sup>th</sup> January.

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.

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# What's on at the Venue Hub

at Much Hadham Bowls Club

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**Sat 10 Jan**

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The varied events since the  
last Parish magazine:

Sat 18 October was our first  
attempt at combining a quiz  
and bingo evening and it did  
not disappoint. It seemed a  
great combination with many  
requests for a repeat.

Fri 31 October was Halloween and  
most dressed for the occasion.

With some exciting food and  
music via our DJ Tony B, a  
great time was had by all.

Sun 9 Nov. Another first for us  
was an afternoon Beetle Drive.  
Pete Reed was the MC and it was  
great fun, added of course by an  
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# The Hundred Parishes Society

Ken McDonald

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



The Hundred Parishes Society is not a church or religious organisation but we encourage visits to churches because they are often the oldest and most interesting building in any community. Most of our churches are open regularly and welcome visitors. Our website [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) has many short articles, including some about various aspects of churches including bells, clocks, memorials, poppyheads, spires, towers and windows. We recently added an article about church fonts, some of which appears in the next few paragraphs.

Fonts hold holy water which is used to 'baptise' people, an initiation into the Christian faith. They are often situated near the church entrance. Our local churches have a great variety of fonts, usually made of stone. For example . .

St. George's church in Anstey has an 11th-century font that is rare in that it is decorated with mermen (the male equivalent of mythical mermaids) holding their tails.

Thorley church has a 12th-century font. It was removed from the church and for many years was used as a drinking trough on a nearby farm before being reintroduced into the church in 1855. Its ornate cover was designed by George Gilbert Scott, a prolific architect known mainly for his work designing and renovating churches and cathedrals.

Chickney church has a carved stone font from the 14th century. The bowl is lavishly decorated including shields bearing the coats of arms of local Braybrook and Fitzwalter families.

Debden's 18th-century font is made of Coade stone and is richly decorated with roses and heraldry.

Over the last couple of years, I have been giving a talk entitled "A peek inside some Hundred Parishes churches" to local groups. The talk is a PowerPoint presentation with many photos. If your group might be interested, please contact me on [hundredparishes@btinternet.com](mailto:hundredparishes@btinternet.com).



Hatfield Broad Oak



Thorley



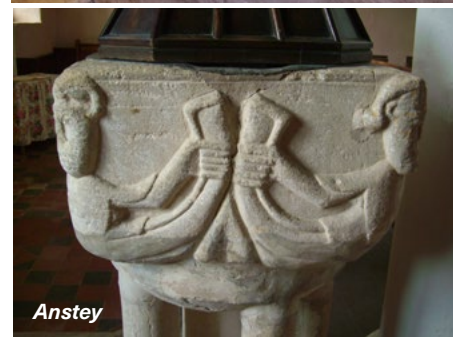
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Citizens Advice East Herts is on a mission to rebuild and expand our face-to-face advice service, which has been significantly reduced since the pandemic. We know that our phone and email service suits many of our clients, particularly those who can't 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 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 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.***



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## THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Jill Goldsmith  
www.eastonlodge.co.uk



and stare. It is parasitic, feeding on the wood-rotting fungi of the Peniophora genus. Legends say it grows on gates/doors of homes, when a witch has cast a spell on the family! We will be looking out for more this year.

So how has the year been at the

December always whizzes away from us at the Gardens ...a couple of weeks of work, when we hope to be tree planting and clearing out beds ready for spring planting, before we hang up our tools for the Christmas season and reflect on all that we have achieved in the year.

Last December, the Gardens were wet...after this year's drought, we hope that we will get lots of rain this month! It has been a fantastic mast autumn, with so many acorns and other tree litter to crunch through as you walk around. The fungi have enjoyed the conditions too. Often they are still bursting through in December, bringing a different colour palette. Last year it was the bright yellow Witch's Butter (*Tremella mesenterica*) which made us stop

Gardens? In a word, it has been rewarding. We have had lovely feedback from visitors, including a group on a Shakespeare tour from the Netherlands, and school groups. We were particularly delighted that a local school walked their children to the Gardens to learn about local world war history and we have had record numbers of children enjoying the Gardens and activities on our Open Sundays. In 2026 the Gardens will be open as usual for snowdrops in February and on Thursdays and one Sunday a month from the beginning of April to the end of October. The dates will be on our website from the end of the year. If you wish to arrange for a group visit or 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 October was a very enjoyable evening. We had a Member's Evening - a number of members gave presentations on their findings from investigating into their family trees and it was surprising what they uncovered. It was a very interesting evening.

There will be no Meeting in December.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 29th January, 2026** 7:45pm. for 8pm. in Much Hadham Village Hall - this will be our Annual General Meeting. We would welcome anyone who would like to become a Committee Member - or maybe would like to suggest topics for meetings throughout the year.

For further information regarding the above please do not hesitate to get in touch with me on [katieh69@btinternet.com](mailto:katieh69@btinternet.com).

## Hadham Cross Congregational Church

### PREACHERS FOR SERVICES AT 11am

|               |                |                                      |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7th December  | Roger Amos     | Sawbridgeworth Congregational Church |
| 14th December | Mike Hillyer   | Oakwood Chapel Harlow                |
| 21st December | Kathy Hamilton | Hadham Cross Congregational Church   |
| 28th December | John Fosker    | Therfield Congregational Church      |

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

There will be no Afternoon Tea in December. The **AFTERNOON TEA** meeting in January, 2026 will be on **Thursday 29th January 2026** 2pm - 4pm Please do come and join us for coffee/tea cake and a chat.

**There will be a candlelit Carol Service in Church on Christmas Eve** - this will be at 2pm. Please do come and join us you will be very welcome.

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

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## Rural Ramblings

Cherry Mardell

It wasn't until I met a friend recently who said "I wondered if you had died" that I realised that some people must read my end-of magazine article in this much loved monthly publication... so here is proof that I'm still going... perhaps not as strongly as before... but still around!

And anyone who says that old age is fun, is either mental, a fibber or just plain lucky! Yes, as the months roll on, my joy of living is being strained, what with jabs for this and that (the latest, an anti- Covid one which has hurt from the moment it happened to now, nearly a week later, still with a sore arm!) and my elderly legs which occasionally give out on me on a dog walk!

And those of you who say "count your blessings", please desist because the blessings seem to be few and far between, while real life gets harder and putting on that "brave face" becomes a bit of a farce!!

Yes. I'm lucky, I know... for starters I still have a husband, so there is always someone

to groan at, and moan about! Likewise, he still has me ... for better or worse!

We are also lucky that his family are dotted around this area, so in an emergency, with luck, someone will be able to help!

We also have the dog! He's naughty, disobedient, rolls in anything which smells foul, but loves us totally, (especially when he has found that something to roll in!). His favourite bed is mine... not when I am in it, I must add... but lose him for a couple hours, and we'll find him on it!

There was a time when I had horses, alpacas and chickens.....but as the years go by, so does one's appetite for manual work.

So yes, I am counting my blessings, despite everything. And may I wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

# Parish Services December 2025

Benefice of: Little Hadham | Much Hadham | Albury

| Date          | Day           | Church                            | Service / Event            | Clergy            | Time          |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 07-Dec        | Sunday        | St Mary's Albury                  | Advent 2 - Carol Service   | Rev'd June Knight | 9.15am        |
| 07-Dec        | Sunday        | St Andrew's Much Hadham           | Evensong                   | Mark Stephens     | 5 - 5.30pm    |
| 13-Dec        | Saturday      | St Andrew's Much Hadham           | Journey To Bethlehem       | Holy Cross        | 3pm           |
| 14-Dec        | Sunday        | St Andrew's Much Hadham           | Advent 3 (Toy Collection)  | Rev'd Tayo        | 9.15am        |
| <b>14-Dec</b> | <b>Sunday</b> | <b>St Cecilia's Little Hadham</b> | <b>Carol Service</b>       | <b>Rev'd Tayo</b> | <b>6pm</b>    |
| 19-Dec        | Friday        | St Andrew's Much Hadham           | School KS2 Carol           | Rev'd Tayo        | 9.30am        |
| <b>21-Dec</b> | <b>Sunday</b> | <b>St Cecilia's Little Hadham</b> | <b>Advent 4</b>            | <b>Rev'd Tayo</b> | <b>9.15am</b> |
| 21-Dec        | Sunday        | St Andrew's Much Hadham           | No Evensong                | Rev'd Tayo        | 5 - 5.30pm    |
| 21-Dec        | Sunday        | St Andrew's Much Hadham           | Shared Carol Service       | Rev'd Tayo        | 6pm           |
| 24-Dec        | Wed           | St Andrew's Much Hadham           | Big Nativity Service       | Rev'd Tayo        | 4.30pm        |
| <b>24-Dec</b> | <b>Wed</b>    | <b>St Cecilia's Little Hadham</b> | <b>Christingle Service</b> | <b>Rev'd June</b> | <b>6pm</b>    |
| 25-Dec        | Thurs         | St Mary's Albury                  | Christmas Day              | Rev'd Tayo        | 9.15am        |
| <b>25-Dec</b> | <b>Thurs</b>  | <b>St Cecilia's Little Hadham</b> | <b>NO Midweek BCP</b>      | <b>Rev'd Tayo</b> | <b>10am</b>   |
| 28-Dec        | Sunday        | St Andrew's Much Hadham           | Christmas 1                | Rev'd 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