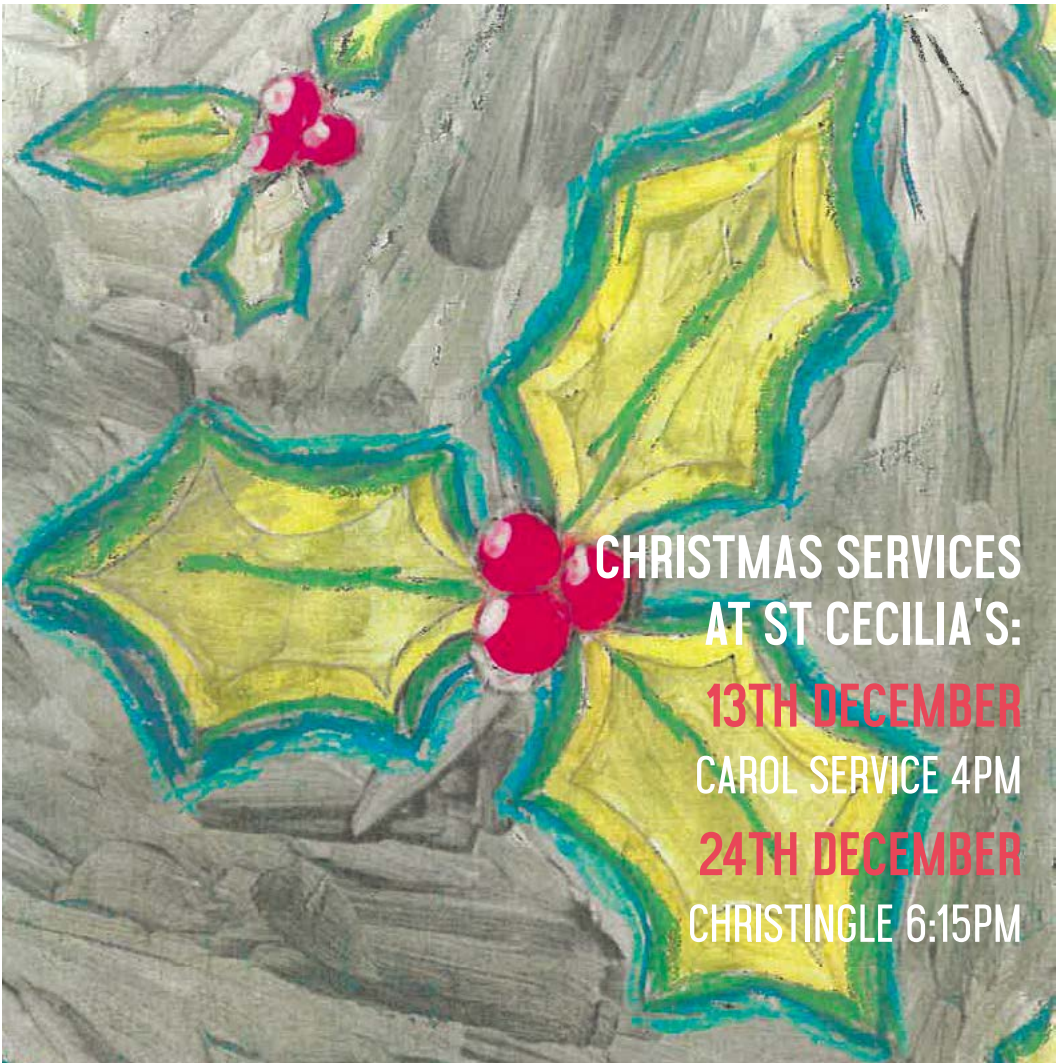
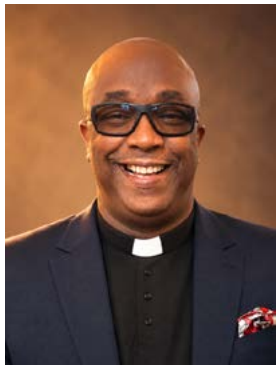
LITTLE HADHAM

PARISH NEWS

DECEMBER 2026

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





LETTER FROM The Rectory

THE TEA AND THE TEACUP

What matters more: the teacup or the tea?

Your cup might be fine bone china, trimmed with gold and resting on a matching saucer, or a chipped mug you have treasured for years. But when you long for a good cup of tea, surely the tea matters most. A beautiful cup is a pleasure, but the tea brings warmth and refreshment. Without it, even the finest cup is empty.

At Christmas, we decorate our homes, put up trees, exchange gifts, prepare special meals and gather for parties. There is nothing wrong with these traditions. I enjoy them too!

But I sometimes wonder if our delight in the teacup has distracted us from the tea.

How can we celebrate Christmas without remembering the reason for the season?

Picture a birthday party with lovely decorations, delicious food, music and happy guests.

Everything is going wonderfully, except for one small problem: the person whose birthday everyone is celebrating is standing outside, waiting for someone to open the door. It sounds odd, doesn't it?

Could we be doing the same at Christmas? We celebrate Jesus Christ's birth, yet amid the excitement we can overlook, or even set aside, the One who gives Christmas its meaning.

As the Bible says, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). God came among us with love, hope, peace and forgiveness for everyone, not just a few.

This is what Christmas is truly about.

We open the door to the Celebrant when we make room for his love through kindness, forgiveness, generosity and compassion. Sharing with someone in need, or reaching out to someone spending Christmas alone, can make a real difference

So, enjoy the festivities and the beautiful cup, too.

But do not forget the tea. And do not leave the Celebrant standing outside the door.

May Jesus Christ's love, joy and peace fill your hearts and homes this Christmas and, in the year, ahead.

Wishing you a happy Christmas!

Revd Tayo Wale-Falope

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

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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 Cecila'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.



FROM THE REGISTERS OF ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH

We welcome into the family of the Church Frank HARVEY who was baptised on Sunday 15th November at St. Cecilia's Church.

Cover Photo: Festive Holly by Beatrice Riedo at Little Hadham Primary School

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

The last meeting of the year will be held on **1st December 2026.**

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

UPDATE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

DATA CENTRE AT BURY GREEN

A question was asked about the data centre and what the extra truck movements are likely to be. A suggested 25 x 5 x 52 is a lot of trucks along Millfield lane. The Parish Council have received some input from members of the public regarding noise pollution and the diesel generators. There are continued power outages in Bury Green and one resident confirmed he gets texts every two to three weeks regarding the power outage. Suggestion the Parish Council to object regarding the use of diesel generators and their use to be for set period of time. Also, if there is a request for the centre to be attached to the grid, for that to be opposed.

LITTER IN THE VILLAGE

A request was made to reinstate the litter picking in the village. The clerk pointed out that East Herts provided a payment to cover the cost of employing a litter picker to carry out regular clearing of litter in the village, but this is no longer available. If we reinstate a dedicated litter picker, the Parish Council will have to add this cost into the precept for next year. Many residents already pick litter in the area that they live in, and will continue to do so. One suggestion is to provide residents with litter grabbers and bag rings to enable easier litter picking

ALBURY ROAD – TRAFFIC CALMING

The Chair and Clerk attended a meeting with the County Councillor on 25 September where we were briefed by an HCC officer regarding the proposed traffic calming measures to be introduced along the old A120 Stortford Road. HCC's proposals include the introduction of 20mph zones in all of the roads leading into the traffics lights, new controlled pedestrian crossings, physical traffic calming measures in one location in the Stortford Road (before the school coming down the hill from Bishops Stortford) and improving the traffic light layout coming from the Ford. The plan is the entirety of the crossroads, also the A120 with 2 chicanes as physical measures. The school will be in the 20mph zone.

LITTLE HADHAM RAMBLERS

Our last walk of the year will be on **Wednesday 2nd December.**

We start from the Village Hall at 10am, with a return between 11.30-12pm. There is a lunch available at the village hall Always a delicious choice of soup, filled jacket potato or a main meal. A suggested donation of £5 for a beautiful lunch in a very social environment. Dogs welcome.

RIVER ASH - A PROJECT PROPOSED BY LITTLE HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL



Themes and Objectives for the Ash:

These themes are being developed by proposed workshops to be held with people and organisations who have a stake or an interest in the river. To be asked to suggest their ideas about what the aims of the catchment management plan should be.

Proposed Draft themes and for the Ash are:

KNOWLEDGE

- Learn more about the current state of the river
- Identify specific problems facing the catchment

WATER QUANTITY

- Ensure there is enough water to sustain ecology
- Reduce water use within the Ash catchment
- Promote catchment sensitive land use to reduce floodwater runoff

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY

- Improve water quality
- Remove physical barriers along the river
- Enhance the river's morphology
- Eradicate or control invasive non-native species
- Improve the ecological health of the riverbed and banks
- Enhance and restore floodplain habitats

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Increase public appreciation of and engagement with the river
- Facilitate public access to the river (given suitable access and landowner permission)
- Remove invasive species
- Carry out Riverfly monitoring

TRAVELLER SITE OFF CHAPEL LANE

Decisions received. Appeals dismissed: EHDC's enforcement notices were found to be legal and valid, although the inspector extended the deadline to quit from 56 days to 12 months.

New Permission Granted: The Planning Inspector granted a new retrospective planning permission for the site, negating the above dismissal …. for now at least!

Highly Conditional: This is not an absolute permission. It is strictly tied to mandatory, time-limited remediation deadlines and strict controls on what is allowed on the site.

6-Week Legal Window: EHDC has until 4 December 2026 to challenge this decision in the High Court if any legal or procedural errors are found.

Technical Milestones: The occupiers have until 23 January 2027 to submit final landscaping and maintenance details, and until 23 April 2027 to physically build the new drainage basin.

Automatic Failure & Eviction: If they miss these deadlines, the permission automatically fails by law. The 12-month eviction clock will instantly reactivate with only 6 months remaining.



We wish all our friends and neighbours a very
Happy Christmas & a peaceful New Year
Anne and Margaret
Ford Hill

Karin and Frank Green *would like to wish everyone in Little Hadham* ***a very happy Christmas & a safe and healthy 2027***

Brian and Brenda Kain *wish all their friends and neighbours* ***a very happy Christmas & peaceful and healthy new year***

Wishing all our friends and neighbours
a very merry Christmas and a happy & healthy 2027
Hilary and Nick
Ford Hill

DOWN AT THE DOCTORS

ANDREW WILKINSON, PRACTICE MANAGER
www.muchhadhamhealthcentre.co.uk



Following on from last month's article about the additional services supporting general practice, this month I wanted to highlight another valuable local service that patients may not be aware of – the Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS).

Eye problems can sometimes be difficult to assess in general practice. Although GPs have broad medical knowledge, detailed eye examinations require specific skills, experience and specialist equipment that are not routinely available in most GP surgeries. MECS helps bridge this gap by providing access to specially trained optometrists who can assess and treat a range of minor eye conditions.

The service is available to eligible patients registered with participating GP practices and allows patients to access assessment without necessarily needing to see their GP first.

What conditions can MECS assess?

These include:

- Red, sore, gritty or irritated eyes.
- Dry or watery eyes and eye discharge.
- Conjunctivitis (inflammation of the eye).
- Blepharitis (inflammation of the eyelids).
- Ingrowing eyelashes and other minor eyelid problems.
- Other recent minor eye conditions.

When to seek urgent help

Sudden loss of vision, severe eye pain or a serious eye injury requires immediate medical assessment. Attend A&E or seek urgent advice through NHS 111 if you are unsure where to go. Do not wait for a routine MECS appointment.

Participating MECS opticians

Eligible patients can contact one of the following local providers to check availability and arrange an appointment:

- Martin Reynolds Opticians, Bishop's Stortford: 01279 757 767
- Rose Opticians, Harlow: 01279 443 181
- Specsavers, Harlow: 01279 410 888

MECS is a valuable extension of primary care, ensuring patients see the right professional, with the right skills and equipment, at the right time. It improves access to eye care while helping reduce pressure on GP appointments, allowing us to concentrate on your other healthcare needs.

And finally, as Christmas approaches, we hope you all have plenty to look forward to and can see your way to enjoying the festive season! From all of us at the surgery, we wish you and your families a very healthy and happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Take care of yourselves – and keep your eyes peeled for Santa!

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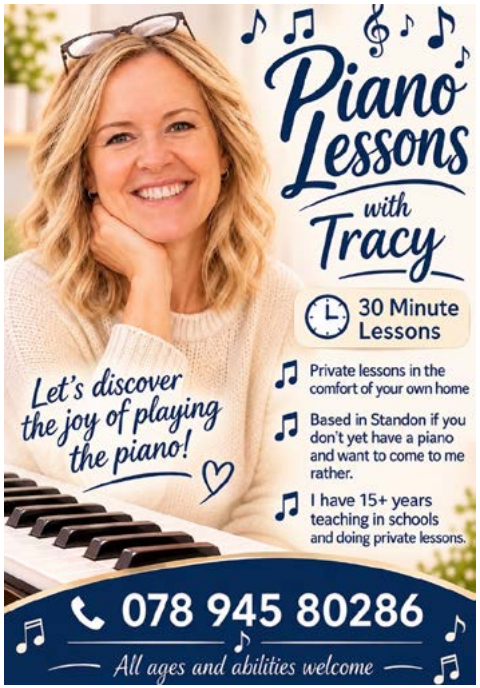

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LITTLE HADHAM GARDENING CLUB

ANNE WILLETT



We do not meet in December, but would like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Winter gardening jobs for UK gardens from December to February and centers on pruning, bare-root planting, frost protection and planning.

Prune apples, pears, wisteria, currants and gooseberries while they are dormant, but leave plums, cherries or damsons until summer. Plant bare-root trees, shrubs, roses and hedging whenever the soil is not frozen or waterlogged. Fleece tender plants on frosty nights and wrap pots to protect roots. Leave log piles and leaf litter for hibernating wildlife, and keep bird bath ice-free and order seeds in January.

What to prune in winter - Winter is prime pruning time for many trees and shrubs. Without leaves, you can see every branch clearly.

Planting bare-root trees, shrubs and hedges – The bare -root season runs from November to March. Bare root plants are dug from the field while dormant and sold without a pot. They are usually cheaper than potted plants and settle in well.

Protecting plants from frost – Most established trees, shrubs and hardy perennials need no help in a UK winter. Focus on tender plants such as tree ferns, bananas and some salvias, new plantings that haven't rooted yet, plants in pots whose roots are much more exposed than those in the ground, and early fruit blossom, such as peaches and apricots.

Winter lawn care – Stay off frozen grass, as frozen blades of grass snap underfoot and leave brown footprints that take weeks to recover.

Borders, soil and winter colour – Dig heavy clay in early winter and leave it in rough clods. Frost breaks the lumps down into a crumbly surface by Spring. On lighter soils, simply spread a layer of compost or manure and let the worms do the work.

Greenhouse jobs in winter – Insulate the greenhouse with horticultural bubble wrap fixed inside the frame. Leave the vents clear so you can still open them.

Fruit garden jobs in winter – mulch soft fruit in late winter. Use well-rotted compost around raspberries and black currants, keeping it clear of the stems. Blueberries need an acid mulch such as pine bark or leaf mould instead. Force rhubarb from January by covering an established crown with a forcing pot or upturned bucket. Blocking out the light gives tender, pink stems weeks earlier. Only force crowns that are at least 3 years old and let them rest for a year.

Helping wildlife through winter – Keep feeders topped up with sunflower hearts, seed mixes and fat balls. Clean feeders regularly to stop disease spreading. Place them near cover but away from spots where cats can lurk.

Planning, tools and winter projects – On a crisp, clear day, walk round the garden and note what worked last year. Which borders had gaps? Where could a tree or path go? Winter shows the bones of a garden better than any other season.

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QUASI'S WEEKLY VISIT TO LITTLE HADHAM



Every Wednesday morning, Quasi heads off to St Cecilia Church in Little Hadham for a very enjoyable weekly practice. The church, originally dating back to the 12th century, is located on a quiet hilltop overlooking the valley of the river Ash. Quasi usually starts the morning by ringing a quarter peal, followed by a practice session with ringers from neighbouring towers, and a social chat over tea, coffee and biscuits. Quarter Peals - A quarter peal consists of ringing a method continuously for about forty five minutes usually making 1260 different changes. Ringers choose a bell and begin ringing in rounds (i.e. 123456). Once the conductor says 'go', ringers start to continuously rearrange the order of the bells making a total of 1260 different changes (e.g. 214356, 241536 etc.) In order for the changes to continue to be different, the conductor periodically calls 'bob' or 'single' which indicates to ringers that they need to change course in the method. You could ring for longer and make 5040 changes, which is called a peal, but this would take almost three hours and only a few hardy ringers take the challenge. The quarter peals are organised by the ringing master, Nick Hughes, and they give ringers the opportunity to consolidate ringing methods and improve their striking so that the ringing sounds lovely for anyone listening. There are lots and lots of methods to choose from and all have their own name to identify them e.g. Grandsire, Plain Bob, St Simons, and Cambridge Surprise Minor etc. Quarter peals are recorded on a webpage called BellBoard (bb.ringingworld.co.uk) so that ringers have a record of what they have rung. The Practice - After the quarter peal has finished, hopefully successfully, more ringers from neighbouring towers come along to have a go. This gives them the opportunity to ring with more experienced ringers, try out new methods and improve on their striking. The Break - In the middle of the morning ringers take a break to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and have a chat with friends. This is often accompanied by a selection of biscuits or, if we're really lucky, a handmade cake or two.

All in all, a very enjoyable morning for Quasi and his ringing friends!

Quasi

To find out more about bellringing, watch our short YouTube video: scan the QR code here:

LITTLE HADHAM VILLAGE HALL NEWS

MARK HALL
www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com | chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com

With Christmas fast approaching and being the season of good will, Little Hadham Village Hall is once again not short of events for December. We could not do any of this were it not for our dedicated, but totally committed small army of volunteers who help bring the community together and put so much hard work into each and every event.

By now of course you are fully aware that our Village Hall roof is in need of a serious upgrade and our Crowd Funding scheme is fully live and ready to collect contributions. Any contributions will be gratefully received and our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who has already made a contribution. Once this work is completed we will have put into place a system which will keep the village hall running for the next 20 years.

This roof project is probably the single most costly endeavour we have undertaken and full credit must be given to the Village Hall Management Committee who are piloting this project through to good effect.

We are also desperately in need of someone to help in our community kitchen. Do you love to cook? Enjoy working in a friendly happy environment with lots of other people? If so the village hall needs you now. Please get in touch with Joan McKinley for further details on **vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com** And that's it except to say have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. **Carols and Festive Food – Monday 7th December 2pm to 4.30pm**

Get in the mood for the Christmas season by joining us for a fun afternoon of Christmas Carols and Festive food. Enjoy a selection of Christmas treats and the company of others as we get Christmas underway!

Tickets £7 - Book via our website **www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com** Select 'What's On' from the website menu bar, then events to find where to book.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY BRUNCH – THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER

We are delighted that pupils from Little Hadham Primary School will be at our Christmas Community Brunch to add their special touch to this festive occasion. A Christmas Hamper kindly donated by Joy Cripps will be raffled with all proceeds to village hall maintenance and improvement projects.

There is no ticket price for this event, your generous donations for the delicious food you have been served on the day, support this event. Cash or card accepted.

When booking online via our website you will receive an acknowledgement and be asked to confirm your booking. Please respond when it asks for confirmation as this will help us with catering. We look forward to seeing you!



RED CHAIR COMMUNITY CINEMA PRESENTS:

Madfabulous (2026) - Monday 14th December

Biography / Drama - Cert 12A. (Film synopsis on website)
Runtime: 1hrs 48mins.
Doors Open 2pm - Film Starts Promptly at 2.30pm





Entry tickets £5 per person

Licenced Bar / Ice Creams / Tea & Cake



FUNDRAISING CALENDAR FOR 2027

We have designed a calendar which not only reminds you of some of our regular events but also has twelve pages of lovely photographic images of your local area. The photographs have been kindly donated to the project by our very own talented village hall volunteers. The calendar is £10 to buy with a third of the proceeds donated to village hall maintenance and improvement projects. Calendars available at all events leading up to Christmas and the New year. Have you got yours yet!

Continues >



KEEPING YOU BUSY AND CONNECTED DURING THE WEEK

Details of 'What's On' at the village hall are available to view on our website along with information on events, regular activities and fitness groups **www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com.**

Interested in volunteering? We have lots of opportunities available.

Contact Joan McKinlay M: 07789 098 071 or email: **vice-chair@littlehadhamvillagehall.com.**

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

CANASTA SHELAGH MAVIN

We are a group of Canasta players who meet weekly each Tuesday in Braughing for 2 hours (or thereabouts) for an afternoon of playing cards in a very relaxed, friendly, informal and fun way.

The group has grown in popularity over the last year which prompted us to move from fortnightly to weekly. It doesn't matter whether you are a seasoned Canasta player or whether you are an absolute beginner – everyone is welcome and if you have never played before, you will soon pick it up! It also doesn't matter if you can't come every week.

Each session is £3pp which covers the cost of coffee and biscuits and hopefully a Christmas lunch around the festive season!

If you are interested in finding out more and would like to join a really fun and enjoyable social group, please contact me on 07506 066 080 or email me on: **Shelagh.disney@gmail.com**



Brownies

JUDI WHEELER

The Brownies and their leaders were getting ready for a fundraising Disco.

If you have a daughter aged 7-10 years wanting to be a Brownie please contact:

Casey: **littlehadhambrownies@gmail.com**

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER @ LH VILLAGE HALL

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.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

MONDAY'S

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

TUESDAY'S

Pilates	9.30am -10.30am	Claire	Email: cstacey1412@gmail.com
Brownies	5.30pm - 7pm	Cassey	Email: littlehadhambrownies@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY'S

Welcome Cafe	10am - 2pm	**Drop in:** Coffee & Chat. (Lunch Menu)	**DONATIONS**
Digital Inclusion	1.30pm - 3.00pm	**Drop in:** Help with your digital device	**DONATIONS**
Chair Yoga	11am - 11.45am	Mark Cox	M: 07368 293062
Tai Chi	1pm - 2pm	Sarah Baker	M: 07740 701102
Fit Steps	6pm - 7pm	Jacqui Howard	M: 07731 454228

THURSDAY'S

Afternoon Bowls Club	2pm - 4pm	Mike	Email: mikebennett12@aol.com

FRIDAY'S

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

FORTNIGHTLY ACTVITIES

Darts & Games Social	2pm - 4.30pm	**Drop in:** 8th / 22nd December	**COST: £3**

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES - *Please see website for full details*

Community Brunch	10am - 12pm	**Book via website:** Thursday 10th Dec	**DONATIONS**

EVENTS

Monday 7th December Christmas Carols & Festive Food. Booking & details online via our website - www.littlehadhamvillagehall.com (Fundraising event)

Thursday 10th December Christmas Community Brunch

Monday 14th December Red Chair Community (Afternoon) Cinema: Madfabulous (2026) (Cert 12A) Biography / Drama – Synopsis on website. Doors Open 2pm. Film Starts Promptly at 2.30pm. Entry £5. Licenced Bar / Tea & Cake. (No booking required)

WOODLAND RANGERS

NIKKI & LOUISE

www.woodlandrangers.co.uk

woodlandrangersuk

CRISP DAYS, COSY FIRES AND WOODLAND ADVENTURES!

November has been full of fun at Woodland Rangers! Autumn is well and truly upon us, but the colder weather hasn't stopped us enjoying the great outdoors. We've been wrapping up warm in cosy coats, hats and plenty of layers, making hot chocolate, using our shelters to keep out the wind and gathering around the campfire to keep warm. We're ready to embrace the colder months!

We've enjoyed celebrating Diwali, with children making beautiful clay Diya lamps and creating colourful Rangoli patterns using chalk. We also celebrated Bonfire Night with our annual tradition of sparklers and magical blue fire.

At our club at Little Hadham Primary School, children marked Firework Night by making edible sparklers using breadsticks dipped in chocolate melted over the campfire – a delicious treat!

Our home-educated children marked Remembrance Day by creating beautiful poppies using red and black wool.

One of the highlights of the month has been World Nursery Rhyme Week. Children have shared their favourite rhymes through singing, dancing and lots of imaginative activities and play inspired by familiar nursery rhyme characters.

We've also been discovering the world of nocturnal animals, exploring where they live in the woods and the tracks they leave behind. The children have made some fabulous owl babies using pine cones and cotton wool.

Finally, we're getting very excited about all the wonderful Christmas activities just around the corner!

It's fantastic to see so many families embracing the colder weather and continuing to enjoy precious time together outdoors in the woods.

















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LITTLE HADHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

SINEAD CONNOLLY, HEADTEACHER

LITTLE HADHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL – A BUSY FEW WEEKS OF LEARNING, CELEBRATIONS AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT!

There has been plenty happening at Little Hadham Primary School recently, with lots of exciting learning, special experiences and achievements to celebrate.



LEST WE FORGET

Our school community also came together to mark Remembrance. On Sunday, our School Captains proudly represented Little Hadham Primary School at the village Remembrance Service, where they laid a poppy wreath on behalf of the school. They showed great maturity, dignity and respect, and did us all proud.

The theme of remembrance continued in school throughout the week, with every class taking part in a two-minute silence. This gave pupils and staff an opportunity to pause, reflect and remember those who have served and sacrificed so much.

SPORTING SUCCESS!

A huge well done to our fantastic Year 5 and Year 6 pupils who recently represented Little Hadham Primary School at a local Tag Rugby Festival. Competing against teams from several other schools, they put in a brilliant performance and proudly secured second place!

As well as demonstrating great skill, determination and teamwork, our pupils received lovely compliments from staff at other schools, who commented on what fantastic team players they were. We are incredibly proud of them all. With talent and teamwork like this, who knows – perhaps we have some future England rugby players in our midst!



A LITTLE BIT OF LIBRARY BUS HISTORY!

There has been great excitement surrounding the arrival of our Library Bus, which is already proving to be a wonderful addition to school life. The children have loved browsing the books and choosing new reading adventures to take back to their classrooms. There has even been the special treat of enjoying hot chocolate on the Library Bus for some lucky children!

A big thank you to everyone who has kindly donated books. The generosity of our Little Hadham families has been fantastic, and every book helps inspire a love of reading and opens up a new world of imagination for our children.



LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

There has also been lots to celebrate in our classrooms. As part of Black History Month, the children explored themes of identity, respect and belonging through stories inspired by the Windrush Generation. They thought about the importance of family, memories and what makes each of us who we are.

November has also been Kindness Month, with pupils exploring how small acts of kindness can make a big difference. From thoughtful words and helping others to creating classroom kindness challenges, the children have been encouraged to spread a little happiness both at school and at home.

Across the school, learning has been full of creativity and discovery. Our younger children have been exploring Diwali, making colourful Diya lamps and Rangoli patterns, while enjoying autumn activities and exciting science experiments. Other classes have been investigating the Gunpowder Plot, exploring fairy tales, developing their writing skills and even getting creative with textiles and Christmas decorations!

We are also very much looking forward to visiting the Village Hall next month, where some of our pupils will have the lovely opportunity to recite poetry. It is always a pleasure to bring the school and village community together, and we look forward to sharing a little festive cheer through the children's words and performances.



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CRISTINA HARRISON, CURATOR
hadhammuseum@gmail.com

ARTS IN EAST HERTS – MARVELLOUS MURALS WORKSHOPS!

We thoroughly enjoyed separate visits from Hunsdon Cubs and Much Hadham's Cubs to take part in this activity.

Hunsdon Cubs tried the same pouncing techniques used in the 16th century to transfer images onto walls and then made their own mini wall paintings onto lime plaster.

Much Hadham Cubs had a go at making their own Banksy style murals using Remembrance as a theme. We used Banksy's "Girl with a Balloon" as inspiration to make our own stencil murals we called "Scout with a Poppy".

HADHAM MURALS 450

In case you didn't know, our Elizabethan wall paintings are 450 years old this year! Using cartoons created for us by artist Simon Barnes, we have created a story flip book called Owen and the Other Dragons. You can check it out on the museum Facebook or Instagram.



WHY PAINT A WALL?

There is still time to see our exhibition and 16th century wall paintings, open until Sunday 20th December.

THANK YOU! To Lucas Gooch and his Hadham Hauntz team for another great Halloween event! We had so much fun putting the display together and watching everyone's reactions! We raised a fantastic £500 for the museum too!

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Little Hadham Primary School

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I need to buy a used car but I'm nervous about getting it right. I've heard of people buying cars with hidden defects that cost them a lot of money to fix and were sometimes unsafe. How can I make sure I'm buying the right car, from the right place?

Buying a second-hand car is a big deal, so I understand why you're nervous, especially when you've heard about things going horribly wrong. There are steps you can take to avoid buying a car that's been badly damaged, likely to break down, stolen or illegally altered. These involve proper checks which can save you time and money in the long run. Most importantly, you shouldn't rush the process, there's a lot in place to keep you safe and protected.

It's better to buy from a trader - a business that sells cars - than a private seller or auction. You have more legal rights when you buy from a dealer, so the first step is to make sure the company is established, with both a good reputation and reviews.

You can check if the business is accredited by the Motor Ombudsman - the ombudsman enforces its codes of practice and offers alternative dispute resolution if something goes wrong. The business may also belong to a trade association, so you can check if it offers any support.

Next, you should check the car's history by asking the seller for the make and model, registration number, MOT test number and mileage. Use the DVLA's free online vehicle information checker at www.gov.uk/get-vehicle-information-from-dvla to make sure these details match the DVLA's records. If you're suspicious the seller has given you fake details, it's best not to buy the car.

After this, you should check the car's MOT and history on the government website at www.gov.uk/check-mot-history. It's free and allows you to see whether MOT tests have been done regularly throughout the car's history.

A private history check, which costs up to £20, will tell you valuable information about the car, like: whether or not it's been reported stolen; in a serious accident; or written off, repaired and returned to the road. It will also tell you if the car displays the correct mileage.

Lastly, inspect the car in person, in daylight and when it's dry. You should take a test drive - you'll need to make sure you're insured to do so. If you choose to buy from a private seller it's best to do the inspection at their house, so you have a record of their address if anything goes wrong, and take someone you trust.

Citizens Advice has lots of information online about buying a used car, including guidance on ways to pay – see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/buying-or-repairing-a-car/buying-a-used-car/. We also offers guidance on what to do if there's a problem with a used car you've already bought.

If you need more support, you can call the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133, or chat to an adviser online at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/information/contact-the-consumer-service/. If you need advice in any other area, call our Message Line on 01920 459944, or visit citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk for other advice options.

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

KEN MCDONALD, SECRETARY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



I hope readers are already familiar with the What's On page on our website, www.hundredparishes.org.uk. There, you can find information about forthcoming concerts, fetes, open gardens, walks and much more. Our webmaster, Dave Plummer, does an excellent job of including activities that fit with our aim to encourage awareness and enjoyment of the local area. I am pleased to report that Dave was recently appointed as a trustee of the society.

With Christmas approaching, I encourage you to check out What's On where you will find details of Christmas markets and fairs and the first Christmas tree festival to be held in Debden Church – from December 11 to 13.

Saffron Walden's Christmas fair will be on 28th November at St. Mary's church where you can buy mulled wine and mince pies. I understand that Father Christmas will be making a visit.

Father Christmas's sleigh will see him put in several personal appearances locally including a visit to Stansted Mountfitchet's windmill on December 12th.

Nancy May, our local soprano, will be leading a Christmas Celebration concert on 6th December at St. Andrews Church, Shalford, starting at 3pm. This is a lovely church where a brass war memorial includes the name of artist Eric Ravilious. He lived in Shalford for two years before his death in 1942, on active service as a war artist. One of his woodcuts is used as the Hundred Parishes Society's logo.

What's On includes a number of walks organised by local groups – and if you want to do your own thing you can always download a description of one of the Hundred Parishes routes.

At any time, if you know of a suitable activity that could be included on our What's On page, please email us at hundredparishes@btinternet.com.

Happy Christmas.



Nancy May



Christmas tree festival at Farnham



Shalford church

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THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

JILL GOLDSMITH

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And so we reach the end of the year. And what a weird one it has been… although we hated all that rain in January and February, we look back and think how lucky we were to start the spring with the lilypond, well and water butts full. The roses, lavender and gaura kept us smiling and the bees happy through the heat and drought of the summer, but we probably enjoyed as many flowers in the wildflower border in October as we had in July! And while we had some really lovely autumn colour in November, some plants seemed to consider that the little rains we had had meant it was spring again: so we also spotted flowers on the rhododendrons and the rosemary hedges! Who knows what the winter will bring and whether we will be ready for what might be another challenging summer next year.

As an organisation run by volunteers, Christmas is a time to reflect on and celebrate all that we have achieved together. The glory of the Gardens is of course a good indicator of how well we are doing. And we have had lots of lovely feedback from visitors - it is difficult to choose which to share, but for example a Japanese lady who hadn't visited since her year of volunteering in 1998, was delighted to see the Tenboudai she had named and the Japanese style planting nearby and a local care group said their two hour visit had flown by, with excellent and very patient guides, and a very welcome cup of tea and delicious cake. And finally we can celebrate ourselves: many new volunteers have joined us and working together we have had fun, while learning and sharing skills. So we will raise a toast to our Trust!

We hope that you, our loyal readers and visitors have enjoyed seeing what we have been up to and that you make a mental note to visit us again to see our snowdrops in February and then through the rest of the season!

Best wishes for the festive season from all of us at The Gardens of Easton Lodge.

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The Hadhams' History Society

KATHY HAMILTON

www.thehadhamshistorysociety.org.uk

Our meeting in October was a very interesting evening when a talk was given on "The History of the Prison of War Camp at Hatfield Heath. I am sure that everyone enjoyed this.

There will be no meeting of the Society in December.

Our next meeting in January will be on **Thursday the 28th January, 2027**. This will be our Annual General Meeting. The meeting of course will be weather dependant.

May the Committee wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and all the very best for 2027.

HADHAM CROSS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

KATHY HAMILTON

PREACHERS FOR SERVICES AT 11am

6th December	Mike Hillyer	Oakwood Chapel Harlow
13th December	Kathy Hamilton	Hadham Cross
20th December	John Fosker	Therfield Congregational Church
27th December	Kathy Hamilton	Hadham Cross

All are welcome to our Services at 11am every Sunday
and particularly to our Morning Coffee and Afternoon Tea Meetings.

Our next **COFFEE MORNING** will be on **Wednesday 9th December** 10am- 12 noon. Please do come and join us for coffee/tea cake and a chat.

There will be no **AFTERNOON TEA** Meeting in December as this is New Years Eve.

Our Service on the **20th December at 11am** will be our Carol Service so please do come along and join us - everyone is very welcome

Finally may I wish everyone a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and all good wishes for 2027 from everyone at Hadham Cross.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

BRENDA KAIN

A nice old fashioned winter warmer before everyone starts on Christmas riches! No Christmas recipes from me. There are far too many out there. As usual with this recipe for 2 servings or less just divide by 2. This recipe freezes well. No white wine? Just use double the chicken stock

CHICKEN CASSEROLE

(SERVES 4)



250g smoked bacon chopped

2 large onions sliced

8 chicken thighs, skinless but leave the bone in. It gives much more flavour

Olive oil

25g plain flour

5fl oz white wine

5fl oz chicken stock

2 sprigs thyme

2 sage leaves

2 bay leaves

200g small chestnut mushrooms sliced

Salt and pepper

1. Brown the bacon in a frying pan and put aside
2. Brown the onion in the fat rendered from the bacon.
3. Brown the chicken and then the mushrooms
4. Put all back in the pan and sprinkle the flour, mix and cook for a few mins
5. Add the wine and then the stock. Bring to the boil and simmer
6. Add the herbs and salt and pepper
7. Cook for 30 mins either 140c, gas 3, simmering oven or just on top of cooker

You can add a little crème fraiche if you fancy

I also add carrot batons before simmering. This is a lovely comforting dish but needs a bit of colour. Hence the carrots and broccoli in the picture! Enjoy!

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PARISH SERVICES DECEMBER 2026

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Date	Day	Church	Service / Event	Time
06-Dec	Sunday	St Mary's Church, Albury	Advent 2	9:15 am
12-Dec	Saturday	St Mary's Church, Albury	Family Carol Service	4:00 pm
13-Dec	Sunday	St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham	Advent 3 with Toy Collection	9:15 am
13-Dec	**Sunday**	**St Cecilia's Church, Little Hadham**	**Carol Service - Pick Your Carols**	**4:00 pm**
20-Dec	**Sunday**	**St Cecilia's Church, Little Hadham**	**Advent 4**	**9:15 am**
20-Dec	Sunday	St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham	Shared Carol Service	6:00 pm
24-Dec	Thursday	St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham	The Big Nativity Service	4:00 pm
24-Dec	**Thursday**	**St Cecilia's Church, Little Hadham**	**Christingle Service**	**6:15 pm**
25-Dec	Friday	St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham	Christmas Day	9:15 am
27-Dec	Sunday	St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham	Christmas 1	9:15 am

ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH,

LITTLE HADHAM | SG11 2DY

SUNDAY WORSHIP

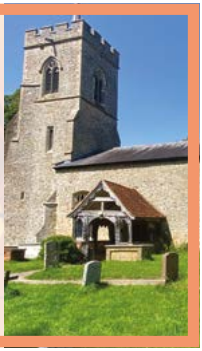
9:15AM - 10:15AM

EVERY THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

MID-WEEK WORSHIP (BCP)

10:00AM - 10:30AM

EVERY FOURTH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH



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