



HARTFORD HUNDRED WEST  
THE



# PARISH MAGAZINE

*Bayford, Brickendon, Essendon,  
Little Berkhamsted & Ponsbourne.*

**December  
2023**

- Ponsbourne Christmas Tree Festival. P.39
- Remembrance Service, p.8, p.30
- Christmas Greetings p.24
- Save the Baker Arms p.12

Price

**80p**



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**The Bishop of Hertford:** The Rt Revd Jane Mainwaring  
**Archdeacon:** The Venerable Janet Mackenzie .  
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Little Berkhamsted. SG13 8LW **01707 875971**

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colin4444@yahoo.com.

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AL9 6HW 07831 341886  
casblackman@yahoo.com

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##### **PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR**

Dr M E Wainwright. 12 Church Road, Little  
Berkhamsted, SG13 8LY. **01707 875970**  
parishmag@begesford.co.uk

**The Parish Magazine is also available online, free of charge.  
Google 'HHW Parish Magazine'.  
For the HHW web site Google 'Hartford Hundred West'.**

## Rector's Article.

### **D**ear All **Christmas: Celebrating Traditions and Finding Meaning.**

As the crisp winter air settles in, streets adorned with twinkling lights and the hustle of shoppers searching for the perfect gifts, it's evident that the Christmas season is upon us. Christmas is a time of celebration, marked by a myriad of traditions that bring people together. From festive decorations to the joy of gift-giving, the holiday season is a time of anticipation and joy. However, it's important to recognize that, for some, this time of year can evoke feelings of anxiety, especially for those who are bereaved, lonely, or without family. However, there are various ways people can prepare for Christmas.

The weeks leading up to Christmas are characterized by various activities as communities come alive with festive decorations and cheerful lights. Homes are transformed with twinkling Christmas trees and colourful ornaments. People flock to stores, hunting for the perfect gifts to exchange with loved ones. Shops, adorned with tinsel and wreaths, create a festive atmosphere that invites shoppers to partake in the spirit.

Community gatherings and events become commonplace as individuals come together to sing carols, participate in festive parades, and enjoy the season. The sense of unity extends beyond neighbourhoods, reaching into workplaces, schools, and various social circles.

For many, Christmas means family

gatherings. It's a time when loved ones come together to share laughter, stories, and delicious meals. The warmth of these connections provides a comforting backdrop to the holiday season, fostering a sense of belonging and togetherness.

However, it's important to acknowledge that not everyone experiences the same joy during this time. For those who are bereaved, lonely, or without family, Christmas can magnify feelings of isolation. The emphasis on family-centric celebrations may serve as a reminder of the absence of loved ones, making it a challenging season for some.

Acknowledging the emotional complexities of the holiday season is essential. Creating an inclusive and compassionate environment, where individuals feel supported regardless of their circumstances, is a vital aspect of fostering a caring spirit. In our communities we have different groups where people go for fellowship. To mention but a few Essendon Connect on Fridays from 9:30am, Coffee Morning at Little Berkhamsted on Fridays from 10am, Knitting club and Book club at Bayford and Coffee Morning on the first Monday of every month at Ponsbourne from 10am. The list is endless.

Beyond whatever we are doing in preparation, lies the heart of Christmas in a Christian context—the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. This spiritual foundation brings a deeper, more profound meaning to the season.

In the Christian narrative, Christmas is a celebration of humility and divine grace. Jesus, entered the world in the

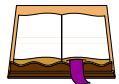
## Rector's Article. (concluded)

humblest of circumstances—lying in a manger. This act of humility resonates throughout his life, as He associated with tax collectors, sinners, and those society deemed unworthy. Christmas, for Christians, is a prelude to the greater story of salvation. Jesus, ultimately sacrificed himself on the cross. This act of love and redemption underscores the profound message of Christmas—that in our humblest moments, we find the path to salvation and eternal life.

Christmas is a real celebration time, combining the joy of festive traditions with the profound spiritual significance of the birth of Jesus. As we engage in the preparations and celebrations, let us be mindful of the diverse emotions experienced by those around us. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

Revd Theresa Musiwacho

## PARISH REGISTER



### Confirmation

15<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Eva REDMAN GRIFFIN

Ponsbourne

Star HENDY

Duncan SHIPTON



### Prayer Share

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

### Situation Vacant

For the past couple of years, Sue and Mike Wainwright have been carrying out he duties of General Distributor, in addition to Mike's principal role as Editor of our Parish Magazine. This was only intended to be an interim arrangement, until such time that another of our readers stepped forward to assume this role on a more permanent basis. To this end, we are looking for somebody to assume the role of General Distributor from the start of the new calendar year.

#### **The monthly duties include: (complete details will be provided)**

\* Liaising with our current printers, Victoire Press for the delivery of c430 copies of the magazine to your home.

\* Splitting out the boxes of magazines between the required number for each of the six distributors.

\* Delivery to or collection by each of the six distributors of their allocation to their respective homes. Should you be interested in playing a greater part in village life as we know it and wish to learn more about what is involved in this role, please feel free to contact in the first instance:

Mike Wainwright, Editor: parishmag@begesford.co.uk or on 01707 875970.

## DECEMBER CALENDAR

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, First Sunday of Advent**

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Essendon  
11:00 am, Parish Communion, Brickendon  
4:00 pm, Christingle Service, Ponsbourne

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December, Second Sunday of Advent**

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Bayford  
11:00 pm ,Christingle Service, Little Berkhamsted  
3:00 pm, Christingle Service, Essendon

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, Third Sunday of Advent**

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Ponsbourne  
3:00 pm, Nine Lessons and Carols, Little Berkhamsted  
3:00 pm, Christmas Praise, Brickendon  
6:30 pm, Nine Lessons and Carols, Essendon  
6:30 pm, Nine Lessons and Carols, Ponsbourne

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December, Fourth Sunday of Advent , Christmas Eve**

5:30, pm, Crib and Christingle Service , Bayford  
11:15 pm, Midnight Communion, Essendon  
11:15 pm, Midnight Communion, Little Berkhamsted

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Day**

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Ponsbourne  
11:00 am, Family Service, Brickendon  
11:00 am, Family Service, Essendon  
11:00 am, Family Service, Little Berkhamsted



### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December, First Sunday after Christmas**

10:15 am, Parish Communion, Bayford

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January First Sunday after The Epiphany**

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Essendon  
9:30 am, Family Service, Ponsbourne  
11:00 am, Parish Communion, Brickendon

### **Wednesdays**

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Essendon  
(10:00 am, Telephone Service Free

Not 27th December)  
For joining instructions see  
[hartfordhundred@outlook.com](mailto:hartfordhundred@outlook.com)

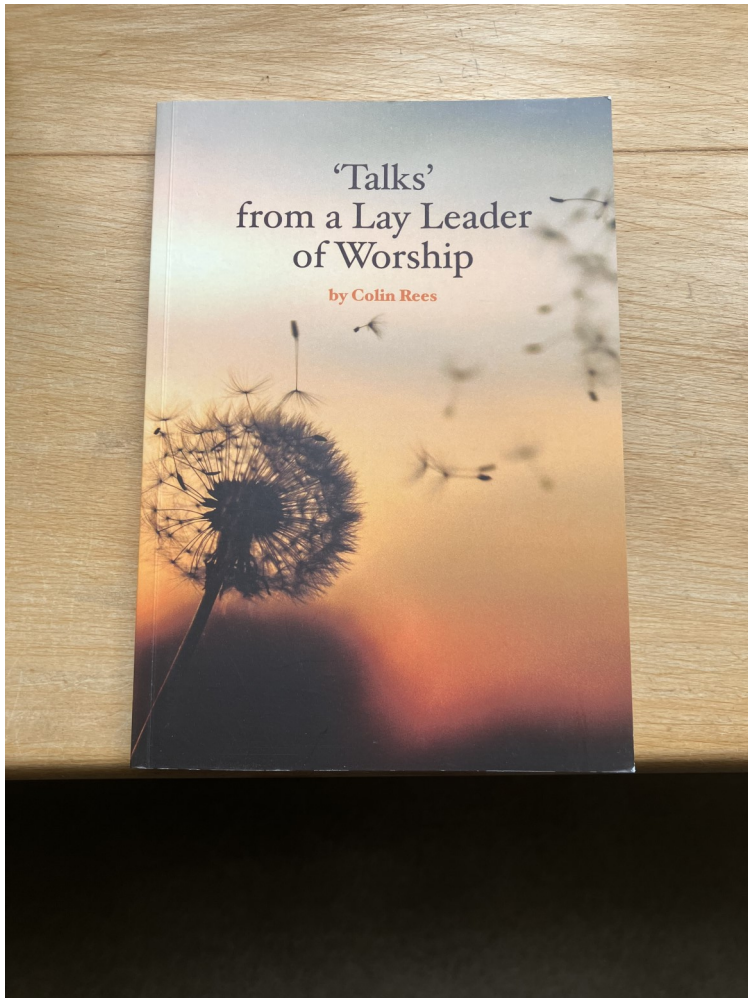
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### **Weddings, Baptisms and other matters.**

**Saturday Registration** is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month at 10.00 am to 11.30 am in Little Berkhamsted Church.

No appointment necessary

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## Remembrance Service, Little Berkhamsted



Photo: Liz Wainwright

We had a wonderful turnout for the group service at St. Andrew's Church in Little Berkhamsted. Despite the rain, around 75 people congregated around the war memorial where we observed a two-minute silence and heard the Last Post. Reverend Theresa then led the procession back to the church for a full Service of Remembrance. Representatives from each of the parishes read out the names of those who had lost their lives in each parish in the two World Wars. A lesson was read by the Church Warden of Ponsbourne and Lt. Edward Barrett, a serving member of the Armed Forces, read a poem by Rupert Brooke. See page 30



Knitted Poppies, Bayford



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## The Group Woodyard

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W [hrdept.co.uk/hertford-and-hatfield](http://hrdept.co.uk/hertford-and-hatfield)



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# Merry Christmas from Cucumber Fields

Festive Greetings from all of us at Cucumber Fields.

We feel so blessed to have welcomed so many of you to our Wellbeing Sanctuary throughout 2023 and look forward to meeting more of you in the New Year.

Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us.

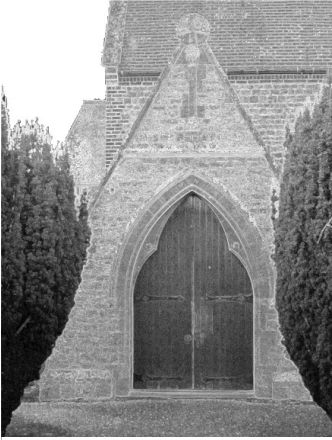


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# Bayford

## St. Mary's Church

Bayford Church is open Mondays, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

### **CHURCH CLEANING DECEMBER**

11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Joyce Mentern, Maureen Whyman

### **FLOWERS**

December Window Decoration:

Lorna, Becky, Annie and Roy  
24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> Roy and Annie Boulton

## **BAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

To read the minutes and agendas just Google '*Bayford Parish Council*' and follow the link to '*Minutes*'.

### **The Baker Arms**

#### **BA Car Park Right of Way.**

This will be discussed at the next PC meeting (20<sup>th</sup> Nov). It was decided to separate this from the survey. Creating a new RofW is a legal process and any errors in the application will mean it is rejected. Our RofW expert, Andrea Trendler, is advising us on this matter. It is vital that all evidence forms are collected in and a coordinated application made.

We will be looking for people who are willing to state that they have used the car park as a footpath/bridleway for all or part of the period 2003 to 2023. The decision on when to proceed needs careful thought and is dependent on the route taken to secure the future of the BA.

### **The Old Playground.**

Gavin Nelson continues to update us on the progress. Bonnel Homes have had to apply to EHDC to make small alterations in the plans. The vegetation has been cut down.

### **Meetings.**

#### **January, Monday**

Please check the web site.

Michael Wainwright (Dr),  
Chairman.

**[pc@begesford.co.uk](mailto:pc@begesford.co.uk)**

01707 875970.

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

## The Baker Arms

### Christmas Social Evening

FOBA invite all to an evening of fun and cheer. **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** from 6 til late at Bayford Village Hall. Free entry. Cash bar. Food, Drinks, Carols, Raffle and Quiz. Pop in or stay all night.

### Roadmap to re-opening the Baker Arms

With the pub now listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), and a meeting with McMullen & Sons indicating their openness to sale, the coming months will see our roadmap take shape. There are milestones on the way: establishing the site valuation, our vision and business plan, identifying potential partners, setting a fundraising plan and target, and formalising a legal structure (we're considering proven democratic models like Community Benefit Society and Community Interest Company).

### Friends in all the right places

We're not going it alone! An application has been lodged with the Plunkett Foundation, a charity that offers help and professional advice to groups in rural areas seeking to acquire and run community- owned businesses. We're also hearing from other community pub groups, like the Red Lion in Aston who have recently opened under community ownership. Some great people have offered to help – we'd love to hear from anyone else who has expertise in community engagement, the planning system, development and construction, fundraising and food and drink.

### Consultation survey shapes vision for Community Pub

We've received close to 200 responses - thank you! These show an amazing 96% support level for having a pub in Bayford. A clear vision for the site is emerging: a safe and welcoming place for people to meet and socialise, and also a community hub; offering perhaps a cafe a shop and practicalities such as a parcel point. It could also give life to new dreams – great ideas have come forward like a repair cafe, dementia support and fostering connection with nature through walking and cycling groups. All these ideas will need nurturing, but just now it's exciting to think big! The survey remains open at the website.

Please follow, like and share on social media for all the latest campaign news.

[www.friendsofbakerarms.org](http://www.friendsofbakerarms.org)  
[hello@friendsofbakerarms.org](mailto:hello@friendsofbakerarms.org)



## **County Councillor Musings. Ken Crofton**

September's Parish magazine spurred me to offer an update on a few County Council (HCC) issues. I will start by saying that HCC is a huge operation employing 8000 people funded from government grants, the Local Enterprise Partnership and Council tax payers totalling £1.15 billion. In a county where demands from the public are ever increasing and income difficult to increase there is pressure on the finance director and his team to balance the books whilst maintaining services. The massive increase in the costs of children's services of over £1 million a day, adult care and inflation have had an impact.

HCC has an enviable record nationally and at Whitehall of being well run and respected and is used as an exemplar for other County Councils to follow.

The Magazine mentioned that staff at County Hall are being relocated to Robertson House in Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage, this is the County Council not East Herts Council as some believe. Our chief executive Mr. Owen Mapley has encouraged home working and determined that the offices are now not populated enough to warrant the expenditure as he believes they are too large for current needs.

Robertson House will be known to many as the location where the Covid jobs were administered. This is a vast building owned by HCC and is being prepared to receive the new influx of staff from December. HCC meetings will still be held in the magnificent chamber at County Hall. No decision has been made what to do with the back offices whether they may be rented out or planning permission sought for housing. Once a decision has been made it will be impossible to reverse it. It is unrealistic to imagine there will be cost savings.

I have to tell you I have and will continue to oppose this short-sighted abandonment of County Hall. Our CEO is mistaken to believe that whilst the rest of the country is understanding the need to return to the place of work, Councils fail to understand that to provide an efficient service the workforce need to be managed and staff trained and communicate together. With a 10% staff churn new employees tend to be younger and often work from a rented flat or their parents' home. It must be a horrible working environment without the benefit of companionship or proper communication.

In my opinion this inefficient working from home should be ended immediately and staff made to repopulate the offices at County Hall, after all it is the County Town.

I have written to the Rt Hon Michael Gove to ask him to compel Councils to get back to work. It is surprising there hasn't been more of an outcry from residents or the local press.

Best wishes, Ken

County Councillor Ken Crofton. J.P. F.Inst.D

## Scrabble Club

If you enjoy playing Scrabble and would like to join an informal group of scrabble players please drop Katie a What'sApp message on 07962 232535



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## Lights of Love Remembrance Service

Isabel Hospice, is delighted to announce the return of its cherished annual **Lights of Love** remembrance services this December.

The Lights of Love services present a heart-warming occasion for everyone, regardless of affiliation with the hospice. It's an opportunity to unite with the community, and remember those loved ones who are no longer with us, and remember the beautiful moments we once shared with them.

Admission to all events is complimentary, and reservations are not required.

**Mill Green Golf Club, AL7 4TY, 4pm arrival for 5pm, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December.**

## Ware Choral Society Christmas Carol Favourites at Haileybury

Join Isabel Hospice for this wonderful Christmas event in the beautiful surroundings of Haileybury Chapel to enjoy voices from the Ware Choral Society singing a number of favourite Christmas carols on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Tickets are £20 including refreshments and can be purchased at [isabelhospice.org.uk/events](http://isabelhospice.org.uk/events).

Monthly Collections – **Dutch Nursery, Bell Bar** – 10am-2pm (not December)



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# Brickendon

## Chapel of the Holy Cross & St. Alban

For enquiries concerning the Chapel, please contact Virginia Haryott 01992 511575 or email [wellpondharyott@gmail.com](mailto:wellpondharyott@gmail.com)

**On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm you are all invited to come and sing your favourite carols and join in with poems and readings. Mince pies and Christmas cake to follow!**

### Services

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Parish Communion at 11.0am

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December - **Christmas Praise** at 3.00pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY – 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER Family Service at 11.00am**

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December –Group Communion at Bayford at 10.15am

### Flowers

Diana Abbott

Diana Abbott 8th

Virginia Haryott

### December

1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

15<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

### Cleaning

Alison Blakey

Julie Pickering

## Brickendon Clubs:

We have some excellent clubs in Brickendon which are always happy to welcome new members.

**Book Club** - meets every first Tuesday of the month at 8pm, contact **Andrea Trendler for venue - 01992 511588**

**Pilates** - Every Tuesday morning in Fanshaws Room (the village hall) at 9.15am, to register contact **Harriet Barton, 07944 500504 or [pilateswithharriet@hotmail.com](mailto:pilateswithharriet@hotmail.com)**

## Fanshaws Room

(the Village Hall)

The Village Hall in Brickendon is a lovely space for meetings, children's parties and other gatherings. More details and photos can be found on the village website [www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk](http://www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk)

Hire charge for non-residents is £15 per hour (£10 per hour for residents of Brickendon Liberty parish)

Phone **01992 511551** for further information or to make a booking.

## Tennis Courts.

The fee for hire is still £5 per court per hour for everyone. Last summer the courts and pavilion were renovated and are in excellent condition.

For further information and to book see Brickendon website ([www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk](http://www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk))  
Brenda Lambie



## Brickendon Petanque Boules Club

### Play at The Farmer's Boy

Winter Play Times  
Sunday 10am - 12 noon  
Tuesday 5.30 - 7pm  
Thursday 10am - 12 noon

Further information and enquiries  
Contact Janet 01992 511515



## Oak Processionary Moths

Unfortunately there is a problem in the Churchyard with oak moths nests. These nasty creatures are found across the southeast - including Hertfordshire. The caterpillars feed on the leaves of oak trees causing stress to the tree making them more susceptible to disease and drought. Older caterpillars have hundreds of tiny hairs which can cause skin rashes, eye irritation, breathing difficulties. We are taking this very seriously and are getting expert help and advice. Please keep behind the roped off area and if you do need to tidy up the graves always use gloves.

## Parish Council

### Meetings

Meetings are normally held in the Fanshaws Room at 7.30pm and all parishioners are welcome to attend and to raise any issues of concern. Agendas are posted on noticeboards at least 3 days before the meeting.

Parish Clerk: Laura Brooks-Payne  
Brickendon Liberty Parish Council  
PO BOX 81, Knebworth, SG3 6YZ

Email [clerk@brickendon-liberty.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brickendon-liberty.org.uk)  
Mobile 07803 906291

**Minutes:** Brickendon website  
[www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk](http://www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk) for .

**Meetings:**

Please mention HHW Parish Magazine when responding to an advert.

# Hertford Symphony Orchestra's *Winter Wonderland*



Tchaikovsky Symphony no 1 :  
"Winter Daydreams"  
(with narration by Jonathan Mann)

Festive orchestral favourites  
including White Christmas, Sleigh Ride  
and music from  
The Polar Express and Home Alone  
Starring a choir from local Primary Schools

**3pm Sunday**  
**10th December 2023**  
**Drill Hall,**  
**Amwell End, Ware**

Tickets: £15 adults £6 children/students  
£36 Family Ticket (2 adults + 2 children)  
WeGotTickets.com or On the Door from 2.45pm  
Hertford Tourist Information Centre (01992 584322)

Conductor: Jonathan Mann  
Leader: Tanya Barringer  
[www.hertfordsymphonyorchestra.org.uk](http://www.hertfordsymphonyorchestra.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No: 270515



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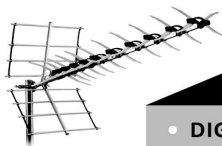
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The numbers in both Sections are growing and we would love to welcome new members. We would also be really happy to have more adult helpers and leaders to support this. Beavers meet on Thursday and Cubs on Monday.

Meetings are based at our Headquarters in Northaw Village.

To find out more contact Gordon Marshall at

[gordon.marshall@pscouts.org.uk](mailto:gordon.marshall@pscouts.org.uk)



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**Christmas Greetings from our Advertisers.**



**Annette Tyler at The HR  
Dept. Hertford and Hatfield**

wishes all readers a very Happy  
Christmas and a prosperous New  
Year

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01992 721629**

annette.tyler@hrdept.co.uk  
www.hrdept.co.uk

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
From  
**Essendon Country Club!**

Thanks to everyone for their  
continued support and we look  
forward to hopefully welcoming  
you in the New Year!

Get in Touch: 01707 260360

**Paul Curson**

I wish all my customers a very  
Merry Christmas and a Healthy  
New Year  
And look forward to being of service  
in 2024.

**Best wishes Paul Curson**  
(01707 875622)



**Hair by Liz**

**07809446786**

I would like to wish  
all my clients a  
**Happy and Peaceful  
Christmas.**

**I look forward to seeing  
you all in the New Year.**





Christmas Greetings from our Advertisers.



Season's Greetings to all readers of this wonderful Parish Magazine.

Thank you to everyone who has joined us for Yoga, Cycle, Reformer Pilates, Meditation Classes and Retreat Days during 2023.

We look forward to meeting more of you in the New Year.

Warmest wishes  
Clare & Pip

CUCUMBER FIELDS  
[www.cucumberfields.co.uk/visit](http://www.cucumberfields.co.uk/visit)

## OAKLAND GARDENS

### Oakland Gardens

**We would like to say a very big thank you to all our customers for their continued support and custom this year.**

**We wish you all a wonderful festive season and a very happy, healthy and peaceful new year.**

**Les and Michael Swain**



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*Come and enjoy the fun!*

### Hartford Hundred Community Choir

We are hoping to have an autumn gathering with an informal concert!

Watch this space for more info! AND of course we will be preparing for a Nine Lessons and Carols or two and a spot of carol singing in December!

If you love singing (music readers and non-music readers included) and would like to join the community choir please drop Katie Nielsen a WhatsApp message on 07962 232535.

Essendon

# Essendon, Woodhill, Wild Hill & Woodside

St. Mary the Virgin



Flower Arrangers December  
23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Pam Worsley

**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING.**  
**THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 7PM**



December Services. See page 5.

## The CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS SUPPER

will be held in the Church  
at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm on SATURDAY  
**9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023**  
with entertainment

Tickets are available  
but are limited

Tickets at £20 including a glass of  
mulled wine

Bank Payment to Friends of St Mary's  
Essendon

Sort : 60-10-39 A/c 30401682

Please put your surname as reference  
Please let us know when booked and  
advise of dietary requirements (Veg/  
GF)

or

contact Mandy Nevel **07967500289**  
Hilary Pickard **07974231206**  
**mandynevel@gmail.com**

Table Plan:

Judy Rennie **01707 658322**

## The Village Hall.

Tel: 07442 499601

email:

[essendonvillagehall@hotmail.com](mailto:essendonvillagehall@hotmail.com)

[facebook.com/essendonvillagehall](https://www.facebook.com/essendonvillagehall)  
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## The Group Woodyard

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## Tennis Courts

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New members always welcome.

To join the club or any questions  
please contact,

**Nicki Whitelaw 07946300512**  
**[nicki.whitelaw@sky.com](mailto:nicki.whitelaw@sky.com)**

Essendon Tennis Club Committee

## ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL

### ALL MEETINGS AT ESSENDON VILLAGE HALL, @ 7PM

Agendas will be available on the PC website,

(<https://www.essendonpc.org.uk/>) and on noticeboards in the village.

Minutes of all meetings are also available on the website.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings.

Clerk: Nerine Chalmers  
[essendonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:essendonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

### Bible Study

All are welcome.

More information and dates from  
[mckellartrish@gmail.com](mailto:mckellartrish@gmail.com)

### Just Friends Christmas Concert

**We're delighted to be back!**

Come and enjoy an evening of carols and festive favourites sung by

#### 'Just Friends'

a small choir of high voices with pianist Paul Burrell

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 at  
7.30pm**

St Mary the Virgin, Essendon

Light refreshments

Proceeds to Medecins Sans Frontières

### Essendon Cricket Club

We are looking for a scorer ideally Saturday and Sunday, but if someone only wanted to do Saturdays or Sundays that works. Saturday is the day we are struggling with as having your own scorer in a league game is very important. If anyone is interested please contact me.

**Ian Venables 07764777343**  
Essendon CC Captain.

### All Sorts Dementia Group.

Social and activity group for people with mild to moderate dementia starting at Essendon Village Hall every Wednesday 10.30am till 3pm.

Spaces limited so please call  
**01279 498938** or  
email [allsortsdg@gmail.com](mailto:allsortsdg@gmail.com)  
for more information.

Website: [www.allsortsdg.co.uk](http://www.allsortsdg.co.uk)

Are you looking for a  
Primary School place  
for September 2024?

See page 22.

## Christmas Celebrations



will commence on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December when Ray with his accordion and clarinet will entertain the WI at their Christmas party. He has promised a good singalong selection of carols and popular festive songs.

Meetings start at 8.00 p.m. in the village. Please come along as a guest and participate in an enjoyable evening. You might even consider becoming a member! We have lots of fascinating speakers booked for 2024. Call Lyn McCash on 07971 909540 should you be interested.

## Gardening in December

Gardening, whether on a large or small scale, is always so dependent on the right weather and over these recent months both we and our gardens, whether they are large or small, have been put to the test! Some results could be described as inevitable, some unexpected and, best of all, many a delight so don't ever give up!

It has been a remarkable season for the Dahlia and it depends very much on the soil as to whether you lift them or just carefully cut them back and cover them and leave them in place for next year and I certainly, by mistake, had a very tall one right at the front and I must mark it to consider moving it in the Spring if I don't winter it 'inside'.

Those of you that love Hellebores, very carefully go through them cutting last season's growth to ground level which will gently reveal new flower stems and this will also keep the 'blotchy leaf spot' at bay – be sure to collect up all the old leaves and dispose of them carefully.

If the weather is fit, keep planting Tulips to extend their season but remember to mark where you have put them in if not in pots.

Prune deciduous shrubs, removing a few branches at ground level. Trim apples and pears, cutting out dead, diseased and damaged wood and opening up the shape. Start 'forcing' Rhubarb either outside or in the greenhouse – you can do this by using either an upturned big terracotta pot or an upturned dustbin!

If there are any spare areas of your vegetable garden apply well-rotted manure and gently fork it in and the earthworms should do the rest and improve both the texture and the fertility

Plants on your patios in tubs and pots need a careful eye as the temperatures drop and this can affect the compost because of its moisture content and the roots can freeze and die back – you can prevent this by wrapping the pots in several layers of old sacking or fleece and they should survive all but extreme temperatures. Happy Christmas!

Germander Speedwell

## Essendon Nature Notes

The wren, the wren, the king of all birds. This is the song of small children in Ireland on St Stephen's day. My father often recounted tales of celebrating this festival as one of the 'wrenboys' on the Curragh in the nineteen forties. At that time it often meant actually catching and killing a bird and going from house to house begging a penny to give the wren a decent burial. In more enlightened times it would have been more likely to have involved a caged bird or an effigy.

The idea of the wren as the king of the birds comes from the old story of God's challenge to see which bird could fly highest. Just as the other rivals fell away and the exhausted eagle claimed victory, the wren, who had been hiding

under his wing, flew up and took the prize. Despite their achievements as birds of legend, these are tiny creatures and can suffer in cold winters. As a defence they often roost together at night in old nests for communal warmth. But it is by day that they really catch our attention as the wren's loud trilling song is a wonder of the winter soundscape. It's exquisite piercing burst is an adrenaline shot on cold damp days and it is easy to recognise because of the abruptness of its guillotined close.

This Boxing Day listen out for the wren and, if you hear one, give festive thanks for a special bird of myth and folklore. Perhaps it is time to get the children to resurrect an old tradition. I will have my penny ready. DC

**Essendon Parish Council** continues to work hard in looking after our lovely village. The busy team of councillors, supported by the clerk, deal with a multitude of statutory obligations such as responding to planning applications submitted to the district council, ensuring that the playpark is inspected, the grass is cut and all manner of queries about our village are answered - or signposted to the relevant authority. We work closely with our district and county councillors.

Council continues to meet regularly (usually on the first Tuesday of every month) and we are just finalising our meeting dates for 2024. We would welcome any resident to join us for the meetings which take place at the village hall.

We are currently working on our new website and all meeting dates, agendas and meeting papers will be uploaded here. We will publish more details on this once it has been finalised.

Much of the administration of all things Parish Council is undertaken by our clerk. We have been supported for many years by our much-valued clerk Nerine. Nerine has recently made the decision to retire and we would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Nerine for her years of service to Essendon Parish Council and our residents.

We hope that by the next edition we will be able to introduce our new clerk (we are currently part way through recruiting) and all that remains is for us to wish you all a very Merry Christmas with very best wishes for 2024.

# Little Berkhamsted, Howe Green & Epping Green St. Andrew



## CHURCH CLEANING

8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> December Margery Bailey  
22<sup>nd</sup> December Sarah Barrett and Sue  
Wainwright

## Services

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 11am Christingle Service

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 3pm Nine Lessons & Carols

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 11.15 pm Midnight Parish Communion

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> 11 am Christmas Day Family Service

## THE SOLDIER

BY RUPERT BROOKE

IF I SHOULD DIE, THINK ONLY THIS OF ME:  
THAT THERE'S SOME CORNER OF A FOREIGN FIELD  
THAT IS FOR EVER ENGLAND. THERE SHALL BE  
IN THAT RICH EARTH A RICHER DUST CONCEALED;  
A DUST WHOM ENGLAND BORE, SHAPED, MADE AWARE,  
GAVE, ONCE, HER FLOWERS TO LOVE, HER WAYS TO ROAM;  
A BODY OF ENGLAND'S, BREATHING ENGLISH AIR,  
WASHED BY THE RIVERS, BLEST BY SUNS OF HOME.  
AND THINK, THIS HEART, ALL EVIL SHED AWAY, A PULSE IN THE  
ETERNAL MIND, NO LESS  
GIVES SOMEWHERE BACK THE THOUGHTS BY ENGLAND GIVEN;  
HER SIGHTS AND SOUNDS; DREAMS HAPPY AS HER DAY;  
AND LAUGHTER, LEARNT OF FRIENDS; AND GENTLENESS, IN HEARTS  
AT PEACE, UNDER AN ENGLISH HEAVEN.

SEE PAGE 8

Rupert Brooke is commemorated in the Memorial Chapel of King's College , where he was a fellow. →

## St Andrew's Church

### At the Nine Lessons & Carols Service

We will be serving mince pies and mulled wine and of course soft drinks for the children. Come and join us.

### January 2024

In January we will be holding our first

### **Animal Family Service.**

If you don't have a pet bring a soft cuddly one everyone welcome.

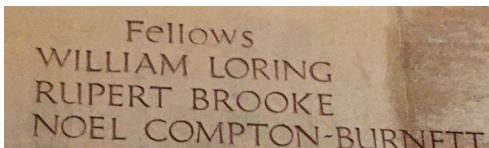


**WE WISH EVERYONE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS**

### **St Andrew's Church.**

Can you HELP with our beautiful church we are looking for help with cleaning the church and help tidying up around the church yard.

Contact: Sandie Ash 01707875221



## News from Little Berkhamsted Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January** at 7.30pm in the village hall. The agenda is published on the website and village noticeboard the week before the meeting. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting to comment or ask in questions in person or to send them to the clerk beforehand. [clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk).

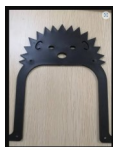
We are working with East Herts Council to promote their **Healthy Hubs Service** in rural communities.

The Hubs provide free health and wellbeing information, advice and support.

You can receive the latest health and wellbeing news across Hertfordshire by signing up to the local hub newsletter [www.healthyhubs.org.uk](http://www.healthyhubs.org.uk) or calling on 01279 655261 and asking to speak to the Healthy Hub.

Further information is also available from Elaine Hunter at the **Community Café** which is held every **Friday morning** from 10.00am to noon in the **Pavilion**.

**Hedgehog Highways** still available to buy £5  
[elaine\\_hunter@sky.com](mailto:elaine_hunter@sky.com)



### **Community Clothing Bank** now on the field.



Recycle your old clothes and shoes in the village clothing bank and help raise money towards insulating the Village Hall

### **Work at the Village Hall**

*Following a lengthy process the Parish Council have secured some grant funding towards the upgrading of the village hall.*

*Contractors have started work on insulating the village hall roof, installing secondary double glazing and LED lighting.*

*This work is long overdue and should make the hall a more environmentally friendly building and reduce the high heating bills currently paid.*

*Along with redecoration of the hall, we hope that this work will encourage greater use of the building by villagers and others.*



## Little Berkhamsted Community Facilities for Hire



**The Village Hall** has disabled access and toilet, a fully equipped kitchen for any refreshment needs, internet access and projector equipment.



**The cricket and community pavilion** has a fully equipped kitchen, bar area, changing rooms and shower facilities.

Hire Charges (per hour): Little Berkhamsted Resident: **£12** Other: **£17**

For further details contact: Sandie Ash 01707 875221  
or [clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk)



## Master Art Workshops Little Berkhamsted

and we are delighted to welcome renowned, inspirational artists and craftspeople to teach in our lovely rural location.

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**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December - Festive Watercolour Workshop at Dutch Marketplace includes all materials, refreshments and lunch.**

To Book email [suewilliams021@aol.com](mailto:suewilliams021@aol.com) or visit our new website <http://www.masterartworkshops.com> for more information.

Follow us on social media to keep up with our news - Facebook page is <http://www.facebook.com/masterartworkshops> and instagram page is [@masterartworkshops](https://www.instagram.com/masterartworkshops)



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### St Elizabeth's School and College cares for children and young adults with special needs.

St Elizabeth's are delighted to say that our annual **Apple Day** will be returning this year, on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023**. With over 3-acres of ancient orchard, we need all the help we can get to pick and juice our delicious apples ready to make our famous apple juice. In return, we will be offering a wide range of entertainment, refreshments and a chance to browse lots of local stalls and products.

The day is always a firm favourite with families, as there is something for everyone! There will be a chance to join in with fun and games for the little ones, as well as the opportunity to pick apples as a family and either donate them back to us, or buy them to make some goodies of your own.

Come and join us between 11-3pm! For further information, please email [fundraising@stelizabeths.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@stelizabeths.org.uk)

Please mention HHW Parish Magazine when responding to an advert.

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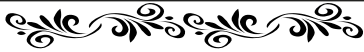
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Interior

-J C-

Exterior

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# Newgate Street

Ponsbourne St. Mary

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Morning**  
**4<sup>th</sup> December,**  
**10am to 12 noon**  
at  
**The Crown**

## Church Open

for  
**prayer and quiet contemplation,**  
every **Wednesday 9:30 to 12:30.**

## VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

All bookings can now be made through the Village website

[www.newgatestreet.org/](http://www.newgatestreet.org/)

Follow the link to Hall Rental and Book the Hall .

## Book Exchange.

**A BIG THANK YOU** for the donation from the **BOOK EXCHANGE** which continues to run at the **Post Office** in Newgate Street Village Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings .



## What's On in Newgate Street

**Table Tennis:** Tuesday evenings 7.30 - 9.30pm in the Village Hall. £1 pay and play

**Tennis** - Tuesday mornings 9.30-10.30am Village Courts. Term time only. Contact 07710 507 215

**Book Swap** - Pre read books to buy £1 or swap 50p, in the Village Hall Post Office Tuesday & Thursday mornings.

**Village Chat** - WhatsApp group for people living in the village. To join the group contact 07710 507 215

**Village Pub Social** - 8pm the second Friday of every month in either The Crown or The Coach & Horses Pubs, come along to meet friends and make new ones. See Village Chat WhatsApp group or Village website for details.

### Post Office.

A small Post Office is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the village hall.

Please mention HHW Parish Magazine when responding to an advert.



**Ponsbourne St Mary's Church  
Newgate Street Village**

# *Christmas* **TREE FESTIVAL**

**1st - 3rd December 2023**

Friday 1st December	Saturday 2nd December	Sunday 3rd December
School Opening Service at 2pm	Open viewing 1.30pm to 5.30pm	Open viewing 12pm to 4pm

## **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE Sunday 4pm**

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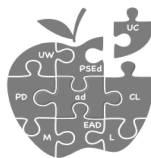
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