



HARTFORD HUNDRED WEST
Bayford, Brickendon, Essendon,
Little Berkhamsted & Ponsbourne.



THE
PARISH
MAGAZINE

December
2022

Price
60p



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The Bishop of St Albans: The Rt. Revd. Dr. Alan Smith
The Bishop of Hertford: The Rt Revd Dr Michael Beasley
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Assistant Rural Dean:

THE PARISHES OF BAYFORD & BRICKENDON, LITTLE BERKHAMSTED, ESSENDON & WOODHILL, PONSBOURNE:

RECTOR: Rev'd Theresa Musiwacho,

Hartford Hundred Rectory,

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Telephone: 01707 875940 email - hartfordhundred@outlook.com

*Communion to the sick, Notice of Banns and of Marriage by arrangement with the Minister.
Please advise us of any cases of sickness so that prayers may be offered
or where they may be of any assistance.*

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Little Berkhamsted. SG13 8LW **01707 875791**

TREASURER

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Berkhamsted, SG13 8LS **01707 874299**

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01992 511041

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Lane, Bayford

ORGANIST

Mrs V Haryott, Wellpond Cottage, Brickendon,
SG13 8NU **01992 511575**

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AL9 6HG **01707 273729**
Colin Rees, 2, Letty Green, Hertford,
SG14 2NZ. **07540 351 530.**
colin4444@yahoo.com.

PCC SECRETARY

Ms C Blackman, 42 High Road, Essendon,
AL9 6HW 07831 341886
casblackman@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Mr Nick Pickard, Cucumber Hall, Essendon,
AL9 6JB 07779 325847

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CHURCHWARDEN

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TREASURER

ORGANIST

Mr P Minchinton, 14 Byfield, Welwyn Garden
City, AL8 7AL **01707 323742**

PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR

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

Dear All

When the angel Gabriel visited the Virgin Mary with the divine message, Mary was probably a teenager. Despite her age, I am amazed at her response. Her position and vocation within the Kingdom of God was revealed that day. The angel revealed to Mary her vocation. She was to bring forth the begotten Son who would save the nation, bringing salvation to people by saving them from sin, darkness and death. John 1:3b-5 *"..What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it."* Jesus was to be an instrument of mercy and forgiveness. Mary had to take up the representation role in the nation of Israel for God's plan to succeed. *"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."* Luke 1:38.

Does it mean that God's redemption plan would not have succeeded if Mary had not consented? No, God is omnipotent. He would have used other means of human redemption but He wants us to be part of His Kingdom plan and be actively involved.

Mary had faith, was devoted to God and full of trust. Sometime ago, I attended an Advent Course and someone from the group made a remarkable statement *"I would like to think that during those days, it was frightening for a girl who was engaged to someone in the community to explain the mystery of the angel's visitation, incarnation and let alone the*

Holy Spirit. Mary must have been a courageous girl". Everyone in that group agreed. We came to the conclusion that God can use anyone who is willing. During the encounter when Mary accepted the Holy Spirit, all her fears disappeared. God equips those whom He calls. We also agreed that, to encourage Mary during the time of wonder, the angel Gabriel signposted her to a prayer partner-Elizabeth (who was to be the mother of John the Baptist, a forerunner of Jesus Christ).

If we yield to His purposes with trust, He will give us the people to walk beside us, the strength we need in good and challenging times. She did not need to go around trying to explain her situation or convincing people e.g there was Joseph whom she was engaged to, her relatives, the community and the Church. At the right time God revealed himself.

I would also want to view the encounter with the angel as *'A moment of visitation'* which Mary by grace did not dismiss. We are all looking forward to Christmas. The past years have been very tricky because of the lockdown. Those were moments of uncertainty. Some of us had not been around our loved ones for the past Christmas seasons because of lockdown. May this Christmas season be a time of joy and visitation. Mary could have missed it but she did not. God works with the heart. If we desire, just desire to see Jesus Christ revealed to us in a special way before end of 2022, I am convinced, if we are willing to open our hearts, God will do it.

Mary's life was never the same after

the visitation, after the Holy Spirit overshadowed her, she embraced grace through faith. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ this Christmas, may the blessing of God almighty, the

Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Merry Christmas!

Revd Theresa Musiwacho

Prayer Share

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen



Weddings, Baptisms and other matters. Saturday Registration is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month 10.00 am to 11.30 am at Little Berkhamsted Church.

No appointment necessary

2023 Subscription Rates

As we near the end of the current subscription year, we are taking this opportunity to give all of our current subscribers advance warning of the rates for 2023.

Increases in the cost of living now never seem to be out of the news, adversely affecting all of us whichever way we turn. The Parish Magazine has not been exempted from such price increases, which has seen the costs of printing significantly increase since the start of the year.

Against this backdrop and to allow for further year-on-year price increases, next year's subscription rates will be as follows:

Annual subscription: £8.00
Monthly rate: 80p
Postal rate (2nd class): £21.00

We believe that despite these increases, the magazine still offers excellent value for money and will allow us to continue to financially support both local and national initiatives that are compatible with our objectives.

We trust we will be able to count upon your continued support next year, what with the magazine being such an integral part of the support network within our parishes.

The magazine, including back copies, continues to be available free of charge online. Just Google 'HHW Parish Magazine'.

PC

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday 4th December Second Sunday of Advent

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

Saturday 10th December

7:00 pm Candlelit Supper, St. Mary's Church, Essendon

Sunday 11th December Third Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday 18th December Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

11:15pm, Midnight Parish Communion, Ponsbourne
11:15pm, Midnight Parish Communion, Essendon
5:30pm, Crib and Christingle Service, Bayford

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

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

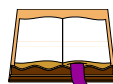
Wednesdays

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

For joining instructions see
hartfordhundred@outlook.com



PARISH REGISTER



Baptisms

23rd October 2022 Arthur Joseph HUNT Essendon

Deaths

6th October 2022 Adam BURGER aged 45 Brickendon.

Concert for Ukraine

On what turned out to be an unseasonably warm evening for the end of October, a full church was treated to a 'Concert for Ukraine' As the Ukraine national anthem filled the air, it was incredibly moving to hear our hosted families singing with such obvious pride and passion and a tangible reminder of the enormity of what has happened to this country.



We were then entertained by a very enjoyable and engaging programme of carefully selected and delightful music, expertly preformed by singers Suzanna Perry (Soprano) and Richard Perry (Bass Baritone) and accompanied by Helen Shabetai on piano.

As the church windows were lit up from the fireworks outside and the music within rang out, we were left in no doubt that this has been a very special evening for all of us.

Wendy Heath-Clarke



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Christmas Community Choir



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Three performances: Little Berkhamsted 9 lessons & Carols (3pm 18 Dec)

Essendon 9 lessons & Carols (6.30pm 18 Dec)

Bayford Community Carol singing (6.45pm 21 Dec)

(Please join us, whether you want to do one, two or all three of these events!)

Message Katie 07962 232535 for more information

Everyone welcome!



Dates for 2022

Romantic Spirit

Sat 12 Nov 2022 7.45pm

Drill Hall, Ware

Weber Overture to Euryanthe

Bruch Violin Concerto No. 1

Soloist: Magdalena Filipczak

Rachmaninov Symphony No. 2

Guest conductor: Jonathan Mann

Tickets: £17 adults, £8 students

Christmas Spectacular

Sun 11 Dec 2022 3pm

Haileybury, Hertford Heath

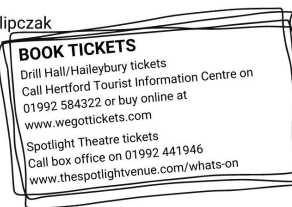
Get in the festive mood with our spectacular family-friendly Christmas concert featuring primary-school choirs, festive orchestral and choral music, Christmas carols with audience participation and music guaranteed to enchant people of all ages!

Guest conductor: Daniel Hogan

Tickets: £14 adults, £6 children/students
£34 Family Ticket (2 adults + 2 children)



HERTFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Dates for 2023

Classic Masterworks

Sat 4 Mar 2023 7.45pm

Drill Hall, Ware

Clyne Masquerade

Dvořák Cello concerto

Soloist: Joely Kooos

Elgar Symphony No. 1

Sat 20 May 2023 7.45pm

Drill Hall, Ware

Beethoven Leonore Overture No. 3

Nielsen Helios Overture

Grieg Morning Mood

Schumann Symphony No. 3

All at Sea - Concert for Children

Sun 2 July 2023 2.30pm and 4.15pm

Spotlight Theatre, Hoddesdon



CUCUMBER FIELDS

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www.cucumberfields.co.uk/visit

Invitation

From Ware Choral Society

This year Ware Choral Society will be performing 'The Messiah' at **Christ Church in Ware on Saturday 10th December.**

If you enjoy singing and are free on Wednesday evenings, why not come along. All voice parts are welcome and no auditions are required.

We meet at the Riverside Hall in Ware on Wednesdays, 7.15 for 7.30 and rehearsals for The Messiah start on September 14th. You are welcome to come and try a few sessions, without commitment.

If you'd like any more info and just might be interested, have a look at our website **www.warechoral.org.uk** or contact our membership secretary ***gillwoollgar@hotmail.com***

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www.fittawithpilates.com

or contact Ketì on

07718386195

keti.snee@googlemail.com

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and
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The flagpole at Little Berkhamsted has flown the Ukrainian flag lately, but the Union Jack, at half mast, was substituted during the period of mourning. Over the weekend of Remembrance, the 'Poppy Flag' was flown.

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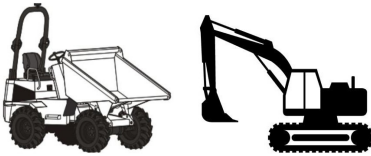
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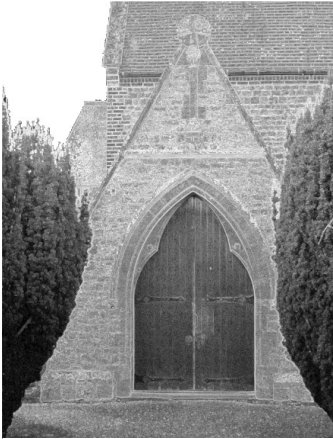
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References available



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Bayford

St. Mary's Church

Bayford Church is open Mondays Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

CHURCH CLEANING.

December 11th and 25th

Joyce Mentern and Maureen Whyman

FLOWERS

2nd Dec, Roy and Annie Boulton

BAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL.

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

Bayford Parish Council would like to wish all Parishioners a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Telephone Box and Rose Triangle.

I must apologise for not pursuing these two items which were discussed at previous meetings. We have decided to employ a contractor to refurbish the telephone box. It is the classic design of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, and thus worth preserving. Suggestions for its future use are welcome. One problem is, however, that it is likely to be damp inside. The door of the Telephone box is made of wood, which is rotten in places. Also the door has swelled and does not close. The plan at the moment is to repair the door and repaint the box.

The Rose Triangle is more complex.

It seems clear now that we must involve Herts Highways in any work. Work cannot be carried out on the highway without the appropriate permit being obtained. We do not know at this time how HCC will look upon our plans.

Mineral Plan.

The latest **mineral/waste plan** for East Herts has been published. It makes no reference to Bayford. Some restoration work appears to have been carried out on the former gravel/waste site near Water Hall.

Meetings.

23rd January 8pm

Please check the web site.

Michael Wainwright (Dr),
Chairman.

pc@begesford.co.uk

01707 875970.

www.begesford.co.uk

If you would like to receive emails of PC news, please drop me an email.

Bayford

The Baker Arms.

Time to look forward to Christmas, please note that we will only be open on Christmas day from 11am to 1 Pm. Bev & I believe Christmas is time to be spent with family.

Please watch the board outside the pub.

We will be doing Christmas Carols in the Pub, the date will be advertised on the boards outside.

Our Christmas menu is now available.

Have a Blessed Christmas

Martin & Beverley, 01992 511235



Knitting and Crocheting Group

Our Christmas projects are well underway, including an entry into the Ponsbourne Christmas tree competition. Thanks to everyone who has made the group such a success this year. If you would like to join us, we meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the Baker Arms from 8pm. All welcome.



Please contact **Caroline Fletcher on 07919 317212** for more details.

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Photo: Jane Honeyman

**Knitted poppies were arranged around
the war memorial at Bayford.**

(some 200 of these were found in a cupboard in the church!)

**A knitted wreath and the British Legion wreath
from the Parish Council were laid on the Memorial.**

**The Service of Remembrance was held at Ponsbourne this year.
The Ponsbourne wreath was laid at the war memorial on the church wall.**

**In a rather chilly church, the names of the dead for each
Parish were read out.**

**This is a very moving part of the service,
especially when two or three names with the same surname,
are read out.**

**Each Parish Councillor then takes their wreath
to be laid in their 'own' war memorial.**



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Brickendon

Chapel of the Holy Cross & St. Alban

Sunday 4th Dec – 11.00am Family Communion
 Sunday 18th Dec – 3.00pm Carols by Candlelight
 Sunday 25th Dec – 11.00am Family Service
 Sunday 1st Jan - 11.00am Parish Communion

Sunday 18th December at 3.00pm – Carols by Candlelight with mince pies and Christmas cake! Come and sing your favourite carols and celebrate Christmas. Any requests for carols please let Virginia know on virginia.haryott@gmail.com or call 01992 511575

For enquiries concerning the Chapel, please contact Richard Haryott **01992 511575** or email richard.haryott@gmail.com

Flowers

Brenda Lambie
 Brenda Lambie
 Cathy Gibbens
 Cathy Gibbens

December

2nd
 9th
 16th
 23rd

Cleaning

Virginia Haryott
 Alison Blakey

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**

Fanshaws Room (The Village Hall)

The Village Hall in Brickendon is a lovely space for meetings and other gatherings. More details and photos can be found on the village website www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk

Hire charge for non-residents is £10 per hour.

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)
Brenda Lambie



Brickendon Petanque Boules Club

Play at The Farmer's Boy

Winter Play Times

Sunday 10am -12 noon

Tuesday 5.30pm -7pm

Thursday 10am - 12 noon

Further information and enquiries
Contact Janet 01992 511515



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
Mobile 07803 906291

Minutes: Brickendon website
www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk for .

Meetings:
are on 28th July, 29th September and
24th November

*Few things are as
disappointing as when you
ask
"What is for pudding?",
and receive the reply,
"There is a yoghurt in the
fridge".*



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For more information, call Kevin on 01438 798484, visit www.waggingtailsuk.co.uk/al/carers or email al@waggingtailsuk.co.uk

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music.

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07940565379

or come along to
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City
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either listen or join in



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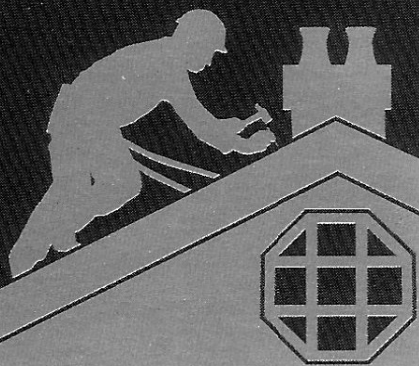
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Together we care



Isabel Hospice is a local charity and each year we care for hundreds of people across eastern Hertfordshire.

All our care is free and can be provided in your home, at our community hubs or our In-Patient Unit. Most of the people we care for have cancer, however, we are also increasingly caring for people with other life limiting conditions.

Isabel Hospice relies heavily on donations from our community, as well as income from fundraising events and from our 18 shops.

You can drop off donations at Bridge Road East, WGC (near B&Q)

For more information, visit www.isabelhospice.org.uk/teaparty

For a list of fundraising events, visit <https://www.isabelhospice.org.uk/>

Please mention HHW Parish Magazine when responding to an advert.

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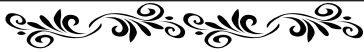
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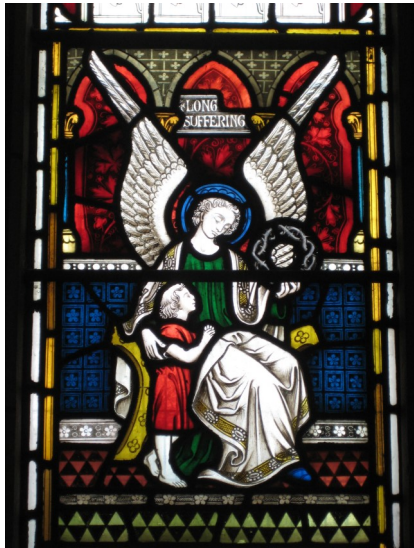
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A Visit from St. Nicholas CLEMENT CLARKE MOORE

'Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a
mouse;
The stockings were hung by the
chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would
be there;
The children were nestled all snug in
their beds;

...
When what to my wondering eyes did
appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny
rein-deer,
With a little old driver so lively and
quick,
I knew in a moment he must be St.
Nick.

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We provide luxury soft play hire to your home or a venue within Hertfordshire. Ideal for under 3's parties, weddings or christenings. We have a variety of themes and can even personalise the soft play with your little one's name.

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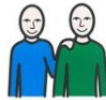
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To live



and learn



as friends



together



- To share



and give



and love



Christmas Greetings from our Advertisers.



Gleam Team would like to wish all their customers a Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Will 07737375618

gleamteamwindowcleaners@outlook.com

www.gleamteamwindowcleaners.com



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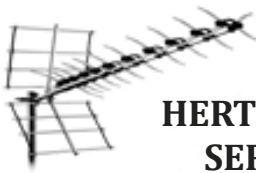


Oakes Restoration

I would like to thank all of my customers for their support over the many years I have been trading, especially recent years for the added support throughout the pandemic.

Thank you for all of the repeat custom, you are not just customers to me, you are my friends. I wish you all a joyful Christmas and a healthy New Year. May God bless you all and your families.

Best wishes for the coming year,
David.



HERTFORD TV SERVICES

Best Wishes from everyone at Hertford TV Services We hope you enjoy Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year



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Christmas Greetings from our Advertisers.

Cucumber Fields



CUCUMBER FIELDS

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ESSENDON

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Would like to thank all our wonderful artists and crafters for their support in 2022

We have a great programme planned for 2023 and look forward to providing arts and crafts locally for your enjoyment.

Merry Christmas
Sue and Judith

www.masterartworkshops.com
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

Christmas Greetings from our Advertisers.



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.



Paul Curson

I wish all my clients a very Merry
Christmas
And look forward to being of service
in 2023.

Best wishes Paul Curson
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Essendon

Essendon, Woodhill, Wild Hill & Woodside

St. Mary the Virgin



Flower Arrangers

December 24th & 31st Pam Worsley

Bible Study

All are welcome.

More information and dates from
mckellartrish@gmail.com

The Village Hall.

Tel: 07442 499601

email:

essendonvillagehall@hotmail.com

[facebook.com/essendonvillagehall](https://www.facebook.com/essendonvillagehall)

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Tennis Courts

Another good summer of tennis. Two fun junior run events and a successful American Tournament followed by a lovely lunch in Ian Screech's garden.

New members always welcome.

To join the club or any questions please contact,

Nicki Whitelaw 07946300512

nicki.whitelaw@sky.com

Essendon Tennis Club Committee



FLOWER ROTA

I am pleased to say we have found some newcomers for the above but would really like some more.

As flowers are so expensive nowadays, the P.C.C. will refund the cost when necessary.

If anyone enjoys arranging flowers and is prepared to do them in the church once a year, please contact
Judy Rennie 01707 658322

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

for more information.

Website: www.allsortsdg.co.uk

ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL

The next meetings of the Essendon Parish Council will be held on **December 12th**.

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.



ESSENDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Essendon W.I. will be holding their Christmas Party in the Village Hall on Wednesday 14th December 7.15 for 7.30 start.

Visitors will be very welcome £5. Entertainment will be provided by

Katie's Jumping Fleas Ukelele Band

A festive buffet is planned.

Bring your own glass and beverage.

Lyn McCash on 01707 269907

Scouts THE 1st NORTHAW Scouts SCOUT GROUP

Both our **Beaver Colony** (6-8 years) and **Cub Pack** (8-11 years) have resumed "normal" activities including hiking, camping and learning new skills and having great fun.

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

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S ESSENDON

CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS SUPPER

will be held in the Church
at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm on
SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER 2022
with entertainment

Tickets at £17.50 including a glass of mulled wine

Bank Payment to
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Sort : 60-10-39 A/c 30401682

Ref Candlelit Supper
Please let us know when booked

Mandy Nevel 07967 500289
Hilary Pickard 07974 231206
Table Plan Judy Rennie 01707 658322

Gardening

2022 as a year will be remembered by us all in so many ways both nationally and locally and particularly in our gardens. We have had to adjust to extraordinary weather patterns throughout and it looks as if this is going to be the future for us all. We must get used to the constantly changing weather patterns and use them as best we can and make changes where we need to. The future of Gardening means tackling things like plastics, pesticides and peat along with droughts, heat and flooding but it was ever thus. We can't manage without plastic pots but we must recycle and re-use them, we must also try to find ways to cut back on our use of peat which cannot be replaced and cut right back on the often unnecessary use of pesticides when good management can easily replace them. Present circumstances mean that we all need to use our gardens, whatever size they are, to provide as much as we can towards our daily needs and to enjoy ourselves as we do this.

There is such joy in a real Christmas tree whether it is large or small and many people have rooted ones that

they carefully bring in each year and how do we keep it going from one year to the next? If you buy one that no longer has its roots be sure to give whatever is left a real soak before you put it in place and it will last much longer.

December can also be a real time for pruning and a good opportunity to start on your Wisteria, leaving three buds on shoots that sprout from the main framework, cut back your gooseberries and redcurrants removing old stems and cut your Autumn fruiting raspberries to ground level. Do also make sure that your pruning tools are sharp and you don't damage the rest of your plants. Really tidy up your climbing roses removing any weak or damaged stems and make sure that you carefully tie in the strong stems. If you are garlic lovers now is the time to plant it ready for next July but make sure you keep it weed-free. You will probably receive house plants during the festivities, try and make them last as long as possible by regular watering and draught free positions. Most of all, don't forget to feed the birds!

Germander Speedwell

Essendon Family Services

Services for families of all ages.

**3rd Sunday of every month at 9.30.
Everyone is welcome!**

December – Christingle. Remind me, what's the orange for? Oh yes, the Children's Society.

Christmas Day – The big day is here. Jesus's Birthday. So did you get any presents?

Essendon Nature Notes

As we approach Christmas the garden is mostly silent now but our robins continue to sing throughout these colder months, often by day, sometimes by night. The robin's song won't reach its full glory until the new year but the sublime cadence of its wistful voice suits our mood this mid-winter. It is, of course, the one bird that we associate with the festive period. The connection comes not just from its sweet December notes but from Victorian postmen who were nicknamed 'robins' because of their vermilion uniforms. As the tradition of sending Christmas cards became popular, robins were a perfect symbol of the season and they have kept their place on our mantelpieces ever since.

We all have a soft spot for the redbreasts. They have a particular affinity with us, appearing tame and friendly as they accompany our digging in the garden, opportunistically taking whatever we turn up with our spades. However this

happy-go-lucky characterisation is an illusion. The robin is fiercely territorial and can be an extremely aggressive bird. David Lack's brilliant and seminal work 'The Life of the Robin' charted their battles for breeding areas in South Devon in the nineteen thirties and documented the surprising extent of their full-blooded rivalry.

They also have a reputation for nesting in unusual places. We had one in the eaves last year and another in the climbing rose but Lack records anecdotes of them using a pulpit, a human skull and even a dead cat. So when you have finished your digging for the winter, leave your old jacket in the garage or the potting shed and see if they make a home in one of the pockets come the spring. If they do, the fledged brood will need to fight for territories and you can look forward to even more of their elegiac evensong this time next year.

DC

Essendon Food and Warm Bank

Thanks to the generosity of many villagers and the splendid school harvest festival contributions, the Food Bank in the Church Porch has a much more secure future than it had a few weeks ago. Please continue to remember it, both for donations or if you need to use it. There is a free food bank – Jedidiah - at 138 Fore Street in Hertford (near M&S food) which also has fresh food.

We are starting a weekly Warm Bank on 26th October, on Wednesdays from 10.00-13.00. This will run initially in

the cosy Church Room through November, and then move to the Village Hall for December. We will serve coffee, tea and biscuits, with bread and homemade soup for lunch from 12.00. This is in addition to the Essendon Connect coffee mornings which continue in The Village Hall on Friday mornings.

Any offers of help would be very much appreciated.

Belinda Kent-Lemon 07976-447263

We hope to see you there.

Essendon School



Are you applying for a Reception Class place in September?

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Mobile: 07554 872731 – Helen

Email: helen.rupert.lee@gmail.com

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December 9th Chris and Tricia Hare

December 23rd Georgie Deering

The **Pantomime** this year will be in
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Start your Christmas with a
Village Pantomime with lots of laughs
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It has wicked **King Hairdo** who loves
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and much! much! more....

Performances:

Thursday 8th

Friday 9th

Saturday 10th

all at 7pm

But we do have a special performance
for children on **Saturday 10th at 3pm**
Mulled wine and mince pies.

Pay on the door Adult £5.00 Children
£2.00

**A donation this year will be made to
'HERTS YOUNG HOMELESS'**

Christmas Services

Sunday 11th December

Christingle Service 11am

Sunday 18th December

Nine Lessons & Carols 3pm

Christmas Day 25th December

Parish Communion 9.30am

An Evening of Song

Saturday 17th December 7.30pm
St Andrew's Church

Three Valleys Male Voice Choir Invite
you to join them to sing a few songs
from the 'good old days' including
some Christmas Favourites.

Ticket on the Door £10.00 contact
Sandie Ash **0170787522**

The **FOOD BANK** is in the church
every day.

If you need any help, please
contact the Churchwarden.

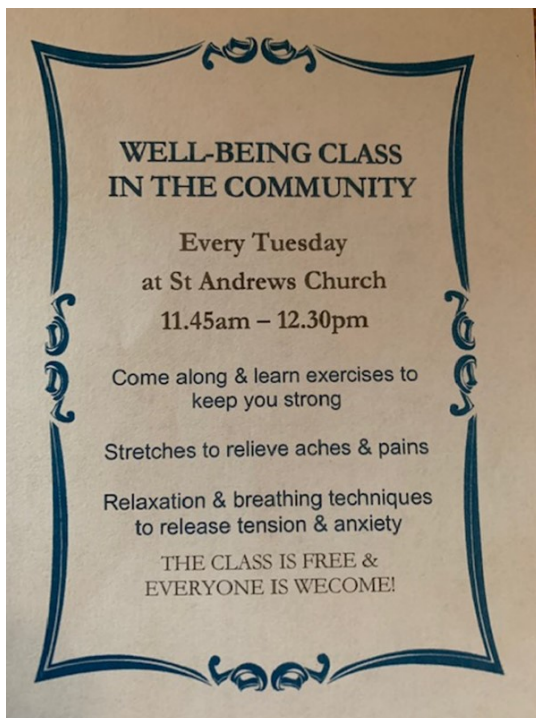
Little Berkhamsted.

Baby Group

Every Tuesday 10 - 11.30am
St Andrew's Church,

Very casual so feel free to pop in and say hello!

All babies and toddlers welcome with parents, grandparents and carers.



Master Art Workshops are back in Little Berkhamsted

The workshops return to the Village Hall and feature renowned and inspirational artists and crafts brought to our lovely rural location.

The workshops are typically a full day 10am-4pm with tea/coffee all day refreshments and a 2 course lunch included.

Our Workshops will feature various Art mediums and techniques as well as other crafts such as Clay, Photography, Jewellery and Christmas Decorations.



Contact Sue on 07973 977192 or Judith on 01992 579199 for more information on our exciting Autumn programme.

Visit www.masterartworkshops.com
Follow us on Master Art Workshops | Facebook

News from Little Berkhamsted Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on **Wednesday 18th January 2023** at 7.30pm in the village hall. The agenda is published on the website and village noticeboard the week before the meeting and residents are welcome to send questions and comments to the clerk beforehand, clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk or attend the meeting and ask in person.

Litter Picking Equipment **Home Farm Dog Training**

If you would like to help keep the parish clean and litter free whilst you are out and about in the village, please consider borrowing the litter picking equipment from the box outside the Village Hall door. Please provide your own gloves and wear the Hi -Vis jackets provided for your own safety.

Now running weekly classes on the recreation field. For further information and to book please contact Chris at admin@dogtrainingherts.co.uk or drop into the café at the pavilion on a Friday morning.



Remember you collect litter at your own risk, so please be careful especially on our busy roads.

Thank you for your help.

The Community Café

This is held every Friday morning in the Cricket and Community Pavilion from 10.00am to 12.00. Come and enjoy a tea or coffee, often with delicious homemade cake and good conversation with your friends and neighbours.

Everyone welcome!

East Herts Lottery

Have you bought a Lottery Ticket yet? For just £1 a week you can be in with a chance of winning a jackpot £25,000 and a special monthly prize - this month £1000 of John Lewis vouchers - and at the same time be supporting the village, helping to raise much needed funds. To register just go to: www.easthertslottery.co.uk/support/little-berkhamsted-cricket-and-community

Thank you for your support and good luck with your numbers!

**Wishing everyone a very
MERRY CHRISTMAS and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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





Newgate Street

Ponsbourne St. Mary

Next

Village Coffee Morning

Monday 5th December
10—12 noon in **The Crown**

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

All bookings can now be made through the Village website

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.



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Cub Pack - Thursday 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Scout Troop - Monday 8.00pm—9:30pm

1st Birch Green Brownies - Monday 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Meetings are held at

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Website: www.1stlettygreen.org.uk

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- HEAT MARKS REMOVED
- POLISHING & LEATHER RESTORATION

Please contact Barry Ayers on

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m:07768 848604

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Diamond Pest Control have a solution to any pest problems you may be encountering.

If you need a **wasp nest** removed or are experiencing issues with **rodents, moths, cockroaches, pigeons** or any other pests you can contact us on the number below.

We are recruiting for new technicians to join our team. Call us or send us your CV if you are interested!

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info@diamondpestcontrol.co.uk

www.diamondpestcontrol.co.uk

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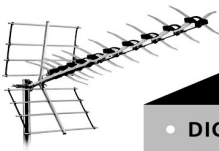


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MAGAZINE TEAM

Editorial and Advertising

Michael Wainwright, 12 Church Road,
Little Berkhamsted, Hertford. SG13 8LY
email:- parishmag@begesford.co.uk

01707 875 970

Proof readers: Judy Rennie, Sue Wainwright,

Graphics

All photographs M E Wainwright. (unless credited)

Treasurer

Peter Chivers. 53 Wildhill, Essendon, AL9 6EA

01707 642 622

General Distributors

Sue and Mike Wainwright

01707 875 970

Parish Distributors

BAYFORD: Jane Honeyman, 22 Well Row, SG13 8PW

01992 511 391

BRICKENDON: John and Janet Rees, 8 Brickendon Green, SG13 8PB.

01992 511 515

ESSENDON: Shirley Christison, 24 Rectory Close, AL9 6HG,

01707 261 437

WILD HILL: Sue Horner, Butlers Mead, 3 Hornbeam Lane, AL9 6JF

07768 166 938

LITTLE BERKHAMSTED: Margery Bailey, The Tower House, Stockings Lane,
SG13 8LW

01707 875 791

NEWGATE STREET: Angela Bryant, 29 Newgate Street Village, SG13 8RP

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Postal Distribution: Peter Chivers, 53 Wildhill, Essendon, AL9 6EA

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