



FOCUS

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2026

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you a Merry
Christmas
and a Happy
New Year*

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KINDLY NOTE

Articles and events for publication must be submitted to the Editor by the 10th of the preceding month. August/September and December/January are joint issues and articles must be submitted by 10th July and 10th November respectively. If an event falls in the first week of the month, it is advisable to submit the details into Focus a month earlier. The magazines are not delivered from the printers until the first of the month and it takes a few days for them all to be circulated throughout the villages by our volunteer distributors.  Editor

Focus accepts no responsibility as to the accuracy or content of any advertising or articles published in 'this' magazine, neither do they reflect the opinion of members of the Committee.

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DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

These units are registered with the Ambulance Services. To access them, please phone 999. You will be given the access code and the location of the unit will be confirmed. The defibrillator is easy and safe to use.

The units can be found on the outside walls of the following locations:

DAGNALL: Red Lion Public House & Munns Farm Shop

EATON BRAY: The Coffee Tavern

NORTHALL: The Swan Public House

EDLESBOROUGH: Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Baptist Church & Summerleys



EDLESBOROUGH SURGERY

01525 221630 www.edlesboroughsurgery.co.uk



The paper used for this magazine is sourced from sustainable forests and can be recycled



Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

Village Info



EDAN COMMUNITY CAR SERVICE

CO-ORDINATOR: **Peter Williams** 01442 842506
Email: peterw500@aol.com



POLICE CONTACT DETAILS

GENERAL ASSISTANCE (RECOMMENDED NUMBER): 101 **EMERGENCY:** 999
TEXTPHONE SERVICE: 18001 101

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE: (EATON BRAY)

T/Sgt 6268 Amy Ison Leighton Buzzard Community Policing Team
Duncombe Drive, Leighton Buzzard **TELEPHONE:** 01582 473408

THAMES VALLEY POLICE (EDLESBOROUGH, DAGNALL & NORTHALL)

PCSO Mike Coker Email: WingNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk

TO REPORT NON URGENT CRIME: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

BOOKING CONTACTS

NORTHALL VILLAGE HALL: Lorna Cubbage 07857 318696

Email: northallvhbookings@gmail.com Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/nvh

EATON BRAY VILLAGE HALL: Norman Lee 07975 797202 & **Jane Taylor** 07852 586045

Email: bookings@ebvh.co.uk Website: www.ebvh.co.uk

COFFEE TAVERN: Julie Mahoney 07836 240467

Website: <https://eatonbray.com/coffee-tavern/>

DAGNALL VILLAGE HALL: Bev Way 07875 462128 & **Trish Owen** 07762 151364

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Email: manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

EDLESBOROUGH PAVILION: 07836 240467

Email: booking@edthepav.org Website: <https://edthepav.org.uk/>

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL: 07931 479663

Email: clerk@eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: www.eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk

EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL (including Dagnall & Northall): 01525 229358

Email: clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

EATON BRAY GOOD NEIGHBOURS HELPLINE 07930 987064



MANNED PHONE HOURS: 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

(An answering service is available for out-of-hours calls). Call us if you want help getting to the surgery/hospital and collecting prescriptions.

We help people of Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall and Totternhoe.

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Pavilion Cancer Support Group

This group meets at the Edlesborough Pavilion on the first Thursday of each month from 2.30pm. A get together to meet and share friendship, information and mutual support. There will also be speakers and medical professionals to address members' questions and requests.

**NO ONE
SHOULD FACE
CANCER
ALONE**

We are grateful to the Pavilion Trustees, Edlesborough Surgery and the Burghope Trust for their support.

No need to book just come along to the pavilion.

Thursdays 4th December, 8th January, 5th February and 5th March.

Edlesborough Community Sports Club
CIO Charity No. 1160939

WEEKLY

Mon-Sun	St. Mary's Edlesborough opening times are limited - Please see notice board and website
Mon-Sun	Pavilion Gym Mon-Frid 6:30am to 9:30pm Sat/Sun 8am-8pm Email Gym@edthepav.org.uk
Mon-Sun	Pavilion open for members. M-T 6:30am-9pm, F 6:30am-10pm, S/S 8am-8pm Email: General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk
Mon-Fri*	Eaton Bray Pre-school Eaton Bray Lower School, 01525 220468, admin@eba.ec
Mon-Fri*	Edlesborough Primary Academy Pre-School 01525 220431, epamanager@epa-primary.org
Mon-Fri*	Totternhoe Pre-school Totternhoe CE Acad 01582 662959 totternhoeoffice@tot.dsamat.co.uk
Mon	Pilates 10.45am, Totternhoe Memorial Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
Mon	Dagnall Community Choir , All Saints Church 7.45-9.45pm, w.dagnall-community-choir.co.uk
Mon*	Movement and exercise classes with a dance flavour, Northall VH 2-3.30. Jan 01442 864271.
Mon	Cubs (8-10 ½ yrs old), 6.30pm - 8pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Liz Coates 01442 842550
Mon	Yoga 6:45pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact 07837 727302
Mon	Barre 8pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact 07837 727302
Mon	Eaton Bray Tennis Club 4-7pm mini / junior tennis coaching
Mon	Eaton Bray Tennis Club 7-8pm Adult Coaching 'Get Back Into Tennis'
Tues	Pilates 10-11am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Nicky Roussou 07861 162680
Tues*	Totternhoe Baby & Toddler Group 9.30- 11.15am, St. Giles Church Hall
Tues	Tap & Ballet Classes JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654
Tues**	Coffee Morning Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-11:30am, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, EB
Tues	Jazzercise 9:15-10:15, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Beth 07539 739136
Tues	Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Kids 5.45pm- 6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
Tues	Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Adults 6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
Tues	Movement is Medicine Pilates 11am-12pm, Billington Hall, moira@stjudesclinic.com

Wed	Pilates 8pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
Wed	Northall & Dist Age Concern Wed Club 10am- 3pm, Northall Village Hall, Dee 07854 230243
Wed	Art Course online 9.30 - 11.30am, contact Lorna Moore 07896 619660
Wed	Art Course Bellows Mill Eaton Bray, 2-4.30pm, contact Lorna Moore 07896 619660
Wed	Pilates 6-7pm, Eaton Bray V.Hall, Heather Holmes 07305 023077 pilateswithheather@mail.com
Wed	Movement is Medicine Pilates 7-8pm & 8:05- 9:05pm Billington Hall moira@stjudesclinic.com
Wed*	Stay & Play toddler group 'Musical Monkeys' Eaton Bray Village Hall, 10am 07944 891235
Wed	Knit and Natter 12-2pm Edlesborough Pavilion Di Hedges 07794 075269
Wed	Home League Weds 2:30pm – 3:30pm (weekly fellowship & activities including singing, quizzes, arts & crafts, bible thought & a prayer – predominantly for women although gentlemen are very welcome), The Salvation Army , Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR.
Wed	Champion's Club Weds 6:15pm – 7:15pm (2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Weds of the month, Age 5+, term time only – lots of fun including games, music, activities & bible stories), The Salvation Army , Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR.
Thur	KFPA Street dance classes Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4.15pm-6.30pm (4 years+) Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' for info
Thur	Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Adults 6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
Thur	Beavers (6 to 8 years old), 6.15-7.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact: ebebeaverleader@ebescouts.co.uk
Thur	Explorers Scouts (14-18 years old), 8pm- 9.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Simon Betts, simon_betts@hotmail.com
Thur	Jazzercise 18:30-19:00 and 19:00-19:45, Eaton Bray VH, Beth 07539 739136
Thur	Retro Line Dance Class 11.15am to 12.45pm. Eaton Bray Village Hall. Beginners welcome. www.jukeboxjunction.co.uk info@jukeboxjunction.co.uk 07864 212171
Thur	Eaton Bray Tennis Club 6.30pm – 8.00pm Social play for all adults

Thur	Eaton Bray Pickleball 6.30pm - 8.00pm Social play for all adults (weather permitting)
Thur	Adult Board Games 12-2:30pm, Pavilion 07740 197392 Email Stevemunday1@gmail.com
Thur*	Move Better, Feel Better Pilates 10-11am, Edlesborough Memorial Hall Contact Lesley Pickering, 07767 823202, lesley@lesleypickering.com
Fri	Tap & Ballet Classes JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654
Fri	Jazzercise 9:15-10:15, Eaton Bray VH, Beth 07539 739136
Fri	Scouts (10½ to 14 years old), 7.00-8.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Mark Owen, ebescoutleader@ebescouts.co.uk , 07899 892344
Fri	"Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes 10am- 11.30am, Northall Village Hall. Contact Emma Whittemore on 01525 376124
Fri	Movement is Medicine Pilates 10-11am Great Gaddesdon Parish Hall, moira@stjudesclinic.com
Fri	Food evening at The Pavilion Email ecstrading@edthepav.org.uk
Sat	Jazzercise 9-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Beth 07539 739136
Sat	KFPA Musical theatre classes Edlesborough Memorial Hall 9.30-10.30am (4years+) Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' for info
Sun	Sunday Worship at 11am Edlesborough Baptist Church, Moor End, LU6 2FL. Contact: 01525 222064 or edlesboroughbaptistchurch@gmail.com
Sun	Karate for kids & adults 3-4:15pm & 4:30- 5:45pm, Eaton Bray VH, Contact 07500 007779
Sun	Eaton Bray Tennis Club 10am -12pm Social play for all adults
Sun	Eaton Bray Pickleball 10am -12pm Social play for all adults(weather permitting)
Sun	Sunday Worship Sun 11am – 12pm (weekly worship for all ages followed by tea/coffee/squash, biscuits & a chat), The Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR. Edlesbray Bridge Club at Edlesborough Pavilion 07958 183133 or ted.mani123@btinternet.com

MONTHLY

1st Mon	Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern (except Jan-2nd Monday)
1st Mon	Eaton Bray W.I. 7.30pm. Eaton Bray Methodist Church Hall. Margaret Jones on 07478 061156

1st Tues	Sewing Class 7-9pm, Edlesborough Pavilion, General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk
1st Tues	Jewellery Making 7-9pm, Edlesborough Pavilion General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk (Dates can vary)
1st Tues	Dunstable & District Orbit (social & charitable) Club Dunstable Rugby Club, 8pm. 01525 222441
1st Wed*	Messy Church 6-7:15pm, Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR
1st Thur	Pavilion Cancer Support Group from 2.30 pm in Edlesborough Pavilion.
1st Sat	St. Mary's Church Eaton Bray Coffee Morning, 10:30am - 12 noon (July held on 2nd Saturday)
1st Sat	Book Swap at St Mary's Eaton Bray, 10:30am - 12 noon (July held on 2nd Saturday)
2nd Mon	Film Society Sept to June, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Graham Chappell 07980 321977
2nd Tues	Dunstable & District Local History Society meeting, 7.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable
2nd Tues	Edlesborough W.I. 7.30 pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall. Contact Jackie Flint 01525 221618
2nd Tues & Thur	Adult board games club 7-9:30pm, Edlesborough Pavilion, 07740 197392, email.Stevemunday1@gmail.com ,
1st Thur	Girls' Night Out 7:30pm (1st Thurs of the month – for more details including where we meet & what we do each month, email eaton.bray@salvationarmy.org.uk)
2nd Thur	Sewing Class 10:30am -12:30pm, Edlesborough Pavilion, General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk
2nd Fri	Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 a.m. all welcome. No meeting in September, June plant bring and buy, December Sherry & mince pies
3rd Thur	Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm, Edlesborough Pavilion or as stated in Edlesborough Parish Council News
3rd Sat	Junior board games club Edlesborough Pavilion, General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk (dates can vary)
3rd Sun	Parish Lunch 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288
4th Wed	Book club 7-10pm General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk (dates can vary)
Last Sat	Coffee Morning 10:00-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church



EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH ~ PARISH NEWS ~

Vicar: Rev'd Joy Cousins

The Vicarage, 11 High Street, Eaton Bray - Tel: 01525 220261

Church Warden & Pastoral Matters: Catherine Hayden (01525 220527)

Reader: Gordon Gray (01525 220136)

Website: www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk Facebook: St Mary's Eaton Bray

Do you know which Christmas food was banned by Act of Parliament? It was mince pies! This was during the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, a Puritan, who thought food should be plain and simple as should the way people dressed and behaved. The English Civil War was a clash between forces of the crown and those of the Puritan parliament. But it was also a battle of ideology. Despite having no previous military experience, Cromwell led the New Model Army to victory in the English Civil War. In 1653 the Army drew up the Instrument of Government and Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector.

Cromwell 'ruled' from 1653 until his death in 1658. During this time, Puritan values were enforced by law. The Puritans encouraged industriousness, frugality and a serious attitude to life. Cromwell believed that 'pointless' enjoyment was a sin, so sports and entertainment were banned, meaning that theatres and inns were closed. Plain dress was also enforced. Christmas festivities were forbidden. Cromwell and the Puritans wanted Christmas to be a purely religious celebration in which people contemplated the birth of Jesus. They viewed with consternation the excessive eating and drinking on Christmas day. Festive food was removed from the streets which meant that the smell of a roasting goose could bring trouble. All decorations were banned. Puritans felt that mince pies were far too indulgent and rich, so in 1650 Oliver Cromwell passed an Act of Parliament banning mince pies. Anyone found guilty of eating one was to be put in prison.

The first mince pies were savoury, made of shredded meat in an oval-shaped case to represent the manger in which Jesus was laid. They included three spices as a reminder of the three gifts of gold, frankincense and

myrrh which the Wise Men brought to Jesus. It was traditional to eat a mince pie on each of the twelve days of Christmas to ensure a happy new year.

The Monarchy was restored in 1660. People welcomed Charles II enthusiastically, and looked forward to the reopening of theatres and inns and being able to celebrate Christmas once again. Mince pies were no longer illegal, and they became increasingly popular. It wasn't until the 19th Century that a new sweet mince pie arrived, like the ones we have today. Instead of being eaten at the beginning of the meal, it was offered at the end.

Did you know that a lot of the things we associate with Christmas- holly and Christmas trees, as well as mince pies- have their origins in representing the Christmas story? So this Christmas season, each time you eat a mince pie, remember its origins. Mince pies were intended as a reminder of the birth of God's Son, Jesus, who was laid in a manger. The spices recall the gifts of the Wise Men: gold for kingship; incense for worship; and myrrh for burial. Their gifts foretold Jesus' life, death and Kingship. He is the true meaning of Christmas, the one who is worthy of our worship.

'Therefore God raised him to the heights and bestowed on him the name above all names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow-in heaven, on earth, and in the depths- and every tongue confess that "Jesus Christ is Lord" to the glory of God the Father.'
(Philippians chapter 2 verses 9-11)

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and a happy new year

Rev'd Joy Cousins



NORTHALL BAPTIST CHAPEL

CHAPEL LANE, NORTHALL

(just beyond the 30 speed limit signs on the road towards Leighton Buzzard)

Everyone is welcome to our Sunday worship each week between 11am and 12.30pm including tea/coffee and time to talk together.

For more information contact: **John Hazell 01525 218142**

Email: **northallchapel@btinternet.com**

Website: **www.northallbaptistchurch.org**

There has been a Baptist Chapel in Northall for more than 200 years. Today we continue to seek to worship God, serve him in our daily lives and support and encourage one another in the difficult and the joyful times.



SERVICES at ST. MARY'S CHURCH, Eaton Bray

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On the **FIRST** and **THIRD SUNDAYS** of each month there is **HOLY COMMUNION** at **8am**

On the **THIRD SUNDAY** of each month there is **CAFE CHURCH** at **10am**, an informal service with coffee and croissants

WEEKDAYS: WEDNESDAY at **10am HOLY COMMUNION**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES

Details and **ONLINE WORSHIP: www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk**



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, DAGNALL DECEMBER 2025

SATURDAY 13TH DEC 10AM - 12NOON
CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER 10.30AM
DAGNALL VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

CHRISTMAS DAY 10.30AM
FAMILY COMMUNION

FOR ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT

PHILIP LEE ON 07977 234453 OR DOROTHY GREEN ON 01442 843237



DAGNALL COMMUNITY CHOIR

What a busy few weeks for the Choir, with more busy weeks coming up. We have now completed the Choir's relocation to Eaton Bray Academy, as from the 3rd November, and have been made really welcome. It was a little sad to leave our home of the last 15 years, All Saints Church, Dagnall, as we had such fond memories, and a few sad ones, locked into the Choir's DNA. We will certainly miss it. On behalf of the Choir, I would like to thank Philip Lee, who has looked after us all these years.

On Saturday 1st November we made, what is now our annual appearance at St Mary's, Eaton Bray at the Poppy Prom. What a wonderful afternoon it was with South Beds Concert Band performing a variety of pieces reflecting conflicts of the past and everyone joining in to sing Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and of course Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No.1.

Moving on, our next port of call will be the Carols and Tree Lighting taking place on Saturday 6th December at 5.00pm at The Five Bells, Stanbridge. This is a wonderful way to start off your Christmas. All you need to do is to come along. Let's hope the weather is kind to us.

The Choir's next concert is taking place in Eaton Bray Village Hall on the afternoon of 14th December and is our Christmas Concert starting at 3.00pm. There will refreshments and mince pies etc. Father Christmas has found time in his very busy diary to make an appearance. Every year whilst holding this event we raise money and this year we have

chosen

Eaton Bray Academy to be the recipient. So come along parents, attend this event and show your support for the Academy. Tickets are £5.00 for adults and children, accompanied by an adult, are free. Let's make this a great fund raising day for the school. This Christmas Concert will bring an end to the Choir's year (well apart from our Annual Christmas Dinner hosted by the Swan at Northall) but we already have plans in place for next year including our wonderful, not to be missed, Afternoon Tea Concert.

Finally, if you would like to come along on a Monday evening to a choir rehearsal at our new home, you will be made more than welcome.





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Future Book Swap dates at St Mary's Church

Sat December 6th 2025

10.30am – 12.00

Sat January 3rd 2026

10.30am – 12.00

For more information about Book Swap please contact:

Chris Sanders Email: chris.sanders45@gmail.com

Jenifer MacKenzie Email: jenimackenzie@hotmail.com



THE COFFEE TAVERN

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www.eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-coffee-tavern/



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classes, friendship groups, we welcome you all – and more!

"A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices"

Rev. Tim Haines, Eaton Bray Methodist Church

As we come to the end of another year and step tentatively into a new one, many of us find ourselves thinking about the world around us—not just our own lives, but the news we consume, the worries we carry, and the tensions that seem to be growing rather than easing. December and January have often been reflective months, but this year it feels especially so. There is a longing, deep and shared, for peace, for hope, and for some kind of restoration in a world that often feels bruised.

This longing is something I've seen expressed beautifully by the South Bedfordshire Craftivists, whose work you'll see pictured in this edition. They have created four canvases, each carrying a message that speaks not only to the heart of this season, but to the heart of our shared humanity.

In a time when global conflicts dominate the headlines, when civilians bear the cost of decisions far beyond their control, and when many feel powerless in the face of tragedy, this simple act of creativity becomes something more than art. It becomes a prayer. A protest. A plea. A reminder that peace is not passive; it is something we ask for, work for, and sometimes fight for in the way of Jesus: not with weapons, but with compassion, truth, and courage.

Peace, hope, and restoration can sometimes feel like big, abstract ideals that are hard to grasp in the middle of life. But they become real when we see them lived out in ordinary ways. Peace becomes the choice to listen rather than react, or to show patience when frustration would be easier. Hope appears in those small decisions to believe things can improve, even when the news feels heavy or the future uncertain. And restoration shows itself whenever someone takes a step towards healing; mending a relationship, rebuilding trust, or finding the courage to care again.

These values take shape not in grand gestures, but in everyday actions, in small places, and often in quiet moments when the world feels overwhelming.

As a minister, I often see how these themes play out in everyday life. Peace is found not only in international negotiations, but around kitchen tables, in reconciliation between neighbours, or in a quiet moment when we choose kindness over frustration. Hope is found in the resilience of communities, the hospitality of strangers, and the surprising ways people show up for one another. Restoration is found in healing after loss, renewal after exhaustion, or simple acts of repairing what has been damaged.

And so, in this season when we celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace, it feels fitting to let these canvases speak to us. They invite us to reflect on our own role in peace-building: whether that is praying for those in conflict zones, supporting relief efforts, or choosing to build peace in our own relationships and communities.

As part of this journey together, you are warmly invited to join us for our Christmas Café Church on Sunday 14th December at Edlesborough Methodist Church; a relaxed and welcoming space to pause, reflect, and share in the hope of the season. You're also encouraged to take part in the village Advent Windows, a lovely way for our whole community to mark the days of Advent with light, creativity, and togetherness.

As we move into a new year, may we be people of peace in a broken world, people of hope in a weary world, and people who believe that restoration, even when slow, is possible.

May peace be with you this Christmas, and may hope carry you into the new year ahead.



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EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Including Edlesborough • Dagnall • Northall • 2025 /26

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Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk | Facebook: www.facebook.com/EDANParishCouncil | 01525 229358

*Council wishes all parishioners & local businesses
a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!*

Remembrance Day Service 2025

Council thanked all the volunteers who helped set up and man the road closure points for the Remembrance Day Service. Council additionally thanks Mrs Lorna Cabbage for coordinating the road closure volunteers.

Thames Valley Police (TVP)

PCSO Tina Hobson attended the October Council meeting and provided the following crime figures for the Parish. The figures were from 1st September, so there is some overlap with the figures provided at the September Council meeting.

Edlesborough

- 1 x road traffic accident
- 1 x suspicious vehicle
- 1 x burglary – residential
- 1 x criminal damage

Dagnall

- 4 x road traffic collision
- 1 x suspicious person
- 1 x burglary – residential
- 1 x firearms action offence
- 1 x road related incident

- 1 x suspicious vehicle

Northall

- 1 x theft from vehicle
- 1 x suspicious person
- 1 x theft
- 1 x burglary – business
- 1 x hare coursing

PCSO Hobson advised the Council that;

- Inconsiderate parking that causes an obstruction should be reported to Thames Valley Police.
- Anyone witnessing hare coursing should report it as a matter of urgency via 999.
- There has been an increase in tool thefts from vans. The perpetrators are becoming increasingly aggressive. Parishioners are strongly advised to remove all their tools from their vans and to report any suspicious activity or thefts to TVP.

East Bucks Community Board

The East Bucks Community Board has agreed its priorities for the year. The Board will no longer be a funding source for Parish and Town Councils and local organisations. Its focus will be on helping Town and Parish Councils and local organisations to complete projects and access funding from other sources.

The minutes for the latest meeting are available at [Agenda for East Bucks Community Board on Thursday, 18th September, 2025, 6.00 pm - Modern Council](#)

Planning Applications

Each month the council considers planning applications submitted to Buckinghamshire Council for approval. Edlesborough Parish Council responses to applications are available to view on the EPC website under planning at <https://www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications/>

All parishioners can comment on planning applications via <https://pa-csb.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/online-applications/>

EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Including Edlesborough • Dagnall • Northall • 2025/26

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Buckinghamshire Council Draft Local Plan Consultation

At the October Council meeting Council agreed its response to the Buckinghamshire Council Draft Local Plan. Parishioners can view the Councils response at [Edlesborough Parish Council response to Buckinghamshire Draft Local Plan - 16.10.2025 - Planning - Edlesborough Parish Council](#)

Conclusion of Audit 2024/25

The annual audit for 2024/25 has now been completed and is available to view on the Council website [Annual Returns to Audit Commission - Parish Council - Edlesborough Parish Council](#)

Streetlights

Please report failed streetlights in Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall to the Clerk for repair via clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk or 01525 229358

When making a report please ensure you provide the Clerk with the information displayed on the lamp post.

Salt Bins

The responsibility for filling these bins is with Transport for Buckinghamshire. When supplies are running low a refill request should be submitted via their website <https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/> It is

more appropriate if a parishioner living close to the salt bin makes the request but in practice anyone can make the request.

EPC Surgery

If you have a question or suggestion for the Parish Council the Clerk will be available on the first Thursday of December, March, June and September in Edlesborough Pavilion from midday – 2pm.

Council Meetings

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place on:

- Thursday 18th December 2025 – Edlesborough Pavilion
- Thursday 15th January 2026 – Edlesborough Memorial Hall

The meetings will commence at 7:30pm.

Parishioners are welcome to attend all Ordinary Parish Council meetings and may ask questions, raise issues, and give suggestions during the Open Forum before the formal start of the meeting. Council requests that where possible questions, issues and suggestions are submitted in writing to the Clerk by the Tuesday preceding the meeting.

The agenda and full minutes of previous Parish Council meetings are available to view on the website or from the Parish Clerk.



2026 CALENDAR

MEMORIES FROM EATON BRAY EDITION 2"

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Repair Café Goes From Strength to Strength

On 25 February 2023, Ivinghoe & Pitstone Repair Café launched in Pitstone Pavilion. A community-run venture, it brings together volunteers with a variety of skills for local people to bring along broken items to in hope of getting them fixed. The café was all about promoting sustainability, looking after the environment, and looking to reuse or fix items instead of throwing them away.

Not only is it still going strong, but it's gone from strength to strength. The volunteer repairers - from a wide range of disciplines, including engineering, sewers, woodworkers and generalists, see over 60 items in the three hours the café is open, and the repair rate success now stands at 80%. And that's not all, said founder Alex Razak.

"We have also become a wonderful community space where people bump into friends and chat to others they have never met, while enjoying quality coffee and homemade snacks, and waiting for their item to be fixed."

The café is not for profit, but visitors are encouraged to give a donation for their repair and for the refreshments. The generosity of the volunteers and donations from grateful visitors has helped fund equipment that helps make repairs easier and quicker. It has also enabled the café to donate £3,000 to local charities chosen by the volunteers.

Those donations were handed over at a special Repair Café celebration on Saturday 26 July. The Pavilion was the usual hive of activity, with repairs in full swing and coffee and delicious cakes on offer, and plates of homemade canapes were also circulating.

At midday all eyes were on representatives of a diverse range of charities receiving cheques from Alex: Ivinghoe and Pitstone Food Bank, Ivinghoe and Pitstone Scouts, Aylesbury Food Bank, Workaid (which donates tools and other items to projects in Africa aimed at teaching people trades), CHUMS (providing a wide range of mental health and emotional wellbeing services: baby loss, mental trauma, suicide bereavement, recreational and therapeutic support, and friendship schemes) and the Hygiene Bank (where twenty volunteers in the Milton Keynes area provide help for people in need to keep themselves, their clothes and their homes clean through

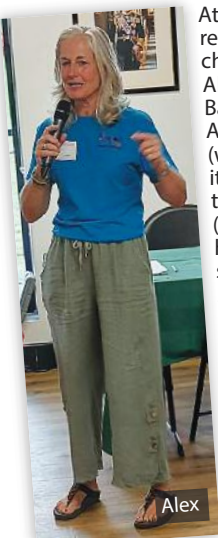
donations of items at Boots and other companies' branches and JustGiving donations).

The café has established itself as an invaluable part of community life remarkably quickly, and everyone involved is rightly proud of it and its contribution to saving items from the ever-growing landfill mountain. Everyone who attends fills out a form with their contact details, information about the item needing repair and their signature agreeing to the 'House Rules'.

Further information is filled in by the Repairer. The information is then uploaded to the Repair Café Worldwide Foundation database, so that the café has a record of how many kg of items have been saved from landfill and the volume of CO2 emissions prevented.

For more information, email ivinghoerepaircafe@gmail.com

or visit the Facebook page: [Ivinghoe & Pitstone Repair Café](#)





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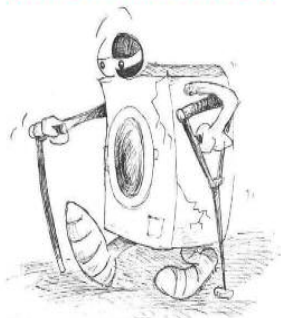
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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT: OCTOBER 2025

A hard copy of the draft minutes can be viewed on the Parish Council notice board at The Coffee Tavern.

A full copy of the minutes for Eaton Bray Parish Council can be found on our website:

www.eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

To keep up to date with what is happening in your parish, you can get all Parish Council news and updates from the Parish Council website. The website has all Parish Council meeting agendas, minutes, financial documents and contact information as well as official sponsored events/initiatives and is the official council communications website. Visit it here:

www.eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk

EATON BRAY FACEBOOK PAGE



Follow Eaton Bray Parish Council on Facebook, keep up to date with your Parish Council and what is going on in the parish:

<https://www.facebook.com/EatonBray>

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

A copy of the Parish Council's Finance & Annual Reports can be viewed on the Parish Council Website.

PARISH COUNCIL REGULATIONS/POLICIES

Copies of the Parish Council's regulations/policies can be seen on the Parish Council Website.

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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**HELD ON MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2025,
from 7:30pm**

(Minutes ratified at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 6th October 2025)

CBC CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Ward Councillor: Cllr Philip Spicer

Email: Philip.Spicer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Website:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Email:

customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk -

CBC Customer Services: 0300 300 8301

- Due to absence Cllr Spicer forwarded his monthly report to the Parish Council and is available to view as an attachment to the Parish Council Minutes on the Parish Council website.

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

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- Textphone service: 18001 101
- Follow local policing team on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/leightonbuzzardpolicing/>
- Crime Map for your area (details can be found on the Bedfordshire Police website): <https://www.beds.police.uk/area/your-area/bedfordshire/central-bedfordshire/leighton-buzzard--rural/about-us/crime-map>

PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APPEALS/ ENFORCEMENT NOTICES – OCTOBER 2025

A copy of the Parish Council's response to

planning applications can be seen on the Parish Council Minutes available on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

MONTHLY PAYMENTS: OCTOBER/PERIOD 7

A copy of the Parish Council monthly payments can be seen on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

WANTED/PARISH GARDENER:



**Eaton Bray
Gardener**

The Parish Council are looking for contractors who

would be interested in carrying out some small areas of gardening in the parish. If you would like to know more about this contract, please contact the Parish Clerk for further information.

VOLUNTEER: EB Bloomers



**Eaton Bray
EB Bloomers**

Who are EB Bloomers?

We are a group of volunteers who give up a bit of our time to add a bit of colour to the parish.

We look after and maintain Eaton Bray village flowerpots/troughs, with plants/flowers throughout the seasons. However, our numbers have decreased, and we are looking for more volunteers to join the team.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer and help to keep our village 'blooming' please contact the EB Bloomers team to find out more.

Contact: EB Bloomers (Eaton Bray Volunteers Group)

Email: gillian@gillysglamgardens.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:



**Music with the
Heath Brass Band
and Christmas
Carols**

**Wednesday 17th December 2025, 7pm at
Market Place, Market Square, Eaton Bray**

The Parish Council are once again organising Christmas Carols in the village. The Brass Band will be helping residents celebrate the festive season. Put the date in your diary and come and enjoy the festivities (*subject to cancellation for poor weather*).



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (1st Floor, The Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray)

Details can be obtained from EBPC website:

www.eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk

- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 3rd November 2025 from 7:30pm
- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 1st December 2025 from 7:30pm

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE (Ground floor)

**10am-12noon at The Coffee Tavern,
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(*Open dates/times subject to change, please check the EBPC Website for updates*)

**Tuesday 11th November 2025 – Tuesday 9th
December 2025**

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Weather Conditions for October 2025

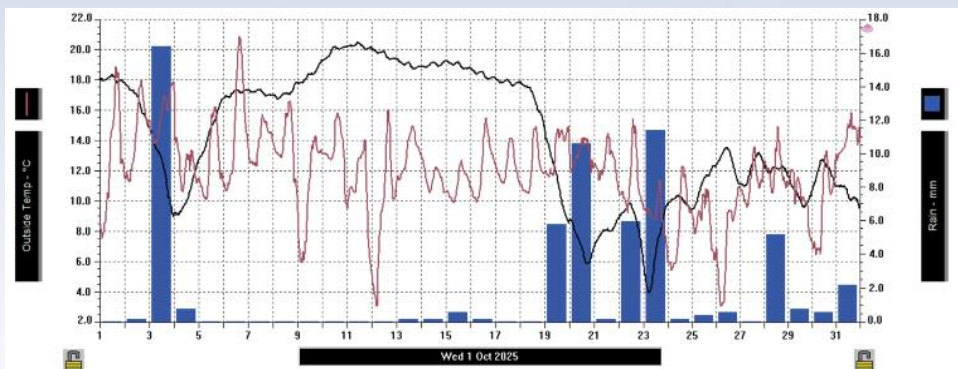
Elevation: 450 ft. - Latitude: 51° 50' 13" North - Longitude: 0° 33' 34" West

October began warmer than average but by the 3rd, the first storm of the season, "Amy", came our way with a drop in pressure, heavy rain and high winds of 44mph. The 3rd was, in fact, the month's wettest day with 16.4mm of rain. A couple of days later, the pressure rose with the arrival of an anticyclone, which stayed with us until the 19th, to produce dull and persistent cloud. On the 19th, the pressure dropped again and brought unsettled conditions which lasted until the end of the month. The pressure is shown in black on the plot below. The highest monthly temperature was **21.1°C** on the 6th; the month's lowest was on the 12th at **2.9°C**. Rain-fall was 62.6mm, which is 78% of the average for October. The year's rain total by the end of the month was 431.1mm: 68% of the average

Weather Conditions for September 2025

Temperature:	High 21.1°C	Date/Time 6 Oct 16.00		Low 2.9°C	Date/Time 12 Oct 04.30
Mean Temperature	11.9°C				
Dewpoint:	16.9°C	3 Oct 21.30		1.9°C	16 Oct 04.30
Humidity:	98%	12 Oct 05.30		58%	5 Oct 13.30
Barometer:	1034.7 mb	11 Oct 11.000		976.7mb	23 Oct 05.00
Wind Speed	44 mph	4 Oct 10.00		Months avg.	5.8 mph
Wind Chill:	20.9°C	6 Oct 1530		0.4°C	25 Oct 05.00
Dominant Wind:	n/a				
Rainfall *T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain					
*Rain Days: 19(T), 19(R)	Wettest Day 3 rd Oct			16.4mm	0.646ns
Monthly Rain:	Total	October		62.6 mm	2.465ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	9 Months		431.1 mm	16.972ins

October 2025 ~ Temperatures, Rain and Pressure



For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15mins, visit: www.dagnallweather.co.uk and http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall this site forecast and much more

If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: david@dagnallweather.co.uk or telephone: 01442 843883

Dagnall weather now has an app for your iPad & iPhone! Just go to the apple store, search for Wunderstation and follow the instructions to Dagnall Weather Station. Now updated every minute.

NORTHALL BAPTIST CHURCH - 200 YEARS AND STILL GOING



A little Church with strong local links.

Christmas Surprises

What are you hoping for, for Christmas or do you like surprises?

The Christmas Story, told out in Bible Readings at Carols By Candlelight is full of surprises. Jesus birth in Bethlehem had been foretold by the prophets hundreds of years previously. But when would that be fulfilled?

The first person who became aware of the imminent birth of Jesus was Zechariah, a priest. What a surprise to be visited by the Angel Gabriel while he was in the temple, fulfilling his priestly duties alone. The surprise message was that his elderly, barren wife, Elizabeth would have a baby to be called John who would prepare the people for the arrival of the Lord, the Messiah. His unbelief rendered him dumb until the baby was born and named John.



The next surprise from a busy Angel Gabriel was for Mary. She was told that although she was a virgin, she would give birth to a son to be called Jesus, Son of God. Mary wondered how this would happen and was told that the Holy Spirit would intervene. These stories in Luke's Gospel explain that nothing is impossible with God.

In Matthew 1 we read that Joseph then had a surprise dream, where an angel of the Lord told

Joseph to take Mary, as she was pregnant through the Holy Spirit, to be his wife. So, with John and Jesus safely born, comes the next surprise.

Some shepherds were told by a host of angels that Christ the Lord had been born in Bethlehem and to visit him.

Later, the little family were surprised by a visit from the Magi bringing gifts from the East of Gold, Incense and Myrrh. After the Magi had left, Joseph was again visited by an angel of the Lord in a surprise dream and told to take Mary and the child Jesus to Egypt to avoid King Herod's evil plan to search for the child and kill him.

More than unexpected moments and drama, Christmas is a time of giving. We all hope that we will get exactly what we would like even if we haven't been dropping heavy hints. God sent his Son, Jesus 2,000 years ago as a gift to all the world. His example we follow, is to show our love for one another.

So, enjoy your Christmas surprises but remember the real reason that we celebrate Christmas is because Jesus the Saviour of the World was born. The long-awaited Messiah had arrived as a baby and surprised so many.

Join us for Carols in the Swan Inn, Northall at 8pm on Thursday 11th December or Carols by Candlelight in the Northall Baptist Church at 4.30pm on Sunday 21st December.

Join us for our regular Sunday services in the Church at 11 am. We'd love you to join us for our worship and song. You will get a warm welcome. For those unable to attend in person we also stream our services.

For those interested in the history of Northall Baptist Church, a free copy of the booklet, Rebels in Green Pastures can be supplied or downloaded from our website:
<http://northallbaptistchurch.org/>

Ruth Cox Tel: 07791 425625.



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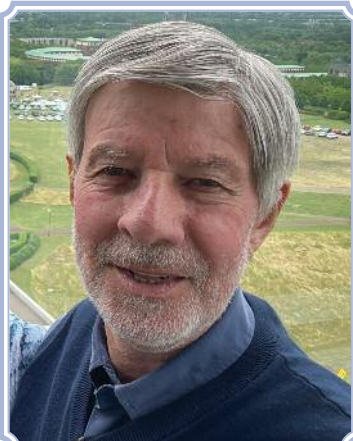
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RIP PETER BRINKLOW

Ann would like to thank everyone for their support following the passing of Peter on 4th November. Peter was very well known in and around the villages as

P. J. Brinklow Electrical Contractor

Friend of Bucks



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Wednesday Club

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Christmas Eve Candle Services

4.15pm
& 6pm

St Mary's Church
Eaton Bray



The 4.15pm service is always very busy and is planned with younger children in mind; if you like a less crowded situation or are attending as adults without young children, you may prefer to come to the 6pm service

A photograph of St Mary's Church in Eaton Bray, a large stone building with a prominent square tower and clock face. The church is surrounded by trees and greenery. The title 'Music@St Mary's' is overlaid in a large, purple, cursive font.

Music@St Mary's

I am pleased to notify you of the new programme of three concerts we are working on for **Music@St Mary's**, at St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray in the period from now to New Year. To make it easier for you to attend all of the concerts start at 2pm enabling attendees to get home in the daylight. Tickets (from the Box Office -01525 220136) for each of the three concerts cost just £10.00

2pm on Sunday 7th December – Festival for Christmas

St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray

In the run up to Christmas **Music@St Mary's** is giving you the chance to get out and enjoy yourselves by coming to our 'FESTIVAL FOR CHRISTMAS.' We've done everything we can to make the event accessible:

With a start time of 2pm there should be no problem getting home in the daylight,

The show will be performed by some of the top local musicians – including South Beds Concert Band conducted by Matthew Quick, and, on the organ, Stephen Axford

Affordable tickets – Adults £10, children free

Popular Christmas music.

Tickets available from the Box Office – please let us know that you are coming (Tel 01525 222283)

2pm on Saturday 10th January 2026 – Jazz - Town

"Hi! We're Jazz Town, a multi-instrumental combo from Dunstable that loves exploring a huge range of jazz styles. We release covers and original works online, and we regularly perform at live gigs, functions, and concerts!"

Tickets from the Box Office Tel 01525 222283)

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ADVICE AND INSIGHTS FOR KIDS IN THE GAME

Getting Parents Involved the Right Way

Parents play a key role in their child's football journey—but sometimes, the sidelines can become a pressure zone. Positive parent involvement is about support, encouragement, and trust in the coaches.

When parents model respect, praise effort, and avoid over-coaching from the sidelines, children are more relaxed and engaged. They feel free to explore, take risks, and enjoy the game. **Coaching Tip:** Share regular feedback with parents—something positive, no matter how small. It builds trust and keeps everyone pulling in the same direction.

Also, consider hosting a “silent sideline” day where only the kids' voices

guide the match.



Daniel Kiley
Coach for EB Lions
U11 Saturday Team



Eaton Bray
Good Neighbours

As we look forward to Christmas and the New Year it is a good time

to reflect on how our organisation has dealt with the last 12 months. This was explored at our recent AGM in October. It was noted that finances are in good shape with donations from the Parish Council, Carnival Committee, the local NISA store and donations from the families of some late clients who we have helped support in their final years. This demonstrates how much the service is appreciated.

The circle of life continues and as older clients die, new ones appear. We currently have 72 on our list who are looked after by 34 volunteers. We carried out 731 jobs in the last year.

We are a valuable support for villagers who find it difficult to get out and about. Eaton Bray Good Neighbours is part of a network of similar groups operating under the umbrella of Bedfordshire Rural Charities. Our local group covers Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Totternhoe and Northall and has now been in operation for over ten years. Volunteers are not on a rota or committed in any way. They can just opt into a job if it is convenient. Although we are volunteers, petrol is paid at a standard rate. If you don't want to be driving, we also have phone holders who are on a voluntary rota and organise volunteers as requests for help come in. EBN is a service Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

We look forward to hearing from you.
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100 Club
OCTOBER

1st prize - **Geoffrey Wheeler**

2nd prize - **Teresa Ledger**

3rd prize - **Barbara Morton**

Merry CHRISTMAS

Celebrate Christmas with
EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Christmas Carols & Brass Band
 [with The Heath Band]

Wednesday 17th December 2025 at 7pm
Market Place

The green outside The White Horse PH,
 1 Market Square, Eaton Bray



There will be charity collection buckets,
 cash kindly donated will go to local charities.

Song sheets will be available
 please bring your own torch/lantern

CELEBRATE IN STYLE
 (subject to weather conditions)

Merry CHRISTMAS

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

**BEST DRESSED CHRISTMAS
 HOUSE COMPETITION**



All residents in Eaton Bray are invited to celebrate Christmas by
 entering your festive displays in our Christmas competition.

A certificate and a small gift of a customised bauble
 will be awarded to the winner.

The Best Dressed Christmas House will be judged on
 Saturday 13th December 2025 by members of the Parish Council,
 with the winner announced at the Christmas Brass Band & Carols Event
 on Wednesday 17th December 2025.

If you wish to enter the Christmas competition, please visit
 the Parish Council website and complete the entry form:
www.eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk

Applications for the competition will open from
 Monday 3rd November 2025 and close Friday 14th November 2025.



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Christmas Services 2025

The children from Dagnall VA Church of England School were invited to draw a design showing the Good News of Jesus' Birth to feature in this pull-out Christmas card.

Our thanks and congratulations to all who took part especially Sophie, Luca, Ruby-Rae and Alice.



Sophie Y1 Red Kite Class

*The churches in the four villages join together
and invite you to join them*

St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray (Anglican)

Sunday, 21st December	10.00am	Children's Nativity
	6.00pm	Carol Service <i>(followed by mulled wine and mince pies)</i>
Wednesday, 24th December	4.15pm & 6.00pm	Candle Services - for all ages, especially children <i>(The earlier service is attended by younger children and is usually busier)</i>
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass. Blessing of the Crib and First Communion of Christmas
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Family Communion Service
Sunday 28th December	10.00am	Parish Eucharist

St Mary's Church, Edlesborough (Anglican)

(by permission of Churches Conservation Trust)

Saturday 13th December	3.00pm	Carols by candlelight (followed by mulled wine)
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All Saints' Church, Dagnall (Anglican)

Sunday 21st December	10.30am	Village Carol Service
Christmas Day	10.30am	Family Service with Communion

Edlesborough Methodist

Sunday 21st December	10.30am	Preacher - Fiona Arcott-Smith
Christmas Day Service	10.30am	Preacher - Graham Sharpe

I bring you good news ..of great joy...a Saviour has



er in wishing you joy and peace this Christmas at their Christmas Services

Eaton Bray Methodist Church

(meeting second and fourth Sundays at Edlesborough Methodist Church)

Sunday 14th December	10.30am	Christmas café church with Rev Tim Haines
----------------------	---------	---

Sunday 28th December	10.30am	Service led by Sheila Norris
----------------------	---------	------------------------------

This Christmas we are also pleased to support and share in the worship of other churches across our villages.

Warmest greetings from all at Eaton Bray Methodist Church, may you know peace, joy and hope, this Christmas season

Northall Baptist Church, Chapel Lane, Northall

Thursday 11th December	8.00pm	Carol singing at The Swan, Northall. All welcome
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Sunday 21st December	4.30pm	Carols by Candlelight followed by refreshments
----------------------	--------	--

Christmas Day	No Service today	Christmas Blessings to you and yours!
---------------	-------------------------	---------------------------------------

The Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray

Sunday 21st December	11.00am	Christingle Carol Service. All very welcome
----------------------	---------	--

St Mary's Church, West Street, Dunstable (Roman Catholic)

Website: <https://www.stmarys-dunstable.org/>

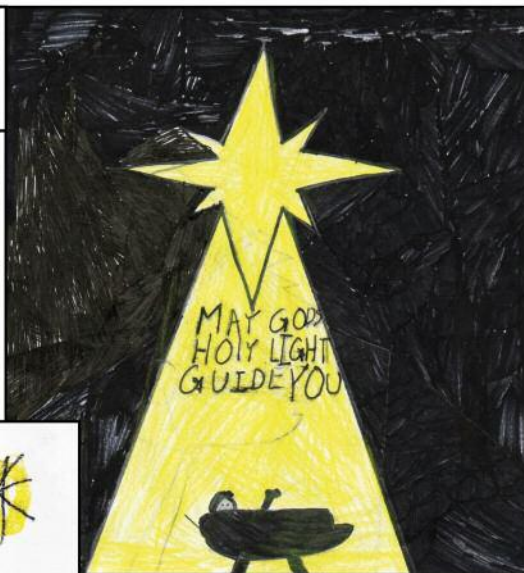
Sacred Heart, Church, Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard (Roman Catholic)

Website: www.sacredheartlb.org.uk

been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. *Luke chapter 2*



Luca, Y6
Woodpecker Class



Ruby-Rae, YR
Robin Class



Alice, Y4
Sparrowhawk Class



Stamp of approval for Whipsnade White Lion

65 volunteers rallied to stamp down fresh chalk to complete revamp of Whipsnade Zoo's iconic chalk white lion



PRESS RELEASE: OVER SIXTY people gathered on Whipsnade Zoo's iconic 147m-long white lion to complete the final step of the famous landmark's revamp - stamping down freshly laid chalk.

Over 1100 tonnes of chalk was spread across the famous hillside figure's 6525 square metre surface area by a devoted group of 40 volunteers over the last five months. But due to the rare, native flora and fauna that surrounds the chalk beast, the conservation zoo couldn't use pesticides or machinery to compact its powdery surface, meaning they needed a whole lot of manpower to seal in the new layer.

A divide and conquer approach was used to tackle the ginormous task, with three groups of twenty volunteers each tackling the head, body and tail respectively. A wet morning meant the chalk was suitably soft, creating the perfect conditions for a stamp in the afternoon sunshine.

Sara Nicholas, volunteer advisor at Whipsnade Zoo, said: "The atmosphere on the white lion was amazing. There were some very unique approaches to stamping, with a few groups breaking out a line dance, or 'lion dance', to make sure their section was well and truly compacted."

The mass stomp, which took one hour to carry out, has ensured the historic monument will shine brightly for 2026, when ZSL - the

conservation charity which runs Whipsnade Zoo - will celebrate its 200th anniversary.

Sara continued, "Thanks to the ginormous efforts of our amazing volunteers - or the 'white lion posse' as they've been nicknamed - Whipsnade's white lion is looking beautiful.

"Stamping down the newly laid chalk was the final step in completing this magnificent carving's makeover ahead of ZSL's bicentenary next year."

Owen Craft, Director of Zoo Operations at ZSL added: "2026 is going to be a big year for ZSL, as we mark our 200th anniversary. Whipsnade Zoo's white lion has stood proud on the Dunstable Downs for almost half of those 200 years, so it was really heartwarming to see so many people come together for its revamp ahead of our celebrations."

The core white lion volunteers will continue to maintain the iconic facade through weeding by hand every Thursday morning, whatever the weather.

Sara concluded: "With so many staff and other volunteers from across the breadth of ZSL, including zookeepers, horticulturists, and our presenter team, temporarily joining the White Lion Posse to help stamp in the chalk that has been spread over its colossal head, body and tail, it was a true team effort."

Construction of the white lion began in 1931, and it took two years to excavate. The nearby Ivinghoe Beacon - now a National Trust site - was used by the construction team as a vantage point to regularly check the accuracy of the outline. During the Second World War, the lion was covered to prevent it from being used by enemy aircraft as a navigation point, and in May 1981, as part of Whipsnade Zoo's 50th anniversary celebrations, the lion was illuminated using 750 lightbulbs.

Whipsnade Zoo | A ZSL conservation zoo.

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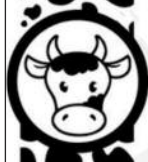
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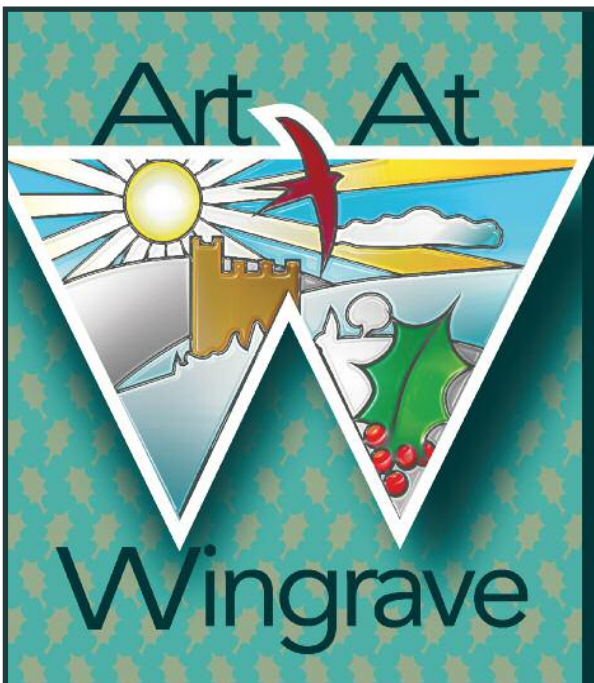


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December
Fri 5th 6.00-9.00
Sat 6th - Sun 7th
10.30-5.00

**Community Centre,
Church St., Wingrave,
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*Including Refreshments
Cancer Research UK*

Art At Wingrave' 2025, now in its sixth year, is just around the corner... look forward to joining us for a vibrant, joyful and free pre-Christmas Art Event showcasing the enthusiasm and talent of 20+ local Artists and Makers.

Whether you're an art enthusiast, a collector, someone hunting for original Christmas gifts or simply looking for inspiration, here's your chance to enjoy a festive weekend of art.

This year we're hosted by the village Community Centre, warm and welcoming for all. From the moment we open our doors on Friday evening, every corner of the space will be filled with captivating work. The Centre will be decked out for Christmas and the Bar will be open throughout the week-end,

Meet talented Artists and discover a wide range of work including Ceramics; Photography; Paper Sculpture; Print Making; Textiles and Felt; Glass Art; Jewellery; Watercolour, Geometric Abstracts and Mixed Media Paintings; Furniture Design; Hand-turned Wood and the striking metal sculptures of 'Riveting Welds'.

Explore the Artwork, soak up the festive atmosphere, enjoy refreshments and find that illusive gift – **Art At Wingrave** with something for everyone! So mark the dates, bring a friend, head down Church Street and pay us a visit, we look forward to welcoming you.

'No - big mistake!'

The reply from a visitor who had previously missed Art At Wingrave.

Don't miss out this December!

(Free entry · Refreshments in aid of Cancer Research UK)

(Additional parking: MacIntyre School, Leighton Road, HP22 4PA (Please display a note stating that you are attending Art at Wingrave).)

Andrew and Margaret Liversidge,
Field View Studio

Check out (and follow):

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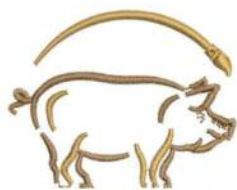


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Wednesday Club

12th November was our Christmas trip day - minibus, cars, volunteers, staff, and members all converged upon The Emporium, Garden Centre at Woburn Sands. We assembled at the restaurant for a cuppa on arrival and enjoyed a prebooked 2 course meal.

It's no mean feat to feed a large group such as ours - we cannot thank the restaurant staff enough for their hard work and care shown to the group. Hopefully, the members managed a browse and shop during our time too - many spaces were yet to be tinselled and fully glittered up, but I saw great opportunities to browse for inspiration.

Coming up we have a full calendar to take us to the end of 2025:

3.12.25 Volunteers Thank You Afternoon Tea

10.12.25 Christmas Visit to Dagnall School

17.12.25 Christmas Lunch Menu

2026 Our first meeting is on the 7th January.

Mid-October we welcomed Rikki and his very entertaining "The Butterfly Collection" talk, with images and poems for so many British

butterflies. I think we all learnt some new, interesting details and felt his enthusiasm contagious. ISBN

9781908241566

The Butterfly Collection by Richard Harrington,

Brambleby Books. Thank you to Barbara for the inspired introduction.



The Butterfly Collection

A poem for every British butterfly
by Richard Harrington

Wednesday Club phone is not monitored daily so please leave a message or text the Club Phone no 07854230243, enquiries to join, offers of assistance, produce gluts etc. thank you

We wish all our members, volunteers, staff and supporters the very best of Seasons Greetings - we look forward to welcoming in 2026.

LOCAL HOMELESS CHARITY URGES COMMUNITY TO HELP RESCUE PEOPLE FROM FEAR AND ISOLATION THIS CHRISTMAS

With freezing, dangerous nights approaching, Hertfordshire-based charity, DENS, has launched their Winter Appeal to provide vital support for local people experiencing homelessness.

DENS shared the story of Amy – who faced cold winter nights alone, frightened and without a safe place to turn.

Amy had a steady job and home, but when the cost of living spiralled, everything fell apart. With no family to support her, she ended up on the streets with only her dog, Ted, for comfort and protection. Together, they slept in doorways and car parks – places no one should ever have to sleep.

As a woman alone on the streets, Amy faced dangers far beyond the cold. She stayed hidden, constantly moving, never truly safe. Ted did his best – keeping her warm, alerting her to threats – but he couldn't shield her from the vulnerability or the constant fear that comes with sleeping rough.

Then Amy found DENS. She and Ted were welcomed to their pet-friendly hostel with a hot meal, a warm bed and expert, friendly support.

Today, Amy is rebuilding her life. She's working, housed and Ted is still by her side – safe and loved.

DENS is asking their community to give an extra gift this Christmas, so that they can help rescue people like Amy from fear and isolation.

Wendy Lewington, DENS CEO, said: "This winter, we're facing something overwhelming. Homelessness is rising. There is a cost of living and mental health crisis. We're seeing more people than ever arrive at our door in deep distress and not knowing where else to go.

"We urgently need your help to make sure no one gets turned away."

To help give someone a warm and safe place to sleep this Christmas, and help them rebuild their life, donate now at www.dens.org.uk/winter-appeal-25.

If you are concerned about a rough sleeper in the borough of Dacorum, please call DENS on 01442 800131 or create an alert at www.thestreetlink.org.uk.





THE FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL, EDLESBOROUGH



EDLEFEST UPDATE JUNE 5th/6th 2026

It is the beginning of November, and we are negotiating contracts with our selected artists. This means that our online ticket agency should be ready for the purchase of **"Early Bird"**

priced tickets, from the beginning of December.

They will be priced at :-

Adults £17, over 65s £15 and under 16s £8.

These prices will be available until midnight on 31st January 2026, after which they will revert to **"Standard"** priced tickets at £19, £17 and £8 respectively. Remember, as an extra bonus, if you purchase tickets for both nights there is a discount of £1 on each ticket.

"On the Door" prices will be £21, £19 and £8.

We will start selling tickets through our very supportive and local ticket agency, Janes Flooring, from the beginning of April - **cash only here please.**

We will need to monitor numbers closely as under the recently passed Martyn's Law we are

deemed to be 'Medium Tier capacity of 200 – 700', so we are restricting numbers to a maximum of 200 EdleFesters and cannot guarantee that there will be tickets available on the door.

Full details of EdleFest are on our website
edlefest.site123.me

OTHER NEWS

Our usual **"Carols by Candlelight"** will be held on Saturday 13th December at 3pm, preceded by The Bells at 2pm. Attendees will be rewarded with warming Mulled Wine. This will be the first outing of the new Bell rope, funded by the Friends Group.

We will be installing the **Memory Tree** on December 2nd on behalf of the Churches Conservation Trust. Please feel free to leave your message and a donation to support their work. For your visit we are generally open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, plus Tuesday Mornings if we are working in the Churchyard.

We wish all of our supporters a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Bye for now, Friends of the Church on the Hill

Friends of the Church on the Hill

W: edlefest.site123.me

FB: *Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough*





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Lucas (Northall)

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Warren (Eaton Bray)

★★★★★

Brilliant work from Paramount Plumbing again today for a replacement boiler. This must be our 4th or 5th project with these guys and they are always professional and good value. 100% recommend this company.



Jim (Eaton Bray)

★★★★★

Burst pipe early Saturday morning and David responded within 20 minutes. Problem solved immediately and follow up was first class!



Bernadette (Edlesborough)

★★★★★

I cannot speak highly enough of this local business. Excellent speed of service, professional staff, all work and pricing fully explained and job completed to our full satisfaction. I will be confidently recommending them to others.



Andrew Janes (Edlesborough)

★★★★★

Our bathroom installed to perfection, a professional job from start to finish. I would recommend David and his team to anyone.



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Message from Thames Valley Police

Dear residents of Bucks 

On the 28th October, Buckinghamshire TVP started their annual winter burglary campaign (Operation Grotto)  It will continue into the new year.

This is the response to the seasonal rise in burglaries during the winter months. Nightly patrols with multiple units will be taking place all over Bucks and will be focused on areas most impacted by burglary in order to prevent further offending.

While the main aim of the patrols is to detect and deter burglaries, officers will be keeping an eye out for any criminal activity or anti-social behaviour in hours of darkness. Your local neighbourhood teams will also be working with their communities around crime prevention to ensure everyone is making their homes as secure as possible this winter, while our investigative departments will be working intensively to progress burglary investigations 


So far officers have:

Attended several burglaries in progress

Carried out reassurance patrols around neighbourhoods that have recently seen a burglary

Seized 3 vehicles and arrested one male in the Burnham area on suspicion of being linked to vehicle crime

Dealt with numerous driving offences such as drink driving, no insurance and driving dangerously.

We will be looking to update you all with more results in the coming months 

Please help TVP be robust on burglars and thieves this winter by continuing to report information via 101 or at Home | Thames Valley Police.

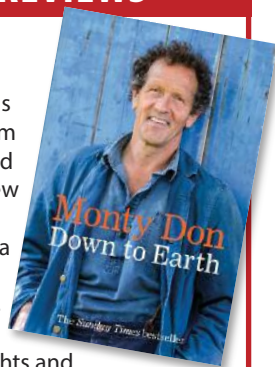
(Call 999 if a crime is in progress or you are at risk of harm) Message from Thames Valley Police



BOOK REVIEWS

Down to Earth by Monty Don

A new edition of this classic favourite from the Gardeners' World presenter, with a new foreword from the man himself, offers a wealth of advice taken from 50 years of gardening, including his thoughts and garden ideas around nature, seasons, colour, design, pests, flowering shrubs, containers and much more. You can follow his month-by-month jobs and learn a lot about his garden, some of which isn't captured by the TV cameras.

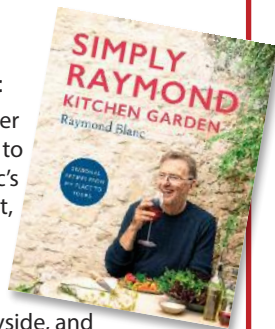


Simply Raymond Kitchen Garden by Raymond Blanc

Anyone who has ever been lucky enough to visit Raymond Blanc's hotel and restaurant, Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons in the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside, and tour his garden, will recognise how passionate he is about seasonal ingredients grown by his own team of gardeners and served in his restaurant.

This celebratory tome invites you to enjoy his expansive kitchen garden from the comfort of your own home, with highlights including the potager, the medicinal herb garden, mushroom garden, vast orchard and beehives which provide honey for the hotel guests.

And of course there are his mouthwatering recipes, from an easy Garden Veg Omelette to Beetroot-Marinated Salmon Tartare, but also wise words about sowing and planting, prepping and cooking.





DESTINATION FOCUS ON...

Travel Impressions

A World of Experience

Rocky Mountaineer

New Route for 2026 - Passage to the Peaks: for a limited time only, 10th June – 10th July 2026, the Rocky Mountaineer will not travel to or from the West Coast of Canada. Instead, it will begin and end in the iconic mountain towns of Banff and Jasper.

This is a unique opportunity to combine some of the most scenic parts of the Rocky Mountaineer's most popular routes. Travelling through evergreen forests, passing by sparkling glacial lakes and the towering mountains that define this region, this will be a very special itinerary.

Rocky Mountaineer offers two service levels, both with impeccable service, engaging Hosts, delicious food, and all the comforts Rocky Mountaineer is known for:

- **SilverLeaf Service:** provides panoramic views through oversized windows, as you enjoy all-inclusive beverages and locally inspired cuisine served at your seat.
- **GoldLeaf Service:** elevates the experience with a bi-level glass-dome coach; sprawling upper-level windows showcase unobstructed views of stunning landscapes, while the lower level features an outdoor viewing platform and an exclusive dining room with an à la carte menu.

The Rocky Mountaineer travels during the day only and you will stay in an overnight hotel in Kamloops before continuing onto either Banff or Jasper on the second day of your journey. All the transfers are included and if you travel Goldleaf, your luggage will be waiting for you in your Kamloops hotel room.

Each carriage has at least one train Host and they will share the history and folklore of the areas you are travelling through. They will also call out wildlife sightings such as *bear on the left*. The train travels at 'picture-perfect speed', winding along at a leisurely pace and slowing down at scenic spots to allow you to take photos.

Calgary is the closest airport to access Banff and Jasper and, if you would prefer not to drive, there are transfers from the airport to Banff, as well as a very scenic transfer between Banff and Jasper. We always recommend extending your stay by a few nights in each place and if you want to explore further, we would suggest hiring a car so you can travel up to Edmonton for example.

Sarah has been a Canadian specialist for nearly 25 years and has visited many times. She is one of the top agents in the UK as recognised by Destination Canada, so please contact her for help planning your trip.

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The Canal & River Trust
& St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE THIS CHRISTMAS

**The festive season is a time
for celebration, but it's also a
time to make smart choices.**

If you're planning to drink, plan your
journey in advance - book a taxi, arrange a
lift, or designate a sober driver.

Driving under the influence doesn't just
put your life at risk; it endangers everyone
on the road. **Don't be an idiot - one bad
decision can change lives forever.**

We've increased patrols throughout the
Christmas period, and if you choose to
drink and drive, you will get caught.

It's not worth the risk, the fine, or the
heartbreak.

Enjoy the Christmas holidays responsibly
and make sure everyone gets home safe.



**Your Edlesborough, Northall
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Dunstable Probus Club

Dunstable PROBUS Club meets on the
second Monday of the month at Tilsworth
Golf Centre and membership is open to
retired or semi-retired professional and
business people.

The Club's main purpose is the promotion
of good fellowship. Members enjoy some
social activities and the occasional
organised visit throughout the year and
after their regular monthly lunch
meetings are entertained by speakers who
give talks on a wide range of topics.

If you are interested in joining the Club,
please contact the Secretary,
Philip Savage on 01582 662462.



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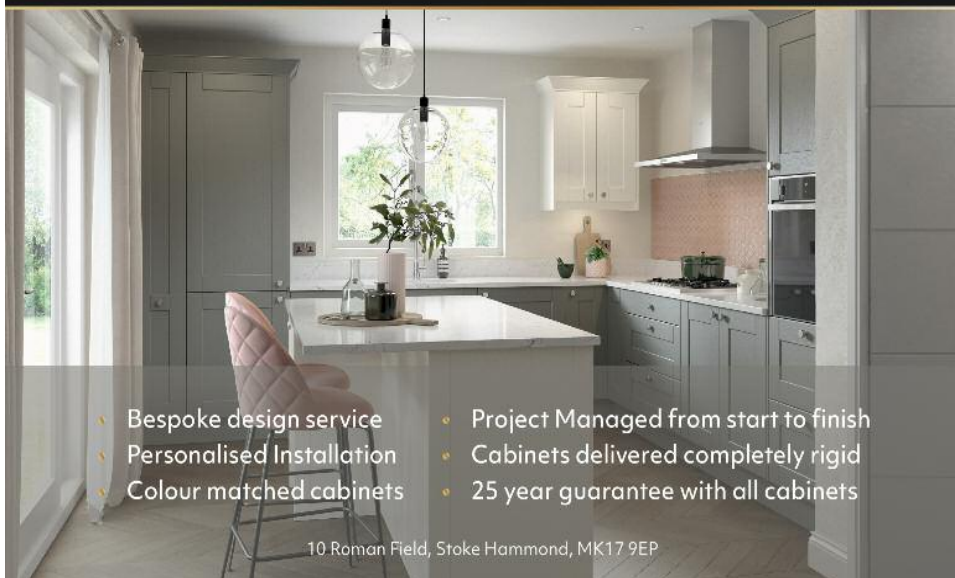
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Totternhoe GARDEN CLUB



On 13 November we welcomed Dr Primrose to the meeting at 7.30pm at St Giles' Hall, Totternhoe with a talk on "Poisonous Plants". As it was the last meeting of the year it was followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

The Club took the opportunity to say a very big "thank you" to our Chairman Joyce Murphy for organising all our trips, for many years. to gardens and stately homes around the country. Joyce was presented with flowers and garden vouchers.

In the new year on 15 January, we are lucky to have Andy Sands back on a return visit to show us some more of his superb photographs of wildlife. None of us will ever forget his brilliant pictures of slime mould under the microscope and are in suspense to see what he will show us on this visit. He is such an enthusiastic and knowledgeable speaker that I cannot recommend him highly enough.

For more information about the Garden Club, e-mail **Joyce Murphy** at tgc@mothermurphy.co.uk or telephone **01582 667085**.

For membership queries contact Veronica Clarke by e-mail at r_vclarke@hotmail.com or telephone **01582 600764**. At the moment we have reached our limit of 130 members, but Veronica will be pleased to take your details and put you on the waiting list to join.

Margaret Jones - Secretary



THE GREAT TOMMY SLEEP OUT

Hi My name is is Julian Hicks, currently resident in Eaton Bray and a Veteran of 22 years and 89 day continuous service in the Army.

Back in 2020 the RBL arrange for what they called **THE BIG TOMMY SLEEP OUT** with 10 participants sleeping out in March Last year that number had risen to 14500 individuals and groups raising £2,030,000.

This money is used to assist injured and homeless Vets to get back to a normal life by providing accommodation and work for Veterans.

Th RBL is currently improving and extending the living quarters for vet at their village in Aylesford, Hampshire This year at the age of 79 , I will be taking part in my second sleep out.

Anyone wishing to support and donate, will greatly assist in the efforts to assist our Veterans

The link below is where you can deposit your donation

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/1318159512709981/>

Aylesford village had been running since 1919 and has assisted thousands of Veterans in that time. I ask for your support

Julian Hicks(S/Sgt.) retired

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**or further meetings at the Pavillion
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Steve Munday ~ 07740 197392

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HELPFUL TIPS ON FINANCE

Festive Finances & Looking Ahead

The holidays are a time for family, rest... and often overspending. Budgeting in December can protect you from a New Year debt hangover.

Set a spending cap for gifts, plan your food budget, and avoid 'buy now, pay later' traps. If you're gifting money, don't forget the **Inheritance Tax annual exemption**: you can give up to £3,000 per tax year, plus £250 to as many people as you wish.

Now's also a good time to look ahead to 2026 — start listing your financial goals and flagging key deadlines in your calendar.

Tip of the Month: Make the most of your £3,000 annual gifting exemption — it helps reduce your estate for IHT purposes.

Daniel Riley
(Riley Accountants)





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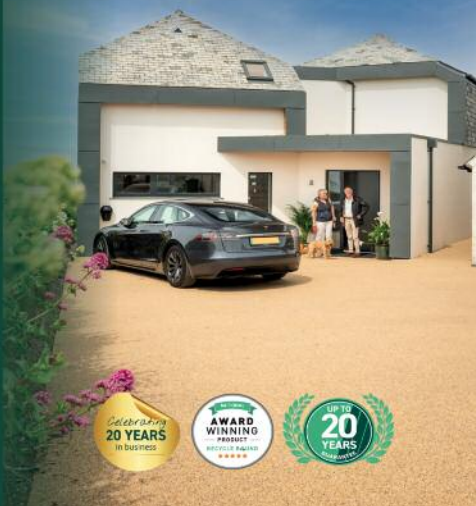
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Wednesday Club

JOB VACANCY – WEDNESDAY CLUB LEADER

NORTHALL & DISTRICT AGE CONCERN

Location: Northall Village Hall

Hours: Approx. 12 hours per week (for 46 weeks per year)

Salary: Circa £6,800 per annum (paid monthly)

We are looking for a caring, organised and reliable individual to lead our Wednesday Club – a weekly gathering that offers friendship and support to elderly members of the community.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Oversee the smooth day-to-day running of the club with assistance from weekly deputies and trustees.
- Organise activities, refreshments, and occasional outings

- Create a welcoming and inclusive environment
- Liaise with volunteers and local services

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE WILL HAVE:

- Good organisational skills
- A warm, empathetic, and caring nature
- Excellent communication skills
- First aid knowledge (useful but not essential)
- Basic knowledge of Excel Spreadsheets & Wordk

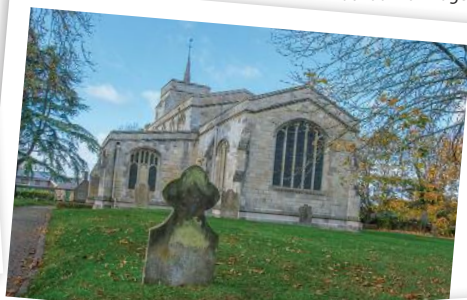
This is a rewarding opportunity to make a real difference in people's lives.

TO APPLY:

Please contact Lynne Rust
gl.rust4@gmail.com

St Mary's Church Eaton Bray Monthly Coffee Morning

Photography by Sarah Padilha MA ARPS
at Padilha Images



On the first Saturday of each month, St Mary's hosts the village Coffee Morning which is welcome to all.

Boasting an abundance of cakes, savouries and tea, as well coffee, come along to be greeted with a very warm welcome from our fellow neighbours and friends in the village.

Along with the wonderful selection of cakes, there are a wide variety of books on the book swap shelves and the opportunity to win prizes each month in the raffle.

We are actively looking for greater support from younger families. There is a plenty to occupy all ages as Daisy our youngest coffee morning goer can testify!





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APPLEDOWN RESCUE DOG OF THE MONTH



Every now and again a dog comes in to the kennels and stays with us for much longer than expected and we simply can't understand why! Handsome Hugo, a lurcher aged 3, is just such a dog. With his sweet nature and good lead manners he has become a favourite with the volunteer walkers, but somehow the right family just hasn't come along yet. He would love a home where he gets a couple of good on-lead walks a day and then he will be very happy to relax on a sofa. Hugo could probably live with another dog pending introductions but not cats and he will need a well-fenced garden.

Please visit our website for further details about adoption and an application form. There is a variety of ways you can donate to help us with our work please see details on our website.



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01525 220383 (10am-1pm & 2-4 pm) • Email: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com

Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk • Viewings are by appointment only



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For further information please call 01525 591061 or Email: info@mydogrun.co.uk



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Advent Trail for 2025!



Churches Together - Eaton Bray/ Edlesborough Advent trail

A few years ago some of us from the village churches designed an advent trail with numbered pictures in windows of houses , shops and churches in Eaton Bray and Edlesborough . This year we we've planned another one with pictures relating to the Christmas story in some way .

This year's challenge is to spot the glow in the dark snowflake in every Advent window !

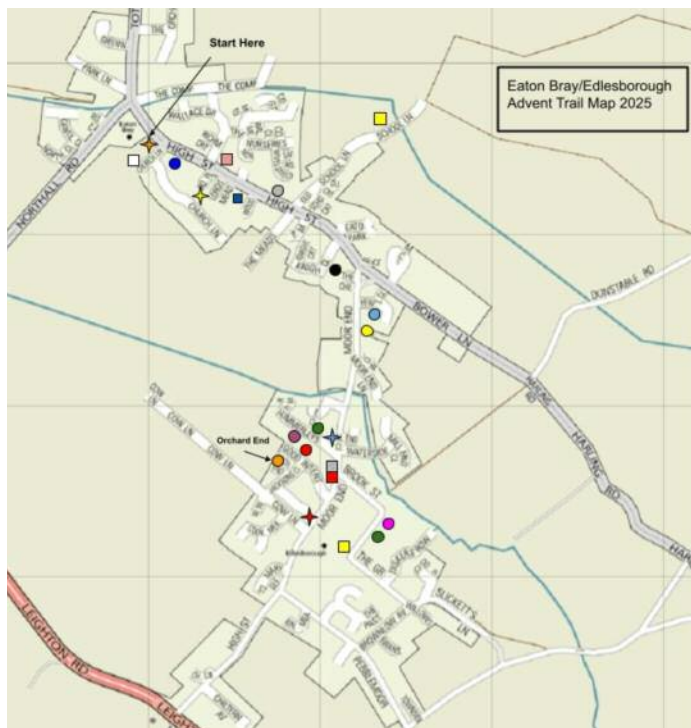
The trail will start at St Mary's Church Eaton Bray on Dec 1st . Pictures will stay on display until Tuesday Jan 6th 2026 so you can also view them during the school Christmas holidays.

Below is a map showing where to look for a picture on the relevant date. Locations are approximate to increase the challenge ! You can also find the trail on St Mary's facebook page , Eaton Bray Methodists facebook page and the website of Eaton Bray Methodist Church www.eatonbraymethodists.org.blog

Take time this December to follow the Advent trail and spot the snowflakes !

Key to Advent trail map 2025

1	★	St Mary's Eaton Bray
2	□	Village Hall
3	□	Village Hall
4	●	High St
5	■	Castles Estate Agents
6	★	Salvation Army Hall Booth Place
7	■	Happy Valley Chinese Restaurant
8	●	High Street
9	■	Eaton Bray Academy
10	●	Knights Close
11	●	Yew Tree Close
12	●	Moor End
13	●	Summerleys
14	●	Summerleys
15	★	Edlesborough Baptist Church
16	■	Edlesborough flowers
17	■	Janes Electrical
18	■	Janes Carpets
19	●	Good Intent
20	●	Orchard End
21	●	The Green
22	●	The Green
23	■	Edlesborough Pavilion
24	■	Edlesborough Pavilion
25	★	Edlesborough Methodist Church



WALLACE NURSERIES

Mr and Mrs W E Wallace came to Eaton Bray in 1886 and started a general nursery with four glazed over duck houses. From 1904 success with the perpetual flowering carnation made W E Wallace a leading name in the trade.

The local Sharrett family building firm constructed a new greenhouse for Wallace roughly every two years, each one 200/250 feet long by 43 feet wide. From the Chiltern Hills, they appeared as an eight and a quarter acre sea of glass. In 2019 one 300 foot greenhouse remains, extremely overgrown but still visible at the end of The Comp. Just opposite

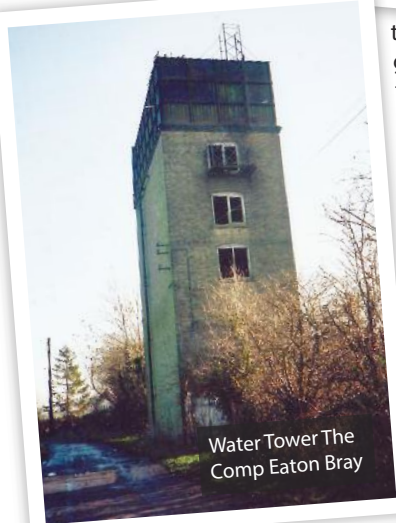
a good year, it is reported that 10,000 dozen blooms a day were dispatched all over the UK, making Stanbridgeford station very busy! King George V insisted in wearing a Wallace carnation every day no matter where he was in the world. During the second World War, tomatoes and lettuces were grown as well.

The Wallace 500 acre farm and fruit trees were a separate entity where gifted gardeners grafted thousands of apple stock to produce vast crops. As the significant local employer, Wallace carried a huge influence in the village. Employees were worked hard in the Wallace empire and as you might expect not all were

the greatest friends with their boss, but generally Wallace is perceived to have been a great benefactor behind many generous acts to support the village, including the church with the alter cloths and stained glass cast windows being donated by the family. They also took keen interest in village life with Mrs Wallace forming the 1st Eaton Bray Boy Scouts troop. After closing in 1974, the nursery land was given over to housing development and street names reflect the industry that preceded them.



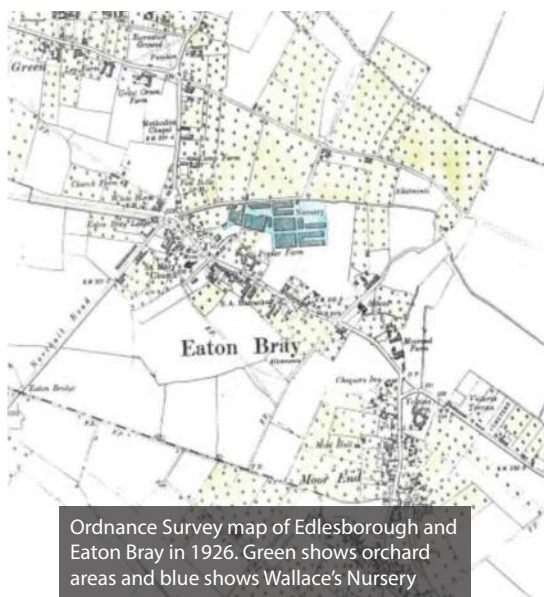
Last greenhouse ~
bottom of The Comp



Water Tower The
Comp Eaton Bray

that greenhouse there was a huge water tower (eventually demolished in 1996) whose engines pumped 80,000 gallons of water from three 300 feet artesian

wells to supply 450,000 continuous growing plants, tended by 100 employees. In



Ordnance Survey map of Edlesborough and Eaton Bray in 1926. Green shows orchard areas and blue shows Wallace's Nursery

EATON BRAY WI

theWI

At our November meeting we were delighted to welcome Geoffrey Travis a former Customs Officer. Geoff regaled us with stories of his long career, starting as a Riding Officer in 1947 in Farley on the East Coast. Requirements of the job were to be "sober, and impartial, no borrowing money, no bribes, only two children. Any breach of these rules could result in transport to the Colonies" His first job was issuing tobacco licences, (including snuff) at a cost of 5s 3d

The practice of levying customs duties in England can be traced back to the reign of Edward I who imposed duties on wool and leather. By the time of Edward II the system of tonnage and poundage was established which allowed for the taxation of goods entering and leaving the country. The first excise duties were introduced in 1643 during the English Civil War, primarily as a tax on alcoholic beverages to finance parliamentary armies.

IN 1909 HM Customs and Excise was formed and in 2009 merged with the Inland Revenue to form HMRC

Geoff worked in various places around the UK and while he was in Hull part of his job was to inspect the little boats coming in from Rotterdam bringing eels in cases. One day he happened to discover a case containing watches amongst the eels!!!



It was a most interesting talk and Lyn thanked him for entertaining us so well.

Remembrance Sunday on 9th November two

of our members laid the WI wreath on Eaton Bray Memorial

Each year our members generously donate to the Salvation Army Appeal for Disadvantaged Children.

At our Our Christmas Party on 1st December we will be entertained by the Turf Tappers

Eaton Bray WI will, sadly, no longer be meeting at the Methodist Church Hall as the Hall is being sold. We would like to thank them for all the help and kindness we have received in meeting there for so many years.

Our new venue will be the Salvation Army Hall in Booth place 7.30 pm on the first Monday of each Month and ladies of all ages are most welcome. If you are interested in joining our WI please contact

Sue Tucker on 07772901816 or
Margaret Jones on 07478 061156

INSPIRING WOMEN

EDLESBOROUGH WI

theWI

Our meeting in October always commemorates the formation of Edlesborough WI with a Birthday Dinner. We start a little earlier so business, such as September minutes and birthday cards and plants can be attended to first before celebrations begin.

For our birthday meal the Committee once again spoiled us with a delicious platter of salad, cheeses, pate and cold meat all washed down with wine or soft drinks of choice.

Replete with good food, wine and great company we were entertained by David Tomkins, magician, ventriloquist and entertainer. To great hilarity various members were picked out of the audience to help with magic tricks or be the ventriloquist's 'stooge' with funny voices coming out of our mouth! A very successful evening enjoyed by all.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm.

New ladies are always welcome.

Caroline Collier

Edlesborough W.I. Meet on the second Tuesday of every month in the Village Hall.

Sadly our original speaker who was coming to talk about thatching fell ill and Dr Bryony Norburn came and saved the day. Dr Norburn originally came from Tottenhoe. As Our Novembers meeting fell on Remembrance Day it was very poignant that Dr Norburn came to talk to us about Women at Bletchley Park and the roles they played through the Second World War. Most of us have heard of Alan Turing associated with the codebreaking but there were many women one being a lady called Joan Clarke and many more that played just as prominent roles. These were not the days of equal pay and the women didn't receive as high a salary as the men. 10,000 people worked there during the war years as 8 hour shifts carried on through a 24 hour period with one shift resting. A high percentage of this workforce were women.

Dr Norburn's talk was fascinating and she spoke with much enthusiasm. Even though a lot of us have visited Bletchley Park we learned a lot about the importance of the female workforce and the prominent names associated with the Codebreaking operation. After our talk refreshments were served and raffle drawn.

We are very much looking forwards to our A.G.M. and Christmas lunch in December at Tilsforth Golf Club.

New members are always welcome to come and join our friendly group of ladies and enjoy a varied programme of speakers and activities.

Jane Jones

INSPIRING WOMEN



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

7.00PM, 20 DECEMBER 2025

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CALL 07854 230243 IF YOU CAN HELP

Edlesborough Memory Café



A new social group for those affected by dementia and age-related memory loss has opened at Edlesborough Pavilion.

Their first meeting was held the afternoon of July 9 and was very well attended by a mixture of family carers and those living with the condition. Edlesborough Memory Café is a social space for people to chat and play some fun games together. It has been started with the help of Tibbs Dementia Foundation, who are a specialist Bedfordshire dementia charity with over 12 years of experience in delivering social activities to those affected by dementia and memory loss.

The group is very inclusive and all are welcome, those with a formal diagnosis as

well as those without. Family members are also encouraged to come along, either on their own or with their relative who is living with dementia/memory loss.

Tibbs pride themselves on offering a relaxed and stress-free environment, where clients can come and enjoy a cuppa, along with good company and some stimulating games and activities. It is a space where people can just be themselves without having to worry about stigma or judgement from others.

The charity understands that some may feel anxious about their diagnosis and being in the company of other people, and for those with a cognitive impairment this can be a very normal reaction to the thought of socialising in a group. This is why they offer social activities just for those living with memory loss and dementia; an opportunity to be with others in a similar situation who understand the challenges people with this condition face. New people are encouraged to come along for a taster session to try it. No booking is necessary.

The group meets at 2.30pm every 2nd Wednesday of the month at Edlesborough Pavilion.

For more information, please contact **Louise Evans** at louise.evans@tibbsdementia.co.uk or via phone on **07483 951733**

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Donate to our Toy Appeal



Support The Salvation Army this Christmas



The Eaton Bray Salvation Army is fundraising for **The Salvation Army's Christmas Toy Appeal** in order to donate toys to local families who would otherwise struggle to provide gifts for their children this year.

If you would like to **donate a new unwrapped toy for a child aged 4-11 years** this can be received at our hall in **Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR:**
on Sunday mornings (10:45am-12:15pm)
on Wednesday evenings (5:45pm-7:15pm term time only)
or between 8th & 10th December (9:30am-2:30pm) **deadline for donations.**
Or, email eaton.bray@salvationarmy.org.uk to arrange a drop off.

Alternatively, if you would like to give a monetary donation, please **visit our JustGiving page below or scan the QR code.**

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/thesalvationarmychristmas-2025-17



Thank you for your generosity!

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