

# Cheddington Village Newsletter

No. 559 – February/March 2026

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## CRA NEWS

**Village Newsletter.** This is Diane Benford, your new newsletter editor. I have lived in Cheddington for 8 years and look forward to editing this newsletter, which I have always found very useful. I would like to pay a tribute to our outgoing editors. Tony Johnson took over as editor in 1993 and has therefore been doing it for 32 years. In 2012 Pat Neilan started as assistant editor and since then he and Tony have edited alternate months' issues. We would like to convey our thanks to both for all the hours they have put in over the years. Truly amazing dedication from both of them.

I would like to remind you that we have changed to producing a newsletter every other month, which means that entries will need to cover 2 months of activities. The copy dates will be as follows: 15<sup>th</sup> March for the April newsletter, 15<sup>th</sup> May for June, 15<sup>th</sup> July for August, 15<sup>th</sup> September for October and 15<sup>th</sup> November for December. I have set up a new email address for contributions – see above.

I do not plan to make immediate changes, but would welcome any feedback (preferably constructive) on what you would like to see in the newsletter.

**The Christmas tree at The Green.** We hope you enjoyed seeing the lit 14 foot Christmas tree which was put up outside the Methodist Chapel over the Christmas period.

The tree was bought from Meads and paid for by the Parish Council. It was put up by Christine, Simon, Trevor, Keith, Dave Lucy and a passing cyclist. Then it was dismantled by Trevor, Keith, Peter, Simon and Christine.

Thanks to all who helped. We thought it looked really good.

**Poppy Appeal 2025.** I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone in Cheddington and surrounding villages who contributed to, and collected for, the 2025 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The collection total was £3,037.40. Thank you for your support for our Armed Forces community, past and present. From Keith Malcolm, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Cheddington.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS.

**Parish Council Meetings.** The February and March 2026 monthly meetings will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7pm in The Pavilion, Cheddington Recreation Ground, High Street, Cheddington LU7 0RG. For those residents who do not know, to find 'The Pavilion' just follow the path alongside the tennis courts until you reach the white building.

The agenda will be posted on the Cheddington Parish Council Facebook page, on the Cheddington.org web site

and on the Notice Board at The Green, with 3 clear days' notice before the meeting. If you wish anything to be discussed at the meeting, please advise the Clerk well in advance of the agenda being finalised.

The Parish Council carries out the day-to-day running of the village so if you have any queries please contact the Clerk, Roz Roberts on [clerk@cheddington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@cheddington-pc.gov.uk) or on 07885 442643 and leave a short message with your name and contact number.

Please note that correspondence received by the Clerk is emailed directly to all the Parish Councillors for comment or for their information.

### Cheddington Parish Council Facebook Page.

Please note the aim of the Cheddington Parish Facebook page is to relay information to the residents of Cheddington. It is not a public forum page.

**Planning Matters.** As reported at the December 2025 and January 2026 meetings: –

#### Applications Received via Buckinghamshire Council:

**PL/25/4402/FA** – Location: 40 Mentmore Road, Cheddington, Buckinghamshire, LU7 0SD - Demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with one residential 4-bed house – **No objections**

**PL/25/5708/PNAD** – Foxons Farm, Horton Road, Ivinghoe, Buckinghamshire, LU7 9DY - Prior notification application (Part 3, Class Q) for change of use and conversion of an existing agricultural barn into 1 dwelling – **No objections**

**PL/25/4682/FA** – 31 Mentmore Road, Cheddington, Buckinghamshire, LU7 0SD

Erection of a single-storey rear extension and garage conversion – **No objections** (Agreed at PC Grass Cutting Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025)

**PL/25/5460/FA** – 11 Lammas Road, Cheddington, Buckinghamshire, LU7 0RY – Single storey rear extension – **No Objections**

#### Determinations by Buckinghamshire Council: –

**PL/25/4682/FA** – 31 Mentmore Road, Cheddington, Buckinghamshire, LU7 0SD

Erection of a single-storey rear extension and garage conversion – Conditional Permission Granted – 09.01.26

**PL/25/5708/PNAD** – Foxons Farm, Horton Road, Ivinghoe, Buckinghamshire, LU7 9DY – Prior notification application (Part 3, Class Q) for change of use and conversion of an existing agricultural barn into 1 dwelling – Prior Approval Given 12.01.26.

#### Other Planning Matters:-

**Vistry Homes Development** – Nothing to report at time of publication but please keep an eye out for any updates

***The next Residents' Association committee meetings will be on Wednesday 11th February and 11th March at 7.15pm in the Methodist Church Hall. Please come along to tell us of any issues.***

regarding the planning application on the Parish Council's Facebook page, the local Facebook pages and the village notice board.

**Café Container.** Planning application has been submitted to Buckinghamshire Council. Once the planning permission has been granted (hopefully!) the Parish Council will get in touch with those who have shown an interest in running the café.

**New Bench/Picnic Table.** A lovely bright blue bench at the Village Hall remembering Andy Day and a picnic bench at The Green to remember Richy Dennehy, have been installed to remember two lovely gentlemen who are missed.

**Fancy a Chat and a Cuppa!** Come Along to The Methodist Church on Fridays from 12 noon – 2.30pm if you fancy a chat and a light lunch. This is a Churches Together initiative in conjunction with the Parish Council. If you can help in any way/wish to volunteer, please contact [ccraft@gmail.com](mailto:ccraft@gmail.com) or 01296 661068.

Remember Open Doors is also on from 10.30am if you fancy a chat, a cuppa and a cake before lunch on a Friday!

**The Pavilion – Available For Hire!** If you are looking for a lovely venue for a child's party/adult party/group meetings/reading groups/wine tasting class, for a small exercise class or whatever please contact the Bookings Clerk for further information/to arrange a booking on [cpcpavilionbookings@gmail.com](mailto:cpcpavilionbookings@gmail.com) or 07885 442643.

The cost per hour is £14.00 for residents and out of village £17.00 per hour.

Remember the Recreation Ground may also be available on request so why not use both venues for an event.

**Street Lighting.** Remember any faults with streetlights should also be reported to the Clerk, not Buckinghamshire Council!

The PC notifies its private contractor of any broken lights that need to be replaced.

Please note the PC does not have responsibility for Partridge Close (Hastoe) or Barkham Garage light (Fairhive), Orchard Manor (private contractor) or at the Blenheim area (Buckinghamshire Council).

**Fix My Street.** For any issues in respect of damage to pavements, graffiti or fly tipping, please report these via <https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk>

#### **Cheddington Allotments – Plots**

**Available.** Although it may be the winter there is still lots going on at the allotments.

If you would like to take on a plot, get some exercise and fresh air there are still some vacant plots available at Cheddington Allotment Site to rent.

*Great news! We have already rented out several plots.*



#### **Current Rental Rates are:**

<b>RENTAL CHARGES - CHEDDINGTON ALLOTMENTS</b>	
	<b>Yr 25-26</b>
<b>Full Plot</b>	£37
<b>¾ plot</b>	£31
<b>½ plot</b>	£26
<b>¼ plot</b>	£18
<b>Orchard 1</b>	£7.60
<b>Orchard 2</b>	£10.00
<b>Orchard 3</b>	£7.60
<b>Orchard 4</b>	£8.40
<b>Orchard 5</b>	£7.20
<b>Orchard 6</b>	£7.70
<b>Out of Parish - Full</b>	£49
<b>¾ plot</b>	£42
<b>½ plot</b>	£32
<b>¼ plot</b>	£20

If you require any information, please contact the Clerk in the absence of a Warden on [cheddington-warden@gmail.com](mailto:cheddington-warden@gmail.com) or on 07885 442643.

**The Parish Clerk, Roz Roberts can be contacted by email at [clerk@cheddington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@cheddington-pc.gov.uk) or on 07885 442643.**

**Please note the Clerk's role is a part-time position and she may not respond immediately to your query/message**

**Have a search on Facebook for Cheddington Parish Council and like us!**



#### **BUCKS COUNCILLORS' NEWS.**

Cllr Peter Brazier and I would like to wish all residents within Ivinghoe ward the very best for this New Year of 2026.

It has been a very busy 7 months since the elections in May, and we have quickly settled into the new council term, Peter as a Cabinet member, for Culture and Leisure, and myself as Chairman of the Community Board. Besides these roles there is the day-to-day tasks of answering residents' enquiries and attending those meetings in Aylesbury and elsewhere as required. I shall be attending the budget scrutiny committee for the whole of the second week of January; more background to which can be found in the following paragraphs. It does not make for happy reading I am sorry to say. Central government has pushed local government budgets for years and despite what

**CONTINUED on Page 6**

**Copy date for the next issue:**

**March 15th**



## THE CHEDDINGTON WI

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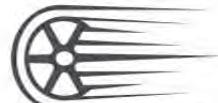
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some may say, this year is no exception. In Buckinghamshire, we are facing unprecedented financial pressures. The central government's recent Fair Funding Review means we face a reduction in funding in real terms.

## Budget.

The settlement for local authorities was announced in the middle of December and, as expected, Buckinghamshire has suffered a reduction in funding. The forecast figure was an anticipated cut of £42.5 million over the financial settlement period. This was made more difficult given the lack of clarity provided by Government, but it proved to be broadly correct – the actual figure is a reduction in funding of £44.5 million.

As costs rise and the demand for statutory services like adult social care and special educational needs support for children continue to grow, currently approximately 73% of our entire budget, we need to make some very difficult decisions in relation to spending in the year ahead.

Following the public consultation we ran last autumn, we have now developed a draft budget for 2026–27. This will go before our Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Task and Finish Group in mid-January. If you have a question you would like to be considered for discussion by the Committee about a specific aspect of our proposed budget, please email it to: [budget.scrutiny@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:budget.scrutiny@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) before 12pm on 11 January 2026.

This is obviously unwelcome news and the further £2 million reduction from the forecast serves to place even greater pressure on our finances.

Government have claimed that the "Core funding power" for Bucks has been INCREASED by 14.1%. This is completely misleading. The actual measure should be called "Core Spending Power" (CSP) which relates to the non-ringfenced money available to this council.... including the INCREASES in Council Tax that the "Fair Funding" formula forces us to account for.

The actual increase in CSP, including the rises in Council Tax for the 3-year settlement period is 8.1%. The average across England is an increase of 15.1%. So Bucks, even with a 5% per annum Council Tax increase, only sees half the core spending power gain of the rest of England. This figure does NOT account for inflation – so the reality is that the small CSP increase will largely be inflated away and yet the demand for services continues to rise. Without the increases to Council Tax there would be an overall REDUCTION in CSP of approx. 5% – worth around £30m.

Government is claiming this is a 14.1% increase because, inexplicably, they have chosen to use LAST YEAR as their baseline comparison and not this current year!

The headline message is that Buckinghamshire residents will see increases in Council Tax and money will be sent to other parts of the country, overall Bucks will have £44.5 million less as a county.

There is, however, some good news within our own budget. There has been an increase in the expansion of our Council Tax base. This has provided additional resources into the budget which means fewer cuts will need to be made than previously assumed.

As a result, the budget proposals have been changed to 'buy back' some options, a number of which are relatively minor and non-resident focused but the key resident ones are....

Therefore, we will retain weekly frequency of bin collections, the increases in road and transport investment, the

retention of all Household Recycling Centres and keeping public toilets open!

Other councils in the country are squeezing these areas and making swinging cuts or changes to services. Despite the targeted attack on rural county and unitary authorities by the Government a history of strong, sound and prudent control of our budgets in Buckinghamshire has meant we can adjust to provide a balanced budget.

The reality is that Government are also reducing grants and investment in other areas – such as the cancellation of the previously promised SEND school. Plus, we also don't yet know what the SEND reforms will result in. The fact is that the funding provided is not sustainable over the long term.

I am sorry to be the bearer of such news but this is the reality every year when funding announcements are made.

## Buckinghamshire housing plan.

The initial proposals for the new Buckinghamshire wide housing plan will be announced soon. With Government seeking 1.5 million homes to be built in this parliament it is inevitable that we will see large scale development in Bucks. Where these will be proposed is not yet clear but we will expect to take our share within the ward. It is simply not possible to accommodate all of this in small sites or infill, there will inevitably be new larger developments. I have always said that the arbitrary figure announced within their manifesto would be impossible to deliver. It now seems that statistics are showing this to be the case. Current projections are that between 700,000 and 800,000 could be built. There may well be 1.5 million permissions given but finances and skilled workforce are just not there to enable delivery.

## Finally.

As always, we attend almost every Parish Council meeting throughout the year, unless a meeting at Bucks council clashes, where we can be approached by residents or we welcome any communication by email at any time.

Once again, we wish you a very happy and prosperous 2026.

Kind regards, Chris Poll.

Councillor for Ivinghoe ward.

Chairman of East Bucks Community Board

## FARMING AND FOOD

by Julie Gaymer ([julie@mentmoreparkfarms.co.uk](mailto:julie@mentmoreparkfarms.co.uk))

### YouGov/AHDB Pulse Survey.

It is reported that health is a key focus in 2026 with the British public looking to cut down on ultra processed foods (UPFs) which opens up opportunities for meat, dairy and eggs. Figures reported by a recent YouGov/Pulse survey also highlighted that the rising cost of living meant that consumers may not afford to put wellness first.

In the survey 85% of consumers said that diet was important to their health and 77% said that fitness was important. But with so many health claims on products consumers were understandably confused.

A quarter of adults were looking to reduce UPFs and especially reduce sugar, fat and salt. Transparency is important with consumers wanting to know more about food products, where they are sourced and how they are made.

**CONTINUED on Page 8**

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One of the most talked about topics was the use of weight loss drugs. 4.1% of British households are seeking nutrient dense, lighter meals which are high in protein and this is found in red meat, dairy and eggs.

In the UK almost half of teenage girls consume less iron than recommended.

Summing up, where consumers want health and transparency, the farming and food industry are rebranding themselves as part of the solution.

Support your local butchers and farm shops for these healthy options!

### **Milk.**

The dairy sector is under intense pressure with processors slashing prices further and with expectations that more dairy farmers will leave the industry. Dairy farmers supplying Muller will receive 35.5 pence per litre (ppl) from February 2016. Arla is paying 35.73 ppl. First Milk 30.25 ppl. Compare that to the supermarket price you pay and wonder where is the profit for the farmer?

### **Cheese.**

A groundbreaking study from Lund University in Sweden has concluded that eating full fat cream and cheese is linked to a lower risk of dementia! The research has been published in the journal 'Neurology'.

It suggests that people who regularly consumed high fat dairy products such as cheddar, brie, gouda and full fat cream were less likely to develop dementia over several decades of follow-up than those who ate none. The study followed 27,260 adults in Sweden with an average age of 58 when they joined the research. Participants were tracked for 25 years during which time 3208 people were diagnosed with dementia.

Researchers found that people who ate at least 50g of high fat cheese a day – roughly two slices of cheddar – were less likely to develop dementia than those who ate less than 15g.

There are just 7000 dairy farmers left in the UK. The continued loss of small dairy farmers will have an effect on regional cheese production.

Here on our farm January is a quiet time. We have good establishment of our cereal crops this winter and look forward to a kind spring with some gentle rain and warm sunshine! On the stock farms lambing is about to begin!

## **NOTICES**

### **Beacon Villages Community Library.**

A belated Happy New Year to all our members, and if you haven't found us yet, we hope you will pop along to the library soon.

You will find a warm welcome from our volunteers who do a magnificent job keeping the library running.

We have enough volunteers at present, but if you're interested in helping in the future, please leave your details with one of the team in the library.

**We are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 2-5pm and Saturdays 10-1.**

You can find us in Ivinghoe, next to the post office. 01296 387890 [info@bvcl.org.uk](mailto:info@bvcl.org.uk)

Regular updates on our Facebook page Beacon Villages Community Library.

### **Board and Card Games Afternoons.**

**WEDNESDAY** 18th February and 18th March at 2pm at the School Room in the Chapel there is another opportunity to get together. If you have thought about it but haven't given it a try yet. Please come.

At the moment games available are Scrabble, Triominoes, Rummikub, Boggle, Skyo and Five Crowns and the Mexican Train but if you have your own great game that you would like to share we would love to learn how to play it and add it to those already available. We do charge £3 a session which is to cover expenses.

### **Charity Afternoon Tea.**

The Chilterns Neuro Centre (formerly The MS Centre) recently celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The centre is a local hub for members living with MS, Parkinsons and stroke survival, as well as providing valuable support for members' carers. They provide a huge array of services from physiotherapy to counselling, hydrotherapy to a book club, and the vast majority of their much needed financial support comes from charitable donations. My dad, who lives with Parkinsons, uses the centre and it's made a huge difference to his life and wellbeing, so I'm now trying to raise as much as possible, while raising awareness of the centre. Our Charity Afternoon Tea on Saturday 9 May follows the success of last year's, and will bring the same delicious mix of sweet and savoury treats, all baked at home and served on beautiful vintage china, fabulous company and the knowledge that we're raising funds for a charity that supports 800+ local members. Contact [annalouiseatkins@sky.com](mailto:annalouiseatkins@sky.com) to book or for more information (just £20 per ticket).

Anna Atkins

### **Neighbourhood Watch.**

Thank you to all those who continue to look out for one another – checking in on neighbours, reporting suspicious activity, and keeping an eye out. These small actions make a big difference and help keep our village safe.

Neighbourhood Watch is about neighbours looking out for neighbours and working together to keep our community safe.

With over 800 members already involved, we're building a safer Cheddington together. If you'd like to stay informed, feel more connected, and play a part in keeping our village safe, please join us.

 [Join Cheddington Neighbourhood Watch](#)

 [neighbourhoodwatchcheddington@gmail.com](mailto:neighbourhoodwatchcheddington@gmail.com)

### **Be Car Safe!**

As the new year begins, many people are embracing resolutions that involve getting outdoors, walking and exercising in the fresh air. Countryside car parks are popular starting points for these activities, but they can also be a target for opportunistic thieves. To keep your car safe, it's important not to leave valuables or new Christmas presents, such as phones, iPads, coats, or bags on display inside your vehicle. Even a small item left visible can attract unwanted attention, so taking a moment to store belongings out of sight or leaving them at home helps ensure your day out in the fresh air isn't spoiled by a break-in.

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**Repair Café.** Our next Ivinghoe & Pitstone Repair Cafés will be held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026, between 9.30 – 12pm at the **Pitstone Pavilion** (opposite the Westfield Road turning). Bring along broken items to be fixed by volunteers! Tools & equipment, electrical goods, electronic devices, clothing, fabrics, furniture, jewellery, household items, toys & games, wooden items & bicycles & more! There is no charge for fixing but donations are welcome.

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## St. GILES PARISH CHURCH.

### Lent message from the Cottesloe Team of Churches.

It's not all that long since the Church celebrated Christmas, when we celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ, as a light shining in the darkness... and yet, it probably also feels like a very long time ago, so much having happened since then. This month, the Church begins its observation of Lent – the season when we remember the forty days and forty nights Jesus spent in the wilderness, without food or drink, leading into the time when we remember Jesus's death and resurrection on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Lent is traditionally a time of penitence, reflection and spiritual preparation. To remember how Jesus was tempted by the Devil, many people choose to abstain from various things they enjoy, such as chocolate, alcohol, social media, coffee, or tea. But many people choose to take something extra on during Lent – such as making time for extra reading, prayer, or going the extra mile to serve others.

Lent can be a challenging time. In the Bible, we read how when Jesus was in the wilderness, He was challenged and tempted by the Devil. Think of how hungry and thirsty Jesus will have been... oh, how much He might have loved to turn those stones into bread to eat... but, no. Christ did not give in. Christ did not give up... but the Devil did.

I think we can take from this a message of hope. Jesus never gave up, in all that He endured – from the wilderness to the cross. Jesus came through the wilderness. The Lord of Light and Love defeated the Devil, darkness and death at that first Easter, when Jesus died and rose from the dead, offering us the gift of eternal life with Him. And no matter whatever hardships we might sometimes find ourselves in along the way... never give up.

For most, Lent is a set period of forty days and forty nights, with a clear start and a clear end. But for many people, they find themselves trapped on a much longer walk through the wilderness... think of those who suffer from war, poverty, illness, or persecution. They have little or no choice – and for them, there is often no clear end in sight. Lent is a time we are called to remember these people – and, if we have an opportunity, to bring them the light of Christ, in ways of love, service, a helping hand, and the Gospel.

What might you do for Lent... will you be giving up your favourite snack, or finally making some time to read that dust-covered book? As I write this, I still have yet to decide what I'll be doing for Lent. But whatever you do, I encourage you to spare a thought or a prayer for those who are on a longer walk through the wilderness – praying that they, and indeed the whole world, may know and experience God's



hope, light, love, and peace.

**Rev'd Will Lyon Tupman, Team Vicar**

### St Giles Parish Services

#### February

Sun 1st	9.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Family Service	St Giles
	6.00 pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St Giles
Sun 8th	9.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Holy Communion	St Giles
Thurs 12th	9.30am	BCP Communion	St Giles
Sun 15th	9.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Morning Worship	St Giles
Ash Wed 18th	9.30am	Ashing Communion	St Giles
Sun 22nd	9.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Holy Communion	St Giles

#### March

Sun 1st	9.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Family Service	St Giles
	6.00 pm	BCP Evensong	St Giles
Sun 8th	9.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Holy Communion	St Giles
Thurs 12th	9.30am	BCP Communion	St Giles
Sun 15th	9.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Morning Worship	St Giles
Sun 22nd	9.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Holy Communion	St Giles
	11.30am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	St Giles
Sun 29th	10.30am	Joint with Methodist	Methodist Chapel

#### April

Fri 3rd	9.30am	Raising the Cross	Methodist Chapel
Good Friday	10.30am	Family Service	St Giles
Sun 5th	9.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Family Service	St Giles
	6.00 pm	BCP Evensong	St Giles

## CHEDDINGTON METHODIST CHURCH. Minister: Rev Noreen Daley-Lee (01525 240083)

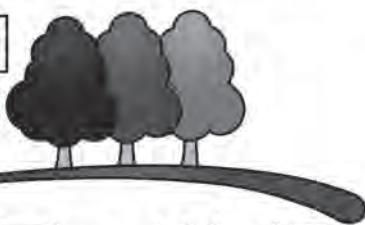
We welcome everyone to come along to our church to share in our worship and other activities. Services begin on Sundays at 10.30 am unless otherwise stated

#### Services for February

- 1 **3pm** Rev Noreen Daley-Lee
- 8 Mr Arthur Sara
- 15 Mr Peter Baker
- 3.30 pm** Messy Church
- 22 Rev Noreen Daley-Lee – Service of Holy Communion  
Joint Service with Wingrave at Cheddington

**CONTINUED on Page 12**

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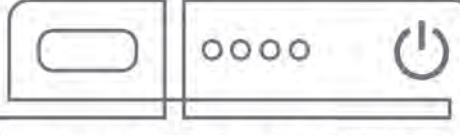
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**Services for March** (The names of the Preachers for March are yet to be announced)

1 **3 pm** Afternoon Service

8

15

**3.30 pm** Messy Church

22

29 **Covenant Service**

United Service with St Giles at the Methodist Church

## **A Message from the Minister.**

Looking Ahead to 2026: Guided by the Holy Spirit

By the time you have the chance to read this article, another Christmas has come and gone. The Christmas trees have been taken down, and the festive lights have been carefully stored away, waiting for the next holiday season. As we move on from the celebrations, we find ourselves at the threshold of the new year 2026. With this new beginning, many of us have already started making decisions which we hope will bring us some benefit in the months ahead.

For 2026, I have made a personal commitment to devote myself to listening to the Holy Spirit, who is present to guide, help, and lead us into all truth. While the concept of the Holy Spirit – the third person of the Trinity – may seem vague to some, for me He is anything but. The Holy Spirit is a real presence whom we can encounter in our daily lives. He comes alongside us to assist, and some even refer to Him as their barrister – someone who speaks on their behalf.

The Holy Spirit is essential, for without Him we cannot truly understand the truth about God and His Holy Scriptures. As it is written in John 16:13: "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." In the midst of the countless messages and distractions we face daily, only the Holy Spirit is able to help us discern what is true and to guide us along the right path – one that leads to eternal life with Christ.

Personally, I cannot imagine life without the Holy Spirit; I would have been utterly lost when it comes to the things of God. The Hebrew word for spirit is *Ruah*, which means wind, breath, and spirit. In the New Testament, Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as the Advocate, or *Parakletos*. This term can mean advocate, helper, or comforter, and was often used in legal contexts for someone who provides assistance or support.

Since God has made the Holy Spirit available to us, there is no need to struggle alone with biblical and theological truths. Instead, we can allow the Holy Spirit to illuminate our minds, guiding our thoughts and leading us along God's path in the coming year.

## **Prayer from my journal**

A Prayer for Guidance in 2026

Gracious Holy Spirit, I invite you to guide my thoughts as I enter this new year. Open my mind and heart to gain a deeper understanding of the truths found in Scripture. As I seek to follow the path you set before me, grant me the wisdom to recognise your guidance and the courage to walk faithfully wherever you lead.

Fill me with your grace, so that I might live each day with humility and strength, trusting in your presence. I do not wish to journey alone, but rather to rely on your help in all things. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Noreen)

## **"THE TOAST" – FOR PARENTS, CARERS**

**AND LITTLE ONES.** For all parents/carers of pre-school children and babies, join us in the Chapel schoolroom on **Monday mornings 9.30 to 11.00 am** during term time for a gentle start to the week. There are toys, activities and refreshments (including toast!) and a warm welcome. Contact Cathy Craft email: [cathy.e.craft@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.e.craft@gmail.com) for more information.

**The Singalong Café**, will be held on **Tuesday 10 February and 10 March 2.30 – 4.30pm** at the Methodist Chapel. It will be led by Karen, Cathy and Trevor who are all accomplished musicians. Come along and join us and bring a friend or two, all are welcome. Refreshments will be included thanks to two willing volunteers.

**Open Doors – Friday morning 10.30 a.m – noon at the Methodist Chapel.** All are welcome to meet and socialise and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuits. Contact Stuart Minall email: [stuartpminal@gmail.com](mailto:stuartpminal@gmail.com) for more information.

**Books and Jigsaws:** A collection of paperback books and jigsaws are available for buying or borrowing for which a small donation would be appreciated. Do come and have a look to see if there is anything of interest to you. The schoolroom is usually open 9.30 – 11 am on Monday mornings during term time or Friday mornings 10.30 – 12 noon. If you have paperback books, in good condition, or jigsaws that you would like to pass on do bring them along.

**Warm Spaces:** The Methodist Schoolroom will be open on **Fridays 12 noon to 2 pm** for a soup lunch for all those who would like to meet together. Donations of tins of soup or bread, tea/coffee or biscuits can be dropped off at the Chapel on Fridays from 10.30 am. This is a Churches Together initiative in conjunction with the Parish Council to whom we are most grateful for their financial support. All enquiries to [cathy.e.craft@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.e.craft@gmail.com) or 01296 661068.

**Good Friday** – 9.15 am Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April there will be a short Meditation outside the Methodist Church.

**Loop System.** For those people with hearing aids, we have an induction loop system installed and working in the chapel.

**Schoolroom bookings.** For all enquiries, please contact Janet Banham email: [j.banham@btinternet.com](mailto:j.banham@btinternet.com)

## **SOCIETIES**

### **History Society**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

### **Saving Lives at Sea: The**

**RNLI Story.** Founded in 1824, the organisation became the Royal National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck following royal patronage. Later changing its name to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Operating as a charity, it evolved from sail to powered lifeboats providing 24/7 sea rescue around the UK & Ireland, funded by donations with volunteer crews. Guest speaker, Paul Gillions is a national water safety officer with the RNLI and a regular speaker on the charity's operations, heritage and history. In this talk, he covers not only the lifeboat service as we know it today, but also some of the key milestones and events in the RNLI's 200-year history, illustrated with live footage of rescues and the stories that go with them.

CHEDDINGTON History Society



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There will be an opportunity for audience members to make (no obligation) cash donations to the RNLI at this talk. We meet at 8 p.m. at the Methodist Church by the Green in the village High Street. Visitors are welcome.

### Monday 16th March

**Claude Grahame-White and the London Aerodrome (Hendon).** Our guest speaker David Keen led the Access and Learning Team at the Royal Air Force Museum Hendon being responsible for visitor educational programmes. This talk covers Hendon's role in aviation, from the work of aviation pioneer Claude Grahame-White who established the London Aerodrome in 1911. Hendon was extremely popular with the public as the site of spectacular Air Shows in the 1920s and 1930s and was also where Grahame-White set up his own aircraft design and manufacturing company. Hendon Aerodrome later became RAF Hendon and David will tell us of Hendon's part in both World Wars to its present-day role as the home of the Royal Air Force Museum. We meet at 8 p.m. at the Methodist Church by the Green in the village High Street. Visitors are welcome.

### Forthcoming Programme:

April 20<sup>th</sup> – Women in the Middle Ages

May 18<sup>th</sup> – The History of Hatfield House

**Women's Institute.** Are you interested in making new friends? Learning new things? Lively discussion? Interesting outings? Engaging with forward thinking campaigns? In which case Cheddington WI could be just the thing! We meet at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of every month in the Village Hall and we are always keen to welcome new members.

For more information, please contact Alie on 07956 186699 or Nicola on 668347 or email [cheddingtonwi@gmail.com](mailto:cheddingtonwi@gmail.com)

### Forthcoming Programme:

5th February Mark Neil Poet in Motion

5<sup>th</sup> March Alastair Boland The role of a Magistrate

2<sup>nd</sup> April Helen Fry – Women in Intelligence

7<sup>th</sup> May Ian Merry – Hand cream making demonstration

**1st Cheddington Scout Group.** All sections enjoyed a festive break and have returned refreshed and full of energy, ready to earn new badges and take on plenty of winter adventures. In early January our Scout group ran their annual Christmas tree collection. Thank you to everyone that took part.

We are ALWAYS looking for more people to help us either as leaders within the sections or as part of the Exec committee who are responsible for governing the group. We are particularly in need of leadership help within our Beavers section. Due to lack of volunteers, Beavers have had to condense from two groups to one, meaning that the waiting list to join will unfortunately become longer. If you would like to be involved in any capacity, please email [admin@cheddingtonscouts.org.uk](mailto:admin@cheddingtonscouts.org.uk)

### Hut Hire

Our refurbished hut is available for hire at preferential rates for Scout Members or Cheddington Residents. Please check out the Cheddington Scout Group Facebook page for more details or email [admin@cheddingtonscouts.org.uk](mailto:admin@cheddingtonscouts.org.uk)

### Group Details

1st Cheddington is a thriving Scout Group, offering challenge and adventure to young people of all ages, helping

them learn to take responsibility for themselves and for others while having fun and taking part in a wide range of activities. The Scout Group continues to grow and plays an active part in village life. We have four sections, all of which are open to both boys and girls:

- Beavers (6 to 8 years) – Mondays 18:30 – 19:30
- Cubs (8 to 10½ years) – Tuesdays 18:30 – 20:00 / Wednesdays 18:30 – 20:00
- Scouts (10½ to 14 years) – Thursdays 19:15 – 20:45 / Fridays 18:30 – 20:00
- Explorers (14 to 18 years) – Mondays 20:00 – 21:30

Meetings are usually held in our headquarters on Station Road unless otherwise advertised by leaders.

For further information about any of the sections, to put your name down on our waiting lists (we recommend at least a year before they are old enough so that places can be made available), to hire the hut or any other enquiries-please email [admin@cheddingtonscouts.org.uk](mailto:admin@cheddingtonscouts.org.uk)

## SPORTS & FITNESS

**Badminton Club.** We are a friendly group that play non-league badminton with a competitive edge between 8pm and 10pm every Thursday (except 19<sup>th</sup> February) in the Village Hall. Memberships are still available, or £3 per session. New members are always welcome. For further details give Kim a ring on 07778279109 or just turn up.

**Cheddington Junior Badminton Club. PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO JUNIOR BADMINTON ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY.** Memberships are still available.

New junior members are always welcome; places are secured on ability and not age. Turn up at 6pm and Ray, our Badminton England coach will determine the most appropriate group for you. Ray can be contacted on 662148 for further details about Junior Badminton.

**Daytime Badminton.** Come and join us on a Monday morning (except 16<sup>th</sup> February) between 10.45 and 12.45 for social daytime badminton, no membership necessary. The cost is £4 per session. For further details contact Kim on [kim.key@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kim.key@hotmail.co.uk) or 07778279109 or just turn up!

## Charity Afternoon Tea

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**Bowls Club.** Cheddington Bowls Club is currently not open for play on the green, but many of our members play at indoor clubs or outdoor clubs with all-weather surfaces. We also have weekly sessions short mat bowls and darts, and monthly social events in the clubhouse. The outdoor season will start towards the end of April, and we will arrange an open day or two early in May – dates to be advised in the next newsletter. If interested, please contact our membership secretary Diane on [admin@cheddingtonbowls.org.uk](mailto:admin@cheddingtonbowls.org.uk) or leave a message on 01296 661381.

**Karate.** Ashridge Karate Academy, a well-established local club founded in Berkhamsted in 2015, is delighted to announce the launch of a new weekly class in Pitstone, Buckinghamshire.

Already running successful sessions in Berkhamsted on Mondays and Thursdays, the academy now offers:

**Tuesdays – Pitstone Memorial Hall, Vicarage Rd, Pitstone, Leighton Buzzard LU7 9EY**  
4 – 5pm – juniors age 7 – 11 approx  
5:15 – 6:45pm – cadets & adults

Ashridge Karate Academy welcomes students aged 7 to 99, from complete beginners to experienced martial artists. Whether people are looking to try karate for the first time, improve their fitness, build confidence or join a friendly local community, everyone is encouraged to come along.

## Tennis Club.

**New treasurer needed.** If you'd like to volunteer for a friendly local club and have some basic book-keeping experience, you could be our next treasurer. To find out more about the role or to arrange a chat with our current treasurer, please email us at [cheddingtontennis@gmail.com](mailto:cheddingtontennis@gmail.com).

As well as 3 floodlit hard courts and an online booking system, we also offer:

**Daytime tennis** (Mondays & Fridays, 10am – noon) If you're around during the week and fancy a social game, with a cuppa afterwards, come along and meet our friendly daytime group.

**Club night** (Tuesdays, 7pm onwards). A year-round, relaxed drop-in session for adult members of all abilities. We occasionally crack open the Pimms and mulled wine too!

**Coaching** (fees apply but discounted for members)

Whether you're starting from scratch or want to brush up your backhand, our LTA registered coach offers all levels of coaching for adults and children, on a group of individual basis.

**League matches** (fees apply). For those keen to play more competitive tennis, we have several Women's, Men's and Mixed Teams in the Aylesbury Vale League.

If you're interested in any of the above or would like to 'try us out' before joining, please contact us at [cheddingtontennis@gmail.com](mailto:cheddingtontennis@gmail.com).

**Village Walking Group.** A group of us get together every other Wednesday morning for a walk in our lovely countryside. We generally meet at 9.30am a

different spot each time and walk for 4 – 5 miles at a relaxed pace with plenty of time to chat and admire the views. Lifts can be arranged if necessary. We are usually back in the village by midday. New walkers are very welcome. For more information contact Mary Peacock on 662620, Nicola Barron on 668347 or email [cheddington-walkers@gmail.com](mailto:cheddington-walkers@gmail.com).



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# CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

4th Parish Council Meeting, Pavilion at the Rec., 7pm  
5th WI meeting, Village Hall. 7.30pm.  
10th Singalong café, Methodist Chapel, 2.30-4.30pm  
16th History Society meeting, Methodist Hall, 8pm  
18th Board and card games, Methodist Hall, 2pm  
19th-22nd Pantomime. Village Hall

## MARCH

4th Parish Council Meeting, Pavilion at the Rec., 7pm  
10th Singalong café, Methodist Chapel, 2.30-4.30pm  
16th History Society meeting, Methodist Hall, 8pm  
18th Board and card games, Methodist Hall, 2pm  
28th WI Charity Coffee Morning, fundraising for Pepper at the Methodist Hall, 10.30 onwards

## BEACON VILLAGE COMMUNITY LIBRARY.

Run by the community, for the community. **General enquiries:** [info@bvcl.org.uk](mailto:info@bvcl.org.uk). **01296 387890.** **Committee enquiries:** [secretary@bvcl.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bvcl.org.uk).

### Opening hours are:

Monday Closed  
Tuesday to Friday 2.00pm – 5.00pm  
Saturday 10am – 1pm

## NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

### with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

*Boxed display rates (based on A4 size paper)*

#### Commercial Rates

1/2 page (13 x 19 cm landscape) - £41.25 per month  
 (£225 per year – 6 issues)

1/4 page (13 x 9.4 cm portrait) - £21.50 per month  
 (£117 per year – 6 issues)

1/8 page (6.4 x 9.4 cm landscape) - £12.75 per month  
 (£69 per year – 6 issues)

A 10% discount is given on all commercial advertisements that run for a year (6 issues)

#### Non-commercial Rates

1/2 page (13 x 19 cm landscape) - £23.50 per month

1/4 page (13 x 9.4 cm portrait) - £13.50 per month

1/8 page (6.4 x 9.4 cm landscape) - £8.75 per month

**FREE TO COLLECT** The CRA are offering a facility on the back page of the Newsletter for villagers to offer free to others to 're-use' any useful items they no longer need. If anyone has items they wish to offer free to the collector please summarise the details in about 20 words (or less). There will be no charge for this.

## Cheddington Foodbank

### Collection 2026

#### Collection Dates

**April:** Thurs/Fri/Sat – 9/10/11

**August:** Thurs/Fri/Sat - 6/7/8

**December:** Thurs/Fri/Sat - 10/11/12

Donation bins will be located outside the Methodist Church

If you are struggling or short of supplies, please call Babs on **07860 780127**.

If you would like donations to be collected from your home, please call Carol on **07931 344020**.

Please note:

- No fresh food items
- All donations should be placed in plastic bags

Thank you for your support.

## AVDC Refuse Collection Dates

<b>Weds 4th Feb</b>	<b>Green Refuse Bin &amp; Food Waste Bin</b>
<b>Weds 11th Feb</b>	<b>Blue Recycling Bin &amp; Food Waste Bin</b>
<b>Weds 18th Feb</b>	<b>Green Refuse Bin &amp; Food Waste Bin</b>
<b>Weds 25th Feb</b>	<b>Blue Recycling Bin &amp; Food Waste Bin</b>
<b>Weds 4th March</b>	<b>Green Refuse Bin &amp; Food Waste Bin</b>
<b>Weds 11th March</b>	<b>Blue Recycling Bin &amp; Food Waste Bin</b>
<b>Weds 18th March</b>	<b>Green Refuse Bin &amp; Food Waste Bin</b>
<b>Weds 25th March</b>	<b>Blue Recycling Bin &amp; Food Waste Bin</b>

#### Garden Waste bins

Bancroft St, Berryfield, Brownlow Lane, Gooseacre, Hillside, Long Marston Road, Manor Road, Sunnybank, and The Baulk – **4th, 18th Feb, 4th 18th Mar.**

Rest of Village – **11th, 25th Feb, 11th, 25th Mar.**

*For the latest news see the ADVC website – [www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)*