

FOCUS

December 2021/January 2022



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Sunday

Footprints (Sunday School) 9.45 - 10.45am
(Term time only)

Morning Worship 11am

Tuesday

Coffee Morning 10 - 11.30am
(Alternate weeks)

Wednesday

Home League 2.30 - 3.30pm
(Ladies meeting but all welcome)

Champion's Club (Term time only)
5.30-6.30pm (Ages 5 to Year 5)
6.45-7.45pm (Year 6 and above)

Thursday

Girls' Night Out
(1st Thursday of the month) 7.45pm

Ladies Fellowship
(Last Thursday of the month) 7.30pm

**For further details please contact us on
01525 222087 or email
eaton.bray@salvationarmy.org.uk**

**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
Web: 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.

**The Focus Magazine
Committee**

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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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reproduced without permission.*

**The Focus committee
would like to wish everyone
a Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year**

Kindly Note

*If the event you wish to advertise falls in the first
week of the month, it is advisable to get the details
into Focus a month earlier. The magazines are
not delivered from the printers until the first of the
month, therefore it takes a few days for them all to
be circulated throughout the village.*

✍️ Editor

Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

Village Diary



Weekly

- Mon-Sun St. Mary's Edlesborough is open most days 10am-4pm, sometimes longer.
Look for the OPEN sign below the notice board
- Mon-Fri (term) Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Lower School, 01525 220468, admin@eba.ec
- Mon-Fri (term) Dagnall Under 5's, Dagnall Village Hall, 9.15am - 12.15pm, Mrs Ann Tobin 07816 358342
- Mon-Fri (term) Edlesborough Primary Academy Pre-School, 01525 220431, epamanager@epa-primary.org
- Mon-Fri (term) Tottemhoe Pre-school, Tottemhoe CE Academy, 01582 662959, tottemhoeoffice@tot.dsamat.co.uk
- Mondays Pilates, 10.45am, Tottemhoe Memorial Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
- Mondays Dagnall Community Choir, All Saints Church 7.45-9.45pm, w:dagnall-community-choir.co.uk
- Mondays (term) Movement and exercise classes with a dance flavour, Northall VH 2-3.30. Jan 01442 864271.
- Mondays Curtain Call Youth Theatre 5-7.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Gavyn 01525 220525
- Mondays Curtain Call Theatre Group, 7:30-10:30pm Eaton Bray VH, Sheila sdtwinkletoes@yahoo.co.uk
- Mondays KFFA ISTD ballet classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4pm-6.30pm (4years+)
Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/KFFA' for info
- Mondays Cubs (8-10½ years old), 6.30pm - 8pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Liz Coates 01442 842550
- Mondays Yoga, 6:45pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact 07837 727302
- Mondays Barre, 8pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact 07837 727302
- Tuesdays Pilates, 10-11am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Nicky Roussou 07861 162680
- Tuesdays Tottemhoe Baby & Toddler Group, 9.30-11.15am, St. Giles Church Hall, Ruth Allen, 01525 222468 or 07796 265174 or email ruthallen002@gmail.com
- Tuesdays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654
- Tuesdays Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-11:30am, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
- Fortnightly
- Tuesdays Keep Fit class, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 11 - 12noon
- Tuesdays Jazzercise 9:15-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
- Wednesdays Pilates, 8pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
- Wednesdays Northall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club, 10am - 3pm, Northall Village Hall, Contact Anna on 07854 230243
- Wednesdays Art Course online 9.30 -11.30 am, contact Loma Moore 07896 619660
- Wednesdays Art Course, Bellows Mill Eaton Bray, 2-4.30pm, contact Loma Moore 07896 619660
- Wednesdays Jazzercise 7:30-8:30pm, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
- Thursdays KFFA Street dance classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4.15pm-6.30pm (4 years+)
Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFFA' for info
- Thursdays Tae Kwon-do, Dagnall Village Hall, 5.45-7.30pm 07813 755785
- Thursdays Beavers (6 to 8 years old), 6.15-7.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact: ebebeaverleader@ebescouts.co.uk
- Thursdays 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.
- Thursdays Eaton Bray Methodist Church Social Afternoons, 2 - 4pm, All Welcome
- Thursdays Retro Line Dance Class. 11.15am to 12.45pm. Eaton Bray Village Hall. Beginners welcome.
www.jukeboxjunction.co.uk info@jukeboxjunction.co.uk 07864212171
- Fridays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654
- Fridays Stay & Play toddler group, 'Musical Monkeys' at the Eaton Bray Village Hall, 10-11.30am, £4.50 for one adult and child, £1 for extra children/adults, 0-6 months free
- Fridays Jazzercise 9:15-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
- Fridays 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
- Fridays "Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes, 10am-11.30am, Northall Village Hall. Contact Emma Whittemore on 01525 376124
- Saturdays Jazzercise 9-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666

Village Diary

- Saturdays KFPA Musical theatre classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 9.30-10.30am (4years+)
Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' for info
- Sundays Sunday Worship at 11am, Edlesborough Baptist Church, Moor End, LU6 2FL. Contact: 01525 222064 or edlesboroughbaptistchurch@gmail.com
- Sundays Yoga, 9:30am-10:30am, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact eleanorlangton@outlook.com or 07969315384
- Sundays Karate for kids & adults, 2:30-4pm & 4:30-6pm, Eaton Bray VH, Contact 07500 007779
- Monthly**
- 1st Monday Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern (except Jan-2nd Monday)
- 1st Monday Eaton Bray W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm. Eaton Bray Methodist Church Hall. Contact Margaret Jones on 01525 220991
- 1st & 3rd Mon (ex. Bank Hols) Knit 'n Stitch at Edlesborough Village Hall, 1:45pm to 3:45pm. Contact Heather Westwood (01525 839083)
- 1st & 3rd Tues Dunstable & District Orbit (social and charitable) Club meet at Dunstable Rugby Club at 8pm. For details contact 01525 222441 or 01582 755147
- 1st Saturday St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray Coffee Morning & Plant Sale, 10:30am - 12 noon
- 2nd Monday Film Society, Sep to May, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Graham Chappell 01525 220883
- 2nd Tuesday Dunstable & District Local History Society meeting, 7.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable
- 2nd Tuesday Edlesborough W.I. Meeting, 7.30 pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall. Contact Sue Bingham 01525 222522
- 2nd Wednesday St.Mary's Ladies Guild, 2pm, St.Mary's, Eaton Bray
- 2nd Wednesday Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Lions Club, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern
- 2nd Saturday Workshops Dynamic Yoga 9.30-11am £10 Eaton Bray Coffee Tavern, Keira 07936 693696
- 2nd Saturday Cafe Community, 11am-1pm, Eaton Bray Methodist Church,, October to May only
- 3rd Thursday Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 2nd Friday 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 Sunday Lunch club 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288
- Last Saturday Coffee Morning, 10:00-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church
- This Month's One Off/Annual/Irregular Events**
- 4th Dec Dagnall Village Christmas Fayre, 1-3pm, Dagnall CoFe School
- 19th Dec Dagnall Santa Dash, 9:30am, email dagnall_village_hall@outlook.com
- 31st Dec 2022 New Years Eve Party, 7:30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Adults £15, Under 16s £10
www.curtaincallthetregroup.co.uk

JOYCE BAKER

The family of Joyce Baker are deeply saddened to announce the passing of their Mum and Nan on Saturday 13th November 2021, aged 94 years. Joyce lived in Eaton Bray for over 26 years, for the most part in Church Lane, where she and all the family had some extremely happy times. Joyce will finally be returning to Eaton Bray on Friday 10th December, 2021 at 13.00 for her funeral service which will be held at Eaton Bray Methodist Chapel.

Dagnall Christmas



Friday 3rd December - Santa Sleigh 6.30pm

A chance to see Santa tour around the village, followed by a jolly gathering at Dagnall Village Hall.

Saturday 4th December - Festive Fair 1-3pm

A fun filled family festive fair held at the school.

Sunday 19th December - Santa Dash 9.30am

A run, hop, skip or walk race around the village in all your festive finery. Followed by a tasty treat and raffle.

For all enquiries about events or to hire the hall please email dagnall_village_hall@outlook.com

Dagnall Village Hall is a registered charity 300251

AGE
Concern

Northall and District Age Concern Wednesday Club

Join the Volunteer Cooks Team

We currently have some spaces for people to assist us in the beautiful new, spacious kitchen at Northall Village Hall to become part of a team of three cooks who work on a rota once every five weeks to prepare nutritious and delicious home-cooked meals for our lovely members. Joining our friendly staff at the day care centre is very rewarding as the members do enjoy their food and homemade cakes too!

You would need to be able to start at 9.30 to serve lunch at 12.00 (which we hope you will join us for, to give you a break) then you serve the dessert (and again sit with us all) and finally to the washing up for which the hall has kindly provided a super dishwasher to make the job easier. After clearing up, you would set out the cakes for the afternoon and then be free to leave at around 1-1.30, while the bingo is running. Only basic cooking skills are needed, preparation of vegetables and pudding etc.

All our teams are lead by experienced team leaders, so as long as you are happy to join in with whatever needs doing in the kitchen, along with good hygiene skills, to protect our vulnerable members, that is all that is needed for the role. As part of our new regime as a precaution re COVID19, we are asking all cooks to undertake a lateral flow test on a Tuesday and bring the negative result in on the Wednesday of your duty to be noted on our records, for the protection of us all.

If you would like to join us please call ANNA on 07854 230243 or email annacornwall@hotmail.co.uk. We would welcome applications from anyone who would enjoy this role.

Village Info



EDaN Community Transport
Peter Williams: 01442 842506

Village Hall Booking Contacts

Northall: Lorna Cabbage Tel: 07857 318696 www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/nvh

Email: northallvhbookings@gmail.com

Eaton Bray: Norman Lee Tel: 07975 797202

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

Dagnall: Bev Way 07875 462128 & Trish Owen 07762 151364

Email DVH_Bookings@outlook.com

Edlesborough Memorial Hall: Penny Pataky, Tel: 01525 229358

Email: manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Police Contact Numbers...

making neighbourhoods safer together

General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999

Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/Kathryn Horgan: 01582 473411

Typetalk: 18001 01582 473418

Email: LPT.LeightonBuzzardLinslade&Rural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

PCSO Jackie Dodson

Email: greatbrickhillwingivinghoenhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

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



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 with getting to the surgery/hospital, collecting prescriptions, minor errands or d-i-y jobs, form-filling, walking your pet, on-line shopping support etc. or if you would welcome our befriending service.

We help people of Eaton Bray and adjacent villages

Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News

Vicar: Rev'd Joy Cousins

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

Associate Priest: Rev'd Stephen Burge

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

Reader: Gordon Gray (01525 220136)

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

Last month I wrote about the season of Advent which began on November 28th. This year for the first time the Churches Together group has organised an Advent Trail round the villages of Eaton Bray and Edlesborough. It is like a giant Advent calendar with a different picture appearing each day from 1st December up to Christmas Day. Further on in this Focus magazine is a map explaining where you can find the pictures. They will be displayed in local businesses, homes and places of worship. The pictures will remain in place until Monday 3rd January 2022 giving you the opportunity to walk off your Christmas feasting and follow the trail to view the pictures.



People from the local churches will be designing the pictures themselves and they will relate to different aspects of the Christmas story as told in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Why not see if you can spot where they appear in your Bible? Or if you don't have a Bible you can look up the stories online at www.biblegateway.com. The Christmas nativity stories are found in Matthew chapter 1 verses 18 to 25 and chapter 2 verses 1 to 15. In Luke's gospel the Christmas story is told in chapter 1 verse 26 through to chapter 2 verse 20. Do any of the pictures surprise you? Is there anything you expected to be there which is missing?

The Advent calendar was first used in Germany by Lutherans in the nineteenth century. The origins of the Christmas tree also come from Germany, introduced by an Englishman from Devon. Winfrith was born in Crediton in Devon in the eight century. He later became known as Boniface and went to Germany to teach the people there about the Christian faith. One December, Boniface found a group of people standing beneath an oak tree. They were preparing to sacrifice a child to their gods believing that it would bring them good fortune. Boniface rescued the child and had the oak tree chopped down. As the oak tree fell, a small fir tree was revealed growing in its place. Boniface adopted the fir tree as an emblem of the new faith he had brought to Germany. The tree's evergreen leaves represented eternal life which was found by believing in Jesus the Son of God. Boniface gave the fir tree the name 'Tree of the Christ-child'.

In the sixteenth century another German, Martin Luther, was walking one night under a clear night sky lit by hundreds of stars. The sight moved him so much that he returned home with a fir tree, and fixed candles on its branches to represent Jesus the light of the world. The Christmas tree became part of celebrations in Germany. It wasn't until 1841 that the Christmas tree came to the United Kingdom. It was introduced by

Queen Victoria's German husband Prince Albert. It soon became fashionable to have a Christmas tree as part of the festivities. Candles were used to represent Jesus the light of the world. These are the origins of our fairy lights. A star was added at the top of the tree. This was a reminder of the star which guided the wise men to find Jesus with his parents, Mary and Joseph. The Christmas tree symbolises the light and life of the Christ child coming into our midst to bring life and hope.

Wishing you every blessing this Christmas,
✠ Joy, Vicar of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

St Mary's 100 Club

The lucky prize-winners are:

September 2021

1st prize: 91 – Teresa Ledger
2nd prize: 46 – Estelle Marshall
3rd prize: 81 – John Plater

October 2021

1st prize: 64 – Rodney Latham
2nd prize: 80 – John Plater
3rd prize: 17 – Anne Hendrickson

Services at St Mary's Church

SUNDAYS : 10.00am PARISH HOLY COMMUNION

On Third Sunday of each month:

8.00am HOLY COMMUNION

10.00am WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE a shorter, less formal service.

WEEK-DAYS: Wednesday: 10.00am Holy Communion

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DETAILS AND ONLINE WORSHIP: www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk

Dagnall Church Services



The All Saint's Dagnall Sunday service is at 10.30am on the 3rd Sunday of each month.
All welcome.

We encourage people to wear a face covering.

Any queries please contact Phillip Lee on 07977234453.

Dagnall Church, Ringshall Road HP4 1RL

In light of the current Coronavirus situation the Pastoral Care Team at St. Mary's, Eaton Bray welcomes your assistance in identifying any of our parishioners who might be sick or otherwise benefit from their support during this challenging time. Please contact us at admin@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk in this regard.



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Eaton Bray Good Neighbours



The Eaton Bray Good Neighbours AGM was held on Wednesday 10th November. We were very pleased to see all those who attended. Our Chairman, Kay Griffiths, gave her report and all our Steering Group members agreed to continue with their support. Since the Eaton Bray Good Neighbours group commenced our Chairman has led us in all we have achieved. Kay is now stepping down, so for the time being the Secretary, Treasurer and Vice Chairman, will work together with the Steering Group.

We would welcome any drivers from the Villages who could help us. We have many requests most days, and the driving seems to fall on the same small kind team. Any help with driving could be just a few times a month. We do make a charge, which goes directly to the driver.

Our mobile phone which we operate on a daily basis, has been busy with requests for help in collecting medication, lifts to doctors and Hospital appointments. We have also helped with shopping delivery and giving general advice.

We are always also looking for volunteers in the village, either to help with driving as previously mentioned, or medication deliveries or as a Befriender. You can contact us by calling 07930 987064 when a friend will answer your call. We are here if you need any help.

Eaton Bray Good Neighbours



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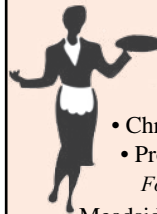
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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL FOCUS REPORT: OCTOBER 2021

A full copy of the minutes for Eaton Bray Parish Council can be found on our website: www.ebpc.co.uk. A hard copy of the minutes can also be viewed on the Parish Council's notice board at The Coffee Tavern.

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

We're looking for new councillors to join the Parish Council and help run and manage the village. For more information, please visit www.ebpc.co.uk/become-a-parish-councillor

Eaton Bray Parish Council is made up of nine volunteers from the parish. We currently have only four Parish Councillors, should the number of Parish Councillors fall below the legal requirement (quorate/three) then Central Bedfordshire Councillors will be appointed onto the council and have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the parish. If you want to ensure that it is local residents who are involved in the decision making affecting your village, get in touch and become a Parish Councillor.

FixMyStreet

Please go to CBC's on-line reporting system for reporting road/street issues. You can report and track highways and environment problems online, via the FixMyStreet app: <https://fixmystreet.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/>

REMINDER: Allotment Tenancy Renewals 2021-2022

Allotment tenancy renewals are now due, payments to be made via one of the following two options:

1. Cash or cheque, posted to the parish office (cheques made payable to Eaton Bray Parish Council)
2. Bank transfer (if this is your chosen method, please email the Parish Clerk for details)

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 4 OCTOBER 2021, from 7:00pm via REMOTE/ZOOM

(Minutes ratified at PC Meeting, 01/11/2021)

CBC CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL (CBC)

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

PLANNING APPLICATIONS – SEPT/OCT 2021

A copy of the Parish Council's response to planning applications can be seen on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

MONTHLY PAYMENTS, OCTOBER 2021 & YEAR END ACCOUNTS 2020-2021

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

RECREATION GROUNDS

- School Lane – play equipment: Due to supply issues, there has been a delay on the installation of the play equipment, the date of w/c 15 November 2021 has not been finalised and may be subject to change.

- School Lane – youth shelter: The Parish Council to investigate costs/options for an installation of a shelter.

HIGHWAYS

- Speedwatch: If you would like to get involved in trying to slow down traffic in the village or are concerned about road safety, please contact the Parish Clerk.
- The parish SIDs (Speed Indicating Devices) are due for replacement, the Parish Council are looking into the options available.

WATERCOURSE/MILL END CLOSE

- The fitting of a new access gate with side fencing at the access point to the river via Middle Path (Mill End Close-Brook Street public footpath is proposed to be carried out 2 December 2021, weather/supplies permitting.
- Landscape Buffer/Ransome Strip: The Parish Council are in the process of obtaining additional quotes for carrying out work a tree within the strip.

NEXT MEETING (The Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray)

Details can be obtained from the EBPC website, www.ebpc.co.uk

- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 1 November 2021, from 7:30pm
- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 10 January 2022 from 7:30pm

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.ebpc.co.uk



Heidi Head, Parish Clerk

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk – Telephone/Text: 07931 479663 – Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

Parish Office: 17 Hammond Street, Aston Clinton, HP22 0AJ

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 09:30-13:30hrs

Follow Eaton Bray Parish Council on Facebook and Twitter

Keep up to date with what is going on in your parish



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Monday 10th January – 9:00am – 10:00am

As part of the tour, you will see classes being taught from Reception through to Year 6, meet our Reception team and see our extensive outdoor learning environment.



If you would like to come and visit on one of our open mornings, please contact the school office on (01525) 220431 or via email on epamanager@epa-primary.org. to book a time slot.



*Edlesborough Parish Council
wishes all Parishioners a Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year.*



Remembrance Day 2021

This year's service took place at the Edlesborough War Memorial. Edlesborough Parish Council wishes to thank Christine Yates and her helpers for displaying the knitted poppies at the Edlesborough War Memorial.

Edlesborough Parish Council also thanks all the volunteers who kindly manned the road closure points throughout the service. Thanks also go to Will Pratt and his team, Joe and Archie for their assistance with the road closure signs on the day.



Edlesborough Pavilion

Edlesborough Parish Council is pleased to announce that the long awaited Edlesborough Pavilion is now complete. EPC have signed a 25 year lease with ECSC who have now taken over the running of the building.

Many parishioners have already been able to enjoy the wonderful new parish facility.

Edlesborough Green

Edlesborough Green is now being widely used by parishioners for dog walks, exercise, and carefully coordinated sports

activities.

EPC reminds all parishioners to:

- **Keep dogs under control. If your dog does not have excellent recall it must be kept on lead** to ensure that it does not spoil the enjoyment of Edlesborough Green for other users.
- Use the litter bins provided or preferably take all rubbish and recycling home.

Clean up after your dog!

- Buckinghamshire Council is responsible for the emptying of the dog bins in Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall.
- These are scheduled to be emptied every Tuesday.
- Currently the telephone number displayed on the dog waste bins in the parish is no longer in use. Buckinghamshire Council who are responsible for the emptying and sanitising of the bins request that unemptied/overflowing bins are reported using the following link <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/dog-waste-bins>
- If a bin is overflowing please use another bin or take your dog waste home where it can be disposed of in your green general waste bin.
- Please **DO NOT** pile dog waste on top of full bins.



- Damaged or broken bins should be reported to Edlesborough Parish Council via 01525 229358 or clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk
- *Now that the evenings are darker please be extra vigilant when walking your dog to ensure you clear up after them.*

EDaN Traffic Management and Speedwatch



Following recent site meetings, appropriate Speedwatch locations were identified and confirmed within the three villages. Cllr Williams will now complete work on submitting locations for flashing Mobile Vehicle Activation Signs (MVAS) to Buckinghamshire Council and a request to the Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board for funding for MVAS equipment. Once purchased the MVAS equipment will be deployed at various locations around the parish. The data collected can then be shared with Thames Valley Police and Buckinghamshire Council to provide evidence in support of traffic

calming requests. The Speedwatch video equipment collects individual speeding vehicle data that is passed to TVP for individual follow up.

The Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board will shortly be supplying a package of 20mph and No Idling advisory signs which can be displayed outside the schools within the Parish.

At the October Council meeting Council ratified their response to support Buckinghamshire Council Cllr Peter Cooper's request for support to lobby Buckinghamshire Council to allow parishes to apply for 20mph limits in specific locations within their parish.

Currently Buckinghamshire Council's stance on speeding vehicles is one of education rather than enforcement.

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.

EDaN Community Car Share Scheme

This is a group of local volunteers who support parishioners with journeys to hospital etc. The group been inactive due to Covid-19 and has now resumed.

The group is in need of more volunteer drivers. Any parishioner interested in using the service or volunteering should contact the co-ordinator Peter Williams via email at peterw500@aol.com or on 01442 842506.

EDaN Beautification Team

The EDaN Beautification team have purchased two benches for siting on the

new pavilion patio area which will be dedicated to local parishioners.

Council commended the EDaN Beatification Team on their proposal for and subsequent purchase of three Prunus 'Accolade' trees on Edlesborough Green as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration 'Green Canopy' initiative. These will be planted near the entrance to Edlesborough Pavilion car park. They will also plant one tree in Northall in memory of Katherine Parker who was a very active member of the team.



More information about the "The Queen's Green Canopy: Plant a Tree for the Jubilee" can be found at: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

The EDaN Beautification Team continue to work hard tending to the various planters in the villages of Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall which are all looking lovely. Do you enjoy gardening and have some time to spare?

The EDaN Beautification Team is running low on volunteers for the tidying and watering of these planters. Anyone interested in getting involved or helping out with the watering should contact Mrs Christine Yates on 01525 220739 or chris@brooklyns.org.uk

Streetlights

Please report failed streetlights in Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall to the Clerk for repair.

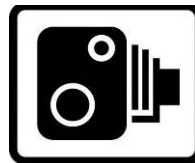
When making a report please ensure you provide the Clerk with the information



displayed on the lamp post.

Speedwatch & EDaN Traffic Management

Thames Valley Police have relaunched and restarted their Community Speedwatch – more



information can be found at Restart and relaunch for Community Speedwatch in 2021 - Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner (thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk) Any parishioner interested in becoming involved with the EDaN Community Speedwatch for Edlesborough Parish should contact Cllr Alan Williams via email at alan.williams@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk or on 07828 398371

Council Meetings

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place on:

- Thursday 16th December 2021 – in Edlesborough Memorial Hall
- Thursday 20th January 2022 – in 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.

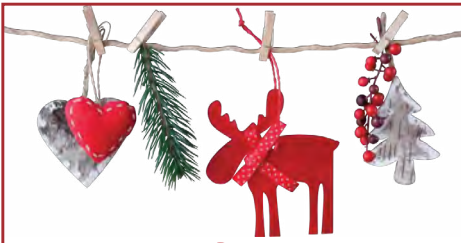
All the hyperlinks in the information above can be accessed through the Edlesborough Parish website.

Edlesborough Parish Council Contact Information:

Clerk: Miss Penny Pataky Office hours Mon – Fri 9am – 12pm (Excl. Wed)

Email: clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk 01525 229358 Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/EDANParishCouncil



Dagnall Village Christmas Fayre

Dagnall C of E School

Saturday 4th December 1PM-3PM

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Eaton Bray



We Remembered...

After two difficult years when we haven't been able to hold a full Remembrance Service, it was good this year to get back to normal and gather together at Edlesborough War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. Despite being a cold, damp dreary, November morning, getting on for three hundred people assembled at the top of the hill. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts marched up the Hill looking very smart in their uniforms and carrying their flags. The road closed to traffic at 10.30am and peace reigned, much appreciated by those of us who remembered standing on the pavement with the traffic roaring through, unable to hear the service for the noise. The names of the fallen of the Villages were read out and wreaths were



laid. Our Buckinghamshire Councillor Chris Poll was present this year and laid a wreath on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council.

We have many people to thank for making it possible to stand quietly in the road and hear the service. All the closure barriers were manned by a willing and helpful group of people who gave up their Sunday

morning and the chance to take part in the service. A big thank you to Jim Wright, Jay Harker, Garth Borrowdale, Alan Tipper, Vincent Taylor, Sian Feben, Bob Stilliard and his friend Chris, who all manned the outer barriers. Thanks to Chris Yates, Alan Williams and our local PCSO Jackie Dodson who took care of the barriers around the service and made sure that we were all safe.

A special thank you to our wonderful team of Will Pratt, Joe, and Archie, who efficiently manhandled all the diversion signs and barriers around the route and into position before the closure and then collected them again immediately afterwards. Thank you, gentlemen for all your help. We couldn't do it without you!

Next year the service will be held at Eaton Bray War Memorial.



Jack Horne pays his respect to the fallen on Remembrance Sunday

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Nigel's Thoughts



Dear Friends,

Each year it catches us unawares, creeping up on us from behind, so fast that we can hardly believe the passage of the months.

Advent, which starts this year on Sunday 28th November, and Christmas (which we seek urgently to rush towards) should be seasons of joyful anticipation at this darkest time of the year.

Isn't it true however, that sometimes our anticipation, instead of being joyous becomes a source of anxiety? We fill these days with things that are, at best peripheral, but which seem necessary if we are to celebrate a 'proper' Christmas. Cards and presents, food and drink, TV live and online. Now I'm no killjoy and I do enjoy all of these things.

It's just that we can be so concerned to make preparation for our celebrations that we miss the point of it all, and Christmas becomes an exhausting and expensive (in more ways than one) time for us. John Betjeman wrote, back in 1955:- "Some ways indeed are very odd by which we hail the birth of God".

The 'first Christmas' reflected much of the present day experience of many individuals who are homeless throughout the world. The new born Christ had nowhere to lay his head. Neither do many millions tonight. Whether by means of natural or man-made climate disaster, ethnic cleansing or outright war, these individuals find themselves as Jesus and his human family were soon to become – refugees. They had to flee to Egypt in fear for their lives, because of a ruler's jealousy.

The Christmas story is about a God who loves and cares, who steps into a wider world than the one we sometimes create for ourselves, responding to human need by sharing in the suffering.

Serving others who are in need, and seeking to challenge injustice is the job of those who call themselves Christian. The truth of 'God with Us' – God in the flesh, understanding, struggling alongside, and transforming our individual lives and the suffering of the whole world, that's what Christmas is all about.

Lest we make it something less, let us take time to wonder that God should value us so highly, and to thank him for his greatest gift – Jesus.

I wish you a special Advent time of renewal in the wonder of God's love and then a very Happy Christmas.

God Bless You,

✍️ Nigel



New for 2021! Churches Together - Edlesborough /Eaton Bray Advent Trail



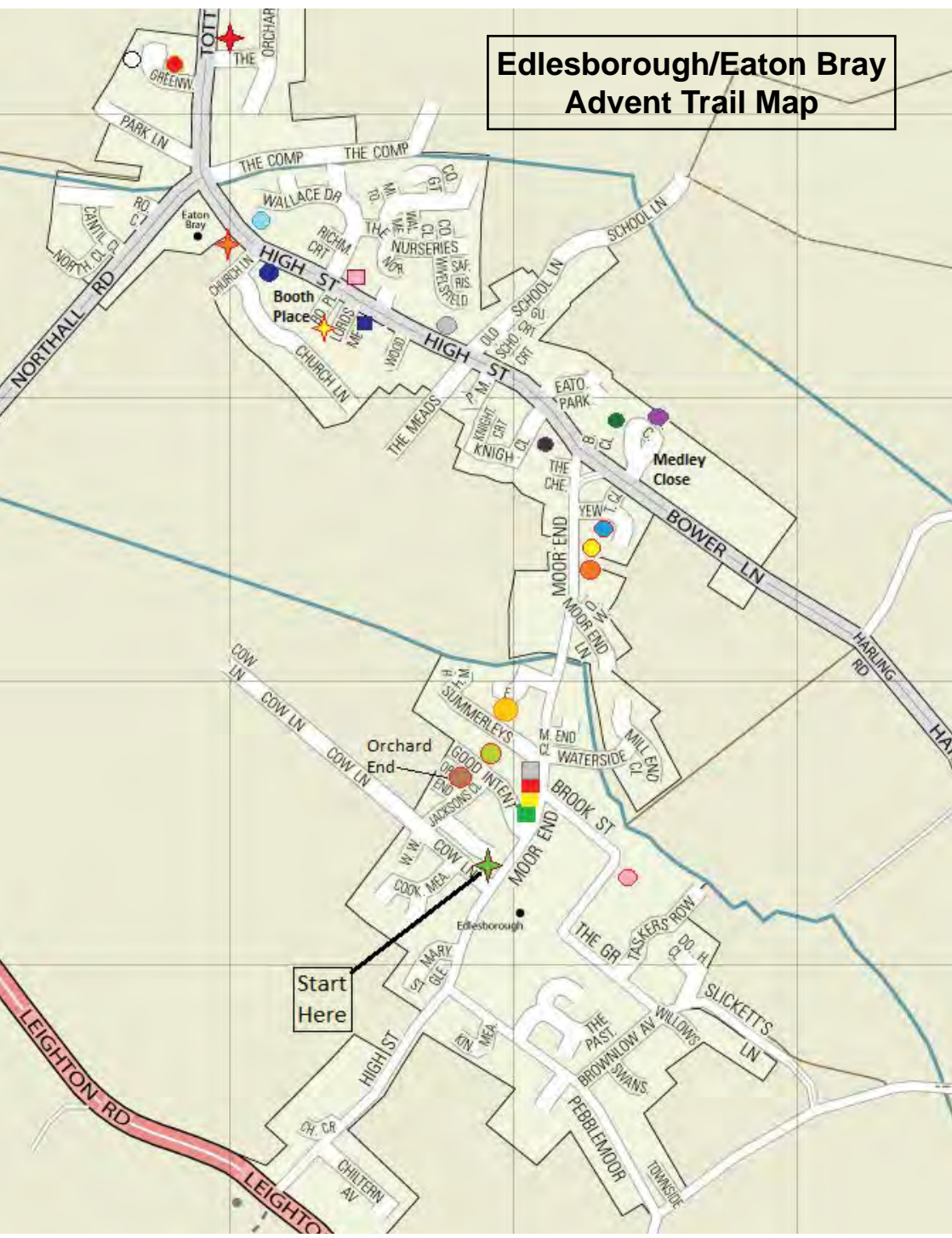
You may have noticed as you walk around the villages some new pictures appearing in windows on the theme of the Christmas story. Some of us from the village churches have designed a trail to follow by spotting numbered pictures in the windows of houses, shops and churches in Edlesborough and Eaton Bray. Each day throughout December a new picture will appear in a different window. The trail will start at Edlesborough Methodist church on Dec 1st. The pictures will stay on display until Monday Jan 3rd 2022 so you can also view them during the school Christmas holidays. (For those who like to look things up you can find the story in the Bible - in Matthew chapters 1 and 2 and Luke chapter 2)

On the right 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 the Salvation Army's facebook page, St Mary's facebook page and the website of Eaton Bray Methodist Church www.eatonbraymethodists.org. Enjoy being out and about this December and follow the Advent trail

Key to Advent Trail Map

1st		Edlesborough Methodist church	14		Medley Close
2		Janes Carpet Shop	15		Knights Close
3		Summerleys	16		Flicks and Bangs Hairdresser
4		Orchard End	17		Salvation Army Hall Booth Place
5		Edlesborough Flowers	18		Gibbins
6		The Green	19		High Street Opposite St Marys
7		Heirloom Café	20		St Mary's
8		Moor End	21		High Street (near School Lane)
9		Moor End	22		High Street (near Coffee Tavern)
10		Janes Electric Shop	23		Greenways
11		Good Intent	24		Greenways
12		Yew Tree Close	25		Eaton Bray Methodist Church
13		Medley Close			

Edlesborough/Eaton Bray Advent Trail Map



Start Here

Richard Dalton Grant

22.03.37 - 03.09.21



Richard Grant was raised at The Grove, Slicketts Lane, Edlesborough with his parents, Glynne and Eddie and his younger sister Gerry. Richard, known as, Richie Boy, was always independent - even as a toddler he was collecting milk alone from the nearby farm. He was an ardent animal lover all his life, chickens, cats, birds, dogs, ducks, geese, pigs and sheep. All creatures great and small always held a great fascination for him.

He attended Doretto Lodge Nursery Dunstable and then onto Osmington, Tring with his partner in crime and lifelong friend Robert

Pratt from Totternhoe. Along with his other early childhood friend, Jack Simmons, Richie made the most of the wartime army training camp stationed opposite the Grove where they helped to practice army manoeuvres in the Ford. Following the crash of an American Liberator Bomber near Ashridge, Richie and Jack made several visits on their bicycles to the crash site, where they collected various trophies. He was always adventurous, naughty and mischievous and these proved to be perpetual traits.

He concluded his schooling at Wellingborough in Peterborough where he excelled in sports, notably rugby and tennis. On the rugby pitch he was affectionately known as Tank and he played at Junior Wimbledon in the men's doubles.

From there he did his two years National Service at Kempston Barracks with the Beds/Herts Regiment. During this time he was posted to Goslar, Germany where he, along with friend Cyril Medlin - a.k.a. The Terrible Twins - were regularly reprimanded for breaking the army rules. Whilst in Germany he taught army vehicle driving. From an early age Richie was fascinated of all types of transportation.

He married Annie in 1959, and they set up home at The Old Forge, Eaton Bray, where they were joined by daughter, Lizzie, in 1960 and son, Michael, 1961. In 1975 Richard bought Edlesborough Mill and Windmill which had remained derelict for 50 years. After a two year restoration the Mill became their permanent family home, the Windmill restoration was to follow some years later.





Richie was always a loved and respected local employer, for his various car accessory related companies: Interior Silent Travel, Eaton Bray; Mill Accessory Group, Edlesborough; RGA - Betterworks, Eaton Bray; RGM - Leighton Buzzard, where he continued to work up until his unexpected death, aged 84.



Like his father, Glynne, before him Richie was always affiliated with Edlesborough Cricket Club, both as a player and then as Club President from 1981 for many years. The annual E.C.C. Awards dinner was an important fixture never to be missed, and became legendary! He donated an engraved cricket slump which continues to be awarded annually to an individual person making the most contribution to the success of the Cricket Club, either on or off the pitch.

His village association meant the world to him and he and Annie loved to support local causes, often hosting wonderful fund raising events at Edlesborough Mill. Apart from village life, his other loves included travelling, photography, wildlife and following all sport on TV.

His kindness, generosity, devilish sense of humour and mischievous fun will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Focus cover photo: Edlesborough Mill in the snow, home of the late Richard Grant

We've got Magic at Appledown Rescue Kennels



We'd like to introduce a very special lady who has won all our hearts! Beautiful Magic is a mastiff-cross aged 2 who came to us as a nervous, anxious and heavily pregnant stray. After a long labour she produced a large litter of puppies and was a magic mum! Now the pups are all settled in loving homes and it's time for Magic to find the happy ever after she so richly deserves. During her time with us she has grown in confidence and is an affectionate, gentle and sweet-natured girl who enjoys gentle exercise. She needs owners willing to lavish her with the love and attention she hasn't

known until now and she would probably be happiest as an only pet. A big comfy sofa would also be on her wish list! For more info about Magic please see her album on our Facebook page. Visit our website for info about adoption and an application form. To support our work it's easy to make a one-off donation of £3 simply by texting APPLE to 70111, or donate via Paypal using the 'DONATE Support a Cause' option. Cheques are very welcome too!

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CHARITY CHRISTMAS PUZZLE



This year sees the 31st Anniversary of the annual Puzzle set by Gordon Gray. The Puzzle is rated by participants as one of the most enjoyable (and devious) they have tackled and, with a theme designed to help completion, it will appeal to people who enjoy doing word puzzles. Puzzlers have plenty of time to find the answers and entries should be returned, with a donation, by 30th January.

Three highest scorers will each receive a £50 prize.

Everyone who enters will qualify for one of four £10 prizes.

Copies of the Puzzle can be accessed from the web at www.christmaspuzzle.co.uk. You can register early to receive a copy on the issue date of 8 December.



£91,400 raised for charity

£7,200 donated last year



This year's puzzle will support five charities nominated by Puzzlers.

Christmas Greetings
from
Churches Together
in
Edlesborough, Eaton Bray
Dagnall and Northall
Christmas Services 2021

Amelie
Age 6yrs



The churches in the four villages join together in wishing you joy and peace this Christmas and invite you to join them at their Christmas Services

St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray (Anglican)

Sunday 19th December	10.00am	Worship for Everyone with children's Nativity.
	6.00pm	Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies.
Friday 24th December	4.15pm & 6.00pm	Candle Services - for all ages, especially children (<i>The earlier service is attended by many younger children and is always very busy</i>).

The candle services will be ticketed please book tickets via the website:
<https://www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk/contact/>

	11.30pm	Midnight Mass. Blessing of the Crib and First Communion of Christmas.
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Family Communion Service.
Sunday 26th December	10.00am	Communion for St Stephen's Day.

St Mary's Church, Edlesborough (Anglican)

(by permission of Churches Conservation Trust)

Saturday 18th December	3.00pm	Carols by candlelight followed by mulled wine and mince pies.
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This service will be ticketed - please see www.edlesboroughchurch.org.uk

All Saints' Church, Dagnall (Anglican)

Sunday 12th December	3.00pm	Village Carol Service.
Christmas Day	10.30am	Family Service with communion.

Edlesborough Methodist Church, High Street, Edlesborough

Sunday 12th December	6.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service.
Christmas Day	10.30am	United Christmas Day Service at Eaton Bray Chapel.
Sunday 26th December		No Service.

Eaton Bray Methodist Church, Totternhoe Road, Eaton Bray

Sunday 19th December	10.30am	Family Carol Service.
Christmas Day	10.30am	United Christmas Day Service.
Sunday 26th December		No Service.

Northall Baptist Church, Chapel Lane, Northall

Sunday 19th December	4.30pm	Carols by Candlelight.
Christmas Day	10.30am	Family Christmas Day Service.
Sunday 26th December		No Service.

The Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray

Sunday 19th December	4.00pm	Christingle & Candlelight Service.
	6.00pm	Christingle & Candlelight Service.
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Day Service.
Sunday 26th December		No Service.

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

For services at St Mary's, please contact the church for information

- Tel: 01582 662710
- Website: <https://www.stmarys-dunstable.org/>

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

For services at Sacred Heart, please contact the church for information

- Tel: 01525 372321
- email: sacredheartlb@btinternet.com
- Website: www.sacredheartlb.org.uk

**PLEASE NOTE THESE SERVICES MAY CHANGE AFTER
FOCUS HAS GONE TO PRINT.**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH YOU WISH TO ATTEND,
NEARER THE DATE.**

**I bring you good news...of great joy...a Saviour
has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.**

Luke chapter 2



Churches Together Service
for the
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
will be held on
23rd January 2022 at
St Mary's Eaton Bray at
3pm
All are welcome to attend.

Eaton Bray Methodist Church



Now that the church had opened again, the month of October saw steady progress in recreating a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, while ensuring safe conditions for the health and well-being of all. Our first Sunday service was led by Rev Nina Johnson of The Square, Dunstable. Basing her powerful sermon on a text in Mark's Gospel, she reminded us of Jesus' concern for the marginalised. Inhumanity in any form is a denial of God. It is important that we accept people as they are and look on their needs with compassion. The following week was our first Café Service in 18 months. Geoff Best challenged us to imagine ourselves as refugees, considering what our priorities would be, and asked us to reflect on loss and sacrifice. It produced a fascinating discussion. On our third Sunday, we were glad to welcome back Richard Armiger as our service leader. He focused on the time when two disciples were jockeying for 'the most important positions' in heaven and were told by Jesus, in no uncertain terms, that his followers were called to love and serve all, not 'lord it' over others. Sadly, we were unable to have a service on the fourth Sunday but on the final Sunday in September, when our scheduled preacher was ill, Shepherd Combo generously returned to give us a challenging sermon on constancy and regular commitment.

A Warm Invitation

If you would like to join in our services, you would be very welcome. Our Sunday morning worship takes place in the Eaton Bray Methodist Church on Totterhoe Rd and starts at 10.30am

Now that it's December, look out for the 'Churches Together' Village Advent Trail, which is featured elsewhere in this edition of the Focus.

Be a STAR and donate a gift

Could you help us make Christmas Special for those who have little or nothing on the table this Christmas?



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or visit our website

eaton.bray@salvationarmy.org.uk



Christmas
Appeal 2021



The Salvation Army's Christmas Church is registered charity No. 214779 and in Scotland SC005959. Social Trust Registered Charity No. 215174 and in Scotland SC017691. The Salvation Army (Wales) Company, registered number: 00253222. (England and Wales)



Friends of the Church on the Hill Edlesborough



A YEAR OF RECOVERY AND DISCOVERY FOR THE CHURCH ON THE HILL

We have been kept very busy on all fronts, which has increased the profile of our beautiful Church to entirely new audiences.

You may well have seen a hive of activity in September. After lots of meetings with location managers and directors, “The Crown” transformed the Chancel into a Chapel in Windsor Castle where the fire started in 1992. Imelda Staunton, playing the Queen, spent the whole morning with us. At one stage there must have been a crew of one hundred specialists covering cameras, sound, lighting, with each one knowing precisely their role. The weather was good, so they enjoyed the views and the building. The next series should be aired in November 2022. So when the fire starts, you know where it was.

We have had a record year for “Champing”, having bookings right up to October 31st. We had over 140 sleepers this season. Champing is an initiative run by the Churches Conservation Trust, and our Church headlines their website, with lots of internal shots as well. This captured the attention of a US National Public Radio daily programme called “Marketplace”, which discusses Business, the Economy and events that influence them. Stephen Beard, the London Bureau Chief, travelled to St. Mary’s to interview Wyn Johns and visiting Champers, to explain the concept to an American audience. Click on the link and scroll down for the context.

<https://www.marketplace.org/2021/11/04/champing-or-camping-in-a-church-is-a-new-u-k-travel-trend/>

The Friends Group works most Tuesday mornings in the Churchyard, managing the undergrowth, improving sight lines and uncovering graves. We are gradually mapping and photographing all of the graves as we get a lot of enquiries from relatives. This year we have gained two new gardeners. We will be holding our “Carols by Candlelight” at 3pm on Saturday December 18th hopefully preceded by the Bell Ringers. Mulled Wine will be provided to warm you up! There will also be the opportunity to record your thoughts on our “Memory Tree” and make a donation placing a gift aided envelope in the Wall Safe. Mince pie donations welcome (please) bought or home- made! EdleFest is set for June 10/11th next year. Follow us on Facebook for ticket details at “Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough” or contact wyn.johns@gmail.com



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Northall Baptist Church

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The Greatest Story Ever Told

Except it wasn't a story – it was true. Let's examine how Christmas, that a lot of the world enjoys and celebrates, began.

In a quiet corner of a far away country, a young girl who wasn't married found that she was pregnant!

Probably not the first time this had happened! Why was this particular one significant? Why do we remember this particular event 2000 years later? Why does the world still celebrate this today? Why this one girl and her baby.



*Nativity Tableau: CPO Christmas Campaign
"Share the Light" seen at Christian Resources
Exhibition Sandown Park October 2021*

This story began in an obscure little town of Nazareth. The young girl, Mary was planning her wedding. A very exciting time until a visitor calls. But that was dramatic. The visitor was an Angel, no less than the chief Angel, Gabriel. At first Mary was upset as she couldn't understand what the message meant as she knew she was a virgin. However she was assured, told not to be afraid. What!! Not to be afraid?? Then she was told the details that it was to be a son, his name was to be Jesus and he was the son of God. It seems that this visitor called before any changes took place,

giving Mary a little time to get her head round this complete change of direction in her life.

But how do you tell your fiancé? That was going to be tricky. Joseph was dismayed. The deal he had agreed had been changed without his say-so. It wasn't just the two of them; it was the families, the community who would all put in their pennyworth. He was right, as we later find that King Herod also had something to say. Joseph decided that he couldn't be doing with this. Who could blame him? She'd have to manage on her own! That might save his face? He would get out of this agreement.

However, God thought otherwise. An Angel popped into Joseph's dreams and explained the situation to him. He was told how special this baby was to be. The baby would save the people from their sins. Wow! That seems important and Mary and the baby needed him. That put a different perspective on things. So he did as he was told and married Mary, took her to Bethlehem for the census, where Jesus was born as had been predicted years before by the prophet Micah. Micah 5 v 2 says 'But you, Bethlehem....out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel'.

At the age of 33 Jesus was crucified on a cross to save us from our sins. Hopefully when you are opening your gifts this Christmas, you'll remember God's gift of Jesus to the world and thank him.

Our Sunday services, are now back in Church 11 am. Feel free to join us for our worship and song. You will get a warm welcome.

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



And That's Not All of It - Unfortunately!!

As you can see from the picture, the litter pickers have been out in force again in Edlesborough and Northall. Yes, unfortunately most of the 16 or so bags, tyres and general ironmongery came from the hedges and verges around **your** villages! The Group have really worked hard, especially in the outlying areas where there are no houses. Edlesborough Green has been cleared at least twice during this period! A small group have undertaken to try to clear as much as they can of the verges along the main road between the High Street and Cocks Close which are normally inaccessible due to traffic during the hour of the Remembrance Service road closure

The trouble is that it keeps coming back! No sooner have we cleared a stretch of verge or hedgerow, someone deposits a can or a plastic bottle – or a MacDonald's bag complete with coffee cup – separately of course. Some people just can't bear to see the place looking tidy!

So how can we all help to keep our villages and their surroundings tidy?

Well, if everyone keeps the pavement and general area outside their homes free of litter, that's a big help because it frees up the Group to deal with the more outlying areas. Also, and this is the big one, when you are out on the Green either use the bins provided, or if they are full, take it home. This is more of a problem in the summer when people have picnics on the Green, but no one wants to sit and look at other people's cans, bottles, and crisp packets. But every little helps and even if you don't feel like joining an organised litter pick, you can still do your bit to improve our environment.

So, a big thank you to all our enthusiastic litter pickers, and to the wonderful Bucks C.C. "Men in Orange" who arrived promptly to collect our takings as soon as we asked. We are very lucky to have such efficient back up and couldn't do it without them. The bags in the picture won't be the last, I'm afraid, but there is a great deal of satisfaction to be had in clearing up an otherwise scruffy area in the villages.



LOCAL HERALDRY BY JOHN HOCKEY

In this series, we take a look around local towns and villages to find interesting and unusual heraldry.

TODDINGTON REVISITED

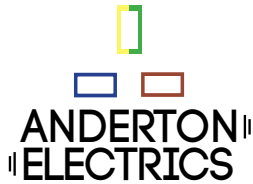
This month I have decided to re-visit Toddington to have a look in more detail at one of those funeral hatchments that you find in churches.



This one has an all-black background, meaning both the husband and wife have died. There are two coats of arms on this hatchment, one over the other which happens when the wife is an heiress in her own right. It is called an escutcheon of pretence because although she is actually the head of her family, he is *pretending* to be the head. (Typical man you may say - I couldn't possibly comment). Both have lions passant guardant, meaning walking along and looking at you rather than straight ahead. Both shields have a 'white' chevron (the larger one is Argent, the smaller one Ermine). In addition, those chevrons both have diamond shaped *charges*, the main shield has black lozenges (Sable) and on the smaller shield the *lozenges* are red (*Gules*) and are what is called voided, that is with the centre cut out. These are called *mascles*.

With all these similarities, it is perhaps not surprising that the married couple had the same surname – Cooper! She was Elizabeth Cooper of Toddington who married William Dodge Cooper Cooper (actually his family name was Heap but he changed it to hers in 1819). They both lived into their seventies and the motto is Tuum Est which means 'It's up to you'. I don't know how they got on but I can't help noticing that his crest is a lion holding a battleaxe!

Next time: More local heraldry.



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Eaton Bray W.I.

The November meeting celebrated our 100th anniversary and Helen made and decorated cupcakes to represent this. We received a 100 year certificate from National WI.



Three past members of the committee received thank you certificates and plants, and two members were thanked in the same way for all their efforts in preparing the hall in readiness for our meetings, over the years. Our President was given a certificate as a thank you for the twenty two years she has served so far.

A birthday meal was arranged at the Red Lion, Dagnall for later in the month.

A visit to Poplars garden centre was suggested for November, to see the Christmas decorations and festive fare, stopping for a coffee or lunch.

One of our members is a music teacher and she brought along a ukulele each for us to practice on. Deep concentration followed as we explored the notes and chords and finally ended up playing and singing 'yellow submarine', and "happy birthday" to our WI and three of our members who have birthdays this month. A most enjoyable evening. Simon Cowell may well be in touch.



Next month is our Christmas evening when we will enjoy festive refreshments and a raffle, plus a game of crazy bag whist, where we all go a little mad.

A very generous collection of new toys and gifts was made for the Salvation Army, who will distribute them to under privileged children in the local area.

Happy Christmas to you all from the members of Eaton Bray WI and may the year ahead be a much more settled and reassuring year for us all.



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EATON BRAY



Eaton Bray History

The Five Bells Public House: 2 Market Square, Eaton Bray (courtesy of the Bedfordshire Archives)

The Five Bells was one of the three public houses in Eaton Bray dating back to 1822 and before (the other two being The Chequers, also now closed and The White Horse). The earliest known date for the Five Bells is 1811 when John Brown of Eaton Bray blacksmith, victualler, and cutler published his will (proved in 1812) in which he left his blacksmith's shop and the residue of his

real estate including, presumably, the public house, to his son Sam. Presumably the pub was run as a side line to Brown's main business of blacksmith.

We know that Samuel Brown was licensee for many years. The 1851 census describes him as 71 at that date. He had been born in Eaton Bray and described himself as victualler. He had, presumably, given up smithing. His wife Sophia came from Caddington and was only 37! Her mother Anne Britton, aged 62 lived with them. She was also from Caddington and plaited straw. There was also a servant, Edmund Ellingham, aged 20, unmarried and from Eaton Bray. Directories reveal that he was still licensee in 1854 but by 1862 John Brown was the landlord.

The countywide licensing register of 1876 states that at that date Charles Meacher of Watford [Hertfordshire] was the owner of the Five Bells and that he leased it to Ivinghoe [Buckinghamshire] brewers Roberts and Wilson - Jesse Simmonds the publican was, therefore, the sub-tenant. By the time of the countywide register of 1891 Roberts and Wilson were the owners, as they were in



The Five Bells about 1920

1903 when the Five Bells was reported as: "clean and in good repair". It was only 44 yards from nearest licensed premises (The White Horse) and had one front and two back doors.

The Rating and Valuation Act 1925 specified that every building and piece of land in the country was to be assessed to determine its rateable value. Eaton Bray, like most of the county, was assessed in 1927 and the valuer visiting the Five Bells found it still owned by Roberts and Wilson. The tenant Mrs. A. Kitchen paid rent of £8 per annum.

Mrs. Sarah Jane Webb was just taking over – the valuer commented: "Mrs. Webb taking over from Mrs. Kitchin in a week's time 24/9/1927. Good position. Good little house but I say trade neglected. Buses pass along road. Very good buildings but unused". The rent was just about to be raised to £10 per annum.

The Five Bells comprised a tap room, a smoke room and lounge and a cellar (all "good"), a scullery and a pantry completed the lower accommodation and three bedrooms lay upstairs along with a "Long lumber room".

Outside stood a weather-boarded and slated earth closet, a brick and slate urinal, a brick and tiled open barn, coal barn and two stall stable and a weather-boarded and corrugated iron open shed stood by the house. There was also one rood of orchard with “old trees”.

Takings were between £10 and £12 a week. Trade comprised one barrel of beer per week including bottled stuff (“which is four dozen pints and three dozen half pints” per week and 29 gallons of spirits in the previous year. On average the pub sold one dozen bottles of minerals a week. The valuer commented: “This must be less [than the White Horse] but not such a great difference”. Another hand noted: “Sir T [Sir Trustram Eve] saw Benskins. Trade 40 barrels”.

Benskins Watford Brewery took over Roberts and Wilson during 1927 and Benskins was, itself, taken over by Ind Coope of Burton-on-Trent [Staffordshire] in 1957 when the Watford brewery closed. In 1961 Ind Coope merged with Ansells of Birmingham [Warwickshire] and Tetley Walker of Leeds [Yorkshire] to form Allied Breweries.

The Five Bells closed in 2010 and Central Bedfordshire Council approved a change of use for it to become a private house. This leaves the White Horse as Eaton Bray’s oldest continuing licensed premises.

1891: Henry Mann Roberts;
 1896: George Leach;
 1896: John Hodgson;
 1896-1897: Edward Henderson;
 1897-1898: John Pendrell Sharp;
 1898-1899: John Reeve;
 1899-1901: Alfred Element;
 1901-1906: Edward Henderson;
 1906-1907: Benjamin George Kitchener;
 1907-1909: Harry Thomas Rand;
 1909: George Loake;
 1909-1910: William Loftus Johnson;
 1910-1915: Albert Gibbs;
 1915-1916: Thomas Price;
 1916-1927: Alexander Kitchin;
 1927: Sarah Jane Kitchin;
 1927-1933: William Herbert Webb;
 1933-1937: Walter Johnson;
 1937-1945: Lavinia Johnson (Lavinia Mathers from 1942);
1945-1956: Walter George Buckingham Aylott;
1964: Edgar Spence;
 1973-1979: Kenneth Alexander Beadle;
 1979-1984: Thomas Patrick Browne;
 1984-1988: Terence Edward Oakley;
 1988-1990: John Hainey;
 1990-1994: Patrick Norbert Coughlan;
1994: Gerry Paul Lewis and Jane Isabella Lewis.

Licenses: note that this is not a complete list and that dates in italics are not necessarily beginning or end dates, merely the first/last date which can be confirmed from sources such as directories and deeds:

1812: John Brown;
1822-1854: Samuel Brown;
1862: John Brown;
1864: Alpheus Collyer;
1869-1891: Jesse Simmons;
 1891: Charles Seaton;



The Five Bells December 2008

Fat Finch Disease (Trichomonosis)



We love our wild birds and enjoy watching them at the bird feeders we have scattered around the garden. As well as Robins, Blackbirds, Magpies, Doves, Pigeons, Blue Tits, Woodpeckers and Ducks we have had many more finches over the last few years – Greenfinches, Goldfinches, Bullfinches and Chaffinches. We recently noticed a few of the Greenfinches looking puffed up and seemingly very hungry and

not flying off with the rest. We found on separate occasions a Green Finch on the ground not able to fly off. We lifted them carefully up and placed them in a safe box and although they tried to eat and drink, they died very quickly afterwards. We then found a further couple of dead Greenfinches in the garden. It just felt that this was not normal, so I spent some time researching this on Google.

It appears that from our experience and the description of the symptoms, they had succumbed to Avian Trichomonosis. Many people call it 'fat finch disease' a very apt description. In the UK, it first appeared in Greenfinches visiting gardens in the summer/autumn 2005, as a result of the Citizen Science scheme, Garden BirdWatch, run by the British Trust for Ornithology, (BTO). It is a well-known disease called 'canker' in pigeons and 'frounce' in raptors. Pigeons and doves may be the main carriers.

The infection is the result of a parasitic organism, called *Trichomonas gallinae*. Nationally it has been estimated that in excess of half a million Greenfinches have died. Considering that the UK Greenfinch population is about 4 million birds, this is a huge reduction.

Symptoms

Greenfinches, Chaffinches, Goldfinches, House sparrows, Bullfinches can be infected. Although it is Greenfinches that have been affected the most. The poor infected birds look lethargic, weak, sleepy, fluffed up, have difficulty breathing, are reluctant to fly, hang around bird feeders and attempt to eat. They physically cannot swallow food or drink. Unfortunately, food or water does not reach their stomach due to the 'cheese' like lesions in the bird's crop, caused by the parasite. The parasite itself feeds upon cell debris, pus and bacteria as found in the bird's crop. As the disease progresses, birds may drool and have uneaten food on the beak with matted, wet plumage around the face and beak. The birds eat yet starve to death or die of thirst. You can often see them stretching their necks to probably help with their discomfort. It could be described as the myxomatosis of the bird world.

Importance of feeding hygiene

The advice is adopt good hygiene practice with your feeders. I am now cleaning my

bird feeders weekly with an environmentally friendly disinfectant and boiling water and then leaving them to air dry.

Prevent contamination around bird feeding/bathing stations

If you look beneath your feeder and you will likely see bird droppings, seeds and other materials. Over time this can build up and hold moisture. Trichomonosis can survive in such conditions long enough to infect other birds that may feed/search amongst this material. The advice is to regularly move your feeders around the garden helping to eliminate this build-up. Any built-up material should be removed and binned.

If possible, have different types of feeders to suit different species and place them around your garden, thereby spreading the numbers of birds in your garden and limit the overcrowding in small spaces.

Place bird baths or water bowls away from bird feeders/bird tables and other areas where birds perch. This will help reduce faecal contamination or bird food spat out by an infected bird landing in the water.

As Woodpigeons (numbers visiting gardens has markedly increased in recent years, esp. in early summer when food gathering for their young) are carriers, it may be prudent to try to keep them away from feeders or ground tables.

If you get a large number of birds at your feeders and you want to avoid spreading this disease or you see an infected bird, the Garden Health Wildlife advice is that you stop all feeding altogether for 2-4 weeks and disinfect your bird feeders. This will make the birds disperse. (Although likely the birds will find other feeders where these hygiene methods are not carried out.) Mouldy food may contain toxins which may cause disease in birds and harbour other diseases so feeders should be regularly emptied and topped up with clean fresh food.

Hopefully by these simple measures, we can help contain this horrible disease, prevent our lovely birds from suffering and continue enjoying their wonderful contribution to our gardens.

✍️ M James

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Chiltern Society PhotoGroup

A short while ago I did a series of articles in Focus consisting of tips for better photography. As a relative novice in the art form, I have learnt a good deal from my membership of the Chiltern Society and other members in its dedicated PhotoGroup.

In addition to regular meetings held in Amersham and occasional outdoor shoots at local villages, the PhotoGroup has a comprehensive online photo library which takes in much of the landscape, villages and towns in this lovely part of the world, all photographed by members over the years. This offers the chance to view buildings, countryside, heritage and life and provides a chance to compare recent photographs with those from the past.

In addition there is an annual Online Exhibition where people can send in up to 12 pictures from around the UK in five categories – Flora & Fauna, Buildings, Landscape, Heritage and Other. A specialist photographer reviews many of the pictures entered and provides comments for the novice or more experienced. There are no ‘winners’ just a lovely record showing the many ways there are to display the ingenuity and beauty that people interested in photography can bring to everyday scenes.

The website has a full search facility and provides a dedicated digital record of the Chilterns including such up to date issues as the route of the HS2 rail project.

I am currently engaged in collating the entries for the EDaN Parish (Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall) and I include three photos that I intend to send in by way of example. If you are minded to join the Society you could review other local villages and towns known to you and perhaps think of ways to improve/update this valuable visual database.

If you love the Chilterns, have a look at www.chilternphoto.org.uk or visit the main Society website on www.chilternsociety.org.uk

Many thanks!

✉ John Hockey, Edlesborough resident.

Note: To be a member of the PhotoGroup you must be a member of the Chiltern Society, a charity dedicated to preserving and enhancing the Chilterns.



Northall village sign



Red Lion PH, Dagnall



Cricket at Edlesborough

Eaton Bray Poppy Appeal 2021



The Poppy Appeal this year has not been without its problems – most of them caused by the covid virus. All of us are carrying and using less cash, so we don't have as much (or any) in our pockets or purses when we see a poppy box and collecting can. The covid screens in shops and business premises have also meant less freedom to place a poppy box and collecting can under customers' noses!

However - all of our house to house collectors have responded brilliantly after enforced hibernation last year and to them we owe a huge vote of thanks. Also many thanks from all of us in the team to the good folk of Eaton Bray who have donated a total of £2927.12 this year.

Onwards and upwards for next year!

✍ Roger and Helen Wilkinson (Poppy Appeal Organisers – Eaton Bray)

Royal British Legion Poppy Collection in Edlesborough and Northall

Once again, the residents of Edlesborough and Northall have shown what a generous bunch you all are!! This year, as well as being able to sell poppies at Edlesborough Newsagents, we were again able to sell them at Edlesborough School and “The Swan” in Northall, as well as a small collection from Dunstable Bowling Club. I am proud to report that we have raised the amazing total of £1019.69 which comprises the village collection of £850.69 and a Parish Council donation for wreaths of £169.00.

A big thank you to the staff and customers of Edlesborough Newsagents who raised £394.59 in three very heavy tins and a collection box. The staff and pupils of Edlesborough School collected an impressive £203.01 and the staff and customers of “The Swan” Northall added a grand total of £217.40. Thank you all so much for your continuing generous support.

✍ Lorna Cabbage



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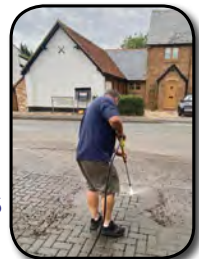
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HOME FOOT HEALTHCARE TIPS

HOME FOOT HEALTHCARE TIPS

Winter is on the way and with the cold weather it is important to ensure that your feet stay warm and dry. Here are some tips that will keep your feet looking and feeling healthy this winter.



Hard skin can build up at any time of the year on your feet mainly due to:

- Excessive loading on certain parts of the sole of the feet.
- Prominent bones.
- Rubbing from footwear.

There are many gadgets on the market for this task but I would give a word of caution with the big cheese grater types of hard skin removers as it is very easy to get carried away and end up with sore tender feet as a result, leaving an uneven finish affecting new skin. I recommend regularly filing with a foot file. Frequency is key, file first then use a foot cream after. Use socks afterwards to increase the creams' effectiveness.

Do not use talcum powder or moisturiser between your toes.

- If your toes are tight together you may get an increase in moisture and debris, only use surgical spirit to clean between your toes.
- Always cut your nails straight but you can follow the shape of the nail to prevent sharp edges.

See a Podiatrist for maintenance of your feet. As well as treating corns and callouses, they

can check for verrucae and fungal infections and advise appropriate action. Hard skin build-up can also indicate that you could be overloading one part of your foot. This can cause malalignments and injuries with your hips, knees and back.

If you feel unsteady on your feet, then gait analysis maybe recommended and advice on whether you need simple insoles, orthotics/exercises can be given. At St Judes we have a team of four HCPC registered Podiatrists who can help - we're open Monday to Saturdays, so why not give us a call?

By Steve Richards, BSc (Hons) Podiatry MChS
Podiatrist at St.Judes Clinic, Tel: 01525 377751.
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Would You Re-mortgage Your Home to Help Your Child onto the Property Ladder?

How far would you go to help your child get on in the world?

Many parents move area to ensure their child gets into the best primary school or fund their university costs. Many of you reading this have even helped your children with the deposit for their first home from savings.

However, I have come across many local people in their 50's and 60's who have good jobs and incomes, yet don't have the savings to give to their children to help them buy their first home. It doesn't help when you consider...

the average value of a home in LU6 has risen by 15.7% in the last 5 years, from £279,034 to £322,717.

I am therefore seeing increasing numbers of parents who are willing to re-mortgage their own home or start a new mortgage (when they own their home outright) - to get their children onto the local property ladder.

So, whilst the Government is trying to turn Britain's 20 and 30 somethings from 'Generation Rent' into 'Generation Buy', the Bank of Mum and Dad are mortgaging their retirement to pay for it all. Yet it need not be cost prohibitive borrowing the deposit as you still have access to interest only mortgages.

With an interest only mortgage, your monthly mortgage payment covers only the interest on your mortgage, not any of the original capital borrowed. This means your mortgage payments will be lower than on a repayment mortgage, remembering though at the end of the term you will still owe the original amount you borrowed from the mortgage provider.

1 in 14 new mortgages are interest only and 1 in 5.5 existing mortgages are interest only mortgages, they are very popular.

Anyway, many local homeowners might be worried about having that level of debt in their golden years. However, many plan to pay off the mortgage when they downsize as they get into their 60's and 70's.

I talk to many local homeowners who are asset rich but cash poor and desire to help their children onto the property ladder. Their attitude is that their children will inherit their property when they pass away, so it seems practical to give them that money to work harder for them earlier in their life when they need it to buy their first home.

Can you get a mortgage, even if you are retired?

A lot is dependent upon your age and financial position. The mortgage companies will see if you have adequate funds for your retirement and emergencies plus leaving enough equity in the property to enable you to downsize in the future. Like all things, you need to take advice from a qualified mortgage arranger.

So, that then begs the question, is there enough equity in LU6 homes to borrow against? In the late 1980s and again in the early 2000s, many Brits saw their homes as a cash machine. Numerous homeowners re-mortgaging at the end of their mortgage's preliminary term (usually after the initial 2, 3 or 5 years), but when doing so increased their mortgage to enable them to buy a nice car or fancy holiday. Yet, by increasing the borrowing, it created negative equity in the early 1990s and stopped many homeowners moving home between 2009 and 2013 because of their lack of equity.

Therefore, I have to ask, have we borrowed too much this time round?
Looking at Dunstable and the specific postcodes LU5 and LU6 combined...

In 2016, the average local homeowner had a mortgage of £103,623 and today it is £140,224, a rise of £36,601.

Looking at these numbers, one might think we are again over-extending ourselves, yet as regular readers of my blog about the local property market will know – I like to drill down and look at all the figures.

Initially, I was worried about these stats, until I considered the equity local people have amassed over the same 5 years.

In 2016, the average equity held in a local homeowner's property (whilst still having a mortgage) was £175,411, yet today that stands at £182,493, a rise of £7,082.

Even though mortgages have increased, homeowner's, living in LU6, equity has risen even more, meaning as we stand today, mortgaged and owned-outright properties, there is...

£7,606,247,833 of equity held in all homes in LU6.

Whilst the total value of mortgages has increased slightly since 2016, as a percentage, this has gone down meaning local homeowners and landlords have increased their equity in the last five years.

It can quite clearly be seen that the financial insecurity sparked by the Credit Crunch crisis of 2008/9 has created a generation of local homeowners and landlords who are savers and improvers rather than movers and excessive borrowers, using excess cash to invest in their property and pay down debt or to excessively borrow on their equity growth.

Only 20.3% of the total value of property in LU6 is borrowed money with a mortgage.

This is great news for every local homeowner and landlord because irrespective of whether the 'Post Lockdown Bounce' is short or long-lived, it shows the local property market is in a better state to ride out any storm that it might encounter than ever before because less people will be in negative equity or have prohibitively high mortgages.

Before I finish, I fully appreciate money and inheritance is a sensitive subject for many families.

My message to all the local parents is, just because your children aren't talking about the subject, it doesn't mean it's not on their mind.

The lead has to come from you, as a parent, to ensure the wealth held in your bricks and mortar can be used to your family's advantage, when they need it most.

If you do, your children will thank you for it and they may even do exactly the same for their children, then, they will do the same for their children's children ... creating a legacy that will go on for generations.

✍️ Claire Giblin

Local estate and letting agent



For our annual birthday dinner October, our members enjoyed a tasty cold supper, including a very sticky and chocolatey cake and ice cream as pudding. This was, of course, washed down with a glass (or two) of wine and and/or soft drinks, tea, coffee etc., all prepared by the committee. This being the first such social occasion since the start of the dreaded lockdown, needless to say much laughter and chatter ensued. W.I. ladies can always, as you already know, find something to talk about, lets face it, there was much catching up to do. Peter Gardener entertained us all with his conjuring tricks and slight of hand. Lots of jokes too. This whole happy event was very jolly, noisy and much enjoyed and of course it does mean that the Edlesborough W.I. is once again, up and running normally. One way or another we did try hard to keep all our members up to date during the lockdown period and remember their birthdays too. Our next social event is our Christmas Party following our AGM on the 14th December. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, at the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. New ladies are always welcome.

The 2022 programme is nearly planned and hopefully it will be completed by the AGM in December 21.

✉ Sue Parker 01525 221416

Eaton Bray Cricket Club



The annual presentation evening was held at Bellows Mill on October 16th and the club would like to thank Rachel and her team for making us feel so welcome. A very convivial time was had by all. After partaking in dinner and the odd beverage the awards were presented.

Ernest Gray Cup. 1st X1 Players Player. Andy Norris.

George French Trophy. 1st X1 Batting. Andy Norris.

Ken Bearton Trophy. 1st X1 Bowling. James Flecknell.

Nick Pearson Trophy. 2nd X1 Players Player. Peter Robinson.

Martin Quinn Trophy. 2nd X1 Batting. Peter Robinson.

Dave Wheeler Trophy. 2nd X1 Bowling. Neil Scott.

Edna Quinn Trophy. Clubman of the Year. Zara Chamberlain.

John Cole Trophy. Most improved player. Euan Palmer.

Dave Whittaker Trophy. Most catches. Jaco Jacobs

Wes Hosking Trophy. Sunday X1 Players Player. Jaco Jacobs.

Lee Bearton Trophy. Sunday X1 Batting. Jaco Jacobs.

Ian Jones Award. Sunday X1 Bowling. Euan Palmer.

James Flecknell was also the leading wicket taker in the FCCL Division 2.

A special award was presented to Nick Pearson of a Lifetime Membership. Nicko has been with the club for 30 years and come rain or shine he has been giving his all both on and off the pitch. Congratulations Nicko. Well deserved boy.

The club would like to thank our sponsors Meadow Marquees, ECL Howard Watson Smith LLP, Topps Tiles, SMSS Ltd and the Focus Magazine for their support during the 2021 season.

Eaton Bray Cricket Club would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Enjoy your cricket with Eaton Bray in 2022.

Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for October 2021

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

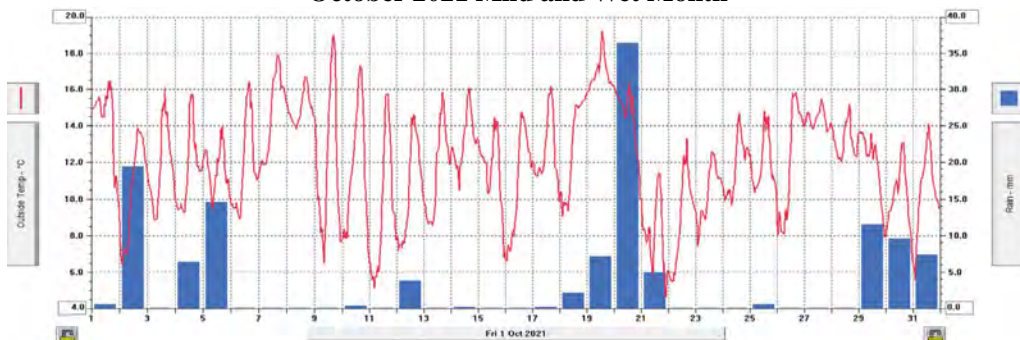


September 2021 - Extra High Temperatures and Rainfall

It was a partly unsettled and wet month with heavy rain at times, but there was a drier spell between the 6th and 17th. We had more cloud than sun, although there were some blue, sunny skies. October was generally mild with temperatures above 11.8°C every day and a highest reading of 19.3°C. Only two days saw a dip below 6°C, and even then the mercury only went down to 4.5°C. Rainfall for the month was 125.7mm which is 176% of the fourteen year average. The 20th was the wettest day with 36.4mm - which is nearly 1½ inches.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	19.3°C	19 Oct 13.00	4.5°C	21 Oct 21.30
Mean Temperature	12.0°C			
Dewpoint:	16.4°C	19 Oct 09.00	2.7°C	21 Oct 21.00
Humidity:	96%	9 & 18 Oct	56%	1 Oct 16.30
Barometer:	1031.0 mb	11 Oct 09.30	983.9 mb	2 Oct 19.00
Wind Speed	42mph SSW	Oct 09.30	Months avg.	4.3 mph
Wind Chill:	29.5°C	7 Oct 16.00	5.9°C	29 Oct 07.30
Dominant Wind:	SSE			
<u>Rainfall</u> *T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 16(T), 16(R)	Wettest Day 20 Oct		36.4 mm	1.433 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	Oct 2021	125.7 mm	4.949 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	9 Months	712.5 mm	28.502 ins

October 2021 Mild and Wet Month



At the moment we are all looking at enviro issues so just for interest October Comparisons of the last 6 years. Need 100 year to draw any conclusions

Year	Mean Temp	High Temp	Low Temp	Rain
2016	10.7°C	11.9°C	2.8°C	32.2mm
2017	12.0°C	20.8°C	-0.4°C	28.2mm
2018	10.0°C	22.9°C	-1.1°C	69.2mm
2019	10.3°C	17.4°C	-0.4°C	105.4mm
2020	10.5°C	16.9°C	4.2°C	167.6mm
2021	12.0°C	19.3°C	4.5°C	125.7mm

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Salvation Sound

Eaton Bray Salvation Army

'The Christmas Cracker'



Christmas is just around the corner. We are all getting ready for Christmas. Presents and food to buy, Christmas cards to buy and send, stockings to fill before the great day! Our lives have been turned upside down with the pandemic and possibly it has been a time of taking stock and reflecting the true meaning of Christmas. This year is definitely better with the freedom of being with family and friends that was denied to us last year because of the ongoing threat of the pandemic.

However I ask the question, 'What is Christmas all about?' Why do we celebrate the 25th of December every year? Why do we buy all these presents, have turkey and the trimmings? Why do we endure the endless repeats on the television and listen religiously to the Queen's speech on Christmas Day?

How does the Christmas Cracker convey the true message of Christmas?

No Christmas table is complete without crackers for everyone to pull. These were the invention of a London baker called Tom Smith in 1846. He was so taken when visiting Paris where he saw bonbons (wrapped sugar almonds in a twist of paper) that he took that idea and developed it into the Christmas Cracker we have today. He started selling them in London and found that young men gave them to their sweethearts and so started putting love poems into each cracker.

One day whilst sitting by the fire, the log crackled and he had a flash of inspiration to replicate the noise when people opened his bonbons. Soon the Christmas cracker was born and became popular.

But when you look at a cracker and take it apart- what religious significance can you see.

What is the first thing a cracker does? It goes BANG! It gives us a surprise, a reminder of the surprise the shepherds had on that first Christmas night when they were visited by the angels and told the news, "Today in Bethlehem your Saviour was born, Jesus Christ the Lord" (Luke 2)

The next thing we discover is a little gift- a reminder of the three gifts brought to Jesus by the wise men: gold for a king, frankincense for a priest, who would be a link between human beings, and myrrh as a symbol of his special death. Christmas is a time for giving presents as a reminder of God's greatest gift, his gift of his one and only son Jesus Christ.

The first crackers often contained a motto, proverb or Bible verse- a reminder of what Joseph was told when he found that Mary was having a baby that wasn't his. "You are to give him the name Jesus. They will call him Immanuel, which means God with us" (Matthew 1, 21- 23)

Tom Smith's final idea of a cracker was a crown - a reminder that God wants us to crown him King of our lives and to accept the real gift of Christmas; a new life we find through Jesus. As we pull crackers and open gifts this year, we pray that we will receive the gift God offers to us in Jesus.

May we this Christmas remember the true meaning of Christmas when Jesus Christ came into the world – He was the free gift that God offers to us today.

✍️ Allison Gaudion (Major)



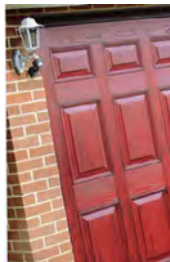


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