

# The Loop

February  
2018

£1.00

## Messy Church comes to Biddenham



As we go to print, on 25th January at 4.30pm, St James's Church is holding its first Messy Church session at St James' School.

Messy Church has been around for some time now and groups take place across the world. It involves bible stories, singing songs, being creative and, most importantly of all, lots of fun. A fundamental part of Messy Church is also that everyone sits together and enjoys a meal.

Messy Church is for people of all ages, of any faith or none (children must be accompanied by an adult).

Messy Church is free. There is no need to book – just turn up on the day.

Another session is also being held at All Saints Church Hall, Church End, Kempston on Sunday 28th January. We hope to hold Messy Church once a month at each venue. Dates of future sessions will be advertised soon!

Jacqui Piper



*Year 5 at St James' Primary School have received a whole pile of new books for their class library, thanks to a recent Book Fair organised by the hard-working PSA.*

*For more news of St James' see page 11.*



*Thanks to Richard Moxon for this portrait of Biddenham in the 2017 snow.*

### Don't forget the Foodbank

Please continue to bring in-date non-perishable food. The container is at the back of the church.

You can find the latest list of items needed by Bedford food bank at <https://bedford.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>



## Planning: Make sure you have your say

Bedford Borough Council has published its Bedford Borough Local Plan 2035 Draft Plan and invites members of the public to comment.

The plan includes two development sites in Biddenham. One to the west of Gold Lane and one behind Bromham Road, near Bromham Bridge.

An outline planning application for 250 houses at Gold Lane has also been made

There is more information inside, including details of how to make sure your voice is heard on page 13.

## 2018 Loop subscriptions now overdue!

Your annual subscription to The Loop is now overdue. The price for the ten issues in 2018 will be £10 (minimum). Any profits go to the church funds so if you can manage to donate more, please do.

Please make cheques payable to Biddenham PCC.

Subscriptions should be delivered to Richard Harris, 6 Noddors Way or Jacqui Piper, 27 St Mellion Drive as soon as possible please.

**'The Loop' is published by the Parish Church of St James as a service to the communities of Biddenham and Great Denham**  
The editor welcomes contributions from residents and friends via email to [loopeditor@gmail.com](mailto:loopeditor@gmail.com)

# The Season of Lent



## Additional Midweek Services During Lent

### Wednesday 14 March (Ash Wednesday)

7.00pm – Sung Eucharist  
All Saints Church, Kempston

### Wednesdays 21, 28 February, 7, 14, 21 March:

7.00pm – Lent Meditation and Evening Prayer  
St James's Church, Biddenham

For further information contact Rev Eric Lomax  
on 01234 852241

## Prayer for Lent

Dear Master, in whose life I see  
All that I would, but fail to be,  
Let thy clear light for ever shine,  
To shame and guide this life of mine.

Though what I dream and what I do  
In my weak days, are always two,  
Help me, oppressed by things undone,  
O thou whose deeds and dreams were one.

John Hunter

## The Parish Church of St James, serving Biddenham & Great Denham

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## Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

In 1881, Carlo Collodi wrote the well-known children's story, Pinocchio. It was the story of a woodcutter who carved a marionette, because he longed for a son. Magically, the puppet was able to shed his strings and set out on a journey to try and be human. Collodi had no love of children and described his character as a wretched boy and a rascal. Because of this, the puppet suffered all sorts of trials, made worse by his own disobedience and dishonesty. In the earlier version of the story, Pinocchio was hung by his neck from a tree. This was the last sentence in the 1881 serialised newspaper story;

"Oh, Father, dear Father! If you were only here!" These were his last words. He closed his eyes, opened his mouth, stretched out his legs, and hung there, as if he were dead."

Collodi had never expected his readers to see Pinocchio as a hero, but there was something about Pinocchio that people identified with. Many readers wrote in to complain about the fate of the puppet. For this reason, Collodi was asked by the newspaper to retract the ending and to write a whole new serialisation. The wayward little puppet was rescued from his fate, and continued on his journey.

The words spoken by the puppet remind me of the words of Jesus from the cross; 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?' Jesus was not at all dishonest, and I don't remember seeing anything in the Bible about his nose growing, yet like Pinocchio he cast off his strings and refused to be controlled by others. If you look at Pinocchio, even the 1940 Walt Disney production, you can see that the real people were far more distasteful than our hero, and one is left wondering why Pinocchio would wish to be anything like the human beings he encountered.

We are approaching Lent, when Jesus was cast into the Wilderness to be tempted by the devil. The temptations that Jesus faces were nothing to do with trivial, puritanical sins, but rather they were to do with the cultural expectations that he should exert a revolutionary power rather than serving others with gentleness and humility. To Jesus, love was by far the most revolutionary attitude that anybody could demonstrate, and this ran completely against the grain of other cultural expectations. Jesus needed to shed the strings of culture that tried to control his ministry, and to be himself as God wanted him to be.

This is ultimately all about freedom, and in the end, it is freedom that allows us, like Pinocchio, to become fully human.

I do remember, however, that there is something in the Jesus story about him rising from the dead and continuing on his journey for the sake of humanity, but we will leave that to a later date.

God bless, Eric



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## A BOLD start

Do you know what **BOLD** is? Well, it stands for *Bedfordshire Opportunities for Learning Disabilities* and is a registered charity, which is planning to build a new education and work training centre for those in Bedfordshire who have learning disabilities, autism or challenging behaviour. The centre will be on the site of the Angler's Rest pub on the Clapham Road, quite near the Fairfield Park Sainsbury's store. Planners have given the thumbs up to the scheme, which parents and carers have described as 'inspirational'.

BOLD currently provides opportunities to over 130 people each week. They run a wide range of workshops, including independent living skills, arts, crafts and computing skills and provide much needed work experience through their café, furniture store and gardening programme. In addition they organise social activities and four holidays each year which offer valuable respite for families.

When the new BOLD centre is completed, service provision for people with a learning disability within Bedfordshire will be dramatically improved. Supporting over 300 adults, teenagers and parents/carers each week, the new centre will provide a wide range of desperately needed services that are currently not available to the community. A multidisciplinary team will tackle the full spectrum of challenges faced by people with a learning disability; not just education, but work experience, independent living skills, social opportunities, health issues, community integration and transition.

Of course all this will cost money. So BOLD is running an appeal to raise £3m for constructing the new facility. The appeal represents the most exciting opportunity in a generation to make a leap forward in services that will transform lives. The BOLD campaign is everybody's chance, including you, to be part of it. For further information and to get involved in fundraising please contact Paul Sutherland, Capital Appeal Manager, on paul@bo4ld.org.uk or 01234 352899.

As part of this enterprise, BOLD is holding a concert in Biddenham Village Hall on Saturday 17th March at 7:30pm when local choir 'Heart and Music' will present a varied programme of light-hearted songs, music and poetry. Some of you may remember their highly acclaimed performance in 2016 in St James's church. Admission will be just £10 each and you can obtain more details from Peter Leverkus on peter@leverkus.plus.com or 01234 353662. You will also find an advertisement on page 11.

Peter Leverkus



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**peacockauction.co.uk**

**St. Paul's Church**

St. Paul's Square, Bedford MK40 1SQ

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.  
Saturday 3<sup>d</sup> February 2018 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Admission £2 50 (children under 16 FREE entry) -Refreshments

Candlemas Choral Evensong  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018 - 5.30 p.m.

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Please call Jackie on 01234 868820 for more information.

# This month in the garden

February is a month for preparation; preparing for the new gardening year that lies ahead. Writing this in mid – January, I had been working in the garden for the first time this year cutting out the old leaves on the hellebores when I noticed the first signs of white on the snowdrop buds and then streaks of yellow on the winter aconites. Things are beginning to move and it is time to get going. Once again, Spring excites us with a sense of anticipation.

First of all, there are likely to be some rather unexciting jobs waiting to be done. Methodical people will doubtless wash each set of flower pots once they have been used but if you are like me, you may have a good array of pots and seed trays that need washing. It's a good job for a wet day, as I remember from my student holiday job in the local parks department a great many years ago. The glass in greenhouses and cold frames is likely to be murky and green and that too will need a scrub. Perhaps the shed could also do with a tidy-up. This is also a good time for painting sheds and fences with wood preservative provided the wood is dry.

If you have left dead growth and seed heads on perennials in the expectation of feeding the birds and enjoying a frosty sun lighting up the garden, now is the time for tidying up. Cut down dead growth and shred it or break it up for composting or use it as a mulch. Deciduous grasses should be cut down nearly to ground level while evergreen grasses can be 'combed' to clear out the dead debris. The dead growth of large flowered clematis that bloom in summer should be cut back to a bud a foot or so above ground level. Pampas grass is best dealt with by cutting out the old stems and combing or raking the dead matter from the green growth. The soil in the borders will need turning over either with a large fork or a hand fork depending on the amounts of bare soil. Watch out for

spring bulbs coming through and wait until soil is reasonably dry.

Many days of cold, dull and dank weather may have kept you indoors during January but the best time for pruning fruit trees and bushes will soon be running out. Pruning is necessary for optimum fruit production and to keep things a manageable size. Where possible, it is best to keep fruit trees so that you can reach the fruit easily rather than needing a ladder. If you are buying new trees they will be available on dwarfing root stocks so that the tree will not grow very tall. Most pruning of apples and pears consists of cutting back the straight growths that developed last year. Larger branches may need to be taken out where growth is very dense. The aim is to keep the centre of the tree open so that light and air can get into it. New growth on currant bushes should be cut back by a third and autumn-fruiting raspberries cut down to just above the ground. Summer fruiting raspberries must be left alone now as this year's fruit will come from the existing canes. They should be cut down in late summer after fruiting. Raspberries benefit from mulching at this time of year.

There won't be a lot to do in the vegetable garden yet apart from finishing the winter digging if the ground is dry enough. Turning over wet soil is hard work and will leave it muddy and lumpy rather than friable. If you have a heated greenhouse you will be able to start sowing early green crops and tomatoes in pots or seed trays. Most of us will need to wait until March for this. If you have a greenhouse with an earth border you can start sowing radish and early salad leaves.

February needn't be all hard work and I hope you will find time for the increasingly popular activity of visiting a snowdrop display. Anglesey Abbey is first choice for many and I think Chippenham Park near Newmarket is very attractive. Many other gardens now have snowdrop and hellebore displays. Use Google for options and visiting times.

Jeremy Arthern

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Much activity in & affecting our village

**The future for Biddenham**

Our historic village pond sits proudly in the Biddenham Conservation Area, the pathway to the pond, the ancient Coffin Path, leading off Gold Lane at one of the two main focal points of the village. Opposite the entrance to the pathway stands Biddenham House built in 1766, a building independently assessed as being of positive merit.

We joined with others in drawing to villagers' notice the threat to the character of, and a substantial feature of, the Conservation Area from a planning application submitted proposing the demolition of Biddenham House and its replacement by eight new houses. And you responded in some numbers, objecting to the proposal. That though is not the only threat now facing Biddenham's character, rural setting and heritage. Along next have come:

- I. Lioncourt's outline planning application (18/00140/MAO) for 250 dwellings on land to the west of Gold Lane; and
- II. hot on its heels, the final draft of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2035, which includes what is known as Policy 19, diluting the present protection of the land west of Gold Lane as green belt by proposing the allocation of land there for the provision of up to 160 houses.

And now we need more, many many many more objections if we are to overcome these latest threats.

The Friends has previously expressed its concern about the adverse impact on the village pond and its wildlife were there to be development of the land west of Gold Lane, not least its impact on the water table and the availability and ability of water to reach the pond from this adjacent land. We therefore join with the Parish Council and the Biddenham Society in urging you all please to object to **both** the Lioncourt planning application and to Policy 19, vital if you don't want to see housing development west of Gold Lane. And to object individually.

We emphasise individually because joint applications, say from a Mr and Mrs, only count as one objection. You can double that number by both submitting objections.



Your village needs you!

The urban spaces between Biddenham, Bromham and Great Denham are all protected by what is known as policy AD42. This is part of the Borough Council's Allocations and Designations Local Plan of July 2013. Since 2002, national Planning Inspectors have recognised the importance of this

visual separation between communities around Biddenham.

The Lioncourt application conflicts with and is contrary to AD42; it is neither appropriate nor necessary as the current Local Plan to 2021 has sufficient provision to meet the housing requirements of the Plan; it would impose an excessive burden on local infrastructure; and would create a hazardous access point onto the narrow Gold Lane, and add enormously to existing traffic problems on Gold Lane, through Biddenham, and at the Bromham Road/Deep Spinney roundabout. And of course we remain concerned about its impact on our historic village pond, not least as we said above its impact on the water table and the availability and ability of water to reach the pond from this adjacent land.

It has previously been made crystal clear to Lioncourt that the Parish Council, the Biddenham Society, and the Friends of the Biddenham Village Pond are united in being firmly opposed to any development on this site.

If the Lioncourt application is to be refused (closing date for objections is 16 February 2018) and if the allocation for development in the Local Plan 2035 is to be reversed (closing date for objections is 5 March 2018) and the land to remain protected as green belt, objections are needed in great numbers, not tens, not hundreds, but even more.

By the time you read this, you should have received the second leaflet the Parish Council has distributed to every home in the village. That leaflet explains both how to object to the Lioncourt planning application and also how to object to Policy 19 and to Policy 23 land at the rear of Bromham Road in the Local Plan 2035.

It is a public consultation so any member of the public can respond. You may have family and friends who grew up in Biddenham, once lived in the village, visit the village: please encourage them to object as well, and other members of the public too with whom you are acquainted.

Now it's up to you all again in even greater numbers to help protect the character, setting and heritage of our village. Thank you.



**Down at the pond**

Good news, there's more water now in the pond after the recent rain. Oh, but still not enough!

A big thank you for a generous grant from the Biddenham Show Committee which we have used to repair the western jetty. Our volunteers, to whom our grateful thanks also, worked hard on two days in early December to remove

the old woodwork and replace it with strong new planks and a new base. We'll be doing some fine tuning as things settle down.

**Forthcoming events**

Some dates for your nice new shiny 2018 diaries and calendars, our **Spring Work Morning on Saturday 7th April** and our **Summer Splash Out and AGM on Sunday 10th June**. More details nearer the day, and watch out too for the date of the annual Frog Foray.

The Pond Team  
The Friends of the Biddenham Village Pond  
[www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com](http://www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com)  
[www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond](http://www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond)

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# Yvonne Fowler

*We are sorry to report the death of Yvonne Fowler in November 2017. I am grateful to her friends, Dee Dite and Peter Culverwell, and records in Bedfordshire Archives and Dorothy Richards' Biddenham book for help in compiling this short tribute.*

Yvonne was born in 1928 and came to live in Biddenham as a baby. Her father bought the plot in Day's Lane where he built the house that Yvonne and her husband Bill subsequently lived in for many years. He also planted the Orchard.

During the 2nd World War Yvonne worked for a very exclusive mail order clothes shop which had relocated from 33 Old Bond Street in London to the Old Vicarage in Biddenham to escape the bombing. The left hand side of the house and hall were offices and a bedroom was where the auditors worked. The owner was Mr A.J. Danhorn. After the war, for 6 years Yvonne worked for the firm back in London. She came home every weekend and lived in a hostel in South Kensington during the week. The family always took her to the railway station. Yvonne felt that this was a very exciting time as no-one had been able to travel during the War and going from Biddenham, a small village, to London was a great adventure!

Yvonne was always an active member of the village. She and Bill were on the Village Hall Committee for many years in the 1960s-70s as well as being involved in the Biddenham Show for over 10 years in the 1980s. Yvonne organised the Biddenham Art Circle which ran from 1972-76 and held annual exhibitions in the Village Hall.

Yvonne joined in many activities, most especially the WI and the Church. She played bridge regularly, played the organ and was involved in a lively Sewing Circle. She latterly arranged the flowers for the First Friday lunch guests, who are making a donation to Cancer Research in her name.



## **Wrest Park Volunteer Open Day Wednesday 28th Feb 2018 in the Ante-Library of the Mansion House from 1-3pm and 5-7pm**

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Groups and families with children are welcome to meet and professionals may choose to take advantage of our free wifi or book our private meeting rooms.

Alternatively, you could choose to take-away and enjoy your refreshments whilst browsing our forthcoming sales. Our choice of breakfasts and homemade bakes are available all day and our freshly updated lunch menu and range of hot and cold drinks are sure to satisfy all tastes. Our professional and dedicated Café team look forward to welcoming you soon.

The Café is open Monday to Thursday 8.30am - 3.30pm, with extended opening on Friday to 7.00pm, and Saturdays from 8.30am - 4.00pm. Last orders for food are one hour before closing time.

Visit us at W&H Peacock Auction Centre, Eastcotts Park, Wallis Way, Bedford MK42 0PE. Tel: 266 366



# Payment due

Years ago, when I started my job after university and the army, I found I had so much to learn.

I had conned (sweet-talked) my prospective employer to take me on as an engineer rather than as a graduate apprentice. Having built equipment with a soldering-iron during my teenage years, and served as a practical engineer in the army, I rebelled against the idea that I needed that sort of tuition. They took me on, but at the graduate apprentice rate anyway.

They upped my rate after six months to the basic engineer rate. But I still had much to learn. As a matter of fact, I was still learning right up to the date of my retirement, but that is another matter.

I found I had a problem. I had ordered through the purchasing system, some components, but they were not delivered. I phoned the suppliers, full of righteous indignation that a supplier should treat a customer in that way, only to be told that our company (and not some back street enterprise, but part of, as it was, English Electric, Marconi) had not paid its bills. I was literally lost for words. It seemed that payments were in the hands of accountants, and that accounts were settled, nominally at the end of the month, but it seems that this could be much longer, depending on factors beyond my understanding as a raw youth (I was only 24). I don't know that I would understand it even now in my ninth decade.

Nevertheless, I came to see that companies would delay their payments to help their current balance sheets, in effect they were borrowing money from their suppliers at zero cost. Dishonest? Yes, I think so.

I have today received a bill for garden work, with the comment printed in red, 'Prompt payment would be appreciated'. As it happens, I use payment by bank transfer, and so I paid them today. It's easy, and they are happy and so am I. Of course I can afford to do so.

But the point is this, we should not hold back payment for services rendered. There's nothing new under the sun, the Bible, as so often, has been there before:

*Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning. Leviticus 19:13.*

Christopher Dawe

# What a Christmas!

Over Christmas it was wonderful to see so many people taking part in the services at St James's Church.

December kicked off with a packed church for the Christingle Service. It was lovely to see the faces of so many children transfixed on their Christingle candles and to learn about what the Christingle represents. The children from Explorers and St James' School delighted the congregation with their rendition of the song 'Shine from the inside out'. A retiring collection was held in aid of The Children's Society, to which people gave very generously.

We then had the children's Nativity service. The children always enjoy this performance and afterwards the congregation were treated to a Disneyland style parade of all the children and some wonderful (almost life-size) cardboard characters that they had made in Explorers beforehand.

Nearer to Christmas was the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols Service. The choir delighted the congregation with their beautiful singing, particularly with the extremely moving carol O Magnum Mysterium which brought a tear to the eye (as reported by some members of the congregation).

Christmas Eve kicked off with the Carols in the Churchyard, where over 600 parish residents, friends and family crowded into the churchyard to enjoy the readings and carols, with music provided by the St James's Church Christmas Band. We are aware that, because of the increase in numbers attending the Carols this year, some people at the back were unable to hear as well as they should have. Rest assured, this has already been dealt with and we will have more amplification for both the speakers and the band next year. Again, people were very generous at this service, donating to a retiring collection for Embrace, the organisation which provides the carols sheets used at the Christmas Services.

Later on Christmas Eve, Midnight Communion was taken by Rev Belinda Searle-Barnes who is on the clergy team at St Andrews Church in Bedford. It was a wonderfully reflective service and a perfect way to bring in Christmas Day!

Once again, there was a packed church for the Christmas morning service. The service this year was a bit different to previous years in that it was an All Age Service with the worship group, followed by communion for those



*The band at Christmas Eve Carols in the Churchyard*

who wanted to stay. Everyone had a great time thinking about the characters from the Christmas story and watching the children finding them both in the crib and elsewhere around the church. I think the unfortunate incident of the decapitation of one of the Kings (don't worry, it was only one from the crib scene) will live in people's memories for some time!

If you came to any of these services we would love to see you at St James's Church again. Please do come along to one of our Sunday services (see back page for details). You will be assured of a warm welcome!

Jacqui Piper



## Café B...

*Tuesday 20th February & 20th  
March*

*Biddenham Village Hall*

*10.30 am - 12.00 noon*

*Selection of teas, coffees,  
hot chocolate and juice*

*Home baked cakes*

  
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St James's Church, Biddenham  
All Saints Church, Kempston

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St Andrew's School

Rushmoor School

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## Home!

*no one leaves home unless  
home is the mouth of a shark  
you only run for the border  
when you see the whole city running as we are  
your neighbours running faster than you, breath  
bloody in their throats  
the boy you went to school with  
who kissed you dizzy behind the old tin factory is  
holding a gun bigger than his body  
you only leave home  
when home won't let you stay.*

*no one leaves home unless home chases you, fire under  
feet  
hot blood in your belly  
it's not something you ever thought of doing until the  
blade burnt threats into  
your neck  
and even then, you carried the anthem under your  
breath  
only tearing up your passport in an airport toilet  
sobbing as each mouthful of paper  
made it clear that you wouldn't be going back.*

*You have to understand,  
that no one puts their children in a boat unless the water  
is safer than the land no one burns their palms  
under trains beneath carriages  
no one spends days and nights in the stomach of a truck  
feeding on newspaper unless the miles travelled  
mean something more than the journey.  
no one crawls under fences  
no one wants to be beaten pitted*

*no one chooses refugee camps or strip searches where  
your body is left aching  
or prison,  
because prison is safer than a city of fire  
and one prison guard in the night  
is better than a truckload  
of men who look like your father no one could take it  
no one could stomach it  
no one's skin would be tough enough*

*No one leaves home unless home won't let you stay*

*Warsan Shire  
(A Somali British woman)*

## Blunham Giant Book Sale

Saturday 24th February 10:00 to 3:00pm

Come to our Browse and Buy Second Hand  
Giant Book Sale at Blunham Parish Church,  
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Selection of second hand/nearly new books,  
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All proceeds to Blunham Church Fabric Fund

# Biddenham Society

## Current threats to the village

### Proposed development west of Gold Lane

The Biddenham Society is working in co-operation with the Parish Council and local groups to ensure the village rallies maximum opposition to the proposals to develop housing on our only remaining large green space within the village envelope. The Parish Council has begun circulating all households with information and details of how and when to object. Please follow the advice given and help add your voice to that of others.

### Proposed demolition of Biddenham House and its replacement with 8 dwellings.

Following local publicity in a variety of forms, there was an excellent response from residents objecting to this totally unacceptable proposal. Concurrently, the society has submitted an application to have the house listed, but regardless of the outcome will remain opposed to any development on this site and to the demolition of Biddenham House itself. For the information of residents, the response submitted to the planning authority is reproduced below.

### Application 17/03101/FUL Biddenham House, 2 Gold Lane, Biddenham MK40 4AJ

The society wishes to object to the above application for the following reasons:

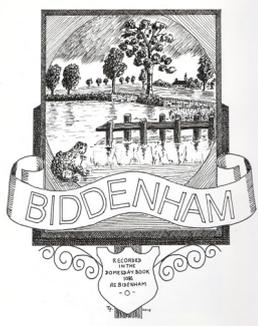
Gold Lane is narrow at the point of access to the site and a further 16 vehicles (@ 2/dwelling) would exacerbate the hazards associated with this section of road.

The house and property lie within the Biddenham Conservation Area and at the heart of this historic village. The construction of new dwellings on the site would be totally out of keeping with this part of Biddenham and the character of the surrounding buildings.

The southern boundary of the property is directly adjacent to the village green and 50m from it. The 2016 Conservation Area Appraisal notes the value of the focal point of the village green, the key views to and from it, the prolific greenery and open spaces, deep grass verges and the extensive private open gardens, all contributing to the special interest of Biddenham. This attractive setting is complemented by the views of Biddenham House across the site.

There are eight historic properties or features visible within 100m of the site boundaries:

- 1) 63 Main Road, The Forge (C17th former blacksmith's cottage)
- 2) 48-50 Main Road, Horseshoe Cottage (C17th Listed Grade 2)
- 3) 42 Main Road, Lavender Lodge (C18th former farmhouse and the oldest house in the village)
- 4) 67 Main Road, The Old Vicarage (C18th Listed Grade 2 with the prominent Cedar of Lebanon tree planted in 1875 by a former vicar)
- 5) 67a Main Road, Groom's Cottage (C17th former carriage house, stables and tack room)
- 6) 1-3 Gold Lane, Dawn Cottage (C17th Listed Grade 2, former dairy, cobbler and costumier)
- 7) 8-10 Duck End (C16th limestone rubble cottage built over the remains of a Roman Road)
- 8) The entrance to The Coffin Path from Gold Lane (C16th field track for coffins to be carried to St James Church)



The proposed new buildings on this plot would destroy the historic 360 degree perspective enjoyed from the village green.

The main part of Biddenham House was built circa 1766 and is the only surviving example of an C18th double pile, polite, small country house in the village. It is alleged the property was used as a hunting lodge by a Duke of Marlborough. The 2016 Conservation Area Appraisal describes the house as having positive merit, with the setting of the house on the north side of the village green aiding the distinctiveness of this area. Its demolition would represent an unacceptable loss of a part of Biddenham's heritage.

The application is in conflict with the 2002 Local Plan saved policies BE11, BE13, BE15, NE18, and H24 i), ii), iv), and Policy CP21 iv) of the 2008 Core Strategies and Rural Issues Plan, and we urge its rejection.

Tony Wood

*Founded in 1965 by a group of concerned residents, The Biddenham Society remains committed to the continued preservation of the beauty, history, character and heritage of the village.*

## Barry Truscott

*As reported in the last edition, Barry passed away in November. I am indebted to Linda, his wife, for responding to my invitation to send this tribute to Barry.*



Barry was born in 1941 in Paulton, a small village near Bath. At the age of six weeks he travelled with his parents to South Africa as his father worked for the Admiralty. The family were based in South Africa for several years. They then came back to live in Bath and subsequently the family, including Barry's sister, Gillian, moved to the North East of England. After College Barry became a Design Engineer at the Dorman Long Steel Company in Middlesbrough. It was they who sponsored him to take up a place at Loughborough College of Technology to study for a degree in Mechanical Engineering. In 1964 Barry met Linda, who was studying at a Teacher Training College some 20 miles from Loughborough.

In 1967 Barry undertook an MBA at Cranfield and then followed a career in Marketing, working firstly at the Chrysler Car Manufacturer and then Courtaulds, in Coventry and George Ellison in Birmingham. During this time Barry and Linda lived in Leamington Spa and then moved to Heath and Reach in Bedfordshire when Barry joined the Marketing Department at SKF in Luton in 1975. Barry later worked for Amalgamated Metal Corporation and MK Electrics. In his semi retirement years Barry was a Consultant/Adviser for Small Businesses and Enterprises.

Barry, Linda, Abigail and Giles moved to Biddenham in 1982 so that the children were near to their schools in Bedford. The family soon immersed themselves in village life. Linda was chair of the PTA at St James' Lower School and a leader of Biddenham Wives. Barry was a huge help to Linda in her various village activities and he was a member of the Committee of the Biddenham Show for 10 years. During this time he had responsibility for all Show entries which often numbered well over 500 in the 1990s.

Barry will be greatly missed by Linda, Abigail and Giles, his son-in-law Ashley, grandchildren Beatrice, Jack and Ellie and by the rest of his family and his many friends and neighbours. Linda would like to thank everyone in the village for their support and kindness during the last few months.

## Lent is almost upon us

Easter is early this year, Easter Sunday being 1st, April (no fooling!), and so Lent, being the 40 days up to Easter, begins on Wednesday 14th February.

Lent is on my mind because it brings up an argument that I have met several times in recent years, and it is one that I want to address here: that is, the practice of giving things up for Lent. Or, more accurately, as I have experienced it, the mockery of those of us who (still!?) give things up for Lent:

"You don't still do *that*, do you?"; "I prefer to take something on for Lent these days"; "I'd rather *commit* and go along to a Lent course – well, at least on the weeks that I can get there."

All of these things, with the emphases implied, have been said to me by Christians over recent years.

Of course, I get the other side as well, when non-Christians tell me they are giving up chocolate, sweets, alcohol, etc. for Lent, as they think it will affect their health in a positive way.

I do wonder sometimes whether the comments of the first, the Christians, are a reaction to the actions of the second, the world, in a way taking over Lent, like they seem to have done other Christian festivals. If this is so, personally I think that this is a clear case of 'throwing the baby out with the bath water'.

Throughout history, in all strands of the Christian church, Lent has been seen as a time of reflection and preparation before Easter. Most assuredly it has been meant as a time to spend time on our relationship with God. Whatever we do it should ensure that.

Taking things on for Lent is fine; committing to a Lent course is fine; giving up something that can help your health is fine – but think first, how do these things aid me in my relationship with God? Remember, learning about God is not the same as spending time with him and building your relationship with him. I have just read a very good biography of Charles Dickens: I know all about him, but I can't profess to have a relationship with him!

So, I *will* be giving something up for Lent. I'm not sure what that will be yet: but whatever I give up it will be with the intention of spending more time with the Lord during Lent and building up my relationship with Him.

What about you?

Thanks for listening

Suzette

*If anyone would like bi-monthly updates about our work in the Communities of Great Denham and West Kempston, email [manorsuzette@btinternet.com](mailto:manorsuzette@btinternet.com) to subscribe to our Prayer-Mail newsletter.*

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## Biddenham Women's Group

Diane Cullip, from Only You, came to talk to our women's group in January on hair loss and wigs, one of the many specialisms offered within the extensive range of treatments available locally at this luxury salon. She was accompanied by Vickie Saunders, a director of the company.

As a young girl Diane became fascinated with the beauty counter at E P Rose and Son Ltd., a department store that was based in the building which now houses Debenhams. She took a job there, doing what she always wanted to do and went on to work for Helena Rubenstein. The rest is history; she has now been in the beauty business for 45 years!

Her expertise, empathy and care enable her to offer a discreet and unique service to anyone experiencing hair loss.

She talked to us briefly about the causes of hair loss such as alopecia, cancer treatments, medication, stress or hereditary predispositions and then gave us an opportunity to try on some of the amazing range of wigs which they had brought with them.

Members of our group were transformed in minutes and were really impressed by the quality, ease of use and styling of the various shades of wigs. Modern wigs look so very different now from those of a few years ago. Real hair ones are hand tied and sell at around £600 and acrylic ones (which hardly look or feel any different) cost about £325 and this includes the shampoo and conditioner which will be needed each month. The acrylic wigs last about a year whilst the real hair ones last for 18 months or more.

We had ample opportunities for asking questions and discovered that they need to be air dried after their monthly wash or left in the airing cupboard overnight. The netting on both types enables the scalp to show through, giving a natural look. The wigs come in two sizes ensuring a good fit, don't feel too hot or uncomfortable whilst being worn and can be trimmed.

Although we acknowledged the benefits of wigs for those in need we also had a bit of fun trying them on. Diane told us that sometimes people going on cruises take wigs with them for use in the evenings. People might even need them for dramatic productions. I might have created a scene myself when I heard someone say, 'That knocks years off you!'. I wouldn't have minded but - it was a grey wig!

Our next speaker, on 13th February, is Sarah Russell from the Tibbs Dementia Foundation, which will be our named charity for the year. Last year we donated over £160 to The Children's Society.

Now is a good time to join the group or renew membership. Membership cards, containing the programme for the year, cost £5. Subs for members are £3 per session and £4 for visitors. We offer a varied range of speakers and have two social functions a year to raise money for a named charity. Do come along and visit us. You will be made most welcome.

Val Fitzhugh



## Great Denham Parish Council

The next Planning Committee meeting is on 5th February and the next Parish Council Meeting is on 5th March at 7.30pm in the Mercia Suite, Great Denham Community Hall.

For more details go to:  
[www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk/](http://www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk/)

# St James CE VA Primary School



After a restful and peaceful Christmas break, we have returned to school with a spring in our steps and are looking forward to the coming year!

The staff enjoyed their INSET training at the start of the year. We spent the day with colleagues from other schools thinking about different strategies to support the most able learners. Our training was provided by NACE, which is the National Association for Able Children in Education, which is an internationally recognized charity in the field of education for able learners. Over the next 18 months we are going to be further developing our work in this area and hope to become an accredited NACE school and be awarded the prestigious NACE Challenge Award. As a member of NACE, we already have access to a wide range of resources and training materials and in the coming months, we hope to refine and confirm our policies and procedures in this aspect of school life. You can find out more here: <http://nace.co.uk/>

New activities for the children this term include Year 4 children learning to play the Ukulele, Years 2 and 3 will be getting ready for their choral concert, and Year 5 will be performing their version of the opera Carmen.

We've also introduced a new Walk to School initiative. Every child has the opportunity to collect badges throughout the year to reward every time they walk, scoot or ride to school. We are hoping this will help to reduce the number of parked cars outside the school.

Maria Soulsby  
Headteacher



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# Biddenham Parish Council



This month's **Parish Council Meeting** was held on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 in the main hall of the Pavilion. Present were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Peter Chase (Chairman), Jon Gambold, Alan Jacobs, Krzys Osuch, Terry Platt and Joe Warren. Clerk Alison Southern, Borough Councillor Roger Rigby and a large number, about 50, members of the public were also present. Councillors Chris Gee and Francia Slade sent their apologies.

## Public Open Session

The largest number of people from the village in a long time attended the meeting, many thanks to all who turned out. The reason: the threat of **houses being built on the land west of Gold Lane**. I gave an update on meetings we'd held with the developer, following their public exhibition at the Church Barn, and also a meeting Jon Gambold and I had with the Chief Executive of Bedford Borough Council and three of his senior managers.

At this stage, the Borough are sticking to their view that some (about 160) houses on the site should be allowed, which is not as much as the developer would like. In turn, the developer has reduced the number they want (from 300 to 250) by agreeing not to build on the land south of Duck End Lane. This would keep development away from the Village pond. Regardless, we the Parish Council do not want ANY development on the site.

At the meeting, we were able to explain the Borough's latest move. This is to confirm their view of what should be allowed as a new "policy" (Policy 19) within their local plan for 2021 to 2035. If you live in Biddenham you will, by now, have had hand-delivered letters from me

explaining how to object to this new policy, and its close relative Policy 23. This second one seeks to allow about 35 houses on the land opposite Bromham Mill behind the part of Bromham Road leading down to the bridge.

*We need to protect the rural separation and identity of Biddenham, and reject the idea of even more traffic on our roads and pressure on our schools, by objecting to both policies. With enough objections, we hope the Borough will remove both policies from their new local plan.*

To object to Policies 19 or 23, go to [www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2035](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2035) and fill in the online form there. You need to fill it in once for each policy. Please also go to the village website ([biddenham.org.uk](http://biddenham.org.uk)) where you can find more information; search for *Policy 19*.

Since the meeting, the developer has also lodged their application for 250 houses. Please object to this too. Its reference number is 18/00140/MAO, which can be accessed directly using <https://tinyurl.com/ycvacl5>.

I mentioned at the meeting that it was proposed to bring together various people to represent village institutions with knowledge and/or concern about planning matters. This group did indeed meet, the following evening (4th Jan), and considered what more could be done about the threat to the land west of Gold Lane. Calling it the Biddenham Advisory Forum, this group is independent of the Parish Council or any other body in the village. How much it does, and how often it meets, remains to be seen. It is an attempt to draw together any expertise we have to hand to oppose this unwanted development. If you are interested in helping, please email me at [peter@chaseqv.com](mailto:peter@chaseqv.com).

The **demolition of Biddenham House** was also raised at the meeting. The Parish Council decided to object in the strongest terms to this application, as have an amazing 172 others (as I write). This should mean rejection, or a major rethink, of those involved. If a similar, and hopefully greater, number speak up against Policies 19 and 23 we may get somewhere. Let's see what the voice of the community can do!

## Precept

One other thing to mention is that we approved our budget for 2018/19 at the meeting. We have held the Precept at £40,000 for several years now. Given what we have to pay for, and what we wish to do, we have decided to increase this to £43,000. One ironic consequence of new housing already going up in the village is that this amount will be divided among more households next year than this, so in fact the amount payable by each will go down.

## Date of the next meeting

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th February 2017 (note, not 14th as you might think). Do please come along if you have anything you'd like to raise.

Peter Chase  
Chairman



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# How to take part in the Consultation on the Local Plan 2035

Everyone can comment, and each objection is counted. So, it is of greater value if every individual in a household responds individually.

If you want to make your objection to development around Biddenham known to Bedford Borough Council you must do so by 5th March.

At [www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2035](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2035) you can comment via the online portal or download the form. Or, you can get a paper copy from the Borough Customer Service Centre, Horne Lane, Bedford or libraries. Remember, you will need two forms if you want to object to both policies.

In Part A of the form you need to fill in your personal details to ensure your comments are counted.

In Part B: Question 5, tick 'Don't Know'; Question 6, answer 'No' and tick the first three boxes; Question 6a,

For Gold Lane enter: Paragraph 7.30 and Policy 19 from the dropdown.

For Bromham Road enter: Paragraph 7.34 and Policy 23 from the dropdown.

The form does ask you to explain your answer: here are some ideas.

Objections applicable to both policies:

- They destroy the protection afforded by AD42 which currently benefits Biddenham and the surrounding communities.
- Since 2002, national Planning Inspectors have recognised the importance of this visual separation between communities around Biddenham.
- The proposed developments are simply house

building. They have no infrastructure and are not sustainable.

- School provision is inadequate to support these developments.
- Bedford Borough has plenty of more sustainable and brown-field sites that should be prioritised.
- Biddenham is already surrounded by a lot of new building which is fundamentally changing the nature of the environment.
- Environment and biodiversity will be further adversely affected.
- There is no safe access to the sites.

Specific objections to Policy 19 (Gold Lane):

- The indicative housing density is 32-40 per hectare; way above and out of keeping with the surrounding settlements.
- The policy mentions creating a 'gateway' to Bedford. Biddenham is already that gateway and highly regarded as an asset to Bedford. This development will harm that value.
- The policy mentions 'preservation/enhancement' of the Biddenham Village Pond. It can only do harm to the delicate balance of nature.

Specific objections to Policy 23 (Bromham Road):

- It will increase traffic on the historic and listed Bromham bridge.
- It will reduce the rural setting of, and views from, Bromham Mill.
- The site is on the flood plain.

Question 7: state that Policy 19 or 23 should be deleted.

Question 8: your preference but probably 'No'.

Then, 'submit', or email your completed form(s) to [planningforthefuture@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:planningforthefuture@bedford.gov.uk) or post them to Local Plan 2035, Planning Policy Team, Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Bedford MK42 9AP.

*The Friends of St James, Biddenham*

## Jazz Concert

with

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# Biddenham Gardeners Association

## My garden

At our first meeting of the year we were welcomed into the garden of Kathy and Paul Fricker. They have lived in Biddenham since 1991 and their gardens, both back and front, have evolved since that time. The changes to the front garden have been very dramatic. The line of conifers which enveloped their front garden and had grown to almost 15 feet were taken down and transported away by lorry and have given way to a lovely combination of lavenders and David Austin Roses. Charlotte is yellow, Grace is apricot and Winchester Cathedral is white. The front garden and the side border which Paul has been cultivating in recent years are a joy for all who walk by.

In their back garden Kathy and Paul inherited a Norfolk Pine which had been planted by the previous owners. During the last few years two patios with seating and colourful displays have been made plus a pond for wildlife and an archway with roses and clematis leading from the lawn to the vegetable patch. The garden is now very productive in terms of soft fruit, vegetables and herbs. We were taken through the various seasons from deep snow in winter with the pops of colour from the red stemmed cornus and Christmas Cherry through to the Spring with snowdrops, narcissus and snakehead fritillary and marsh marigolds in the pond. Summer was ablaze with penstemon, crocosmia, clematis and roses and finally the abundance of vegetables in the Autumn for the barbecue. The photos were lovely - we were particularly impressed by the beautiful agapanthus and the whole presentation was enhanced by the sound track of Paul's guitar playing. Many thanks to Kathy and Paul for sharing their obvious enjoyment of their garden with us.

The second half of our evening was presented by Jeremy Arthern who shared with us some of his photos taken at RHS shows. Apparently there are eleven major RHS shows during the year throughout the country and also a series of smaller shows at the RHS Lawrence and Lindley Halls in London. Jeremy said that the London shows were good places to go to learn about plants. The next show in London will be the Spring show 13-14th February, then comes the Orchid show in April. However Jeremy focused on the Harvest Festival show which takes place at the beginning of October; here one can see good examples of how to show vegetables. Uniformity is key and sometimes smaller fruits and vegetables need to sit on sand to stay upright and onions and shallots need to have their tops tied with raffia. Also, avoid the pitfall of taking too many layers of skin off onions. All top tips for showing at the Biddenham Show!

Jeremy concluded his talk by showing photos of West Dean Gardens, Chichester. This is a splendid garden to visit with Victorian glasshouses and a walled garden. Horticultural courses are offered and Jeremy provided us

with useful tips on starting off vegetables in modules so that they can be planted out without root disturbance. The fine shoots of hazel make good supports for plants; put them in early so that the plants can grow through them for a more natural look. Moisture is essential for all vegetables and courgettes can be planted on a mound so that water can be puddled around them. Runner beans benefit from being planted in a trench prepared with compost and newspaper to retain moisture. Many thanks to Jeremy for his presentation.

Our next meeting will be on 20th February when Joanna Baxter will talk about the Care and Cultivation of Acers.

Linda Truscott

New members and visitors are always welcome. For more information contact **Linda Truscott** on 01234 270747 [www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk](http://www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk)



## New mobile library bus

The new library bus is now on the road. Whilst looking smaller on the outside, it actually holds more books on the inside, a bit like a tardis! So readers should have more choice. The other big change is that customers will be using a self-service machine, so you will need your library card with you on every visit.

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Community Centre**  
Saturdays 10th, 24th February  
2.20pm to 2.40pm

### Biddenham

Thursdays 1st, 15th February, 1st March  
Church End from 10.00am to 10.20am  
Nodders Way from 10.25am to 10.50am  
*Remember your library card!*



## Hall Booking Details

### Village Hall

From the Village Hall website you can check availability on the diary, look at the facilities and download a booking form.

[www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk)

### Church Barn

Contact the Booking Officer, Jan Burns on 344019 or [janburns@gmx.com](mailto:janburns@gmx.com) if you would like to hire the barn. Smaller than the Village Hall, it is ideal for a small party or meeting.

### Pavilion

The hall is available for children's parties, anniversary lunches, christening receptions, meetings etc. We can also hire the small upstairs meeting room which has tea and coffee making facilities.

Booking enquiries to [biddenhampavilion@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:biddenhampavilion@hotmail.co.uk) or contact the Clerk, Alison Southern on 01234 406099 (ansaphone available)

### Great Denham Community Hall

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

## Regular Events in Biddenham

### Monday

10.00am	Cha Char Chimps	Village Hall
10.00am	Yoga	Pavilion
2.30pm	Cardiac Rehab exercise	Pavilion
6.30pm	Pilates	Pavilion
7.15pm	Guides (term-time)	Village Hall
7.45pm	Martial Arts	Pavilion

### Tuesday

10.00am	Art	Church Barn
10.00am	Personal Fitness	Pavilion
4.00pm	Ballet (term-time)	Village Hall
7.00pm	Personal Fitness/Circuits	Pavilion
8.00pm	Country Dancing (2nd & 4th in month)	Village Hall

### Wednesday

9.00am	Baby Sensory	Village Hall
9.45am	Hopping Bunnies (music for toddlers)	Pavilion
10.00am	Tai Chi	Church Barn
1.15-5.15pm	Baby College (term-time)	Village Hall
2.00pm	Table Tennis	Pavilion
2.30pm	Art	Church Barn
6.30pm	Aerobics	Pavilion
6.30pm	Handbell Ringing Practice	Church Barn
6.45pm	Ballroom Dancing (term-time)	Village Hall

### Thursday

9.45am	Hopping Bunnies (music for toddlers)	Pavilion
9.30-11.30am	Under 5's (term-time)	Village Hall
2.00pm	U3A Handbells	Church Barn
2.00pm	Love to Dance	Pavilion
7.00pm	Fit-Steps	Pavilion
7.30pm	Whist	Village Hall

### Friday

9.30am	Pilates	Village Hall
9.30am	Jo Jingles (Children's musical group)	Pavilion
11.00am	Mother & Baby Yoga (except 1st Friday)	Village Hall
3.30-7.45pm	Ballet classes (term-time)	Village Hall
7.00pm	Martial Arts	Pavilion
7.00pm	Choir Practice	Church Barn
8.00pm	Tango	Village Hall

### Saturday

9.30am	Pregnancy Yoga	Village Hall
9.30am	Zumba	Pavilion
10.45am	Zumbini	Pavilion

### Sunday

9.00 -10.00am	Explorers	Church Barn
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Contact for Village Hall events: [www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk)

Contacts for Pavilion events, email [clerk@biddenham-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@biddenham-pc.org.uk).

Contact for Church Barn events, [janburns@gmx.com](mailto:janburns@gmx.com)

## 100 CLUB



### November draw

1. D. Watson	153
2. C. Haydn Jones	479
3. S. Barnes	71

Drawn by Maggie Gardner

### December draw

1. J. Watson	44
2. S. Barnes	71
3. A. Tatum Hume	469

Drawn by Rut Ekstrom

### Welcome Packs for

### New Biddenham Residents

Contact Richard Church Tel: 214805

## February 2018

- Thu 1 Feb Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p15  
 Fri 2 Feb First Friday, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p15  
 2-4 Feb Flower Festival & Candlemas Choral Evensong at St Paul's Church, Bedford, see p3  
**Sun 4 Feb The Second Sunday before Lent**  
 All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**  
 Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**  
 Mon 5 Feb Great Denham Planning Committee, Mercia Suite, GD Community Hall, 7.30pm  
 Tue 6 Feb Alpha Course, 15 Church End, Biddenham, 7.30pm  
 Wed 7 Feb Biddenham Parish Council, Biddenham Pavilion, 7.30pm, see p12  
 Sat 10 Feb Mobile Library, Great Denham, see p15  
**Sun 11 Feb The Sunday next before Lent**  
 Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**  
 Evening Prayer, All Saints, **6.00pm**  
 Tue 13 Feb Biddenham Women's Group, Church Barn, 2.00pm, see p10  
 Tue 13 Feb Alpha Course, 15 Church End, Biddenham, 7.30pm  
**Wed 14 Feb Ash Wednesday**  
 Holy Communion with imposition of Ashes at All Saints, **7.00pm**  
 Thu 15 Feb Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p15  
**Sun 18 Feb The First Sunday of Lent**  
 Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**  
 Evening Prayer, St James's, **6.00pm**  
 Tue 20 Feb Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30-12noon, see p7  
 Tue 20 Feb Alpha Course, 15 Church End, Biddenham, 7.30pm  
 Tue 20 Feb Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p14  
**Wed 21 Feb Wednesdays in Lent**  
 Short time of meditation followed by Evening Prayer, St James's, **7.00pm**, see p2  
 Sat 24 Feb Mobile Library, Great Denham, see p15  
 Sat 24 Feb Blunham Giant Book Sale, Parish Church, Blunham, 10.00am - 3.00pm, see p8  
**Sun 25 Feb The Second Sunday of Lent**  
 Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**  
 No evening service  
 Tue 27 Feb Alpha Course, 15 Church End, Biddenham, 7.30pm  
 Wed 28 Feb Wrest Park Volunteer Open Day, 1.00-3.00pm and 5.00-7.00pm, see p6  
**Wed 28 Feb Wednesdays in Lent**  
 Short time of meditation followed by Evening Prayer, St James's, **7.00pm**, see p2

## March 2018

- Thu 1 Mar Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p15  
 Fri 2 Mar First Friday, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p15  
 Sat 3 Mar St Andrews/Rushmoor School Open Day, 10.00am-12noon, see p8  
 Sat 3 Mar Jazz Concert, St James's Church, 7.30pm, see p13  
**Sun 4 Mar The Third Sunday of Lent**  
 All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**  
 Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**  
 Mon 5 Mar Great Denham Parish Council, Mercia Suite, GD Community Hall, 7.30pm  
 Tue 6 Mar Alpha Course, 15 Church End, Biddenham, 7.30pm  
**Wed 7 Mar Wednesdays in Lent**  
 Short time of meditation followed by Evening Prayer, St James's, **7.00pm**, see p2  
 Tue 13 Mar Alpha Course, 15 Church End, Biddenham, 7.30pm  
**Wed 14 Mar Wednesdays in Lent**  
 Short time of meditation followed by Evening Prayer, St James's, **7.00pm**, see p2  
 Sat 17 Mar 'Heart & Music' concert, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see pp3&11  
 Tue 20 Mar Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30-12noon, see p7  
 Tue 20 Mar Alpha Course, 15 Church End, Biddenham, 7.30pm  
**Wed 21 Feb Wednesdays in Lent**  
 Short time of meditation followed by Evening Prayer, St James's, **7.00pm**, see p2

For regular events listings see page 15

### The Loop

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All **March** articles, preferably by e-mail in Word format, to [loopeditor@gmail.com](mailto:loopeditor@gmail.com) or to 22 Day's Lane and adverts to 3 Queen's Close (cj.sugars@talktalk.net) by **Wednesday 21st February please.**



*The views expressed in 'The Loop' by various community groups do not necessarily represent the views of St James's Church or the Parochial Church Council.*