

# The Loop

March  
2020

£1.00

## Tree to commemorate John Emery

A native Rowan tree has been planted in the new graveyard in memory of John Emery aged 71.

He was familiar to many as he walked around Bedford and Biddenham. He was a very good teacher until he became unwell. Despite constant offers of help he chose to live outdoors until his sudden death on 13th November 2019.

Thank you everyone for your kind support.

Jean Chadwick



*Jean Chadwick and Chris Haydn Jones  
planting the tree.*

## Biddenham Cricket Club AGM

Sunday 29th March, 7.30pm at the  
Three Tuns



## Biddenham Gardeners Association Tuesday 21st April 2020

Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm

The BGA's 30th Anniversary celebration will be a talk and special appearance by Nick Bailey of BBC TV's Gardeners' World

**"365 Days of Colour in Your Garden"**

Non-members are welcome to attend @ £8.

Members – free.

For further info visit:

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

## Bromham Road Railway Bridge

It is anticipated that the bridge over the railway will be partially opened on 13th April, probably to one-way traffic.

Before that, work to improve the cycle and pedestrian routes at the Bromham Road/Shakespeare Road and Ashburnham Road double mini-roundabout will commence.

The work will include new zebra crossings, with parallel cycle crossings built on each arm of the junction. New shared-use footways will also be constructed, linking all of the crossings together and Ashburnham Road will be resurfaced between Bromham Road and Midland Road.

Jon Gambold

**'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)

# Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

25th March is the date that most Anglicans forget to celebrate the annunciation. This is the date that an angel whispered in the ears of a young woman, that she shall bear a son, and that he should be called Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.' A powerful story of a young woman who was chosen to be a vessel of God's grace.



In the Gospel of Luke, Mary responds to the messenger by singing a song of praise; 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit exalts in God my Saviour. For he has looked with favour on my lowliness, and my name shall be forever exalted.'

Exactly nine months later, somebody, like myself will stand up in Church, and read the prologue of John's Gospel; 'In the beginning was the Word (Logos), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word became Flesh, and lived amongst us, full of grace and truth. That, of course, is Christmas, that great festival when Mary gives birth to a son, and we indulge in several weeks of extreme excess. Usually, as the vicar, I have to make trips to the bottle bank, quite late at night, so that nobody can see exactly how much we have been drinking.

In the Church of England, we tend to forget Mary in the nine months between the annunciation and Christmas. During this time, however, our Roman Catholic brethren take Mary much more seriously. A prayer to Mary is even enshrined in the Roman Catholic Liturgy; 'Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God. Pray for us sinners now, and in the hour of our death.'

While I don't particularly like the idea of praying to Mary, I love that part of the prayer which describes her as 'full of grace'. Grace is a word that is used to explain to us the nature of God's love. It simply means favour that is undeserved. We do not deserve God's love, but He loves us anyway.

The other word that is associated with Mary is, of

course, the word 'virgin.' A friend illustrated this by saying, in a sermon, that the Bible gives us Mary as a virgin to show us that Christ came into the world without human intervention. If I were to preach that same sermon, I would preach it very quietly in a church full of women. Women know what human intervention in birth is. They know the weight and the indignity of carrying a child. They know the discomfort, the lack of mobility and, ultimately, they know the agony of giving birth. No pain relief for Mary, just screams of pain, and mess and blood. That was the level of human intervention in the birth of Christ, not to mention the tears of a woman's grief at the foot of the cross. For nine months, when hope did not walk with us in Jesus Christ, an exhausted young woman, uncomfortable with the weight of a child, was there as a powerful symbol of God's love for us. She knew the incarnation, long before the rest of the world did.

Virginity is also often associated with patriarchal concepts of purity. Still, in many cultures, a man is expected to take a pure, virgin bride. This is about patriarchal possessiveness rather than relationship. Maybe, deeply ingrained in Jewish ideas of Messiah as the son of God, is the idea that God himself would only take a pure bride, so Mary had to be pure and virtuous. Otherwise, how could she be the one to bear the Word of grace. It is my hope that in the twenty-first century, we have somehow moved on from this. Everything that God does for us, He does because of His gracious love for us, and so Mary, like the Roman Catholic prayer states, was full of grace.

I would be quite happy to purge the Christian faith of words like virgin and purity. These words, when applied to Mary, lead us down such an empty cul-de-sac. Mary was chosen, not because of her purity, but because of her lowliness. Since when does a woman's sexual history, for that matter, anyone's sexual history, provide the rationale for God's love. God chose this woman to be a vessel for God's grace, not because of anything she had done, but because he so loved her, He so loved the world, and He so loves you.

Whoever you are, and whatever you have done, there is a God who is always prepared to come and meet you, because He loves you, and, in your lowliness, He is prepared to give reason and purpose to your life.

God bless.

Eric



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

Vicar	Rev Eric Lomax rev.ejlomax@gmail.com	Tel: 852241
Readers	Christopher Dawe Paul Fricker	Tel 363890 Tel 342843
Churchwardens	Laurie Hurn Hilary Hurn	Tel 364251 Tel 364251
Verger	Jacqui Piper	Tel 356993
Secretary	Michael Hurford	Tel 271746
Treasurer	Graham Weeks	Tel 07552 052840
Organist/Choirmaster	www.stjamesbiddenham.com	



'The Annunciation' Philippe de Champaigne c.1644

# Lifeboat collections in Bedfordshire?

RNLI Biggleswade and District is a small inland branch supporting the work done by many volunteers, 'Saving lives at sea' with the RNLI. In 2019 we celebrated our 40th birthday in our current form but there are RNLI records that suggest we were in existence in 1920.

Lots of people ask us why we are collecting in Bedfordshire, my answer is usually two-fold.

1. Do you holiday by the seaside in the UK? and
2. The busiest Lifeboat Station is Tower on the river Thames, and it is our closest Lifeboat Station. It is manned 24 hours a day 365 days a year.



*Peter Chase at Roxton*

Our branch usually raises about £10,000 a year. We raise money several ways; we hold lots of bucket collections across Bedfordshire in Supermarkets and Garden Centres, where our volunteers do a maximum of 2 hours collecting. We also have collection boxes in various businesses.

Our latest initiative is called 'Betty's 5p pots'. The little jars are with The Surfin Café, Biggleswade and in Toby Carvery and Robinson Pool

in Bedford. People take them away, fill them with 5p pieces and return them to where they got them. In 2019 we raised an amazing £400, that's 8000 coins!!!

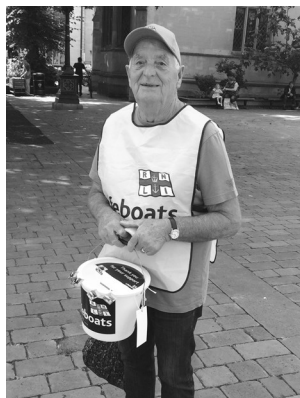
We are always looking for volunteers and supporters. If you can help in any way (even one collection a year) then please contact me.

*Eryl Tucker at Morrisons*

Stephanie Field  
Branch Chair  
07763 896464



*Faith & Pauline at Frosts*



*Les in Harpur Square*

**Come and Dance  
to the 60s/70s Music of**



**Fynnius Fogg  
+ Fish & Chip Supper**

**Tickets £15 u.16 £8**

**Saturday 28 March 7.30 - 10.15pm  
at Bromham Village Hall, MK43 8JP**

**Booking essential at  
[e.jones4491@gmail.com](mailto:e.jones4491@gmail.com)  
or 01234 826551**

Hosted by Friends of St Owen's Church  
Reg Charity No 1022947

**SelectTravelHolidays**

**SPECIALISING IN TOURING, LUXURY, CRUISING & SOLO HOLIDAYS**



*Discover the meaning of luxury travel for you*

**THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2020  
10.30am to 3.00pm The Barns Hotel**

*Cardington Road, Bedford MK44 3SA*

Select Travel Holidays are delighted to introduce our preferred partners in luxury travel, offering you the chance to discover the meaning of luxury travel for you.

**REGISTER TODAY FOR FREE ENTRY**

call: 01234 326778

email: [sales@selecttravelholidays.co.uk](mailto:sales@selecttravelholidays.co.uk)

or pop in to our shop in Mill Street, Bedford

**01234 326778**

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

[sales@selecttravelholidays.co.uk](mailto:sales@selecttravelholidays.co.uk)

**24 MILL STREET,  
BEDFORD  
MK40 3HD**

**BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE ABTA & ATOL protected**



barn@2

**TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
CHURCH BARN @ 2PM**

**A TALK ON**

**MAGPAS**   
**AIR AMBULANCE**



**ALL WELCOME  
MEMBERS £3 - NONMEMBERS £5**

**GreenThumb**  
LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE 

**Want the  
best lawn ever?**

Prices from  
**£15\***  
per treatment

**What we do:**

As lawn care experts we apply bespoke, seasonal treatments to keep your lawn continually nourished and weed free. Whatever the size or condition, we ensure that every lawn receives the love and attention it deserves

Find out more and visit  
[greenthumb.co.uk/  
treatments](http://greenthumb.co.uk/treatments)



For a **FREE** lawn analysis  
call 01234 709 345 or email [bedford@greenthumb.co.uk](mailto:bedford@greenthumb.co.uk)

\*Based on a lawn size up to 40m²

[greenthumb.co.uk](http://greenthumb.co.uk)



## barn@2 Armchair Yoga

Our February session, with Keeley Frampton, saw us all taking part in yoga – without moving from our seats! Perhaps that was a good thing as we had lots of visitors, including some men, and we filled the barn.

Keeley, who is currently researching the effects of yoga in care homes, also teaches accessible chair and mat yoga in Great Denham Community Hall and, in conjunction with the Orchard Clinic, at Kingsfield Sports Hall in Biddenham.

She began by telling us how she first became involved in yoga when she worked for a law firm in London. Being largely desk-bound was not good for a bad back and it was suggested to her that she might like to try some yoga exercises. Before doing any exercise with us Keeley asked us several true or false questions and then explained something of the origins of yoga, and its many forms.



The beginnings of yoga were developed in Northern India about 5,000 years ago. Stones were found in the Indus Valley depicting the first pose, a seated figure with crossed legs, appearing to levitate. Written examples of sacred texts, used by the Vedic priests, contained the first mention of the word Yoga.

Ashtanga Yoga, a quite rigorous form, has 8 limbs; a philosophy for how to live a better life. Hatha Yoga translates as sun (ha) and moon (tha); the yoga of balance. Keeley teaches Secular Yoga which is a mind and body workout with many benefits in health care. She is passionate about bringing the many physical and mental benefits of yoga to all ages, bodies and abilities and is a specialist, qualified chair yoga teacher.

Chair yoga is Positively Yoga! We can vouch for that as we had a great time and a really good workout when she visited us.

Keeley, who has a Masters in Psychology, is currently involved in a research project at Hertfordshire University, and will soon be publishing the findings of her work with elderly care home residents who have taken up yoga. It's all looking very positive so far so, if you would like to discover more about ways you can get yourself fit, contact [info@iampositivelyyoga.com](mailto:info@iampositivelyyoga.com)

Our next meeting, on 10th March, will be a talk by a representative from MAGPAS Air Ambulance, our chosen charity for the year. A short AGM will be held prior to the talk and programmes for the year will be available. All welcome.

Val Fitzhugh

## Biddenham History Society

The Biddenham History Society will be meeting on Monday 20th April at 8.00pm in the Church Barn. Peter Applewhite will be speaking on 'Biddenham: 2 things you may have wondered about and the search for answers.'

I hope that you will be able to come and hear the results of Peter's search for answers.

Kathy Fricker

# Peter's Picturehouse

Our February audience enjoyed the showing of *The Zookeeper's Wife*, a thought provoking film of the book of the same name set in Warsaw Zoo. The war drama kept us very much engaged and the new screen and improved sound quality definitely added to the experience.

In March our film is a very recent one, *Downton Abbey*. Many of us know the TV series with its many stars including Hugh Bonneville, Michelle Dockery, Maggie Smith and Matthew Goode. In the film the Crawleys and their staff prepare for the visit of the King and Queen of England.

Reviews say the production quality is excellent, that you will laugh many times and that there is something special about seeing this on the big screen. So do come and join us and see for yourself on Tuesday 3rd March. As usual doors open at 7.00pm ready for the showing to start at 7:30pm and tickets are £5.00, available on the door.

Films coming up:

Tuesday 7th April	Rebecca – our film from the past for this year
Tuesday 5th May	Red Joan
Tuesday 2nd June	Stan and Ollie

Rose Houghton

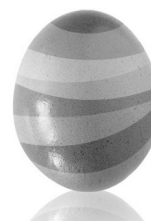


## Great Denham Events

### Parish Council Meetings

Mondays 2nd March and 6th April. The meetings start at 7.30pm and are held at Great Denham Community Hall; there is 15 minutes for public questions at the start of each meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting is on Saturday 28th March., 6.00pm at the Community Hall.



### Easter events at Great Denham Community Hall

Children's Easter crafts Tuesday 7th April (2 sessions)

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday 11th April


Children's Easter Disco Saturday 11th April

For details please contact the hall

Great Denham does Great British Spring Clean

Sunday 5th April 10.00am at the Community Hall.


To keep up to date with developments at Great Denham log on to <http://www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk/>




**Peter's Picturehouse**  
*proudly presents*

Date: Tuesday 3rd March 2020  
Bar Open: 7:00pm  
Film Showing Starts: 7:30pm  
Location: Biddenham Village Hall.

Ticket price: £5





Certificate: PG

**Coming soon to Peter's Picturehouse**

Tues 7th April: Rebecca—our old favourite film showing this year  
Tues 5th May: Red Joan  
Tues 2nd June: Stan and Ollie



**FARM SHOP**

Manor Farm, High Street, Stagsden, Beds  
(01234) 822330  
[www.brownsfstagsden.co.uk](http://www.brownsfstagsden.co.uk)

**HOME REARED & LOCALLY PRODUCED**

MEAT, POULTRY, GAME, SEASONAL VEGETABLES, EGGS & MILK.

**HOMEMADE** PREMIUM QUALITY BURGERS & SAUSAGES

**REGIONAL** CHEESES, HAM, PIES, JAMS, SAUCES, OILS & MORE

Tuesday - Thursday 9am – 5pm, Fri 9am – 6pm and Sat 9am -4pm

## R J GASCOYNE THE PLUMBING, HEATING AND GAS COMPANY

Boiler changes, system upgrades,  
bathrooms, fault finding, servicing,  
maintenance, gas safety & landlord  
certificates, repairs, all heating,  
plumbing, drainage and gas work  
undertaken.

All from a friendly, reliable, trustworthy  
and professional engineer.

Contact Ryan on  
TEL: 07980 209587

or EMAIL

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





# MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE

9.00am  
Sunday  
22 March

Followed by Breakfast  
in the Church Barn

Posies of flowers will be given  
out during the service

St James's Church  
Biddenham

## Bedford National Trust Association

Tuesday 17th March 2020  
Frank Burns  
Cyclist

"From Vancouver to Mexico - 1700 miles"



Addison Centre, Kempston MK42 8PN  
2.00pm for 2.30pm  
No need to book - just come - everyone  
welcome.

For further information ring:  
Betty Thomas on 01480 860 421

## Gunner Robert Corfield: a tragic accident

In the last edition of The Loop was the story of Major John Charles Rea, commanding officer of the Cardiganshire Battery billeted in Bedford between May and November 1915. Major Rea survived the Great War and returned to his home town of Aberystwyth to live out the rest of his life.

This story of one of his men, also from Aberystwyth, is sadly not one of survival and return to a long life in his home town.



Robert Corfield, a hairdresser, joined the Cardiganshire Battery of the 1/2nd Welsh Brigade, the Royal Field Artillery within a week of the start of the war in August 1914. He volunteered for service overseas a month later, and came with his battery and Major Rea to Bedford to undergo training before deployment to the Western Front.

It was while practising artillery drills in a field off Amptill Road on 26th August 1915 that Gunner Corfield, aged 28, fell from the gun on which he was mounted. As he fell backwards off the gun limber the wheel of the horse-drawn gun carriage ran over him.

Gunner Corfield lay unconscious as Captain John Cook of the 2/1st Welsh Field Ambulance, the Royal Army Medical Corps, tried in vain to save his life but his skull had been crushed and he died shortly afterwards.

The coroner at the inquest into his death made clear that Gunner Corfield was prepared to fight for his King and country and had died as nobly as if he had been killed on the battlefield.

There is a full report of the inquest and Gunner Corfield's funeral in The Cambrian News and Welsh Farmers' Gazette of 3rd September 1915: He was buried with full military honours in Aberystwyth.

It was though only after an 18-month long campaign by the West Wales War Memorial Project that Gunner Robert Corfield's death was formally recognised in 2014. His name has since been entered in the United Kingdom Book of Remembrance and recorded in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database.

Peter Applewhite  
([whenthewelshcametobedford.wordpress.com](http://whenthewelshcametobedford.wordpress.com))



Funeral of Gunner Corfield



## Raising funds for animals caught in the Australian bush fires

The plight of the animals caught in the Australian bushfires seems to have caught the attention of many children in the area, some very young.

I have seen cake sales during half term at work and fundraising projects at my grandson's nursery.

Here is what took place at the Lavenders Nursery. 'From creating and selling handmade cakes to collecting spare change where possible, colleagues and generous nursery families from Lavenders Day Nursery in Bedford have raised a grand total of £240 to help the victims of the ongoing Australian bush fires.

'After witnessing the devastation being caused throughout the country, the Day Nursery in Bushmead Avenue decided to hold a fundraising day to support those affected, along with the 42 other Childbase Partnership settings, where a collective total of £5,000 has been raised for the cause, with donations still coming.



'Since September, fires have been burning across the country and are known to have claimed over 30 lives, 3,000 homes, more than 24 million acres of land and an estimated one billion animals, including kangaroos, koalas, wombats, possums and birds.

'The funds raised by Childbase will now be donated to various charities which are supporting the local communities, animals and firefighters of Australia in hopes of making a difference.'

Lavenders Day Nursery deputy manager Jessica D'Arcy explained: "We have all been deeply saddened by the news coming out of Australia and are delighted to be able to do our bit to help. Not only has this showcased a great sense of community spirit, but has opened up conversations with the children about fire safety. They have also been involved in the fundraising efforts and are hugely proud of the amount we have raised."

Jean Gambold

## BIDDENHAM TENNIS CLUB

New members are always welcome at Biddenham Tennis Club. We have three all weather courts and the cost of membership is reasonable and great value for money.

Under 18's	£8 per year
Adults	£18 per year
Family membership	£40 per year

The club year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March but you can join at any time.

If your tennis is a little rusty we have qualified coaches you can hire. Details of how to join are available from Karyn Claridge, [claridge@talktalk.net](mailto:claridge@talktalk.net), or on the Parish Council website.

**To find out more, please come along to our AGM on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Church Barn**




## Party At Moggerhanger Park



**Choose from a range of fun packages For children aged 5+. See website for details**  
[www.moggerhangerpark.com/kids-party](http://www.moggerhangerpark.com/kids-party)

Moggerhanger Park - Park Road - Moggerhanger - Beds - MK44 3RW  
 Tel: 01767 641007



**'Church' with a difference!**

3.30pm – 5.30pm  
St James's Church Barn, Biddenham

Tuesday 21 January  
Tuesday 25 February  
Tuesday 17 March  
Tuesday 21 April  
Tuesday 19 May  
Tuesday 16 June  
Tuesday 7 July  
Tuesday 15 September  
Tuesday 20 October  
Tuesday 17 November  
Tuesday 15 December

Free – No need to book – Just come along after school!

**Everybody Welcome!**  
Includes tea for the children

St James's Church, Biddenham



## The Three Tuns

The Three Tuns is open for business. The bar is open Monday to Saturday 12.00noon to 11.00pm, Sundays 12.00noon to 10.00pm.

The restaurant is open Wednesday to Friday for lunch, 12.00noon to 3.00pm, and dinner, 6.00pm to 9.00pm. On Saturdays the restaurant is open from 12noon to 9.00pm. On Sundays, traditional roast lunch is served from 12.00noon to 5.00pm and children's portions are available.

The Pub Classic menu features favourites such as pie of the day, fish & chips, and sausage & mash with gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan choices. There is also a variety of Chef's Specials, such as duck, lambs' liver, belly of pork and salmon, and there are 3 choices of British 21 day aged Black Gate Steaks.

For enquiries or to book the restaurant please telephone 01234 354847.

## New MP for North East Bedfordshire

At the December General Election, Richard Fuller was elected as the Member of Parliament for North East Bedfordshire with a majority of 24,283 votes. He replaces Alistair Burt, who stood down at the election.

Richard was previously MP for Bedford & Kempston from 2010 to 2017. He is a Bedford boy, educated at Bedford Modern School and then at Oxford University before attending Harvard Business School in the USA.

You can contact Richard via his website [www.richardfuller.co.uk](http://www.richardfuller.co.uk) or by email at [richard.fuller.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:richard.fuller.mp@parliament.uk). You can also keep up to date via his facebook page.



*Richard Fuller with his predecessor Alistair Burt.*

## Storm damage to trees

Whilst we were spared the worst effects, the winds of Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis did cause some branches and trees to fall in the parish.

The Borough Council is responsible for the management of all trees on the public highway and in our parks and green spaces.

This is their guidance:

'If you see a tree on public land that you feel is dangerous, please call 01234 718060 to let us know. We will inspect the tree as a matter of urgency and take action to remove the danger.'

'During storms or high winds, we receive a high number of reports of damaged trees that may be dangerous. We will assess the level of urgency of each and will deal with them as quickly as we can in order of priority.'

'Unless there is a genuine emergency, reports will be processed within 30 working days.'

You can find out more about the Borough's responsibilities for tree matters on their website [www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk)



# The Altos Lament

*Composed by 'Bob the Organist' whose real identity has never been revealed, this poem was discovered stuffed behind the vestry door of a church in Sutton Coldfield in the West Midlands, many years ago.*

It's tough to be an alto when you're singing in the choir,  
Sopranos get the twiddly bits that people all admire,  
The basses boom like big trombones, the tenors shout with  
glee,

The alto part is on two notes, or if you're lucky, three.

And when we sing an anthem and lift our hearts in praises,  
The men get all the juicy bits and telling little phrases.  
Of course, the trebles sing the tune - they always come off  
best –

While altos only get three notes and twenty-two bars rest.

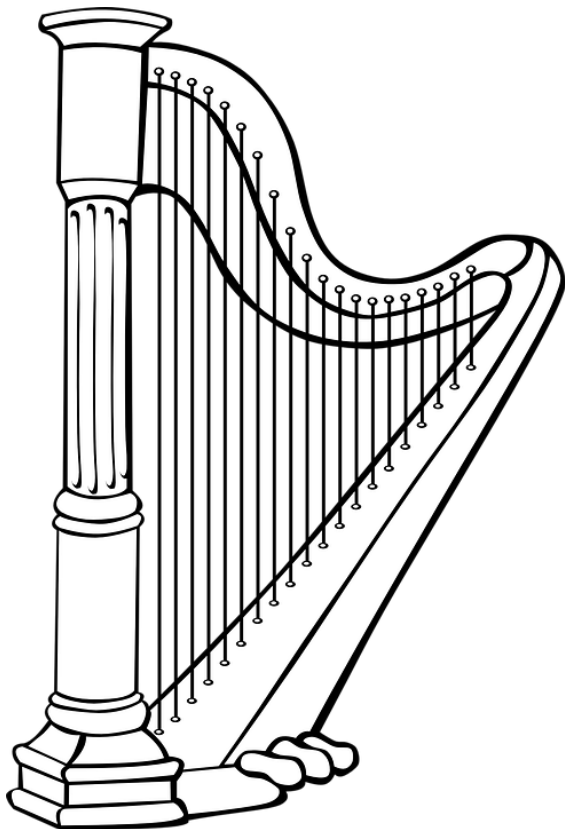
It doesn't matter what we sing, from hymnbooks or from  
psalter,

The choirmaster looks at us - our voices start to falter;  
Too high! Too low! Too fast! Too slow! You held that note  
too long!

It doesn't matter what we do, it's certain to be wrong

Oh! shed a tear for altos: they're the Martyrs and they know  
In ranks of choral singers they're considered very low.  
They are so very humble that a lot of folk forget 'em:  
They'd love to be sopranos, but their vocal chords won't let  
'em.

And when the final trumpet sounds and we are wafted  
higher,  
Sopranos, tenors, basses, all will form the heavenly choir.  
While they sing 'Alleluia!' to celestial flats and sharps,  
The altos will be occupied with polishing the harps.





**NEW BOMBAY**

**01234 218 218**

ORDER ONLINE AT  
[www.newbombay.co.uk](http://www.newbombay.co.uk)

**SIMPLY TREE SERVICES**



**ALL ASPECTS OF TREE MAINTENANCE**  
**TREE REMOVAL**  
**ALL HEDGE WORK UNDERTAKEN**  
**GARDEN CLEARANCE / MAINTENANCE**

For a free estimate please call to arrange a visit  
**Call 01234 330796 / 07866 554673**  
email [info@simplytreeservices.co.uk](mailto:info@simplytreeservices.co.uk)

Fully NPTC qualified staff and all work is covered by  
comprehensive public liability insurance

**100% RECYCLING OF WASTE**  


**www.simplytreeservices.co.uk**

City & Guilds  
Lantra

**Nick Sleep**  
Proprietor

**N.A.Sleap Plumbing & Heating**  
7 Ison Close  
Biddenham,  
Beds MK40 4BH

Tel: 01234 959472  
Mob: 07990 598154  
Email: [nicksleap@live.co.uk](mailto:nicksleap@live.co.uk)



**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/](https://bedford.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/)







## Holy Week Services

<b>Mon 6 Apr</b>	Holy Communion, St James's, <b>7.00pm</b>
<b>Tue 7 Apr</b>	Holy Communion, All Saints, <b>7.00pm</b>
<b>Wed 8 Apr</b>	Holy Communion, St James's, <b>7.00pm</b>
<b>Thu 9 Apr</b>	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, St James's, <b>8.00pm</b>
<b>Fri 10 Apr</b>	Good Friday Kids Activities, St James's, <b>10.00am</b> Sitting with the Cross, Service and Vigil, St James's, <b>12.00 noon</b>
<b>Sun 12 Apr</b>	Easter Day Celebration Service, St James's, <b>9.00am</b>



## Pond Update

It's wonderful to see the pond so full. This means that if we have a hot dry summer the water might not all disappear. It's so deep now, please keep dogs out of it so as not to disturb the returning wildlife.

The Friends committee met recently and we hope to advance a number of projects. We paid tribute to the work of the late Don Sherwood who was a committee member under Dorothy Richards. He made and repaired many items at the pond including the gate which we hope to replace soon as it is rotten at the base. Part of this old gate will be saved and used to help bridge the gap to the adjoining wall. Don was great fun on the committee and we will have more to say about him at our AGM in the summer.

The mower has been serviced and the mowing rota is out for the cutting season. Reed removal has helped to maintain some cover but enhance the area of open water.

The annual Frog Foray will be at 9.00pm on Friday 3rd April. This year there is plenty of water so we should see more in the pond. Bring a torch and your family.

Saturday 4th April is our spring work morning so we hope to see you at that as well at 10.00am.

The Pond Team

### Contact Details

Chris Jones	chrishj49@gmail.com
Paul Godden	pgodden@btinternet.com
Jane Knight	jane@80kld.co.uk
Cathy Eckett-Brown	ceckett@gmail.com
Kit Ram	kitram01@gmail.com
Sophie Applewhite-Rees	dansop1@googlemail.com

www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com  
www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond

## Andrew Charles

HAIRDRESSING LTD

In the heart of Bedford

*Andrew Charles offers a high level of hair expertise and creativity.*

*Apart from our cutting expertise, the salon enjoys a long standing, strong reputation for colouring, which is something we are proud of.*

*Why not drop in and give yourself a boost, a different cut or a new colour.*

**105A HIGH STREET, BEDFORD**  
**TEL: 01234 325938**

## Café B...



*Tuesday 17th March*

*Biddenham Village Hall*  
*10.30 am - 12.00 noon*

*Selection of teas, coffees,*  
*hot chocolate and juice*  
*Home baked cakes*

*Book Swap*

*Next café 21st April*



## This month in the garden

When you read this, the snowdrops, the first display of Spring, will very largely be dying down. If you want to have an even bigger and better display next year, or you have been inspired by the idea of having your own snowdrops, now is the best time for doing something about it. Snowdrops will spread naturally but, if you want to give them a helping hand you can dig up good sized clumps, separate the bulbs into smaller clumps and replant. If you want to buy snowdrops you need to do so now when you can buy them 'in the green', probably on-line from a nursery. These will arrive bare-rooted having flowered this year. You can buy dry bulbs later in the year but they do not establish so well as ones bought in the green.

This is also the best time for getting perennial plants from a nursery or garden centre. Nurseries will probably provide greater variety and may well be cheaper although postage costs can be high with mail order for a small order. You can increase your number of perennials by digging up existing clumps and splitting them for replanting. Many plants with fairly fine roots are best split by inserting two forks back to back into the clump and prising them apart. Fleshier roots, such as hosta, can be split by cutting with a spade. Dig a hole large enough to spread out the roots and replant at the same level as previously. Water in well and mulch the plant with compost if available. If time is on your side the cheapest way to get a range of perennials is to buy plants singly and then grow them on for a year before dividing them.

All borders will benefit from fertiliser now, either Growmore which is a chemical general purpose granular fertiliser or, if you prefer organic fertiliser use chicken manure pellets or fish, blood and bone. Soft fruit bushes or canes will appreciate the same treatment. If you have yet to 'spring clean' the flower borders do this before applying fertiliser. Cut back any dead foliage, remove weeds and lightly turn over bare soil.

Fruit tree pruning should have been done by now but there is plenty of other pruning to do. Shrub roses need to be cut back fairly generously by up to two thirds of last year's growth while also cutting out diseased and damaged wood and branches that are showing their age. Evergreen

shrubs don't have to be pruned but if you want to reduce size or reshape a bush this is the best time to do it.

March is the time when you can really get going if you have a vegetable patch. Root crops like carrots, parsnip and beetroot can be sown directly into the soil once it is dry enough and friable. Rake over the area to be sown to achieve a fine tilth before sowing. Where possible use a plank to tread on to spread your weight rather than treading directly on the soil. Many other vegetables and salad crops are best started under cover in a seed tray or other containers. This includes brassicas, leeks and lettuce. Beans are best left until April. Tomatoes to be grown under cover can be sown in small quantities in separate pots while plants for outdoor growth are best left until the end of the month or early April. Plants left in containers for too long can get leggy.



Garden-grown potatoes, especially early ones, are a lovely crop if you have got the room. They are ideally started off in February but it is not too late. Seed potatoes should be started by 'chitting' them on a windowsill or in a heated greenhouse. This means setting out the potatoes in a container where they can be stood on end. Put the end with the greatest number of eyes pointing upwards. A clean seed tray will do well but particularly good are egg boxes where the potatoes are well supported but separated from each other. Potatoes are grown at least two feet apart so you don't get many to a row in most gardens.

Lawns will be growing strongly now and, if you haven't done so already, they will need their first cut. After February's storms there may well be a good deal of debris on the grass and this will need removing before mowing. Set the mower fairly high for the first couple of cuts and always leave at least an inch or so of grass. A shaved lawn will always look pale and dry out easily.

Jeremy Arthern



# LOGS

*est. 1981*

Well Seasoned Hardwood  
Quality Split Firewood  
Delivered by the Load

**Mob: 07929 793361**  
**Tel: 01234 721086**

*Sourced from  
sustainable woodland*



## Garden Care and Home Maintenance

All aspects of garden and home maintenance catered for, including:

- Lawn maintenance, Hedge/Shrub trimming/pruning, Fencing,
- Paving and Patio Maintenance, Planting, Pond Maintenance.
- Internal and external decorating. Flat Pack Assembly.
- Local and reliable individual

No Job too small. Full Liability Insurance. Free Estimates.

Personal care for your  
Garden and Home

Tel: 01234 300683   Mob: 07790 493801

Email: [mjp\\_gardenandhomecare@yahoo.com](mailto:mjp_gardenandhomecare@yahoo.com)

# Biddenham Parish Council

The most recent Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 12th February 2020 in the upstairs room of the pavilion. Present were Parish Councillors Stewart Briggs, Peter Chase (Chairman), Harry Fowler, Chris Gee, Francia Slade and Joe Warren. Borough Councillor Jon Gambold, Clerk Lyn Lyman, Andrew Prigmore of Bedford Borough Council highways and 6 members of the public were also present. Councillors Graham Bates, Alan Jacobs and Krys Osuch and Borough Councillor Roger Rigby sent their apologies.

## Speed limits

In the summer of 2018, we asked Bedford Borough Council to send out a consultation to Biddenham residents about possibly raising Bromham Road's speed limit from 30mph to 40mph. This would be on the stretch immediately east of the Deep Spinney roundabout going towards town until a point just past Days Lane. We did this because we'd had a number of representations saying drivers were not observing the 30mph limit, with people overtaking each other and some driving recklessly fast. The general feeling was the road didn't warrant a 30mph limit, and that it tries peoples' patience travelling at or below that speed for a long distance on what is a wide, straight road with most houses set well back.

Having taken their time, Borough finally got the consultation going in January just gone and it ended on 21st February. A couple of members of the public attending the meeting spoke against the proposal. For those who live directly off the affected stretch of road I can understand their concerns. They felt that people not



adhering to the limit is no excuse to raise it, and that a higher limit would be less safe.

There followed a debate, with some others of the public present indicating their support for the proposal. It is now up to the Borough to decide what to do, based on feedback they've received. I will report their decision in due course.

## Planning

It was noted that an application to extend a property on Biddenham Turn, to which your Parish Council had objected, had been refused. On this occasion, Borough had seen our point of view (which is not often the case, as I'm sure you're aware). The application in question sought to bring a part of a house right up to the front edge of the property, felling a tree in the process. That tree currently hides the existing part of the property which is already close to the boundary, and it was felt that removing it and allowing a wall and gable to appear right behind the boundary hedge was literally going too far.

The PC respects the rights of people to develop their properties. Their land is their own and they are entitled to make improvements to their homes. Our role is mainly to comment on applications from the point of view of the general street scene, proximity to neighbours and whether developments maintain a consistent style and ambience for any given area.

Biddenham Turn has had a number of major builds/rebuilds in recent years, characterised by some very substantial properties. But one thing they have maintained is a decent distance from the road, set back to appear less intrusive than their bulk might otherwise impose. We were pleased, therefore, at the this particular outcome.

## Why not use the village website?

If you want to find out any information about the Parish Council, and much more besides about Biddenham in general, why not access the village website? Its address is [www.biddenham.org.uk](http://www.biddenham.org.uk), although it's just as easy to type Biddenham into your web browser and pick it off the list of matches that appears. We'll be near the top (after Wikipedia and Rightmove!).

Just as importantly, if you want people to know something about an activity you're something to do with taking place in the village, or simply of interest to residents, then please get in touch. You can contact Cllr Joe Warren at [joe.warren@biddenham.org.uk](mailto:joe.warren@biddenham.org.uk) who will put anything you'd like to publicise (within the bounds of good taste) up on the site.

## Why not use the Borough website?

I realise this may seem a bit repetitious... but have you seen the Borough Council's website recently? Borough have been investing quite a lot of our Council Tax in it and things at [www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk) have been changing. More than that, the facilities on the website link up with systems used by council operatives to do their jobs. This is providing better service, saving time and reducing costs. As someone who works in information technology, I was actually rather impressed to see how good it is now, whether used on a PC, laptop, iPad or even a mobile phone.

What's particularly good is the clear layout of the major areas, which each lead on to a handy screen of specific services. This generally lets you then click a word or two to get straight to the thing you need.

I recommend you have a quick look. Whether it's the nearest bottle bank, a fallen tree (indeed!) or what to do when your child is due to move school, it's all there.

## Our next meeting

The Parish Council meets every second Wednesday of most months at the Pavilion in Deep Spinney. We very much welcome hearing from residents, there being a public "open session" near the start for anyone wanting to say something. Please come along and let us know anything concerning you about our village, or just come and listen. The next meeting is on Wednesday 11th March.

Peter Chase  
Chairman

# SPRING INTO DANCE

**Friday 13th March 2020**

GCSE and A-Level performances  
including student choreography,  
as well as guest performances

Refreshments will be available to purchase

**TICKETS**  
£3 ON SALE EVERY  
LUNCHTIME  
IN RECEPTION  
From 9th March 2020

**WHERE**  
MAIN HALL

**START**  
TIME 7PM



# St Joseph and St Gregory's Primary School



## A 'Reading Visitor' To Remember

Staff and pupils at St Joseph's and St Gregory's were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Bedford, Dave Hodgson MBE, into school in February, to promote reading. He explained to the children why reading is so important to his job and he also spoke about his favourite books to read on holiday.



After a tour of the school, visiting classrooms to speak to the children, he read 'Fantastic Mr Fox' to our Year 4 cohort and 'Percy Jackson and the Battle of the Labyrinth' to our Year 5 and 6 pupils.

The children really enjoyed the stories and wanted to find out more about them and the significance too of his ceremonial robes.

Before he left, he took time to give our Public Speaking Team some top tips.

## Year 4 Visit West Stow Anglo-Saxon village

Year 4 visited one of England's greatest archaeological sites recently. The children were amazed by the stunning recreation of an Anglo-Saxon village and they learnt lots of facts inside the museum.

## Year 1 - The Great Fire of London 1666

The children in Year 1 have recently enjoyed being young masters and mistresses in 1666 London. They have learned a number of trades to see which job they would like to do.

In the afternoon they had a chance to dig through the charred remains of London to see what they could find.



*At West Stow*

## W&H PEACOCK AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS



## Weekly Auctions

Visit the Bedford Auction Centre to enjoy the excitement of a live auction.

Antique & Modern Furniture • Clocks • Books  
Ceramics & Glassware • Pictures & Prints  
Bicycles • Jewellery & Watches • Collectables  
Garage Tools & Equipment • Household Electrical Items  
Office Furniture & Equipment • Retail Products & Stock  
Vehicles • Horticultural & Commercial Equipment  
Building Materials • Garden Furniture & Effects

Eastcotts Park, Wallis Way, Bedford MK42 0PE  
01234 266 366 [peacockauction.co.uk](http://peacockauction.co.uk)



## OVALL LAW

Your local legal advisory firm

A new law firm run by Paul Hillier, a very experienced and responsive solicitor now working from his home office in Biddenham, offering a personal service for individuals and businesses on *any* legal issues.

**Call 01234 860856**  
or email: [info@ovallaw.co.uk](mailto:info@ovallaw.co.uk)

Authorised and Regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority No. 613473

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

# Biddenham Gardeners Association

## Mythology of Plants

The speaker at our meeting on 18th February was one of our own members, Joanna Baxter. Joanna is a knowledgeable gardener who specialises in acers and she has spoken to the BGA on a couple of occasions. The subject of her talk was "Mythology of Plants" and it was very clearly presented with a wide range of illustrations.

Joanna began by saying that many of our familiar plants have a history going back thousands of years and many have featured in ancient story-telling and have found a place in popular culture. For the purpose of this talk she concentrated on one plant; the laurel or bay, *laurus nobilis*. In spite of its name this is not the same plant as the cherry laurel or Portuguese laurel. It has a wide variety of uses ranging from cooking, using the burned wood for smoking



food, aromatherapy, and as a main ingredient in Aleppo soap.

Joanna talked about the laurel under four headings; its botany, the way it has been the subject of story-telling, in art and how it has entered into popular culture. Laurel is native to the Mediterranean basin and is an aromatic tree or shrub. It is unisexual so propagation requires both a male and female plant. There are two varieties, one golden leaved and the other narrow leaved. It is well suited to training and pruning, generally in a spherical or conical shape and is frequently grown in standard form as a ball on a single stem, straight or in a spiral. For cultivation it needs good drainage and it likes growing in pots. Plants should be repotted every two years but, if it grows too big to be repotted, the top two inches of compost should be removed and replaced with a fresh supply of John Innes no. 2 compost. Plants should be grown in a sheltered position and will tolerate temperatures down to -5 degrees or lower if planted in the ground. Protection can be given from fleece and with the stem wrapped in bubble wrap. Plants should be pruned lightly in summer. Bay trees can be propagated from seed, semi-ripe cuttings or suckers.

Ovid, who lived from 43 BC to 17/18AD, is the source of the stories about laurel and they feature three main protagonists; the Greek Gods, Apollo (the laurel), Eros and Daphne and they all involve metamorphosis (change) of one kind or another. Apollo and Eros had great rivalry in the course of which Apollo took from Eros a sanctuary which was the source of the oracles of Delphi. In revenge Eros shot arrows at Apollo which condemned him to a hopeless love. The sequel to this was that Apollo fell in love with Daphne but his love was not requited. Apollo pursued Daphne with the intention of forcing himself upon her and Eros saved her by changing her into a laurel (bay) tree.

Joanna showed us a number of examples of the way the story of the laurel has been depicted in art. It was a popular subject at the time of the Renaissance and features particularly in Italian art of the period; a notable example being a sculpture by Bernini in Rome and there are many pictures showing Apollo thwarted as Daphne changes into a bay tree. It is also used as architectural decoration in the work of Robert Adam and in the Regency period and it features in some coats of arms and in the Alpha Romeo badge.

It is associated with imperial and military power and a laurel wreath was a sign of office worn by emperors. We saw examples of this in sculpture and paintings of Roman emperors and their successors in the Holy Roman Empire and Napoleon Bonaparte. In later traditions the laurel was associated with cultural and academic achievement. It gives its name to our poet laureate and to Nobel prize laureates. Some Italian graduation ceremonies are celebrated wearing laurel wreaths. It has also come into our language as the baccalaureate, in the bachelor's degree and in aphorisms such as "not to rest on one's laurels" and "to look to one's laurels".

Joanna concluded by saying that the laurel showed how our interest in plants can be deepened by researching their stories.

The next meeting is on 17th March. Gardeners' Question Time.

Jeremy Arthern

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)

**A L & G ABBOTT**

Funeral Directors

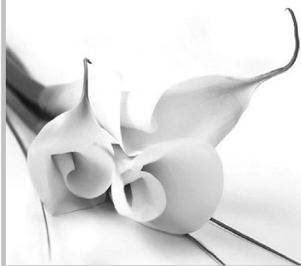
~ Established 1832 ~

WITH YOU WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

A small and independently owned funeral directors who are proud to have served the local community for over 180 years and will continue to do so with the highest standards of care, respect and dignity. We now offer a Bereavement Listening service to our families.

A L & G Abbott is run with family values at the very heart of the business.

- 24 Hour Personal Service
- Private Chapels of Rest
- Funeral Plans
- Home Arrangements



T: 01234 843222

150 Bedford Road, Kempston, Bedfordshire, MK42 8BH  
[www.abbott-funerals.co.uk](http://www.abbott-funerals.co.uk)    [support@abbott-funerals.co.uk](mailto:support@abbott-funerals.co.uk)

# First Friday Lunch



Soup, sandwich or baked potato,  
pudding and a drink,  
on the first Friday of every month  
in Biddenham Village Hall  
from 12.30pm  
**£7.00**

Draw for 2 free lunch tickets every month  
*Book swap*  
**Friday, 6th March, 3rd April**

To book: email [firstfridaylunch@outlook.com](mailto:firstfridaylunch@outlook.com)  
Or text/leave a message on **07412 559584**

# 100 CLUB

## January draw

- |    |                  |     |
|----|------------------|-----|
| 1. | Jagtar Singh     | 47  |
| 2. | Peter Culverwell | 33  |
| 3. | Judith O'Quinn   | 412 |

Drawn by Gloria Clarke



**The Friends of St James**  
*- the charity which helps conserve  
the church, churchyard and barn  
for future generations*

Membership	Peter Leverkus	Tel: 353662
Treasurer	Paul Fricker	Tel: 342843

# Hall Booking Details

## Biddenham Village Hall

From the Village Hall website you can check availability on the diary, look at the facilities and fill in a booking form. Contact details for regular events are also there.  
[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 Debs Slade on 07808 579330.

**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
6.30pm	Mat Pilates	Church Barn
7.15pm	Guides (term-time)	Village Hall
7.45pm	Martial Arts	Pavilion

## Tuesday

10.00am	Art	Church Barn
10.00am	Personal Fitness	Pavilion
1.00pm	Mother & Baby Yoga	Village Hall
7.00pm	Personal Fitness/Circuits	Pavilion
8.00pm	Country Dancing (2nd & 4th in month)	Village Hall

## Wednesday

9.45am	Hopping Bunnies (music for toddlers)	Pavilion
10.00am	Tai Chi	Church Barn
10.00, 11.00 & 12.00	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
7.30pm	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 (2nd & 4th in month)	Village Hall

## Friday

8.30 & 9.30am	Pilates	Village Hall
9.30am	Jo Jingles (Children's musical group)	Pavilion
3.30-7.30pm	Ballet classes (term-time)	Village Hall
1.45-4.45pm	Duplicate Bridge	Church Barn
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
----------------	-----------	-------------

For regular events at Great Denham  
Community Hall, go to  
[www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk/](http://www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk/)



**Welcome Packs for  
New Biddenham Residents**  
Contact Richard Church Tel: 214805

# Mobile Library



## Great Denham Community Hall

Saturdays, 7th, 21st March  
2.20pm-2.40pm

## Biddenham

Thursdays, 12th, 26th March  
Three Tuns 10.45am-11.00am  
Church End 11.05am-11.25am

## March

**Sun 1 Mar**

All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**

Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**

**Mon 2 Mar**

Great Denham Parish Council meeting, Great Denham Community Hall, 7.30pm, see p5

**Tue 3 Mar**

Peter's Picturehouse, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p5

**Fri 6 Mar**

First Friday Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p15

**Sat 7 Mar**

Mobile Library, Great Denham, 2.20-2.40pm, see p15

**Sun 8 Mar**

Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**

No evening service

**Tue 10 Mar**

barn@2, Church Barn, 2.00pm, see p4

**Wed 11 Mar**

Biddenham Parish Council, Biddenham Pavilion, 7.30pm, see p12

**Thu 12 Mar**

Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p15

**Fri 13 Mar**

Spring Into Dance, Biddenham Upper School, 7.00pm, see p12

**Sun 15 Mar**

Parish Communion led by the Archdeacon of Bedford, St James's, **9.00am**

Evensong, St James's, **6.00pm**

**Tue 17 Mar**

Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30-12.00 noon, see p10

**Tue 17 Mar**

Bedford National Trust Association, Addison Centre, Kempston, 2.00pm, see p6

**Tue 17 Mar**

Messy Church, Church Barn, 3.30pm-5.30pm, see p8

**Tue 17 Mar**

Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p14

**Sat 21 Mar**

Mobile Library, Great Denham, 2.20-2.40pm, see p15

**Sun 22 Mar**

Mothering Sunday All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**, see p6

No evening service

**Thu 26 Mar**

Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p15

**Sat 28 Mar**

Great Denham Annual Parish Meeting, Great Denham Community Hall, 6.00pm, see p5

**Sat 28 Mar**

60s & 70s Dance, Bromham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p3

**Sun 29 Mar**

Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**

No evening service

**Sun 29 Mar**

Biddenham Cricket Club AGM, Three Tuns, 7.30pm, see p1

**Tue 31 Mar**

Biddenham Tennis Club AGM, Church Barn, 7.30pm, see p7

## April

**Fri 3 Apr**

First Friday Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p15

**Fri 3 Apr**

Frog Foray, Biddenham Village Pond, 9.00pm, see p10

**Sat 4 Apr**

Pond Work Morning, 10.00am-12.00 noon, see p10

**Sun 5 Apr**

Palm Sunday Communion Service, St James's, **9.00am** N.B. Not All Age

Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**

**Sun 5 Apr**

Great British Spring Clean, Great Denham Community Hall, 10.00am, see p5

**Mon 6 Apr**

Great Denham Parish Council meeting, Great Denham Community Hall, 7.30pm, see p5

**Tue 7 Apr**

Children's Easter Crafts, Great Denham Community Hall, see p5

**Tue 7 Apr**

Peter's Picturehouse, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p5

**Sat 11 Apr**

Easter Egg Hunt, Children's Disco, Great Denham Community Hall, see p5

**Mon 20 Apr**

Biddenham History Society, Church Barn, 8.00pm, see p4

**Tue 21 Apr**

Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30-12.00 noon, see p10

**Tue 21 Apr**

Messy Church, Church Barn, 3.30pm-5.30pm, see p8

**Tue 21 Apr**

Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p1

## Holy Week Services

**Mon 6 Apr**

Holy Communion, St James's, **7.00pm**

**Tue 7 Apr**

Holy Communion, All Saints, **7.00pm**

**Wed 8 Apr**

Holy Communion, St James's, **7.00pm**

**Thu 9 Apr**

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, St James's, **8.00pm**

**Fri 10 Apr**

Good Friday Kids Activities, St James's, **10.00am**

Sitting with the Cross, Service and Vigil, St James's, **12.00 noon**

**Sun 12 Apr**

Easter Day Celebration Service, St James's, **9.00am**

## The Loop

Editor Jean Gambold Tel 349849

Proof Reader Jacqui Piper Tel 356993

Church correspondent Peta Martin Tel 348718

Advertising Clare Sugars Tel 355262

Subscriptions Richard Harris Tel 210434

Distribution Richard Church Tel 214805

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](mailto:cj.sugars@talktalk.net)) by

**Wednesday 18th March 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.*

**For regular events listings see page 15**