

# THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF BADSHOT LEA AND HALE



*Serving the communities of Badshot Lea, Folly Hill, Hale, Heath End, Sandy Hill and Weybourne*



**The churches of St George's, St John's and St Mark's**

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281

**November  
2024**

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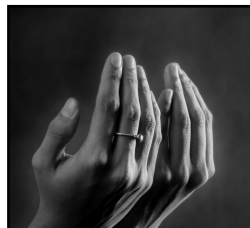
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# November

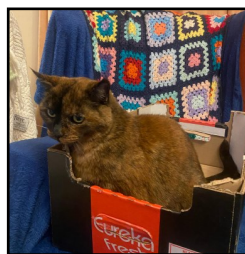
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## Magazine subscription and deadline

Subscriptions to the magazine are a minimum of £10 for the year, suggested price £15. Contact 07842 761919 or email [editor@badshotleaandhale.org](mailto:editor@badshotleaandhale.org).

The deadline for the December/January issue of the magazine is **Sunday, November 10.**

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# What's on in November

## **Friday November 1 - Little Bees Half Term**

Please note, Little Bees is on holiday for half-term on November 1st. Back on 8th.

## **Saturday November 2 - All Souls' Service at St John's**

There will be an All Soul's service at St John's on Saturday, 2nd November at 4pm. Everyone is welcome and we particularly invite anyone who has recently lost friends or family. Please email Stella with the names of those who you would like remembered (with pronunciation) and which church you would like them remembered at.

## **Sunday November 3 - All Souls' Service at St Mark's and St George's**

There will be an All Soul's service at St Mark's at 11am and at St George's at 5.30pm, on Sunday, 3rd November. Everyone is welcome and we particularly invite anyone who has recently

lost friends or family. Please email Stella with the names of those who you would like remembered (with pronunciation) and which church you would like them remembered at.

## **Monday November 4, 11, 18 and 25 - Clothing Giveaway**

Our new weekly clothing giveaway is open at St Mark's on November 4, 11, 18, 25, 9:00am - 11:00am. It is open every week apart from Bank Holidays. There are free clothes for anyone who would like to come and take some and it is a good way of recycling clothes and helping reduce waste. There is also a cafe serving tea, coffee, cake and biscuits. Please come and see what is going on and choose some clothes. If you want to donate clothes they will be most welcome

## **Tuesday November 5 - Social Events Planning Meeting**

Parish Social Events Planning Meeting

## **Our regular church services are:**

Every Sunday: 9.30am St John's;  
10am St George's;  
11am St Mark's.

Wednesday: 12pm St Mark's, Midweek Eucharist.  
Online: [www.badshotleaandhale.org](http://www.badshotleaandhale.org)

at St George's on 5 November 7:00pm - 9:00pm. Making plans for 2025. All welcome, but please let Kris know if you are attending. Would be helpful to have suggestions to Kris before the meeting.

### **Tuesday November 5 and 19 - Connections**

Connections is a group for the over-50s meeting at St George's every fortnight, 10:00am - 11:30am. Just come along and enjoy a cup of coffee, some cake and various activities.

### **Thursday November 7 and 21 - Coffee and Arts at St Mark's**

Join us for art and coffee (and cake) at St Mark's on the first and third Thursday of every month, 10.30am-12pm. No artistic skills needed!

### **Friday November 8, 15 and 22 - Little Bees**

Little Bees, the weekly toddler group, is back at St George's on 8 November and then each Friday 10:00am - 11:30am. It's ideal for 0-3s and is just £2 a session.

### **Friday November 8 and 22 - Friday Night Games**

Join us for Friday Night Games at St Mark's on 8 and 22 November from 7:00 pm to 9:00pm. There will be a meal, table tennis, games, and lots of chat!

### **Sunday November 10 - Remembrance Sunday**

There will be Acts of Remembrance and services across the parish on November 10 as follows: St John's, 9.30am, St George's at 10am, followed by an Act of

Remembrance at Badshot Lea War Memorial at 10.55am; Hale War Memorial at 10.45am, followed by a service at St Mark's; Weybourne War Memorial, 4pm.

### **Thursday November 14 and 28 - St John's Thursday Café**

The St John's Thursday café is a drop-in coffee morning taking place on the second and fourth Thursday of the month in the Sumner Room from 10:00am - 12:00pm.

### **Saturday November 16 - Christmas Craft Market**

Shop locally for Christmas and support small businesses and individual crafters by buying your Christmas presents at our Craft Market at St Mark's on 16 November 10:00am - 2:00pm. As well as an array of great craft items to buy at reasonable prices, there will be a café to meet your friends at, live music and a chance to see the Kitty Milroy murals and support your local community. Free entry.

### **Monday November 18 - Badshot Lea Lights Switch On**

Come along to St George's Church at 5.30pm on November 18, for the Badshot Lea Lights Switch On. There will be hot chocolate, mulled wine, minced pies, hot dogs, singing and music.

### **Saturday November 23 - Christmas Social**

Come to our Christmas social at St George's on November 23 and enjoy a Christmas quiz. Further details to come.

# Remembrance and what it may mean

This month we will mark Remembrance Sunday, with solemn ceremonies at war memorials and services in all our churches.

We are remembering those who have died in the two World Wars and in other conflicts around the world since the beginning of the 20th century, and there are many millions to remember. According to the Imperial War Museum, a conservative estimate is that 187 million people have died as a result of war from 1900 to the present.

That is a sobering number. Any number is sobering, and on top of this we see present-day scenes of devastation on newsreels reporting, mostly from the Middle East, Ukraine and Russia, but at times from some of the other countries where there is war, such as Yemen, Syria, Myanmar, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Sudan... In Mexico the drug wars claim around 10,000 lives a year.



*Stella Wiseman*

How do we respond, we who follow a faith centred around the one known as the Prince of Peace? What are we to make of Remembrance Sunday? And of the red poppy which so many of us wear? Is this a glorification of war or a sign of peace?

The Royal British Legion (RBL), which has sold the poppies since 1921, has always intended them as a symbol of remembrance of all those who have died in wars involving the UK and Remembrance Day services and ceremonies are doing the same.

Dying for a cause which you believe is right, and which the democratically elected government of a country believes is right, is a sacrifice which has been made by millions. Millions more have been injured in these wars and the RBL spends money it raises through poppy sales on support for the Armed Forces, helping injured and/or traumatised service men and women, providing financial support and advice where needed, and supporting service families and veterans in many ways.

So there is no glorification, but a recognition of pain and sacrifice and, in churches, prayer that war may cease. Yet over the past decade or so I have noticed a polarisation of views over Remembrance and poppies, with people vilified for not wearing them (or even receiving death threats in more public cases) and a slew of stories on social media about communities banning them. The RBL says it has never found any community banning them and the stories appear mostly to be an attempt at stirring up hatred against certain groups, in particular Islamic ones.

I have also felt increasingly unwilling to wear a red poppy because I feel the symbol, and the whole of the time of Remembrance, is being highjacked by people who do not aim for peace

or even the democracy that many died to defend. No-one should feel forced to wear a poppy, no-one should be attacked for not wearing one or for wearing a white poppy, which is a symbol of peace, established in 1933 by women who had lost family in World War I and who felt that the symbol of the red poppy was moving away from the message of 'never again'.

Yet, I also feel exposed not wearing a red poppy, or if I choose to wear a white one, even if I wear a red one and a white one, because there is so much strong feeling in society about those who, apparently, do not support 'our heroes', or who don't do what proper English people should do.

So what is a Christian to do? Do what our conscience tells us. For many that will be to wear a red poppy, to attend a Remembrance service, watch the Cenotaph ceremony. For others it will be to wear a white poppy, or both a red and a white poppy, or none. But most of all I believe that we should pray for peace, and stand up against hatred wherever we find it, praying for our enemies and always seeking the spark of God in everyone we meet.

***Stella Wiseman, curate***

## Prayer page

Almighty God,  
from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:  
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace  
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom  
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth  
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,  
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.





# Contemplative Prayer

Would you like to deepen your understanding of God, understand more what God might be calling you to, hear God inside you? If so, join me in an exploration of Contemplative Prayer.

I will be running a short course on contemplative prayer this Advent, on Tuesday afternoons at 2pm at St Mark's, beginning on December 3rd.

Also known as centering prayer, contemplative prayer is a way of bringing ourselves before God in stillness. It is similar to mindfulness practice in that you take a word or short phrase —Maranatha is a good one, or Jesus, or Divine Love – and repeat it slowly in your mind as you breathe in and out, returning to the word or phrase as your mind wanders (and it will) while you sit in silence. You do not sit and think about what has been or what will be, but just are there in the present moment, in the presence of God.

There will be a short introduction and reading at the beginning of the session and then we will spend time in contemplative prayer before a short reading at the end.

If you'd like to know more, contact me on 07842761919 or email me at [revd.stella@badshotleaandhale.org](mailto:revd.stella@badshotleaandhale.org)

***Stella Wiseman***



# **All Souls' Services**

**In memory of those we have lost**

**Saturday, November 2nd,  
St John's, Hale, GU9 9RP  
4pm**

**Sunday, November 3rd,  
St Mark's, Upper Hale, GU9 0LT  
11am**

**St George's, Badshot Lea, GU9 9LD  
5.30pm  
All welcome**

**07842761919**

**[badshotleaandhale.org](http://badshotleaandhale.org)**



# An invitation to remember those who have died

Every year at the end of October/ beginning of November, we hold All Souls' services, and this year they are on November 2nd and 3rd.

An All Souls' service is a service to remember those who have died and to give thanks for their lives. It is a simple service of music, reflections and readings to which all are invited, and during which all who wish to may light a candle and remember people who have been dear to them.

Invitations are sent out to all those who have had a funeral of a loved one taken by one of the parish clergy or licensed lay ministers. A great number of those who attend have been recently bereaved and there is a comfort in being with others who are bereaved. All are welcome though, whether or not they have received an invitation

The services this year are at the following times and places:

**St John's at 4pm on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November;**

**St Mark's at 11am on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November;**

**St George's at 5.30pm on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November.**

Afterwards please stay for coffee and cake.

If you would like a loved one remembered at one of these services, please bring their name on a piece of paper to the service. There will be an opportunity to come forward, read the names either silently or aloud and then put the names in a basket and light a candle in their memory.

If you would like to know more about any aspect of this, please call me on 07842 761919 or email me on [revd.stella@badshotleandhale.org](mailto:revd.stella@badshotleandhale.org).

***Stella Wiseman***



## Harvest Supper

# Harvest Supper

We had a lovely evening celebrating Harvest on October 5th at the Harvest Supper. As always, the food was wonderful; jacket potatoes with a good variety of toppings followed by fresh fruit salad, apple crumbles and yummy cheesecakes. Many thanks to Gillian and the catering team for all their efforts.



There were table-top quizzes to mull over between courses; anagrams to unscramble to reveal seasonal harvest and farm equipment words; ice lollies and cartoon dogs to name. No prizes awarded, but it was just for fun!

Once the meal had been cleared away we call the extensive raffle then settled down to enjoy a variety of entertainment. I started this off with my nonsense song, "Window the in doggy that is much how?" which everyone could join in with in the chorus with the words on the notice board.

Hallie got our brains working again with a number of Dingbats and Aly and Derek did a humorous skit about a husband and wife finding nothing to talk about!

Then Michelle sang the beautiful 'Easter Hallelujah' – where have you been hiding that lovely voice Michelle?!



The evening was rounded off by the choir with seasonal chorus songs for everyone to join in with, and I got the chance to practice the tambourine once more!



Its was a very enjoyable evening and by having fun together we raised £400 for parish funds. Thank you to everyone for supporting this event.

*Kris Lawrence*

# Remembrance Sunday

**Sunday, November 10th**

**St John's, Hale, 9.30am**

**St George's, Badshot Lea,  
10am**

**Badshot Lea War Memorial  
10.55am**

**Hale War Memorial,  
10.45am, followed by  
a service at St Mark's,  
Upper Hale**

**Weybourne War Memorial,  
4pm.**

**Online at  
[badshotleaandhale.org](http://badshotleaandhale.org)**



# Scarecrow Drive

Earlier in the year we had a wonderful seasonal beetle drive, the Snowman Drive. It was so popular we decided to do another, but this time the character being built up by the throw of the dice was a scarecrow.

The evening started off with Fish & Chips from 'Oh My Cod'. The enormous portions meant that even those that had decided to bring their own food could share in the mountain of chips!

Once our stomachs were satisfied the game commenced! Cheers go up every time someone gets a number 6 so they can draw the body and get started on their scarecrow; shrieks of laughter as hands are drawn with no arms to attach them to; "Hey!! No cheating!" and slight groans as someone calls 'Scarecrow' to indicate they had completed their picture and we all had to stop and count up the number of parts we had successfully claimed.

It was a fun evening and very social especially as we sometimes found we were sitting next to someone we didn't know so well. We also raised £216 for parish funds, so thank you all for your support.

Keep an eye out for the date of the next one!

*Kris Lawrence*

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## Badshot Lea Christmas Lights



### Badshot Lea Christmas Lights

The Badshot Lea Christmas lights will be switched on at a celebration at St George's Church on Monday, November 18th, starting at 5.30pm. There will be singing, fireworks, hot chocolate, mulled wine, mince pies and the Christmas lights on the school opposite the church will be switched on. Come and join us!



# Roll up! Roll up! Get your free tickets to a magical show

In the summer we welcomed Farnham Maltings into our churches to put on free workshops and performances as part of their Maltings At... season.

Now Farnham Maltings is repaying the favour and welcoming us into The Maltings itself for a magical show called *Christmas in Exeter Street*. This will take place between December 13th and 24th.

What is more, thanks to a grant Farnham Round Table they have some free tickets to the production for Maltings At... partners.

This means that we have 20 free tickets to the show to give away. If you are interested, please contact Stella on 07842761919 or email [revd.stella@badshotleaandhale.org](mailto:revd.stella@badshotleaandhale.org).

There won't be enough for everyone but please do tell us if you would like to be in with a chance of going.



To check out performance dates and times visit [farnhammaltings.com/events/exeter-street](http://farnhammaltings.com/events/exeter-street) or call 01252 745444.





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07842761919



# THE BADSHOT LEADER



**November 2024**

## **Planning Issues**

Earlier in the year we received the good news that Neighbourhood Plans will now carry full weight for five years instead of just two. The good news now is that the new draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has not changed this although some of the other proposed changes are definitely not good news.

The government has committed to build 370,000 new homes each year and hopes to achieve this with some radical changes to planning guidance. The changes include a mandatory uplift in housing numbers across the country with the Waverley target increasing to 1379 homes per annum. In recent years Waverley have greatly improved their housing delivery and managed around 770 new homes per annum. It seems highly unlikely that Waverley, along with many other boroughs, would be able to provide homes at this much higher level.

Clearly this could have severe consequences for Farnham. It is the largest town in the borough with (arguably) good road and rail links and would be expected to take a significant number of these new homes. It will be up to the Waverley Local Plan and the Farnham Neighbourhood Plan to find sites to accommodate all of this, otherwise the whole thing could be open to unplanned and uncontrolled speculative development.

The government have just conducted a consultation on the changes to the planning system and many local authorities are highlighting all the reasons why they will find it impossible to meet the new housing target. We at BLCA have completed the survey, and our partners at South Farnham Residents have done likewise. Hopefully many other residents associations have also taken part.



### The Badshot Leader

So, our Neighbourhood Plan is currently under review but very much dependent on the final guidance issued by the government. If nothing changes Waverley will then have to decide how to distribute this huge number of homes across the borough.

We do support the provision of new homes through planned development and hope that the Neighbourhood Plan will continue to give us the means to do that. We will do all we can to ensure the new Neighbourhood Plan is progressed and adopted at the earliest opportunity.

*Cliff Watts: Badshot Lea Community Association*

### **Ernest James Holdup, baker, bandsman and “Happy Hero”.**

Before the great War most villages had a band, and Badshot Lea was no exception, boasting one on several occasions. An early ensemble was a temperance band, associated with the Primitive Methodists, and the bandsmen wore bottle green uniforms. However, Monica Tice wrote how this band came to a sticky end in her history of the church in 1953.

The story goes that the musicians entered a dubious band competition in Aldershot, and won the prize which was a case of whisky. Despite protests from a few members, the contents were consumed on the spot, and when the culprits staggered back to the Lea the instruments were locked securely in the Chapel and the band was wound up.

By 1914 another brass band was in being, when the Farnham Herald reported on their AGM held in the Crown Hop Kiln. The secretary was Mr Roe, the bandmaster was Mr Rickets, with



## Badshot Leader

### The Badshot Leader

Mr C. King as his Deputy. The treasurer was a 19-year-old trombonist, Ernest James Holdup. The 1911 census shows Ernest was living at Runfold bakery where he worked as an assistant to the long-established Wilkinson family's bakery.

During 1914 the band had played in Aldershot and the surrounding villages as well as in Badshot Lea. Things were going well, with a comfortable bank balance. Then on 28<sup>th</sup> June a shot was fired in far off Sarajevo which triggered the Great War and Britain mobilised its forces on 4<sup>th</sup> August. Like so many young men in Britain Ernest and his mates knew what was expected of them and they rushed to join up.

On 26<sup>th</sup> September the Farnham Herald reported that at a meeting in the Mission Room, chaired by Reverent Durrant, it was said that 7 or 8 bandsmen had joined up, and the Badshot Lea Brass Band was suspended. Ernest Holdup had been among the first to enlist in the Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment with headquarters at Stoughton near Guildford.

By September Ernest was in Milton Barracks, Gravesend, from where he and his pals wrote to the Farnham Herald, who published their rather naïve letter on 12th September.

"No doubt the readers of the Herald will be pleased to know how the recruits from Farnham are getting on in their new home. Although most of us have been sent to different barracks, there are still 18 young Farnham Men together in Milton Barracks.

We had a hearty send off from Farnham, and we are proud to think that we can each do a little to keep the Germans out of England, which so far has held its own. Our only hardships are sleeping on bare floors and having to rush for food, but we shall get over this difficulty in a few days, which is only due to the fact that owing to a large number of enlistments in a short time, the authorities have not had time to make accommodation". It was signed by 18 of "Farnham's Happiest Heroes" and Ernest Holdup was the 14<sup>th</sup>



### The Badshot Leader

signatory. Most of this group of recruits were fast tracked into regular battalions of the Queen's to replace casualties.

The last definite record I have of Lance Corporal Ernest Holdup is from 1917, when he was fighting in the bloody battle of Passchendaele. The war diary of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Queens records his final days.

Sept 18<sup>th</sup>. After a night in tents, the 10<sup>th</sup> Queen's were issued with grenades, extra ammo and 2 days rations, and when darkness fell, they moved up to the front. Their objectives were a series of German trenches on Tower Hamlets Ridge, along the Menin Road.

Sept 20<sup>th</sup>. Following several days bombardment the battalion moved forward at 5-40 am after 50 yards 2 machine guns "did great havoc, noticeably among the officers.

Sept 21<sup>st</sup> The Queens were subject to heavy artillery fire for 5 hours and then they repulsed a strong German counter attack.

Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> artillery, sniper and machine gun fire fell on the Queen's all day.

That day Ernest Holdup was listed as killed and his body was never found. His name is carved on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing at Zonnebeke, Belgium, as well as the Badshot Lea War Memorial and the memorial at Hook, where his parents lived.

*The band playing  
on the green*



*Maurice Hewins*

### Badshot Lea Community Garden

Do you 'LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE?', well that was the question put by Squires to the neighbourhoods around their 17 garden centres. It appears that we do, as the Badshot Lea Community Garden won top prize of £1000 in vouchers to spend at the garden centre. This enabled us to run several events throughout the summer. The first was a tallest sunflower competition, for which we grow 100 sunflowers to give out to over 70 entrees from under 11year olds. Prizes and certificates were presented at our garden party at the end of August.

Our second new activity this year was our pre-school gardening and arts school, running for six weeks in June and July, on a Friday morning. This proved so popular we are already working on making it bigger and better next year. The funding from Squires has also helped support all our regular events from 'Bloomin' Kids workshops, apple pressing day and pumpkin carving.

The garden has had a busy summer, open three mornings a week, attending the Church and Schools fetes in the spring, having visits from Beaver groups and a creative arts group spent a day with us in the sun painting and drawing the garden. It was a true delight. We even had a visit from the Mayor of Farnham presenting us with a cheque for £1100 as a grant to buy a new gazebo and other equipment including an apple crusher and litter picking equipment for the children. We also had our yearly visit from the S & SE in Bloom judges and I attended the awards ceremony at Wisley. I am delighted to tell you that we achieved the highest level of 'OUTSTANDING' scoring 93% judged on the three categories of Environment. Horticulture and Community.

Away from the garden we have spent time working with others to try and find a way forward to ensure the future maintenance of the orchard in Gosling Place (opposite the Hop Kiln) recently awarded

### **The Badshot Leader**

a preservation order thanks to our local councillor Chris Jackman's hard work. We now have a joint effort by our local councillors from Farnham, Waverley and Surrey to try and set up a working group with the developers and ourselves to ensure this great asset is accessible and available to all.

If you feel you would like to get involved or just know more about us come to the BLCA AGM held at the school in November.

*John Martin: Badshot Lea Bloomers*



# Making a difference

## *Pollinator Patch with Juliet from Hive Helpers*



It can be dispiriting hearing all the bad news about biodiversity loss – 97 per cent of wildflower meadows lost, an insect apocalypse, and shocking declines in bird species. More and more houses being built destroying yet more habitats, one of the biggest causes of biodiversity loss. But just recently I've been heartened by some good news locally.

First, I was invited by the Tice's Meadow Bird Group to the world premiere of a wonderful short film called *Our Meadow*, made by local film-maker Josh Guyan. Many people in the area will know of the struggles to keep this important nature reserve from the hands of developers, and it was down to a small group of dedicated volunteers to refuse to give up fighting for it, with the happy result that six councils, led by Surrey County Council, agreed to buy the site. The film celebrated the wildlife, but, above all, the people who made it happen.

Then I saw a post on the Blacknest Fields Facebook page that an adult

brown hairstreak butterfly had been found! These butterflies are listed by Butterfly Conservation as a High Priority species, and the butterfly in question was found on blackthorn, which had been purposefully allowed to grow on the site for them – what a result for the team of volunteers who have worked so hard on nature recovery at the site.

We can all make a difference, especially in our gardens. According to the RHS, our gardens make up an area twice the size of Somerset and can



*Brown hairstreak butterfly*



### *Salvia 'Amistad'*

make a positive difference to biodiversity loss. They suggest planting perennials (trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants), plant for pollinators, garden without pesticides, let lawns grow naturally and make a pond. The reward is to see wildlife of all shapes and sizes using your garden – and happiness is seeing a bee visit a flower you planted just for them!

## **Pollinator plant of the month – *Salvia 'Amistad'***

Avid readers of this column might remember that I have long coveted this tall bushy perennial with beautiful deep purple tubular flowers. I planted one in my border for the first time this year and it has done splendidly, although I was initially disappointed not to see more bees on it – they seemed to prefer the humble toadflax which self-seeds all over my garden! Now

that is over, they have finally turned their attention to 'Amistad' which will continue flowering until the first frosts. I will take cuttings as insurance but I hope it will make it through the winter.

## **Other November plants for pollinators**

Winter-flowering honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) is a good source of nectar for late-flying bees, including the common carder bumble-bee (*Bombus pascuorum*) which can be active into November. I have also seen these tough little bees with their ginger thoraxes on my hardy fuchsias and geraniums. At the time of writing, I have just divided my *Geranium psilostemon*, a terrific plant with its black-centred magenta flowers but which had grown a little too vigorously for its position! Most hardy geraniums are easy to grow and all are good for pollinators – a small unnamed variety has been quietly flowering again recently and getting a lot of attentions from the bees!

For a comprehensive list of plants for pollinators, visit [www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators](http://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators) and download the garden plants list.

For more information about Hive Helpers, visit [www.hivehelpers.co.uk](http://www.hivehelpers.co.uk), email us on [office@hivehelpers.co.uk](mailto:office@hivehelpers.co.uk) or phone us on 07895 547637.



# Clothing Giveaway: more help needed



Our new Clothing Giveaway is attracting a lot of interest from local residents, especially parents from Hale School. It is a great way of supporting our community and welcoming people into church. However we need more help if it is to be sustainable.

We need help every Sunday afternoon setting up and then packing it all away on a Monday at 11.30am. We usually set up from around 3pm on Sunday afternoon. Setting up involves bringing clothes from storage downstairs and laying them neatly out on tables, plus putting out the

tables and clothes for the cafe.

Anyone who is less mobile can sit and lay out clothes while those who can do so physically can move the clothes and tables around.

Packing up involves putting clothes away in bags and boxes, washing up cups and plates, folding and putting away chairs and tables, and taking boxes and bags to the storage room. We have a trolley to help with moving boxes. Please let Stella know if you can help (07842 761919 or email her on [revd.stella@badshotleaandhale.org](mailto:revd.stella@badshotleaandhale.org))

Thank you.





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Very soon we will begin preparing for the traditional carol services in our churches and other venues in the parish. We will be singing the well loved carols and some less well known songs too.

No need to be able to read music and no audition required. Seasonal good cheer, however, is compulsory!

You can phone me on 01252 409124, or email or chat to one of the choir.

I look forward to hearing from you.

***Margaret Emberson.***



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*For more information or to ask a question, please contact Jo at-  
[community@halecommunitycentre.org.uk](mailto:community@halecommunitycentre.org.uk)*

# Autumn lunch and AGM

Hale WI members will be enjoying their usual Autumn lunch on Wednesday, November 13th, at the Hale Institute in Wings Road. This will be followed by the Annual General Meeting and a demonstration of Christmas floral arrangements.

The meeting will start at 1.45pm. Refreshments will follow plus lots of friendly conversation. Visitors are welcome for a charge of £5.

For more information, call 01252 722817 or 01252 597290.

*Kaye Elliott*



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# Don't Cat-egorize!

I like a box. So do many of us cats. Put one on the ground and sooner or later a cat will sit in it. It's a place to sleep, to feel secure, to keep out the cold, to hide in and jump out at unsuspecting humans. It also means that The Curate keeps lots of boxes around the place as she seems to think we are 'cute' in them.

The idea that we are 'cute' is a useful one as it allows us to get away with all sorts of behaviour, such as sleeping on piles of clean laundry, stealing food from an unattended plate, destroying soft furnishings and the like. Who could be cross with us with our huge eyes and adorable expressions? We are lovely companions whom you adore and who adore you. After all, as you domesticated us, we must be there to serve.

Bahahahaha! How gloriously gullible you humans are. We moved in with you lot when we realised you could provide us with food and shelter. OK, we had to work for the food to begin with as we caught the rats attracted to your stores, but we fairly soon made the shift from worker to pet and now you serve us. Excellent. One of us has the measure of the other. Guess which one.

That is the thing about you humans. I like you, don't get me wrong, though I would prefer The Curate if she let me sleep on her head at night. However, some of you (and obviously no-one reading this now) are quick to make assumptions and judgements. Too many humans take likings and dislikings to others without much thought.



*Thinking inside the box*

If a human is using a computer I like to place myself in front of the screen so I often get to see social media. If there are pictures of beautiful cats there that is good, but frequently I read streams of comments laying into people about how selfish or mean or stupid they are for supporting one set of views or not supporting another, and I think, what do you actually know about the people you are accusing? Is what you have read about them true?

But the more you comment or click on 'information' about topics, the more these topics will appear on your social media feeds. That's how it works. You have been categorized as someone with particular views and interests and these interests will be fed. Far more than any cat will be.

So my advice, which is always worth following, is encourage each other to think outside those boxes you put people in, and get out and meet them instead. Or do something else positive like feeding a cat.





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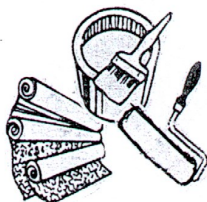
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Cunningham House is the operating name of Abbeyfield Pirbright and District Society Limited, a registered society under the Co-Operative and Community Benefits Societies Act 2014, registration number 22478R

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## Who's Who

### Ministry Team

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Hale Community Centre



130 Upper Hale Road  
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