## 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

Issue no. 287 June 2025

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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.

### **Advertisers**

Below is a list of our current advertisers by category and the page numbers you can find them on. Please use their services and don't forget to say that you saw their advert in this magazine.

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Have your portrait drawn by Jacqui, from the Squirrel Collective, as seen on baptism booklets in the Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale.

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To order, or for more details, please see @TheSquirrelCollective on Facebook.



#### What's on

#### What's on in June

#### Monday 2nd-09:00-11:00

#### - Clothing Giveaway & Café at St Marks

Our weekly clothing giveaway and Café at St Mark's. There are free clothes for anyone who would like to come and take some. Café serves tea, coffee, cake and biscuits.

#### Monday, 2nd —19:30 to 21:00 Lexi's Licencing at St George's

Please join us to celebrate the start of Lexi's ministry in the parish. A formal service will be followed by refreshments

#### Tuesday 3rd—10:00 to 11:30 Connections

A group for the over-50s meeting at St George's every fortnight. Just come along and enjoy a cup of coffee, some cake and various activities.

#### Wednesday, 4th — 15:00 to 16:00 Contemplative Prayer

Our new weekly Contemplative Prayer group meets at St Mark's. Please do join us to sit quietly before God.

#### Thursday, 5th —10:00 to 12:00 Coffee and Art 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. No artistic skills needed!

#### Saturday, 7th — 12:00 to 15:00

#### Summer Fete & Pet Show at St George's

Come and enjoy BBQ, stalls refreshments at the Fete or enter your pet in the Pet Show.

#### Monday 9th-09:00-11:00

#### - Clothing Giveaway & Café at St Marks

Our weekly clothing giveaway and Café at St Mark's. There are free clothes for anyone who would like to come and take some. Café serves tea, coffee, cake and biscuits.

#### Tuesday 10th—10:00 to 11:30 FREE Craft Café

FREE Craft Café run by Farnham Maltings at St George's. Come along and learn a new craft or bring your own. It's every fortnight and absolutely free.

#### Wednesday, 11th — 15:00 to 16:00 Contemplative Prayer

Our new weekly Contemplative Prayer group meets at St Mark's. Please do join us to sit quietly before God.

#### Thursday, 12th—10:00 to 12:00 St John's Thursday Café

Drop-in coffee morning taking place on the second and fourth Thursday of the month in

#### Our regular church services are:

Every Sunday: 9.30am St John's;

10am St George's; and

Online: www.badshotleaandhale.org

11am St Mark's.

Wednesday: 12pm St Mark's, Midweek Eucharist.

the Sumner Room at 10am. There is tea, coffee, cake and biscuits and a chance to meet and chat with other people.

#### Friday, 13th—19:00 to 21:00 Friday Night Games Night

Join us for Friday Night Games at St Mark's. There is a meal, table tennis, games and lots of chat!

#### Monday 16th-09:00-11:00

- Clothing Giveaway & Café at St Marks
Our weekly clothing giveaway and Café at St
Mark's . There are free clothes for anyone
who would like to come and take some.
Café serves tea, coffee, cake and biscuits.

#### Tuesday 17th —10:00 to 11:30 Connections

A group for the over-50s meeting at St George's every fortnight. Just come along and enjoy a cup of coffee, some cake and various activities.

#### Wednesday, 18th—15:00 to 16:00 Contemplative Prayer

Our new weekly Contemplative Prayer group meets at St Mark's. Please do join us to sit quietly before God.

#### Thursday, 19th—10.30am-12pm. Coffee and Art 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. No artistic skills needed!

#### Monday 23rd—09:00-11:00

- Clothing Giveaway & Café at St Marks
Our weekly clothing giveaway and Café at St
Mark's . There are free clothes for anyone
who would like to come and take some.
Café serves tea, coffee, cake and biscuits.

#### Tuesday 24th—10:00 to 11:30 FREE Craft Café

FREE Craft Café run by Farnham Maltings at St George's. Come along and learn a new craft or bring your own. It's every fortnight and absolutely free.

#### Wednesday, 25th—15:00 to 16:00 Contemplative Prayer

Our new weekly Contemplative Prayer group meets at St Mark's. Please do join us to sit quietly before God.

#### Thursday, 26th —10:00 to 12:00 St John's Thursday Café

Drop-in coffee morning takes place on the second and fourth Thursday of the month in the Sumner Room at 10am. There is tea, coffee, cake and biscuits and a chance to meet and chat with other people.

#### Friday, 27th—19:00 to 21:00 Friday Night Games Night

Join us for Friday Night Games at St Mark's. There is a meal, table tennis, games and lots of chat!

#### Monday 30th—09:00-11:00

- Clothing Giveaway & Café at St Marks
Our weekly clothing giveaway and Café at St
Mark's . There are free clothes for anyone
who would like to come and take some.
There is also a café serving tea, coffee, cake
and biscuits.

#### Tuesday 31st —10:00 to 11:30 Connections

A group for the over-50s meeting at St George's every fortnight. Just come along and enjoy a cup of coffee, some cake and various activities.

#### From the ministry team

By the time you get to read this, the Revd Alexa (Lexi) Russell will either be about to be licensed to be the new Rector of our Parish or will have just been licensed. Parish we are all about to enter a new phase in our lives. However we can also look back on the past vear and a bit and review what has happened. As Kris said in her article for the May magazine it has been a challenge. We have no doubt made mistakes, there have been challenges, there have also been highlights and huge rewards. I think, for me one of the big highlights has been working together as part of a team and the feeling that we were at last one big Parish. As I said at the beginning of my churchwarden's report for the APCM, it has been a real blessing to find that although our three churches have kept their own very definite identity we are now really working together and planning together as а Parish not as individual churches. I have really enjoyed working as part of a team.

Christ taught us the importance of unity and of working together as one body in Christ. Each member has their unique role and function and yet we are all interconnected and in working together we all contribute to the whole.

Romans 12:4-5 says "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in

Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." It is through working together as a



team that we can succeed in carrying out Christ's work in our Parish. Having a vacancy (or interregnum as it used to be called) has allowed some of us to work together in a new way, to learn to carry out Christ's work together. Now that vacancy is coming to an end and we will have a new beginning. There is a new prayer that we may use in our intercessions where we pray for Lexi and also for her family as she prepares to take up the post of Rector of our Parish. We pray that she will be a wise shepherd of God's people, ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith, and to lead us by example. We pray that God will give her the strength to do all that He has called her to do. We don't know what God is calling her to do but it will be something new. We will have a new beginning which will bring with it the possibility of a renewed life in God.

Our lives are divided up into years, months, days, and each day into hours, minutes, seconds. Each day is complete – God given and each morning we wake to a new day – a new opportunity, a new start, a

chance to begin again—to try again, hope again and watch God do something we never expected. Our seasons bring about new starts. Spring, the season we are in now brings the promise of new life and we see it all around us. It is all part of God's great creation. We in our church are about to start a new season — we don't know what God has in mind for us or for Lexi but we need to be ready for the new start

and be ready to embrace whatever God wants from us.

Please join with me in this prayer:"Thank You God for the opportunity to grow and learn through change. Help me to see the potential for good in this new season and to trust in Your perfect plan, Amen".

Pamela Marsham Churchwarden & Occasional worship leader

#### **1st Weybourne Brownies**

We are searching for new volunteers to take over the Unit from September 2025. The new team would be provided by Girlguiding with all the training required including a mentor, plus local support from the other Girlguiding volunteers in the area. An enhanced DBS check would be organised for all new volunteers.

The Unit meets once a week, in a local hall, meetings are for 1.5 hours with planning and preparation required ahead of each meeting.

Brownies are girls aged 7 – 10 years, who work on the Girlguiding programme of activities which is spread across six themes – Be Well, Have Adventures, Know Myself, Take Action, Skills for my Future and Express Myself. As one of our current volunteers said "I love volunteering with Girlguiding it's great fun, very rewarding and I've made life long friends. Running weekly meetings is not as hard as I'd thought it would be as Girlguiding have developed great sets of programme activity cards, it's all about learning whilst having lots of fun".

Please sign up to volunteer and give back to your local community, if your daughter is on a local Brownie waiting list it's a sure-fire way to get her to the top of the list by volunteering regularly yourself. Please get in touch with Kirsty who is the local District Commissioner via <a href="mailto:hale\_district@outlook.com">hale\_district@outlook.com</a>, or call 07796 178418. We look forward to hearing from you.

#### Parish Community Fete—7th June



It may seem a while away, but the Parish Fete will be here before we know it! Let's make this fete bigger & better than ever before!!

New for 2025 we have a Pet Show – see Christine Brown's entry for more information and Farnham's current mayor,

Brodie Mauluka's band will be playing a live set for us.

There will of course be all the favourites – cream teas, BBQ, Bar, tombola's, craft stalls, community stalls, games and of course maypole dancing, Karate, etc!

The success of much of this depends on YOUR help and support! We need things to populate the various stalls:

#### Tombola's:

Bottle tombola – any kind of drink in a bottle Chocolate tombola – speaks for itself!!

Gift tombola – any items that would be suitable to gift onto to someone

New for 2025 – Jam Jar tombola – small gift items that would fit into a small jar

#### Other stalls:

Toys & games Jigsaws

Please drop off any donations at one of the churches.

We have a variety of games, but need people to run these – so please let Kris know if you are willing to help.



All we need then is good weather on the day so lots of visitors come along and have a fun day!

Kris Lawrence—Churchwarden

#### **PARISH SOCIAL CALENDAR**

#### Future Social Events for the Diary

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	Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> May – 10am-12pm Plant sale	St George's	*
PAAA	Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> June – 12pm-3pm Community Fete	St George's	-
	Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> June – 10am-2pm Craft Market	St Mark's	
	Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> July – time TBC Jane Austin Day	St John's	
	Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 6pm-9pm Murder Mystery Bring & Share supper	TBC	
1	Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 10am-2pm Craft Market	St Mark's	石潭
1	Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct – 6pm-9pm Harvest Supper	St George's	<b>GP</b>
	Mon TBC – 5:30-6:30pm Christmas Light Switch on	St George's	



This year for the very first time Badshot lea Community Fete will host a Children's Pet Show which being sponsored by Farnham Vet Hospital. This is to be a fun event where any pet is welcome. To enter please email <a href="mailto:Christine@serviceplus.org.uk">Christine@serviceplus.org.uk</a> with a photo of your pet and the name and age of their human. Entry is only £5 and there will be loads of prizes and a trophy for Best in Show.

We are delighted to have Vet Izzy Jones from Farnham Veterinary Hospital as our guest judge. There are plenty of fun classes so every pet should have a chance to win a prize. So get working on your fancy dress, perfect your party trick or learn all you can about your favourite friend or just arrive and look cute! Don't worry, we can keep some pets separate if necessary if they are likely to be nervous or worried by their fellow animals.

Judging starts at 1.30 but please arrive by 1.15 so we can allocate you and your friend a name badge. Can't wait to meet you all!



# **CLOTHING GIVEAWAY**



9am - 11am Mondays

St Mark's Community Centre
St Mark's Church
Upper Hale, Farnham GU9 OLT

Good condition clothing
donations received.
All clothing for free to our
community for personal use.



For donation drop-offs and enquiries please contact Rev'd Stella Wiseman 07842 761919







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# St George's Church 11.30am 1st Sunday Monthly from May 4th

Everyone welcome

Please join us for tea / coffee / juice at 11:10am

Please come and join us in this special time when Children of God of all ages (0 – 100+) join together in worship

#### Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have given me, for all the pains and insults

which you have borne for me.

Most merciful Redeemer,
Friend and Brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day.
Amen



Chagall window at Chichester Cathedral (photo LS)





#### Charity Fundraiser!

Charity number 1002832

Join us for a spectacular Musicals Concert starring leading West End performers!

#### Saturday 19th July 2025

The Aldridge Theatre Frensham Heights School Rowledge, Farnham, GU10 4EA

Doors Open: 2.30pm Performance: 3:15pm - 4:00pm & 5.00pm - 5.45pm One hour interval

Inside and outside seating area to enjoy.

Refreshments available to purchase.

There will be an excellent Raffle!

#### Tickets £45 per person

Contact Carol or Judy:

<u>carolmay1951@gmail.com</u> 07941 430212

Judy.Parlett@icloud.com 07789 295678

#### **From the Parish Registers**

#### **Funerals**

We commend to God those whose funerals have recently taken place:

12th May at St George's Pamela Turner

16th May at St Mark's John Smiths

16th May at St Mark's Tracey Ann Young





LAST UPDATED:

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25™ MAY 2025





#### TILFORD BACH FESTIVAL

The **Tilford Bach Festival** in 2025 is the 73rd annual celebration of the works of Johann Sebastian Bach held in All Saints church in Tilford. Our Musical Director is Adrian Butterfield of the Royal College of Music and our orchestra in residence under his direction is the London Handel Players.

We are a charity aiming to showcase the best of British and international musicians at affordable prices, whilst also promoting young talent.

Friday 6th June 2025, 7.30pm - A celebration of Scottish Baroque music – the salon to the Highland Fling: a fusion of traditional Scottish fiddle tunes and a folk influenced baroque repertoire

**Soloists:** Alastair Fraser and Natalie Haas

Followed by a ceilidh at the Tilford Institute at 9 pm - Scottish country music, dancing and fun, with a caller to help keep everyone on track. You don't need to know the dances!

Saturday 7th June 2025, 7.30 pm - J.S. Bach – Mass in B Minor BWV 232: a rich tapestry of voice and instruments

Soloists and the Pegasus Choir

Sunday 8th June 2025, 5 pm - Young talent perform music by Corelli and Vivaldi

Musicians: Students of the Royal College of Music, under Adrian Butterfield Leader: Sara Matović

Choir: Students from the University of Toronto, under Daniel Taylor

Visit our website tilfordbachfestival.com to find more details, buy tickets, subscribe to our mailing list, or make a donation - or contact us via Info@tilfordbachfestival.com.

#### TRAUMA: MORE RELEVANT TO EVERY DAY LIFE THAN WE REALISE



Led by Libby Williams, Counsellor and Tutor

Saturday 5th July 2025 10 am - 12,30 pm

(Coffee available from 9.30 am)

at Godalming Baptist Church, Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BA

- Do you notice yourself reacting to seemingly small things in ways that seem out of proportion? Or perhaps you notice this in others around you? But where do these (over) reactions come from?
- Do you find yourself struggling with certain topics of conversation? Feeling like you'd like to escape or noticing you can't concentrate or keep zoning out? What goes on inside us that makes staying present hard?
- Do you ever get halfway through a sentence and your mind goes blank? Or you
  have a to-do-list but find yourself feeling overwhelmed or procrastinating
  forevermore? What is happening inside our minds/bodies when this happens?

We are familiar with trauma resulting from a bad car crash, or at the hands of a violent partner, or as the result of a chronic illness etc. However, whilst trauma can result from all those things, it also encompasses so much more. Come along to the session to learn what trauma actually is, where it comes from, and how it is surprisingly relevant to most of our lives. Find out how it effects our bodies, minds, and behaviour. Explore what can be done to help in practical ways and learn to start noticing better what is going on in and around you.

Please reserve a place, with payment of £7, by contacting Sally Pollard email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01483 428646 by Friday 20th June

#### PASTORAL CARE IN CHALLENGING TIMES



#### Led by Andy Peck

Saturday 14th June 2025
9.30 am - 1 pm (Coffee available from 9 am)
at Godalming Baptist Church,
Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BA

It is said that a crisis doesn't make or break, it just reveals! There are times when we feel challenges in caring for others, either because we feel like we are just 'hanging on' to faith ourselves, or because the situation being faced is stretching us like never before. The recent COVID pandemic left many reeling!

In this session, we aim to step back and provide an assessment of what pastoral care is and what it isn't, look together at our mind-sets as we face challenges, and provide a faith-filled expectant outlook that takes Romans 8:28 seriously, knowing that 'in all things God is at work for the good of those who love him'.

#### Areas looked at will include:

- What is pastoral care according to the Bible?
- · What role might you play in caring for others?
- Looking at the five stages of church involvement and the care needed for each
- How do we understand the suffering that God allows?
- How do we serve at a sustainable pace?
- How do we involve others?
- · How might our care extend beyond the local church?

The morning will be a mixture of teaching and small group discussions with time for questions, and notes will be provided.

Please reserve a place, with payment of £8, by contacting Sally Pollard email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01483 428646 by Friday 30th May

#### The Badshot Leader





Among the many products in the Community Garden are two traditional varieties of hops. In April new strings, made from coir (coconut fibre) were put up and now the bines are beginning to climb upwards in a clockwise direction. Although hops can easily be found growing wild in hedgerows those in the Community Garden are probably the

only ones cultivated in Badshot Lea. Roots of Fuggles and the resurrected Farnham Whitebines were donated by the Hogs Back Brewery.

#### Miracles do happen!

From as long as anyone can remember, water has leaked onto Badshot Lea Road from the pond after heavy rain. In winter it froze, making it dangerous for pedestrians to cross the sloping pavement. Village elders even remember it as a place of toad migration in the breeding season. However, despite some very rainy periods, no leakage has been seen for over a year. What happened is a mystery!



#### Model car racing at the Kiln



The Aldershot Model Car Club's Demon Raceway at the Kiln is one of only 17 such purpose-built tracks in the country. The members regularly hold race meetings, where the cars can reach speeds of 45 mph. On Easter Sunday the Club hosted one of a series of 4 interclub events in the annual King of Clubs R C Series.

The competing clubs were Adur, Aldershot, Colchester, West London and Eastbourne, who will host the next meeting

#### The Crown has new owners



The brewers, Fullers of Chiswick, have recently sold the Crown to Admiral Taverns, then the new owners carried out some repairs. The chain does not make beer itself, which gives Jayne, the landlady, the opportunity for a different choice of ales.

The staff quarters at the rear of the pub started life as a farm building in the late 1700's. It was subsequently converted into a cottage, which was occupied in 1841 by agricultural labourer, Ruben Kirtcher, his wife and 9 children. It must have been very crowded! The property was part of the John Williams's Badshot Place Estate, and ten years later Ruben had bettered himself and was renting the cottage and farming 17 acres, much of the land was across the lane on Badshot Park.

Unfortunately for Ruben the Estate was sold off in May 1851, and the cottage and what is now Pineview Close was sold to the ambitious George Prince. When the Army came to Aldershot in 1854, George quickly converted the farmhouse into a pub, extended it and added 3 cottages. When he retired in 1877, he sold the Crown to the Guildford Brewers, Lascelles Tickner and moved into one of the cottages.

The first of the 21 tenants of the Crown was John Wigmore, who despite being fined £1 for selling watered down rum in 1878 lasted 6 years. William Taylor (1884 to 1888) was fined £2 for serving out of hours. (More recent landlords are known to have held the occasional "lock in")

By far the longest serving landlord was Charlie Wilkinson who lived there for 40 years. As he was a farm labourer, his wife, Mary mainly looked after the Crown, which also took in lodgers.

During the Second World War the landlord was Jack Rowland, who was a talented artist, and Vera Lynn occasionally dropped in when staying in Weybourne while on leave from wartime duties.



Among more recent tenants, many residents will remember Harry Clapperton and Barbara Grubb. Both of whom, like Jayne, the current landlady (left) did much to raise money for good causes. Today the Crown supports Sally's Tea room, from Tuesday to Saturday, before reverting to a traditional pub after 4 pm. There are regular quizzes and a blues jam session on the last Sunday of the month.

#### Memories of V. E. Day

As I was only 7 in 1945, my wartime memories are somewhat blurred, but certain events are quite clear. I well remember my mother in tears when Dad was sent to France a few days after the D-Day landings, as well as sheltering under the stairs during an air raid. It may have been the attack on the ammunition train at Tongham Station. But things are much clearer about the Doodlebugs.

On one occasion I was returning to my class from the outside toilets, when the siren sounded. I was swept up by a hoard of children running in the other direction heading for the shelters. That V1 fell a mile away and hit "The Oaks" a private school at Eggars Hill, Aldershot. Fortunately, the occupants were also in their shelters, and there were no casualties. Another time I was with my mother in Weybourne, and she ran with me to shelter under an oak tree (It is still there), when the throb of a Doodlebug engine cut out. The machine crashed harmlessly over Crooksbury way. Sadly, some V 1's found their target and several people and a herd of cows were killed at the Sands.

Of course, I remember there being a lot of soldiers about, especially the Bren gun carriers racing through the village, and the Home Guard forming up in Orchard Road, although they stood down at 12 o'clock, when the pubs opened. At Christmas Canadian soldiers collected us kids in a lorry and took us for a party in Aldershot, where we were all given wooden toys.

Other memories concerned food, although I don't remember being hungry as grandad had a well-stocked vegetable garden with fruit trees. I did however feel put out when mum served up my "pet" rabbit for Sunday

dinner. Then there was the night when Dad, a quartermaster sergeant, turned up with a sack of sugar. Mum was horrified and wouldn't have it in the house. We were the only family in the village that didn't get any.

As for V.E Day, the village celebrated in the traditional way with bunting across the streets and a huge bonfire on the Green. I well remember people coming round the houses collecting items to burn. Again, I was upset, because my favourite block of wood, in which I used to hammer nails mysteriously disappeared that day. The large burnt patch in the grass lasted for months, and we kids played in it, returning home with blackened shoes and socks.

Some of the detail is vague, because there was a similar bonfire to celebrate V.J Day on the following August 15<sup>th.</sup> At one of these celebrations my uncle, Bert, who was in the R A F, acquired a box of signal rockets, and Badshot Lea had a rare firework display. If you have any interesting wartime memories, please let us know.

#### **Skylark Place**

interested Tonv was Morel's article on Skylark Place in the April Parish Magazine. It is now obvious that the name was thought up by Jim Tice. Jim, who died last year, aged 90, owned and farmed that field for many years. He must have remembered the skylarks. More to the point Jim held onto that field after the rest of the farm was sold. Jim was the rich property developer! By the way, when did you last see a once common skylark?

**Maurice Hewins** 







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## Pollinator Patch with Juliet from Hive Helpers



#### Farnham Bee Trail!

Farnham now has its first ever Bee Trail! We have worked in partnership with Farnham Town Council on this project, beginning last year identifying bee 'hotspots' throughout the town during the summer months We were delighted in the many and varied locations hosting so many of our native pollinators. You will find our Bee Trail posts throughout the town, from Brightwells Living Walls to West Street Cemetery, from Gostrev Meadow to Farnham Park, and many points in between, including a few hidden havens! All you have to do is pick up a booklet from one of the hotspots (including Farnham Town Council Offices, Farnham Library, the Maltings and the Museum of Farnham) and follow the Trail on the map inside. You can do the whole Trail or just bits of it. You

can pull out the centre pages and mark off each hotspot you visit using the bee rubbing plate which you will find on top of each post. Completed pages can be dropped off at the Council Offices and will go into a prize draw!

Erica, our beekeeper, will be leading a Bee Safari which takes in the whole trail, as part of the Farnham Walking Festival, on Thursday 29 May, 2-5pm, meeting at Gostrey Meadow bandstand. Further details at:

https://www.farnham.gov.uk/ events/categories/walking-festival

We will also be offering free Bee Safaris during the summer holidays especially for families, thanks to funding from Farnham Town Council.

#### Bee of the month – Wool carder bee



**Alex Potts** 

The wool carder bee (Anthidium manicatum) is a solitary bee. meaning that she does not live in a colony like honey bees and bumblebees, but builds a nest and lays her eggs singly which she provisions with nectar and pollen, to emerge as adult bees the following spring. Wool carder bees are so called because the females collect the tiny hairs on plant leaves and stems, roll them up into woolly balls, and line their nests with them. Like all solitary bees, they don't carry their pollen in baskets like honey bees and bumblebees, but all over their bodies which makes them very efficient pollinators. They are dark bees with yellow markings up the sides of the abdomen.

#### Pollinator plant of the month – Lamb's ears

Lamb's ears (Stachys byzantine) are very attractive to wool carder bees as they have soft, furry grey-green leaves, hence the common name. They have silvery flower spikes with small pink flowers. They prefer full sun but are pretty tough and cope with most conditions.

For a comprehensive list of plants for pollinators, visit <a href="https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/">https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/</a>
<a href="conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/">conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/</a>
<a href="plants-for-pollinators">plants-for-pollinators</a>
and download the garden plants list.

For more information about Hive Helpers, please visit www.hivehelpers.co.uk, email us on office@hivehelpers.co.uk or phone us on 07895 547637

## **An Annual Report**

The Curate begged an audience with me last month and told me that I had failed to do my duty. I was shocked. Not that I had failed in any way, because i, cats do not fail, and ii, I do not have duties. If we do anything that you think we 'should' do, it is merely because we are being gracious to you poor beings.

Once I had pointed this out to her, and she had made amends with the help of a can of tuna and some scritches under my chin and behind my ears, she elaborated. I had not presented my annual report to be marveled over during the APCM (I assume this stands for Admiring Precious Cat Meeting). I realise that your lives have been blighted.

Because I am kind, I have put paws to keyboard and, for your delectation, here is my annual review.

The year has been one of comfortable naps, inadequate food and varying comfort depending on whose lap I have managed to commandeer. Plus ça change. I did note that the Curate



was around less and, when she was at home, she was on her computer constantly. That pleased me. I like to sit on the keyboard and ensure that, instead of looking at the screen, she looks at me. Much better for her eyes.

There were some changes. For a start, a Church Mouse appeared! Such audacity! She arrived in June and quickly asked if I would take her under my protection. I graciously agreed and Emily and I now spend a lot of time together. No, of course we aren't friends what do you mean? The way we have been scampering through the churchyards and playing among the flowers is irrelevant.

The flowers in the churchyards have been rather lovely and I approve of the way you are letting parts grow wild. So much better for wildlife than a neatly mowed lawn.

And the flowers in the churches have been a treat too. My friends Vicky, Anne and Sorrel have been busy and I wanted to let them — and anyone who works with them — know that they are appreciated.

In November, my sister/cousin (it's complicated) died which made the Curate sad and, whisper it, I felt a little depressed too. I would have been cheered by improved food but that wasn't offered. So thoughtless. But my sister/cousin is in the Wild Wood now so she's happy.

Christmas did not involve a play about a Church Cat so that was a disappointment. Instead I was forced to watch one about a donkey and, of course, Jesus. I quite approve of Jesus. In Cat Lore he is known as the Kind One Who Gives The Best Scritches.

This year I understand there are more changes ahead, the most major of which is.... the arrival of a new rector with the Church Dog. I am yet to meet this dog and let him know that I am in charge. I shall update you soon.

Purrs

The Church Cat





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