

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF BADSHOT LEA AND HALE



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

Community Summer Fete
St George's Church, Badshot Lea
Sat 13th June 11am - 3pm

Grand Prize Draw

Bar BBQ Cream Teas

**Kids area
Community Stalls
Tombola
Craft Stalls
Entertainment**

Pet Show

**New for 2026:
'Pony Pals'
interactive animal
experience
11am - 1pm**

**New for 2026:
Meet the
minibeasts**

**A great afternoon,
full of fun things to do!**

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

Issue no.
294

**Summer
2026**

Suggested price
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Learning Without Limits

Contents

From the ministry team	4
Regular Parish Activities	5
Advertisers' index	6
Palm Sunday	8
Lent Lunches	8
Beetle Drive	10
Pet Show & Pony Pals	10
Contemplative Prayer	11
Bubble Church	12
Trinity at Three	13
Knitting for Good Causes	14
Christian Aid—Musical tribute in memory of Carolyn Weston	15
Top Ten Childhood Favourites with BBQ	17
Hygiene Bank	18
Parish Picnic	19
Homeowner's Notebook	20
From the Registry	22
Prayer page	23
Community Fete	24
The Badshot Leader	26
Pierrepont Farm	27
Bishop Sumner Trust	31
Tilford Bach Festival	35
Hive Helpers	36
The Church Cat	38
The Church Dog	39
Who's Who	46
Parish Social Calendar	47
Our Regular Services	48



Page 10



Page 12



Page 18



Page 36

Magazine subscription and deadline

Subscriptions to the magazine is £10 for the year, paid to your distributor or electronically to **40-52-40 00025717** with **Mag: your name** as a reference. Contact 07792 233477 or email editor@badshotleaandhale.org.

The deadline for the Autumn issue of the magazine is **Sunday, Aug 9th**.

From the ministry team

Welcome to our Summer edition of our Parish magazine..

It's such a beautiful time of the year with so much life popping up all over the place.

Having lived in the Rectory exactly a year now, it's been great fun watching all the different plants and bushes that have revealed themselves over this last year.

We have so much to look forward to over the next few months. We have the parish fete, outdoor summer service and much more. This is a good opportunity to point out that the best way to keep up to date with the latest news and goings on within the parish, is to sign up to our weekly E-News via the parish website.

In the last magazine, I reflected on how you don't truly know a place, until you have experienced it through all of the seasons. This last year has been a whirlwind of doing and learning how to do lots of things for the first time. I have seen how God has been at work in this parish the whole time, although I don't think it's always something that's obvious to see.

Celebrating the feast of Easter has been such a privilege to be part of.

The Lent lunches were a wonderful chance to get together every couple of weeks, to share in food and fellowship with each other, whilst also raising money for continuing work at St John's.

The Lent groups also flourished, and provided space for deeper conversations about the person of Jesus and the things he said during his life.

I'm very much looking forward to this new chapter in the life of the parish, with so much to look forward to, but also so much to look back on and be grateful for. I personally continue to be so grateful for the welcome my family and I have all experienced. I can't thank you all enough for your continued support and encouragement, and I'm excited to see what plans the Lord holds for us all and for the churches in this parish.



Rev'd Lexi

Regular Events Across the Parish

We have lots of fun FREE regular groups that meet across the parish. You'll spot a common theme of tea, coffee and cake at most of them! All welcome!

Day, Time & venue	Event	Details
Mondays 9am-11am St Mark's	 FREE Clothing giveaway and café	There are free clothes for anyone who would like to come and take some. The café serves tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits.
Mondays 6pm-7pm St George's	 Parish Choir	The Parish Choir supports our church worship but also learns musical pieces to perform at parish events – or just for fun!! Anyone is welcome to join us.
Alternate Tuesdays 10am-11:30am St George's	 Connections	A group for the over 50's. Come along and enjoy a cup of coffee, cake, various activities and a good natter! 2 nd , 16 th , 30 th Jun, 14 th , 28 th Jul, 11 th , 25 th Aug
Alternate Tuesdays 10am-12pm St George's	 Craft Café	Run by the Farnham Maltings. Come along and learn a new craft or bring your own with you. 9 th , 23 rd Jun, 7 th , 21 st Jul, 4 th , 18 th Aug.
Wednesdays 3pm-4pm St Mark's	 Contemplative Prayer	Sit quietly with God for about 20 minutes. This is followed by tea and chat!
Monthly - 4 th Wednesday 7pm-8pm St Mark's	 Pray with us	Join us to pray for our parish, or world or anything else that is on your mind.
1 st & 3 rd Thursdays 10am-12pm St Mark's	 Coffee & Arts @ St Mark's	No artistic skills needed – come and join us for art, coffee and cake!
2 nd , 4 th & 5 th Thursdays 10.30-12.30pm St John's	 Knitting for a good cause	Use your skills or learn new ones to produce a variety of useful items. With tea, coffee, cake and biscuits and a chance to meet and chat with other people.
Thursdays 2pm-3:30pm	 Home group	Join us for Bible reading and discussion, prayer and chat. For more details inc. venue contact Richard Myers.
Fridays 10am-11:30am Term time St George's	 Little Bees	Stay-and-play toddler group for children from birth to 4 years old. Toys, crafts singing, tea, coffee and chat. All welcome – come and join our friendly group!
Fridays 6pm-8pm St Mark's & Hale Youth Cntr	 Friday Night Games	Alternating between 2 venues, at St Mark's (from 6 th Mar) we welcome all ages, or at the Youth Centre (from 13 th Mar) 11-18 yr olds. Various activities and a free meal.

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. If you would like to advertise please call 07792233477 or email editor@badshotleandhale.org.

Care

GoodOaks 40
Hamilton George Care 45
Harlow Hall 42
Right at Home 45

Chiropody and Podiatry

Farnham Foot Health 33
Visiting Foot Clinic 42

Classes

Baby & Me 44
Pilates with Judy 42

Gardening and Property Maintenance

Adam & Eve Property Solutions 34

Home Improvement, Decorating, Plumbing etc

Graham Neves 45
MJP Plumbing and Heating 42

Music

Saxooma 9

Portraits

The Squirrel Collective 7

Tutoring

MagiKats 2

Waste Removal and Recycling

Cannon 41

Cartoon Family portraits from the Squirrel Collective



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

Family groups, friendship groups, couples, children and parents... even your pets. I draw from photographs and will work with you to get a drawing you are happy with. I draw by hand and add colour with alcohol-based markers, so your picture will stay vibrant for a long time to come.

You can buy an additional, digital copy of your portrait, so that you can put it onto mugs, T-shirts, bags, etc.

Prices from £15.

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



Palm Sunday

Our Palm Sunday services across the parish started in the traditional way with a procession singing 'All Glory and Laud and Honour' whilst waving palms. At St John's and St George's we opted for the outside to do this, with the usual slightly chaotic line of people all singing out of time with one another.



But wouldn't the original Palm Sunday have been a bit chaotic anyway, with people being unsure of what was going on and trying to push their way through the crowds to get a glimpse of our Lord? Certainly, we turned the eyes of car drivers and villagers in our act of witness.

At St George's we did a dramatic reenactment of the Palm Sunday Procession, The Last Supper and The Crucifixion using the 'Open the Book' material. Our Bubble Church puppets added

to the number of disciples at the Lord's Table. Even though this material is designed for use with children in primary schools, it still works well with all ages.

The mood of the morning changed from that triumphal jubilation of the entry into Jerusalem to one of deep reflection in preparation for the week ahead.



Kris Lawrence

Lent Lunches 2026 at St John's Church Hale

During Lent and on three occasions we gathered together at St John's for a couple of hours to share company and a soup lunch followed by good 'old-fashioned' puddings baked by our extended team.

Serving lunch in the limited 'kitchen' is always a challenge but we did it!

We served 55 lunches and raised £400 for much-needed work in St John's.



We hope in the future to improve the 'kitchen' electrics, Lady Chapel flooring and install a hand rail on the slope beyond the church gates. Other things will be added to the list no doubt. Definitely more fundraising work to be done!

Thank you so much to all who attended to support this event and those who cooked, baked, served and washed up. Great team work!



SAXOOMA

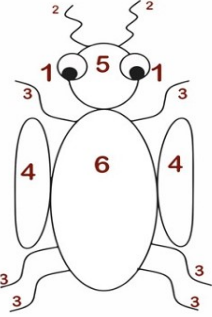


Saxophone Quartet for any occasion

Contact: pcc.layvicechair@badshotleaandhale.org

BEETLE DRIVE

A fun time was had by all at this year's Beetle Drive. Starting off with the delicious fish and chips supplied by 'Oh My Cod', we then settled down to an evening of dice-rolling and beetle-drawing.



There was much laughter, many exclamations of 'Oh no! I only had one more leg to get' as someone called out 'Beetle' as they completed their own. And some rather reluctant players even admitted they really enjoyed the game!

It was a really well-attended event and truly reached across all ages.

A very successful evening all round; what a great way to raise funds for the parish! Many thanks to Gillian for organising the evening and for Kevin for fetching the food for us.

Kris Lawrence.

Pet Show
12:30pm

Sat 13th June

'Pony Pals'
11am - 1pm

Lots of prize winning classes.
Entry including 'Best in Show' just £4.
All pets welcome.

Pre-book entry if possible by
contacting:
Christine@serviceplus.org.uk

Come and meet Caroline and her
Pony Pals. Her trained therapy
animals will be visiting us for
grooming, cuddling and story telling.
Free of charge, but donations welcome.



Judging by Izzy, our vet from
Farnham Veterinary hospital.



Part of our Community Summer Fete, 11am - 3pm
at St George's Church, Badshot Lea, GU9 9LD

ANNUAL EXHIBITION—HALE ART GROUP

The Hale Art Group are holding their Annual Exhibition at Hale Village Hall, Wings Road, Upper Hale, GU9 0HN on Saturday 13th June, 10am to 4pm, and Sunday, 14th June, 10am to 3pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be available. There is free parking so why not pop in and see us?

The group meets regularly to paint at the Village Hall every Tuesday morning, 9.30am to 12.30pm. The cost is £6 per session, payable each time you attend and this includes coffee/tea and biscuits. New members are made very welcome. Just turn up and try us out. For more information ring 07835 724138.

Contemplative prayer – what and why?

Prayer is a relationship – a being together with God who knows us, our needs, our fears, and who loves us. Prayer doesn't need to be a struggle or a list of requests. It is much simpler. It can be simply sitting silently with God.

This is what we seek to do in the contemplative prayer group meeting which takes place every Wednesday at St Mark's Church at 3pm.



Contemplative/centring prayer is a silent form of prayer which can take place alone or in a group. The person or people praying remain silent and usually repeat in the mind a word or phrase such as 'Maranatha', an Aramaic word which means 'our Lord, come', or 'our Lord has come', depending on where the emphasis is placed. Some people prefer to use an image rather than a word.

Photo by [Milada Vigerova](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The idea is that the word or image centres the mind and encourages it not to wander or flit from thought to thought, as human minds usually do, but instead just to be as we are in front of God. We don't ask anything of God, we simply are there. On Wednesday afternoons a group of us sits together in St Mark's and spends 20 minutes in this form of silent prayer. We then drink tea, eat biscuits and chat. It is relaxing, refreshing and a highlight of my week. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Stella Wiseman

BUBBLE CHURCH



Bubble Church has officially launched in the Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale. It's a 30-minute service that includes action songs, puppets, craft activities and Bible stories, all aimed at young children and their grown-ups. Families are invited to arrive early to pick up that all-important coffee and pastry, before sitting down together on their own bubble as they wait for the service to begin.

A countdown on the screen begins as the excitement builds, waiting for the service to start...

It's been incredible to see how the children have been engaging with the service, specifically the Bible reading, where they go so quiet, you can hear a pin drop!

Bubble Church is specifically designed with young children in mind, and it really works. They are able to follow along easily to the action songs, and there are plenty of places in the service for them to get involved and join in.

We are so excited to see where Bubble Church will lead us, and how God's love will shine through it all.

So you are invited to come and join us and see what it's all about. This is the perfect opportunity to introduce young children to church and give them a foundation upon which they are able to build up their own faith. We can't wait to see you there. If you've got any questions about Bubble Church, please email: rev.lexi@badshotleaandhale.org

Trinity Service

Trinity at Three

You are invited to our new Trinity service which takes place on the first and third Sunday of the month at St George's at 3pm.

Trinity is an informal, contemporary service offering a space for anyone and everyone to come and explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus, look at the Bible, pray and worship together.

To find out more, email rev.lexi@badshotleaandhale.org or call her on 07792233477. Alternatively, just turn up. Everyone is welcome



Trinity

1st and 3rd Sunday of the month
3pm
St George's, Badshot Lea
All are welcome

CONTACT US - REV. LEXI RUSSELL 07792233477
REV.LEXI@BADSHOTLEAANDHALE.ORG
BADSHOTLEAANDHALE.ORG



Knitting for Good Causes

On Thursday 9th April, “Thursday Coffee morning” morphed into “Knitting for Good Causes”. To my great delight, a group of 13 people gathered in St John’s in the community space in the church and began knitting. We had people there from each of our three churches and also some who did not normally attend our churches, so it is a community activity. We were a mixed



bunch as some were experienced knitters and others, like myself, simply did not have much idea at all of how to knit. I thought I had a vague idea of how to do plain and purl stitches but was uncertain. I had no idea how to cast on, so having even a vague idea of how to do plain and purl stitches was of little use if I could not cast on. Our experienced knitters came to the rescue and very patiently helped us to learn how to knit. To my great surprise and joy, by the end of two hours I had learnt how to cast on and had knitted a few rows towards my first square which will eventually either become a bonding square or become part of a blanket. Others of course knitted much more and I know that at least one small bootie was completed. However I think some of our experienced knitters did not achieve much as they had spent so much time teaching others.



So – what is all this about – what are we knitting and why?

Originally we had been holding a Thursday Coffee morning on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month but only had a regular group of four plus Sylvie and me, and occasionally only Sylvie and I turned up. It didn’t really seem to be going anywhere and I felt it was because it had no focus.

Then one day I met some people who knitted small clothes for premature babies and, from that encounter, the idea began to form in my mind that

Join us to celebrate the music loved by
Carolyn Weston



Followed by a Cream Tea in aid of
'Christian Aid', the charity she worked
hard to support within the parish.

2pm on Saturday 11th July 2026

at St John's the Evangelist Church, Hale, Farnham

Celebrate, in Carolyn's memory, her joy of music
which will include her favourite hymns and various
acts singing & playing the music of The Beatles.

Featuring:

Mary our church organist

'In Accord' a Guildford based Ladies Acapella Group

Badshot Lea & Hale Parish Choir

Farnham singer, Olivia Jasper

Entry is free but booking is essential.

Contact June Jasper for your tickets

pcc.secretary@badshotleaandhale.org

Or telephone 07807 881311

There will be a retiring collection
in aid of 'Christian Aid'



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REV.LEXI@BADSHOTLEAANDHALE.ORG

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Maybe that was something we could do. I spoke to a few people and realised that there was some interest in this and so that idea blossomed into “Knitting for Good Causes”. There is a charity called BLISS and they knit clothes and blankets for the tiny premature babies. We have joined up with BLISS and any garments that we knit will go to them. They then distribute all the items to hospitals.



When a baby is born prematurely the parents are not prepared and the clothes needed are smaller than those needed for full term babies, so even if the parents have some things ready – they will be too big. So hospitals need clothes for these tiny babies. If the baby is sick they may need a cannula in their arms and so a long mitten is needed that will fit over the cannula to protect it and prevent the baby from pulling it out. So many things are needed.

Then I heard about fidget muffs. Patients with dementia tend to fiddle with things. They can become agitated and fiddling with things helps to keep them calm. Children with autism also tend to fiddle with things and so these muffs help them as well. Fidget muffs are knitted muffs onto which are sewn a variety of objects that can be fiddled with. They are also brightly coloured and so all sorts of odd pieces of wool can be used. Imagination is needed when making these, but we have to be careful that we don't put anything on them that could be a choking hazard or that could hurt them in any way, so nothing metal or sharp.

Obviously we need lots of wool (acrylic) to knit these items. The wool for the muffs is all donated because that can be all sorts of odd wool – either double knitting or really thick wool or bobbly wool. The wool for the babies has to be bought specially. We have been given quite a lot of wool to start us off and I have bought a lot for the babies. We are, however going to need help in the future. Donations of wool will be welcome. Donations of money to pay for the baby wool will be especially appreciated.



TOP TEN CHILDHOOD FAVOURITES

WITH BBQ

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, GU9 9LD

DATE IN AUGUST TBC

A chance reminisce and sing **YOUR** favourite hymn as a child by voting for it, or just come and sing other great choices!

BBQ £5 each. Numbers required, please let Kris know if you are coming for that.

warden.stgeorges@badshotleaandhale.org

Everyone welcome!



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I hope that you will agree that we are quite literally “Knitting for Good Causes”. This is a form of outreach.



Jesus taught us to care for one another – not just people in our own family or our friends, not just people in our own churches but all people. In our parish we like to care for others and have activities like Connections, Art at St Mark’s, Friday Games and of course our Clothes Bank, and at Christmas time, the Christmas Tree Festival supported Phyllis Tuckwell. Knitting for Good Causes is another activity where we are trying to support those who need our help.

So why not come and join us. Don’t worry if you can’t knit. We have people who will help you. We are a friendly bunch.

More knitters will be very welcome – you don’t have to attend church to join us – we meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at St John’s Church from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Donations of wool for the muffs and also money for the baby wool will be very gratefully received. Please try to support us if you can either by joining our group and/or by donating either wool or money.

Pamela Marsham

The parish is now part of the Hygiene Bank

Keeping clean shouldn’t be a luxury should it?

If you, or anyone you know, are struggling to afford vital items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, washing powder, tampons, nappies and the like, let us know. We can help as we are now an outlet for the Hygiene Bank. A good rule of thumb is: if you use something in your own personal hygiene or home-cleaning routine, chances are someone living in hygiene poverty will appreciate it too.

What you can give: new, unused, in-date personal care and household cleaning essentials. These include toilet rolls, sanitary wear, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, washing-up liquid, j-cloths, disinfectant, body wash, hairbrushes, tissues, nappies, continence wear, hair ties, razors, sponges, make-up. We can accept open packs of nappies and individual or open packs of period pads as long as the pads are wrapped. We can accept cloth nappies and period pads.

What you can’t give: opened, half-used or products past their best-before date.

To find out more or to offer or ask for help for yourself or someone else, contact Stella on revd.stella@badshotleaandhale.org or 07342508164.

For details of the Hygiene Bank, visit thehygienebank.com

PARISH PICNIC

All age service at the
Badshot Lea Kiln

Sunday 23rd August at 11am

Gather your friends, family and loved ones for a time of worship and fellowship in the beauty of the great outdoors.

BYO Picnic, blanket and/or garden chair

The service will be in the field next to the Community Gardens;
the gardens will be open for visiting.



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The Homeowner's Notebook

This Month's Topic: **Hiring the Right Tradesperson – The Complete Guide**

After accepting the quote, there are still a few things to check before actually hiring.

I've spent 30 years in and around this industry, and I've seen it all – the good, the bad, and the dangerous. Here's everything I've learned about hiring right, first time. The Do's & Don'ts

DO: The Essential Steps

Check Qualifications (This One Can Save Lives)

For certain jobs, checking credentials isn't optional – it's the law.

Gas work: They must be on the Gas Safe Register. Ask to see their ID card and check the back – it should list which types of gas work they're qualified for.

Electrical work: Look for NICEIC, ECA, or Part P registration. These prove they're certified to keep your wiring safe.

Building work: CSCS cards show builders have basic training. For bigger projects, check if they're with the Federation of Master Builders (FMB).

Always ask for proof. A genuine tradesperson expects this and will have documents ready.

Ask for References and Photos

Any decent tradesperson will have recent work to show you. Ask for photos (most of these will probably be on their website/socials) and, crucially, references of a couple of recent customers.

Use a Written Contract

Get everything in writing before work starts:

Total cost, including VAT (if registered)

Payment schedule (more on this below)

Start date and estimated completion date

What materials will be used (brands and quality)

A contract protects both of you. If they won't put it in writing, that's a red flag!

Pay Safely

This is where things often go wrong. Follow these rules:

Never pay 100% upfront. Full stop.

Never pay more than a 40% deposit. For very large jobs, keep it lower (25-30%)

Avoid paying with cash. Always leave a paper trail. Bank transfer, credit card, or PayPal. These can be traced and, with credit cards, you may have extra protection. Cash disappears.

Check Their Insurance

Public liability insurance covers you if they accidentally damage your property. Ask to see their certificate. It's standard for any professional to have this.

Report Problems Immediately

If something doesn't look right, speak up before you make the final payment. Good tradespeople want to fix issues. Once the money's gone, your leverage goes with it.

DON'T: The Traps to Avoid

Don't hire without checking credentials. Especially for gas, electricians, or structural work. This is how tragedies happen.

Don't pay in full upfront. Scammers rely on this. They take the money and vanish.

Don't rely on verbal agreements. A handshake is nice, but a signed contract is what counts if things go wrong.

Don't use cash-only tradespeople. No paper trail means no comeback. It also often means they're avoiding tax – not someone you want in your home.

Don't rush. Pressure tactics ("I can start tomorrow but only if you decide now") are a major red flag. Real professionals are busy, but they don't bully.

Must-Ask Questions Before You Hire

Print these out. Keep them by the phone.

"Are you registered with a trade body?" (Gas Safe, NICEIC, FMB, etc.)

"Can I see your insurance and certificates?" (Take photos for your records.)

"Do you provide a written quote and contract?" (If not, walk away.)

"What's the estimated timeline?" (Delays happen but get a rough schedule.)

"Who will actually be doing the work?" (Some firms subcontract – ask who'll be on site.)

"What happens if there's a problem after completion?" (Ask about guarantees and warranties.)

Red Flags: When to Walk Away

Trust your instincts. These signs should send you running:

No fixed address – just a mobile number.

Demands cash only – avoids tax and leaves you with no proof.

High-pressure sales – "This price is only valid today!"

No online presence – no website, no reviews, no visible history.

Vague quotes – avoids putting costs in writing.

Refuses to show credentials – a genuine pro has nothing to hide.

Know Your Rights

If work is faulty, you have legal protection under the Consumer Rights Act 2015. Tradespeople must carry out work with reasonable care and skill.

If a tradesperson disappears or takes your money without doing the work, report them to Trading Standards and Action Fraud.

Keep everything: contracts, receipts, messages, photos. Paperwork is your best friend if things go wrong.

The Homeowner's Notebook

Final Tip: Trust, But Verify

A good tradesperson won't mind questions. They won't be offended if you ask for proof. They understand that your home is your biggest investment and you want to protect it.

If someone refuses to show certificates, won't put things in writing, or pushes for cash – walk away. There are plenty of good people out there. Take your time and find the right one.

This advice is provided by www.qwote.uk, a free service for Surrey & Hampshire homeowners.

Next issue in The Homeowner's Notebook: **Finding the Right Gardener or Landscaper for Your Garden.** From pruning to patio installation, tips you can follow.

From the parish registers

Baptisms

We welcome into the Church those whose baptisms have recently taken place:

29th March at St Mark's Church

Chiyon Welsh & Liam Richer



Funerals

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

4th March at St George's Church

Peter Wood

7th April at St Mark's Church

Gary Martin Welch

10th April at St Mark's Church

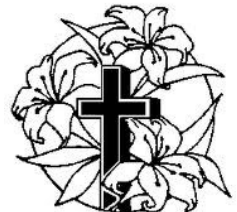
Craig Paul Matthews

22nd April at St John the Evangelist's Church

Ezra-Jay Andrew Thomson-Simpson

28th April at St Mark's Church

Matthew James Coleman



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.



St Richard (1197-1253)
was the bishop of Chichester
and he is remembered
especially on 16 June.

The stained glass is by
Marc Chagall and is
in Chichester Cathedral.

Community Summer Fete

St George's Church, Badshot Lea
Sat 13th June 11am - 3pm

New for 2026:
'Pony Pals'
interactive
animal
experience
11am - 1pm

Grand
Prize Draw

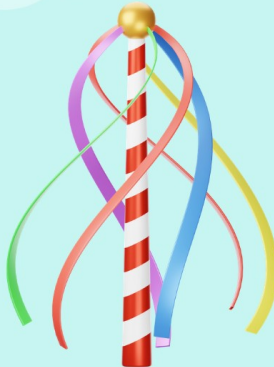
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Meet the
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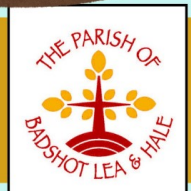
Kids area
Community Stalls
Tombola
Craft Stalls
Entertainment

Pet Show

A great afternoon,
full of fun things to do!



CONTACT US - REV. LEXI RUSSELL 07792233477
REV.LEXI@BADSHOTLEAANDHALE.ORG
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The success of our fete much depends on EVERYONE'S help and support!

We have Grand Prize Draw tickets available to sell to your friends.

We need things to populate the various stalls and it's never too early to drop off donations – the sooner the better – it helps the planning:

Grand Prize Draw hamper:

After the success of the hampers at the Christmas Tree Festival, we would like to make up a summer-themed hamper so anything suitable would be appreciated.

Tombolas:

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
NOT bric-a-brac please!

Jam Jar Surprises, with everyone a winner! Fill a jar or two with anything such as: sweets, jewellery, plant seeds, socks, stationery (small pencil, sharpener, eraser, post it notes), tealights, soap and flannel, coloured pasta, biscuits, toys etc. Wrap so the contents cannot be seen. Any decoration is a bonus. Please label 'boy', 'girl' or 'adult' as appropriate.

Other stalls:

Toys & games

Jigsaws

Please drop off any donations at one of the churches.

We have a variety of games and stalls but need people to man these on the day – so please let Kris know if you are willing to help.

Warden.stgeorges@badshotleaandhale.org.

Thank you all for your support.

Make sure you have fun on the day!!

The Badshot Leader

A Badshot Lea Wartime Childhood

I was born on 5th April 1938 in the Louise Margaret Hospital when my father was

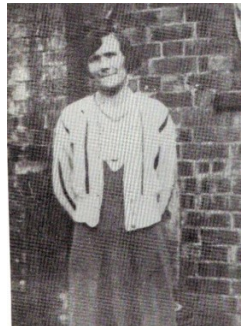


regular in the Royal Engineers. (That's me in the pram with Dad in 1940) We lived at Lorne Cottage (121 Badshot Lea Road) in very cramped conditions. Mum and Dad had the front bedroom, while my neurotic grandmother shared a room with my spinster aunt. Grandad had to make do with a very small bedroom at the back. When Grannie died, I went in to see her laid out in the front parlour.

Like many Victorian cottages in the village, the house had an outside lavatory and a cold tap in the scullery. The water was heated in a copper by a fire underneath when required on bath days. Although we had gas lighting downstairs and a gas cooker, there was no lighting upstairs except for oil lamps and candles. When it was cold our bedroom had an oil stove, whose vents cast a pattern of light on the ceiling. My brother, Alan, was born on 19th April 1940, and Mother said he must be born before midnight, so he did not share a birthday with Hitler!

My paternal grandmother, who was almost blind, lived in Lower Weybourne Lane. She sat by the fire, with a ticking clock on the mantel piece, and always seemed to know who it was that came in before they spoke. Grandfather Hewins had also been a Sapper, who suffered in the Great War from mental issues and malaria. He had been awarded a disability pension, and worked as a carpenter. The pension was taken away just before he dropped dead working on the new council houses at Weybourne in 1923. The family remained very bitter about it

Although Badshot Lea was predominantly working class, there had been a keen crusading religious campaign in the 1900s, resulting in the building of St George's Church and a new Primitive Methodist Church by 1903 within six months of each other. In 1919 the denominations argued over the siting of the war memorial. The school wall was the agreed compromise. At an early age my brother and I were sent to the well-attended C of E Sunday School, but with no lasting results. Sadly, I remember very little about it, except that we collected





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The Badshot Leader - cont

attendance stamps, and were amused by Revd Comeley's bald head. The Sunday School superintendent was Annie Bright (above), and every year she arranged "treats" for the children. lay-preacher uncle, Jack Hewins, mixing cement for repairs at the chapel. Jack was very involved in the temperance movement, and because of his pacifist beliefs, he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps in WW2, and was mentioned in dispatches.

When war was declared, Dad went to France with the BEF, but as an old sweat he was posted back to the UK to help with training new recruits. My other uncle, Jack (Pearl), was not so lucky, and at Dunkirk he tied his boots round his neck and swam out to be picked up.

When the Home Guard was formed Mr Rankine, the school's headteacher, became captain of the Badshot Lea Platoon. The wags said their main job was to keep animals off the cricket pitch. On Sunday mornings I watched a section of the Home Guard as they paraded in Orchard Road for drill. They always finished at 12 noon, when the Working Men's Club opened.



Captain Rankine with No 4 Platoon, B Company, 2nd Surrey Battalion, Home Guard.

Dad went back to France on D plus 8, and his Field Company was employed in rebuilding blown-up bridges. I don't think that in 28 years as a soldier he saw a shot fired in anger.

I started in the infants' department at the village school in 1943, and on the first day I ran home at dinner time. However, I soon settled in with my first teacher, Mrs Carter, who later as Mrs Jackson taught at St Andrews with my wife. In her opinion, Badshot Lea kids were rather inbred and thick! The Head of Infants, Miss Ann Coleman, was an exceptional lady, who lived to be 109, she flew on Concord at 105. My fuzzy memories of her class include playing in a percussion band, a large Noah's ark and dancing round a maypole, a tradition continued at the school today.

The Badshot Leader—cont

Billy Rankine was still Head of the “Big School” during my first term there, until he retired in 1945, to be succeeded by Mr Finbow. The school was at the time divided into four “Houses” - Churchill, Tedder, Montgomery and Cunningham. I hated school dinners, but corned beef, mashed potatoes and beetroot was the best. The smell of school milk left in the sun made me feel sick. Boys and girls had separate playgrounds, and we were marched into class.

I have some other memories of the later part of the war. The Canadian troops billeted in Aldershot took us kids in lorries to a Christmas party in their camp. The boys were given wooden toys. In the build up to D-Day there were a lot of troop movements and I was fascinated by the “little tanks” (tracked Bren-gun carriers), which raced through the village. One hit the corner shop. I can also remember hiding under the stairs among fruit in kilner jars during an air raid. This was probably when the railway at Tongham was bombed.

However, the things I can most vividly remember were the V1 “Doodlebugs”. By the time they started I was still at the Infants’ School. One day I was returning to my classroom after a visit to the outside toilet beyond the playground when the air raid siren went. The whole school ran towards me, turned me round and we headed for the shelters. The V1 crashed onto a private school, The Oaks, in Eggars Hill. Fortunately, nobody was hurt, but another flying bomb wrecked Sandy Farm at The Sands. Another time I was with my mother near Weybourne Recreation Ground. We heard the throb, throb of a doodlebug, and then its engine cut out. We sheltered under an oak tree, and heard the explosion from the direction of Crooksbury.

One day Dad came home on leave with an illicit sack of sugar. Mum was terrified and told him it couldn’t stay in the house. I think we were the only family who didn’t get an extra ration!

During the V.E. celebrations there was a large bonfire on The Green. I well remember it, because Grandad contributed my favourite block of wood, in which I used to hammer nails, to the fire. The burnt patch was re-used for a fire made from hop bines on V.J. Day. My Uncle Burt, who was in the RAF, provided some signal rockets. When the first fireworks were available after the war, Hoyes, the newsagent, rationed them, so every family had a fair chance. A similar thing happened with the first delivery of bananas.

The Badshot Leader—cont



Although the Farnham hop-picking industry was in terminal decline, our family were regular pickers for Alan Tice at Runfold Farm. Our fellow hop-pickers were mostly from Badshot Lea, and there were certainly a few rough diamonds among the ladies who frequented the Working Men's Club. There was always a matriarch at the head of each family who controlled the row and picked into "the bin". This was a seven-bushel wicker basket with

graduations' used by the tallyman, who twice daily logged the volume of picked hops. We got about 8d to 10d per bushel.

For the children a most important job was to queue for hot lardy cakes from Runfold bakery. To this day I can conjure up the taste of these cholesterol-laden cakes eaten from bitter hop-stained fingers. The photo shows my brother, Alan with our Aunt May.

When the day's quota was picked, Bill Bright, the tallyman, called "no more bines", which was followed by the sound of crashes as the ladies grabbed a few extra hops. Then the last hops were measured and tipped into surplices (large yellow sacks, which held 14 bushels). They were taken on horse-drawn waggons to the kiln, and winched up to the second floor to be dried overnight. The air smelt of sulphur which was used to fumigate the hops.

Inevitably, the children soon got tired of picking hops, and went off to make bows and arrows with coir hop string and sticks cut from the hedgerow. (Most kids had a knife of some sort in those days.) Some of the braver boys climbed onto the disused Tongham to Farnham Railway line to play in some old trucks. Passenger services had been discontinued before the war, and that line was then only used as a siding.



There was one old chap, called Frank Sawkins, who was a carter and champion ploughman (see photo on the left). He certainly looked the part in battered trilby hat and corduroy trouser, with "yorks" (straps) worn below the knee. (to keep the rats out, or his ferrets in?) The pole pullers helped

The Bishop Sumner Educational Foundation

Bishop Sumner was Bishop of Winchester from 1827 until 1869. As was his wish, after his death in 1874, he was buried in the churchyard at St John's. He is remembered especially for his interest in education.

The Bishop Sumner Educational Foundation (BSEF) was established by the investment of the parish share of the proceeds from the sale of the local church school. The fund is intended to assist with the education of individual students under the age of 25 whose residence is within the bounds of the ancient parish of Farnham, with priority for the ecclesiastical parish of Hale.

Previous grants have assisted young people with academic, sporting, musical and organisational pursuits.

Inevitably the purchasing power of grants able to be made each year has diminished, and the trustees suggest that successful recipients of help, who have become established in a career or others in the community, may wish to assist the fund.

Donations to the BSEF would be especially welcome and would enable the board to help future students who will face ever-increasing costs.

For further information follow the link below

<https://badshotleaandhale.org/the-bishop-sumner-educational-foundation/>

Email: bishop.sumner@gmail.com

Telephone: 07807 881311

Thank you— June Jasper— Secretary to the trustees

Quarterly Magazine

This year we have moved to a quarterly magazine with issues published approximately as follows:

Spring (March)

Summer (June)

Autumn (September)

Winter (December)

The Badshot Leader—cont

load his waggon, before Frank drove it to the kiln. I don't know how he upset certain of the club ladies, but one year on the last day of picking they chased him round the rows and threatened to de-bag him.

The Working Men's Club, which is still going strong today, was a key social centre of the village, and to be on one of their coach parties to the seaside was an experience to remember. With crates of brown ale safely on board, there was usually a comfort stop by the roadside at Butser, with men to the right, ladies to the left among the bushes, and then on to Pompey.

On the way home there was invariably a sing-song at the back. Although my mother disapproved of some words, it never got beyond "Roll me over in the clover". Yes, distant memories of a long past world. Many of the Badshot Lea "Dockers" (named after Badshot Lea



Docks, a pond at the northern end of the village) sometimes seemed a rough bunch, and many aged before their time. But they all knew each other and Badshot Lea then was a community in the best sense. If anyone was in trouble there was always someone to step up and help.

My generation was probably the last to experience the simple experiences of country traditions and games. At harvest time we played hide-and-seek inside stooks of golden wheat. If you separated the grains from the chaff in your hand and chewed them they made an excellent form of chewing gum. We made peashooters from Cow Parsley, firing a mouthful of May buds at each other, and putting itching powder made from rose hips down the girls' necks. Then in-season conkers were a favourite playground activity, and there were variations of a game rolling marbles and flicking cigarette cards at targets set up against the school wall. Yes, there was hardship, but the good memories are the ones that remain.

Maurice Hewin



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

Friday 19 June, 7.30 pm: *Invitation to the Dance* – at the Aldridge Theatre, Frensham Heights School

A glorious, light-filled introduction to the joy and precision of Baroque movement by the London Handel Players and Baroque dancers Mary Collins and Steven Player, with an informal dance workshop after the performance.

Saturday 20 June, 7.30 pm: *Bach's sublime Easter Oratorio and his moving Cantata*

BWV 21, Ich hatte viel Bekümmernis - at All Saints Church, Tilford

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Sunday 21 June, 7 pm – *The Joy of Baroque, in association with Conservatoire Concerts CIO* – at Godalming Baptist Church

Celebrate the "Joy of Baroque" with works by Corelli, Leclair, Bach, Geminiani, Vivaldi and others, played by the next generation of virtuosi.

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

Bluebells and bilberries

Pollinator Patch with Juliet from Hive Helpers



The Spanish bluebells (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*) and hybrids are flowering as I write this, but our lovely native bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is somewhat slower to appear in the woodlands which are their favoured habitat. But I recently saw a stunning blue circle of them around a magnolia in bloom, in the grounds of the Alice Holt Research Station, brought on, no doubt, by the warm weather in early April. The deep blue of the native bluebell is incomparable, quite unlike the paler blue of the Spanish impostors. There are also other differences. The native bluebell has narrower leaves and flowers on one side of its drooping stem, with a lovely sweet scent. The Spanish bluebell, by contrast, has broader leaves, flowers all around the stem, has an upright habit and no smell at all.

Incidentally, I found out from the Wildlife Trust's website that the bluebell's Latin name, *Hyacinthoides*, comes from a Greek myth. Apparently when the Prince Hyacinthus died, the tears of the god Apollo spelled the word 'alas' on the petals of the hyacinth flower that sprang up from his blood. *Non-scripta* means unlettered and distinguishes the bluebell from the similar-looking hyacinth. I'd always wondered what that bit of the name meant, and now I know!

Bilberries (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) also flower around the same time, and like the bluebells, they are early this year. They are plentiful in Bourne Wood, also straying into next-door Farnham Heath, and unlike the bluebells, are somewhat inconspicuous. Look closer though,

Environment

and you will see tiny lantern-shaped pinky-red flowers. You will also see bumblebees pollinating the flowers to produce the crop of tiny blue-black berries which can be made into jams, pies and liqueurs – if you have the patience to pick enough!

Pollinator plant of the month – Red dead-nettle

Red dead-nettle (*Lamium purpureum*) is one of those plants (weeds?) you see everywhere but perhaps don't appreciate its value to pollinators. Its pinky-red hooded flowers appear from March to October, and like yellow archangel and other members of the dead nettle family, it doesn't have stinging leaves. Its flowers are visited by lots of different species of long-tongued insects, including the red mason bee and bumblebee species. The caterpillars of garden tiger, white ermine and angle shades moths feed on the leaves. I am leaving it in my garden, as it doesn't seem invasive, along with the yellow archangel (which definitely is!).

Wild bee of the month – Red tailed bumblebee

I am featuring the red-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lapidarius*) this

month as it seems to have made a comeback since its numbers dropped dramatically in 2024. We spotted a beauty on our first Bee Safari on the Farnham Bee Trail last month. With its big red tail and black body, it is very easy to spot! The queen emerges in early spring and looks for a place to nest and lay her eggs. The first workers appear about six weeks after the nest is established, and the species can be seen up till the end of September. They have a medium-length tongue, and feed on a range of flowers such as dandelions, knapweed and lavender.

No Mow May

Are you going to embrace Plantlife's annual campaign and put the lawnmower away this May? It's one of the easiest ways to help the environment, letting wildflowers like daisies, dandelions and clovers grow to support bees and butterflies. You'll be amazed at what comes up! For maximum wildlife benefit, you could carry on until the end of August, at least for a part of your patch.

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

Summer thoughts in spring

I had almost forgotten that I had agreed to write this column. Perhaps, as I age, I am becoming more forgetful, just as The Former Curate (now called something else but always a warm lap to me) forgets to feed me. My bowl is empty – weep for me.

As I write, the sun is shining and there are patches of warmth to snooze in, but the wind is harsh. It is still April – just as vets get younger these days, so deadlines get earlier – and, as TS Eliot wrote, ‘April is the cruellest month’. I like Eliot. He wrote *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* which should be required reading for all humans. Don't think you can get away with watching the musical which inspired it. That is as nothing to the book.

‘April is the cruellest month’ is the opening line of *The Waste Land* which he wrote more than 100 years ago, before even I was born, and I am a very old (and wise, obvs) lady. It was written just after World War I when old hopes had died and the idea of spring rejuvenation seemed a cruel mockery. Once again, 100+ years on and always up-to-date with the news, I wonder at humans, forever plunging into, or teetering on the brink of, wars which they know will bring devastation. Once again, I wonder: why can't humans be more like cats?

True, we cats have a few scraps but

that is just to maintain the natural order. I, for instance, am the Matriarch and occasionally must insist my underlings behave. And I need to remind my humans to feed me and to tell them when I have had sufficient cuddling. But beyond that, we mostly have our lives sorted and don't see the point of disrupting them. We have domesticated



humans to care for us, we do a bit of hunting and mating in our early years, and then we like to sleep in warm places, eat, watch the world go by and appreciate the good things.

There are lots of good things to enjoy as summer approaches. The natural world with its small creatures, flowers, warm earth and sunlight. And the wind, when it blows, does not chill. I know that my readers, on the whole, are not in charge of international politics and can't stop bombing and guns, but maybe you can bring a bit of cat wisdom to your own areas of influence.

So I say: please, humans, step back from the brink of any conflict, however small. Pause, breathe, and enjoy the world for a moment. It's worth it. .

Spring has Sprung

It is about a year since we made the move down south to the Parish of Badshot Lea & Hale - my humans have been very reflective in remembering this big move! Changes in environment can be daunting for the best of us - but I settled fairly quickly once my familiar bed and toys were unpacked and I'd explored all the perimeters of the garden. It's funny how quickly somewhere can feel like home!

In recent parish news - the Church Fete is set to be a welcoming affair to creatures big and small in the Pet Show. Last year, there were some fantastic prizes including salad and veggies for the smaller vegetarians amongst us. I wonder if they'll bring carrots this year? My humans have started growing some vegetables and I am keeping a close eye on carrots... mostly as there are many pesky squirrels here who like digging!

Alongside the squirrels we have seen deer, foxes and their babies, red kites, jays and even some field voles up at the park. I mostly enjoy



the little reminders that we are sharing our earth with others - I'm less keen on the postman, but luckily my hearing is going in my older age. But this sentiment remains - what a beautiful corner of the world I've found myself in, and what lovely creatures we share it with!

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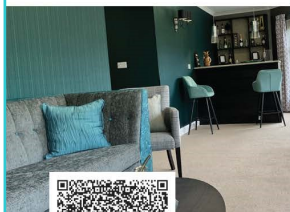
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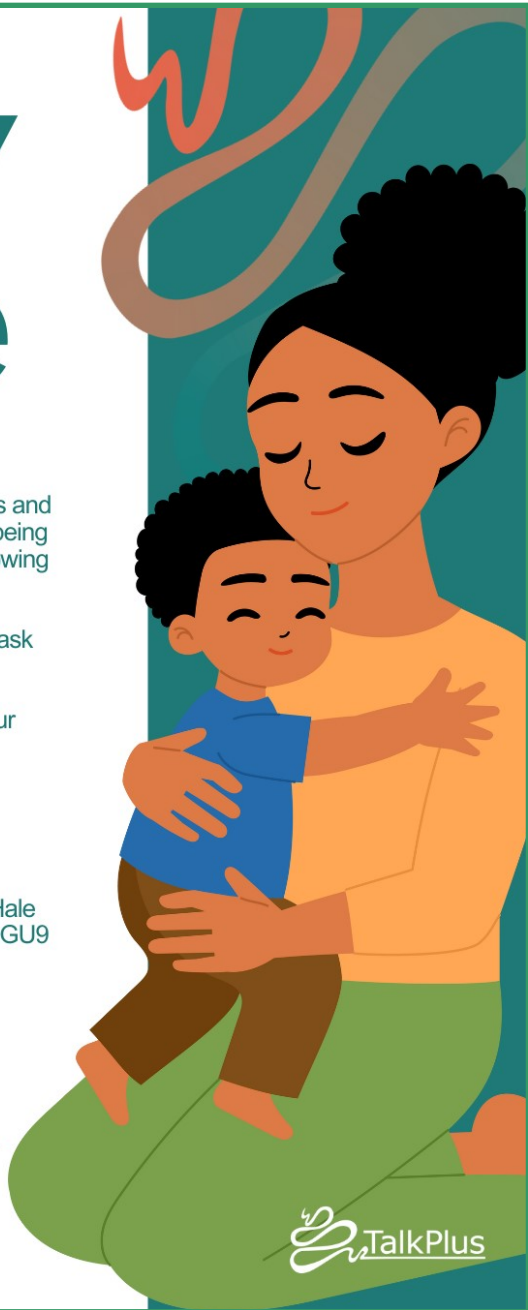
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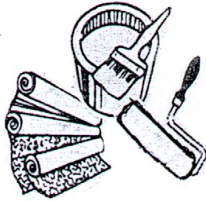
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Social events - Dates for the diary

We still have lots of fun stuff happening in the parish in 2026, as well as 2 Craft Fairs at St Mark's Church. Please get the dates in your diary and come along and enjoy!!

If you can offer any help with running any of the events, please let Kris know:

warden.stgeorges@badshotleaandhale.org

Date	Event	Date	Event
Sat 13 th June	Parish Fete	Sat Aug Date TBC	BBQ and Top 10 school day favourites
Sat 11 th July	Musical afternoon in tribute to Carolyn Weston. Funds to Christian Aid	Sun 23 rd Aug	Service at the Kiln rounders and picnic after the service
Sat 12 th Sept	Autumn Craft afternoon	Sat 12 th Oct	Harvest Supper
Mon Nov Date TBC	Badshot Lea Light Switch-on	Fri – Sun 4 th – 6 th Dec	Christmas Tree Festival

CONTACT US - REV. LEXI RUSSELL 07792233477
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Services Across the Parish

Regular Sunday communion

Normally communion services with occasional no-communion Service of the Word:

St John's Church, 9:30am





St George's Church, 10:30am

St Mark's Church, 11:00am

Except the monthly United Parish Service, see details below.

Note from September, the United Parish Service will be on the **1st Sunday Monthly**

In addition to our weekly communion services held on Sunday mornings, we have the following services that you might like to come and enjoy.

Date	Event	Details
4 th Sunday monthly		United Parish Service Celebrating communion together as a whole parish once a month. June 28 th at St John's Church July 26 th at St Mark's Church August 23 rd at Badshot Lea Kiln
3pm 1 st and 3 rd Sundays monthly		Trinity – at St George's Church A more informal and contemporary form of worship with modern worship music. Everyone is welcome to come and join us!
9:30am 2 nd & 4 th Sundays monthly		Bubble Church – at St George's Church A short 30-minute service especially for families with young children, but everyone is very welcome. Come and join us for a puppet packed, Jesus centred, coffee and food fuelled service!
12noon Wednesdays		Midweek communion – at St Mark's Church Take some time out in the middle of the week for a communion service.