

# **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARDWICK and WEEDON**

St. Mary's Parish Church  
Weedon Methodist Chapel



**May 2025**

Parish Magazine and Village Newsletter

## ***Dear Friends***

I can remember the excitement of walking my daughter down the aisle. Previously I have presided over any number of weddings, offered words of guidance to the person supporting a bride on her great day, but never really considered the emotions involved. The last few minutes that Fran and I had alone after everyone else had gone off to the church were incredible, as we chatted, hugged, and looked forward to the rest of the day. I thought I was quite composed until the music started and we began our slow amble towards the front. The whole day was delightful, I confess that I blubbed at the end of my speech, and there was a real undercurrent of joy seeping into all parts of the experience. It was a day to remember.

Of course, it took me back to my own wedding day when, as I recall, the bride was late not because she was trying to conform to convention but because the bridal car had to reverse because somebody else was unwilling to give way on a narrow piece of road. I can still recall the excitement and the joyful participation of our family and friends on our great day.

The days when joy bubbles forth are amongst the most spectacular in life. There is something that is much more than happiness, which is a fleeting emotion, someone tells a joke and you laugh, you are happy but that feeling can easily dissipate. Joy is something that has much deeper roots, it is a foundational thing, it can easily surprise us at those times when we just pause and realise how fortunate, how blessed we are. It can come to prominence when looking out at a stunning vista, when those important to us are close or when memories surface and they weave their influence. Occasionally when we are at our saddest, at our most vulnerable it is the legacy of joy that warms our heart and provides the strength to carry on.

The Christian season of Easter is one of joy as the church responds to the good news of resurrection. It is hopefully a time when in worship as in life joy is palpable. For us in the northern hemisphere it coincides with spring and all the signs of new life from lambs gambolling into the field to the array of colours that spring flowers can bring. The drudgery of winter has passed, the warmth of the sun is more evident and it feels like we all gain a renewed spring in our step. Joy abounds!

So, my encouragement to us all is to allow our memories to do one

of the things that they do best and to replay something of those moments that are hugely significant for us, when we have felt special, when joy is tangible. There are so many things that this could be; for some it will be moments involving sport, or music, or family - there is a whole range of possibilities. These times are of such great importance and it's important to give them a regular airing so that they can release their benefit and offer us something of a reminder for the most positive times there have been on our journey of life.

Dotted around our house are any number of portals to joy, photographs, reminders of those who are important to us who have gone before us, signs of who and what have enriched our lives, from the scrapbooks that our children made on holidays when they were young, to things inherited from those who have gone.

Memories that bring joy to our hearts may bring smiles, but also tears. For Christians, Easter is a time to celebrate the victory of love that is at the heart of our faith. For all of us this time of year, as we emerge from the struggles of winter, with all its buoyancy and excitement, speaks of Life and colour re-emerging, reminding us of the joys of life. Maybe this is a time for us to pause, to reconnect and allow joy to refresh us.

## ***Blessings***

***Richard***

## **Community notes**

THANK YOU to Peter, Ray and Steve, for giving me their unwanted stone, sand and cement, so repairs could be made to the stone wall along the top end of the High Street in Weedon. The Village Community Spirit continues!

Clare Macdonald

## **Churches Together in Hardwick and Weedon**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

*At 9.00 a.m. in St. Mary's Parish Church*

**Rev. Richard Atkinson** will lead a Holy Communion Service

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

*At 9.30 a.m. in The Weedon Methodist Chapel*

**Rev. Richard Atkinson** will lead a Family Communion Service  
all children welcome

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

*At 9.30 a.m. in St. Mary's Parish Church*

**Rev. Janet Bayly** will lead a Holy Communion Service

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

*At 9.00 a.m. in St. Mary's Parish Church*

**Rev. Richard Atkinson** will lead a Holy Communion Service

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025**

*At 9.00 a.m. in St. Mary's Parish Church*

**Rev. Richard Atkinson** will lead a Holy Communion Service

# CHURCH DUTIES ROTA MAY 2025

CHURCH DUTIES ROTA MAY					
Date	Sidesperson	Reading NRSV	Reader	Prayers	Teas & Coffees
May 4	Sue	Revelation 5.11-14	Tony	Sarah	Sue & Tony
May 11	WEEDON CHAPEL				
May 18	Alison	Revelation 21.1-6	Margaret A.	Stan	Alison & Stan
May 25	Martin	Revelation 21.10,22 - 22.5	Carol	Debs	Carol & Martin


  
**IN MEMORIAM – MAY**
  


William Bush	1982	
Anthony Rugge-Price	1997	
Mary Ming	2003	
Mary Rugge-Price	2010	
Zena Dickins	2015	
David Dickins	2020	
Jean Kent	2020	
Peter Best	2020	
Amanda Tofield	2024	

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith – 2 Timothy 4:7*
  


# WEEDON OLD SCHOOLROOM

Weedon Village Association  
and  
Weedon Old Schoolroom  
present a special Cafe in May  
to commemorate the  
80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
Victory in Europe Day

- Barney •
- Music •
- Special decorated cakes •
- Display of photos from 1945 •

*The Schoolroom Cafe*  
WEEDON  
**80**  
**VE DAY**

Friday 10.30 am to 12 noon  
May 2nd

The Schoolroom Cafe  
is normally on the  
**FIRST FRIDAY** in each  
month

Freshly brewed coffee & the  
Home baked cakes & cookies  
including gluten free  
Eat in or takeaway  
Pay with cash or card

Book Swap Corner  
... bring one to take one ...

## TUESDAY CLUB WEEDON

This month's meeting is on

**Tuesday May 13th at 8pm**  
in Weedon Old Schoolroom

The excellent speaker Mr. Andrew McCarthy will talk on:  
“**Creating a Wild Haven with Wildflowers**”

Non members most welcome at £5.

We look forward to seeing you.

Please contact Judy Nagele on 01296 641278 for more details.

**Deadline for June Magazine**

**End of Friday May 16th**

# Café Club Zest

## May is here!

Bye-bye April showers, bring May flowers

Join us for an afternoon of singing, friendly conversation and a delicious afternoon tea. Zest is a welcoming, dementia friendly club, open to all, but especially those who don't get out much or maybe are not as active as they once were for whatever reason.



Next meetings: May 3<sup>rd</sup> and June 7<sup>th</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup> 2025  
2.30pm at St John's Hall, Whitchurch  
Contact Linda 01296 641540 for more information or to arrange transport



God of all compassion and unity, we give thanks for the life and witness of **Pope Francis**, servant of your Church and voice for the poor and the broken-hearted. We honour his faith, his gentleness, and his longing for a world of mercy, justice, and simplicity.

Receive him now into your eternal embrace. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Comfort those who mourn his passing, especially our brothers and sisters in the Roman Catholic Church, and unite us all in love as fellow followers of Christ.

We give thanks to our Tower Captain at St Mary's – David Body – for tolling the tenor bell 88

times during the Pope's funeral on 26<sup>th</sup> April in a show of Christian harmony.



WEEDON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

# OPEN GARDENS

This year a beautiful selection of gardens in the centre of the village along the High Street are going to be open, starting at Manor Farmhouse and finishing at Chestnuts Farm, where delicious homemade cream teas with scones and cakes will be served

Entry is free but there will be a donation box for two local charities: the Florence Nightingale hospice, Buckingham and Horatio's Garden, Stoke Mandeville and any contributions would be greatly appreciated.

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**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

**3:00 - 5:30 PM**

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# Weedon & Hardwick Village Show on 6th Sept

*The following is part of the schedule for the annual Village Show, this year being held on 6th September. This extract will hopefully give you time to grow and make your entries in good time. The full schedule will be published in this magazine next month.*

## **Vegetables**

2 classes Potatoes

Runner Beans

Any other Bean

Courgette

2 classes of tomatoes

Cherry Tomatoes

2 Carrots

2 any other root vegetable

2 any other vegetable

Selection of different salad veg

## **Crafts**

Any needlework, tapestry, embroidery or cross-stitch

Any knitted item

Collage - any material

Any item of clothing made from material

Any carving using wood, soap, or cake



HARDWICK  
**Open  
Gardens**

**Sunday 18th May 2025**  
**2pm - 5pm**

Tea & coffee available  
for a donation.

Pop by John Bridles Hall for a map.

All proceeds will be donated to Florence Nightingale Hospice

**Hardwick with Weedon**  
**Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025**

Is at **7pm** in St Mary's Church, Hardwick on  
**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

Please come along to find out more about what's  
happening at your church.

If you would like to join the committee or be nominated for  
an office or just be added to the church electoral roll,  
please advise Helen McIntyre: [helsmcintyre@gmail.com](mailto:helsmcintyre@gmail.com) or  
Sarah Gibbs: [sarahgibbshome@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgibbshome@gmail.com)



## WEEDON PARISH ANNUAL MEETINGS

May is the month for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. They sound so similar, but they have different purposes.

### Weedon Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm Old Schoolroom

The **Annual Parish Meeting** is not a council meeting. It is a meeting of the parish electors, taking place between 1 March and 1 June. Attending electors can all participate in debate about current issues in the community. In Weedon, we usually invite local organisations to present reports on their activities. So instead of attending several different AGMs, you can come to just one!

### Annual Meeting of Weedon Parish Council Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm Old Schoolroom

At the **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**, councillors consider their usual full agenda, as well as reviewing the annual accounts and governance documents such as Financial Regulations and Standing Orders. This is the first meeting after the local elections, where 6 parish councillors were elected uncontested for a 4-year term. The 7<sup>th</sup> councillor place will be filled by co-option as soon as possible. As with all parish council meetings, this meeting is open to the public. However, only councillors can participate in debate on agenda items, except in the Open Forum, when residents are invited to contribute freely.

**WEEDON'S PARISH COUNCILLORS WELCOME YOU TO EITHER OR BOTH OF THESE MEETINGS.**



# Whitchurch Combined School

Growing Today, Ready for Tomorrow

## Improving Road Safety

Whitchurch Combined School is taking great steps to improve road safety! The addition of eight parking buddies will serve as a strong visual reminder for parents and other drivers to park more considerately, helping to keep the area around the school safer for children. A big thank you to Mrs. Law of the PTA for organising the buddies and to Montage Marketing Agency, Oving Logs, Hampden Equine, The White Swan Pub, Cousins Garage and the PTA for sponsoring them. Here is Eliza, Jessie, Hannah, Annabelle and Rebecca with the new parking buddies outside school, ready for after the Easter break!



Email: [office@whitchurch.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@whitchurch.bucks.sch.uk) Telephone: 01296 641418

Come and join us for a game of



# Whist

**New venue: WEEDON SCHOOL ROOM**

May 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> starting 2.00 pm, £4 per person

Come and join us for a friendly game of whist, coffee & biscuits.

Everybody's welcome,

If you don't know how to play don't worry, we can teach you.



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Foodbank Collection last month. We had a car full of groceries and the Aylesbury Vineyard Storehouse was extremely pleased.

Look out for notices of the next collection weekend. More info on the Storehouse in this link:

<https://aylesburyvineyard.church/storehouse>

# Wild Weedon



*The Weedon Wildlife Group aims to protect and promote wildlife in and around Weedon and Hardwick*

No Mow May always attracts a bit of media attention and in principle it's a good idea to help out our garden wildlife.

This month, Wild Weedon is focusing on wildlife friendly gardens and we kick off with a talk by Andrew McCarthy on 'Creating a Wild Haven with Wildflowers', at the Tuesday Club in the Old Schoolroom on 13 May at 8pm. This will be followed by the launch of our Wildlife Friendly Garden recognition scheme.

While we are surrounded by countryside our gardens are havens for wild flowers, pollinators, hedgehogs, birds and of course visiting foxes. We can all help by leaving some areas untidy with grass allowed to grow long, piles of sticks for insect nests and of course thick hedges for the birds to nest in.

Blackbirds and Robins have already produced their first broods and the Tits are sitting on eggs. Ducklings have been seen already and while not in the village, I've heard my first Cuckoo not far away. The Swallows are back too although they seem a little later than usual by maybe a fortnight. Sit back, let nature do its thing and enjoy watching Spring unfold.

Please post photos to our Facebook site or put sightings on the Wild Weedon website: [www.wildweedon.org.uk](http://www.wildweedon.org.uk) and select Sightings from the menu so we can track the progress of spring.

If you've any ideas for Wild Weedon projects in the coming year just contact us at [contact@wildweedon.org.uk](mailto:contact@wildweedon.org.uk) .



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# WEEDON OLD SCHOOLROOM

## available for hire

The Old Schoolroom is available for community, group or personal bookings, including parties. Full of historical character and atmosphere, but equipped with all up-to-date facilities, it's suitable for a wide range of activities. Fibre broadband wifi is provided free.

The upstairs meeting room is keenly priced and ideal for small groups. We're going for green and clean energy at the hall! We have replaced the oil boiler with electric, and our supply is all from renewables.

Interested in hiring?

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Text 07909 143960



## Reader's thoughts

The home fans at Twickers singing "Swing low sweet chariot". I know this has long been a Twickenham anthem, but it is still odd. This is an African American spiritual song, which actually refers to the heavenly life with Jesus after death. But of course the England fans never get beyond the first two lines, so they don't get to the peroration:

"The brightest day that I can say // When Jesus washed my sins away. If you get there before I do // Tell my friends I'm coming there too."

These are moving words, especially in the context of their origin with the racially oppressed of the southern states of the US., whose hope for a better life in the beyond was sustained by an intense Christian Religiosity.

There is not something quite right about its amputated version's application – mostly in complete ignorance – to the outcome of a sporting event. Of course this is encouraged by Twickenham's management, who flash up the chorus line on their giant screens.



We are lucky in our village to have a fabulous village hall that is available for hire. It has seen many birthday parties, club meetings, games nights, pantomimes and quiz nights. It is a great space for entertaining with a large hall area and a smaller section at the back that can be closed off.

There are two toilets (including a disabled toilet and access) and a well equipped kitchen. It also has a fenced hard standing court yard and a stones throw away from the small village green with a slide and swing.

Hall hire is £10.00 per hour before 6pm or £20.00 per hour after 6pm

To book the hall please contact Rosalie on 07846544884 or email [hardwickvillagebucks@outlook.com](mailto:hardwickvillagebucks@outlook.com)

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## **WEEDON Golf Society Texas Scramble**

### **Match Report – Abbey Hill GC – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Our first fixture of the season was a visit to Abbey Hill GC in Milton Keynes for a team-based Texas Scramble competition as a gentle introduction to the new season for members who had not played during the winter. The day started under sullen grey skies and the omens did not look good for dry round but the sun broke through during the day and ended in glorious spring sunshine; as always, the golf was less than glorious.

Fourteen members played on the day with two 3-ball and two 4-ball teams. The competition was a team Stableford event with each team given a team handicap based on the individual handicaps of the team members; the 4-ball team handicaps were based on 85% of the gross team handicap to give parity with the 3-ball teams. Two guests joined the members: Sam Brown, a junior from Weedon introduced by Sarah Gibbs and Steve Exton, definitely not a junior and originally from Aylesbury introduced by Phil Hughes. The teams for a bottle of wine each were:

- Team 1: Lawrence Hinds, Joe Ward & Francis Habgood; handicap 18
- Team 2: Terry Curtis, Adrian Bystra & Henry Garthwaite; handicap 18
- Team 3: Myself, Peter Upperton, Margaret Askew & Jill Mitchell; handicap 21
- Team 4: Phil Hughes, Steve Exton, Sam Brown & Sarah Gibbs; handicap 19

In addition to the team event, prizes were available for nearest the pin on holes 3, 8, 12 and 17 plus a longest drive award on the 4<sup>th</sup> hole.

The team event was won by Team 4 (PH, SE, SB & SG) with 60 points, Team 3 (JJ, PU, MA and JM) was second on 58 points, Team 1 (LH, JW & FH) was third on 56 points with Team 2 (TC, AB & HG) was fourth on 54 points. Team 1 members were duly rewarded with a bottle of wine each for their endeavours.

In a surprising turn of events, Peter Upperton won the longest drive and a bottle of wine as the Society's longest hitters Phil Hughes and Terry Curtis unable to find the 4<sup>th</sup> fairway! None of the 14 players could find the green on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> holes but Joe Ward was nearest pin on the 12<sup>th</sup> hole and I was nearest on the 17<sup>th</sup> and we each received a sleeve of balls.

As the first event was solely a team competition, no individual handicap adjustments will be applied after this event but, as ever, please note that the assessment of WGS individual handicaps is not a democracy and there is no right of appeal.

Our next regular fixture is at Kirtlington GC (OX5 3JY) on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May when we will have an individual competition for the Weedon Shield and a concurrent team competition.

Yours not sincerely at all,

**John Jones**

**Handicap Secretary, Weedon Golf Society**

## WEEDON Golf Society Texas Scramble

### Match Report – Abbey Hill GC – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Thurs 10 April 2025 Abbey Hill GC TEXAS SCRAMBLE					
Players	H/Ca p	Main Event Points	Second. Event Points	H/Cap adjust.	New H/Cap
Margaret Askew	43	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Adrian Bystra	27	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Terry Curtis	14	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Henry Garthwaite	28	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sarah Gibbs	45	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Francis Hagood	24	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lawrence Hinds	20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Phil Hughes	12	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
John Jones	20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Jill Mitchell	54	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Peter Upperton	25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Joe Ward	22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Steve Exton	28	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sam Brown	28	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Team Event	H/Ca p	Points	Teams		
Team 1	18	56	LH, JW, FH		
Team 2	18	54	TC, AB, HG		
Team 3	25	58	JJ, PU, MA, JM		
Team 4	22	60	PH, SE, SB, SG		
Event	Prize		Winners	No off	
Team	Bottle of wine each		PH, SE, SB, SG	4	
Nearest Pin 3rd	Sleeve of balls		N/A	0	
Nearest Pin 8th	Sleeve of balls		N/A	0	
Nearest Pin 12th	Sleeve of balls		JW	1	
Nearest Pin 17th	Sleeve of balls		JJ	1	
Longest drive 4th	Bottle of wine		PU	1	
NB- Prizes normally limited to one prize per player					



WHITCHURCH  
COMBINED SCHOOL

Governor Vacancy

*Join our Board of Governors as a Governor to build on our achievements and help transform lives through learning.*

Do you have **enthusiasm, commitment** and an interest in education?  
Do you know someone in the community who would enjoy the role?  
You don't need any teaching experience. It is useful to bring skills from other areas of your life.

*Do you have experience in education, communication, business, community initiatives, finance or are you an exciting entrepreneur who wishes to give your skills and expertise to a worthwhile cause?*

You will need to attend a governors' meeting each half term. You will also join one of the sub-committees - these cover different areas like the curriculum, finance or buildings. You will need to be able to work well in a team, as you'll be making joint decisions on policy.

*We offer effective induction, training and support.*

*We warmly welcome all interested people to come and talk to us.*

For further information or an informal chat please contact;

Headteacher: Mrs Mobbs or Chair of Governors: Jo Dallas

Closing Date: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

School office: 01296 641418

*Safeguarding is important to us therefore a DBS check will be carried out.*

# Hardwick Short Mat Bowls Club

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## Gardener's Corner

### Jobs to do in the garden for May

- Prune spring shrubs, such as forsythia and chaenomeles, after flowering to keep them compact
- Tie in the new shoots of climbing plants, including clematis, wisteria and honeysuckle, to their supports
- Plant up hanging baskets, but keep in a greenhouse or porch for a few weeks to establish, before putting outside
- Harden off tender plants raised indoors, but bring them back in at night to protect from late frosts
- Pinch out the shoot tips of bedding plants and young annuals, such as fuchsias, to encourage bushier growth
- Earth up potatoes, covering the shoots with soil as they appear
- Start sowing dwarf and climbing French beans, as well as runner beans, directly outdoors in warm weather
- Pick rhubarb stems as they develop, and water plants with liquid feed
- Open fruit cage doors or lift some of the netting to ensure pollinating insects can get access to the flowers
- Transplant tomatoes into growing bags or large pots, and tie their main stem to a cane or vertical wire for support
- Repot any houseplants that have become top heavy or pot bound into larger containers
- Start feeding houseplants once a week with liquid fertiliser, continuing through to autumn
- Scoop out pondweed, blanketweed and algae from ponds and water features
- Check shrubs for nests before you start any pruning, to avoid disturbing nesting birds
- Put supports in place for clumps of perennials that are prone to flopping, such as top-heavy peonies or phlox

Andrew McCarthy - Head Gardener, Lilies



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## Bespoke Baking in the Heart of Buckinghamshire

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All our cakes are made to order, and I love a good baking challenge.



### *Little Delights*

*Bespoke Baking*

Emma Lipman

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# THE FIVE ELMS

WEEDON



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## SCHORNE TEAM OF PARISHES - SERVICES FOR MAY 2025

Date	Overborough	N. Mantua	Swanton	Wagonsville	Hartwick	Whitcomb	Oving	Qualinton	Windsor	Westcott	Windsor																																																
8-May																																																											
Easter 2	11:00 FS PE	10:00 FS DH			9:00 HC RA	11:00 FC JK	11:00 FS SF	9:30 Breakfast SF 8:00 EP SF	11:00 FC CW	9:30 FC CW																																																	
White																																																											
11-May																																																											
Easter 3	11:00 FC PE	9:30 HC PE		9:30 HC LL	9:30 Weedon RA	11:00 FC DJ	11:00 FS SF	9:30 MP SF 8:00 EP SF	11:00 MP LL		9:30 HC CW																																																
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19-May																																																											
Easter 4	11:00 FS LL	9:30 FS LL			9:30 HC JB	11:00 FC DJ	11:00 FS SF	8:00 HC SF	11:00 Conf CW																																																		
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Easter 5	10:30 Rogatio LL	Farm LL			9:00 HC RA	10:45 Meth. DJ	11:00 FC SF	9:30 MP SF 8:00 Celtic EP SF	11:00 HC JB		9:30 MP JB																																																
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