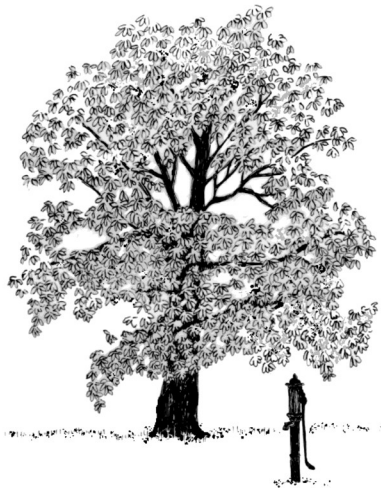




Cuddington Village Voice

February 2026

St Nicholas, Cuddington

Welcome

Worshipping God
Serving Community
Sharing Life



Services in February 2026

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1st Feb | Morning Worship, with children's activities in the Bernard Hall |
| 8th Feb | All-Age Service, with Baptism |
| 15th Feb | All-Age Holy Communion |
| 22nd Feb | Family Service |

All services are at 10.00am unless otherwise stated.

Everyone is welcome.

Every Wednesday between 9.00 and 9.20 there is a time of meditation and reflection on a Bible passage, and prayer

**ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, CUDDINGTON
INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE SHROVE
TUESDAY WITH**

PANCAKE RACING

**CUDDINGTON PLAYING FIELDS
2-4PM**

Races for all
ages from
2:30pm

bring a
frying
pan

Tea, coffee, cakes
and pancakes will
be served

All welcome -
spectators and
racers!



School News



Spring term 2026 got off to a cracking start with frozen windscreens for staff, ice and snowballs to play with at break and warm hats, coats and gloves all round. The children had been completing a Christmas reading challenge over the holidays encouraging them to read a diverse range of material from recipes to poems. 2026 is the National Year for Reading and it is never too young to start reading for pleasure to enrich lives, bring joy, knowledge and have a chance to escape into many different worlds.

Foundation class have been enjoying their 'Superheroes' topic as they received visits from local firefighters and a visit from Dr Parker who brought an ambulance for the class to see. Across the school, classes took part in the RSPB Big Bird Watch enjoying spotting different species and contributing to this nationwide project. Even on damp days the children have been outside engaging in creative and imaginative play using some of the new equipment as part of the Opal play initiative.

The way some topics are taught now are very different from when some of us were at school. This is particularly true with Maths. It is good to see that the school runs parent workshops for both infant and junior children's parents so that parents can have a clear idea of how to support and encourage them. Safeguarding has been in the news again. Our new 'Spotlight on Safeguarding' monthly newsletter is available on our website safeguarding information page. Our aim is to work in partnership with parents to help keep all children and young people safe.

Thought for the month...

Just like our Prime Minister, I got caught out in a primary school when I said 'six, seven'. The kids loved it. A ripple of laughter was accompanied by hands going up and down and then uncontrollable hilarity. I had no idea what was going on – which just added to the mirth.

The '6-7' meme has taken over the world and was identified 'word' of the year by the lexicographers of dictionary.com. But the Oxford University Press does things differently. They surveyed 5,000 young people aged between 6-14 to find their choice and the most popular choice was the word 'peace'. Those who chose it talked about the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza. Peace reflects their aspirations in the context of the harsh reality of the world we live in. As adults we need to respond to their hope.

'6-7' was their slang word of the year, but even here there were deeper motives. In itself it means nothing at all, but they chose it because it builds community. They associated it with fun, inclusivity, and friendship.

Jesus said that we should listen to the children, I agree.

Phil Groves



Introducing Revd Tracey Jones (TJ)

Navy Nurse to New Vicar

As a Navy-trained nurse, TJ worked for many years in Accident & Emergency and has seen life in all its colour and chaos and cared for those in their first moments of life and their last. She has lived in places as far-flung as Kiribati in the South Pacific, the Falklands in the South Atlantic and Gibraltar, the most southerly tip of Europe... Not to mention Cologne, Berlin and Rheindahlen.

Having returned to the UK, TJ began her ministry training with Sarum College, Salisbury and then Ripon College, Cuddesdon and served her Title Post in St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden and St Mary's Church Wexham (each very different). TJ's heart has always been for any who are struggling or who sometimes feel "on the edge" of church

life for whatever reason, whether young, older or somewhere in between. She's particularly looking forward to visiting the schools, working with 'Nearly-Adults' and being involved with people of ALL ages, serving the community.



TJ with Bishop Dave Bull at her licencing in January

Continued .pg5

The Sunshine Club calendar dates:

February

Monday 2nd February, 2.00pm
Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields
Clubhouse

Monday 16th February, 2.00pm
Sunshine Club Tea & Musical
Entertainment in the **Bernard Hall**

March

Monday 2nd March, 2.00pm
Sunshine Club Tea, Playing Fields
Clubhouse

Monday 16th March, 1.30pm
Cuddington Matinee Cinema, **Downton
Abbey: The Grand Finale'**

tinyteahouse
www.tinyteahouse.co.uk

Friday 13th February
11:00am-12:30pm
at Haddenham Community Library

Chinese Tea Tasting

Tickets on sale at the library or email
librarymanager@haddenhamcommunitylibrary.org.uk
£8 per person to include
three exquisite teas from tinyteahouse's curated selection

All proceeds raised from this event go to
support Haddenham Community Library (Registered Charity No 114386)

Celebrate Chinese New Year with us at a special Chinese Tea Ceremony.

Nailed it By Gabby

Nail Technician

Spurt St, Cuddington (next to Post Office)

Natural Gel & Biab Manicures

Gel manicure £20

French manicure £25

Plain Biab £30

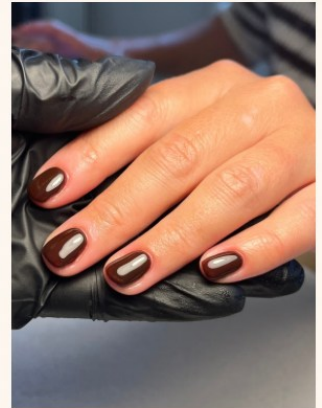
Biab with colour £33

French manicure Biab £35

Extras

Simple Nail Art (each hand) £3

Removal (each hand) £5



07547564404

Instagram & Facebook:
Nailed_It_ByGabby

Cuddington's School

These days the School is a place in which the village can take pride. However things certainly were not always so!

The curate Henry Meares wrote, "I regret to say there is no school in the village of 626 residents, the consequence of which is that a spirit of insubordination, ignorance and licentious manners prevails to a great extent". He made this lament in 1844 to the National Society which sponsored education on behalf of the Church of England.

Owing largely to the curate's initiative a village school was established a year later, but it was short lived. The single small classroom was situated off Spicketts Lane. Parents had to pay a penny a week, hence its name 'The Penny School'. Her Majesty's Inspectors reported that the room was far too full and the master in charge had to teach all ages single-handedly. In addition, the wretched construction was not sound. The single privy shared by both boys and girls was frequently filthy. This appears to have deterred some parents from sending their girls or younger children to school. Attendance fluctuated owing to frequent epidemics like measles and

whooping cough and to the cost when most family finances were severely limited.

In 1855 Cuddington's first resident vicar, Rev James Mansel Price was appointed. He and his wife frequently visited the school, soon realised that it was failing and wrote to the National Society outlining the miserable conditions and requesting funding. A Board of Trustees was established to raise funds locally which amounted to nearly £400 to add to a grant from the National Society. Mr Walter Rose of Dadbrook House provided a half acre site in Upper Church Street. The total cost of the construction of the school together with a headteacher's three bedroomed house next door, both solidly built with brick, was £650. The school was designed to provide for 70 children – the larger classroom for the older pupils and the smaller one for the infants. There were two separate entrances for boys and girls as well as a high brick wall to divide the two sexes in the playground. Separate toilet spaces in small huts for girls and boys with buckets were provided which were emptied weekly into the 'stink wagon'. Parents paid two pence per week. The Headmaster lived rent free and was paid £25 a year plus the pence the children brought.

In November 1863 the new school was opened by the Bishop of Oxford and by the end of the month a total of 80 was on the roll. Most came from Cuddington, but some walked from Chearsley and Nether Winchendon where schools had yet to be built. The school's success or failure was, of course, determined by the master's teaching skills, the pupils' attendance and their ability to master a curriculum almost entirely based on the 3 Rs, Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, with the addition of some Religious Instruction.

A typical morning's timetable in the 1870s ran:

9.00am - 9.15am Assembly with prayers and hymns.
9.15am - 9.45am Scripture
9.45am - 10.00am Mark the registers
10.00am - 10.30am Copy writing or dictation
10.30am - 10.45am Recreation in the playground
10.45am - 11.20am Reading
11.20am - 11.55am Arithmetic
11.55am - 12.00pm Tidying tables, grace and dismissal.

It was a very limited and monotonous curriculum. Not until 1879 were History and Geography added. There was no Physical Education in most primary schools at this time.

Continued page 6

YOGA

WITH ILONA

CUDDINGTON: MONDAYS 6PM
CHEARSLEY: FRIDAYS 10:45AM

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use code "First time" when you
book online
join a class or find out more:
www.yogawithilona.com



ilona@yogawithilona.com

COLIN FRANK WATTS

31-3-39 ----1-11-25

Colin, Husband, Dad, Brother, Friend. and as a Local Preacher in the Methodist Church in Cuddington and the other Aylesbury Circuit Churches. and formerly the Thame and Watlington Circuit. He was brought up to go to Church but his life changed in his late teens when his faith became real and he shared with all who would listen. Although living in Haddenham we attended The Methodist Church in Cuddington and Colin had been one of the (pillars) of the Church for the last 60years and will be missed. Maybe he served you as the Pharmacist in Thame or Chinnor. He was more than just your local Chemist serving you with your medication but he cared for people and was kind and had time for everyone. He was quiet and didn't put himself forward but was very strong and stood by his faith and Bible principals. He was a good Father to our two sons Andrew and Stephen and shared his love of sports with them . He also was a keen photographer and he and his fellow Pharmacist, Roy Sulley did a slide show set to songs e.g. "These boots were made for walking" He also had a cine-camera and loved taking films .

In the 1970's ? Colin made a video of a Cuddington Sunday school outing to Burnham Beaches and each child was given a copy of this film. If anyone still has a copy with the correct date please let Margaret Watts know. It was great day!! Those of you who knew him will have your own memories and we say thank you for a life well lived. Right up to his last day he and I prayed together and he still had a concern for others . In return he would want to say thank you for all of those who have influenced his life, as well as him serving you in whatever way he could. We were married 61 years, and we had very happy times but also challenging times and I will miss him. I know that he is free from pain and we will meet again. I am grateful for our family and our son Andrew who continues to be a support. His patience over technical issues that I found hard to grasp - we survived. Dad would have said Thank you. God is good all the time.

Remember a Loved One This Spring with a Sunset Rose



This spring, Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity has partnered with the magnificent Waddesdon Manor to create a beautiful new Forever Flowers tribute. In April, the Rose Garden at Waddesdon Manor near Aylesbury will be transformed by a stunning temporary display of 1,200 bespoke metal Sunset Roses, each symbolising the life, love and memories of someone special.

Members of the community are invited to dedicate a Sunset Rose in honour of a loved one. Those who make a dedication will also be invited to a private

viewing of the installation on Monday, 27th April, while the grounds are closed to the public. The display will then be open to visitors for three weeks, before each dedicated rose is returned to its owner as a lasting keepsake.

By dedicating a Sunset Rose, you will be supporting Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity to continue providing compassionate local hospice care for patients and families across Buckinghamshire and its borders.

To dedicate a Sunset Rose, visit <https://fnhospice.org.uk/foreverflowers> or call 01296 429975 for more information.



Continued from pg 2

TJ describes herself as fun-loving and adventurous but also quiet ... in a noisy sort of way! She values pilgrimage and prayer and walked the Camino de Santiago (500+ miles across Spain) in 2019... so it probably won't be hard to persuade her to go for a "walk 'n' talk" - Especially on a sunny afternoon (but not an early morning!!!) ... Although, cookies and a cuppa are a good alternative on a rainy day!

Richard, Tracey's husband, plays the keyboard and has already helped out with worship. Their two children are now "grown & flown" and both work in performing arts. Ashley, an actor, is missing his wife, Nicola as he's working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean (Tough life!) and Ruth is a dance teacher (and head of media & performing arts) in a VI form college in Oxford. Every other year she takes a group of dance students to perform in a show in Disneyland, Paris (So another exciting career ahead)

TJ's hobbies include ...

- Photography (mostly outdoors)
- Church bellringing (mostly indoors)
- Playing guitar (mostly in worship)
- Kayaking (mostly on water) and cycling (mostly not)
- Taking 'Vanessa' (their micro-campervan) on excursions to hidden-gem campsites.



TJ with St Nicholas Bell Ringers

Blessed are those ... whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. (Psalm 84:5)

SPRING CONCERT

THAME & HADDENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Directed by Helen Swift
Programme to include:

**Beethoven Missa Solemnis
Mozart Ave Verum
Rachmaninov Bogoroditse Devo
&
Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No.1**

Saturday 21st March 2026 at 7.30p.m
St Mary's Church, Church Road, Thame, OX9
3AJ

Tickets £18 adults in advance, £20 on the door
Under 16s free.

Tickets available at [https://
tandhchoralsociety.sumup.link](https://tandhchoralsociety.sumup.link)

Or by emailing tickets.tandhchoral@outlook.com

The advertisement features a white van with a long-reach cleaning arm extended over a stone house. A worker is visible in the basket of the arm, cleaning the roof. The Mossinator logo, a stylized 'M', is at the top left. Below it, the text 'MOSSINATOR®' and 'ROOF CLEANING SYSTEMS' are displayed. At the bottom, a list of services is provided: Moss Removal & Roof Cleaning, Render, Brickwork & Patio Cleaning, Solar Panel Bird Proofing, and Chimney Cowl Installation. The contact information 'info@mossinator.co.uk - 01844 617224' is at the very bottom.

Dates for your Diary

February and March 2026



February

- Mon 2nd, 2.00pm Sunshine Club Tea,
Playing Fields Clubhouse Cuddington
- Tues 3rd, 2.00pm Tuesday Group,
Playing Field Clubhouse.
- Wed 4th, 8.00pm Bookworms at the The Crown
- Thurs 5th, 8.00pm 'The Roses', Village Picture House,
Bernard Hall
- Thurs 12th, 8.00pm '**Lee**', Village Picture House,
Bernard Hall
- Mon 16th, 2.00pm Sunshine Club Tea,
Playing Fields Clubhouse
- Thurs 19th, 8.00pm '**Leave No Trace**',
Village Picture House, Bernard Hall
- Thurs 26th, 7.00pm '**NTLive: The Audience**' Lee',
Village Picture House, Bernard Hall
- Wed 25th, 6.00pm Parish Council Meeting, Bernard Hall

March

- Mon 2nd, 2.00pm Sunshine Club Tea,
Playing Fields Clubhouse
- Wed 4th, 8.00pm Cuddington Bookworms at
The Crown
- Thurs 5th, 8.00pm '**Materialists**', Village Picture House,
Bernard Hall
- Thurs 19th, 8.00pm '**The Choral**', Village Picture House,
Bernard Hall
- Mon 16th, 1.30pm Cuddington Matinee Cinema
'**Downton Abbey: The Grand
Finale**', BH
- Wed 25th, 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting, Bernard Hall

Every Friday, at 10.00am, in term time, Toddlers Singing Group takes place in St Nicholas Church. Everyone is welcome. For more details please contact Christine (christine.jackson@live.co.uk) for Toddlers Singing Group.

For more information please refer to the village website – cuddingtonvillage.com

Continued from page 3

The intention was to instil morality, humility and an acceptance of one's station in life. The Headteachers' logbooks and Inspectors' reports give an insight into the difficult first 25 years when the school experienced many problems and shortcomings. From 1863 to 1887 under the payment by results system there were no fewer than six headteachers with their wives taking charge of the infants. In each case resignation followed critical HMI reports. Arithmetic presented persistent problems. At one stage the annual grant was reduced by 10% owing to 'defective instruction'. English fared no better. An exasperated inspector reported, "of English nothing is known. I cannot understand why I was asked to examine it". Later another report concluded, "No success attends the teaching of English". Reports stated that there was severe overcrowding which was slightly alleviated when schools were built in Nether Winchendon (1875) and Chearsley (1880).

Irregular attendance was very common in spite of compulsory education becoming law in 1870. Some parents found 2 pence a week beyond their means. However it became free in 1880. Comments in Headteachers' logbooks tell of how girls would return with excuses like, "Mam was awful bad, so I had to do the washing", "minding the baby", and "poor shoes". Boys' excuses include, "awooding", "elderblooming", "helping with the harvest" and "potato picking". Ventilation in the classrooms was poor – it was often too cold. In November 1889 the Headmaster reported that the first lesson involved no writing as "the pupils' hands are too cold to hold pens", whereas in May in the same year, 15 minutes playtime in the afternoon were granted to air the fetid room. Some of the older girls left school early to go into lace-making. Diseases were rife with outbreaks of measles, 'flu, mumps, chicken pox and diphtheria. For example in March 1885 the school was closed for a month owing to whooping cough. Lesson time was also lost owing to frequent holidays. On the many feast days pupils were given a half holiday. At times, especially in winter, the flooding of the Thame prevented children from Chearsley and Winchendon reaching school.

However one school activity has stood the test of time from this period – the tradition of 'garlanding'. Around May Day pupils still tour the village distributing posies to villagers.

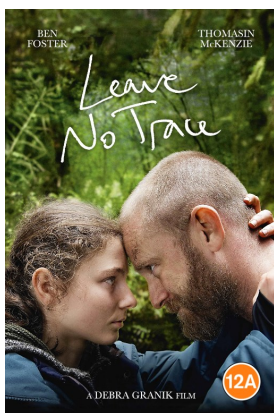
Village Picture House Screenings

February 2026



Our 2025 season continues on Thursday 5th February with **The Roses** (cert. 15)

starring Olivia Colman and Benedict Cumberbatch. Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Theo and Ivy: successful careers, a loving marriage and



great kids. But beneath the façade of their supposedly ideal life, a storm is brewing. As Theo's career nose-dives while Ivy's own ambitions take off, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentments ignites... "Olivia Colman and Benedict Cumberbatch are sublime ... fabulously dyspeptic," says *The Times*. "The virtuoso leads turn vicious in an acidly enjoyable portrait of marital breakdown," says *The Telegraph*. "A smart, wild, entertaining mix of droll British humour and glossy Hollywood film-making," says *BBC Culture*.

Then on the 12th we'll be screening **Lee** (cert. 15) starring Kate Winslet in the title role. This is the true story of photographer Elizabeth 'Lee' Miller, a fashion model who became an acclaimed war correspondent for *Vogue* magazine during World War II. Lee documented the realities of the war, from the Blitz to the liberation of concentration camps, and captured some of history's most harrowing images. "Winslet powerfully conveys Miller's tough-broad magnetism in this sobering, visually striking drama," says *The Guardian*. "Kate Winslet is a remarkable Miller, deftly portraying the light and shade of her mercurial personality and her fiery tenacious spirit," says *Time Out*. "Kudos to Winslet for getting Lee made, and for



conjuring so vividly the one-off Miller was," says the Financial Times.

On the 19th our film will be **Leave No Trace** (cert. 12A), which we had intended to screen early in 2020 before Covid scuppered our plans. Traumatized Iraq War veteran Will (Ben Foster) and his intelligent teenage daughter Tom live a perfect but solitary existence in a beautiful nature reserve near Portland, Oregon. They live off-grid in isolation, relying on survival skills and only entering the nearest town occasionally for supplies. But when a small mistake tips them off to the authorities, they are sent on an increasingly erratic journey in search of a place to call their own... "A deeply intelligent story of love and survival in the wild," says *The Guardian*. "Will and Tom feel all too human. And their predicament will have you in tears," says *The Standard*. "An irresistible tale of one man's attempt to escape modern life," says *The Telegraph*.

On the 26th, there's another chance to see the National Theatre's hit play **The Audience** (cert. PG), returning to cinemas for the first time in over a decade. For 60 years, Queen Elizabeth II met with each of her 12 prime ministers in a private weekly meeting. This meeting is known as The Audience. From Winston Churchill to Margaret Thatcher and David Cameron, the Queen advised



her prime ministers on matters both public and personal. Through these private audiences, we see glimpses of the woman behind the crown and witness the moments that shaped a monarch. Helen Mirren plays Her Majesty in this Olivier and Tony Award winning hit production. "Helen Mirren gives a magnificent performance, with the Queen proving a deft mistress of the verbal barb," says *The Telegraph*. "A superb vehicle for Mirren ... funny and truthful, good-hearted, spiky, full of surprises," says *The Times*. "Mirren delivers a performance of skill and subtlety ... superb," says *The Standard*.

Looking ahead to March, on the 5th we'll be showing **Materialists**, a spiky romcom in which Dakota Johnson plays a young and ambitious New York City matchmaker who finds herself torn between a seemingly perfect match and her imperfect ex-boyfriend. On the 12th our film will be **The Choral** starring Ralph Fiennes as the chorus master of a Yorkshire choral society during World War I. As conscription papers start to arrive, the whole community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives is to make music together.

Tickets for all features are on sale in Cuddington Stores or on our web page: www.cuddingtonvillage.com/cinema

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Thame Therapy Clinic

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Windmill Windows

Tel: 01844 237070

Yoga With Ilona

ilona@yogawithilona.com