

# Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating  
The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.  
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**CHARITY RACE NIGHT**  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March  
Doors open 7pm  
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## Tea & Cakes

Our February tea and cakes was very busy, even though it was half term holidays for the children.

Our next session will be as usual on the third Friday of the month, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 3.30 pm - 5.00 pm.

The team do an amazing job each month, but we could do with some more help to set up and put away the tables and chairs. We open the Reading Room at 3 pm, so if you can help please let me know.

*Val & the Team (290837, valscakesuk@gmail.com)*



## West Wrating Café

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 10.30 to 12 noon in the village hall we will be serving our usual array of homemade cakes, with fresh coffee and teas. Hopefully with spring upon us a sunny morning will encourage everyone to venture out.

Kate will be joining us with some new block print card designs. Everyone welcome.

## Dates for your diary:

Charity soup lunches will be hosted by Sherry at 72 High Street, West Wrating, 12 noon until 2 pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> March. Everyone welcome.

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May Jackie from 'Wildly Preserved' will be doing a fermentation presentation for us. Doors open 7 pm for 7.30 start.

*Sherry & Jan*

## St Mary's Window Repairs Update

Many thanks to those who have responded so generously to the urgent appeal in **Challenge** last month. Since Christmas we have raised just over £2,500 in donations which is absolutely amazing! We are so grateful to those who have already made contributions. As a result we have been able to commit to having the windows removed, and restoration work is underway. However there is still a slightly larger sum to find, so if you were considering making a donation it would be most gratefully received. The church is open during daylight hours and the card machine there will take payments, or you can message me and I can provide online banking details and a Gift Aid form. Many thanks,

*Bob Coates, Churchwarden  
(07785 361345, cheviotbob@me.com)*

***Weston Colville Village History***

We've been busy getting all the old material from the 2018 village history exhibition in the Reading Room back on to the Reading Room's updated website.

Huge thanks to Dave Poulton and Anthony Osborn for their help with this. Do have a look at it – <https://www.thereadingroom.org.uk/history> – and let me know if you've got more that could be added to this, or if you spot any errors!

**David Somerville** ([dsomerv@aol.com](mailto:dsomerv@aol.com))

***Maureen's Memories of Weston Colville***

Many thanks to everyone who joined us for the launch of Maureen's Memories in the Weston Colville Reading Room on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January. It was a lovely event. Donations towards the booklets have reached £240, which is going towards the St Mary's Church Weston Colville window repair fund.

There are now fewer than ten booklets left. If you would like one in return for a donation, please do let me know.

**Gabrielle Cliff Hodges** (07979 554758, [gabrielle.cliffhodges@cantab.net](mailto:gabrielle.cliffhodges@cantab.net))

***Long-lost Ring***

Several years ago, a ring was found in the play area beside St Mary's Church in Weston Colville. Despite attempts to find its owner, it remains unclaimed.

Does anyone know who might have lost it? It's partly silvery, partly coloured, and is plain except for regular markings on the outside. Please contact **Challenge** if you recognise it, as the finder would like to return it.

***d'Abo Tennis Club, West Wrattling***

The d'Abo Tennis Club AGM will be held on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30 pm at the Old Vicarage in West Wrattling.

Please come along, if you are able, in order to help keep your local tennis club running smoothly. We need some willing helpers to join our friendly committee and to get involved with the running of the club. It would be great to see you there.

If you would like any more information about what is involved please contact Cally Wilson on 01223 290179 or email [secretary@westwrattlingtennis.co.uk](mailto:secretary@westwrattlingtennis.co.uk).

**Cally Wilson**

***Reading Room Soup Lunches***

My sincere thanks to all who have supported the soup lunches each Wednesday. There has been a greater attendance this season and God willing we'll be back in September to begin another round. The last soup lunch for this winter will be on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, so if you haven't been to one yet, get in quickly!

I'm very aware that, for many people, these gatherings are quite a highlight in the week and I'm immensely grateful to all those who have attended, made soup, set up tables, and cleared up afterwards. To some extent, the community activity is all part of the enjoyment, as well of course as the excellent company and conversations! Please contact me if you can help either in March or from next September onwards.

**Bob Coates** (07785 361345)



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### ***Kingsway Solar Community Action***


Chancellor Rachel Reeves recently set out her vision for fast-tracking economic growth, stating, “Focus on getting things built and stop worrying about the bats and the newts.” Her speech reinforced the government’s push for major infrastructure projects.

But at what cost?

Brian Eversham, CEO of the Beds, Cambs, and Northants Wildlife Trust, believes in responsible development which doesn’t just squeeze wildlife into whatever space is left but actively protects and restores nature.

This is why KCSA is standing against large-scale solar developments that threaten our rural landscapes and wildlife. We support renewable energy but believe there’s a better way. In the coming weeks, you’ll see posters raising awareness about the 500 MW Kingsway Solar Farm plus battery storage and its impact on our local footpaths and wildlife. In March, we need your help to record local brown hares. They were left out of the scoping report but should be in the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Meanwhile, the government’s much-anticipated Land Use Framework (LUF) has launched with a 12-week consultation period. It aims to balance housing, energy, agriculture and nature – but will it deliver?

 Have your say! Visit the KCSA website ([kingswayaction.org](http://kingswayaction.org)) for the consultation link, project timeline, and updates; find us at [kingswayaction.org](http://kingswayaction.org) or on Facebook or Instagram.

*Ellen Collier*

### ***West Wrating Book Club***

Our discussion of ‘The Spinning House’ by Caroline Biggs started with ‘fascinating’, ‘stimulating’ and ‘riveting’. It pulled us in, one person reading it in a day, and the views that follow only serve to show what a conversation piece it is. Telling the research-based story of the injustice against women in Cambridge throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, locked up in the Spinning House if they so much as walked within range of a university student and were found by the university’s police force, the ‘bulldogs’. It’s a reflection of social history at the time, combined with the overarching rules rooted in the Elizabethan charter

that exempted the city from the law of the land. Women were detained without trial, and usually without a voice, given the Vice Chancellor’s morning question regarding any unfortunate brought in the previous night: “Did she come quietly?”

Victorian liberals did their best in successive campaigns and these were partly successful in court cases, with local names such as Cockerell and Westley being prominent (as well as a Kiddy marrying one of the women). Shockingly this ‘town and gown’ tale played out decade upon decade, until university fellows were allowed families, and their wives joined the cause. We appreciated our familiarity with the setting, tracking a girl’s route along Lensfield Road.

Though it was felt that the book could have benefitted from better copy editing, as this is a personal project brought to publication it has left us with an appetite to know more. Biggs is somewhat coy about prostitution and it would be good to know more about how townspeople looked upon a woman emerging from the Spinning House. Equally, some of us felt there is a sense of a grudge against the university on the author’s part.

Bringing the subject up to date, the point the book makes – that it is the morals of the men that needed policing, not those of the women – sadly remains true, plus ça change. Additionally, to what extent does the Cambridge of old still exist? One reader reported that the fierce bulldogs were about in the sixties, students having to climb fences if out after 10 pm. Another, at Cambridge from 2008, realised on graduation that she’d been in a bubble. She then got to become a member of the town, along with people who’d been ‘town’ all their life, and reading this book has shed light on their views, showing that these may well have emanated from their grandparents’ time.

Scores were mostly 8, with even the one among us who said 6.5 adding that she’d made a list of friends to recommend it to.

Our next read is ‘The Safekeep’ by Yael van der Wouden, and we’ll be getting round the table at The Chestnut Tree to talk about that on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm. All welcome; enquiries: Linda Gorman (290653).

*Jacqueline Douglas*



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### Parish Matters

Despite the continuing cold weather, we now can see the light we were promised at Candlemas. Bulbs shooting up – snowdrops, daffodils, and aconites – new growth that encourages us to look ahead to spring.



As time rushes on, Lent approaches, beginning on 5<sup>th</sup> March with a service of Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday at 7.30 pm at Hildersham. As I was thinking about my Lent book for this year, I was aware that there are many different books we could follow with daily readings. There is a book called ‘The Lent Factor’ by Bishop Graham James, appealing to those of us who like to listen to people’s stories, or a Franciscan one, or perhaps you might like to read some of Rowan Williams. We all have our own preferences. In the same way we may find being in church, or sitting in a peaceful place, helps to clear our minds of so much busyness. Many take their dog for a walk to see nature at work on a daily basis. Another way of engaging with God in nature is by looking out of the window to watch the birds on the feeders, or notice the subtle start of spring.

I have been involved in the World Day of Prayer service for many years and this year we are celebrating the lives of the women in the Cook Islands, learning about their culture. The faith of these women in difficult circumstances gives us hope to overcome adversity, and this year the theme is ‘I made you wonderful’, based on Psalm 139. The service this year is on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 11.00 am at Balsham Church. It promises to be a joyful service reminding us that we are all loved by God. Do join us.

I want to share with you a very special thing that happened last year in March. I was given a calendar of pictures of the Holy Land and in the month of March the picture was the Sea of Galilee. Every morning when daylight came, the light shone on the picture so that it looked like dawn was happening at that moment. It was a real joy to be reminded of a place where Jesus walked and lived.

May God show you his love and peace as we head towards Easter. Expect the unexpected.

*Reverend Kathy Bishop*

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**St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up**

The spring clear-up of our beautiful churchyard will take place on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 10 am - 12 noon.

As usual, coffee, tea and doughnuts will be served.

Do come along if only for a chat – everyone, of all denominations or none, is welcome.

**Cobby (290046)**

**Mothering Sunday**

**St Mary's Church, 4 pm for 5 pm, 30<sup>th</sup> March**

Mothering Sunday was traditionally a time when people returned to their mother churches in the villages, collecting flowers in the hedgerows along the way. This year we are celebrating Mothering Sunday by inviting you to St Mary's Church on Sunday evening, 30<sup>th</sup> March, at 5 pm. There will be a short service of celebration led by Iain McColl, followed by tea and cake.

There will be activities for children and adults from 4 pm, so arrive early, and we expect the bell ringers will be busy practising as well. We'll also have some handbells in church, so children and adults can explore the techniques.

Please come along, to make a posy of flowers or a floral decoration for a mother or perhaps a friend, and join in the fun before the service. Enjoy a Mothering Sunday with a difference.

**Bob Coates (07785 361345)**

Save the date! 

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**Support for Ukraine**

On behalf of Saffron Walden Rotary, Tony Collett says thank you to all those who kindly donated to our collection at Great Abington on 25<sup>th</sup> January. We were able to fill one van with food, household and personal items and received enough monetary donations so that, together with gift-aid, we can also buy three generators. Your kind support and that from Granta Churches and Abington School is sincerely appreciated – thank you all.

**Tony Collett (tony.collett3112@gmail.com, 893447)**

**Peter and Ruth Lloyd Trust Award 2025**

The award is intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc. For further information about the trust and the award please contact: Jonathan Drury (01223 290087).

For an application form (for pupils starting university in September 2025) please apply via email to: [peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com](mailto:peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com)

The application form and supporting documents must be received at the latest by 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

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**West Wratting Football**

**First Team** – manager Lee Miller reported: after a very positive start, winning 5 from our opening 6 games, we have unfortunately fallen way below our expectations and levels we’ve set ourselves. We have lacked consistency and as a result we won’t be winning the league this season, and are also out of both cup competitions. Very disappointing; however, we do have a very good group of players who care about the club and will give everything to finish the season as strongly as we possibly can.

All are very welcome to watch any of the games; refreshments available.

**Reserves Team** – manager Jon Welsh reported: a slow start to the season due to player unavailability and no consistency with the team. Starting to find some form now with a settled side; we have a very young side and they have come quite far in a short space of time. Aiming for a top 4 finish.

*Blanche Miller, WWSP Secretary*

**1st Horseheath Brownies**

We saw in the Year of the Snake for Chinese New Year, with the girls having a great time competing in prawn cracker races. The girls have shared their ideas for what they would like to get up to over the coming term, ranging from a games night to crafts and baking.

In February we joined other units from the region for Anglia’s ‘Pyjama Party’ sleepover to celebrate World Thinking Day, 22nd - 23rd February 2025. We will also be celebrating pancake day, Mother’s Day and Easter – what a jam-packed term it’s going to be! We will also be starting preparation for our joint pack holiday with Linton Brownies at the tail end of June.

*Katie (horseheathbrownies@gmail.com)*

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for information on:

What’s On	Directory	Parish Council
Parish History	Local Sports	Village Hall Events
Church News	Parish Matters	Village Calendar

Please send us your contributions, events, notices, photos and comments.

**Age UK CAP Community Warden**

Do you or a loved one need a little bit of extra support to live independently, happily and safely at home?



Are you or your loved one over 60?

Do you or your loved one yearn for more day-to-day companionship?

My name is Sheree, and I am your Small Villages Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Warden. I started in my role in January, after working for nearly a decade at Addenbrooke's hospital as a Healthcare Assistant. I have a young family, live locally, and my hobbies include walking and visiting new places with my family.



If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then I am sure my service could make a huge difference to your life. As a community warden, I am in daily contact from Monday through to Friday, either by phone or text message, with at least one face-to-face visit weekly. My service very much meets your specific needs outside 'personal care' – I am known to pick up some light shopping, queue for prescriptions, or wait in the dreaded automated queuing system to arrange appointments on your behalf!

And I can do so much more! I am often described as a navigator of the outside world, a listening ear and a constant companion. My aim is to help grow confidence and nurture independence, being secure in

the knowledge that someone is regularly checking in. I can also signpost you to local services and community events, to enhance and improve your health and wellbeing. As an organisation, we charge a weekly nominal fee for this service. In return you have reassurance that you or your loved one has another lifeline in place, whether you have family that live nearby or far away. I am in regular contact with next-of-kin and extended family to ensure a constant flow of communication.

If you are interested in the Community Warden Scheme, please do not hesitate to contact me. You or your loved one can take advantage of an introductory two-week free trial to assess whether this invaluable service meets your needs. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Sherree Geoghegan, Age UK CAP Community Warden (07436 102865, wardens@ageukcap.org.uk)**

**Balsham WI**



For our February meeting we had a very interesting talk about Balsham WI, Balsham village, and the world during the 1930s. This was a difficult time due to the depression and the build-up and start of World War II. There was also a new king after the abdication crisis.

We heard that the WI campaigned vigorously during this time for piped water to the houses rather than everyone having to use the pump on the green and wells for all of their water. The school roll was halved when the senior children transferred to the newly-built Linton Village College, but increased again when evacuees from East London arrived in the build-up to the war.

The meeting ended energetically with all the members learning to sing 'The Lambeth Walk' as well as how to do the dance.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30 pm at the Pavilion, Balsham will be themed on the 1940s.

**Debbie Mower**

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**Balsham Picture House**

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March: **THE CRITIC** (15) is a dark and sharp-witted thriller set in 1930s London theatreland. The feared and vicious critic Jimmy Erskine (Ian McKellen) finds himself in the crosshairs of the Daily Chronicle's new owner, David Brooke, and strikes a sinister pact with struggling actress Nina Land (Gemma Arterton) desperate to win his favour.



Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April: **CONCLAVE** (12A).

Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with running this covert process after the unexpected death of the beloved Pope. He uncovers a trail of deep secrets left in the dead Pope's wake – secrets which could shake the foundations of the church. Award winning film, acclaimed as one of the best films of 2024.

Normal start time of doors open at 7 pm and film at 7.30 in the Balsham Church Institute. Dave's bar will be open as usual before the film for refreshments,

*Dick Paden*

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**The Meadow Primary School**

February was a month filled with exciting opportunities and achievements for our children at The Meadow. We are proud to share the highlights of some of the competitions and events that have given our children a chance to showcase their talents and hard work.

Our students recently took part in a thrilling hockey tournament, where they displayed great teamwork and sportsmanship, earning an impressive 7<sup>th</sup> place! This tournament was a fantastic opportunity for our children to challenge themselves and represent the school with pride.

Our Year 6 students participated in an English challenge, and we're delighted to announce that they did exceptionally well. Thanks to their dedication and skill, they have made it through to the next round of the competition – a fantastic achievement!

February, our Year 5 and 6 students had the chance to take part in the unforgettable Young Voices event. They had a spectacular time performing a variety of songs, including a Bob Marley medley, in front of a huge audience. Our students thoroughly enjoyed every moment.

*Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher*

**Marsh Mail**

At Linton Village College we are passionate about our students learning about the world of work, and one of the most valuable programmes we afford our pupils is having exposure to future careers and next steps opportunities after their time here at LVC. The 'Future Careers and Pathways' department works hard to ensure students of all year groups are well informed about their future.

In Year 7, students spend a day listening to external speakers from 'Form the Future', a Cambridge consortium that helps young people find their route through education into employment. Additionally, 'Form the Future' provides employers with access to their future talent. Students are given



*Mrs Scally and Mrs Neeves, the 'Future Careers and Pathways' Team*





talks by a series of professionals in a 'What's my Line' format, guessing what each of the professions might be.

From Years 8 to 10, students enjoy Enterprise Days, apprenticeship talks and mock interviews. In Year 11, students are carefully guided through the post-16 process, where students choose what their next steps might be.



*A Year 8 Enterprise Day with the Army. Students were tasked with combating terrorists.*

We are always looking for motivational and inspirational speakers who might evoke the notion that life is an 'ocean of possibilities' for our students. You may not have rowed the Atlantic, or climbed Everest, but may have completed other equally inspiring challenges, obstacles, adventures, overcome adversity etc. If you know of someone who would be interested in sharing their story with our students, please let us know – we would love to hear from you.

**Mrs Scally (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance)** [Nscally@lintonvc.org](mailto:Nscally@lintonvc.org)



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**West Wickham & District Local History Club**

Rachel Clarke gave an excellent presentation at our meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February, explaining how, using modern technology, objects excavated on the site of Linton Village College and the surrounding area in 1935 have been traced back thousands of years. Flint tools, pottery, animals bones can now be identified, and well-preserved grave goods and their meanings also explained. Burials showed our ancestors suffered ailments we can associate with today. However, the decapitated skeletons are still open to debate.

*Margaret Creek*

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**MOPS HAIR SALON**

***The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth***

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30 pm: live music from ‘The Two of Us’ performing songs by The Beatles and other songs from that era. Tickets £7.50. Licensed bar, snacks and raffle.

*The Ellesmere Centre, [www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk](http://www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk)  
(01638 508212, [office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk](mailto:office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk))*

***West Wickham & District Gardening Club***

As the days slowly lengthen, the pleasure of these early spring months for gardeners is that there is time to plan for the season ahead.

This month’s talk on 17<sup>th</sup> March by Rosemary Buisseret of Plant Heritage (the world's leading plant conservation charity) may give you some ideas about what to grow. Rosemary will be speaking about the role of Plant Heritage in conserving plants for the future for cultural, medical, culinary and aesthetic use.



Meetings are held in West Wickham Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Annual membership of the Garden Club is £8 per person, guests £2. Please contact Sue Boase on 07716 401646, [wwdgc@westwickham.org](mailto:wwdgc@westwickham.org)

*Sally Collins, Vice-chair ([wwdgc@westwickham.org](mailto:wwdgc@westwickham.org))*

***Ellesmere Centre Survey***

*Please return your completed survey to the Ellesmere Centre office by the end of March. Thank you.*

1 Please state which village you live in:					
2 Gender – how do you identify?					
3 How many people are in your family, and in what age groups?					
0 - 16	17 - 25	26 - 38	39 - 55	56 - 65	66+
4 Do you or any of your family use the Ellesmere Centre? Please tick all that apply:					
Post Office/ Shop	Children’s activities	Adult activities	Other (please state):		
5 What do you like about the Ellesmere Centre?					
6 Is there anything else you’d like to see happening at the Ellesmere Centre?					

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**Linton & District Historical Society**

Following a most interesting and entertaining talk last year featuring the upsides and downsides of Arsenic, in January we welcomed back Neil Dickinson to tell the story of Mercury (Hg) – the mobile metal also known as silver water or quicksilver. Vermillion, a brilliant red pigment made from mercury sulphide (cinnabar), has been found all over the world and used for various purposes going back thousands of years. Unfortunately, at times this involved treating some medical conditions! Mercury continues to be used in modern times, but is handled in a much safer and controlled environment.

This was a most interesting and knowledgeable evening with excellent pictures, facts and figures, all presented in a light hearted manner.

At our February meeting, ‘Crime Scene Search’ proved a most interesting topic as Alex Mair explained the background to modern day methods of detecting criminal activity, pioneered by Dr Edmond Locard (1877-1966), the ‘Father of Forensic Science’. This was closely followed by matching fingerprints as a method of individual identity, leading to the first conviction, in 1892, of Francisca Rojas for the murder

of her two children in Argentina, and closer to home fingerprints left on a cash box in south London by the Stratton brothers in 1905.

With his 27 years experience, it was a thoroughly enjoyable talk by Alex who was able to describe some of the cases with which he was involved. Looking for evidence both before a suspected criminal act, and the aftermath was fascinating, as Alex explained how crime scene searches are carried out in both large and small areas in minute detail, to uncover criminals who can then be brought to justice.

Come and join us on 18<sup>th</sup> March to hear about the ‘Curiohaus Trials: Bringing the Nazis to Justice 1945 - 1949’, presented by Russell Kent The meeting starts at 7.30 pm in Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane. Refreshments and raffle. All welcome; visitors £5.

For further details of the LDHS please contact [ldhscamb@gmail.com](mailto:ldhscamb@gmail.com), 893915 or 678835.

*Margaret Creek*

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MARCH	9.30 am	11.00 am	Afternoon & Evening
2 <sup>nd</sup>		<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	
9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alistair France</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> - West Wrating, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Balsham, <i>Revd Jennifer Totney</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – Great Abington, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/Steven Wheeler</i> <b>Café Church</b> – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	<b>Taizé Service (6.00 pm)</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	<b>Morning Worship</b> – Balsham, <i>Alistair Collen</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	<b>Evening Prayer (6.00 pm)</b> – Hildersham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – West Wickham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> <b>Creative Church (10.00 am)</b> – Abington Hub, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/Rosemary Mead</i>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b> – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Holy Communion (11.15 am)</b> – Balsham, <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i>	<b>Evening Prayer (4.00 pm)</b> – Little Abington, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> - West Wrating, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	<b>Morning Worship</b> – Balsham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – Great Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	<b>Mothering Sunday Evening Service (5.00 pm)</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>

Details of all our services can also be found on the website: [www.grantavale.org.uk](http://www.grantavale.org.uk)

## DIARY

### MARCH 2025

- Sat 1 West Wrating Café  
Balsham Picture House, 'The Critic'
- Mon 3 Weston Colville Parish Council
- Fri 7 World Day of Prayer Service, Balsham Church
- Mon 10 West Wrating Parish Council
- Tues 11 Balsham WI
- Sat 15 Cake Sale, Balsham, for Buttercups
- Mon 17 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
- Tues 18 Linton & District Historical Society
- Wed 19 West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Thur 20 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Fri 21 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Sat 22 Race Night, West Wrating  
Onare Choir Concert, Hildersham
- Sat 29 St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up
- Sun 30 Mothering Sunday Service, St Mary's
- Mon 31 Tennis Club AGM, West Wrating

### APRIL 2025

- Sat 15 Live music, The Ellesmere Centre
- Sun 13 Easter Family Celebration, St Andrew's Church

#### Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (01223 291344)  
Bob Coates (07785 361345)

St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (07736 198101)

**Church Administrator:** Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,  
[7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com), 01223 891443

**Weston Colville Parish Clerk:** Jess Ashbridge,  
[clerk@westoncolville.org.uk](mailto:clerk@westoncolville.org.uk), 07779 277647

**West Wrating Parish Clerk:** Cameron Biggs,  
[clerk.westwratingparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.westwratingparishcouncil@gmail.com)

**Black bins:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> March,  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> April

**Green & blue bins:** Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> March,  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> April

**Mobile Post Office:** Thursdays, Reading Room car park,  
Weston Colville, 12.30 - 1.30 pm

#### Mobile library: fourth Thursday:

High Street, West Wrating	11.10 - 11.50 am
Reading Room, Weston Green	12.00 - 12.35 am
Mill Hill, Weston Colville	12.40 - 1.05 pm

**Editor:** Anne Bragg ([editor@challengemag.co.uk](mailto:editor@challengemag.co.uk))

Thank you for all your articles, news, etc. If these are sent by email, they are always acknowledged; if you don't get a reply, your items haven't been received, so please resend. Some contributions may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

**Copy date for April issue:**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March**