CADDINGTON



THE VILLAGER - DEC 25 / JAN 26

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Welcome to the Winter Edition

Many thanks go to the volunteers who deliver this magazine to Caddington, Aley Green and Caddington Woods

In this edition you will find:

- A Schoolmaster's report from 1885 – A bit sharp
- A report on a visit to Oststeinbek
- An update from Caddington Village School
- Some advice on purchasing eBikes
- Take care when purchasing online
- Getting ready for Santa's Float
- Mudlarking on the Thames
- Remembrance Day articles
- Our very own Douglas Baldwin

Do you know any ex pats of Caddington, who might like to receive this magazine?

Get them to send an email to John at caddvillmag@gmail.com

He'll send them a link to read it online

Have you an article that you'd like to include in the February edition?

Send it to the email address at the bottom of this page

Tell us about a recent experience, hobby or special interest

Perhaps you would like to advertise your business?

The magazine reaches nearly 2000 houses and is also shared on social media

The next edition will be with you at the beginning of February

Deadline for content is Thursday 13th January

Contact John at caddvillmag@gmail.com

Caddington PARISH COUNCIL

Caddington PARISH COUNCIL

All Saints Church

The Church was floodlit on Tuesday 18th November and will be floodlit on Tuesday 23rd December

In loving memory of
Jon & Pete Fitzsimmons
on their birthdays.

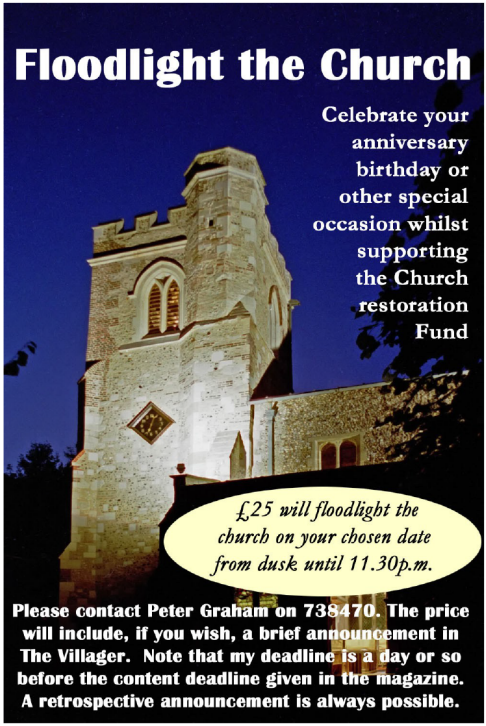
The Church will also be floodlit on Sunday 7th December

In loving memory of
Sarah Thomas-Crampton
Forever loved
Madeline & Family

The Church will be floodlit on Saturday 10th January

Loving birthday memories
for
Peter Rouse
So deeply loved and missed
Shirley, Steve & Mandy,
grandchildren,
great-grandchildren
and family

Please note that for an announcement to appear in The Villager, I need to have it a day or so before the content deadline given at the beginning of this magazine. A retrospective announcement is always possible.



All Saints Church

Vicar: Reverend Rob O'Neill
Telephone: (01582) 731692
email: rob@vicar.org.uk

Christmas Services

Christingle Service
7th December at 9.30
Carol Service
14th December at 6.30
Crib Service
24th December at 3.00
Midnight Communion
24th December at 11.30 p.m.

Sunday Services

9.30 a.m. Informal Service
(1st & 3rd Sunday of month)
Communion service with choir
(All other Sundays)

Thursday

10.00 a.m. Caddington Bears
(A group for pre-schoolers and carers.)



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SANTA'S FLOAT IS COMING

SEE PAGE 13 FOR DETAILS



Butterfly Funerals

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Butterfly Funerals are specialist funeral directors. Owned and operated by Teresa Stack-Murray and Peter Murray.
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CaddingtonCare

Good Neighbour Scheme

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CHAT AND COFFEE

We are open every Monday from 10am till 12 at the Heathfield Centre.
If you haven't been before do drop in. Good coffee and plenty of chat!

MEN'S CLUB

We meet every Thursday 10 till 12 at the Heathfield Centre. Drop in and see us- you will be sure of a warm welcome.

SEATED EXERCISES

Come along to the Heathfield Centre on Tuesdays at 11.am. Good fun, good exercise and stimulating.

BINGO

First Mondays of the month – 2pm at the Heathfield Centre.
£5 for 6 games. Flyer and raffle. Everyone welcome

CHRISTMAS SINGALONG

Friday 19 th December 2pm
The Heathfield Centre - all welcome.

Walks will resume in February

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Careline is on every weekday from 9.00am till 4.30pm.
If you need help with shopping, a lift to a medical appointment, help with a small household task, help with a computer or paperwork or someone just to call round, please call the above number

WHEELCHAIRS

We have wheelchairs available for short term loan

www.caddingtoncare.com email: caddingtoncare@gmail.com

Caddington Local History Group

September Meeting Report
Mudlarks – Neil Keiran

Mudlarking, or the hobby of searching the banks of the Thames for artefacts is these days very popular. The Thames in London is tidal and the foreshore is owned by the Port of London authority. It is divided into individual plots and to search on the banks a permit is needed.

Owing to the rise in popularity of mudlarking the Authority has limited the number of permits to 4000 each costing £35 for a year. This gives the mudlarker access to a plot 40 by 30 metres. Neil has his own special plot. They have to excavate using a special trowel and are only allowed to go down 7.5cm. They are allowed to keep what they find unless it is more than 300 years old or is more than 10% gold or silver.

Why are there so many items waiting to be found along the banks of the Thames? The Thames mud is anaerobic so items do not decompose. Also, the river banks have been used to deposit waste since Roman times. It is not unknown to find bones and body parts. In the past children used to scour the banks for what they could find.

Many long established inns such as the Prospect of Whitby and the Mayflower are built on stilts into the river. Pirates were recruited from such hostelries.

So what can be found? Some finds go back to Roman times such as tiles and pottery. Coins ranging from the reign of Ethelred to pirates' pieces of eight are found. Pearly or military buttons can be common.

Neil had brought with him a great array of his finds and we were able to handle musket balls, grape shot, wig curlers, a palm thimble for a sail maker, clay pipes and … the list goes on.

There is an exhibition of items retrieved from the Thames at the London Museum Docklands.

Jane Payton

Caddington
VILLAGE SCHOOL
A school at the heart of the community

Exciting times with o Christmas productions, carols and lots of trips and visits. As a school, we always feel honoured to be part of the community and invited to events.

Last month we took part in the Remembrance service at the church as well as on the village green. The school council love the responsibility of taking part and representing the school on these important dates. Our federated choir will also sang at the Village light switch-on event.

A rite of passage for Year 6 is to take part in our Year 6 residential trip. This year we returned to Willersley Castle in Derbyshire for a fun and action-packed weekend away. As staff we thoroughly enjoy seeing children develop friendships and challenging themselves to complete activities they have never tried before. Some of our Year 6 children have written about their experience below.

"Year 6s went on their traditional yearly residential to Willersley Castle where they spent 3 nights and 4 days at the lovely castle in Derbyshire. It was a bonding experience since we shared rooms with our friends, met and made new friends from our federated school.

We participated in many activities such as: Axe throwing, Kayaking, River Tubing, Rifles, Archery, Rock Climbing, Canoeing, Blind Trail, Town Trail, Tug of War, Manor Olympics, Zipline and a Campfire (we roasted marshmallows to make smores). Some of our favourites were: Axe throwing and River Tubing- the water was freezing! Ronnie said,"The food was banging!" We agree as well. Some of the delicious food options were: Hunters Chicken and Jacket Potato. For breakfast we had Full English Breakfast and continental options on the side. We made lots of great memories that will last a lifetime. "

Year 5 wanted to share their thoughts on the first half of the Autumn term:

"School has been going well so far, it has been a smooth transition and we are finding lessons enjoyable. The best lesson has been Maths said Charlie because we are learning about the 4 operations. Freya commented that Science has been her favourite so far because she finds space interesting and the class has been conducting experiments. Lexi stated that she has likedDT because Year 5 are learning to sew where they will have a hanging decoration to take home at the end. Thankfully, the swimming pool has been open again this year and we have enjoyed our first and last swim of the term. We look forward to going again in the Summer Term."



On Sunday 9th and Tuesday 11th November 2025, Caddington again remembered it's dead from two World Wars as well as all those who have lost their lives in wars and conflicts throughout the world.

On Sunday a large number of villagers gathered in All Saints Churchyard to witness and take part in the Service of Remembrance and wreath laying ceremony led by Reverend Lindsey Moss.

Amongst those present was Joyce Salvietto who was born in February 1924 and who served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service during the Second World War. It was a privilege for everyone present to witness Joyce, accompanied by her daughter, laying a wreath at the War Memorial.

Scouts, Cubs and Brownies were well represented having paraded up Dunstable Road from the Scout Hut. They were led in the parade by four beautifully decorated horses ridden by four young people, Zoe Hughes, Charlotte Wigley, Maddie Hoare and Dee Hawkesworth . They are not from the village but stable their horses locally. They all said it was a privilege for them to have taken part in the Service.

The Roll Call of those from Caddington to be remembered was read by pupils from Caddington Village School and shortly before 11.00 am the Last Post was sounded by Rebecca Lant followed by the two minute silence. This is the second year Rebecca has played the bugle for us on her own having played with her Father for us for many years.

Thank you to all those organisations who laid wreaths in remembrance. The collections in the Churchyard and, later, in the Church raised £445 for the British Legion Poppy Appeal and so to all those who attended and contributed we are so grateful.

On Tuesday the 11th day of the 11th month at 11.00 am a short Service of Remembrance was held on the Village Green. Between 50 and 60villagers heard the Roll Call read by pupils from Caddington Village School followed by the two minute silence and a blessing given by Reverend Lindsey Moss.

We are extremely grateful to the School, Chloe Logan, Ellie Field and Adam Burgess for encouraging the pupils to participate.





Joyce Salvietto





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The Caddington Santa's Float is coming!

15th and 16th December



Get ready for some festive cheer ! The Caddington Santa Float will be out in the village on 15th and 16th December collecting for good causes and spreading Christmas joy.

We're proud to be supported by our wonderful local businesses and especially our main sponsor Gleneden Plant Sales, whose support helps keep this treasured tradition going.

Routes and dates:

15th December: Caddington Woods and half of Caddington

16th December: Rest of the village.

Come out and give us a wave and help support the charities and community projects that make Caddington such a great place to live. Whether you are young, old or just young at heart, Santa and the team can't wait to see you !

Caddington Church of England Day School Report from Sept 1885

Commenced duties as Master of above school today, the Vicar opening with prayer.

After some weeks work and observation, do not find the children as far advanced as expected. They have just returned from the usual 'Harvest Vacation' - one month, and it is possible that they may require a week or so to rub up what they have forgotten. Emily Lines (female candidate) did not return to duties until yesterday. The Vicar has been in every day. The Rev. Mr Kirkup (Curate) came in on Wed.

The signs of improvement are very slow in coming. Nearly every child in the school sits with chest flat against desk and slate or book sideways parallel with desk. Master has told them of it and even punished some and still they do it. It seems a grown habit. In reading hardly a boy or girl sounds the letter H and when shown how to do it, their efforts are quite ludicrous. In Arithmetic the rules are well taught, but the very easiest problem floors all, the 3rd standard are best in Arithmetic. Mental Arithmetic seems quite a new thing - in fact the whole school seems lacking in intelligence. They can do nearly all the mechanical part of their work, but ask them to use their brains only and the stare stupidly at you. The reading is without expression and the singing a 'bawl'. Writing is pretty fair everywhere, but there is a great scarcity of slates, especially among the infants. In large room many slates are useless - either so small or ruled so badly as to render lines of no avail. New slates are ordered for infants and some for elder children (to lend). All the children have not yet returned.

Highest attendance for week on Tuesday a.m. 88

OSTSTEINBEK REMEMBRANCE DAY



Caddington Village has been twinned with the town of Oststeinbek in Germany since 1980

Oststinebeck is 13 kilometres east of the centre of Hamburg, with a population of 8990 people.

It is a rural town with farmland, shops schools and houses, in some ways very similar to Caddington. Last year Oststeinbek named a road after Caddington.



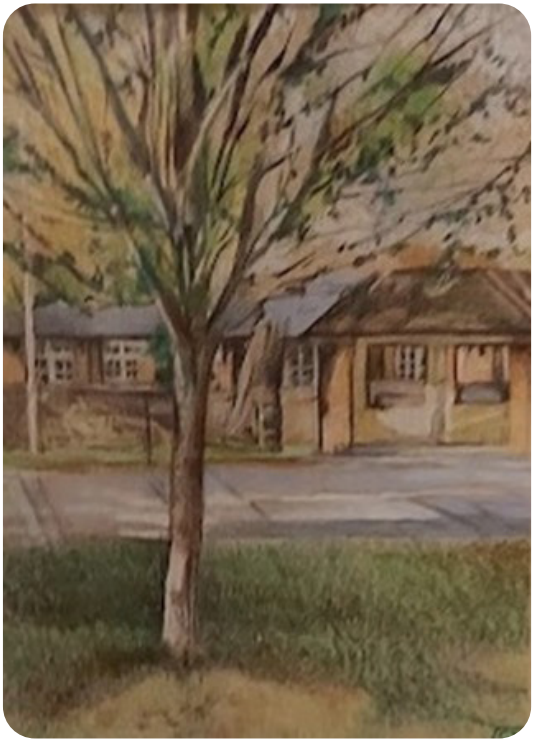
Mayor Vorbec, Cllr Vafadari, Cllr Tomlin and Mayor Hettwer by the Caddington Road sign in Oststeinbek

Each year on the third Sunday in November Germany has Volkstrauertag which is the people's mourning day which commemorates members of the armed forces of all nations and civilians who died in arms conflicts.

As we are twinned with Oststeinbek each year we take it in turns to visit each other to take part in the remembrance ceremony and to lay a wreath in respect.

This year, two representatives form Caddington Parish Council (Councillors Matthew Tomlin and Rebecca Vafadari) attended the remembrance service in Oststeinbek.

The Parish Council sent a gift of two flag Pennants depicting the Caddington Village Sign and two pictures of scenes from the Village Green in Caddington. There were drawn by a local artist Chris Travell. The Mayor of Oststeinbek was extremely pleased with the pictures, and they will be hung in the Oststinebeck Town Hall.





Cllr Tomlin and Cllr Vafadari at the Oststeinbek town hall.

Bronze shield depicting Caddington and Oststeinbek twinning.



Written by Cllr M Tomlin

The service was attended by the Mayors of Oststeinbek, Chief of Police and Head of the Fire Department and Firefighters along with a German Men's Choir and members of the public.

The men's choir performed 3 German hymns and prayers were read out. Wreathes were laid in honour of the fallen, it was a solemn but very moving event.

We look forward to hosting the Oststeinbek Mayors next year in Caddington for our remembrance service.

The wreaths laid at the remembrance memorial.



From the BBC - Caddington's Douglas Baldwin

Douglas Baldwin served in the King's Own Scottish Borderers (KOSB) during World War Two.

Douglas was just 18 when he landed at Normandy in 1944.

He had enlisted for army training at Colchester in England and was sent to France to help reinforce units that had taken losses during the D-Day landings.

He previously told the BBC: "I felt like a hero before I even landed in Normandy."

When he got to France, Mr Baldwin did not have a regiment and it was only after he arrived that he was allocated to the KOSB 6th battalion.

Mr Baldwin recalled that he almost did not even make it to join his battalion.

He said the truck taking him to the fighting came to a sudden halt and the driver shouted for everybody to get out.

Within seconds it exploded after being hit by an enemy shell.

Mr Baldwin later saw action as the 6th battalion made its way south through the Normandy countryside but was captured on 8 August in the village of Estry.

He was taken to a number of prisoner of war camps before ending up at Stalag 4d, near Leipzig, which was later liberated by the allied forces.

In 2021 he received the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest military honour, in recognition of his service during the war.



Your Sweet Shop Quiz – Watch out for those pesky anagrams	
1. Scrooge's favourite perhaps (7)	
2. They can restrict conversation (11)	
3. Said to be too good to hurry (6,5)	
4. Romantic sweets (4,6)	
5. Wobbly Infants (5,6)	
6. Very clever sweets (8)	
7. Last trifle is up (5,9)	
8. The fruit falls (4,5)	
9. Little Minnies digits (7)	
10. Both lesser men (7,6)	
11. Quivering legumes (5,5)	
12. Pristine spheres (4,5)	
13. Kojak loved them (9)	
14. Simple mini rat (4,9)	
15. Pester and nip the MP (11)	
16. Eaten at Goodison Park (7,5)	
17. A minty bit stronger (6,5)	
18. Bitter Globules (4,5)	
19. Loving insects (8)	
20. A lot of meal choices (9,5)	
21. Sounds like a bog plant (11)	
22. Split moon rejoined (4,5)	
Answers on Page 27	

RAFFLE

FOOD FEST

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Caddington Men's Club Quiz

Caddington Men's Club meets every Thursday from 10 until 12-o-clock at the Heathfield Centre.

Pool, table-tennis, darts, anecdotes and a quiz. A friendly bunch and you'll fit in nicely.

Here are some of our quiz questions for you to try - answers on page 27

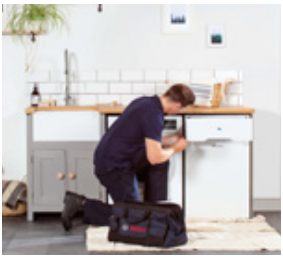
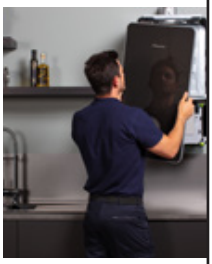
1. Whom is the US state of Virginia named after?
2. Which Royal survived a kidnap attempt in 1974?
3. What line comes after "Her name was Lola"?
4. Which "ologists" study bumps on the human head?
5. Name two Premier Football teams that start and end with the same letter?
6. On which day of the week are US elections always held?
7. What sci-fi series featured Lister, Rimmer and Kryton?
8. Which group had a Night at the Opera and a Day at the Races?
9. Who was lead singer with the Animals?
10. What was on the B side of Boney M's "Rivers of Babylon"?

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BOSCH

Caddington WI

Hello readers,here is our monthly catch up of what our November meeting was all about.

We had a demonstration from Tufty Flowers which is a new florist that is now based in Dunstable. The owner's name is Tina and she came and did the demo. There was a long table with three big bunches of flowers on it and right in front of our eyes she produced three amazing flower arrangements.

The first was a hand tied bouquet in a water bag inside a carry box which was later presented to one of our members as it was her 80th birthday. Such a lovely present for her and a surprise. Then we had a Christmas table centre with a pillar candle in the middle and Christmas foliage round it. Again beautiful and lastly an amazing basket of seasonal flowers. Tina is very talented and has been in the florist business for over 25 yrs having completed an apprenticeship and going to college to learn her craft. She told us of some of her more challenging wreaths that she has created. There have been replica Spitfire's, Gates of Heaven and a Beefburger to name a few. So if you are in need of a florist pop into her shop, I am sure she will be able to help you.

As always we are looking for new members to join our happy and friendly club.

We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month 7:30pm at the Caddington Sports & Social Club.

Contact Linda Edwards on 07761 340 108 or Carol Jones on 07899 794 422

On November 11th after the Service of Remembrance, Caddington WI unveiled a plaque recognising that we were formed 70 years ago, and has been part of life in Caddington ever since. We celebrated our 70th birthday in September with a party.

It is situated on the planter next to the bus stop opposite the Co-op.







Keith Lewis

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Caddington Baptist Church

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Sunday Services 11 am - Please refer to website for dates
Coffee Mornings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month
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Friday	9-6
Saturday	8-3

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Caddington Gardening Club

Caddington Gardening Club is a friendly group, meeting monthly to enjoy a shared interest in gardening , swap ideas, discuss gardening successes, the odd failure and pass on advice.

We have monthly speakers, some social events and summer trips to fascinating gardens
Meeting at the Baptist Hall on Luton Road 7:30 pm.

January, February = Winter Hibernation

Contact Sarah on 01582 419 793

March 10th 2026 - Cottage Gardens a talk by Susan Young.



Caddington Local History Group – Caddhist

We are a friendly group meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month 7:30 except in December at the Heathfield Centre to listen to a variety of engaging speakers followed by lively discussion and questions. Coffee and refreshments too.

Meeting Dates:

Thursday January 22nd – Roger Turner: 'Then and Now' in Houghton Regis and the Brandreth's Family

Thursday February 26th: ' Simon Robinson's annual spot', anything could happen!

New members and guests always welcome. **Check out our website caddhist.org.uk**

Caddington Parish Council

Website: www.caddingtonparish.gov.uk

Contact: email clerk@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Telephone : 07912 298 141

Residents are welcome to attend Caddington Parish Council Meetings held at the Heathfield Centre.

Next Meetings — Monday 12th January at 7.30pm — Heathfield Centre
Monday 9th February at 7.30pm

Please visit our website or take a look at the notice board on Manor Road between Cutting Crew and Caddington Cobbs approximately a week before each meeting to view the agenda.

Parish Councillors

Chair Mark Russell	mark.russell@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Vice Chair Matthew Tomlin	matthew.tomlin@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Planning Chair Andy Palmer	andy.palmer@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Heather Palmer	heather.palmer@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Bob Fitzsimmons	bob.fitzsimmons@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Roy Catford	roy.catford@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Vicky Malone	vicky.malone@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Philip Skelton	philip.skelton@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Jeanette Loughran	jeanette.loughran@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Rebecca Vafadari	rebecca.vafadari@caddingtonparish.gov.uk

Central Bedfordshire Council - Ward Councillors

Cllr Vicky Malone – **0300 300 8559**
vicky.malone@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Cllr Kevin Collins – **0300 300 8523**
kevin.collins@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Legal electric bikes – also known as an Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycle (EAPC) – can be purchased and ridden without registration, insurance or a driver's licence.

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The motor must assist only when the rider is pedalling. It cannot provide power on its own (i.e., no throttle-only operation unless limited to 6 km/h for starting).

Motor Power Limit	The motor must have a maximum continuous power output of 250 watts.
Speed Limit	The motor must cut off assistance when the bike reaches 15.5 mph (25 km/h).
Age Requirement	Riders must be at least 14 years old to legally ride an e-bike on public roads.

If an e-bike does not meet the above criteria, it is classified as a moped or motorcycle, meaning you would need:

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Caddington Men's Club Quiz - Answers

1. Queen Elizabeth 1st
2. Princess Anne
3. She was a Showgirl
4. Phrenologists
5. Aston Villa and Liverpo
6. Tuesday
7. Red Dwarf
8. Queen
9. Eric Burdon
10. Brown Girl in the Ring



Answers - Humbugs, Gobstoppers, Murray Mints, Love Hearts, Jelly Babies, Smarties, Fruit Pastilles, Pear Drops, Mintoes, Sherbert Lemons, Jelly Beans, Mint Balls, Lollipops, Mint Imperials, Peppermints, Everton Mints, Trebor Mints, Acid Drops, Fondants, Chocolate Limes, Marshmallow and Polo Mints

Carol's Cookery Corner

Strawberry Robins



Ingredients

A punnet of strawberries

Melted dark or milk chocolate

25g fondant food colouring – use paste or powder colours in yellow, & black

Method

Step 1	Turn the strawberries upside down, leaving the stalks on to check that they sit well on a plate.
Step 2	Dip each strawberry in the melted chocolate leaving part undipped as in the picture below. Allow to set.
Step 3	Roll the white fondant into a small ball, & flatten.
	Do the same the black and place on the white circles. It may be necessary to moisten with water to make it stick.
Step 4	Roll the small piece of yellow fondant to make a beak shape.
Step 5	Add the eyes and nose to each strawberry and serve.

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Aley Green Methodist Church

December

Fri 12th	2:30pm “Take Time” in aid of “Shelter Box”. Christmas music & verse followed by refreshments.
Sun 14th	10:30 Morning Service (Sheila Norris)
Mon 15th	2pm Ecumenical Fellowship with Jo Prowse
Tues 16th	7:30pm Carol Service followed by refreshments and Hamper Draw
Sun 21st	10:30 Morning Service (Catherine Roots)
Thurs 25th	9:30 Join us for a short Christmas Day Worship (Rev Claudia Lupi)
Sun 28th	10:30 Local Arrangement (Liz Higgens)

January

Sat 3rd	Jan 10am Prayer Breakfast led by Liz Higgens
Sun 4th	10:30 Covenant Service—Holy Communion (Rev Claudia Lupi)
Tues 6th	10-12 Cakes and Company - plenty of chat, cakes and coffee or tea
Sun 11th	10:30 Local Arrangement (Alison Wilson)
Sun 18th	No Aley Green service 4pm Ecumenical Service St Andrew’s
Mon 19th	2pm Ecumenical Fellowship with Jo Prowse
Sun 25th	10:30 Morning Service (Michael Adams)
Wed 28th	7:30pm Coffee Evening in aid of Action for Children
Sun 1st Feb	10:30 Morning Service (Peter Baker)

Thank you to all our regular friends and supporters. Recent events were successful. The Coffee Evening and raffle held for Keech Hospice Care raised an excellent £102 to help fund their work. The Cakes and Company Brunch and Browse was a lovely morning with lots of friendly chat and people buying from the stalls, raising over £560 for the work of the church. The food offered proved to be very popular as did the stalls especially Preserves and Bric a Brac!

We look forward to seeing friends, old and new, at some of our services and Christmas events.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GOD BLESS!

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