

TODDINGTON



VILLAGE MAGAZINE



February / March 2025

CONGER LANE AND CROWBUSH CIRCULAR WALK

A pleasant circular walk of two miles (3km) suitable for all the family. Starting on the village green. The first part of the walk follows the Icknield Way passing through an ancient pattern of fields and hedgerows.

Most fields are used for grazing, so there is always livestock in some fields along the route where dogs need to be kept under close control. The route is stile free but has seven kissing gates and three staggers. In good weather with firm ground allow about an hour for the walk. IN wet weather there is mud at bottom of Conger Lane and on the footpath beyond Luton Road (this can be avoided using the parallel bridleway).

PDF leaflet and more walks available in www.Toddington.Info/walks



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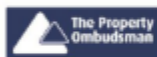
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*www.johnsaundersandson.co.uk to learn more
about us.*

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We believe this is a magazine for the village and we welcome reader contributions. If you would like to write in please send emails to toddnews@outlook.com - Send letters to the Parish Council office in the Village Hall, Leighton Road, Toddington, Beds, LU5 6AN - attention of Toddington Village Magazine.

Advertisers Price List 2024: (There are 6 editions per year - Bi-monthly)

| Advert Size | 6 Editions | 5 Editions | 4 Editions | 3 Editions |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
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toddingtonvillagemagazine.co.uk



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Toddington

Parish Council



The Parish Office is located in **Toddington Village Hall** and is open **weekdays 9.30am to 11.30am (but closed on Wednesdays)**.

(Please ring the door bell if the front door is locked)

Parish Clerk – Nicola Evans, Assistant Clerk – Annie Wilson

01525 874312 / info@toddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk / www.toddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Councillors in Toddington

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Portfolio</u> | <u>Contact Details</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Cllr B Belgrave | Highways Liaison | B.Belgrave@toddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Cllr L Butler | Recreation | L.Butler@toddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Cllr T Collins | Planning | T.Collins@toddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Cllr S Killinger | Planning | S.Killinger@toddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Cllr J Levinson | Cemetery | J.Levinson@toddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Cllr L Lissaman | Chairperson | L.Lissaman@toddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Cllr C Peddar | Allotments | C.Peddar@toddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk |
| Cllr D Stacey | | D.Stacey@toddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk |

Agendas are published on notice boards around the village seven days prior to a meeting and are also on our Website. Notice boards are situated outside Toddington Village Hall, by the Alms Houses opposite St Georges Church and on the Village Green. We do have a 10 minute public participation time at each meeting.

Meetings Dates for 2025 - Meetings held on the **second Tuesday of each month** in Toddington Village Hall (*Lounge*) and **start at 7:30pm**.

Dates are:- 11th February, 11th March, 8th April (7:00pm) followed by Annual Assembly Meeting (8.00pm), 13th May - Annual Meeting.

Grant Applications and Recognition Awards

The Grant Applications and Recognition Awards will be given out at the Annual Assembly Meeting on **Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 8.00pm**.

Thank You

We would like to wish Rev Linda Washington all the best in her retirement and want to thank her for all her help and support over the last few years within the Community.

Luton Road Pavilion Update

The empty and redundant Luton Road Pavilion is being demolished over the next few months.



Funded by
UK Government



**We've been
awarded a
Community Grant!**



The Community Grant from the UK Shared and Rural England Prosperity Fund has been received for the Village Green, Memorial Garden and Pond Enhancements.



New 'Toddington Sign' and 'Planters' installed



New Bollards around the Village Green



Post Box to Heaven

Toddington Parish Council is pleased to announce that there is a 'Post Box to Heaven' within Toddington Cemetery. The Post Box is there to receive letters, cards or messages to loved ones who have passed away, maybe on the day of an important anniversary or for any other reason.

The idea for this originated a few years' ago when a little girl in Nottinghamshire, called Matilda, wanted to send a Christmas card to her grandparents who she was missing very much after they had both passed away. Matilda's mother suggested the idea of a 'Post Box to Heaven' to their local Crematorium, who installed the first white Post Box in their Memorial Gardens in December 2022. The idea has since proved to be very popular and our own Cemetery in Toddington is now joining the long list of Cemeteries across the UK where other 'Post Boxes to Heaven' have been set up.

Anyone can use the Post Box to send letters, cards or messages to their loved ones, regardless of when or where the person passed away or where the funeral was held. No address or postage stamp is required.

Letters will be treated with confidentiality and will be stored securely and unopened by the Parish Council.

It is hoped that this facility will help anyone who has been bereaved, particularly any children, with their grieving process.

The 'Post Box to Heaven' is situated adjacent to the car parking area in the Cemetery.

Toddington Library

December was busy for the library. We had a lovely afternoon when customers joined us for our 'Christmas Catch Up'. We put our library Christmas tree into the annual parish Christmas tree festival and we had children's crafts all through the school holidays. Not forgetting our Hamper raffle. With all the festivities over, normal service at the library has resumed with a couple of new items.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS - CONGRATULATIONS!

**1ST PRIZE - THE HAMPER
MRS ROSSI**

**2ND PRIZE - HOMEMADE
CHRISTMAS CAKE
MRS SPIERS**

**3RD PRIZE - BUMPER BOX OF
SHORTBREAD
MRS BARROW**

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO
BOUGHT TICKETS, WE RAISED
£150 WHICH WAS GRATEFULLY
RECEIVED BY THE BRITISH
LEGION (TODDINGTON BRANCH).**

Central Bedfordshire Libraries are now being used as a 'warm space'. In light of this, every Wednesday we now invite villagers along to the library to enjoy a '**Cuppa & Company**' from 14:30-16:30.

Saturdays are family focused in the library with our Lego Club (10:00-12:00) in the morning and our Board

Games session in the afternoon (13:00-15:00). Games are provided, with all ages provided for from 2 years+.

By the time you are reading this we will have a new full time member of staff working with us. Lisa joined us in January and has enjoyed learning the ropes and meeting all our much valued customers.

Don't forget that the library will have FREE childrens crafts from Sat 15th –Sat 22nd February during half term. No need to book, just come along.

Don't forget... The library is free to join and to use, it only takes a few minutes to sign up and get your own library card.

Opening Hours

Mon: Closed

Tue: 9-1am

Wed: 2-6pm

Thu: 9-1am

Fri: 9-1am, 2-6pm

Sat: 9-4pm

Sun: Closed

PANCAKES, THE THICK AND THIN OF IT

Shrove Tuesday is on 4th of March

An easy to follow recipe for thin or thick pancakes!

Ingredients: Eggs, Milk & Flour...

Keep the ratios as below to make more!

Are pancakes the way to use up your delicious last eggs and milk before your Lenten fast? Or are they a way to feed your grandchildren for breakfast, lunch or supper any time of year.

Firstly, I think of the "thin" kind, the ones you roll with lemon and sugar or Nutella or syrup. I used to make them with some eggs, some flour and some milk to make a thin cream consistency.

But for this page I made them with **2 eggs, 100 gms flour and 300 ml milk**, then whisking or whizzing until smooth.

Then cooking on a medium heat in a medium sized non-stick pan with a slick of oil or butter, about three tablespoonsful at a time cooking until one side is set then turning. This worked really well making about eight pancakes.

However, if "thick" fluffy American pancakes are needed use **legg, 130ml milk, 135gms flour, pinch salt, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 2 tablespoons melted butter**

Whisk until pretty smooth and thick, cook at medium heat in a lightly greased pan, 1 tablespoonful with two or three in the pan. Cook until bubbles form and turn and cook for about another minute.

Enjoy with maple syrup, any syrup, butter and jam or anything you fancy.

You can keep them, but they are best eaten straight away.



There are so many great cooks in Toddington, if you would like to share a favourite recipe with the village please email us at: toddnews@outlook.com

St George of England Church, Toddington

It is strange to think that by the time this article is issued I will be close to retirement. The weeks have rushed past with the busyness and joy of preparing for the Christmas services and now, at the start of 2025, comes a focus of organisation to prepare to depart from the role of Rector on 18 March. As reality dawns I can but reflect over the past 7+ years and remember the privilege of special moments, and times of connection. Weddings, funerals, baptisms, Church services. Confirmations, Home Communion, Youth Group, Messy Church, Coffee Mornings, Ploughman's lunches, Christmas Tree Festival, Royal British Legion and Remembrance, Toddington Band, Toddington St George School, Parkfields School, Churches Together, Friends of St George's, The Social Club, climbing the church tower, all offer treasured memories. There have been so many conversations or passing hellos and smiles and shared moments. Thank you so much for the wonderful connections made, the encouragement and support you have given, and for welcoming me into this benefice, enabling me to serve.

The churches will continue to be busy during the Vacancy period (which is likely to last for 6-9 months) and the dedicated team of volunteers will continue to run the weekly events. Please support them, especially when they are flagging under the strain or all they have ahead. Different ministers will cover the regular Sunday services, assisted by Malcolm Curtis, the Reader. Weddings, funerals, and baptisms will continue to be welcomed - please contact Dee to arrange for Toddington and Sandy Ryan to arrange for Chalgrave.

Although I have been employed by the diocese as a 0.5 part-time minister (3 days pwk) I have regularly worked nearer full-time. It is likely that my role will be replaced by a 0.5 minister (unless funds become available to increase the PT allocation). I hope and pray that all we have built together will be sustained and continue in strength.

My final services will be on 9th February and 16th February:

9 February 9.30am Holy Communion Service at Chalgrave Church and
11am Holy Communion Service at Toddington Church.

16 February 11am Benefice Holy Communion Service at Toddington Church

16 February 3pm Songs of Praise Celebration Service at Toddington Church,
and please join me in Wilkinson Hall after the service for farewell
refreshments.

Services:

9.30am Holy Communion Service, Chalgrave Church

11am Holy Communion Service, Toddington Church

Ash Wednesday Service 6pm, Toddington Church

Other events: Toddington

Seated keep fit with Alison 2nd and 4th Mondays, Wilkinson Hall, 2pm

Knitting Together, Tuesdays 10.30am, Wilkinson Hall

Youth Group fortnightly, 5.45- 7.15pm Wilkinson Hall (for 9+ years). Speak
to Bridget, Doug or Kate for more information.

Wednesday Winter Warmer 11-2pm weekly until 5 March, Wilkinson Hall.

From 5 March (Ash Wednesday) this will become Lent Lunches.

Thursday fellowship groups 2pm on 2nd and 3rd weeks.

Painting for Pleasure group, Fridays, 10.30am, Wilkinson Hall

Messy Church 4th Friday of each month, 3.30pm, Wilkinson Hall

Saturday 2nd week, Coffee Morning 10am

Toddington Community Fridge each Saturday morning 9.30-11am,
Wilkinson Hall.

Chalgrave

Pop Up Tea Room, 11-1pm Tebworth Memorial Hall, 4th Wednesday of the
month

TODDINGTON LUNCHEON CLUB.

1988

WHY?

Some years ago as Chairman of Toddington Old Peoples Welfare Committee I'd been ruminating on 'Where were the gaps?' Who was in need? and what were the requirements for the Elderly in Toddington?

Social Services, Home Helps, Carers, Doctors, the Day Centres and Churches, plus a weekly Thursday Social Club were all on offer, - but there seemed to be a gap catering for the active elderly who lived on their own and needed friendship, plus a bit of stimulating entertainment.



What's the first thing you'd do if you won the Pools?

What's the first you'd do if you'd had bad news?

What's the first you'd do if you open the door to a friend you haven't seen for ages?

What's the first you'd do on birthdays, at Christmas, high days and holidays?

Yes, - offer a cup of tea! A meal!

So often in our Society friendships are forged round food and drink. We invite people to coffee or for a meal; and cup of tea is a panacea for all ills and problems.

It therefore seemed that a Luncheon Club would be the perfect way to introduce people to each other and to create a friendly meeting ground for people living alone who usually had no one to talk to or to eat with but themselves.

HOW?

There were so many things to consider that it's hard to remember which came first in this chicken or egg situation. - The members or the helpers. The cook or the cost. The where or the when.

The WRVS sponsored the Meals on Wheels at that time, and as I was Organiser they were very supportive, and Social Services agreed to pay for subsidised meals, Hall hire, and provided funding for crockery and cutlery.

WHO?

The first member chosen was an exceedingly active 'you'd never have guessed it' pensioner who became Treasurer to the club, and it was agreed we'd start with 12 members for the first two weeks, and then if all went well we'd expand to 24, - but no higher as this was a manageable number for activities, the size of the room, and the cook. Fortunately I was already aware and



in contact with people we thought would enjoy and benefit from the scheme, and for many different reasons. Some were more physically able than others, - (and although this was regarded as a half-way house to meals on wheels for those who could get to the Hall,) we soon found that Transport was going to be a necessity for a few. Some members were extroverts, some painfully shy, some lonely, and some never gave themselves time to brood. Some were mentally dynamite, and others had memory problems. In other words - a good mix, - who would hopefully mix and match.

WHERE?

The venue had to be free from ties that might cause anyone to feel excluded, so even though Toddington couldn't boast a Village Hall we chose a building near the position of the proposed and planned future Village Hall which was previously the School Cookery department, and now the Annapurna Centre, home of the Pre-School Play Group and the Youth Club [now demolished] No windows, pretty sparse, and with a sink and serving counter in one corner of the room, - but, - the caretaker was helpful beyond the call of duty, and privacy this 'cell' afforded helped folk to relax.

The school cook was also very encouraging and it was agreed the dinners would be collected in large containers [heavy, and heated with a paraffin block] and served directly onto hot plates as each required. Meals included special dinners for Diabetics and fat free diets. Occasionally the cook visited us at lunch time to discuss likes and dislikes, and to field the inevitable brickbats along with the compliments, - trying her best to provide well cooked, hot, substantial, varied and appetising dishes.

WHAT?

It was fun shopping for all the equipment, cutlery, glasses and water jugs, cruets, and the boxes to store everything in. We found checked gingham material on special offer - and a Audrey Yule volunteered to make tablecloths for 6 tables and 24 serviettes. We collected tea towels, oven gloves, cash books and a teapot. A First Aid Kit was already at the Centre - and we made sure there was at least one person who know how to use it in each team of Helpers.

HELPERS

Five enthusiastic friends agreed to be Team Leaders [including Georgie Laird, Sue Smith and Audrey Yule] [Georgie and Sue are STILL team leaders, and Audrey joins us for the meals along with Jean Itzinger who also helped in those early days.] There were 5 helpers in each group who were prepared to set aside the 1st 2nd 3rd 4th or 5th Friday in the month to collect the meals and a few recipients; to dish and serve, befriend the members, help with the entertainment, wash and iron the cloths and napkins ready for the next week. [wipeable tablecloths and paper napkins now. Very time saving!] The meetings would be weekly, and 2½ hours seemed time for preparation, eating, entertainment and clearing up.

Letters went out. To prospective Helpers, and then to prospective Members who would be the first brave guinea-pigs. The meal was to cost 80p [!] [It's now £6, but still good value for money]

As time went on the entertainments became more varied, and everyone had a chance to choose what we'd do, and they were eagerly supported each others choices. [occasional quizzes, outings and parties now, and lots of chatter to put the world to rights]

I could go on and on about the panics, the Outings, the other venues and the wonderful people we've had the privilege to know during the last 36 years, and apart from a break during Covid we've not missed a beat, and still meet each Friday.

If you or anyone you know would enjoy the meal and fellowship please contact me or one of

Toddington Village Fête

SAVE THE DATE

21st - JUNE - 2025

Local Businesses, Crafters & Creators!

To apply for a pitch please email:

toddingtonvillageevents@outlook.com



Scan to email



Toddington Royal British Legion.

Reverend Linda Washington.

Reverend Linda has announced that she is retiring in March this year.

Toddington Royal British Legion would like to wish her and Nigel a wonderful and peaceful retirement, and thank them for their service and dedication to the Toddington & Chalgrave churches and the Toddington and Chalgrave village communities.

Reverend Linda came to Toddington over 7 years ago with her husband Nigel. It soon became apparent that “Team Washington” had arrived! Toddington became a better and brighter place because of Linda and Nigel’s service, because of them St George’s church has become the focal point of the village, entering the hearts and minds of Toddington.

It has been wonderful having them here.

Linda & Nigel - we will miss both of you!

Thank you.

John Wood

Chairman.

Toddington Royal British Legion.

u3a – learn, laugh, live

No longer working full-time or raising a family? Then now is the time for you to develop your own interests, make new friends and enjoy yourself.

Toddington u3a is a local organisation which is affiliated to the Third Age Trust, a national charity, whose aim is to provide the opportunity for those no longer in work to come together and learn for fun.

Come along to one of our monthly meetings and learn more about us. We have a varied programme of talks delivered by guest speakers at these meetings, after which tea or coffee is available and you can stay and chat. These are held in Toddington Village Hall on the 3rd Monday of each month. Doors open at 2.00 pm and your first visit is free.

Visit our website to discover who the speakers will be at our upcoming meetings – <https://toddington.u3asite.uk>

Join one of our many group activities. Information regarding our current group activities is also available on our website – these include Art Appreciation, Book Groups, Bridge, Craft, Cryptic Crosswords, Coach Trips, Discussion, Family History, Line Dancing, Meet and Eat, Music Appreciation, Photography, Poetry and Strollers.



<https://toddington.u3asite.uk>



Join Toddington MusicMakers: Celebrating 20 Years of Making Music!

Next year, Toddington MusicMakers will proudly celebrate its 20th anniversary, and we're already planning how to mark this exciting milestone. It's hard to believe that what began as a small, enthusiastic church group at St. George's has grown into an established community music group!

Our mission is simple: to make music fun and inclusive for everyone. Whether you're a seasoned musician or just starting out, no matter your age or ability, we welcome you to come and give it a go! **If you're feeling nervous about performing or just beginning your musical journey, this is the perfect group for you.** With gentle encouragement and support from fellow members, you'll be surprised at how much progress you can make in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

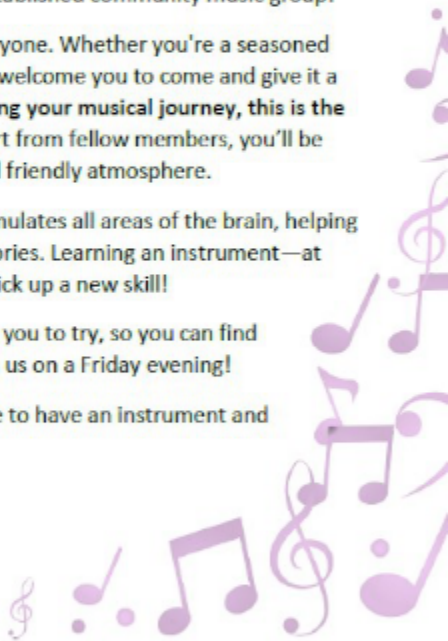
Studies show that making music is great for brain health. It stimulates all areas of the brain, helping to develop cognitive and motor skills, while also evoking memories. Learning an instrument—at any age—has tremendous benefits, and it's never too late to pick up a new skill!

Don't have an instrument? No problem! We have a variety for you to try, so you can find the one that suits you best. There's really no excuse not to join us on a Friday evening!

Tempted to give us a go? Drop us a message so we can be sure to have an instrument and music ready for your first rehearsal!

Call Ruth on 07939288504 or send us an email:

info@toddingtonmusicmakers.co.uk





Thank you for your support

To TODDINGTON AREA RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES

Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Together we raised an amazing amount of £14,986.36



Toddington Methodist Church

www.toddingtonmethodist.org.uk



Minister: Rev Seung-Wook Jung
Tel: 01525 372289

Services

Our services are at 1045 unless otherwise indicated and the first service of the month is held on ZOOM.

February

- 2nd ZOOM service – Steve Rogers
- 9th Revd. Seung-wook Jung
Holy Communion in church
- 16th Peter Baker in the hall
- 23rd Family service in hall

March

- 2nd ZOOM service
- 9th Revd. Seung-wook Jung
Holy Communion in church
- 16th Local Preacher in the hall
- 23rd Family Service in the hall –
followed by a Lent Lunch
- 30th Café style worship in the hall to
celebrate Mothering Sunday

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS: Held on the 1st Saturday of each month from 10:30am – 12 in the Wesley Hall.

GUILD & GAMES: Meetings are held in the Wesley Hall on the second Tuesday of the month from 2-3.30pm.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP: Meet every Monday from 2-3.30pm in the Wesley Hall.

CREATIVE SPACE: A crafting and social group who meet on the second Sunday of the month from 2.30-5.00pm.

PUDDING CLUBS: for children and adults. Contact Tania at toddingtonmethodist@yahoo.com for information

Coffee Morning

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Saturday 22nd March

From 10am -12pm

in the Wesley Hall

Lots of lovely tea and cake,
among friends, in aid of a very
good cause!

Contacts: for further information about any of our activities, or a ZOOM link, then please contact Tania (07957 941481) or Wendy (873871) or email toddingtonmethodist@yahoo.com

TODDINGTON COMMUNITY FRIDGE POP UP

09:30 - 11:00 ON SATURDAY'S OUTSIDE THE WILKINSON HALL

Working with Flitwick Community Fridge, St George of England Church is running a 'pop up' food stall in Toddington throughout the summer.

Community fridges are a simple solution to reducing food waste and sharing good-quality food with local people. The food in the fridge is donated by local businesses and individuals. Our nearest fridge is at The Rufus Centre in Flitwick and is open to Toddington residents! We're working with the team in Flitwick to try out a pop up food stall to see if there is demand for us to open a fridge in Toddington.

FREE

We will have a selection of fresh fruit & vegetables and bread to share. The pop up will be open to all; we just ask you limit your bag to 3kg of food to ensure everyone has a chance to take what they need.



Service provided by

Proudly supported by:



St George of
England Church,
Toddington

FLITWICK
COMMUNITY
FRIDGE



Creative Space

This is a creative, social group that meets on the second Sunday afternoon of the month in the Wesley Hall at the Methodist Church, from 2.30pm – 5pm. We meet to share our craft skills, learn from one another and eat cake!

We are a very informal and friendly group, and all are welcome. Those who attend range from occasional teenagers to the very slightly greyer haired! It is a great way to meet people, relax and learn new craft skills. None of us are experts but we are happy to share and learn together. We plan one activity each month and one of the group will lead that session.

In order to make the group accessible to all, we keep the cost down to £5 per session which covers all materials for the session and refreshments. When funds allow, we are able to invite along a professional artist or craft person to teach us new skills.

Crafts we have enjoyed have included crochet, macrame, weaving, watercolour painting, wet felting, silk painting, needle felting, lino printing, kitchen lithography and loads more. We make our own Christmas wreaths and have had other seasonal craft sessions. The photos give some examples of recent projects.

If you enjoy crafting and like meeting new people, then this could be the group for you! If you want to give us a try, then just give us a call to let us know you are coming. Call Tania (07957 941481) or Wendy (01525 873871).



H

Up to £25,000*
cashback to start 2025

— HAYFIELD GARDENS, TODDINGTON —



Reserve your new home at Hayfield Gardens before Christmas
and take advantage of up to £25,000 cashback when you move in
- the perfect way to start your 2025!

SHOW HOME OPEN DAILY 10^{AM}-5^{PM}

Visit hayfieldhomes.co.uk to find out more

HAYFIELD

*T&Cs apply

COMMUNITY VOICE

Thank you Rev Linda Washington!

Some of you will already be aware, but for those who are not. Reverend Linda is due to leave her roll within the parish of St George's. Here are a few messages from the community to thank her and Nigel for their service to the community.

"From all the pupils, staff and families at Toddington St George CoE School, we would like to wholeheartedly express our gratitude and appreciation to Reverend Linda. Linda has been a pillar of the local community for many years now, and she is an integral part of school life here at Toddington St George's. Rev. Linda, for a long-time, has regularly been coming into school, visiting pupils and classes, delivering collective worship assemblies and taking part in all aspects of school life. In addition to being the local rector and link to St George's Church, Linda is also a Governor for the school and helps to support the local governing body in driving up standards, and in particular, ensuring a strong Christian faith and ethos is present in our school community. I would also like to express my own personal gratitude and thanks to Reverend Linda after my appointment as Headteacher to Toddington St George, she made me feel most welcome and a part of the St George's community.

We wish Linda and her husband Nigel, a restful and well-deserved retirement together."

Mr Darlington, Headteacher, Toddington St George CoE School

"We at St George's are very sad that Rev Linda Washington has decided to leave but to wish her and Nigel a happy retirement we would like to invite everyone to join us for a Songs of Praise at 3pm on Sunday 16th February followed by tea and cake 🍰"
From the parishioners of St George's and All Saints church's

"Dear Reverend Linda, we are sorry to see you go, thank you for joining us in our activities especially the lovely Carol Service last year. Wishing you all the best in your new ventures." *Best wishes from Toddington Brownies & Rainbows*

"Thank you so much for all our lovely services over the years – Christmas is always special as you always started our festive celebrations" *All at Toddington Scout Group*

"Thank you Rev Linda for taking the time to write your regular contributions for the magazine!"
Village Magazine Committee.

Toddington Village Magazine AGM

If you are reading this we made it though our first year and to issue 6 of the magazine! We would like to invite any members of the community who are interested in supporting this volunteer run magazine to attend our AGM due to be held on the 2nd of April 2025 - 7PM at Toddington Social Cub

We believe this is a magazine for the village and we welcome reader contributions. If you would like us to submit an announcement or message please send emails to toddnews@outlook.com - Send letters to the Parish Council office in the Village Hall, Leighton Road, Toddington, Beds, LU5 6AN - attention of Toddington Village Magazine.

Toddington Village Magazine reserves the right to refuse to publish any correspondence we deem unacceptable.

Mumday Funday

Things to do in Herts, Beds, Bucks, and beyond

As we have February half term on its way, I'm going to share a few new ideas that are also low cost too.



Aldenham Country Park

Radlett, WD6 3BA

Travel time from Toddington: around 40 mins

Cost: £5.50 parking

The home of 100 Aker wood which has the cutest Winnie the Pooh trail with lots of houses, and other scenes. There is also a farm, and other activities but these do cost extra.

Blue Water Story Trail

Plaiters way, Houghton Regis

Cost: Free

Travel time from Toddington: around 7 mins

An interactive story trail with QR codes on each wooden sculpture to listen to the next part of the story. You can combine with a visit to either Houghton Hall park, or Linmere park/pump track which are only a 5 min drive away.



Mercedes Benz World

Weybridge, KT13 OSL

Travel time from Toddington: around 1 hour

Cost: Free entry and parking, no need to book

A great place for all the family to enjoy. There's a ride on electric car track for 3-5yo's (£6pp), professional car displays on weekends, cinema, lots of cars including classic and race cars. You can watch cars doing drifts and spins from the window. Plus driving simulators and slot racings (additional charges). It's a bit like a museum mixed with a race track!



Berkhamsted Castle

Berkhamsted, HP4 1LJ

Travel time from Toddington: around 30 mins

Cost: Free, some free parking outside

Castle ruins that are fun to explore and learn about. Plus there are some lovely parks nearby. We stop for lunch at the make believe cafe (a cafe on a double decker bus!)



Houghton House

Amphill, MK45 2EZ

Travel time from Toddington: Around 20 mins

Cost: Free

Manor house ruins to explore and learn about with epic views over the countryside. Great place for picnics and cool photos. Amphill great park is only a few minutes drive away too.



Tring Museum

Tring, HP23 6AP

Travel time from Toddington: Around 30 mins

Cost: Free

Over 4,900 different specimens to see, from a taxidermy polar bear, to cabinets full of insects. A great free educational activity.



Heartwood Forest

St Albans, AL4 9DQ

Cost: Free

Travel time from Toddington: around 30 mins

Lovely forest walks with carved animal sculptures to find. Also a great place for bluebells later in the year.



@mumday_funday


Mumday Funday

mumdayfunday.wordpress.com






The Buzz of Spring




One warm morning, Benny the Bee
woke from his winter rest, happy to see
the sun shining through with its golden glow.
Stretching his wings, he was ready to go.

With a cheerful hum, he left the hive.
Excited to see the world coming alive.
The fields looked painted in colours so bright,
a dazzling scene filling him with pure delight.



The flowers were blooming in a radiant view.
Pink, yellow, and purple—all fresh and new.
He darted to each blossom and landed with care,
Sipping sweet nectar from blooms everywhere.

From flower to flower, he worked with delight,
gathering his treasure from morning till night.
Every drop of golden nectar he carried away
would make his hive busy through each sunny day.



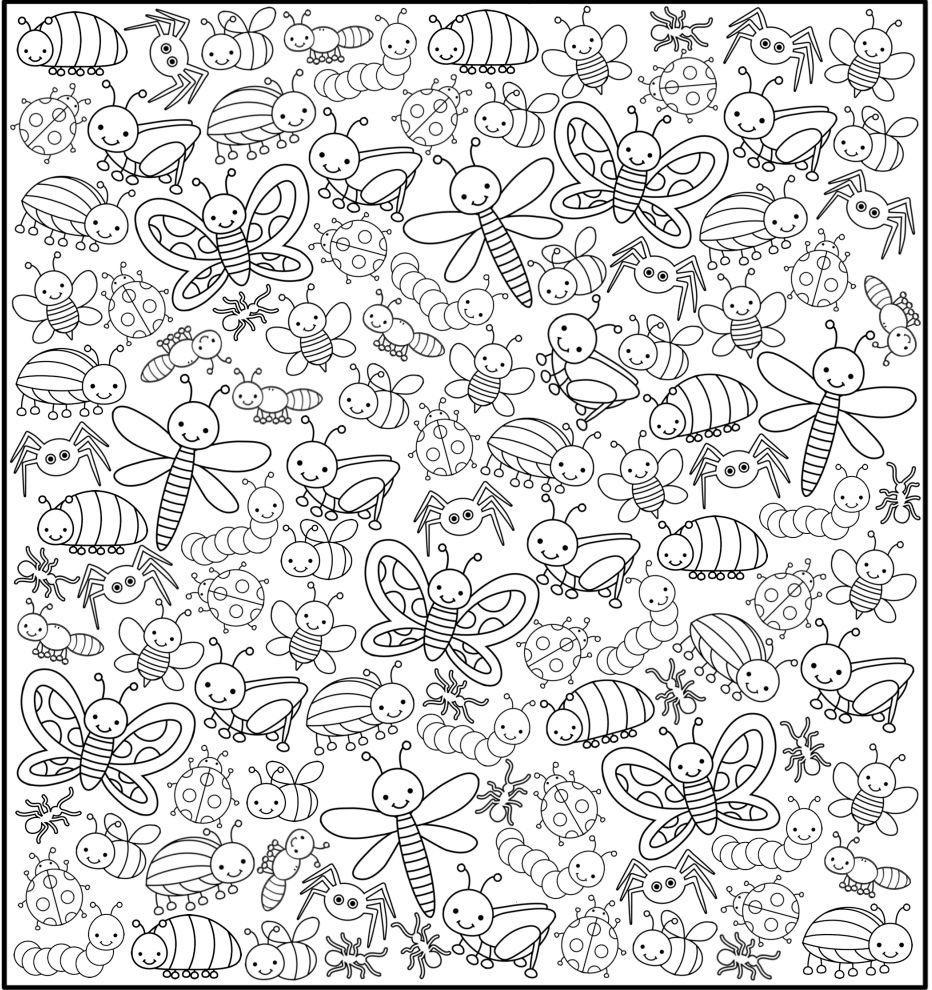
Benny worked with a Buzz, a hum, and a cheer
spring was one of his favourite times of the year.

He felt proud to pollinate and to share,
helping flowers grow with love and care.
The nectar he gathered was as sweet as can be,
It would be turned into honey for his family!

By Children's Book Author
Trudy Davidson



I SPY INSECTS



Search and color these 12 items - How many of each can you find?



















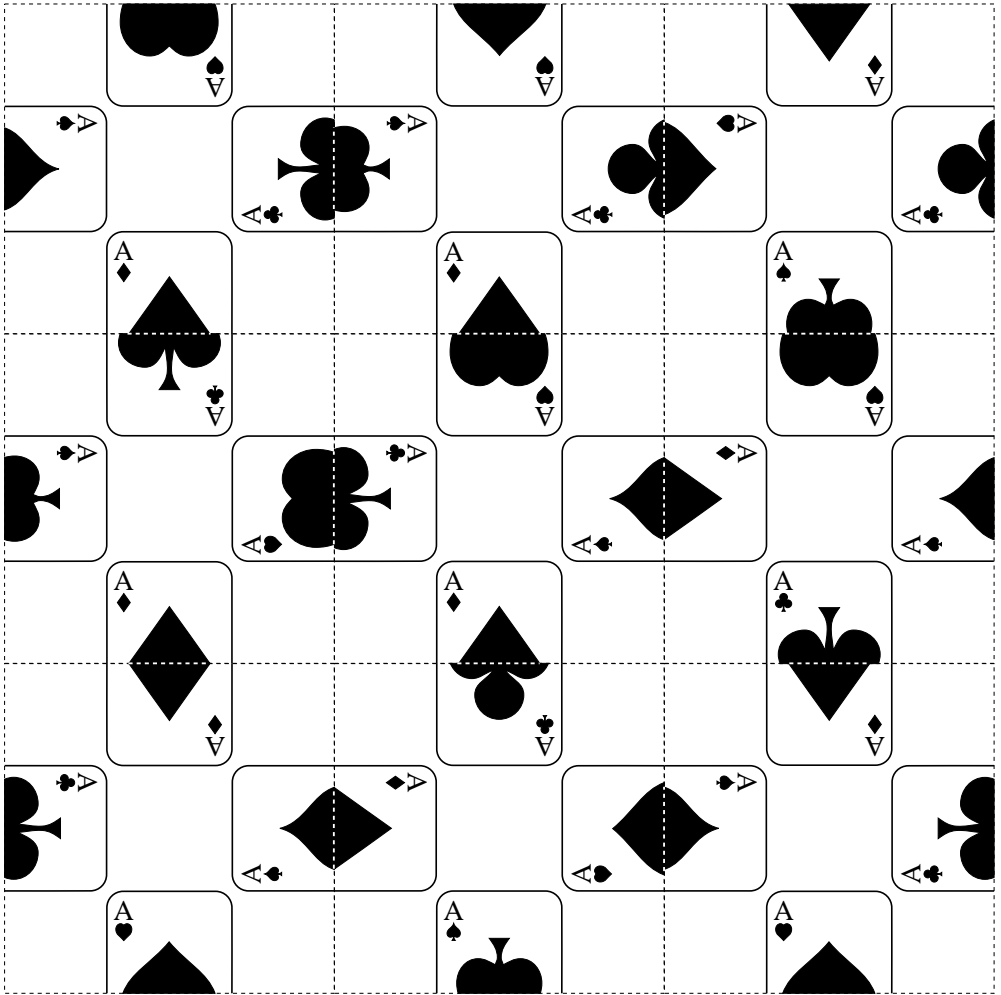






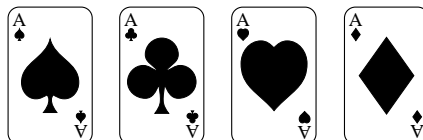
Free printable courtesy of PrintitFree.net

The *FOUR ACES* Puzzle



Instructions:

Cut out the 9 squares shown above by cutting along the dotted lines. The object of the puzzle is to take the 9 squares and arrange them into a 3 X 3 square. But there is one catch. The squares have half of a playing card on each edge. As you put one square next to another, you have to make sure that the two adjacent squares have compatible card halves. That is, one of the playing cards shown below must be created by adjacent squares. Good luck.



SUDOKU

Sudoku #1255 (Medium)

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 5 | | 6 | 8 | 3 | | |
| | | | 7 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | 7 | |
| | | 1 | | | | | | 6 |
| | | | | 3 | | | | 4 |
| 9 | 8 | | | | | 2 | | |
| | 7 | | | | | | | 2 |
| 1 | | | | 4 | 2 | | | 3 |
| | | 8 | 5 | 9 | | | | |

Sudoku #1249 (Easy)

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 | | | | | |
| | 6 | | | | | | | 1 |
| | 3 | | 2 | | | | | 8 |
| | 2 | 6 | | 9 | | 5 | 3 | |
| 8 | | | | | 4 | 1 | 6 | |
| | | | | 6 | | | | 2 |
| | | | 4 | | | | | 5 |
| | 9 | 4 | | | | | | |
| | | | 8 | | 5 | | | 7 |

Sudoku #1256 (Medium)

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 4 | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | 9 | 5 | |
| | 5 | 2 | 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | 9 | | | 2 | |
| 9 | | | 1 | 8 | | | | |
| | 3 | 8 | | 5 | | | 1 | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | 5 |
| | | | | | 1 | | | |
| | | | 2 | | | | 7 | 8 |

Sudoku #1250 (Easy)

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 5 | | | | 9 | 3 |
| | | 7 | | | | | | |
| | | | 4 | | 9 | 5 | 6 | |
| | 8 | | | | 3 | 1 | 5 | |
| | | 2 | | | | | | |
| 3 | 6 | 4 | | | | | | |
| | | | | 5 | | | 2 | |
| | | | 8 | 6 | 7 | | 1 | |
| 9 | | | | 2 | 4 | | | 7 |

Solution can be found here with the #ref
number <https://www.puzzles.ca/sudoku/>

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5.30-6.30pm DANCE FUSION • age 11-13 years

6.30-7.30pm DANCE REV • age 13+

THURSDAY – TODDINGTON ST GEORGE CoE SCHOOL

3.30-4.30pm NIFTY NIPPERS • age 4-5 years

5.00-6.00pm DANCE 4/5 • age 8-11 years

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THE SCAM TECH CALL: A PLAY IN ONE ACT

Scene: A quiet home office. The phone rings for the third time this morning.

[John] (picking up the phone, sounding exasperated)

Hello?

[Scammer] (speaking quickly and with urgency)

Hello, sir. This is Tech Support XYZ again. Your computer is really under attack!

[John] (alarmed)

What? Under attack?

[Scammer] (escalating urgency)

Yes, sir. We've detected viruses on your system. If we don't act now, you could lose all your data!

[John] (hesitant, unsure)

Viruses? How do you know that?

[Scammer] (confidently)

Our systems flagged unusual activity coming from your network. Don't worry; I can help fix this right now. Just follow my instructions.

[John] (pauses)

Um... I don't know. This sounds a bit—

[Scammer] (interrupting)

Sir, if you delay, the hackers could steal everything—your personal files, bank details, even your identity! You must act immediately!

[Narrator] (stepping in)

This is a classic example of a scam call. Notice the urgency, the technical jargon, and the attempt to instill fear. Let's unpack the techniques used here and discuss how to protect yourself...

Apologies if this is triggering to you, if you've been victim of a fake IT support call like this. I feel it necessary to illustrate for the community what happens during one of these scams and I hope reading this may help prevent people falling victim to such a call.

Here are five pieces of advice to help avoid falling victim to a scam tech call.

Beware of Unsolicited Calls: Legitimate companies don't call unexpectedly about computer issues. Hang up and verify directly. Ensure they are not lurking on the line in silence by calling a friend or family member.

Don't Trust Caller ID: Scammers can fake numbers to look legitimate. Always confirm independently.

Never Allow Remote Access: Don't download software or give control unless you initiated the call.

Protect Personal Info: Never share sensitive details like passwords or card numbers over the phone.

Stay Calm: Scammers create panic. Hang up if a call feels rushed or suspicious.

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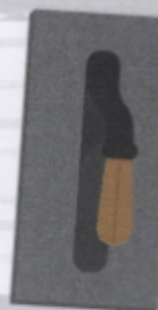
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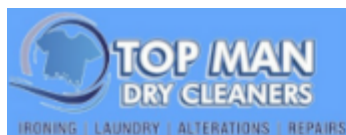
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The below lists dates and events planned during the year, for further information please contact the relevant organiser. Contact details can be found on page 42-43, Toddington Village Contacts

| Weekly events and activities | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------|---------------------------|
| Day | Event Name | Time | Location |
| Monday | Bible study group | 2.00 - 3.30 | Methodist Wesley Hall |
| Monday | Children's Dance | 3.30 – 7.30 | St George's School |
| Monday | Rockabye Baby: Baby & u5's | 10.00 | Toddington Baptist Church |
| Monday | Rainbows | 5.00 – 5.45 | Guide Building |
| Monday | Brownies | 6.00 – 7.30 | Guide Building |
| Monday | Beavers | 6.30 – 19.30 | Scout Hut |
| Monday | Carpet Bowling club | 7.00 – 9.00 | Village Hall |
| Tuesday | Toddington Tots: Baby & u5's | 9.30 – 11.00 | Village Hall |
| Tuesday | Pilates & Stretch | 9.30 – 10.30 | Methodist Wesley Hall |
| Tuesday | Knitting group | 10.30 | Wilkinson Hall |
| Tuesday | Cubs | 6.15pm – 7.45pm | Scout Hut |
| Wednesday | Community Garden | 10.00 – 11.30 | Methodist Wesley Hall |
| Wednesday | Hurly Burly: Baby & u5's | 9.00 – 11.00 | Toddington Baptist Church |
| Wednesday | Wednesday Art Group | 10am – 12pm | Methodist Wesley Hall |
| Wednesday | Carpet Bowls Club | 2pm – 5pm | Village Hall |
| Thursday | Children's Dance | 3.30pm – 6.00pm | St George's School |
| Thursday | Pilates & Stretch | 6.30 – 7.30 | St George's School |
| Thursday | Toddington Singing Café | 10.30 - 11.45am | Village Hall |
| Friday | Pilates & Stretch | 9.00am – 10.00am | Methodist Wesley Hall |
| Friday | Painting for pleasure | 10.30am | Wilkinson Hall |
| Friday | Community Garden | 2.00 – 4.00 | Methodist Wesley Hall |
| Friday | Toddington Music Makers | 6.30pm -7:30 pm | Methodist Wesley Hall |
| Friday | Scouts | 7pm – 8.30pm | Scout Hut |
| Monthly events and activities | | | |
| Day | Event Name | Time | Location |
| 1 st Sunday | Muddy Church | 10.00am | Methodist Wesley Hall |
| 2 nd Sunday | Creative Space | 2.00 - 3.30pm | Methodist Wesley Hall |
| 3 rd Monday | U3A Open Meeting | 2.00pm | Village Hall |
| 2 nd Tuesday | Guild & Games | 2.00 - 3.30pm | Methodist Wesley Hall |
| 1 st Wednesday | Pudding Club | | Methodist Wesley Hall |
| 1 st Thursday | Ploughman's Lunch | 12.00pm | Wilkinson Hall |
| 2 nd Thursday | Time with Friends | 2.00pm | Wilkinson Hall |
| 3 rd Thursday | St George's Fellowship | 2.00pm | Wilkinson Hall |
| 4 th Friday | Messy Church | 3.30pm | Wilkinson Hall |
| 1 st Saturday | Coffee Morning | 10.30 – 12.00am | Methodist Wesley Hall |
| 2 nd Saturday | Coffee Morning | 10.00am | Wilkinson Hall |
| February & March Events | | | |
| Date | Event Name | Details | Location |
| Sunday 16 th February | Rev Linda's Last service at St George's – Leaving Party after the service in Wilkinson Hall | | |
| Tuesday 8 th April – 8PM | Parish Councill Grant Application and Recognition Awards | | Village Hall |

Toddington Village Contacts

| HEALTH CONTACTS | | Defibrillator Locations |
|------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Bedford Hospital | 01234 355122 | Toddington Library, Market Square LU5 6BP - On the wall outside |
| Doctor's surgery | 01525 872222 | Toddington Social & Services Club - On the wall outside to the left |
| Dentist | 01525 577066 | Parkfields Middle school - Left of front entrance |
| Luton and Dunstable Hospital | 01582 491166 | Unit 5 Crowbush Farm, Luton Road, Toddington, LU5 6HU |
| Opticians Toddington Eyecare | 01525 875099 | Life Threatening Medical Emergency: 999 Non life-threatening medical need: 111 |
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|-----------------------|---|--------------|
| Gas emergency | | 0800 11199 |
| Electricity emergency | Ring 105 to be put through to your local network operator | 105 |
| Police Station Luton | | 01582 401212 |

ADMINISTRATIVE & SOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| Bedfordshire age UK | https://www.ageuk.org.uk/bedfordshire | 01234 360510 |
| Beds domestic abuse partnership | https://bedsdv.org.uk | |
| Citizens Advice Dunstable | https://www.dunstablecab.org.uk | 01582 670003 |
| Citizens Advice Consumer service | Trading Standards advise | 03454 04 05 06 |
| Mental health Beds open door young people | | 01234360388 / 07922105200 |
| Post Office at Nisa | | 03457223344 |
| Police | non-serious crimes anti-social behave or anonymously via Crime stoppers | 101 / 0800 555 111 |
| Scams | report scams or suspected scams to Action Fraud | 0300 123 2040 |
| Toddington Library | | 03003008069 |

CHURCHES

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| All Saints Chalgrave | Rev Linda Washington | 01525 714442 / 07715 603557 |
| Friends of St George's Church | f.brown950@btinternet.com | 01525 872501 |
| St George's Toddington Church | Rev Linda Washington | 01525 714442 / 07715 603557 |
| St George's Church Bellringers | Peter Boon | 01908 584181 |
| Toddington Methodist Church | Rev Seung Jeung | 01525 372289 |
| Toddington Baptist Church | secretary@toddingtonbaptist.com | |

Central Bedfordshire Council

| Responsibilities: Potholes, Footpaths, Lighting, Trees, Pollution, Planning | | |
|---|--|--|
| General Information | customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk | 0300 3008301 |
| Reporting Problems | www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/reportit - Smartphone App search: 'FixMyStreet' in app store | |
| Report emergency | Report an emergency, such as a street light with wires exposed | 0300 300 8049 |
| Pollution | pollution@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk | 0300 300 8302 |
| Planning | planning applications & enforcement issues | 0300 300 8670 |
| Unitary Ward Councillors: | Cllr Mary Walsh | mary.walsh@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk 0300 300 8514 |
| | Cllr Gary Purser | gary.purser@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk 0300 300 8548 |
| Central Beds safeguarding | | 0300 300 8585 / 0300 300 8123 |

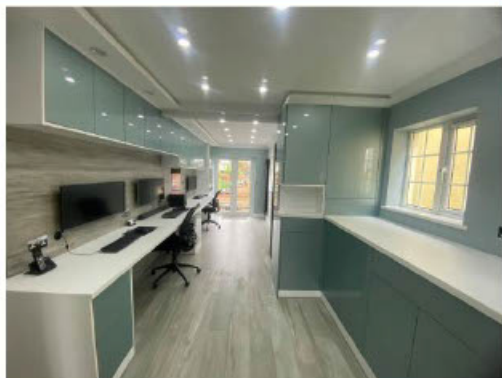
Toddington Parish Council, Other Village PC's & MP

| Responsibilities: Luton Road Recreational Ground, Russel Rd Play Park, Crowbush, The Glebe, Memorial Garden, Village Green, Cemetery, Allotments | | |
|--|--|--------------|
| Toddington Parish Council General Contact | info@toddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk | 01525 874312 |
| Chalton Parish Council | clerk@chalton-pc.gov.uk | |
| Chalgrave Parish Council | phil@philparryassociates.co.uk | |
| Blake Stephenson | blake.stephenson.mp@parliament.uk | |

If your local group would like to be listed here, please email: toddnews@outlook.com

| SCHOOLS | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| Chalton Lower School | | 01525 872354 |
| Harlington Upper School | | 01525 755100 |
| Parkfields Middle School | schooladmin@parkfieldsschool.co.uk | 01525 872555 |
| St George's Lower School | admin@toddstg.co.uk | 01525 872360 |
| Toddington Childcare | admin@toddingtonchildcare.org.uk | |
| SPORT AND EXERCISE | | |
| Chalgrave Manor Golf Club | | 01525 876556 |
| Indoor Carpet Bowls | Sue.bollins@ntlworld.com | 07758 680406 |
| Pilates Classes - Lauren Houghton | lauren@ignitedanceandfitness.co.uk | |
| Toddington Ramblers – Yvonne Bevan | yvonnebevan0806@gmail.com | |
| Table tennis group - Brian Roberts | | 01525 872295 |
| Tennis Club – Geoff Betts | tennis_club@hotmail.com | |
| Toddington Rovers FC | secretary@toddingtonroversfc.co.uk | |
| Toddington Trotters Sunday run – Lisa | | 07787 503854 |
| Toddington Walks and Rides | www.toddington.info | |
| Well-being walks – Walk for Health | Kathy Bocutt | 07900694001 |
| GROUPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE | | |
| Guiding – Melanie Parker | melanieparker62@outlook.com | 01525 875844 |
| Hurley Burley - Baby and under 5's | Doreen Maskell | 07593 355971 |
| Toddington Tots - Baby and under 5's – Messy Church | facebook.com/toddingtontots - toddingtontots@gmail.com - Nicki Rev Linda Washington | 07715 603557 |
| My Theatre Dance – Lauren Houghton | lauren@ignitedanceandfitness.co.uk | |
| Mumday Funday days out – Lauren Moss | laurenlouisemoss88@gmail.com | |
| Rock-a-bye-baby - Becky Boddey | becky@rockandredeemvineyard.com | 07376 019437 |
| Scouting – Karen Calder | gls@toddingtonscoutgroup.org - www.toddingtonscoutsonline.co.uk | |
| St George's Youth group | Rev Linda Washington | 07715 603557 |
| HALLS | | |
| Chalgrave Memorial Hall – Phil Parry | chalgravememorialhall1@gmail.com | |
| Guide building – Melanie Parker | melanieparker62@outlook.com | 01525 875844 |
| Methodist Wesley Hall | | 01525 873871 |
| Social and Services Club | admin@toddingtonsocialclub.co.uk | |
| Village Hall | Avril Clark | 01525 872571 |
| Wilkinson Hall | Dee Curtis | 01525 872649 |
| OTHER GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES | | |
| British Legion – John Wood | jpwood@btconnect.com | 07771 774518 |
| Chalgrave pop-up tearoom – Sandy Ryan | Sandra-ryan@sky.com | |
| Friday Lunch club | Rachel Wiliams | 01525 872548 |
| For Painting for Pleasure & St George's Fellowship & Tuesday Knitters | Dee Curis | 01525 872649 |
| Music Makers – Ruth Robinson | ruth.christine.robinson@gmail.com | |
| Open Door lunch club - Colin Maskell | | 01525 752463 |
| Toddington Trefoil Guild | hornsbyjanet@btinternet.com | 01525 875203 |
| Social and services club | admin@toddingtonsocialclub.co.uk | |
| TADS theatre group – Michelle Standon | chairman@tadstheatre.org | |
| Toddington Music Society – Fran Brown | f.brown950@btinternet.com | 01525 872501 |
| Toddington Old Boys Assoc – Len Hull | LenHull@btinternet.com | |
| Todd Old Scholars – Janet Hornsby | hornsbyjanet@btinternet.com | |
| Todd singing café – Ruth Robinson | ruth.christine.robinson@gmail.com | |
| Toddington Town Band | Toddingtontownband@gmail.com - toddingtontownband.weebly.com | |
| Toddington Magazine | toddnews@outlook.com | |
| U3A – Sue Barrow | suej.barrow@outlook.com | 07712 810671 |
| Rotary Club of Dunstable Downs | tonygt@tds@gmail.com | 01525 874393 |
| Toddington Music Makers - Ruth Robinson | info@toddingtonmusicmakers.co.uk | 01525 874326 |
| Toddington Singing Café - Ruth Robinson | info@toddingtonsingingscafe.co.uk | 01525 874326 |
| Wednesday Art Group | Jbgsilsoe@gmail.com | 01525 861053 |

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