

The Ampfield Messenger



Christmas Edition

*The Parish Magazine of
St. Mark Ampfield*

December 2021

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The Parish Church of St Mark, Ampfield

Our vision: To be channels of God's love in the world

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DEADLINE: The third Friday of each calendar month.

Contributions to this magazine are always welcome, however it may be necessary to edit or shorten articles. Note that the views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor or the Parochial Church Council. Advertisements in this publication do not carry the endorsement of the editor or the Parochial Church Council.

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Letter from Sally

Dear Friends,



Iwonder how many of you write lists in order to remember the many things that must be done every day? Apparently writing out all the tasks we need to get done can help us prioritise and plan, structure our thoughts, manage our time. But more importantly getting to the end of an unpleasant to-do list can be incredibly satisfying, not to mention a hefty weight off our mind!

At this time of year making lists takes on a different meaning as we frantically get ready for Christmas, the many tasks, we must do can seem at times overwhelming. In the church year the four weeks prior to Christmas are called Advent. This is known practically and spiritually as the season of preparation and waiting, waiting to receive the Christ child once again at Christmas. But as the days slip past, it's difficult not to become overwhelmed and impatient with our preparations for Christmas. Writing those cards, finding the perfect gift for everyone and making sure the house is filled with lovely food. All these preparations can be a lot of fun, but they can also be the source of stress and bring out the worst in us, particularly selfishness and impatience. Therefore, let us try to endeavour to show a bit more patience, a bit more forgiveness, a friendly smile at this time of the year. A modest gesture of compassion can do amazing things. It can change us in our waiting and preparation, and can make the difference from how we were to what we will be when the waiting is over, and this is often where God slips in.

May God bless us this Christmas, may all darkness in our lives be removed by the light of Christ. May our hearts be filled with the Joy of Christ's birth, and may we be missionaries of his love. **Sally Kerson**



Christmas at St. Mark's



**CRIB SERVICE
DECEMBER 24TH 3.30pm**

ALL WELCOME



MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

DECEMBER 24th 11.30pm

Online and onsite Worship

Advent

As we enter Advent it is time to think about how we prepare for Christmas spiritually as well as practically. Therefore, join us for an Advent course thinking about what Christmas means in each of the four gospel homes. What sort of houses would a modern day Mark, Matthew, Luke and John live in? What sort of Christmas would they celebrate? Tuesdays (30th Nov, 7th, 14th and 21st Dec) 7.30pm on zoom - email us at

joinin@acnb-church.org for the zoom details.

Christmas services and events

Here are the dates for the Christmas services and events:

12th December (Sunday)

13:00-15:00 Gingerbread Biscuit Decorating
Competition at All Saints

18th December (Saturday)

16:00 Community Carols at All Saints
This event is (weather permitting) outside so wrap up warm

19th December (Sunday)

15:00 Carol Service at St Denys

24th December (Friday)

15:30 Crib and Carol Service at St Mark
23:30 Midnight Communion at St Mark

25th December (Saturday)

09:30 Communion at St Denys

26th December (Sunday)

No 09:30 service



Regular services

There is a slight amendment to the regular service pattern - there is now Morning Prayer at St Denys once a month and Evening Prayer on zoom every Sunday.

Regular Service Pattern:

Sunday at 09:30

- 1st Sunday - Worship for All, online only
- 2nd Sunday - Communion at St Mark, Ampfield
- 3rd Sunday - Communion at All Saints, North Baddesley and streamed live online
- 4th Sunday - Communion at St Denys, Chilworth
- 5th Sunday (when there is one) - Communion at St John, North Baddesley

Sunday at 11:00

- 1st Sunday only - Morning Prayer using Book of Common Prayer at St Denys

Sunday at 18:00: Evening Prayer using Book of Common Prayer (on Zoom)

Tuesday at 10:30: Morning prayer in St. Mark's Room

Abbie West



BENEFICE NEWS

Remembrance Sunday

We enjoyed a moving service in St Mark's Church followed by the traditional ceremony at the Ampfield Cenotaph to remember all those who lost their lives in conflict.

The monies so generously donated totalled £102.80 which will be sent to the Earle Haig (Poppy) fund with an extra £28.50 gift aid tax reclaimable from the Inland Revenue on loose donations.

Harvest Gifts 2021: The Winchester Beacon

Thank you so much to all who kindly brought donations of food to St. Mark's Harvest Service in October. We filled two huge boxes and six carrier bags with tins, packets, jars etc. They were taken to The Winchester Beacon, previously called the Winchester Churches Nightshelter. We were greeted warmly and thanked profusely by staff and residents for all our gifts. Two residents willingly helped us carry all the produce into the building. The name was changed this year to reflect the far-reaching service now delivered. The Winchester Beacon provides more than just a bed for the night. It gives the hope and personalised support needed by the residents to make a change and move forward with their lives. There are 10 single bedrooms on site at Jewry Street and a further 8 bedrooms across two off-site properties. This number will soon be increased to a total of 12 off-site bedrooms, with the recent completion of a new house purchase. The Winchester Beacon is now open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Some residents stay for just a few weeks and others stay for many months.

I'm sure many of you will know that some members of our Churches cook and donate meals during the year. If you would like to find out more about The Winchester Beacon, which is always in need of volunteers, please get in touch by telephone 01962 862050 or see their website www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk

There is an interesting booklet all about The Winchester Beacon in the porch of St. Mark's Church. There are many ways in which you can help this wonderful charity.

Jennie and Alan

Advent Course

Will be on Tuesday evenings starting 30th November 19:30

Zoom details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89689428383?pwd=ZUdNbUlnZnQ4UE5lcm1hMExzbnkRHdz09>.

When we will be looking at the gospels and exploring what sort of houses a modern day Mark, Matthew, Luke and John live in and what sort of Christmas they would celebrate. Please join is for our Advent course where over four weeks we will be thinking about what Christmas means in each of the four gospel homes.

The Advent candle wreath

The first candle was lit at the service on Advent Sunday.



Claire Ludwell

We are sad to tell you that Claire Ludwell died peacefully in her sleep on the 30th. November. Claire will be remembered with love and gratitude by many. Her obituary will be in next month's Messenger.



From the St. Mark's Register



Marriage

We send our congratulations to Sarah Rogers and Craig Hobbs who were married at St. Marks on 26th November
We wish them a very happy married life together.

Brief Report of St. Mark's PCC Meeting held via zoom on Monday 15 November 2021

The meeting was well attended and discussions included the following:-

Christmas Services - it is hoped there will be a combined Crib and Carol Service held on Christmas Eve at 3.30pm to which everyone is welcome. The Midnight Service will be in Church later that evening.

Rotas - we are looking for volunteers to help in 2022 with the Church cleaning, brass cleaning, sidespeople, coffee makers and flower arrangers. At present, there is just one service a month, so these tasks would not be too onerous. Please email Jennie if you would like to help.

Sound System - it is hoped that this will soon be in place. We have had several donations towards it's cost, for which we are very grateful.

Finance - our Treasurer, Pam, keeps us up to date with our accounts and it was agreed to pay another month's Quota - we are now only one month behind. We would like to thank our congregation for their continued support.

Profile re new Vicar - this will be a joint effort by the whole Benefice. A working group comprising two representatives from each parish is be established to prepare the relevant documentation in line with the Diocesan template.

Deanery Synod - meets three times a year. We can have two representatives from St. Mark's but at present only have one. If anyone would like to become our second representative, please email Jennie.

Safeguarding - there is much work to do on updating/renewing our policies. This will take place in the New Year.

The Friends of St. Mark's - it is hoped that this group will meet soon to discuss possible fundraising events in 2022.

Car Park security - there have sadly been two more break-ins of cars in the car park. Please ensure nothing of value is left in your car, and certainly not on view. It is hoped to install more security cameras in the future.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 10 January 2022.

**Jennie Edwards
PCC Secretary**



Ampfield Parish Council

Ampfield Parish Council's last Meeting of 2021 was on 8th November.

The new public-access defibrillator (AED) is now installed at Ampfield Pavilion. This was entirely funded through donations from our County Councillor Alan Dowden, and Borough Councillor Martin Hatley, and installed free of charge by our electricians, Redington Home Services. The parish council operates two further AEDs in the parish (at Village Hall and Potters Heron). In an emergency, first call 999, and you will be directed to a public defibrillator if appropriate. But for reference, a smartphone app, "Save a Life", shows the positions of defibrillators in Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire. On the British Heart Foundation website, you can learn about using an AED:

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators/how-to-use-a-defibrillator> .

An oak tree was planted on 26 October by the Mayor of Test Valley, Cllr Mark Cooper, to commemorate those affected by COVID-19. He also formally

opened our new dipping platform. We were grateful to St Mark's for providing refreshments afterwards.

Our Autumn Newsletter is now available on our website.

The next Parish Council Meeting is at

7pm

Monday 10 January 2022

in Ampfield Village Hall.

Members of the public are most welcome to attend, but need not wait until a Meeting to raise any issues - please contact the Clerk or use the form on our website.

Ampfield
Parish
Council

**Kate
Orange**

clerk@ampfield.org.uk
www.ampfield.org.uk





Let's crack a joke ...

What do you call a cow with a twitch?
Beef Jerky

Why couldn't the skeleton go to the Christmas party?
Because he had no body to go with

Why is Ireland the biggest country in the world?
Because it keeps Dublin

My favourite Christmas song

we asked our contributors for the song that gets them into the Christmas mood -

Fairytale of New York
by the Pogues and Kirsty McCall
Kate
Charlie

**The Angel Gabriel from
Heaven came**
Agne

Once in Royal David's
City
From King's Cambridge
Chris

**Oh Little town of
Bethlehem**
Sue
Alan & Jennie

**Blue Christmas by
Elvis Presley**
Marcus

**Hark The Herald An-
gels sing**

In Dulci Jubilo
Ian

White Christmas
Julie
John

"Zat you, Santa
Claus?" by Louis
Armstrong
Graham



**Good King
Wenceslas**
Adrienne
Lyn

In the Bleak Midwinter
Abbie
Paul
John

Away in a Manger
Bryan

Coventry Carol
Rob

Oh Come all ye Faithful
Julie

Silent Night
Ron

**Do They Know it's
Christmas**
Band Aid
Chris



What's on



Plaza Theatre Romsey

7th to 11th December 2021 : 7:30pm

PLAZA THEATRE : ROMSEY
 BOOK ONLINE: www.plazatheatre.com
 BOX OFFICE: 01794 512987 (Romsey VIC)

Seasons Greetings by Alan Ayckbourn

Tue 7th - Sat 11th Dec 2021 | 19:30 | £14.00

PLAZA THEATRE : ROMSEY
 BOOK ONLINE: www.plazatheatre.com
 BOX OFFICE: 01794 512987 (Romsey VIC)

Back with a Bang! by Michelmersh Silver Band

Mon 13th - Tue 14th Dec 2021 | 19:30 | £13.00



Forbidden Nights By Forbidden Nights

Wed 15th Dec 2021 | 19:30 | £30.00





What's on



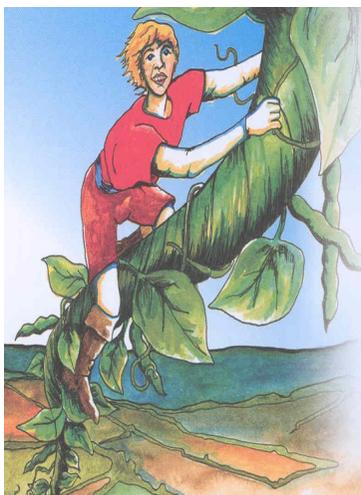
Ampfield Village Hall

&

**Bumblefly Theatre & forest forge theatre company
present**

Jack & The Beanstalk

Entertainment for all the family



Wednesday 15 December 2021
Starting at 6pm prompt
(Doors open at 5.30pm) Tickets (unreserved):

£8.00 Adult £4.00 Children

Performance will last about 1 hour without an interval.
Tickets available from: **Martin Hatley 07970 501050**
Or Email: VillageHall@ampfield.org.uk



What's on



Winchester Night Shelter

We will be taking over the market's Charity Chalet on Saturday 11th December. Pop along and say hello! We will be selling a range of gifts and decorations.



ST. MARK'S CHURCH AT AMPFIELD MARKET

Visit our stall at the Ampfield Christmas Market on Saturday 4th December. We will have a large selection of stocking fillers, Christmas gifts and crafts, Fairtrade chocolate and cards.
Start your Christmas shopping here!



What's on



The Ampfield Christmas Market

*with Father Christmas
& splendid Raffle in aid of Pancreatic Cancer Research
In memory of Liz Easterbrook & Martin Trotter*

**Saturday 4th December
From 10am to 12noon**

in Ampfield Village Hall

Our Market has a great reputation, we regularly sell:-
Fresh fruit and veg, Fairtrade foods, jams, chutneys and pickles,
cakes, biscuits and scones, plants and fresh flowers, cards and
wrapping paper, books, antiques, unusual crafts, jewellery,
children's clothes, toys, honey, seasonal surprises, bric a brac
and much much more.

***Fresh coffee and a wonderful selection of cakes will be
served all morning in the Garden Room***



Parking and admission are always FREE
All proceeds support the Village Hall
Registered charity no.1057353
Contact Julie:023 80254587 for table bookings and info



What's on



Saturday 4th December at Romsey Abbey



- * Romsey Youth Wind Band
- * Romsey Youth Children's Choir
- * Romsey Area Youth Jazz Band
- * Romsey Youth Choir
- * Romsey Abbey Choir
- * Romsey Youth Concert Band

Visit <https://www.georgestrust.org/>

GINGERBREAD BISCUIT DECORATING AT ALL SAINTS NORTH BADDESLEY

On Sunday 12th December at 13:00 we are inviting children and their parents to come to All Saints and decorate gingerbread biscuits.

However, everyone is welcome to come along and have a cup of tea or coffee and join in the fun.



ROMDAG Romsey Dementia Action Group



Invites you to their

Romsey Forget-Me-Nots Christmas Party

When is it?	Tuesday 14 th December
Where is it?	Ampfield Village Hall, Morleys Lane, Ampfield
What time?	11:30pm – 1:30pm

Come for some games, singing and general fun

Refreshments and cakes will be provided, but please feel free to bring your lunch

R.S.V.P Marianne on
mpiggin@testvalley.gov.uk by 7th December
to book your places





What's on



Now in its third year at Romsey Abbey, experience the magic of Christmas with a screening of Howard Blake's timeless animated classic 'The Snowman' accompanied by a live orchestra. Featuring the Romsey Sinfonietta, conducted by Craig Lawton, with leader Kath Roberts and a chorister from the Romsey Abbey Choir.

There will be TWO performances ONLY with screenings at 4 pm and 5.30pm.

Book early to avoid disappointment! Tickets on sale from Monday 30th September 11 am online at ticketsource.co.uk or from Romsey Visitor Information Centre, 13 Church Street.

Tel: 01794 512987.

Tickets £10, £8 under 16s, £34 group (2 adults and 2 children)



Are you alone on Christmas day?

If so, you are very welcome to attend our shared Christmas dinner in Lockerley & East Dean Village Hall.

If you don't drive, not a problem. We can sort any obstacle.

All free, we would love to have you and celebrate together.

Contact Amy on :
07411434360





What's on



Mottisfont



From Saturday 4 December until Monday 3 January, go along and explore Mottisfont on your own special winter adventure. Trails cost £2 each.

As well as the trail around the grounds, you'll find festive decorations both inside and out. Lanterns and twinkling lights line our garden pathways, and you can spot signs of woodland creatures gathering for Christmas celebrations and preparing for winter.



A traditional nativity scene and advent ring will be on display in the Cellarium. A selection of rooms are open inside the house. You'll find trees dressed in traditional baubles and colours for a cosy, Christmassy feeling. Look out for more little woodland creatures nestling down among the decorations.

making music

Saturday 4th December 2021
7:30pm

Crosfield Hall, Romsey, SO51 8GL

**Romsey Chamber Orchestra
Autumn Concert
"Surprise"**

www.ticketsource.co.uk/romsey-chamber-orchestra

RCO
ROMSEY
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA



What's on



The Potters Heron

is raring to go this Christmas with Festive Party Nights back in action, they are so happy to be the place where people can get together and celebrate this time of year.

They are also offering Festive

Afternoon Teas, a Christmassy twist on their Restaurant menu and of course the big day itself - Christmas Day Lunch.



They are delighted to be mixing Christmas up with weddings and birthday parties too this December along with staycationers still enjoying Ampfield and the local area. They'll be finishing off the month with their annual New Year's Eve Party.



Nigel Babb

CHRISTMAS



Black Friday's now behind us
And I've bought today
A jumper 20% reduced
Although it's Saturday.

Christmas has been advertised
For 5 months or more.
Festive promotions getting
More insistent than before.

I always think I've loads of time,
It's not December yet.
Then I find it's the last posting date
And I've still 10 cards to get.

Today I thought I'd check to see
What Christmas cards I'd bought
In last January's sales.
Sadly, the answer's nought...

I've just a few sad remnants.
Cards left from last year.
Several jolly Santas
With sleighs, gifts and reindeer.

I must venture to the shops
For these will not suffice.
I'll try to forget those sales
When cards were half the price...

I shall wear my trusty mask
Put sanitiser on
And hope to get my cards without
Encountering Omicron...

I hope it will be worth it
And I'll not be feeling rotten
When that last post brings a card
From someone I've forgotten...

Hopeful Poet

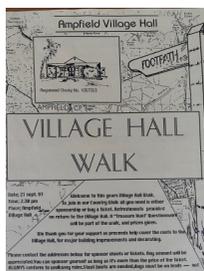
Sue Goldsmith

The History of Ampfield Village Hall

1996 -1998

1996

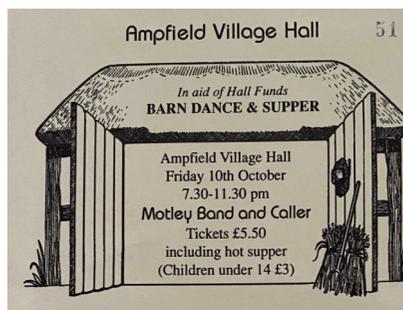
In May 1996 the main hall was painted by volunteers using scaffolding towers and a good deal of hard work. On July 19th 1996, the 4 years of hard work culminated in the hall being officially handed over from the W.I. to the new Village Hall Committee. On Monday 15th July 1996 the first Annual General Meeting took place, it was well attended and the first officers of the new committee were elected along with representatives of all the hall user groups. A Quiz evening took place on the 18th October 1996 .



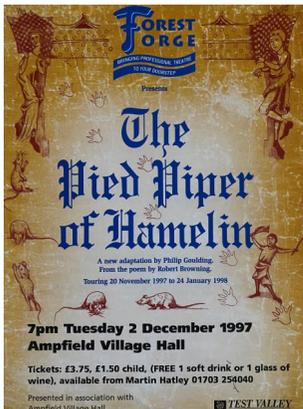
1997

On January 24th local families enjoyed a Beetle Drive and in February the major refurbishment of the hall began. This work included new toilets, new doors, and the old metal window frames were replaced with UPVC windows. In the Autumn of 1997 the entrance drive was levelled and tidied. A Village Hall walk and

Treasure Hunt was organised on the 21st September to raise much needed funds through sponsorship - tickets were only £1.50! On October 10th there was a barn dance in the hall featuring the Motley Band and in November there was an 'evening of antiques' led by Michael Baker a well known local auctioneer. Over £700 was raised for charity and for the hall, the event also promoted the newly refurbished hall.



Cont....



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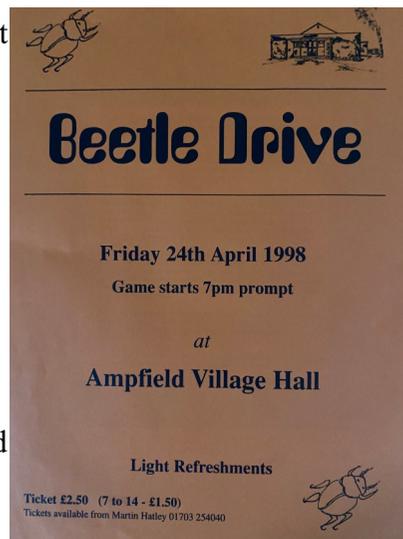
On December 2nd the first village Pantomime for a long time - The Pied Piper of Hamelin - took place. The walls were decked with festive greenery and scuttling rats!



This was also the first event to be subsidised by HCC Hog the Limelight, which supported and encouraged entertainment in Village Halls.

1998

In March 1998, there was an elegant cabaret evening called Black Tie and Sequins, performed by Three's Company. As part of the ACHA programme, there was a talk about trees in February followed by a second presentation in April entitled 'Rural Action for the Environment'. We were already highlighting environmental concerns back then ! The second AGM of the Village Hall took place in March and reported a successful year and announced plans for an extension to the rear of the hall to provide a new committee room and much needed storage space for users. Another Beetle drive took place in April 1998. On June 16th 1998 the proposed building work began.



Cont. ...

...Cont.

The Ampfield W.I. celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 19th 1998, the group presented the hall with a beautiful tapestry completed by its members. This work still hangs in the hall.



From the left I can identify Jean Rose, Joan Hatley, Sheila Herbitch - black dress with white collar, Pauline Richards, Meg Rothwell in the beige suit. Delia Baker - in the striped dress, Vi Bignall - in the blue dress and June Wood on the end with the white bag.

[Can readers name anyone else? ...Eds.]

...Cont.

In October, following completion of the new extension, volunteers spent some time decorating the new space ready for hire. The extension was officially opened by the Mayor of Test Valley during a Quiz Night on November 27th. Containers for waste paper recycling were in constant use and by late 1998 we had received a return of £800 towards hall funds. Sadly we no longer receive an income from our recycling bins !

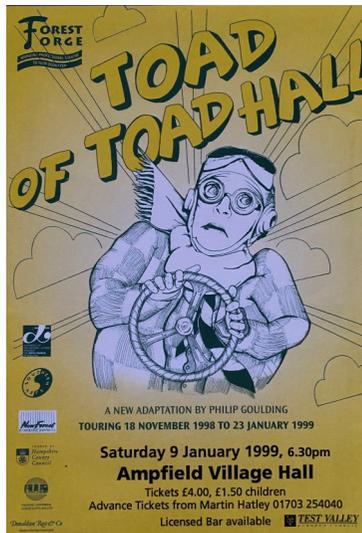
1999

This year began with another Forest Forge Pantomime, this time, Toad of Toad Hall, which was a great success. The Hall walls were decorated with running toads!



In March a Devon based theatre company performed a comedy entitled "Threshing about" with tales of village life. In April much needed work began on the old kitchen. The work was undertaken by volunteers and provided new units, sink and storage shelves. The walls were very mouldy due to lack of adequate heating and ventilation, so once this was

remedied, a fresh coat of paint completed the job. The hall still functioned and in April there was an ACHA talk on organic gardening . On November 12th the hall welcomed David Jacobs for an evening of name dropping and anecdotes from his long and varied life in broadcasting. Members of the committee served a two course meal by candlelight. **Julie Trotter**



Ron and Stella's



1. If you're born on Christmas day, what's your star sign?
2. In which year was the first Christmas card sent 1743,1843 or 1943?
3. Which ocean can Christmas Island be found in?
4. Which one of Santa's Reindeer has the same name as the God of Love?
5. What's the name of the period leading up to Christmas?
6. What does Santa give to naughty children?
7. What beverage company has been using Santa Claus in its advertising since 1931?
8. There are more than 110 different varieties of which popular vegetables?
9. In which film does Tom Hanks voice Santa?
10. What is the UK's number One selling Christmas Song?



Answers on page 44

Another Tree Lost to a Major Storm

Having last month described the loss of the cedar which grew near the car park, this is perhaps a good moment to commemorate another tree lost in a great storm, this time in 1990, a tree which we suspect had a very personal meaning for the Awdry family.

The Revd Vere Awdry was Ampfield's third vicar, serving from 1895 to 1917. He made a huge impact on the parish, but was a man with a very sad personal history. When Anita Wood and I were researching the history of the church, we met a number of times with Vere's son, the Revd Wilbert Awdry, author of the Thomas the Tank Engine books. He made us particularly welcome, being so very pleased that we wanted to know about his father (whom he loved dearly) and not asking endless questions about Thomas. Thus we learned much about Vere's family.

Vere was the son, one of fourteen children, of Sir John Awdry of Notton near Lacock in Wiltshire, who was a cousin of Sir William Heathcote of Hursley Park - a case of the 'old boys' network' I fear, but one which benefited Ampfield greatly. Vere trained for ordination at Chichester Theological College, where his elder brother was the Principal, then became curate of North Bradley in Wiltshire. While there he married his first wife, Margaret Mann and was devastated when she died in childbirth only one year later. Their child, a daughter named Hildred, was never strong and she died only two years later in 1891.

Old Vicarage with Awdry
children 1898 or 1899



Cont. ...

...Cont.

Vere married again, to Mary Louisa Mann, a cousin of his first wife, and they had two children, a daughter Bridget and a son Carol, born at Broad Hinton, where he was now the vicar. When in 1895 Vere came to Ampfield, he and his family moved into the vicarage.

Tragedy was to strike again when in April 1900 Bridget died of appendicitis. She was buried in the churchyard beside the front hedge. Wilbert told us that during his childhood there was always a 'Bridget table' in the drawing room, holding a photo of the child and some mementoes of her short life. Eight



years later, in 1908, Mrs Mary Awdry died of cancer, aged only 56 in 1908. She is buried beside her daughter near the front hedge, where the gravestone can still be found. We guess that a silver birch tree was placed in memory, either when Bridget was buried or after her mother's death. When the tree fell in 1990, it could be seen that the roots had been beside the grave, though we have no record of it being planted.

Bridget's
gravestone



Mary Awdry's grave



Vere Awdry &
Louisa's grave

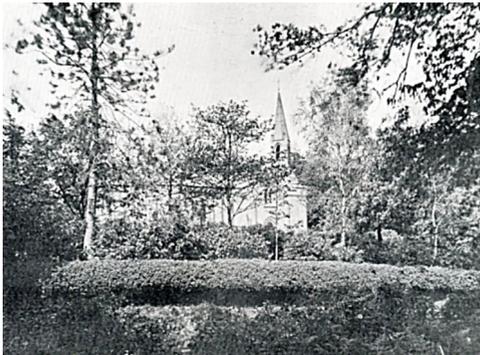
Cont....

...Cont.

Just to complete the tale of Vere's family tragedies, he did marry a third time, to Lucy Louisa Bury, who became the mother of two sons, Wilbert and George. Carol was very close to his father and also very fond of his half-brothers, but he was to become the first Ampfield man to die in the First War, in August 1914, a loss which finally broke his father and led to him retiring in 1917. How dreadful to lose two wives and three children in 25 years!

However, to get back to the silver birch: the tree thrived and was tall enough that when it was brought down by a second major storm, which many readers may remember occurred in January 1990, the result was pretty devastating. This storm happened in winter, when the leaves were down from deciduous trees, so did not do as much damage as the 1987 event, but it was enough to bring down the birch tree. This fell in a direct line towards the main church doorway, forming a bridge across the rhododendron hedges leading down to the lower gate, and with the topmost branches ending up just inches from the door. This time we were able to cut it up and dispose of the timber and branches ourselves, without calling in outside help, but it was very lucky that it had not been a few feet taller. Sadly we seem to have been too busy clearing up the mess to take any photos of this!

View from the main road 1900



Liz Hallett

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Christmas Bread and butter pudding

Ingredients:

Four slices of bread, quartered and spread with butter (or you can use brioche - delicious) and mincemeat
Glace cherries}
Sultanas } Use your imagination here!
Chopped nuts }
2oz sugar
3/4 pint of milk
2 eggs
Flaked almonds
Icing sugar



Method:

Arrange the bread and fillings in a dish
Warm (but don't boil) the milk
Whisk the eggs
Pour the milk onto the eggs, add vanilla, sugar and whisk again
Pour the custard over the bread and leave for at least half an hour to soak in (I've left it for a couple of hours & it's ok)
Sprinkle with chopped almonds
Put into the oven (180 or Gas 4) for (30 - 40) mins or until browned and set
For those with a very sweet tooth, sprinkle with a little icing sugar



Friends of Chapel Wood

We are so lucky to be able to wander around Chapel Wood at any time of year, but this year the autumn colours have been truly spectacular.



Walking around the wood, enjoying the late autumn sunshine, which becomes reflected in the bright yellows and oranges of the falling leaves, has been a real treat. It is difficult to remember a year when the colours have been more vivid. In fact, during periods when the traffic is minimal and the wind is no stronger than a mild breeze, it has been possible to stand and listen to the leaves falling gently to the woodland floor.

With so much of our agenda over the past six months centred around the pond and the dipping platform, in November it was a real treat to be able to get back to the never ending but simple task of clearing away the overgrown brambles and rhododendron. This is important work because, when left to its own devices, the woodland can quickly become clogged. .

Cont...



...Cont.

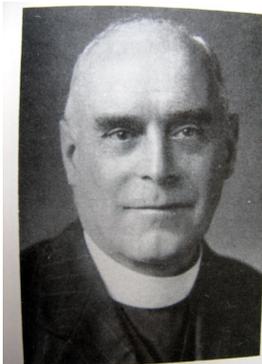
Over the summer months there is invariably a proliferation of those woodland plant that employ the simple but effective strategy of out competing their rivals. All the Friends do is simply to act as referees

Over the years, the Friends' working practises tend to evolve, although sometimes that is simply because it is more interesting to do something a bit differently. Our current practice is to concentrate our efforts and resources each month into clearing a relatively small area. In November, we were working on an area just to the west of the bonfire pit and, as we had quite a number of Friends on holiday, focussing our efforts in this one area made good sense. There is nothing better, at the end of a full morning, than to be able to see the difference that can be made. In this case, it was twofold. We managed to clear the area we were hoping to clear and, at the same time, we added a substantial amount of material to the bonfire we are building. This we hope to light in January.

The Friends of Chapel Wood meet on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00am in the car park of St. Mark's Church. If you fancy coming along to see if it is something you might enjoy, we would love to meet you there. No experience or specialist knowledge is required. We provide all the tools. During the COVID issues, we are not providing group coffee and cakes but Friends are strongly encouraged to bring their own.

Graham Roads





Memorials of Ampfield 14

by The Reverend Lake

Two other events remain to be recorded before I bring this narrative to a close.

I have already referred to the old church day school which the Ampfield children attended before ever the church was built.

Those were the days of voluntary education, when parents who desired to do their best for their children were content to pay a small sum each week towards their education; and by means of these payments, supplement with subscription from the wealthier people, the schools were maintained.

But there came a day when the government felt the call to put a hand to the plough and render possible for every child that which hitherto had fallen to the lot of the few.

With the setting of a Board of Education, compulsory education speedily followed, creating the demand for more schools, a higher standard of teaching and improved conditions of school buildings, with grounds for the exercise of the children.

In the case of Ampfield, the old School premises offered no facilities for the adoption of these new requirements, so it was decided to erect another building on a fresh site.

A subscription list was opened which Mr Faber started with a gift of £325 and Mr JW Baxendale of Hursley Park £365. The Diocesan fund contributed £30 and the balance required was raised in the parish and among friends.

... Cont.

Mr Faber presented the site, and a delightful building, an ideal village school to accommodate 100 children was erected at a cost of £1377.

The rest of the story is inscribed on a brass memorial plate in the school as follows:- “This church of England School was built in the year 1896 entirely by voluntary subscription. It was formally opened by the Lord Bishop of Winchester (Dr Randall Davidson) on Aug 12 1896, and the work was commenced on it at the beginning month. The debt of the building was paid off as a permanent memorial of Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee in 1897 Vere Awdry Vicar, David Faber Esq, Chairman.”

The other event that is worthy of record is the erection of a Memorial Cross to those, living in Ampfield who laid down their lives in the war. The work of arranging for this and collecting the money was undertaken by the Parish Council.

It was decided to erect a grey granite Cross, costing £107.7s.6d at the apex of the school playground facing Romsey.

Towards to the cost of the memorial the parishioners contributed £31.5s.11d and Mr D Faber and Sir George Cooper added £35 each to make the balance.

The Memorial was unveiled by Mrs Faber and dedicated by Archdeacon Fearon of Winchester at a service held in front of the Cross on Feb 4th 1920 in the presence of a large number of the parishioners.

There were fourteen names inscribed on the Cross together with the following inscription:- “For God, King and Country. To the memory of the men of Ampfield who fell in the Great War 1914-1918. Praise be to God who giveth us the Victory. Erected January 1920 by the Parishioners of Ampfield.”

Cont....

...Cont.

This brings my story to a close.

My main object in writing these annals is to perpetuate the memory of events, which, however trivial and insignificant they may appear to those of the outside world who are accustomed to deal with events of greater moment, yet I feel, will not be without interest to the limited circle to whom Ampfield is more than a name. Even the smallest community may, and frequently does provide material upon which the history is based. And if we in this secluded part of Hampshire are living far from the throbbing heart of a great empire, we at least contribute something to the achievement of our race.

Contributed by Nick Jeffery from the original copy by The Reverend Lake MA vicar of Ampfield 1921-1925.



Thank you Nick for sharing this fascinating material. Looking forward to your next series! Eds.

“Nothing is as dangerous for the state as those who would govern kingdoms with maxims found in books.”

Cardinal Richelieu



Nigel Babb

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

Mother Theresa

"Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection."

Winston Churchill

POINT OF VIEW

For the Greta Good

Of Greta Thunberg I'm a fan, she knows more of climate than this man.
An ardent student of science proven, with knowledge gained and passion driven,
Greta delivers up a point or two, with conviction based on things so true,
she implores those who talk, but do not act, to work towards a world on track.
She will not suffer politicians who, with climate change deniers share a view
They should employ their influence, take off their blinkers and use good sense.

Can I detect a whiff of subterfuge, while carbon pollution still it spews?
For we need to stop such mass production, diminish our acts of gross consumption.
Use less energy and resources, upon new clothes, huge cars, trips to the horses.
Reduce our flights around the world, cut pollution and grow more local food.
The earth may become a better place, if leaders engage with Greta in debate.
Not all will do this for as we know, cowardice and self-interest overflows.

Please listen greedy selfish men, for your children will not thank you when
there is no clean air left to breathe, water pure to drink, our skin to cleanse.
When the sea has taken a billion homes, on scorched earth few animals do roam.
When toxic seas are free of fish, plastic waste will not provide a tasty dish.
Your grandchildren will not know of fishes, but will detest you for amassing riches.
For while you gather fortunes close, it's your kids and grandchildren you hurt the
most.

Please change your ways, be woke, be green, help save our glorious worldly scene.
Stop thinking only of the now, drop egos, for clear forward thinking to allow.
Don't turn away or leave to others, what must be done for the world to recover.
For our planet to regain a healthy function, we must now engage in mutual action
Politicians and businesses serve themselves, but we are not their little elves.
We must act together, take up a fight, to make our voices heard both loud and
bright.

Cont....

...Cont.

To those who crave our votes take note, for without them you are slam dunk broke.
We should be proactive and join with Greta, to enjoy a lovely way to work together.
Every little effort helps they say, when combined to make better, future days.
Make do and mend, refresh, conserve, drive less miles, cycle, walk, your body
please preserve.

Protect the country and the sea, grow food, brew beer, drink wine, make
merriment.

For our children's future, use good intent and delight in life's great experiment.

After COP 25 I was dismayed by politicians & others who sought to criticise Greta
Thunberg and climate activists, so was moved to write
this, which I finished on National Poetry Day. Now
that optimism & blah, blah, blah seem to be emerging
in equal proportions from COP26, while our PM falls
asleep on the job, I thought today was the right time
to give it an airing. I hope you agree.

Paul Oliver



Our church has a Purpose.
To love God
To serve our brothers and sisters
To bring a message of God's love
reconciliation
and peace
to a world that desperately needs to hear it.

A Kitchen Garden (G4G)

With Christmas and the New Year just around the corner, it is tempting to think there is little to do in the kitchen garden. The reality, however, is somewhat different. No matter how cold it is, every opportunity must be taken to make sure we are as ready as we can be for next year's growing season, and it all starts now!



First, it is never too early to plan for next year. Every crop has its own favourite growing requirements. Each crop will attract its own fan club of microorganisms. If the same crop is grown in the same place year after year, problems can occur. By planning for

next year early, it is possible to introduce the principle of rotation. This ensures the same crop is not grown in the same place year after year, which brings advantages for improved soil fertility and reduces the build up of pests and diseases. (See <https://www.rhs.org.uk/vegetables/crop-rotation>). Keep in mind that if your memory is like mine, it is helpful to have written records

As well as planning for next year, it is a good idea to clear away what is left of 2021. It is important to make sure the beds are kept as clean and tidy as possible. The odd leaf rotting on the soil may not seem a problem but what is lurking underneath? Luckily, in this task we can usually enrol the services of the local robins who seem very happy in between the plants, turning over leaves, looking for grub. When they are having a nap, the wrens will take over.

Cont....

...Cont.

Whilst we are clearing away the remainder of the rubbish from last season, it is a good time to inspect the structures of the raised beds. There is seldom a year when one or two of these will not need to be repaired or replaced. Next spring there will be more than enough to do without worrying about making beds as well. Also, by doing this stuff now, we can choose the days when we are outside working and, when this is not an attractive proposition, there are worse places to be on a cold, wet winter's morning than in a dry garage playing with bits of wood, listening to music and drinking hot coffee!



One of the great things about vegetable gardening is that, even at this time of year, it is possible to supply the kitchen with fresh veggies for a tasty dish. Normally, the only vegetables we have left in the ground at this time of year would be leeks and kale or cavolo, which is more than sufficient. Cavolo, or kale, is great, chopped up and baked or fried until just crisp. Add some spices to taste e.g., cumin seeds, nigella seeds or paprika. The leeks can be sliced blanched and fried. When nearly ready, crumble in some cooked black pudding and cover with grated parmesan. Bake until cheese is soft.

For more information on pest control, please refer to the RHS website. For what to do this month in the kitchen garden, paste into your browser

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/august>.

Please contact Chris and Rob K to exchange ideas with your own stories, tips and particularly your own recipes?



Graham Roads

Ampfield CofE Primary School



The beginning of the autumn term brought with it the opportunity for children to be together with fewer restrictions than in the previous year. It was a joy to see the children playing together and being back in the hall for our Collective Worship, including opportunities to sing!

As a Church of England school, Collective Worship is an important part of each day. It is part of the glue that sticks us together and helps us to learn and think about new things and in different ways. I thought that I would take this opportunity to share with you how our Collective Worship works.

Our school's work and worship is based on our four Christian

Values: Love, Forgiveness, Trust and Hope. These are woven into everything we do and we explore these values in class as well as in Collective Worship.

There is an act of Collective Worship every day, which includes an invitation to pray. On Monday, we share the theme for the week. This is supported by a Bible reference and often a story from the Bible. For example, a theme may be 'Flourishing Together' and the reference from the Bible being, "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." (John 10:14). On Tuesday, children and their teachers respond to the Christian elements of the theme in class and at the appropriate level for their age. On Wednesday, the children are supported in responding to the theme in different ways. This could be writing, drawing, discussing or acting out their responses. Thursdays are for singing and we are loving getting to know our old favourites again and learning some new ones. Friday is for Celebration Worship and we enjoy giving out 'Stars of the Week' and recognising the achievements and awards from out of school time too.

Cont....

...Cont.

Throughout the year, we hold Community Worship at St Mark's Church in Ampfield. These services recognise key events in the Christian year: Harvest, Armistice Day, Christmas, Shrove Tuesday/ Ash Wednesday/ Lent, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. We always hold a special event for our Year 6 leavers at the end of the year. Neighbours and Ampfield residents are always welcome to attend.



Our school has a special Christian distinctiveness, but you do not need to be a Christian to attend. Our original Trust Deed states that we are to offer free education to those of Christian faith, different faith and those who do not follow a faith. We explain what Christians believe and how our Christian Values can be lived by everyone. We welcome everyone!

The image is of John Keble, as depicted in a stained glass window at St Mark's Church, Ampfield.

If you would like to book a tour of John Keble and/or Ampfield School, please contact the school office and check out our Facebook and Instagram pages:
[@ampfieldjohnkebleschools](#)

Marcus Roe
Executive Headteacher
November 2021



"Slow down. Happiness is trying to catch you."

Unknown



Answers to Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

- 1. Capricorn**
- 2. 1843**
- 3. Indian Ocean**
- 4. Cupid**
- 5. Advent**
- 6. Coal**
- 7. Coca cola**
- 8. Brussels Sprouts**
- 9. Polar Express**
- 10. Do they know it's Christmas?**

Information

If you need any Zoom meeting links, would like to join in with readings or intercessions, would like prayers said for you or someone you know, or would just like to comment, please email joinin@acnb-church.org.

Nextdoor.co.uk

Neighbourhood hub for connecting with local services.

Online Facebook groups:

Romsey News and Information Group

The original Facebook Group for Romsey.

Romsey Garden, Nursery & Plants, Info. Sharing etc.

Good source of local plant delivery and availability, seeds and growing information.

Hampshire Coronavirus Helpline - 0333 370 4000

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults - 0300 555 1386

Romsey Community Pantry - 01794 522106

Romsey Foodbank - www.romsey.foodbank.org.uk

Frontline Debt Advice - 02380 552866

Southampton Basics Bank -

www.southamptoncitymission.co.uk/basics-banks

Local Representatives

Member of Parliament: Caroline Nokes; Phone: 01794 521155

County Councillor: Alan Dowden; Phone 02380 266458

TVBC Councillor: Martin Hatley; Phone: 02380 254040

Ampfield Parish Council: Chair Bryan Nanson; Phone: 02380 267760

An intercession for Christmas

Christ, for whom there was no room in the inn,
give courage to all who are homeless;

Christ, who fled into Egypt,
give comfort to all refugees;

Christ, who fasted in the desert,
give relief to all who are starving;

Christ, who hung in agony on the cross,
give strength to all who suffer;

**Lord of the Church
hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy forever.
Amen.**



From the Church of England website



CONTRIBUTIONS and CONTENT

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