

The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of
St. Mark Ampfield*

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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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The cover photograph is Sally's representation of the last supper with the table that is made from the Cedar of Lebanon tree in the churchyard, when there was a storm some years ago and many branches fell down.



Letter from Vanessa

Dear Friends

Our Lent cross outside St Mark's Church has been gradually filling up over the last few weeks! Today, the children of Ampfield school came to visit and brought with them lots of crosses they had made in their Forest School session. It made me think about all the different places that we see crosses. We might see them on necklaces, or on the top of hot cross buns – that's my favourite place!! The children thought about them being on treasure maps, and that is particularly exciting, because the cross on a treasure map is where you find the thing that is most precious and valuable.

At Easter we think about Christ crucified on a cross, and yet risen again. It is this transformation of all that pain and suffering into the resurrection that means that the cross is a symbol of new life, of hope and of transformation. Hope and love are precious and valuable things, and sometimes, as with buried treasure, we have to hunt for it. As a church, we have to work harder at demonstrating that hope and love are not hidden away, but there for everyone, whoever we are and wherever we are on our journey of faith.

So this Easter, may you know the transforming power of the cross – the knowledge that you are precious and valuable in the eyes of God. With love and blessings this Easter time,
Vanessa

Vanessa



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Weekly service pattern

Sunday Services

	All Saints	St Mark	St Denys	St John
1st Sunday	11:00 Messy Church	09:30 Tidy Church	09:30 BCP Matins or Communion	11:00 Communion or Morning Prayer
2nd Sunday	11:00 Communion	09:30 Communion		
3rd Sunday	11:00 Communion	09:30 Communion or Morning prayer	09:30 BCP Matins or Communion	
4th Sunday	11:00 Communion	09:30 Communion		
5th Sunday	11:00 Communion	09:30 Communion		

Ho-

ly

Midweek Services

When	Where	What
Tuesday, 10:30	St Mark, Ampfield	Small group Communion in St Mark's room, followed by coffee
Wednesday, 19:00	All Saints, North Baddesley	Communion in a peaceful candle lit space in the midst of your busy week

See page 12 for Easter Services in the Benefice



Charlie Allen

Benefice News



The poster features a central title 'Songs For Spring' in a large, green, cursive font. Below it, in a smaller green font, is 'Launching the St Mark's Building Project'. To the left is a circular portrait of Isabelle Pott, and to the right is a circular portrait of Ben Collyer. Below the portraits are the dates '28th April 2023', the time '7.30pm', and the price '£8'. Below that, it says 'With wine and nibbles'. At the bottom left is the St Mark's Ampfield logo, which includes a cross inside a circle. To the right of the text is an illustration of a wooden easel holding a floor plan of a building. The background is white with several small daisy flowers scattered around.

Isabelle Pott

Ben Collyer

Songs For Spring
Launching the St Mark's Building Project

28th April 2023
7.30pm £8
With wine and nibbles

St Mark's Ampfield

Ampfield Market – St. Mark's Stall

We will be back at the village hall on Saturday 1st. April selling clothes and gifts. Proceeds go towards maintaining the buildings of St. Mark's Church. If you have any clothes, accessories or gifts that you no longer need, please contact Chris or Kate (contact nos. on p2) to arrange delivery or collection. We are grateful for the generous donations we have received.

Friends for Lunch Wednesday 19th April

12.15 for 12.30.

Sheila's meatloaf was enjoyed by our diners in March and a good time was had by all. Thank you to all our volunteers and diners for making this a happy community occasion. Please contact us on friendsforlunch@acnb-church.org to book a place for April's meal. The cost is £8 and includes a two course meal, a glass of wine and tea or coffee and chocs. Please bring a small prize for the raffle. If you know of anyone who might like to join us for a delicious home-cooked meal please get in touch.



Benefice News

Lent Lunches at St. Mark's

On the 31st. March we held the last Lent Lunch of 2023. It was a great success and £108.65 was raised. Over the six weeks we collected £449.45. £85.50 went to the Turkish Earthquake Relief Fund and the remaining £363.65 will be divided between the



Romsey Foodbank and the Winchester Night Shelter. All expenses were paid by the volunteers, so 100% of the takings will go to these good causes, essential in these difficult times. Thank you to our loyal Lenten diners, our volunteers and to Rob for preparing 12 different, delicious soups. Watch out for our cookbook coming soon!

Sunshine Saints

Is a toddler and baby group which meets every Friday in term time from **10:00am to 11:30am** in All Saints Church.

**Welcome Café at All Saints Church now every Thursday
10am—12 noon**

Foodbank

We have received an email for items which are in short supply at the moment and asking if they can be prioritised when making donations - Tinned garden peas, Pasta Sauce, Microwave rice, Custard, Sponge puddings, Desserts, Sweets, Cereal bars, Long life milk and Long life fruit juice. Thank you to all who have helped those who are struggling because of the cost of living.

Benefice News

Wine and Paint

There is to be another Wine and Paint evening on Friday 14th April starting at 6.45pm at All Saints Church. No painting experience necessary to join in with this event, you will all be guided step by step through recreating the same image on your own canvas, whilst meeting new people or chatting with your friends. The cost is £12.50 and includes all materials, If you would like to book a place please email allsaintsartevents@gmail.com

Easter churchyard trail

From Friday 31st March - Monday 17th April there will be an Easter trail on posters in the churchyards of St. John the Baptist Church, North Baddesley, St. Mark's Church Ampfield and St. Denys Church Chilworth. A beautiful time of the year to wander around these peaceful areas and see the spring flowers in all their glory brightening up the place.



Benefice News

Easter Fun Crafts

On Wednesday 5th April there will be 'Easter Fun Crafts' at All Saints from 1 - 2.30pm. The children will be taking home what they made together with a few Easter treats! This is going to be an *egg-citing* event! The cost of these craft sessions is £1.50 per child with each subsequent child in the same family 50p. All children to be accompanied by an adult. To book a place at either or both craft sessions please email joinin@acnb-church.org.

Easter Messy Church

We also have [Easter Messy Church](#) on Sunday 2nd April at All Saints Church starting with refreshments at 10.30am.

Children's Easter Activities

Thank you to everyone who has been so generous in donating Easter Eggs, it has made such a difference as we are now able to give the children an extra treat. if anyone would like to help on the craft afternoon then please contact us on [**office@acnb-church.org**](mailto:office@acnb-church.org).



The crosses made in their Forest School session by the children of Ampfield school when they came to visit St. Mark's.

Brief Report of St. Mark's PCC meeting held on Thursday 9 March 2023

This meeting was chaired by Revd. Vanessa and held via Zoom because of the very cold weather.

Quinquennial Report - has shown up many jobs, internally and externally, which need to be carried out at some stage in the church and church room. Some work is urgent. There are some possible grants available, but there will also need to be much fundraising to help with these costs.

St Mark's Room - it is hoped the room will be advertised more to encourage hirers. An advert will be put on the Romsey News and Information website. It is hoped past photos of the room decorated for an Anniversary party will also be shown.

Friends of St Mark's has now held two meetings to discuss the way ahead. The new Chairman is Phil Budden, and the constitution is in the process of being updated. More news soon!

Annual Meeting - will be held on Sunday 14 May, at 11.00 am in St. Mark's Room. The Annual Report is being collated at the moment and the Finance Report was accepted by PCC members.

Daryl Pugh is standing down as Churchwarden at the Annual Meeting. Vanessa said she was sad but thanked him for being there for her first year as Vicar. She spoke of all his dedication and caring of St. Mark's over so many years. Daryl will still be helping out in many ways; he's a great bell-ringer!

Jean Smith is also standing down from PCC after 18 years. Jean has been a member of PCCs, home and abroad since 1965, and for seven churches. This is an amazing achievement. She said it has been a privilege but feels now is the time to have a rest. Jean will continue to do the rotas of sidespeople, and some other tasks, for which we are very grateful.

Romsey Festival events - There will be a lunchtime concert in St. Mark's Church on Saturday 1 July, at 12 noon. A trail, mainly for children, will be available in the grounds of the Church during July on the lines of Bees, Bats, Birds and Butterflies. There will be more information on both these events nearer the time.

Easter Flowers - if you would like to help make the Church look beautiful on Easter Sunday, please bring your arrangement to the Church on Easter Saturday and place on one of the window sills. Thank you.

Romsey Festival - Sally has booked Laura Rickard of Romsey Chamber Music to play solo violin in St. Mark's Church on Saturday 1 July at 12 noon. This concert will be advertised on the Romsey Festival website; tickets can be purchased on the door and will be £8 per adult and £4 per child.

There will also be a trail for all three churches in the Benefice, mainly for children during the Festival dates (1-27 July). The theme will be along the lines of Bees, Bats, Birds and Butterflies. There will be more information on both events nearer the time. **Jennie Edwards**

Ron and Stella's Quiz Night



1. Who wrote Easter Parade?
2. Dyeing Easter Eggs is a tradition that began in which war torn country?
3. What flower is considered an Easter symbol?
4. Where is the most popular Easter parade held each year?
5. In Switzerland what creature delivered Easter eggs to children?
6. Which day of Holy week is to honour the last supper?
7. In what country did the tradition of the Easter bunny originate?
8. In the bible who was the first person to enter Jesus' tomb?
9. Which chocolate company was founded in 1824?
10. In 1963, which product was introduced by Frys, before being renamed by Cadbury's in 1971?



**Answers
on P. 25**



Holy Week and Easter Services in the benefice

Maundy Thursday (6th April)

St. Mark: 19:30 Communion service
remembering the Last Supper and the garden of
Gethsemane

Good Friday (7th April)

St. John: 14:00 Good Friday service
a service of readings, music and reflections

Easter Day (9th April):

St. Mark: 09:30 Communion
All Saints: 11:00 Communion



The Coronation Day



Ampfield Market

(Established in 2000, now in its 23rd year !)

Saturday 1st. April 2023

**From 10am to 12noon
in Ampfield Village Hall
(SO51 9BJ)**

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

**We will provide TV coverage on th large projector screen, of King
Charles III Coronation Day throughout the market so you can enjoy
this wonderful occasion with friends and family whilst enjoying fresh
coffee and a delicious selection of freshly baked cakes**

Parking and admission are always FREE

All proceeds support the Village Hall. Registered charity no. 1057353
Contact Julie on 023 80254587 for table bookings and information.

Next date. Saturday 6th May 2023

What happens in the Village Hall every month? More than you think!

Why not join in one of these activities?

AMPFIELD BRIDGE CLUB

This very popular and friendly club meets every Tuesday evening (except at Xmas time) from 7pm to 10pm. Experienced players and beginners welcome.

1st AMPFIELD BROWNIES

Every Wed. evening during term time. 6pm to 7.30pm Tel. Sue Moore 01794 523947

ROMSEY MODELLERS

Build model kits? Want to get more from your hobby? Join this club on the 1st and 3rd. Wed. of each month 8pm to 10pm.. www.romseymodellers.co.uk

AMPFIELD ART GROUP

Thursday afternoons during term time 2pm to 4pm. Friendly atmosphere. Beginners and those wishing to develop their skills welcome. Very friendly. Contact Julie on 023 8025 4587

YOGA ON THURSDAY MORNINGS with Diana Craven

E-mail: diana_craven@hotmail.com for details

YOGA FRIDAY MORNINGS with YogaByGaynor

(9.30-10.30) with Second class afterwards

Facebook: 'yogabygaynor' Email: yogabygaynor.com

CRAFT CLASSES

A range of crafts taught, meets monthly, normally on the second Saturday. of each month from 10am to 4pm. A very relaxed day and delicious coffee provided. Details from Vanessa 01794 515490 Or 07765 198088.

VILLAGE MARKET (Established 2000)

This takes place on the first Saturday of every month 10-12noon (except Jan, Feb, Jul and Aug.). Entry free. Interested in renting a table? Ring Julie on 02380 254587.

ROMDAG – Romsey Dementia Action Group

Meet for tea, coffee and cakes, etc. and a general restful break for members and carers on the Second Tuesday of the month 11am to 2pm

Details of this and other supportive activities from admin@romdag.co.uk

MONDAY MORNINGS PRE-SCHOOL DANCE – Arriving soon! -phone Martin below for latest information

General enquiries and hall bookings tel. Martin Hatley 07970 501050 / 02380 254040

E mail: martin.hatley@btconnect.com

Ampfield Village Hall
QUIZ NIGHT
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**Join us at our fun Quiz Night with
Raffle!**

**By ever popular demand, the Ampfield
Quizmasters are back!**

Friday 21 April 2023 at 7.30pm
(Doors open at 7pm)

Enjoy our ever popular friendly quiz.

**Come as a team of up to 6, or in smaller numbers and
teams will be made up on the night.**

**A bar will be available and 'bar snacks' will be put on your tables.
If you wish, please bring along your own picnic supper to enjoy
during the interval or throughout the evening**

Cost £5 per person inc. 'bar' snacks

BAR Prizes for winning table. RAFFLE

**Pay on the evening but please book your place
or a table first.**

**Contact: Martin Hatley 07970 501050
Or email martin.hatley@btconnect.com**

All proceeds to go to the Village Hall Funds – a registered charity.

Obituary

Margaret Evans

Margaret was the wife of the Revd Ivor Evans of Ampfield who was the vicar from 1957 to 1974. They lived initially in the old vicarage with their daughter Sarah and it was during their time here, that the new vicarage house was built in Knapp Lane and they moved into it. Margaret started the first playgroup in the old vicarage and she was very much appreciated for all that she did in the parish.

On Ivor's retirement, he and Margaret returned briefly to Wales, but were soon back in Hampshire and settled for many years at Michelmersh. After Ivor's death, Margaret moved into Romsey, and she died at Flowerdown nursing home in Winchester, aged 91.

Her funeral will be held on Monday 3rd April at Test Valley crematorium.

Liz Hallett

“It is not true that people stop pursuing dreams because they grow old. They grow old because they stop pursuing dreams.”

From Gabriel Garcia Marquez's
Love in the Time of Cholera

Through the Window

by Lyn Smith

The blank canvas of a kitchen window
that changes day to day
Webs perfect in their symmetry resting in the cold.
Part weather, plus the variations of
creatures visiting and resident.
Two squirrels chasing, look like silk scarves
sliding through my flowering cherry resting in the cold.
Cobwebs perfect in their symmetry
strong enough for diamond raindrops.
Arachnids, terrifying in the house
twang innocently on their silks.
The timeless nature of outside
each day a mini masterpiece on my screen.
The interaction of plant growth, solid and
predictable, combines with birds and animals
some regulars, others passing through.
The hierarchy changes, but always
Robin - led and fierce.
A water rat so confident that
it chases birds away from food.
Release top dog to sort it out
she stands quite still and sniffs the air
as rivals disappear then reappear
to stake their claim to just one twig.
The flutter flutters scatter as a
slinking feline neighbour appears from
almost nowhere to cause panic.
From their elevated perches they shout
warnings to each other to beware.
The daily lesser spotted has
perfected his percussion on his regular
rehearsals on a tree.
As the light begins to fade
they all seek home and shelter
fed and rested before facing another day.



Friends of Chapel Wood

As we said last month, along the north-western edge of the parish burial ground there is a 2m. wide strip of land that was deliberately omitted when the rest of the then new

burial ground was consecrated in April 1999. Over the years, this area had become very overgrown, and it was conceivable that many of the original marking posts no longer existed. With the change in demographics experienced in England over the past ten years, it was well within the realms of possibility that this strip might needed and should be ready for use.



The first job of the morning was to find enough of the old marking pegs to give us a clue where to start clearing. This was easier said than done. The pegs were only around six inches tall, and over half was buried, leaving about two inches above soil level. Over the years, successive autumns had left a lot more than two inches of leaf cover, whilst the

rhododendron, as ever, had managed to expand in every direction.

To a casual observer on that morning, we must have looked a curious sight, five grown men and two girls scuffling slowly and deliberately through a fully grown rhodo forest. The air was punctuated by strange grunting noises as toes were stubbed and unseen branches discovered various sensitive places to stab. There was also the occasional squeak of delight – “Here’s one! Oh! Well, it was here” Eventually, we found sufficient that, if we marked them with 8’ canes, we could gain a line of sight from one end of the burial ground to the other, close to 50m.

Cont. ...

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We could now begin the process of cutting away a 2m wide swathe of undergrowth to leave our unconsecrated strip exposed to the world and, in theory at least, serviceable. As is often the case with such things, the hardest part was trying to identify the areas to attack. Once we had done this, the destructive bit was relatively straightforward - not easy, but straightforward.

We cleared out so much unwanted plant material that our pile of bonfire arisings trebled in one morning. We keep having to go back to check and recheck the line. It is not difficult to stray off course in the enthusiasm to see a finished job. However, when we eventually stopped for coffee, and excellent ginger cake, it was good to note that the two metre strip was almost pristine, - well, everything is relative!

It had been a very satisfactory morning with a very good result. In particular, it was nice to finish on a positive and united note - we all agreed that when the time comes to clear the remaining areas within burial ground, many times the size of the bit we dealt with this morning, we will employ outside contractors!!



Graham Roads

Ampfield Art Class Gallery



Wren - Alison,
watercolour



Blue tits - Alison, watercolour



The Old Pit, late evening - Nick,
watercolour



Summer bouquet - Christina,
pastels

**Julie Trotter's Art Class takes
place on Thursday afternoons
from 2-4pm at the Village hall.**

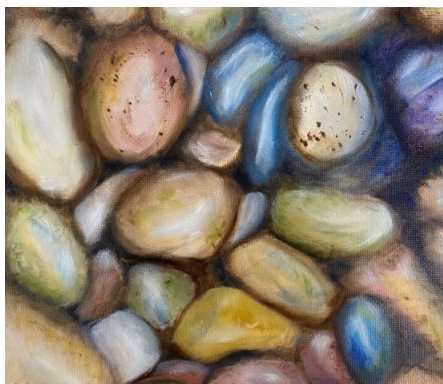
Ampfield Art Class Gallery



The Secret Garden - Frank,
pencil and watercolour



Swans on the morning tide:
Graham, inks.



Pebbly Beach - Sharon, oils



Plums - Edwina and
Granddaughter Emma
(11), watercolour.

Woodwoses

by Liz Hallett

Meet the woodwoses- another of the strange creatures you may find in ancient churches. You may not have come across woodwoses as they are mostly found in East Anglia, which is where we came across them. They are also known as woodhouses or wild men of the woods. We first saw one in the very interesting church at Woolpit in Suffolk-a carved but damaged stone figure bearing a notice: 'Woodhouse or Woodwose, the wild man of the woods, said to come from India. A symbol of strength and also of evil'. I was mystified and investigated further.



Woolpit stone figure



Faversham misericord woodwose

Now we know about them, we have found them quite a few, mostly carved in wood on misericords. The main feature of these creatures is their wildness — they carry knobby cudgels and are covered in hair or leaves. Such figures appeared worldwide from earliest times. They were perhaps connected with fears about what might inhabit the vast areas of dense woodland which still existed in the medieval world—a link between civilized humans and the dangerous elf-like spirits of the woodland.

Cont. ...

Cont. ...



Saxmundham
woodwose on font

Another interesting theory is that they may have their origin in early accounts of great apes — Pliny the Elder described a race of creatures in India with humanoid bodies but covered in fur, with fangs and unable to speak, a description that fits gibbons, which live in the area. Similar stories were told of Sierra Leone about savage men and hairy women, possibly gorillas, and other tales about what

may have been chimpanzees living in Ethiopia. Whatever the origin, woodwoses were popular in medieval bestiaries and are not uncommon

in heraldry. In some churches a set of four stand around the foot of the font, gazing in each direction.

We have also seen a number carved on misericords, those wonderful sets of monastic choir stall ledges which I will write about more fully in a future article. We also found another fearsome stone woodwose among the carvings on the north wall in Beverley Minster. Some of them actually seem to be stamping down on evil, like the misericord at Beverley St. Mary where the woodwose (helped by two lions) is trampling on the heads of



Beverley Minster woodwose



Carlisle misericord

two evil wyverns, and the Carlisle Cathedral example which is killing a dragon. Less text this month so you have more room to see some photos of these strange creatures. Enjoy them-and it will give you one more thing to look out for when you visit old churches.

Liz Hallett





Coffee (n.), the person who is coughed on.

Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.

Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.

Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.

Willy-nilly (adj.), impotent.

Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.

Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.

Gargoyle (n.), an olive-flavoured mouthwash.

Flatulence (a.) emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.

Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.

Circumvent (n.), the opening in the front of boxer shorts.

Pokemon (n), A Jamaican proctologist.

Contributed by Liz Hallett

I always wanted to be a Gregorian Monk,



but I never got the chants.

Answers to Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. Irving Berlin
2. Ukraine
3. Lily
4. New York
5. The cuckoo
6. Holy Thursday
7. Germany
8. Peter
9. Cadbury
10. Cadbury crème egg



Charlie Allen

The Kitchen Garden - G4G

By Graham Roads

After quite a difficult winter, hopefully we are now approaching a period when we can see some good progress in the preparation of a productive and tasty kitchen garden for 2023. During March, things can begin to change quite quickly - lions and lambs, etc. The daylight extends very noticeably both mornings and evenings. Temperatures begin to rise (normally!) and growing conditions improve. The various plots are now empty, the annual digging-in of well-rotted manure and garden compost is complete, so we are now just waiting a couple of weeks for the soil to warm up a bit.

Like many things, a productive kitchen garden depends upon careful planning. It helps to make sure the rotation is good, and the necessary feed or other preparation can be completed in plenty of time. Our planting plan for the new year should, by now, have been completed and the seeds purchased.



We mix our own seed compost. We sieve the bags of bought compost to make a finer medium into which we mix some horticultural sharp sand and a bit of grit. This will improve the drainage and make it easier for germinating seeds to fight their way through to the daylight. Cont. ...

...Cont.

If you have a greenhouse, it is perfect for sowings tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, broad beans and more. It takes a little time potting stuff up, but in the long run it is worth it. We have a home-made propagator, which is basically a wooden box 30' x 15" with sand and shingle covering an electric soil cable. They are not difficult to make. We have had ours for 25 years and for the first



time, this year, we have had to replace the electric cable.

One thing we have noticed, is that in our existing raspberry bed, there has been quite an invasion of ground-elder and this really needs to

be dealt with. We are going prepare a fresh bed and treat ourselves to some new plants. The raspberry we prefer is Autumn Bliss. It has been awarded the RHS AGM, so it will be reliable.

As usual, all the information needed for growing vegetables successfully can be found on the RHS website:

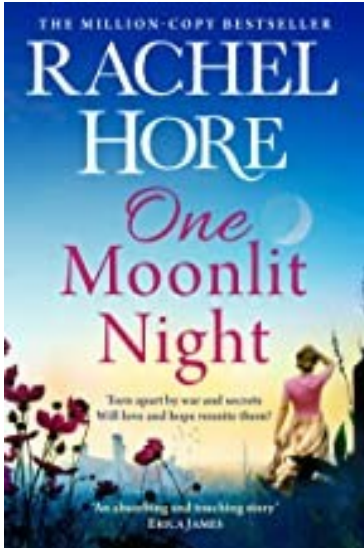
(<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/grow-your-own/in-month/march>)

This also provides a great summary and good ideas on what to do now as well as recipes. It would be great if we could all put together a collection of recipes in time for the fete and dog show at St. Mark's, all focusing on stuff that we have grown ourselves. Please send all thoughts, ideas and contributions to Chris K.

Graham Roads

Book Review by Jennie Edwards

One Moonlit Night by Rachel Hore



It was such a delight to read another Rachel Hore book, she never disappoints.

In March 1941, Maddie, a children's book illustrator, and her two young daughters were bombed out of their house in London, and moved to a house in Norfolk where her husband (missing in action) lived as a child. Her husband had never spoken of his past or of Knyghton House where he had spent his childhood. The house is full of secrets and Maddie gradually discovers much information about her husband's early life by way of hidden letters, photographs, an eccentric aunt and an unhappy cousin who also live there.

Maddie never gives up hope and indeed strongly believes that her husband is still alive and will find them when he returns. She knows that something terribly sad happened at the house one summer years ago and is desperate to find out the truth. We are also kept up to date with the life of her husband in the war in France and his struggle to get home. A fascinating read.

I did not want to put this book down!

Jennie



Thought for the Month *by Ron Cobb*

What is Love? This was a question put by a two-year old granddaughter to a grandmother that I know.

I do know that it was a massive hit record by Haddaway in 1993. What other answers could be given to that question? Love is all around, so say the Trogs and Wet Wet Wet. Enough of recording artists.

Love encases a range of strong, positive emotional and mental states. We frequently say that we love something when we really mean that we like it, we all say that we love to go on holiday or love a good meal, it is a word that covers all sorts of wants and desires.

Our love of God is all encompassing as is our love of our partners. That special love that we all feel for new-borns is very powerful, as is the love that we feel for our families. A world without love is unthinkable (back to recording artists, Peter and Gordon 1964) the greatest gift that we have been given is to love one another. God so loved the world that we gave his only son. Jesus proves time and time again how much he loves us and forgives all. That is true love, coming from the heart.



Ron

From the Messenger Archives

April 1977

HOLY WEEK

Dear Friends,

As last year there will be a 30 minute Devotional Service at 7 p.m. on the Tuesday in Holy Week. Then on the Thursday at 7 p.m. there will be a celebration of Holy Communion. For that is Maundy Thursday. On Good Friday there will be a Family Service at 9.45 a.m. which will be a home-made Stations of the Cross. For those who can't abide Family Services there will be the old fare of Prayer Book Matins, Litany and Ante-Communion at 11 a.m.

Easter Day - This year again there will be three celebrations of the Holy Communion; at the Family Communion at 9.45; at 8 a.m. and at 12 noon after the 11 o'clock Matins. But not at 7 a.m.

Lent? A Last Chance - How it will go nagging on! Well, what have you done about Lent? As a church we have done practically nothing. So can we do something about Holy Week? It's our last chance this year. It is the holiest week of the year. For it calls us to contemplate the ultimate realities of love and death and life. And more particularly to follow Christ in the perfect loving of his Death and Passion.

Perhaps if we try, we may be surprised.

A very happy Easter to you,

Yours in Christ, George Slater.

AMPFIELD SCHOOL

The Education authorities are proposing to close the school by the end of the 1977-78 school year. If it happens it will remove one of the four legs supporting the rather flimsy sense of community in Ampfield. So naturally we have to protest. And protest also because what has been a good and happy school will cease to exist. On the other hand there are good and convincing reasons for the proposal. The school is already too small. It may remain so or get smaller, with educational consequences that merit serious thought. I hope the parents will succeed in their efforts to do the best for their children. May they and the Education authorities be guided to do what is most beneficial for the children, and for all who are involved in the daily life of the school.

RGS

On the subject of this threatened closure of Ampfield School Dr. David Barker, whose children attend the school, has contributed the following note:

It was a shock to Ampfield parishioners to learn that the mid-Hampshire Education Authority has immediate plans to close the village school. It had previously been stated that on the retirement of the head teacher, Mrs. Loader, a successor would be appointed. It seems that the intention now is to transfer the 39 children to larger schools at Hursley & Romsey and close the school for ever. The reason given for the sudden change of plan is the need to save money. Ampfield residents, parents and teachers met on Monday, March 21st and expressed dismay at the threat to their school. Although numbers at the school have fallen during the past two years, this has occurred in many other primary schools in the county as a result of the falling birth rate. The parents committee maintains that it is too soon to predict whether these trends will continue or will be reversed. The financial saving achieved by closing the school will be small. Closure of a village school is an irrevocable act with far-reaching consequences for the local community. The parents hope that an excellent and much loved school will not fall victim to premature decisions.

In the interests of a deeper understanding of this matter a public meeting has been arranged to take place in Ampfield School at 8 p.m. on Monday April 4th when Mr. Merridale, the County Councillor who represents Ampfield and Mr. Dulsan, the mid-Hampshire Education Officer have kindly agreed to be present.

MOTHERS' UNION

Please note the following dates:

1. Thursday May 12th at 2.35 p.m. at St. Mark's Church, Ampfield. Mr. Slater is kindly going to have our short M.U. service there and then to shew us a film strip maybe of some of Great Britain's old churches, or more of his Indian pictures and experiences. Then, after Notices and Prayer Requests etc. we shall go to the back of the church for our friendly get-together with tea and biscuits. So, if other than M.U. members are reading this do come and see what a 1977 M.U. is like.

2. Wednesday, June 8th at 2.35 p.m. at Yew Tree Cottage. Our speaker will be Sister Muriel of the Anglican Sisterhood of

the Epiphany that was attached to the Oxford Mission to Calcutta. She will tell us some of her experiences in times of great danger, to be followed by questions; afterwards a together time and 'home-made tea party'.

3. Saturday July 2nd - our Church Fete. Please contact Mrs. Slater, Mrs. Rose or Mrs. John Earle regarding contributions to our M.U. stall.

4. Our prayers still for Mrs. Clifton and her long weeks of treatment and our gratitude for the prayers of Mrs. Percy, Mrs. Swainson, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Howard and Mrs. Lound who thus keep a link going with their new homes in other country villages.

Marjorie Wagland

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT - At the March meeting Mrs. V. Bignell, President took the chair. After W.I. business the guest speaker Mr. Pearce, gave a very interesting talk and film show on the Waterways of England. It was most encouraging to know that through voluntary work performed by the Waterways Association, a number of derelict canals of England have been successfully restored for the benefit of people to enjoy. Mrs. Semways gave the vote of thanks. A number of gifts were given by the members to be Dutch auctioned by Mrs. Hatley as a money raising effort. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 20th, 7.30 p.m. Speaker Mrs. Brockenhurst on 'Dolls'. Spring Coffee Morning is on Wed. Apr. 27th at 10.30 a.m. in W.I. Hall.

Mrs. F.A.E. Green

AMPFIELD GET-TOGETHER CLUB - The Annual General Meeting was held on March 1st. The Minutes of the last AGM were read by the Secretary, Mrs. Grafton and a statement of accounts was made by the treasurer, Mr. Pegler. A vote of thanks to the auditor Mr. Bloor, who had freely given his services, was proposed and passed. Only one change was made in the composition of the officers and committee: Mrs. Laura Davis was elected to the committee in the place of Miss Cornwall who felt unable to continue because of other urgent commitments. We offer our thanks to Miss Cornwall for her services. After the formal business Mrs. Faber read a paper which she had prepared about Ampfield House & Ampfield Village with their associations and personalities. The preparation of this paper must have taken many hours and proved of absorbing interest to all and especially to those of our members who had spent a lifetime in the village. It was felt that this was a very fitting way to end our last meeting in Ampfield House. The next meeting: April 5th, Kingfisher House, thanks to Lady Jean Mackenzie.

Fresh from its success in February, more half term hangouts are taking place in Romsey and North Baddesley this Easter. It's for 11-16 year olds to hang out with their friends and get some free food and drink! They're happening on three dates:

Monday 3rd April at Ganger Farm Sports Centre, SO51 0EE - 10am - 2pm

Tuesday 11th April at Ganger Farm Sports Centre, SO51 0EE - 2pm - 6pm

Wednesday 12th April at North Baddesley Community Association, SO52 9AQ - 1pm - 5pm


There's no need to book, just turn up to whatever sessions are suitable. If your child is looking for something to do during the break then why not get them to a free, safe space!

If you need transport arrangements please contact Antony Chapman on AChapman@testvalley.gov.uk or 01264 368 642.

ROMSEY AND NORTH BADDESLEY
PRESENT

HALF TERM HANGOUTS 2 - THE EASTER SEQUEL

03/04/23 & 11/04/23: 12/04/23:
 Ganger Farm Sports Centre, North Baddesley Community
 Romsey, SO51 0EE Association, SO52 9AQ



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COMMUNITY CENTRES
HALF TERM
HANGOUTS 2 - THE
EASTER SEQUEL

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Monday 3rd April at Ganger Farm 10am until 2pm. Sports workshop taking place between 10am - 12pm.
- Tuesday 11th April at Ganger Farm 2pm until 6pm. Sports workshop taking place between 2pm - 4pm.
- Wednesday 12th April at North Baddesley Community Association 1pm until 5pm.
- For 11 - 16 year olds
- There will be free food and drink provided

For more information and transport queries email:
achapman@testvalley.gov.uk



Prayer for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Local Information

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



Charlie Allen

Rotas for St. Mark's in April

Date	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Intercessions	Sides	Coffee	Music
Sun 2 Apr	TIDY CHURCH - Palm Sunday					
Sun 9 Apr 9.30 Easter Day	Jean Acts 10: 34 - 43	Ron Colossians 3: 1 - 4	Sally	Phil Daryl	Chris	Organist
Sun 16 Apr 9.30	Heather S Acts 2: 14a, 22-32	Jennie E 1 Peter 1: 3-9	Rob	Robyn Ron	Jennie E	Jean
Sun 23 Apr 9.30	Robyn Acts 2: 14a, 36-41	Heather C 1 Peter 1: 17-23	Sally	Mark Jean	Heather C	Organist
Sun 30 Apr 9.30	Doreen Acts 2 42 - end	Rob 1 Peter 2: 19-25	Jean	Jennie E Heather C	Stella	Organist

Flowers:

Easter Flowers - if you would like to help make the Church look beautiful on Easter Sunday, please bring your arrangement to the Church on Easter Saturday and place on one of the window sills. ***Thank you.***

Coffee after Communion:

We need more volunteers please. If you are able to offer your services, please contact Jean Smith on 01794 519685.



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