

The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of
St. Mark Ampfield*

July 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 Vicar Victoria

Baptism requests in the Benefice have begun to pour in, it has got me thinking about names. Last month, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex (also known as Harry and Meghan) celebrated the arrival of a daughter, a sister for their first child Archie. They've decided to call her Lilibet Diana; 'Lilibet' as a tribute to the little one's Great grandmother, Queen Elizabeth, who was known in her family by that name as a child, and 'Diana' after her grandmother, who died when her father was still a child himself. Both names are freighted with significance and tie her in closely to her family history.

Figures in the public eye, like the Royal Family, are often responsible for bringing particular names into favour. There are quite a few Williams and Harrys of a very similar age to the Dukes of Cambridge and Sussex. I remember meeting quite a few Kylies in the 1990s, when the Australian soap 'Neighbours' was at the height of its popularity. I wonder whether in a few months' time vicars will find themselves being asked to baptize a new crop of Lilibets' and Dianas'?

Names are important, and a lot of thought and care goes into choosing them. When I was expecting my children, I remember spending a lot of time talking about possibilities - names we liked, and names we didn't! Some names had happy associations, and others less so. Sometimes (as in Harry and Meghan's case) parents choose a name that connects a child into their family's history. There may be a tradition of the oldest boy or girl bearing a particular name. Or perhaps the name expresses something about the hopes that parents have for their precious child. Most of the time, I guess parents simply go with names that they like.

For many people, a baptism (or christening) is seen as the occasion on which a baby 'officially' receives their name - although it's actually more about using that name to welcome a new person into the Church family, as our sister or brother in Jesus Christ. Cont. .

...Cont. Our names mark us out and identify us as unique individuals, each made in the image and likeness of God but gloriously ourselves. We might share our name with one or more people, but that doesn't make us any less special in God's eyes.

Names are important in the Bible too. Sometimes God gave people new names. When he chose a couple called Abram and Sarai to be the founders of a family through whom God's blessing would flow to the whole world, he changed their names (Genesis 17). 'Abram' means 'exalted father' - 'Abraham' means 'Father of a multitude. Sarai and Sarah both mean 'Princess', or 'woman of strength' (I love that meaning!); but in Hebrew the second form, Sarah, emphasises that she will be a woman of strength not just for her immediate family, but for the world. Jesus also changed the name of one of his closest friends - from 'Simon' (which means 'listen' or 'hearing') to 'Peter' (which means 'rock'). The change in name showed the part that Peter was going to play as the leader of the disciples. Jesus said: 'On this rock I will build my church' (Matthew 16 verse 18), and Peter was to become the leader of the early Christian Church. Another apparent famous name change is when the zealous Pharisee Saul becomes the apostle, Paul. But the story there is somewhat different. Saul/Paul always possessed both names, as was not uncommon in those days. It seems appropriate that when he first appears in the pages of the Bible, as a Pharisee keen to stamp out a fledgling movement perceived as a threat to the true people of God, he is known by his Hebrew name, Saul. This changes after his eyes had been opened to the amazing thing that God had done through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and he starts to share the good news with people outside his own faith community. From then on, he is referred to by his Roman name, Paul, as he travelled farther and farther into the world of the Gentiles (non-Jews).

As we grow, we change as the experiences of life, good or bad, mould, shape and change us. Do you suit your name still, have you grown into it, or if you were to be Baptised again (impossible by the way!) what would you have your new name be?

With every blessing

Victoria

Online and Onsite Worship

A New Website

Our new website (www.acnb-church.org) went live early in June and the old one will be removed early in July. The new site tells you when and where services will be held; has the text of sermons, other blog posts and also points you to our Twitter, YouTube and Facebook pages so you can keep up-to-date with what's happening. If you can't find something that you think should be there, drop us a line at joinin@acnb-church.org.

The Bible History in 50 words

June's Worship For All ([catchup online here](#)) was looking at the subject of the Bible - thinking about its history, who wrote it, how we got it and, most importantly, who it tells us about. In conclusion, the Bible is the book that's influenced billions of people, Christian and non-Christian. For us, it's a way to connect with, listen to, and be changed by God. The Bible is there to be read. To be grappled with. To be brought to life, in our lives; shaping us to live as God wants.

The history of the Bible can be summed up in 50 words:

God spoke	Prophets warned
Poets sang	Lawyers judged
Scribes wrote	Rabbis taught
Seventy Greek-ed	Jesus preached
Paul posted	Gospel spread
Councils fought	Canon formed
Jerome Latin-ed	Monks illuminated
Gutenberg printed	Clement decreed
Henry split	Protestants reformed
Tyndale burned	James authorised
Mary walked	Translations grew
Copies multiplied	We read
God speaks	

Cont. ...

...Cont.

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 11:30:** Morning Prayer using the Book of
Common Prayer (on Zoom)
- **Sunday at 16:00:** This Week With God discussion group
(on Zoom), 2nd and 4th Sundays
- **Tuesday at 10:30:** Communion in the glade at St Mark's,
bring a picnic chair

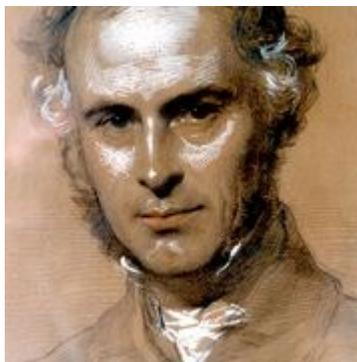
*Note that, for the time being, restrictions are still in place:
we have to socially distance, wear a mask and for indoor
onsite services request a place by the end of the Friday
before the Sunday service by
Emailing:*

joinin@acnb-church.org

Abbie West



Ampfield's first vicar Robert Wilson 1841-1853



Keble's curate at Hursley became the first vicar of St Mark's. While at Oxford, he was inspired by Keble's Tractarian ideals and had been delighted to become his curate. Robert was 32 and single when subsequently appointed to Ampfield but in 1847 he married Maria Trench, niece of Sir William Heathcote and grand-daughter of the Dean of Kildare.

Maria was disparaging about the Ampfield vicarage which she considered to be a '*small cottage*' and not as grand as she was used to. However, they settled in and stayed for thirteen years. Charlotte Yonge described Robert as:



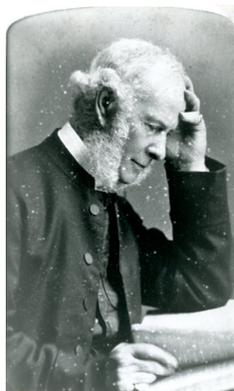
'one of the most brilliantly joyous people that ever existed, full of drollery and merriment and with a laugh that cannot be forgotten'. She wrote of the 'lasting work he did on the souls of the people of Ampfield, by word and deed, preaching and living'.

Two sons, Francis and Thomas were born to them at Ampfield and life was made comfortable by four live-in servants and several gardeners. Maria's sister, Elizabeth Trench, died after falling ill on a visit in 1849 and is buried under the big cedar by the east window. It must have been hard work to establish and equip the new parish - not many records of this have been preserved. Initially St Mark's was a District Church within the parish of Hursley, having only one churchwarden and its business dealt with at the Hursley Vestry meetings.

Cont. ...

...Cont.

Before her marriage, Maria had travelled with the Heathcotes to the Tyrol in 1846 (while still single but perhaps knowing where her future lay) and there saw a small fountain on the Patcher Kofel mountain, a copy of which she felt would be perfect for Ampfield churchyard. When Anita Wood and I researched the parish history, we were shown Maria's sketchbook covering this holiday and fascinatingly the sketch of the original fountain is missing - presumably given to the stonemason to copy.



The Wilsons left Ampfield in 1853, moving first to Gatcombe, IOW, then briefly to Yorkshire where their third son, Robert, was born, before settling at Rownhams. They lived at Fernyhurst as there was no vicarage house then. In Rownhams churchyard one can find many of the family graves. Robert died in 1888 after years of ill health, but taking a keen interest in parish affairs to the end. Maria lived on at Fernyhurst until her death in 1908 aged 87.



Liz Hallett



A child in Ampfield

Episode 5

In chapter 4 I related my memories of Christmases and birthdays, as a young child growing up in the 1950s in Ampfield. There were, however, other exciting days and occasions which took place throughout the year. These were always anticipated, at times with some trepidation.

After the Christmas holidays, including of course New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, it was back to school. So much excitement had been fitted in to those 2 weeks off. New Year meant nothing when I was very young, but when I was 11 or 12, I was allowed to "see it in" for the first time. It felt so special, almost as if something magical happened when the clock chimed midnight. Nowadays, I'm afraid I am in bed long before the chimes!

Returning to school meant that the routine was back in place and life would tick along until we came to the end of March when school would begin preparations for the May Fayre. This was an annual fundraiser for equipment, outings, and the like. The Maypole emerged from its store, its braids were untangled and mended, if necessary, and then practising the dances would begin. Mrs Loader, the Headteacher, knew all the steps and routines. She taught us carefully and with her usual attention to detail. It was her "top" class that performed this yearly ritual. Those who have taken part probably still recall the dances and the music - Spider's Web, Gypsy's Tent, Double Plait and Barber's Pole. The girls wore white bonnets and skirts with yellow or blue braid around the hem. The boys had a white shirt, black trousers and a coloured braid across their chests. Later on we did not have this "uniform", I guess it probably disintegrated through age. Another aspect was the election of the May Queen from among the older girls. This was carefully done using a voting system. Cont....



...Cont.

The winner was crowned during the May Fayre with a “gold” and red velvet crown covered with May (hawthorn) blossom. One year I was lucky enough to be chosen. Mum made me a long white dress and I had to process in the playground where the Vicar, the Rev Ifor Wynne Evans, performed the coronation. Then, and this is where the trepidation fits in, I had to read my speech. I can remember my nervousness to this day. But I think I did it alright! An added joy was the Fancy dress competition in which children and, undoubtedly parents, vied to see who had the best and most inventive costume. My Mum’s skill with the needle came in very handy and my sister and I were often well placed among the winners. One triumph I remember was being dressed as an Eastern lady complete with yashmak and silk baggy trousers and holding a bar of Fry’s Turkish Delight!

Summer weather meant that we could play on the grass as well as the asphalt playground, walk to the Ampfield CC ground for rounders, have the occasional nature ramble but also it heralded “School Sports” - running, relay, skipping, egg and spoon, wheelbarrow, 3-legged, sack and ball races. Although slight in stature, I was never a runner or, indeed, an athlete of any sort. I had a go, but 3rd place in, I think, a ball race was the acme of my athletic prowess! Others though revelled in the experience. My friend Lesley Read was excellent at all things sporty. Other children ran rounders and whacked the “really hard” ball to the other side of the field. I usually fielded in the deep where I picked daisies and paid scant



attention until someone yelled that the ball was coming my way! The summer term ended with the school outing which parent(s) always accompanied. This was usually a coach ride to a seaside, but once we went to London Zoo! We travelled quite some distance to reach a beach, with Weymouth or Swanage being popular destinations. I was usually fine - once I got there! Cont. ...

...Cont.

I'm afraid travel sickness loomed large during these outings- and not just me! The combination of bumpy roads, stuffy coach and excited children did not always make for the happiest travelling conditions! However, this was all forgotten on arrival and a great day was had by



all. Strangely the journey home was much more pleasant, a singsong, a break at a pub (!) and a coachload of sleepy children by the time we got home in the dark.

The Church fete is still an “occasion” for Ampfield. When I was a child it was a real highlight. Not a great many whole village get-togethers occurred

and the fete was such fun. The school usually performed Maypole dancing or country dancing, there were sideshows and competitions,

a selection of stalls - toys, cakes jewellery, jumble, white elephant, plants and rides. The ponies were walked along part of Laundry Lane (now called Morley's, I think) and children queued to have a turn. At the early fetes I remember a small train ride which was in the Vicarage grounds next to the stalls. The results of the competitions were announced with the draw at the end. It was all so exciting !



As I have only covered half the year, and have used my word quota, I will continue this in Episode 6.....can you wait 'til then ?!



Lynda Emery



The Diocese of Winchester has launched its Net Zero Strategy with the target of reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

The Diocesan strategy sets sustainability targets for churches, schools, clergy housing and diocesan offices. These include the off-setting of carbon, installing electric vehicle charging points and using low-carbon heating systems. One of the key goals of the strategy is for 90% of all parishes to have switched to a green energy supplier by December 2021.

The strategy outlines six key commitments of the Diocese, to:

- take the environmental impact and use of resources fully into account in all areas of work,
- embrace more and more a spirit of Christian joy and fullness of life,
- strive to adapt individual lives to be fully sustainable,
- seek to increase awareness and understanding of environmental issues in local communities,
- accept a wider responsibility towards young people and minority groups, recognise that efforts committed will have to be sustained for successors and promote generational change

The full strategy document can be found here:

[Winchester - News \(anglican.org\)](https://www.winchester.anglican.org/news)

There is also more information about environmental projects taking place in the Diocese this year on the [Environment](#) page of the website.

A Dog's Life



My name is Ruari, I am a chestnut brown Labrador. I do not know my age - perhaps about 12+. I was found in Ireland frightened, lonely and hungry but my memory is short, so I can't remember much. Dogs live for the here and now. Now is fine. I think I was very unhappy before. I live in a nice house with a big garden and my owners are very kind to me. I'm

still always hungry as I only have two meals a day and lots of snacks in between if I pester my owners enough!! Also I have lots of toys now, which I never had before and several comfy beds. I'm even allowed on the sofa for special occasions. I don't bark because I must've been beaten for barking when I was living in Ireland. I get very frightened if I see a man with a cap and a beard. I wonder why? I hate water, too, which is strange for a Labrador. Life now is okay, a bit boring at times and my eyesight is not good so I bump into things but you can't expect too much in life!



Agne

Church car park - Warning!

Please be aware that there have been a number of thefts from cars of late parked in the church car park.

Ensure any valuables are not left exposed to view.

Cars and all property are left entirely at the owners risk.



Romsey Festival is held every three years and celebrates Art and Culture in and around Romsey and the benefice is taking part this year with churchyard trails, which are suitable for all ages. So please come and discover more about the history, nature and interesting facts about these churchyards

***St. John the Baptist, Flexford Road, North Baddesley
3rd - 18th July***

***St. Mark Church, Ampfield
3rd - 16th July***

Both St. Mark's church and St. John the Baptist Church will be open on the weekend of 10/11th July from 11am to 3pm, giving people an opportunity to look around these beautiful churches.

We are also delighted to announce that Romsey Festival celebration boxes of Krispy Kreme doughnuts will also be on sale these two days, as long as stocks last! (cash only).

During that time tea and coffee will also be available at St. Marks Church only.

A decorative rectangular border with ornate corner pieces. Inside the border, there are two circular icons of books, one on the left and one on the right. The text is centered within the border.

**From the St. Mark's
Register**

The funeral of George Morgan took place in St. Marks church on 15th June followed by a burial in the churchyard.
Please remember George's family in your prayers.

F

riends of
Chapel
Wood

It is one of life's little ironies that, quite by chance, you discover something that works so well that you want to repeat it, except that next time the dynamics are so different that you can't. It was a bit like that in Chapel Wood on the day of the working party in June. The previous month we had been quite successful in clearing part of the area down by the boardwalks because we had been able to commit a number of hands to the job. We were looking forward to repeating that experience in June, only to find that, for one reason or another our contributors were noticeably depleted. Having said that, hats off totally to the Friend who was able to join us. He completed (nearly) the difficult and tedious job on his own. The rest of us were ~~skiving~~ working on other nearby tasks.



It is this time of year we try to remove much of the weed in the pond before it totally clogs the water. We have a specialist team dedicated to the difficult task. They have been honing their de-weeding skills over the years and by now they are so good that it is a shame this isn't one of the sports in the Olympics. The trick is to remove the weed in such a way that any little creatures that are caught up in in have a chance to escape and find their way back into the water. At the same time, we need to remove the unwanted vegetation around parts of the perimeter of the pond, to enable people to be able to see into the clear water and observe the important part that the aquatic fringes play in maintaining the pond's diversity and wellbeing.

Cont. ...

...Cont.



For the remaining few of us, there was a very special job waiting. One which offered the possibility of challenge, excitement, a whiff of danger and the opportunity to bring to engage those classical construction skills for which the Friends of Chapel Wood are well known. When the large oak under the electric cable was felled, it was left piled up in a random heap adjacent to the footpath leading to the pond. We wanted to use the better chunks of oak to build some simple seats and tables that could be deployed around the new dipping platform. Useful for all visitors, it was hoped they would be particularly helpful to the school.

Graham Roads



Our Link with South Rwenzori in Uganda

The Romsey Deanery, of which we are a part has a linked history of over 50 years with the Diocese of South Rwenzori in Uganda. The link has been one of prayer, friendship and sometimes financial support and has been quite active in many of our Benefices and parishes. North Baddesley especially had a link with the village of Kilembe in the Nyamwamba area of the Diocese.

The Overseas Group, of which I am the new Chair, is keen to see these links revitalised and I am happy to report that the new Bishop in South Rwenzori Diocese, Bishop Nason Baluku is also very keen for these friendships to continue and thrive.

What are the Benefits of an overseas link?

I think it is an awareness of the global impact of Christianity, it is easy to think that we in our small Benefice in the middle of a pandemic are the only ones struggling with a non-believing society and buildings that need constant attention. We are not! Our brothers and sisters in Uganda suffer the same difficulties. Children are just as tech savvy as ours and are influenced by what they see on the internet around the world. Families have lost incomes due to the pandemic - South Rwenzori is again in lockdown as cases rise. Please pray for them.

As well as supporting families and young people, the Diocese also supports and runs many schools and places of higher education, runs hospitals and clinics and looks to support those in need, something the Church of England was at one time famous for, and yet we seem to have lost in recent decades. Perhaps we need the inspiration of our Ugandan friends?

Latest news from Ugandan Link

Bishop Nathan of South Rwenzori is passionate about the environment. He aims to plant trees along every street in Kasese, the largest town in his Diocese. Cont.

...Cont.

He has also declared that:-

- Every parent in the Diocese who brings a child for baptism should plant a tree either at their home, church, school or nearby public place.
- Every Christian coming for confirmation should plant a tree at their home, church or nearby public place and that this must be verified by the Archdeacon 21 days before the confirmation service.
- Every congregation shall ensure a piece of land is reserved for tree planting.
- Every church founded school/college shall ensure that tree planting is part of the curriculum.

The Romsey Deanery Overseas Partnership Group has been supporting the tree nursery in Kasese for several years. Money is sent to buy seeds for a variety of trees for local plantations including grevillia and pine or fruit trees such as mango which are given to needy families to help provide an income.

The Bishop now intends to set up tree nurseries in each of his 13 Archdeaconries in order to provide the trees needed for all of the above! This is amazing and surely a project worth supporting both financially and in prayer.

Jane Horne

Why would we want to be Christians in isolation when there is so much to share and so much to learn from each other? We hope to expand our links with person-to-person links, to make friendships and prayer partners and eventually when Covid allows to visit and learn more about our partners in Christ in a vastly different, but somehow the same, community as ours.

Interested to know more? Just drop me an email, and you can also follow our friends on their Diocesan Facebook page;

[South Rwenzori Diocese | Facebook](#)

Rev. Victoria Ashdown

RIDE+STRIDES

11th September 2021

Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust

Ride and Stride Day is a great opportunity to discover the rich heritage of our historic church buildings, see beautiful countryside, get some exercise travelling between the churches and have fun with friends and family.

It also gives family and friends a chance to visit churches together, chat with church representatives and learn more about the history and heritage of the churches. You can be sure the sponsorship money you raise will be used for repairs and restoration to the churches and chapels of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

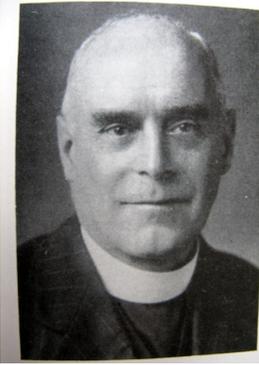
Last years Ride and Stride was actually held when other events were cancelled, plans are well ahead for this year. The churches in our benefice have been registered and now we are looking for people who would like to ride on a bicycle or stride by walking to raise money for this charity. If you feel you can only walk or ride to and from one church or many it doesn't matter everyone has a chance to take part. Also it doesn't have to be churches that are local you can take your car and plan your own walk.



For sponsor forms and more information contact Sally in the parish office.

This is a picture of some of the beautiful countryside we enjoyed last year on our walk.

Sally Kerson



Memorials of Ampfield 78 by The Reverend Lake.

Fortunately, in all these ventures Keble had in Sir William Heathcote one who was in full sympathy with his aims and desired nothing better than to be allowed to promote them with his means. In the case of Ampfield he offered to build the church entirely at his own cost. In those days however, the finding of the money was perhaps the least of the difficulties that presented themselves when it came to the question of erecting a church.

It was a time when Ecclesiastical architecture was little studied or understood, and an architect who was capable of designing a building which was inspiring in its conception and appropriate in its form was hard to come by. Fortunately, Keble had one ready to hand, whose capabilities had already been tested in the building of Otterbourne church. This was William Crawley Young, a Light Infantry officer, who had been a diligent student of military engineering, and had made himself a good military draughtsman.

To assist in the work of building Ampfield church, Keble called in the services of Mr Carter, an architect residing at Winchester. For his designs he had recourse to the great examples at Winchester and in its neighbourhood, and for some of the details, as we shall see, going even farther afield. The style Mr Young aimed at was early English, rather than decorated. The bell turret was designed from a very graceful model discovered at Leigh Delamere in Wiltshire. The stonework of the west window is copied from Beverley Minster in Yorkshire, and that of the east window from one in Lincoln Cathedral. Cont. ...

...Cont.

The materials he used in the building were burnt bricks of a soft grey hue, and stone which he bought from Caen, at that time rather an unusual thing. Besides meeting the cost of the church, £3248.00, Sir William also gave the land for the church and churchyard consisting of an acre, to which he added a further quarter of an acre in 1862.

The church, including the gallery in the transept was capable of seating 300 adults. The foundation stone was laid on St Matthews day 1838, by Gilbert Vyvyan, 3rd son of Sir William Heathcote in connection with which ceremony Miss Yonge remarks, that when the words of the selected psalm were chanted "Lo, we heard of the same at Ephrata, and found it in the wood they seemed peculiarly appropriate to the church which was being erected on ground situated in the midst of a pine wood".

Contributed by Nick

Have you lost a ring?



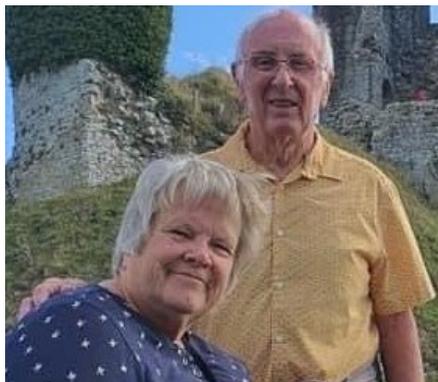
The acnb office received the following message recently:

"toward the end of last week I enjoyed a walk which included the route through Chapel Wood. On this path I noticed a ring lying on the ground - not embedded so it can't have been there too long. On closer inspection it very much looked like a wedding ring so I picked it up and it is in my safekeeping"

Please contact Sally at the office if you know the owner.

Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

1. The song "Back Home" was released by the England football squad before leaving for the world cup in which country?
2. Re arrange "I bring salt lion" to reveal a well-known Scottish Football Club.
3. What were men conscripted to work down mines in World War two usually known as?
4. Who wrote the opera "The Flying Dutchman"?
5. What food do we use up more calories eating than you gain through consumption?
6. What is the Capital of Hawaii?
7. What can be seen from earth only once every 76 years?
8. In what year did the Forth Bridge open?
9. What was the Mandarin Chef previously called?
10. Who had a big hit with the record "Little Children"?



In response to Covid-19
AMPFIELD NEIGHBOURS

working with **unity**

The Test Valley Borough Council Volunteer Support Group

A group of Ampfield residents have come together to help as volunteers working with Unity during the Covid-19 pandemic. Unity is the Test Valley Borough Council Volunteer Support Group. If you live in Ampfield and need help with collecting prescriptions or shopping

contact

Unity on the Test Valley Community Helpline -

0330 400 4116

or

UnityC-19@unityonline.org.uk

Someone from **Ampfield Neighbours** will be in touch.

Romsey Food Bank in the Pandemic

During the COVID-19 epidemic the food bank is now more important than ever. ACNB churches can also help you access the Food Bank service if you need it.

The epidemic puts Food Banks under great strain. Please donate as much food as you can to support their work at this time.

Donations can be taken to any of these collection points*

Romsey Foodbank

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

1030 - 1230.

Waitrose donation point for customers

(shop opening hours)

Community Life Centre,

Flemming Avenue, North Baddesley

10 - 12 Mon - Fri

*All church collection points are now closed, until restrictions are lifted.

Life and Times

I was introduced to Katherine and Alex Behrendt during the 1980's not as a fisherman but, as he, much amused, told me later, "dressed up in suit and leather pumps (which he insisted calling them)". His suggestion to "walk the lakes" I learned later had mischief in it for two enormous Alsatian dogs closely followed me whilst I picked my way through the mud and wet. On my return Alex asked if I had enjoyed myself, on wishing I'd brought wellingtons he chortled saying "I was bound to next time" he then explained how the lakes worked showing great pride in what he and his wife had achieved in creating not just a premier still water trout fishery but also as a breeder of ornamental fish.

They were right to be proud, Alex came to this country as a captured German infantryman after being injured by a grenade in Italy having been conscripted into the Wehrmacht in WW2 and was interned as a Prisoner of War near Romsey. During his sojourn as a POW, he met Kathrine Armstrong who helped out in the camp canteen. Katherine was the widow of a highly decorated Royal Navy captain who commanded *Maori* in the hunt for *Scharnhorst* and died in action. On Alex's release at the end of the war they married and bought a 33 acre plot containing two overgrown woodland ponds in Ampfield which became known as "Two Lakes". He and Kathrine bought a single decker bus in which they lived whilst they brought order to the site.

Over time two lakes became 8 lakes following the building of small dams and water courses to encourage a through flow of water supplied by the feeder stream, the Tadburn valley.

Cont. ...



...Cont.



Having bred carp in Germany before the war Alex's intention was to do the same at Two Lakes, however he met Alfred Lunn the famous river keeper to Britain's most exclusive fishing club, the Houghton, on the River Test, who persuaded Alex to make Two Lakes into a fly only trout fishery which he lightly stocked to make them more difficult to catch, much as in the wild.

Only those invited to fish at Two Lakes could do so - it became a world famous Mecca. When it became known to Alex that I enjoyed casting the odd fly he would 'phone me in my office saying, "the fly life is good today, come by after work." I thus spent many happy hours casting a fly in beautiful and peaceful surroundings amidst all things nature and often accompanied by Alex's dogs.

Alex always maintained that Katherine was the power behind their joint throne, but to me it was an equal power bestowed differently: Katherine displaying kindness and compassion and Alex's confidence and strength of personality overcoming the many obstacles thrown up along the way. They both had the desire to create something exceptional and to build upon such excellence. In that endeavour they received wide acclaim both at home and internationally. Katherine was a fine foil to Alex who was a stickler for order and compliance, he enforced the fishery rules to the letter and if not complied with miscreants were banished.

Neither were intimidated by the "great and the good" who fished there. Alex was strict with all who abused the fishery or moaned that there were no fish to catch. He delighted in stabbing his finger at my catch entries to such moaners saying that if I could catch fish then so could they - I became convinced that that was the only reason he liked me along: to keep high the catch, even though I still had many a blank day. There was, however, always a wry and ready smile if people took him the wrong way which was easy to do with his thick German accent and dominance lent to him by his stature.

Cont. ...

...Cont.

He believed in the young and went out of his way to share his experience and knowledge with students of Sparsholt Agricultural College and foreign visitors who would attend fishery management courses he held at Two Lakes. His book *The Management of Angling Waters* soon became the essential enchiridion for still water fisheries. In the late 80's Alex and Katherine retired their business. Katherine died in 1990.

Shortly afterwards Alex sold Two Lakes. He negotiated to remain in the house he and Katherine built for the remainder of his life. During his final years, as he looked out over his life's work through the large picture window in his sitting room, he accepted with some sadness that times had changed whilst nature slowly reclaimed the lakes to much the way they were when he first came there. He died in 2005, aged 95.

When I now pass through the 'cattedrale vegetale' of beech trees along the Straight Mile, I remember many happy and contented days fishing at Two Lakes and recollect with affection Alex's kindness and generosity of spirit which he extended to so many in different ways. Very much the end of an era.

Charlie Brown



Recipe of the Month - Watercress Mousse

3 bunches of watercress
8 oz cream cheese
¼ pint mayonnaise
¼ pint thick set yoghurt
¼ pint chicken stock
1 sachet gelatine
A few dashes of tabasco seasoning

Beat cheese until smooth
Mix with mayonnaise
Melt gelatine in stock. Cool
In a blender make a puree of the watercress, using gelatine as liquid
Add tabasco and seasoning
Cut yoghurt into mayonnaise and cheese, then cut into the watercress puree
Pour into a chilled mould and CHILL !



Nancy

"My theory is that all of Scottish cuisine is based on a dare"

Mike Myers

A Kitchen Garden (G4G)

Looking at the vegetable patch today, it seems very hard to believe that only a month ago we had the feeling that nothing was happening. There has been such an explosion in growth. All this makes it convenient that euro-footie has taken over. It is a good reminder of one of the kitchen gardener's most important roles - to act as referee.



We want fresh tender vegetables to give to the cook so that they can be morphed into little pieces of enchantment for dinner on a hot summer's evening. But we must remember that this ambition is not widely shared in the natural world - hence the need for a referee.

Over the years there has been a constant debate whether to use pesticides or whether the organic approach is better. If time and space are unlimited, organic gardening is certainly attractive. However, it is not always easy. An alternative approach might be to use a sliding scale of responses. In the jargon, the phrase is 'Integrated Pest Management' (IPM). In this context, a pest is everything we don't want - weeds, bugs, everything. We start off with the green approach and gradually, as need dictates, escalate our responses.

Cont. ...

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For instance, take aphids on beans, if there are only a few we stand a chance with a jet of water. If there are more, there can be a range of organic natural insecticides to try before, eventually, in desperation, we reach for the nuclear option, a chemical.

The key, in every case, is to inspect the crop on a regular basis, the earlier a pest is discovered the easier it is to deal with. With many vegetables now starting to crop, vigilance pays off.

Another good practise is to understand the requirements of the crop you are growing. This lesson was rammed home a few weeks ago. We had sown some spinach seeds and we wanted to make some spinach pesto (see below). We noticed that some of the larger plants were beginning to form flowering stems. Looking this up in a book, we found that spinach under stress can easily run to flower and, once it does, the spinach can become bitter. The problem seems to have been



caused mainly because the seedlings were not thinned out adequately earlier, so the small plants competed with one another, hence the stress. We are now experimenting how best to resolve the situation.

Luckily, the pesto was OK.

Graham Roads



Castaway of the Month *Alan Edwards*

“In musical terms, I was incredibly lucky in my formative years as my secondary school music teacher was taught by two of the most towering figures in English history: Sir Edward Elgar and then Sir Henry Wood. He imbued me with a love of classical music at a time when it wasn’t fashionable, at least to teenagers growing up in the early 1960’s. To limit my favourite works to only eight therefore poses an insurmountable challenge.

I have therefore limited the brief to music that has influenced my family life. It is with a heavy heart that I have excluded any of Elgar’s works or those of Vaughan Williams or Franz Schubert, particularly the first movement of his Fifth Symphony. About a year after I started work, a great friend introduced me to live Motown and soul music. I was even sounded out if I would be interested in singing and touring with his soul band. Though flattered, I didn’t!! We saw Steve Wonder perform in Southampton in 1967. His “I Was Made To Love Her” was a favourite at the time. I have narrowed down my eight choices as follows:-

Otis Redding - My Girl

I met Jennie: “I’ve got sunshine on a cloudy day”

Bob Marley-Redemption Song

Almost 30 years ago, long before Black Lives Matter, we played this song on the car CD player en route to watching test cricket matches when the West Indies were in their pomp. “Those pirate ships they rob I ... from the bottomless pit” made a profound impression.



Cont. ...

...Cont.

Fleetwood Mac - Rhiannon

We always played Fleetwood Mac on the way to seeing our children at university. This song is from the famed “Rumours” Album, which was produced over a period of a year in a drug-fuelled haze. Marriages and relationships lay in tatters at the end. And yet, paradoxically, the outcome was one of the most memorable of all rock albums which has stood the test of time. We saw Fleetwood Mac years later in a concert at Earls Court when we were assailed by strange smells, as some of the audience revisited their youth. The police were not amused!

Stevie Nicks and Christine McVie are the only female voices to appear in the modern music part of this selection. Diana Ross’ “Touch Me In The Morning”, and Barbara Streisand’s “Evergreen” were regrettably omitted by the narrowest of margins.

Neil Diamond - Sweet Caroline

I have seen the great troubadour in concert twice; it was impossible not to be swept along with his connection to the audience. Sweet Caroline is, of course, one of the great anthems. One of our sons does a brilliant Neil Diamond impersonation. He sang the song at his own wedding, accompanied by the band, and has since been requested to sing it at friends’ weddings!

Andy Williams - Holly

A little known song from one of his albums. It is so beautiful that we named our daughter Holly.

Simon and Garfunkel - The Boxer

We saw the pair deliver this iconic song on a convivial evening with the family and Australian friends in Hyde Park. It was on their Reunion Tour, with the Everley Brothers. Unfortunately, Simon’s constant sniping, as he publicly blamed Garfunkel for their split, was somewhat distasteful. Nevertheless, their rendition of this song as the sun set was nostalgically unforgettable.

Cont. ...

...Cont. ...

Mozart – Lachrimosa from his Requiem

What haunting music! We first became conscious of it in a performance of Amadeus in Poole, which started a lifelong love affair with the composer. We visited his house in Vienna two years ago, where this piece followed us around one of the rooms. I can never listen to it without becoming emotional.

Miserere by Allegri.

Simon Russell Beale introduced us to this choral work in his TV Series Sacred Music. We have since travelled to St. Martin-In-The Fields to hear it live.

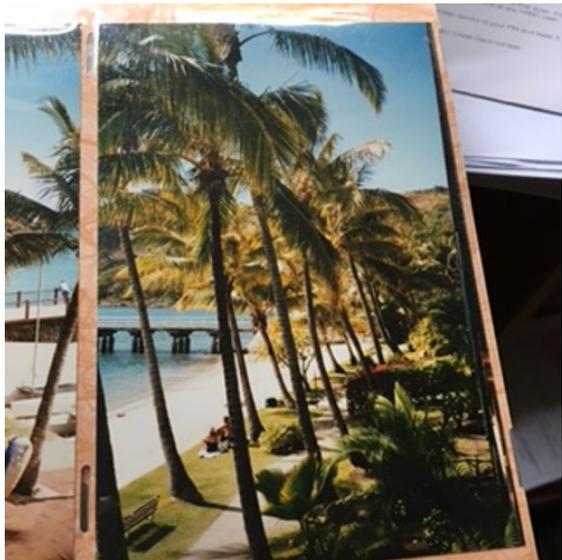
Book

My great love has been cricket. Some of the books on the game are genuine literature. My choice would be Duncan Hamilton's The Great Romantic, published two years ago. It is a biography of Sir Neville Cardus, the man who invented descriptive cricket writing (stats were never for him), and who wrote about cricket and music for the Manchester Guardian, for over 40 years. I'll be able to close my eyes and imagine the style and character of Cardus' subjects, whom he made immortal. The various moods of the wind and sea will be personified in those men.

Luxury item

Pens, pencils and paper, to write, and to learn how to sketch."

[Well you seem to have sneaked a few extras in there Alan!...Eds.]



St Mark's Room Kitchen Update

We are pleased to report that the new kitchen has been delivered. Romsey Men's Shed has kindly offered to fit it and volunteers are taking out the old kitchen and preparing for the work, which will start on the 6th July. Thank you to all those who have contributed to this project. Friends for Lunch is hoping to combine with the church for a cream tea in August. Watch this space!

Brief Report of St. Mark's PCC held on Monday 21 June 2021

We once again had to meet on Zoom and twelve members attended. Revd. Victoria opened the meeting with prayers. At each meeting we have a report from our Churchwardens, including Health and Safety issues. The stained glass windows which are being repaired are due to take three months to complete, so may be away for a while yet. Our Treasurer spoke about finances; we are now one month

behind in our payment of the Quota which goes to the Diocese. Unfortunately, the Quota has been much increased for 2022; the PCC will be appealing against this rise.

Church Opening -

there will be on-going discussions about the best way to reinstate opening. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with this, please do get in touch with Rob Kerr, Adrienne Jeffries or a member of the church to talk about it.

Church Cleaning -

We are very grateful to Mark, our Churchwarden who is continuing with the monthly anti-viral clean in the Church and St. Mark's Room.

Organist -

at present we have an Organist who will play for weddings and funerals, but no-one who will play at our Sunday Service (the second Sunday each month). If you know of anyone who might be available and would enjoy playing in St. Mark's, please do contact Victoria or Sally in the office.

Cont. ...

Romsey Festival 3-16 July -
(see p. 19). We are hoping that lots of people will be coming along to do the Trail around the Churchyard. Our thanks go to Sally for devising the very interesting route.

Sound System -

there was discussion about upgrading the sound system which is unreliable. Many people have commented that they cannot hear if they are towards the back of the church. A company, which previously advised on the sound system at All Saints, will be asked to come to investigate and make recommendations for St. Mark's.

Friends of St. Mark's -

as the Church has not been open or able to do any fundraising over the last 18 months, it is hoped that the Friends will soon meet to discuss the future and how we can raise money for the Church.

Ride and Stride

(see P.8) will take place on Saturday 11 September and raises money for the Church and the Historic Churches Preservation Trust. If you would like to take part by walking or driving around churches of your choice, do ask for a sponsorship form from Sally

in the office. If you are not taking part, please sponsor members of St. Mark's who will be participating.

Thank you.

Jennie Edwards

(PCC Secretary)



"I don't need time, I need deadlines"

Duke Ellington

"Ecstasy was once the most intense pleasure, then Wagner, then poulet de Bresse. Now it's a cancelled meeting."

Rev Richard Coles @ 52

"To attain knowledge, add things every day. To attain wisdom, remove things every day."

Philosopher Lao Tzu

"Love your neighbour, yet pull not down your hedge"

English proverb



Thought for the Month

Awareness

I have pondered on exactly what would be a good topic to write about for the July magazine and I always think a personal approach helps. Well I have to put up my hand and admit to being the oldest person on the ‘Driver Awareness Course” that I had to attend virtually last week. I was actually, really apprehensive about how the course is run and just how awful I and my fellow law breakers would be made to feel. The course was booked for 8am until 10.45 am so quite a period of time to be reprimanded.

So to say I thoroughly enjoyed it seems a bit wrong but that is exactly what happened. The guy that lead the morning was very amenable, had a good sense of humour and still maintained a strong focus on road safety. And I did learn a lot, as well as being reminded of speed limits on different roads. There was, of course, the statistics of fatal and near fatal accidents which very much focused the mind. There were a few ditties about just how dangerous and stupid drivers can be, of all ages.

There were eight other participants on the course and absolutely everyone engaged in the discussions and were honest about their reason for being there that morning. That was amazing, as we all shared our experiences and asked questions about whether we were likely to break the law again. I for one have been keeping to the speed limits, taking more care to observe all that is going on around me and generally trying to be a better driver.

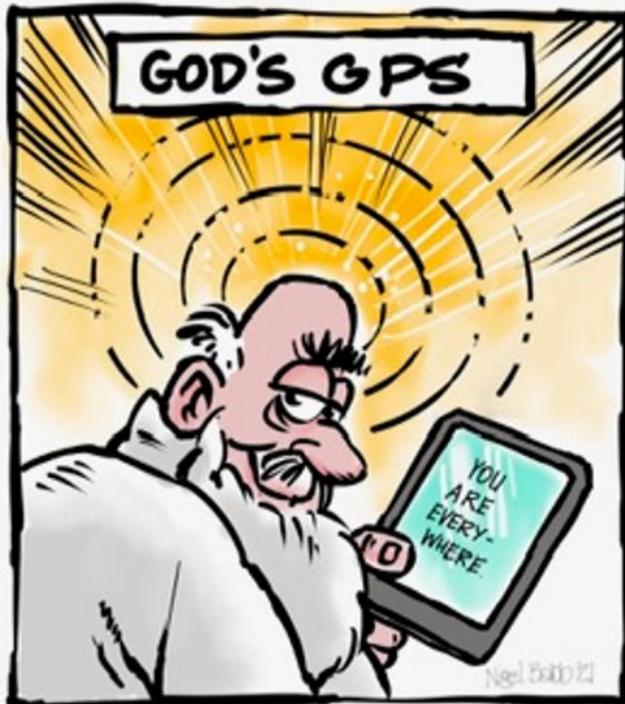
My faith is a little like this recent experience, I do go along, doing what I do and at times I need a ‘big shock’ to refocus exactly how I am serving God and sharing my experience with others. Maybe like my driving I can put my faith back on track and see a better way forward.

Kate



Answers to Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

1. Mexico
2. Stirling Albion
3. Bevan Boys
4. Wagner
5. Celery
6. Honolulu
7. Halley's Comet
8. 1890
9. Greenways
10. Billy J. Kramer and the Dakotas



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

A Prayer for the NHS

The 5th July is the 73rd. anniversary of the National Health Service

God of healing and compassion,
we thank you for the establishment of the National Health Service,
and for the dedication of all who work in it:
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who care for the sick,
and your wisdom to those engaged in medical research.
Strengthen all in their vocation through your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health
and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

From the Church of England website.





CONTRIBUTIONS and CONTENT

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