

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 photo shows Victoria blessing the registers
as they were removed from St. Mark's.***

Letter from Vicar Victoria

I'm sure I have mentioned to you before that lockdown has allowed me the time to have a jolly good clear out in the Vicarage. In my study are several shoe box style boxes, most of which contain bills and important documents which I have managed to reduce down, but another larger one is more special and precious to me – it contains my 'memories'. It has in it all sorts of bits and bobs from life – photos, certificates, cards, ordination papers etc. It has my old passports and visas from world travels, letters from friends who are no more. My name tags from my office days in London. It has photos of various houses we've lived in, my babies, my parents and some of me as a baby too! All precious memories which tell the story of my life and which have often been used to do just that as I have moved from place to place in my ministry in recent years.

I'm sure many of you will have something similar up in the loft, or perhaps have your memories on display all around you at home, souvenirs from holidays in exotic, or not so exotic places; photographs placed lovingly on shelves and tables to remind you of good times and significant events, friends and those you love. Sometimes it is good just to spend some time with our memories, to remember and reflect on all that has been good in our lives, and especially having lived through this last year of enforced separation, to be thankful for the memories that have often kept us going.

Our Bible is full of memories too, written down with love and care to remind us of the story of God in the lives of so many through the age; Memories of encounters with God in the Old Testament, and with Jesus in the Gospels, memories of friends made as the new followers of 'The Way of Jesus' began to grow in number with the spread of the early Church. Memories of the difference encountering God had made to their lives. St Paul, separated from the people of the newly planted Church in Philippi, spoke with deep affection in his letters to them:

'I thank my God every time I remember you.'

Philippians 1:3

Of course, the memories we have made during this last year may not all be good ones. We may have had more time on our hands than we were comfortable with and some have found life challenging and lonely with just their memories for company. Inevitably, there will be others known to us living in care settings with dementia who have lost precious time with loved ones and who have suffered irreversible memory loss over the course of the pandemic. Connections lost that can never be retrieved – and there is great sadness in that which should be acknowledged. As we gradually ease back into a life of connection again in person – the first coffee with friends, the first barbeque with family, that first hug with grandchildren and those we have missed so much, let's not forget to start making fresh and lasting memories again. Memories we can look back on in the future with great gladness and say with confidence 'I thank my God every time I remember you'. Praying for a summer full of making good memories for you
Every blessing,

Victoria



Communion in the Glade

Online and Onsite Worship

It has been great over the last month to see people returning to services in the buildings and it's been good to see people attending services at a church other than their 'normal' church. It's also really important that we stay online too as that makes our services accessible to those who cannot attend onsite. The pattern of services is:

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 will still be in place: we will 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.

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A new website



Our Benefice website - acnb-church.org - is changing. The current website has been at the heart of our online presence over the last year or so and we've been very lucky to have it. As we look forward to our next steps as a benefice, we are taking the opportunity to update and simplify our site. The new site will still tell you when and where services will be held; it will also point you to our Twitter, YouTube and Facebook pages so you can keep up-to-date with what's happening.

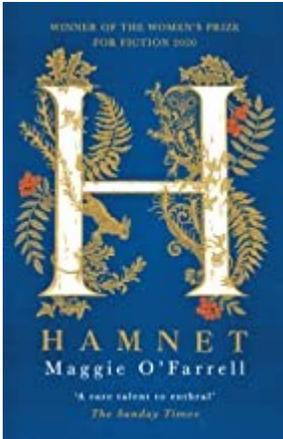
The existing site will still be available for a few weeks: if you have any pages bookmarked, please do take a look around the new site after it launches on 6th June and update your bookmarks. If you can't find something that you think should be there, drop us a line at joinin@acnb-church.org.

With the changes to the website, there is also now a new look to the Friday email. If you usually receive it, that should continue (and if it doesn't, please let us know). If you don't usually receive it and would like to, please sign-up on the website or email

joinin@acnb-church.org.



BOOK REVIEW - HAMNET by Maggie O'Farrell



This book is an atmospheric imagining of William Shakespeare's early life, his courtship (such as it was) with Anne Hathaway, the reasons for his leaving Stratford-upon-Avon to go to London, the death of his only son – Hamnet – and the subsequent heartrending grief and loss that followed, to his parents and twin sister, leading to the writing and production of his great play, Hamlet. The book mounts challenges along the way. Anne is called Agnes, which is what she was named in her father's will.

Though the chief male character in the book is clearly Shakespeare, he is not named in the book at all. He is invariably referred to as the "Latin teacher" and, later, "Agnes' husband" or simply "He".

The author captures the noise of the streets, the way of life, smells, the people, the construction of the buildings, and even the pavements. Some of the descriptions of the nearby Forest must be drawn from *As You Like it* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Agnes is a young woman of the country, steeped in rural life with an encyclopaedic knowledge of flora and their medicinal purposes. She is portrayed as an unconventional loner, and a free spirit. She intimidates others. But not Shakespeare. She quickly identifies him as somebody who is different, with a lively mind and destined for a wider world. Shakespeare soon cottons on to Agnes' signals. They consummate their relationship, she becomes pregnant and they marry. A daughter, Susannah, is born and twins, Hamnet and Juliet follow. By now, he knows he must leave Stratford. He has outgrown the town. There are too many things whirring around in his agile mind. He has also had enough of his abusive father.

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And so he leaves. It was the intention that Agnes would follow. But it never happens. He returns to Stratford occasionally when plagues visit London and the theatres have to close. He dotes on his children. The perceptive Agnes, though, notices a difference in his demeanour. She discerns he must have been with other women. She is cold towards him but they always become reconciled before he leaves again.

The plague eventually reached Stratford. He was informed that Juliet is very ill. He races home, to find that she is recovering and it is Hamnet who has died. The week earlier he was perfectly healthy. There are inevitably considerable family tensions after Hamnet's death, but it is Juliet who tugs at the heartstrings. She and her twin brother were very close and in fact it was Hamnet who nursed her when she was so ill. He died so that she could live. After defining a widow and an orphan, she plaintively asks what do you call a person who has lost a twin?

And so begins the journey that led to Hamlet four years later. The plot becomes now even more ingenious and encapsulates the full range of human emotions. It would not be appropriate to divulge the conclusion other than to say the narrative is so compelling and that the end of the book is breathtaking and memorable in its brilliance.

There is very little documentation on Shakespeare's or, indeed, Agnes' life. But Maggie O'Farrell has weaved a plausible, moving, and splendid story. One reviewer commented that the book will still be read in a hundred years from now. It is difficult to disagree. This is a book of very rare quality.



Alan Edwards

A child in Ampfield

Episode 4 "Exciting Times "

I can imagine that, to any child of the 21st century, my upbringing in Ampfield in the 1950s might seem uninteresting, basic and boring. I never found it so but revelled in the walks in the woods and lanes, the long summer holidays, family and friends and my playthings. However, there were some times that were extra exciting, and which were anticipated for days beforehand. In this episode I shall recall these events and the emotions they engendered.

Christmas and birthday were, of course, the "star turns" of the year. Exciting from beginning to end. Christmas began with a fat stocking at the end of the bed - little gifts, puzzles, games, colouring books and stationery - and the inevitable tangerine in the toe. Dad's white woollen Navy issue socks were used for this purpose and were ceremoniously laid at the end of the bed before lights out. Getting to sleep was so tricky and, the fear that Father Christmas would not come if I was still awake, made "dropping off" even more difficult! After a very early rise we had the morning to play with our present from Mum and Dad and the contents of our stockings. This enabled the preparation of the Christmas Dinner, always eaten at lunchtime. Sometimes one of our hens was killed for the "feast", sometimes Granddad Pointer brought us a turkey which usually needed plucking and gutting ... a long and messy job for Dad. All veggies were from the garden and Mum had made Christmas Pudding and mince pies (neither of which I particularly liked). She also had made a Christmas Cake decorated with spiky, white, hard icing and little plastic snowmen, reindeers, and Father Christmases. This icing and marzipan were delicious, and I begged for extra bits that dropped off as the cake was cut.

This was at teatime though, after the main event of the day, presents round our Christmas tree. These could not be opened until washing up was completed (a job we were never asked to do ... dear Mum and

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Dad!). Gifts from Aunties, Uncles, Cousins, neighbours and the like were duly opened and enthused over, Mum carefully noted who had been given what present so that we could write our “thank you” letters later in the holiday. After all this Mum and Dad listened to the Queen’s speech and, if the weather was good, we had a walk.

Our beautiful Christmas tree seemed magical, tinsel covered and carrying ornaments which had lasted decades. It was also festooned with colourful electric fairy lights, though in the past, real little candles must have been used as the small metal clip-on candle holders were still in the tree decorations box. I don’t remember this “fire risk” in my lifetime but it must have been a reality at some point. The tree, itself, had been dug up from the garden, replaced after the event to await a repeat performance next Christmas. Our sitting room was criss-crossed with paper chains, fold-out lanterns and Christmas cards. Holly sprigs were wedged behind every picture and mirror. A wonderful festive display. A very special time which lasted its prescribed 12 days and was then packed away in boxes until the next year.

Birthdays were very exciting, as they were personal, and meant another step on the ladder of “growing up”. It seems so important, when one is young, to add another year, now I just want to pretend that the years aren’t marching on! Sometimes it was a party on the special day, other years, an outing (one year I asked to go to see a dinosaur skeleton in Dorchester Museum!) or a picnic. There were presents from friends and relatives, a birthday cake, always home-made. However, the day was celebrated, it was done with great love and care by our dear parents.

Special times, special memories. It has been quite emotional writing this episode and has recalled much that was wonderful in my childhood. In the next episode I will hope to describe other events in the village year which we enjoyed, the May Fayre, the Church fete and so on. **Lynda Emery**



A Latvian Odyssey - 4

Spring has sprung here in Latvia and after the most arduous winter I've experienced it is pure joy to see colour and green creeping back into the landscape. We have been completely spoilt by our bird life here. Storks nest in surrounding fields (even the rare black stork has been seen by the woodlands), Cranes make a morning habit of searching the fields for frogs and hundreds of different songbirds chatter from the forests. Everything has returned and is full of song and dance. It feels like such a blessing to step out into the morning chorus.



We have made special efforts over the past month to meet our neighbours in their gardens and try to muddle through conversations! I am learning a lot about Latvians and find myself impressed with the weight of neighbours' values. They are proud of their produce and their flowers, relish in their songs and their dances and they look after their families. The people I have met live with the fruits of the land and celebrate everything they harvest.

These are all values I wonder whether we have lost a little in Britain. Perhaps not everyone, but I certainly found myself in a culture which



worried a lot about earnings, careers and property ownership and relied substantially on non-seasonal produce of the big supermarkets. Here I rarely get asked what I do - but almost always get asked what I grow!

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It is refreshing to step into a world that is less materialistic. I make no sweeping generalisations here - I am living outside a small village and I'm sure there are many Latvians who are very much engrossed in the capitalist cog. But I think in general there is a culture which is historically in tune with the earth and what the earth can produce when you look after it - and this being a very wealthy knowledge to know and pass on - perhaps one that at least equals (if not surpasses) what we can earn and buy.



Spring for me in Latvia has been full of hope as things start to grow and my own growing feels in motion. I feel like I am emulating the seasons here completely. It has also had disappointments - saying goodbye to a new friend who has moved to Spain and in that also realising I haven't made as many friends as I would have wished. But my interactions with

neighbours, school teachers, parents and friends of Tom's family have been warm and welcoming and encouraging. Friendship takes time and nurturing. Much like the garden, I see that you need to nurture your social seedlings with patience and genuine efforts. Then I can foresee that one day they will blossom into something fruitful and long lasting.

Kaija (our almost 2-year-old) is enjoying every moment. She knows all the words of the local wildlife and regularly scares it away by shouting 'hello' as we walk through the fields and forests. I feel she is getting a taste of life here which is truly good for her little soul. In fact for all of us - we are learning the true healing effects of being immersed in nature.



Elly Rendall

Friends of Chapel Wood

Those of you who regularly walk around the woodland or drive along Chapel Hill you may have noticed that a very large oak tree that was growing adjacent to Chapel Hill had to be felled. The reason for this was that our consultants believed it might pose a danger to the power cable that passed underneath some of its branches. In the process, the tree was brought down along the fence separating Chapel Wood from the land bordering Chapel Hill, for which Hampshire County Council is responsible. So, the main job for the May working party was to clear the debris out of the way and reinstate the fence.



As there was quite a lot of physical activity involved, the younger members (i.e. anyone under 70!) were asked to play the leading role in this. We were lucky that Nick, who majors in everything involving country skills, was able to come along and provide expert guidance. With four of us on the job, we were able to get it finished in one hit. It was not easy because the line of the fence was along a very steep gradient which made keeping upright far from straightforward. As you can see, the team of youngsters did a cracking job. You may notice that there is only one strand of wire, this is deliberate. There is an argument that the wire is unnecessary since all we need to do is to mark the boundary. We are pondering that one.

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While this was going on, most of the remainder of the group set out to clear the area of unwanted brambles and bracken, as far as was possible. It makes a big difference if you can have a larger group of people on a job like this. It is something we will bear in mind next time when we try to clear the area around the stream. There are some very attractive ferns along its bank which we would like to see take pride of place. We also continued to clear bracken and leaves from around the cruciform area. If we can catch the bracken early, it makes a big difference later.

Hopefully, by the time we meet next, scheduled for the 12th June, it is possible work may have started on our new dipping platform. Very exciting. It will be good to give that entire area a makeover, including cleaning out the pond, getting rid of brambles and, hopefully, using some of the stems from the fallen oak to provide seating for potential young dippers. All new Friends welcome - lots of fun and a really worthwhile exercise.



Graham Roads



Ampfield Village Hall – decorated, improved and ready to open safely again!

In March of last year, the hall committee had to put up the signs announcing that the Monthly Village Market, together with most other activities that take place in the hall, had to be suspended due to Central Government's Covid 19 preventative measures. Little did we think it would be over a year before we could reopen. Apart from the County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections, held on May 6, the hall has to effectively remain closed until at least May 17th.

However, the closure actually provided a golden opportunity to carry out some much needed general maintenance, repairs and renewals and some more major enhancements.

The work was carried out by a mixture of paid subcontractors and a lot of volunteer work. The first major task was to borrow a scaffold tower for the main hall to enable the cleaning of the walls and ceiling and the total redecoration of the main hall. The teething troubles with the new hall floor were then sorted out and new oak skirting board fitted to match the floor.



Seven original doors, at the stage end, that were looking the worse for wear, (complete with dormant woodworm!) have been replaced with smart new doors that meet the current regulations.

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The old kitchenette is now a bar/drinks servery. A new fixed bar has been installed, complete with a solid wood worktop all round with a wine cooler below. This was part financed by a £1,000 local Borough Councillor's grant. The new kitchen and Faber Garden Room have been decorated by kind volunteers.

The serving hatch counter has been lowered and slightly

extended to form a level serving area.



The area under the stage was investigated and a large trailer load of assorted rubbish was discovered and disposed of. This bizarrely included some old rotten fence posts (!) All is now clear and hoovered.

Now the hall has been 'deep cleaned' and a number of automatic hand sanitisers installed, etc., and risk assessments carried out, we are ready to open the doors again, subject to the announcements by the Government and any restrictions we will be obliged to adhere



to. Finally, the finishing touch has been provided by the hanging of some beautiful new curtains to the windows in the main hall and garden room.



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All being well the Thursday evening Yoga classes will resume on 3 June '21.

For all Yoga related enquiries please email

Sheila@nicholson2.co.uk

We hope that the other regular groups, as well as The Monthly Village Market will soon be able to return to business as normal.

For all other hall hire related enquiries please ring or email the Hon. Hall Manager, (Martin Hatley) on 07970 501050 or

Email:

villagehall@ampfield.org.uk

We are very grateful to the Test Valley Borough Council for smoothly distributing the various Government Covid 19 grants that the hall was entitled to claim to cover the general overheads and upkeep of the hall during the shutdown. This helped a great deal to fund the work.

Martin Hatley



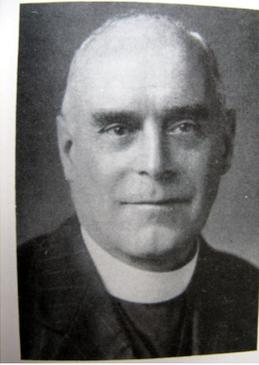
Weddings in the Church of England

From the Reformation until the early 19th century, the Church of England held records of births (noted by baptism), deaths (noted by burial) and marriages for the nation. Civil registration took the first two away from us a long time ago, but we retained the legal registers of marriage. However, since the 4th May we have no further need for them. The new form of registration does not change the fundamental position of marriages in church. The Church of England retains the privilege of conducting legal weddings. Clerics will remain responsible for ensuring that couples meet the requirements to marry in a church building, complete the relevant preliminaries such as the calling of banns and conduct pre-marriage checks and documentation.

The main difference during a wedding ceremony will be that couples will no longer sign the green registers and be handed a marriage certificate on the day. Instead they will sign a 'marriage schedule' and this will be sent off to the registrar, it is then the responsibility of the couple to obtain the certificate from them and not from the church. Another difference, which has been long overdue, is that the certificate will now include the names of the bride's mother and bridegroom's mother, previously it was just the father's name and occupation that were recorded. There will also be a chance to add adopted parents.

This is certainly an end of an era, especially for those who remember being given that green certificate after their marriage ceremony in church. The old registers are now being prepared for closure ready to be collected and retained for safety elsewhere. Some people will find this sad to think that the green marriage registers that have been part of church life for decades are now no longer in the possession of the church. Even though there are these changes, ordained ministers in the Church of England will continue to conduct marriages with much sincerity and joy as couples make their vows in front of God and their family and friends.

Cover photo shows Victoria blessing the registers. **Sally Kerson**



Memorials of Ampfield 7 by The Reverend Lake.

We now come to the later history of Ampfield, when a church was built here 1838-1841, and it was formed into a separate parish. Previous to that it had existed as an outlying hamlet within the boundaries of the parish of

Hursley. The only institution that the village possessed was a Church day school (now converted into a cottage) since it was no doubt felt that the school at Hursley was at too great a distance for the children to travel.

It was customary for the vicar of Hursley to have the assistance of a Curate, and to him probably fell the duty of holding a service each Sunday in the schoolhouse. But time brings its changes.

The Hursley Estate was sold in 1718 by the daughter of Richard Cromwell to the first Sir William Heathcote. In 1825 there succeeded the 5th Baronet of the same name. Of him Lord Coleridge says that "he was a perfect specimen of the old-fashioned, high-bred, highly cultivated country gentleman" and one may add that he was also a deeply religious man, and a zealous churchman.

In 1825 there came as Curate, in sole charge of Hursley under Archdeacon Heathcote, one John Keble, a man of ripe scholarship, a poet and true priest. He only remained a year, and in 1826 on the death of this favourite sister, he went as Curate to his father at Fairford, and remained there until his death in 1835. Then it was that for the second time the living of Hursley was offered to him by Sir William Heathcote which on this occasion he accepted, and was instituted in 1836.

Keble, with his keen appreciation of all that conduces to dignity, spirituality and truth in worship, could not have been long at Hursley without it being driven home to him that if these ideals of worship were ever to be realised in his far flung parish he must set his mind to the task of building churches.

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To begin with there was the mother church at Hursley which already twice rebuilt, was of so mean a design, and had fallen into such a dilapidated condition, that no alternative was left but to demolish and build once more.

Then there was Otterbourne, which at that time formed part of the parish of Hursley with its increasing population, and its quaint little old fashioned church, far removed from the homes of the people and likewise falling into ruin.

Lord Coleridge says:- “When Keble entered on his charge he found the inhabitants of Otterbourne busy in endeavouring to add an aisle to the old church in the valley, but Keble decided on the erection of a new church on a convenient site adjoining the highroad to Southampton”. Lastly there was Ampfield, where again the population was on the increase, which had nothing better than a school house in which to worship, and which meant a walk of some six miles for those who desired such ministrations as could only be rendered in a consecrated church.

Contributed by Nick

George Morgan RIP

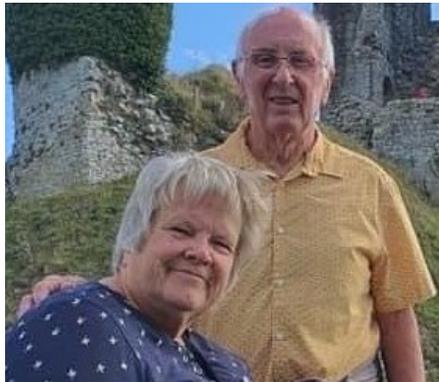


We are very sad to report that George, who celebrated his 100th. birthday in February, died last week in his care home. His birthday celebrations were featured in our March 2021 edition.

We extend our sympathies to his family and many friends .

Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

1. What is Hydrophobia more commonly known as?
2. In what year was the Guildhall in Winchester opened?
3. What is the Boeing 747 aircraft more commonly known as?
4. Where would you find the Sea of Tranquillity?
5. Who had a hit with the song The Pied Piper in 1965?
6. In the Beatrix Potter books, what type of creature was Jeremy Fisher?
7. If earth is the third rock from the sun, what is the fourth?
8. What is the maximum number of players in a game of poker?
9. Which American state comes first alphabetically?
10. Saint Mark's day takes place on which day of the year?



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.

Report of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (equivalent to the AGM for the Parish Council) and Annual Parish Assembly

Ampfield Parish Council has returned to meeting in-person at Ampfield Village Hall.

On 7th May 2021 the temporary dispensation that allowed us to meet online ended, so we have reverted to physical meetings. Late spring is a busy time in our calendar as we must hold both the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (equivalent to the AGM for the Parish Council), and the Annual Parish Assembly (which is a meeting of the electors of the parish).

The Annual Parish Assembly (APA) was on Monday 17 May. This was the first APA since 2019, as it was cancelled altogether last year due to COVID-19 regulations. People are reticent about returning to large gatherings, and understandably we had no electors in attendance, other than members of the parish council. Accordingly, the only business conducted were the formalities of receiving apologies and approving the Minutes of 2019. The reports for

the APA are contained in the Spring Newsletter, which is on our website.

Please be assured that the APA is not the only means by which you can raise matters with the parish council. We meet monthly (excluding August and December), and can be contacted outside meetings for comments or queries via email, letter, telephone or web-form.

The next Parish Council Meeting is at :

7pm
Monday 14 June 2021
at Ampfield Village Hall

**Kate Orange - Clerk/
Responsible Financial
Officer**
Ampfield Parish Council

clerk@ampfield.org.uk

www.ampfield.org.uk



Nettle Soup

The best time to make this soup is early Spring but as everything is so late this year there's still time!
Pick just the tips. Nettles are rich in vitamin C.

Ingredients

Nettles
Potatoes (peeled and chopped)
Stock
Onion (chopped)
Spinach (optional)
Oil or butter

Method

Wash nettles and discard any woody stalks.
Sweat the potato and onion in oil or butter.
Add stock and when the veg is almost soft add the nettles (and spinach) for the last few minutes.
Blend and add a spoonful of soured cream if desired.



Agne Custance

A new church for Ampfield -1838-1841

Have you ever wondered why the old settlements of Ampfield are so scattered, with no focal centre? Well, the answer is the same as the reason why the church is Victorian rather than much older: until Victorian times Ampfield was just one area within the huge ancient parish of Hursley, which stretched from the edge of Winchester to the edge of Romsey, taking in Otterbourne, Chandlers Ford and part of Braishfield. By the 19th century the population was growing, even in these non-industrial parts, and when John Keble became vicar in 1833, he soon realised that his vast parish needed to be divided into more manageable parts.



John Keble

He first built St Matthew's, Otterbourne, consecrated in 1838 and replacing an older church in Kiln Lane. Next came St Mark's in 1841, then a rebuild at Hursley and much later both Braishfield and Chandlers Ford were provided with churches. It was a sermon by Keble which began the influential Oxford Movement, whose followers were known as the Tractarians. They strove to restore standards of worship in parish churches, many of which had been allowed to fall into disrepair and where services were of poor quality. The great growth of church building in the 19th century followed these ideals, stressing the importance of the altar as a focal point, with the use of candles, vestments, and surpliced choirs, and reviving the gothic style of architecture. Thus, St Mark's was actually the second Tractarian church in the country. A foundation stone was laid in September 1838 and the church took three years to build. It was designed predominantly by a Winchester architect, Owen Browne Carter.

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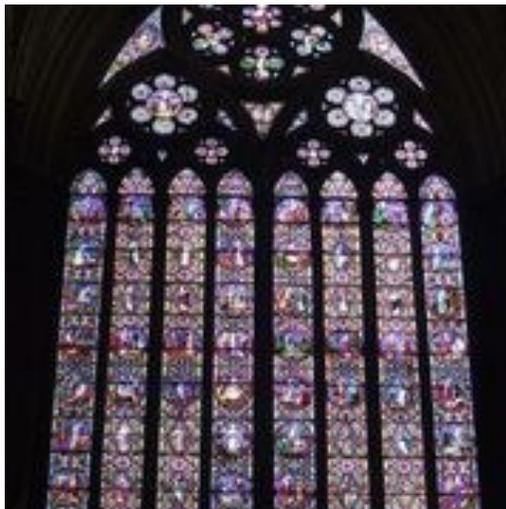


Owen Browne Carter's lithograph of the church

Cont. ...

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The new church was built on an acre of land donated by Sir William Heathcote of Hursley Park, who also covered the building costs, which amounted to £3,248. The bricks were dipped in ash before firing, giving their grey colouring and the stonework came from Caen.



The tracery of the windows was mostly copied from elsewhere and the spire was based on one from Leigh Delamere in Wiltshire, its two bells cast by Thomas Mears, Bell Founders of London. The pulpit, reading desk and altar rails probably came from Botley's old church which was being rebuilt at the time. Including the large wooden gallery which filled the north transept, there was room altogether for 306 'sittings'.

**Beverley Minster,
inspiration for our west window**

The consecration took place on April 21st. 1841, Keble's birthday and very close to St Mark's Day. Last month the 21st. April was its 180th anniversary



and in that time the parish has welcomed sixteen vicars. I will write a bit about some of the earliest of them over the next few months.

Liz Hallett



**Leigh Delamere spire, now
moved to nearby
schoolhouse**

A Kitchen Garden (G4G)

What a strange month May has been. For most of the time it has been very wet, it has been very cold, and it has been very windy. There is little choice but to admit that this has been one of the most difficult years for trying to grow stuff in the kitchen garden. The ground has taken forever to warm up. For example, new potatoes normally take about three to four weeks from sowing to allowing their first little leaves to pop out. This year it was six and a replacement sowing was already being chitted, when the first of the originals very tentatively appeared.

This has been a year that has clearly demonstrated the benefits of keeping records, such as when seeds were sown, when they germinated, how quickly plants grew, etc. It is quite reassuring, when things aren't going as they should be, to look back at what happened in previous years. Records also help to plan rotation, which really is important.



Cont. ...

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Yet now, as we move from Spring to Summer, the weather has changed totally, almost wall to wall blue skies and sunshine.

The aggravation has changed from 'nothing will grow' to 'must get it planted, NOW'.



One thing the weather has shown is the importance of being patient. Nature clearly does not rush itself for anything. It will all happen when the time is right for it to happen. Even if the worst comes to the worst and seeds do not germinate, almost invariably there is time to make a second sowing. Succession sowing can, in any case, prove to be a good plan. It can provide

tender young vegetables throughout the season, whilst avoiding the possibility of having a glut.

It is a well worth thinking about having a succession of fresh herbs available throughout the summer. Flat leafed parsley, for example, can be grown in containers and has a variety of uses. One favourite is parsley pesto. Not only does it add flavour and colour to new potatoes, but it also makes an excellent sauce for pasta. Rosemary and sage can make attractive additions to any flower border or try to sow some thyme in the cracks of paving stones. Better than the grass which normally lives there! For more information on this plus what to do this month, please refer to the RHS website - paste into your browser:

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

Please contact Rob and Chris to exchange ideas with your own stories, tips and particularly your own recipes. **Graham Roads**

Castaway of the Month - Charlie Allen

“I love singing! I sing all day, every day and if I’m not in your sight, you can always hear me! (be it in or out of tune).
”

Circa 1969 in the Ampfield Primary School Nativity Play I was cast as Mary and I was asked to sing a solo. I was very excited and practiced for hours. When my star turn arrived, I was somewhat horrified to find that it is actually quite difficult to sing with a Tea Towel wrapped very tightly under your chin! End of singing career!

My taste in music is somewhat diverse. I enjoy lots of different genres including Mozart, Heavy Metal and Pop music. My friends still laugh at my love for Donny Osmond - at my age I am over the embarrassment now and am proud to say that I have actually kissed him!! First love... and all that! (no laughing please)

Dancing Queen - Abba

In the early 1970’s Ampfield wasn’t exactly rocking but there were 90 children attending the school and many friendships were made. My parent’s best friends lived in Lower Farm Lane and they hosted the most amazing parties. As young teens we crowded the living room and danced the night away. The excitement and fun was immeasurable, an insight into impending adulthood.

Riverdance

My grandpa, Jimmy White owned the Village Store and Bakery in the village for many years. He was from Kildare in Ireland. I took my parents to London for their Ruby wedding anniversary and we saw the show Riverdance. It was beyond spectacular! The music is the most emotive I have ever heard. Coupled with the amazing dancing, I cried through the whole of the performance. It was absolutely beautiful.

The Beatles

I can’t claim to be a big fan of the Beatles but I appreciate that music is an international language and how much pleasure it brings. A friend and I were in Leidseplein Square in Amsterdam many years ago and buskers were playing a montage of Beatles hits. It was a warm evening and the atmosphere was absolutely electric. . .

You Raise Me Up – Westlife

Like my grandmother and father before me, my children Rebekah and Christopher attended Ampfield Primary School. For Becky's leaving assembly a compilation of the children's work and photos of their school careers were shown on an overhead projector. This beautiful, haunting song played alongside but was somewhat overshadowed by the (embarrassingly –so I was later informed) loud sobbing coming from the parents of the leavers. 12 years later I cannot hear this song without shedding tears.

BOOK: River God – Wilbur Smith

I have read this riveting book three times and it never fails to fire my imagination. It tells the story of Taita, a talented eunuch slave and his life in ancient Egypt. He and the populace take flight from the Hyksos invasion (around the 18th century BC) when the country was in crisis. The depths in which Smith describes every aspect of their lives, emotions and surroundings immediately transport the reader back in time to become embroiled in the lives of the characters. You share with them their many trials and tribulations.

LUXURY ITEM

My mobile phone. Solitude, for a while might be rather nice and I wouldn't use my phone per se. *[Quite right—no 'useful' items allowed! We'll find you a solar powered phone with your photos on it, but no calls enabled! - Eds.]* What I can't do without is my camera! I love taking photos and there is ALWAYS an image to capture. I love sunsets, stars and how the sun shines through leaves or glistens on water. There are so many colours and textures in the fields and meadows and I constantly wonder at the beauty of nature. The most photographed item on my camera roll is my dog so if she wasn't with me could always just look at her – and of course my family (quite possibly in that order!)”



Unfortunately last year Romsey Festival had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. The Festival takes place every three years so plans for 2020 were well under way before a final halt had to put on all proceedings especially as Covid cases were still too high to risk people gathering together.



The good news is that this year the festival is going ahead but with a reduced amount of events in and around Romsey. There will not be many indoor concerts etc. even though lockdown should be over by July. However, as we are all aware, there is no guarantee that all restrictions will be lifted by then so organisers have been very cautious in their arrangements.

In order that our benefice can take part in the festival we are having an outdoor activity. There will be two 'Churchyard Trails' one at St. Mark, Ampfield and the other at St. John the Baptist, North Baddesley and the timings are as follows:

Churchyard Trail with Quiz 3rd - 16th July

St. John the Baptist, Flexford Road, North Baddesley

Churchyard Trail with Quiz 3rd - 18th July

St. Mark Church, Ampfield

At each church we are inviting people to start at the church door and follow a numbered trail which will take them on a tour of the churchyard.

Cont. ...

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The trail is for people of all ages (including children) to discover interesting facts about history, nature and the environment as well as finding clues which make up hidden words.

It is advisable to have something to write on with you, unless you have a good memory! We are hoping that each church will be open at certain times during this period, but at the moment we do not know exactly when.

Churchyards as well as being peaceful and reflective places also contain a wealth of interest within them, so we are hopeful that many people will not only enjoy learning from the clues on the trail but also enjoying the surrounding countryside that these churchyards are set in.

St. Mark Church - 180 years

On 21st April when I sat down at my computer and started writing St. Mark's churchyard trail for Romsey Festival and discovered that it was 180 years to the very day since it's consecration. This was such a coincidence and obviously if there had not been a pandemic we would have been able to celebrate this momentous occasion in some way, although perhaps something can be arranged for a future date.

I know that Liz Hallett is now contributing to this magazine by writing a history page (see pp. 26-27) and so it will give everyone an opportunity to learn a little more about St. Mark over the last 180 years.



Sally Kerson

Thought for the Month



Silent

I did not argue with the man,
It seemed a waste of words.
He gave to chance the wondrous plan
That gave sweet song to birds.

He gave to force the wisdom wise
That shaped the honeybee,
And made the useful butterflies
So beautiful to see.

And as we walked 'neath splendid trees
Which cast a friendly shade,
He said: "Such miracles as these
By accident were made."

Too well I know what accident
And chance and force disclose
To think blind fury could invent
The beauty of a rose.

I let him talk and answered not.
I merely thought it odd
That he could view a garden plot
And not believe in God

Edgar A Guest
1881—1995

What happens to Ride and Stride Funds?

Dear Clergy, Churchwardens, PCC members and Parishioners

We would be delighted to welcome everyone from our churches in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to our livestreamed AGM :

Winchester Cathedral on Tuesday 22 June at 7pm.

There is no sight of the viewers on livestream but they can watch the event as it happens from their homes. They can join in at any point. The livestreaming details are:

<https://youtu.be/outK6f3koG4>

This is a wonderful and rare opportunity for us to show you what we do through Ride & Stride fund raising, how we hand out that funding, the churches that have benefited from our Grants and the extra financial benefit to churches who participate in Ride & Stride. Hampshire County Council also contribute £25,000 annually to our Grants funding. We have some outstanding news to give all our churches this year, not only with the staggering amount raised despite COVID – our highest record ever - but over £10,000 more than in 2019! This means even more grant money for our beautiful churches. We also have Friends of our Trust to which many of our churches belong too and for whom we organise various outings and events. We normally have supper in the Cathedral after our AGM but not this year, hence my open invitation to join our livestreamed event. All this is achieved with few expenses as everyone involved in the Trust's work is a volunteer. It is great value for money and we are incredibly lucky to have this support!

With my very best wishes,

Joan Appleyard Chairman

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Answers to Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

1. Rabies
2. 1873
3. The Jumbo Jet
4. On the Moon
5. Crispian St Peters
6. A Frog
7. Mars
8. 8
9. Alabama
10. April 25th



Seeing the zen master on the other side of a raging torrent, a student waved his arms and shouted out, "Master, master, how do I get to the other side?" The master smiled and said, "You are on the other side."

Nihilism means nothing to me.

Kleptomaniacs don't get sarcasm. They take things literally.

Why are pacifists bad at jokes? They don't believe in punchlines.

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

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Romsey Community Pantry - 01794 522106

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

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Southampton Basics Bank -

www.southamptoncitymission.co.uk/basics-banks

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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 India

I will say of the Lord, 'You are my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust'.

God of power and might we lift our brothers and sisters in

India to you.

We pray for your protection,

We pray for your provision,

We pray for the nations of earth to have compassion.

When people are in need, you are our refuge.

When people are scared, you are our refuge.

When people are mourning, you are our refuge.

Compassionate God, draw close to those who seek your refuge today.

Amen





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