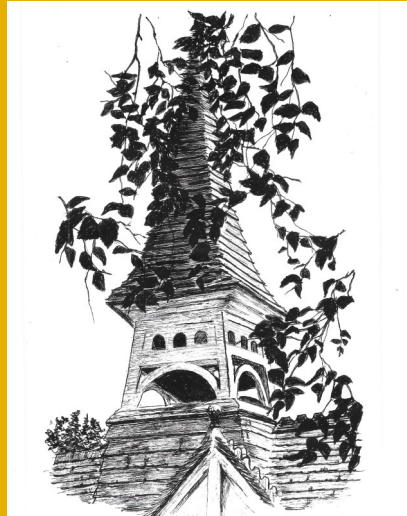


The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of
St. Mark Ampfield*

**October 2026
Vol. 76 Issue 10 £1**

www.acnb-church.org

The Parish Church of St Mark, Ampfield

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

Ministry Team

Vicar: Interregnum

Mrs. Sally Kerson, Lay Minister and Office Administrator

Tel: 02380 737617

Mr. Jonathan DeVile, Lay Minister Tel: 02380 736522

Mr. Keith Atton, Lay Minister

Beth Robertson, Children and Families Worker

For any enquiries about baptisms, weddings or churchyards please contact the parish office, telephone no: 023 8073 7617

Email us at: office@acnb-church.org

Website: www.acnb-church.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/acnbchurch/

The office is staffed 9 - 12 noon, Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

Please let us know if you have any news of those who are sick, in trouble, leaving or about to arrive.

Churchwarden: Mr. Phil Budden Tel: 07799 435 715

Email: philb@acnb-church.org

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Cheques should be made payable to ACNB PCC

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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This stunning photograph was taken at St. Denys churchyard, Chilworth
by Francois Hugo.

Dear Friends

I am sure we all grew up learning about the Bayeux tapestry. After a historic agreement with France, the 70-metre-long tapestry, depicting events leading up to the Battle of Hastings and the Norman Conquest of England in 1066, is currently on loan to the British Museum.

In this incredible embroidered cloth, we see clerics and knights, churches and palaces, with the sacred blending in with the secular. The Bayeux Tapestry has had two lives: one religious, the other secular. From what little evidence is available the Tapestry was most probably made for a clerical patron who had sufficient resources to commission such lengthy embroidery. It was most likely embroidered by nuns sewing in a monastic workshop.

The tapestry is famous for its borders—filled with beasts, fables, and scenes of everyday life that comment silently on the main historical drama. As the kings and dukes plot their conquests, the borders remind us of the wider, untamed world that stands indifferent to human ego. We see the appearance of Halley's Comet, interpreted by onlookers as a terrifying omen. We build empires, plan strategies, and amass wealth, yet we remain entirely subject to forces far greater than ourselves. The tapestry exposes the illusion of human control, echoing the biblical reminder that human breath is but a mist.

I would like to think that tapestry is not just a story of Norman victory; it is a mirror reflecting the enduring truth that true strength is not found in horses, armour, or crowns, but in a life woven with truth, humility, and keeping faith. The fact that it has survived for 950yrs old also proves that God has indeed had a hand in its longevity. As someone who has an interest in craft, I believe that this medium is something we should use more to tell our own stories. Indeed, church kneelers are often used this way so that names and events have gone down in history - so get you needles out and start stitching!

With love, Sally.



Weekly service pattern

Sunday Services

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

Midweek Services

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

Harvest Festival Services



Sunday 4th October at St. Denys and St. John the Baptist

Sunday 11th October at St. Mark and All Saints.

Please bring along tinned and packaged food (in date) to these services.

In North Baddesley and Chilworth your donations will be given to Romsey Food Bank and Ampfield to 'The Beacon' in Winchester

Ride and Stride 2026

by Nick Jeffrey

It was at 12 noon when I decided to ride my bike to several churches in our area, starting in Knapp Lane. I was soon riding through Ampfield where I always admire the oak trees growing there. It was us young children in the 1950s who collected the acorns that the Forestry commission paid us 3d. a pound for them to propagate and plant that you see growing there today. I was soon riding towards Farley past the field named Berry Down where my first job was helping the shepherd in 1962, usually several hares are to be seen here, often with buzzards and red kites flying above them.

As I neared Farley Church passing under the avenue of lime trees planted in memory of the end of the first world war the delightful church that has stood here since the 12th century appears. It was three weeks ago that I stood here watching 18 house martins sitting on the electric wires with a further 12 or more flying overhead in preparation of grouping together for their long journey to a warmer climate. I always admire the view towards the IOW but now something new appears, these are the new cranes at Southampton Docks, the largest in Europe. Brunel must be turning in his grave as they were made in China!



I then ride through the farm toward Parnholt wood with sparrows chirping in the hedge rows either side, admiring the views to the north. I ride past the monument to the dead horse onto the road to Kings Somborne. This is a lovely road to ride on with large fields either side, until I come to the village of Ashley. In the company of many splendid trees, pretty

cottages and earthworks of a Norman castle the chief delight is a church that has stood here for 800 years. Inside is an alms box carved from a single piece of oak still taking care of alms as it has done for over 400 years. The font, square and simple is Norman too, rising from a single pillar from its base.

Cont. ...

...Cont.

Continuing to Kings Somborne with thatched cottages either side I pass a Methodist church whose book I signed. I proceeded to St Peter and St Paul King Somborne, one of the things it has to show is believed to be the oldest of its kind in Hampshire. It is the mutilated early 14th century stone effigy of William de Brestowe with his head missing. It was here that I was given some refreshment by two delightful ladies who took time to show me around and even pulled up carpets, under which were brass monuments to long dead worshippers.

I then took the road to Eldon which is a long slow drag uphill but one is rewarded at the top with beautiful mature trees either side of the road, but soon you come Eldon the smallest parish in Hampshire and some say in the country. Look carefully and you will find behind tall hedges in a private garden a church that has stood here for 800 years overlooking the woods and fields, it is in good condition but no longer used.



It is nearly all downhill from here to Braishfield and the large brick built church of All Saints, it has an ornate tiled roof and thankfully I could see no lead to steal. I then pass the war memorial, the last name on which being my Godfather Major John Watts MC killed two weeks before the end of the war. I then come to the school through which doors I first passed in 1949 and will soon be filled when they build another 60 houses in the village. It is an easy



ride back through the woods to St Marks which was only the second church out of seven to offer refreshments and then home.

Nick

See next page for a report circulated in the diocesan newsletter.

Ride and Stride

Our riders and striders also made the Diocese Newsletter:



“Riders and striders from Ampfield, Chilworth and North Baddesley Churches also took on the Ride and Stride challenge.

While the walkers visited the churches within the benefice, the cyclists ventured further afield to Farley Chamberlayne and Mottisfont.

Among them Francois Hugo, who first took part in Ride and Stride in 2001. As an Area Representative for Romsey Deanery and long-distance cyclist, he has previously visited all 33 churches in the deanery.”



He said “Motivation is partly to raise funds for the Trust which has made a significant grant to our church and does so for other historic churches. Then there is fundraising for our benefice, as half the sponsorship funds raised are given to the church selected by the participant.”

“It’s an enjoyable day’s ride on scenic country roads around the deanery and seeing attractive, mostly old, churches, and having occasional conversations with people in them too.”



ST MARK'S MINNOWS

FUN AND FRIENDLY
BABY AND TODDLER GROUP!



TERM TIME THURSDAYS

9.30 – 11AM

COFFEE ON FROM 9.15!



News around the Parish Ampfield

St. Mark's stall at the Ampfield Market

Next Market Saturday 3rd. October 10am - noon

Come along to the popular Market in the Village Hall and grab a bargain from our eclectic stall. If you have any items to donate please contact Pam or Chris. We are now preparing for our Christmas stalls in November and December so gifts, decorations, cakes and anything Christmassy very welcome.

Pilgrims

Saturday 17th October 10am

If you haven't been to one of these Pilgrim discussion groups before, then it is not too late to go along they are relaxed groups with no right or wrong answers.

There is always cake involved!

Friends for Lunch

A full complement of diners enjoyed Annie's Cottage pie and Clare's apple cake with cream and custard. Thanks also to Rosea and Victoria for another successful meal. We now have a full list of members so early booking is essential. October's lunch is now fully booked. For information please contact Pam on : 02380 411146 or

Email - pammorf@virginmedia.com



Flowers for St. Mark

October: Jean

Extra flower arrangements welcome for Harvest

News around the Parish

St. Mark's Room
Sunday 11th October 12.30

A sign up sheet for those who would like to attend is in each church.



A Thank You from Heather
The Children's Society



A very big thank you for all who gave so generously to The Children's Society Box opening this year. I was able to bank **£500.01**.

Thank you all for your continuous support.

With Love and Blessings Heather



*From St Mark's Register
Wedding*

Samuel Tichborne & Leigh Townsend

We send them our good wishes

News around the Parish

All Saints

The Birnie Boozle Band Saturday 26th September

The Birnie Boozle Band returned to give us another foot tapping evening of a range of folk music at All Saints. They had everyone joining in, especially with the Elvis medley, then ending enthusiastically with 500 miles by the Proclaimers. Another grand night!



Pilgrim Group

Wednesdays 7th October 2pm - 3.30pm

Every first Wednesday afternoon. Lovely coffee and cake. We use a range of resource material to explore questions of faith. Our ethos is that we are exploring together, and there are no wrong answers - all are welcome to this relaxed and friendly group. Do [get in touch](#) if you would like more information.

The Open Teapot

Sunday 11th October 2.15pm

Come along and have tea and cake with us and share your memories with the help of the Memory Box Foundation.



News around the Parish

Sunday 4th October 6.30pm Churches together in North Baddesley Music, Songs and Prayers

The churches in the village are coming together for a service in Baddesley Baptist Church, Nutburn Road at 6.30pm. We are all invited to this service, if you want to know more then ask Cilla as she will be taking part.

St. Denys

Wednesday 18th November, 1pm.



The wonderful Consorte d'Amici return to give us another, brilliant, recorder recital. If you haven't seen them before, you really don't know what you're missing!

Trish

*Need a break
from the
hurly burly of
life?
St. Mark's is
open daily
from
10am - 4pm*



It was the third year we took part in the Heritage Open Days 11th to 20th September. The Hampshire History Trust are the organisational home behind Winchester Heritage Open Days and supported us in organising our events.



This year we invited people to come and listen to some interesting talks about 'Everyday Histories' of the people who lived in our villages. It was encouraging to see 30 people come and listen to a talk in St. Denys, Chilworth and to learn about the Fleming Family. As

well as the Landlord of the Clump who got into trouble with the police for organising a fight in Chandlers Ford! We heard about how a wealthy cloth merchant from London, buried in St. John the Baptist Churchyard in 1691, left a legacy which enabled a charity to buy homes for Widows and continues to this very day in Southampton.

Cont. ...

...Cont



Then of course Wilbert Awdry and his family and their time in the Vicarage plus the building of St. Marks church itself and it's interesting history.

Grateful thanks to Liz Hallett who not only gave two talks but illustrated them so well. We must keep the history and heritage of our churches and the people associated with them alive for future generations; this is what these days are all about.

Sally

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF AMPFIELD

by Nick Jeffrey

It was Christmas Eve 1952 when my parents moved to Ampfield. I had watched the house as a small child being built, first the land being cleared of trees, all with hand crosscut saws with the roots being extracted with a monkey winch. This was a steel cable attached to a drum that was powered by up to two persons pulling on a lever that slowly bought pressure on the cable from a series of ratchets.

The building work was done by WR Woodley (established 1934) who had already built many quality houses in the area, and was well known for maintenance work at the church, school and private houses. A lime pit was sunk into what is now the front lawn where Maury mixed his mortar to lay the bricks and slowly the house rose from the ground.

Mr Woodley had his builder's yard between the church and the Potters Heron on which stood two large black sheds which housed mechanised saws, planers, work benches above which were shelves of hand tools, nails screws, paint - everything a builder would need. All the doors and cabinets for our house were made in these sheds and much of it is still in regular use today. Outside stood piles of bricks, tiles, window frames, wheelbarrows and of course the inevitable corrugated iron "thunder box." The sheds burnt down about five years ago and this area is now a reclamation yard.

Cont. ...

...Cont.

Walter the painter lived in these sheds during the early part of the war drawing his water from the nearby springs. Later he moved to Ampfield Hill and in retirement could be seen riding his bicycle to the White Horse for his evening drink but always used his bicycle for support to walk his way home. He was such a character in the pub that Geoff and Pauline, landlords at that time, had a brass plaque made with his name fixed to his chair and nobody but him was allowed to sit in it!!

Mr Woodley worked to a very high standard that obviously took time. My mother was getting impatient; she was determined to move in by Christmas. Even though the floors were only concrete, the block flooring not being down, the bathroom was not tiled, she pushed all the builders' tools, equipment and materials into a corner and moved in on Christmas Eve.

This was to be the start of 60-year association with Ampfield and over the next few months working only from memory I hope to interest you with stories of Ampfield as I remember it as a child. So please forgive me if I get some facts wrong, I have no notes to go by, some memories are vivid like it happened yesterday, others dim...now where did I put my glasses?!!

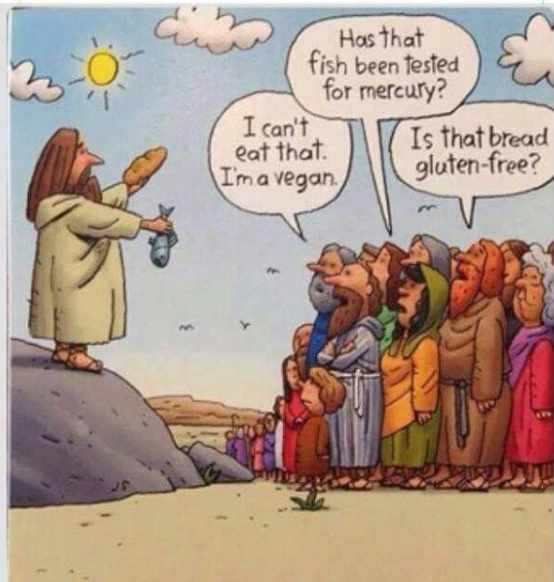


Nick



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas!

If Jesus tried to feed the 5000 today... :)





Supporters' Evening

Thursday 15th October, 6.30pm - 8pm

at The Arc, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8SB

We would love you to join us for our Supporters' Evening when we will share news and updates about our vital work supporting people experiencing homelessness.



We'd love to see you there

Scan the QR code to reserve your free place or email
marketing@winchesterbeacon.org.uk

We are really looking forward to our **Supporters' Evening** which is taking place on **Thursday 15th October**.

Event details

Where: The Arc, Jewry Street in Winchester, SO23 8SB.

When: Thursday 15th October. Doors open at 6.30pm with light refreshments available. Guests will be invited to take their seats just before 7pm ready for our first speaker.

We expect the evening to come to a close by 8pm.

Please find more information about the event on [our website](#).

Booking information

The event is free to attend but **booking is essential** as places are limited. Please reserve your seat via the link below or email marketing@winchesterbeacon.org.uk.

We really hope that you can join us.

Robyn Kohler
Chief Executive

Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

1. On 15th April 1912 the Titanic sank with huge casualties. What was the name of the shipping company that it belonged to?
2. Roughly how long is the M3 motorway? [1] 55 miles [2] 57 miles [3] 59 miles.
3. Marion Robert Morrison was the real name of which American male actor, born in 1907?
4. The national flag of France is tricoloured. Two of the colours are white and red. What is the third colour?
5. A yaffle is an old-fashioned name for which long beaked bird that is very fond of ants?
6. A Cavapoo is a mixture of a two breeds. What are they?
7. How long does Mercury take to go round the sun? [1] 88 days [2] 95 days [3] 110 days
8. Which aircraft was withdrawn from service in 2003, after a terrible accident three years earlier?
9. What is the name of the presenter of Flog It, which is having a long repeat run on BBC2?
10. Opened in 1914, what is the name of the well-known theatre in Jewry Street in Winchester?

Ron Cobb

Answers on p. 33



**The
Ampfield Market**
(Established in 2000, now in its 27th year !)

**will take place on
Saturday Oct 3rd 2026
From 10am to 12noon
in Ampfield Village Hall
(SO51 9BJ)**

Our Market has a great reputation, we regularly sell fresh fruit and veg supplied by Hansards in Awbridge and delicious bread and cakes supplied by Matts Bakery. Also, honey, preserves, plants and pet food . Cards, jigsaw puzzles and books. Collectables, unusual crafts and jewellery. Bric a brac, seasonal treats, beauty products, eggs and much, much more !

We serve fresh coffee and a wonderful selection of cakes throughout the morning.

Come along with friends and family to enjoy this special monthly community event.

Parking and admission are always FREE.

All proceeds support the Village Hall. Registered charity no. 1057353
Contact Julie on 023 80254587 or Julie@ampfield.org.uk for table bookings etc.

Next date. Saturday November 7th 2026

Ampfield Art Class Gallery

Julie Trotter's Art Class
takes place on Thursday afternoons,
from 2-4pm at the Village Hall



Inquisitive cows - Monica, watercolour.



Young woman -
David , charcoal .



Cambridgeshire village - Nick, watercolour.

Ampfield Art Class Gallery



Rievaulx Abbey, York -
Nick, watercolour.



Work in progress -
Karen, acrylics .



MTB -
Jerry, pencil.



Pierrot, (Watteau), -
John, pastels.

What's on in the Parish every week

St. Mark

St. Mark's Minnows

Thursdays in termtime St. Mark's Room 9.30 - 11am

All Welcome! Kettle's on from 9.15.

St. Mark's Fridge Magnets and cards

Jennie has made cards and fridge magnets with a picture of Ampfield Church - £1.50 for a card, or £5 for 4 cards, and £2 for a fridge magnet. Available to buy at Ampfield Market or in church.



All Saints

Digital Hub - All Saints: Wednesdays 10.30am - 12 noon

We have expanded Wednesday mornings to include some support for those who have laptops, tablets or phones and need a little extra help on how to use them.

Social Hub - Wednesdays at All Saints 10am - 12 noon

Have a go at some crafts, do jigsaws or just relax with a book that has been borrowed from the Community Library (also open on a Wednesday morning) or just sit and chat. Free drinks and biscuits and sometimes other treats!

Welcome Cafe at All Saints Thursdays at 10am

The café is for any and everyone in the community, we particularly welcome those who find themselves lonely or bereaved.

Sunshine Saints

Fri: 10:00am - 11.30am at All Saints (term-time only)

Sunshine Saints is the toddler and baby group. It is an opportunity for the children to have fun playing together. There are snacks for the children and tea and coffee for those who accompany them, suggested donation: £2.

What's on in the Parish every month

St. Mark

Friends for Lunch:

3rd. Wednesday of the month

please contact Pam on : **Tel. 02380 411146 or**

Email - pammorf@virginmedia.com to book your place.



St. Mark's Stall at the Ampfield Market

1st. Saturday of the month

If you have anything to donate, please contact Chris on **01794 367104**. We are happy to collect. Thank you for your support!

Pam and Chris

Pilgrim Course:

3rd Saturday of the month



10am. - 11.30am

This is an opportunity to ask questions about faith. Our ethos is that we are exploring together, and there are no wrong answers - all are welcome to this relaxed and friendly group. The Pilgrim groups are always accompanied by cake!

All Saints

Pilgrim Course:

1st Wednesday of the month

2pm - 3.30pm

WHAT'S ON IN THE AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL

AUTUMN 2026

JOIN IN ONE!

MONDAYS

PILATES WITH HANNAH PLOM

Two morning sessions. **9.15 to 10.20am & 10.30 to 11.35am**. Mixed ability mat class. Details at www.pilateswithaplomb.com

AMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

regularly meet on a Monday evening, at 7pm, for their monthly meetings, planning meetings and other meetings. For information: www.ampfieldparish.gov.uk

TUESDAYS

AMPFIELD BRIDGE CLUB

is a very popular club playing friendly duplicate bridge. It meets every Tuesday evening (except at Xmas time) from **7pm to 10pm**. If you require a partner or want more information contact Mel Cook on **07889 323037** or email melcook@sky.com
New members always welcome.

WEDNESDAYS

YOGA ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS with Gaynor

10.00 to 11am details see Friday below

1st AMPFIELD BROWNIES

meet every Wed. evening during term time. **6pm to 7.30pm**

Tel. Sue Moore (Brown Owl) 01794 523947 or 07814 879845 for information.

ROMSEY MODELLERS

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

THURSDAYS

AMPFIELD ART GROUP

meets Thurs. afternoons during term time **2pm to 4pm**. Very friendly atmosphere. Beginners and those wishing to develop their skills welcome.

Contact email: Julie@ampfield.org.uk

PILATES WITH HANNAH PLOM - 6.25 to 7.30pm. Mat classes. For details: see Monday above.

FRIDAYS

YOGA ON FRIDAY MORNINGS with YogaByGaynor.

9.30 to 10.30am All levels, Gentle, Vinyasa Flow Yoga. All welcome. Facebook: @yogaByGaynor OR Email: yogabygaynor@yahoo.com (Also Wed. mornings).

SATURDAYS

VILLAGE MARKET (IN ITS 27th YEAR!)

First Saturday of every month **10-12noon** (except Jan. and Aug.). Entry free. Regularly on sale are fresh bread, rolls, jams, chutneys and pickles, cakes, plants and fresh flowers, cards, books, antiques, unusual crafts, jewellery, toys, seasonal surprises, bric a brac etc. Fresh coffee and delicious cakes are served all morning in the Garden Room. Interested in renting a table? Ring Julie on 02380 254587 or email Julie@ampfield.org.uk. This is a great event to meet up with people.

CARD MAKING WORKSHOP WITH VANESSA.

A range of crafts taught, meets monthly, normally on the second Saturday of each month from **10am to 4pm**. A very relaxed day and delicious coffee provided. Details from Vanessa 01794 515490 or email Ampfieldcards@gmail.com.

SUNDAYS

SEWING SUNDAYS WITH MICHELLE.

Small group of crafters, who meet once a month on a Sunday. Open to all who want to bring along their dressmaking, knitting or other textile projects. If interested email Michelle michelleewaters@gmail.com Friendly group, offers advice, help pinning and fitting toiles + natter & cuppa

WEEKENDS: THE ORTHODOX PARISH OF St. SILOUAN of Mt. ATHOS

now normally hold their services here **every 1st weekend of the month**. For details see their **new** website www.silouan-soton.org or ring 07518 417052 (English & Russian). A friendly non-political church. All welcome!

For general enquiries and hall bookings tel. Martin Hatley 07970 501050 Or visit our website: www.ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk Or Email: info@ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk

DIARY DATE The next **POPULAR FUN QUIZ** is on **FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2026 7.30pm** in the Village Hall £5 per entrant inc. bar snacks. Book a place or table now & just pay on the night.

**Email: info@ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk or
Tel./WhatsApp 07970 501050**

V7

From the Archives

October 1995



'The Ampfield Messenger' Diary - October

For details of all church services, see page 1



Each Tuesday at 8.00 pm, the House Group meets at 8.00pm at 5 Heathcote Place, Hursley.

Thursday evenings the Alpha Course meets at the Vicarage.

Wednesday evenings, 5.00 to 6.00 pm, Hursley and Ampfield Beaver Scouts meet at Hursley Village Hall. Contact Sheila Bradshaw, 01962 775555.

Sunday 1st October - Last day of Hursley Flower Festival and Talents Exhibition. See page 10.

Tuesday 3rd October - Get Together meet at 2.30 pm at Timberline, Hookwood Lane.

Friday 6th October - Harvest Supper at the W.I. Hall at 7.30 pm. See page 4.

Sunday 8th October - Harvest Festival. See page 4.

Tuesday 10th October - M.U. meets at the Vicarage at 2.30 pm. See page 4.

Friday 13th October - Ladies' Fashion Evening at the W.I. Hall at 7.30 pm. See page 14.

Saturday 14th October - Concert at All Saints', Hursley at 7.30 pm. See page 7.

Sunday 15th October - Sponsored Walk leaving from the W.I. Hall at 2.00 pm. See page 14.

Tuesdays 17th and 24th October - Craft Group meets at 38 Beechwood Crescent at 2.00 pm.

Wednesday 18th October - W.I. meet in the W.I. Hall at 2.00 pm. See page 13.

Friday 20th October - Stephen and Anita Wood's slide show in St Mark's Room at 7.30 pm. See page 7.

Wednesday 25th October - ACHA meeting at Otterbourne Church Hall at 7.15 pm. See page 13.



From the Archives

October 1995



Ampfield Parish Council

The September meeting of the Parish Council was held in the W.I. Hall on Monday 11th September 1995 under the Chairmanship of Miss Joan Cornwell.

The Council has appointed Mr John Murray of 13 Shelley Close, Winchester, SO22 5AS as Clerk to the Council following the resignation last May of Mrs Anne James. Mr Murray has been Acting Clerk since then.

It was noted that the passing places in Green Lane are in the Area Surveyor's programme for 1995/96 but it is likely that the work will not be completed until the last quarter of the financial year.

The Clerk and Chairman reported on an informal meeting they had attended with the applicants for planning permission on the Hillier depot site on Hook Road. Their action so far was confirmed. It was agreed that discussions could continue with the proviso that the Council's position was not compromised. The Council was totally opposed to the application but felt that if planning consent was given they should be able to influence any design concept and layout. A letter had been received from the Ampfield Conservation Trust about a joint approach to this problem, and this was agreed in principle.

A report was received on the meeting with the County Surveyor's Department about the possible installation of a pelican crossing at or near to the school. This was seen as a short-term solution to the school's problem of finding a suitable area for recreational use. Discussions with local landowners and the Cricket Club were continuing.

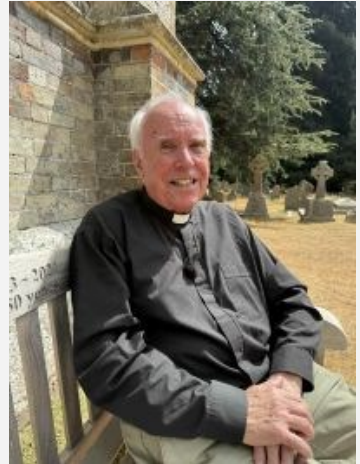
The Clerk reported that, at last, progress was being made on the purchase of the woodland behind St Mark's Church from St Martin's Estate. It was agreed that, subject to the Council's legal advisers being happy with the situation, the Clerk be authorised to take up the loans etc before the Loan Sanction expires at the end of the month. It was noted that the planning application for change of use to part of the land as an extension to the Burial Ground had been lodged with T.V.B.C.

It was noted that the audit of the Council's 1994/95 accounts would be conducted by the District Auditor at the Test Valley Council Offices in Romsey on Monday 27th November 1995.

Profile

Revd Bruce Hartnell

I've been a clergyman for pretty much all my working life, 60 or so years now. I was an ordinand of this diocese, and spent most of my ministry in Southampton, apart from a few years working in a theological college and a parish near Maidenhead. I worked in the university chaplaincy in Southampton before spending 20 years in Sholing. When I retired, my wife decided I shouldn't do anything by way of duty as a clergyman for a year. It also gave me the opportunity to pay back some of her care for me and our family. I only had a little over 12 months before she died.



After that I returned to Swaythling, the parish where I'd started out, recognising that I needed to be looked after. I joined the team as a retired priest for about 10 years before joining the Clerical Registry. I like the irresponsibility of it. There's no question of being on the PCC or discussing changes. It's about sustaining the worshipping life of a parish, which doesn't have enough clergy, or perhaps anybody at all, to lead services.

Cont. ...

...Cont.

One of the great blessings of a clerical life, is that it is possible to continue serving after retirement. There are checks and training of course and you need a Bishop's Permission to Officiate and to keep up to date with courses, particularly in safeguarding. I think the COVID experience was particularly revealing. I wasn't ill, but I was down at heart and living alone. This work is very beneficial because it gives me a sense of being of some use and appreciated. To that extent, it makes a great difference.

I'm 84 years old now and while I've got a driving licence and a reliable car, I want to fill in if I can. When I get a request, I look at my diary. If I'm already committed, I simply say so. I never feel under pressure. What you're able to offer is gratefully received. For anyone thinking about joining the Clerical Registry, I would say you will find it surprisingly rewarding. People are very good at saying 'it's lovely to have you here' and they mean it. It can be a blow to a church to find that the minister is leaving or retiring and there's uncertainty. To have somebody come alongside who is cheerful and reliable and there to provide support, can make a big difference. I recommend it to those of my colleagues who haven't already done it.

*With thanks to Bruce, especially for his interesting
talks and sermons at St. Mark.
This article was taken from the Diocesan Newsletter.*

Thought for the Month

There's currently a lot of debate about artificial intelligence. Some are filled with excitement about the possibilities. Others are marked by deep anxiety. Is technology developing faster than society can keep pace with? Who is in control and where is God?

In the media, AI is often presented either as a source of enormous hope or profound anxiety. But Creationtide invites us to pause. As Christians, we've never understood humanity primarily through the lens of what we can create, invent or control. The opening chapters of Genesis remind us that before we are innovators, consumers, leaders, or users of technology, we are creatures. We receive life as a gift from God. We are made in God's image, entrusted with the care of creation and called into relationship with one another and with our Creator.

This perspective has something important to offer the current debate. AI may well transform many areas of our common life. Yet technological capability cannot answer deeper questions about wisdom, dignity, purpose, truth, or love.

Creationtide encourages us to look again at the world around us. Our task is neither to embrace every innovation uncritically nor to resist change out of fear. Rather, it's to ask how technology can strengthen communities and honour the God in whose image every person is made. Whilst not offering answers to the debate, Creationtide offers perspective. A helpful reminder that, despite the rapid changes around us, the deepest truths remain unchanged. The earth is still the Lord's. Human dignity is still rooted in God's image. Our hope is still found not in technological progress, but in the eternal and unchanging faithfulness of God.

***Revd Dr Amy Roche,
Diocesan Head of Mission and Ministry.
From the Diocesan Newsletter***



Answers to Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. White Star Line
2. 59 miles
3. John Wayne
4. Blue
5. Green Woodpecker
6. Poodle and Cavalier King Charles
7. 88 days
8. Concorde
9. Paul Martin
10. Theatre Royal

*You cannot prevent birds of sorrow from flying
over your head, but you can prevent them from
building nests in your hair.*

Chinese proverb

Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers
Alfred, Lord Tennyson

*One of the most difficult things to give away is
kindness - it is usually returned.*

C. Flint

A Prayer for Harvest



As we celebrate the harvest festival, we ask that you'll help unite us all so that we can love our neighbours as ourselves.

Help us look out for those who feel alone and support those who are struggling.

Fill us with encouragement so that we can work together for a kinder, fairer community.

Help us be generous people so that our streets can reflect your abundant love.

Amen



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