

Issue No. 286

Hill & Valley

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF HURSTBOURNE PRIORS, LONGPARISH, ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT

£1

March 2025



This year the beginning of Lent starts on 5th March (Ash Wednesday). Lent comes from an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is in spring, when the days begin to get longer or lengthen. It's believed the Church has kept a period of fasting in the weeks before Easter for at least the last 1,500 years. This fast reminds Christians that they are dependent upon God for everything, just as Jesus was when he spent those 40 days in the wilderness being tempted. Hopefully those spiritual disciplines of fasting, prayer, reading the Bible, self-denial, giving to help those in need, self-examination, and repentance draws Christians closer to God and prepares them for the great celebration of Easter.

I am reminded of a story in the Bible about a man called Jonah. God told him to go to Nineveh in Assyria (now Iraq) to warn his enemies they were going to be judged for their wickedness.

Jonah didn't want to go and do this, so he ran away in the opposite direction. That was how he ended up being thrown overboard a ship and then inside a giant fish (or whale) for three days and nights. After that experience, Jonah agreed to do what God asked him, and he was spat out on to dry land. Jonah went to Nineveh and told the people they will be overthrown in 40 days. Surprisingly the people listened to Jonah and declared a fast across that great city. The people repented and changed their evil ways, so God had mercy and did not bring the disaster upon them.

That seems like a nice ending to the story except that Jonah was not happy about it. He became angry that God would have compassion on his enemy. He only wanted God's goodness to be shown to him and his people, not them.

Jonah became so bitter and angry that he wanted to die, but God explained to him that he loves all people, not just one particular group.

This story makes me think of two important things. Firstly, sometimes it's important for us to do things we don't want to do. It may be inconvenient for us but perhaps it will be life changing for others if we do.

Secondly, during this time of Lent when Christians traditionally think more about repentance and self-examination, it's important for us all not to judge others, as tempting as it might be. It's never too late to say sorry and change our ways. We may think others deserve punishment, but they might respond better to love and compassion. As it says in the Bible, God's kindness is intended to lead us to repentance. I hope you will take the time to reflect upon this story and let it speak to you today.

Blessings,

Russ

*The Revd Russell Smart
Associate Priest*



Cover photo - Note by Longparish PCC:

In 2022 the wooden lych gate leading into Longparish churchyard from the meadow was destroyed by a tree falling on it in a storm. It has been replaced very skilfully by Mark Barton of Andover Saw Mill. The whole project of rebuilding the new lych gate has been funded by Pippa Sawyer in memory of her husband the late Jim Sawyer. We are most grateful for this very generous and splendid memorial to our dear friend Jim.

March 2025

All Zoom details are available from the Church wardens or Dodie Marsden.

Sunday 2nd - Transfiguration Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	9.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
All Hallows, Whitchurch	5.00pm	<i>Contemplative Prayer</i>
Home Zoom Service at 10.30am		

Wednesday 5th - 'Ash Wednesday'

All Hallows Whitchurch	7.00pm	<i>Ashing Communion</i>
Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online		

Sunday 9th - Lent 1

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	<i>Benefice Evensong</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott		<i>No Service</i>
Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online		

Sunday 16th - Lent 2

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	<i>Matins</i>
Home Zoom Service at 10.30am		

Wednesday 19th

All Hallows, Whitchurch	9.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
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Sunday 23rd - Lent 3

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	4.00pm	<i>Songs of Praise</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Benefice Evensong</i>
St James', Woodcott		<i>No service</i>
Home Zoom Service at 10.30am		

Sunday 30th - Mothering Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Family Service</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Family Service</i>
St James', Woodcott		<i>No service</i>
St James the Less	6.00pm	<i>Benefice Evensong</i>
Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online		

For all enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals in any of the parish churches, please contact the Church Office Administrator:

☎ 01256 893573

brightwatersbenefice@gmail.com

Rev David Roche: ☎ 01256 892535

revd.davidroche@hotmail.com

Rev Canon Dodie Marsden:

☎ 01264 738211

dodie.marsden@gmail.com

- For details of **Roman Catholic Services** in Whitchurch or Andover: ☎ 01264 352829

- **Methodist Minister** for our parishes:

The Revd Rachel Borgars, 11 Lapwing Rise, Whitchurch, RG28 7SU ☎ 01256 895878 or rachel.borgars@methodist.org.uk

From the Church Registers

• Baptisms

"Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father."

Bunnie-Mae Hope Bother

Hurstbourne Priors - 1/2/2025

• Weddings

"Marriage is a gift of God in creation ..."

Dorothea Elizabeth Pease and

Hugh David Carrow

Woodcott - 15/2/2025

LET US PRAY - If you would like us to pray for You or someone else, please email

stnbrightwaters@icloud.com giving the name (no surname required) and include a reason if you wish, or contact a member of the local ministry team.

Sunday 9th March

Benefice Evensong at St Andrew's in Hurstbourne Priors at 6.30pm

Cynthia Coleman is going to talk about Cragie's Aitchinson's **Crucifixion** as well as **The Resurrection, Cookham** by Stanley Spencer, both from the Tate Gallery. We think they will make a suitable pair, given that we are in Lent. There will be reference to what Google calls the "Three R's of Lent" (Repentance, Reflection, Reconciliation), with particular focus on Reflection in Aitchinson's picture. And to look at Spencer's Resurrection at the end might help to end on a more cheerful and local note as Cookham is close by. It is such a joyous picture.

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WEATHER: JANUARY 2025

Rainfall this month:	140 mm / 5.51 in
Total for 2025 :	141 mm / 5.51 in
Total for 2024:	88 mm / 3.46 in
Max temperature:	13 °C / 56 °F
Min temperature:	6 °C / 21 °F

JANUARY: Bit more rain than last January, but I don't record wind, the highlight of the month!

John Smail

BIG BREAKFAST AND PANCAKE RACE

Sunday 9th March from 10.15am to 12noon
Hurstbourne Priors Recreation Ground

Bring your frying pan and come and enjoy a delicious hot breakfast and have fun pancake racing. There will be races for all ages and if you are not racing, then come and cheer on the competitors.

There is a small charge of £2 per person to cover costs and we will donate any surplus towards the purchase of new playground equipment. To book your place, please email fenella.williams@btopenworld.com

Hannah Ross and Fenella Williams

CHURCH AND VILLAGE CLEAN UP

The Hurstbourne Priors Annual Village Clean Up will be held on **Saturday, 22nd March**. Please meet at the Church or Cricket Pavilion from 10am where we will be serving tea, coffee, hot chocolate and homemade brownies to help you keep your strength up.

There is a range of tasks from polishing and cleaning in the church, clearing in the churchyard, recreation ground and play area with a bonfire to get rid of all the winter debris and general litter picking along the lanes.

Please wear suitable clothing and gloves are recommended for outside tasks. We will have pick claws and rubbish bags available in the

Pavilion.

Cleaning products will be available in the church for those wishing to take part in 'inside' activities.

Everyone is welcome; no one is too small or too old for a useful task!

Many thanks,

Your Parish and Parochial Church Councils

Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall Website



Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall has a new website. It now includes a view-only diary so you can see at a glance when it's available, and a booking form.

Please take a peek at:

www.hurstbournepriorsparishcouncil.org.uk/villagehall

For enquiries and bookings please email

hbpvhbookings@gmail.com



Bunnie-Mae Boother was christened at St Andrews Church on 1st February 2025. Bunnie is wearing a christening robe that was first worn by her great-great-grandmother, Edith Bailey who was born in 1913 and since then it has been worn by members of the Bailey, Millett, Barnett and Boother families.

Whitchurch Parish Hall - National Theatre Live in 2025

Oscar Wilde's **"The Importance of Being Earnest"** like you've never seen it before!

Starring Ncuti Gatwa and Sharon D Clarke, this is a joyful, hilarious reimagining of Oscar Wilde's most celebrated work - a trivial comedy for serious people.

Max Webster (Life of Pi) directs this hilarious story of identity, impersonation and romance, filmed live from the National Theatre in London.

Wednesday, 5th March 2025 at 7.00 pm

Tickets are £12 - on the National Theatre Live page of the Parish Hall website www.whitchurchparishhall.co.uk - ☎ 01256 896 877 - or on the door.

Doors open 6.30 pm, film starts 7pm, and a bar is available. There will be an interval.

Hurstbourne Priors parish pages editor vacancy

Our editor for Hurstbourne Priors sadly had to give up editing these Hill & Valley pages at the end of last year.

If you would like to take this on, or would like to know more about what it entails, please contact Michael Widén on ☎ **07880 808111** or write to hillandvalley@btinternet.com

If no one will come forward to volunteer for this position by 19th March (copy date for the April edition), we will be unable to publish the Hurstbourne Priors parish pages the following month.



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Remembering...

Oliver James Colman

8th February 1933 - 3rd June 2024

Some excerpts from the funeral tribute for Oliver Colman given by his daughter, Milla Adeney.

There were two things that Oliver was quite specific about for his funeral:

First, that the occasion should take place at Saint Andrew's Church, a place he cherished. He had spent a number of years as church warden there; his children, Tom and Milla were christened there, Milla was married there, and all Oliver's grandchildren were christened there at the lovely baptismal font.

Second, Oliver specified he just didn't want fuss, I am sure he would be thinking, *"why have an obituary in the Hill & Valley parish magazine?"*; because he couldn't imagine what anyone would have to say about him! Well, that comment kind of sums up Oliver: genuinely modest, unassuming and thoughtful with a gentle sense of humour.

Oliver was a listener and a thinker; he REALLY listened in a way that many don't. He always read up and read around a subject, in fact, he read a lot. Oliver often had a newspaper or a book in his hand; though he was always ready to put the book to one side, take off his glasses and have a conversation - he always did enjoy a good discussion with friends and family! He knew so much, and was so generous with his knowledge; he would talk as if you knew as much as he did and never puff off or seem to notice the fact that he knew far more and in much more detail; and always treated others as intellectual equals, children and adults alike.

Oliver combined his love of books with his entrepreneurial side as he established a career in publishing, and quietly behind the scenes took over as the publisher for William Kimber books. Mainly military books. Oliver liked to be involved in all aspects of the business - particularly enjoying the precision of picture placement within the books which he often continued at home. He still enjoyed reading, even if it was the day job too - and on holiday, would rather sit in the shade with a book than be on the beach in the sunshine!

Oliver loved and appreciated nature, plants and animals and once he and Cynthia found the Cottage, in Hurstbourne Park then, really, where Dad wanted to be was in the garden, it's where he truly relaxed and enjoyed building bonfires and

starting new life with those green fingers. Oliver told me his interest in gardening began properly when his prep school was evacuated from Seaford during the war, and as far as I can tell, most of his formative education was delivered by gardeners or groundsmen at school, and then back at home on the Malshanger estate, near Basingstoke where he grew up, therefore learning a great deal about plants overall! Rather like his approach to people, Oliver offered plants a framework, a trellis, gave them what they needed and then let them follow their own course without too much intervention.

Oliver had a strong faith and enjoyed being a churchwarden at St. Andrew's. Contributing time and energy to local events such as the May Fair and running the bottle stall amongst friends. Oliver also had many other interests, Opera and cricket among them!

So, to conclude, I hope we all feel richer for knowing this self-reliant, humble, intellectual, thoughtful, spiritual, kind, generous, and loving man, a father, husband, grandfather, uncle, cousin, colleague and friend, I certainly do.

Oliver James Colman

Born 8th February 1933 – Died 3rd June 2024

Aged 91 years.

Education; Winchester College and then Trinity College Cambridge.

Married to Cynthia for over 56 years

MA



In the absence of a Hurstbourne Priors resident editor, this edition has been compiled by a hesitant guest e-editor, *Anonymous Individual*, from bits and pieces in 'its' archive.

Question: What do



and



have in common?

Answer: both Sir Robert Oxenbridge (1558) and employees of the Bank of England (1940) evacuated to Hurstbourne Park (also to Whitchurch and Overton) to escape danger in London.

It was a huge change, especially for the young women clerks, now having to live in the quiet countryside, sleeping in temporary dormitories and working in wooden huts. They let off steam in an entertainment in which the following song was sung...

Verses from ***Evacuation Blues***, words by Molly Eagling and Dorothy Smart, March 1940 (Tune: *Young Folk, Old Folk, Everybody Come*)

In the wilds of Hampshire
Among the cows and pigs,
Montague's* young ladies
Are living out in digs.
The rooms are very crowded,
With twenty in a bed,
But we're all girls together
So nothing need be said.

Chorus

Young folk, old folk,
Everybody come,
Join the Monty follies and
Remember you're still young.
Queue up for your breakfast,
Queue up for your tea,
Queue up when you want to wash
And when you want to x...x...x

Up at Hurstbourne Manor
Each fighting for herself
One hundred girls or more
Are sleeping on the shelf.
Draped around the stairway,
Hanging over rails,
Bathrooms here are rather scarce,
So they wash down in pails. *Chorus ...*

Rules and regulations,
Things you must not do,
Coming home just after ten
Really is taboo.
You must not wash your undies,
You must not have a bath,
Cos' if you do you'll know you're on
The broad and evil path. *Chorus ...*

It looks as if we're stuck here
For ten or twenty years,
Going home alone at night
And buying our own beers.
Growing rather crabby,
And getting rather fat,
They say we'll have a pension soon,
But what's the use of that? *Chorus ...*

* *Montagu Norman* was Governor of the Bank of England from 1920 to 1944.



Above, a typical dormitory: below, clerks working in the office hut.



History of the Hill & Valley area in Ten Objects

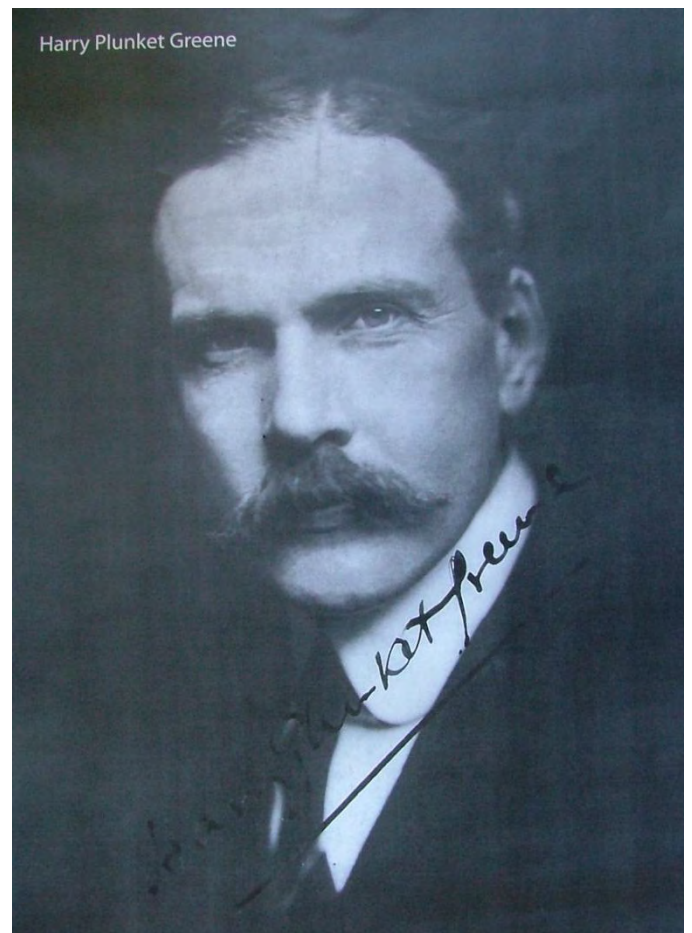
2 Hurstbourne Priors Letter Box



A Victorian curio, but well-documented (thanks to Colin and Precelly Murray). The photo shows the 1861 type WB75/ii wall box, at The Long House, 49 Hurstbourne Priors. Cast by Smith & Hawkes, in their foundry at Birmingham, the distinctive feature of this type of box is the large hood. But Harry Plunket Greene, famous singer and fly-fisherman, who lived with his family at The Long House in the early years of the 20th century, could not have used it. It has only been here since 1928, when it was transferred from Pamber End, north of Basingstoke.

Hurstbourne Priors 20th century Hall of Fame

Sir Patrick Donner, 1904-1988, who owned Hurstbourne Park from 1937, MP for Basingstoke 1935-55 (National Portrait Gallery, licensed under Creative Commons)



Singer and fly-fisherman, Harry Plunket Greene 1865-1936, living in Hurstbourne Priors 1902-13.



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Coffee at The George Inn

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The George Inn St Mary Bourne on
Tuesday 11th March at 10.30am

£2.50 for coffee and biscuits - For more information
contact Win Coventry - ☎ 01264 738 199.

The Lunch

Our next community lunch will be
held on **Wednesday 19th March**
at St Mary Bourne Village Centre as
usual, starting to serve at 12.30pm. If a lift is needed,
please phone Chris on ☎ 01264 738 110 by Noon on
the Tuesday.



The **St Mary Bourne
Parish Community
Fund** can help
parishioners with their
heating costs following

the withdrawal of the government's Winter Fuel
Payments. One-off grants (£100 max) are available. It
can also help with specific needs as well. We have done
this in the past and if someone needs help, please do
ask.

For more information please contact the Parish Clerk
clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk or Ruth Widén (PCF
Trustee) on ☎ 01264 738250 -
ruth.widen@btinternet.com



Tuesday Talk
Tuesday 11th March
Longparish Village Hall

Richard Sutcliffe in conversation with Terry Hemming
'Finding Mac - a journey of adoption, love and loss'

See details on Longparish pages

The talk will begin at 7pm - doors open at 6.30pm
Admission is free but donations are welcome to offset
the cost of hiring the Hall. There will be a cash bar.

Stoke Litter Pick and Spring Clean


Sunday 23rd March at 10am
Meet at Bridge Cottage for
refreshments first

Some litter pickers/hi vis will be provided but
please bring your own if you have them

svfcommunitygroup@aol.com



St Mary Bourne & District
Flower Show & Fete



Annual General Meeting

Friday 7th March @ 7pm

St Mary Bourne Village
Centre

An invitation to everyone with an interest in the Flower
Show. **Please join us** to share your views and suggestions
and meet the committee. There will be drinks !!

13-15 JUNE, 2025

Bourne fest

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Isn't time funny - when we are happy and enjoying ourselves it seems to fly but when we are anxious... scared or waiting for something important, it seems to drag - talking of time, I suddenly realised that since we last spoke, we have survived Christmas...

celebrated New Year and loved our way through Valentine's Day and are now preparing for Easter! I am not sure if it's working in the Shop, but these events seem to become more magnified in my life! Vicky is wonderful at changing stock to keep up with these events and continually keeping our interest up! Talking of stock, Vicky is constantly endeavouring to source produce from local producers - our 2 latest are: *Oaktrak* and *Ethels Pies* - we now have a large range of jams, chutneys, cakes and soup from *Oaktrak* and a large selection of *Ethels Pies* - along with *Greenfield Pork*, *Summerdown* and *Otties Yogurts* I think you will agree, Vicky is doing a great job keeping it local!

We have adjusted our Menu again and one of the changes is that we are now offering fresh sandwiches which can be ordered from the Café to be eaten in or taken away. Laryssa has started to produce some of her own cakes ... watch this space!

We have introduced the '*recipe of the month*' - available from the counter and all the ingredients can be found in the shop.

The suggestion box is now by the till so please feel free to put in your ideas.

Our main supplier is now delivering on a Thursday, and we feel that is so much better - lots of stock for the weekend.

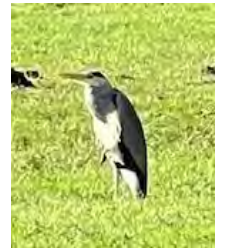
Finally (and I know it gets mentioned most months!) **Home Deliveries** have started - to begin with we are targeting those people who would really benefit from it - we will keep you posted!

Well, I think that's enough for now, and I will finish as I started - I love springtime and the chance to buy Daffodils - to me they are a burst of spring sunshine and signal the start of longer days - great news - they are available in the shop!

Sandra & Vicky



It has been a busy start to the New Year in school, the children have been involved in exciting learning both inside and outside the classroom. As a school we care about the

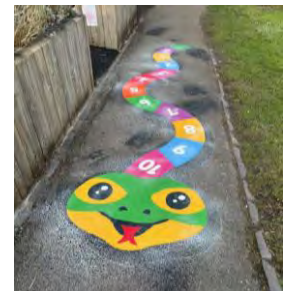


environment and the children talk passionately about what they do to help; therefore we were all very excited when we had a visitor on the school field - a heron.

We have been looking at ways to enhance the children's playtimes and have been listening to the children's ideas about what would be good to change. We have purchased a wide range of new resources for the children. The new hoops and beanbags have been very popular. We have also updated our playground markings, which now brighten the whole outdoor area.



As a staff team we continue work on diversity and inclusion. Recently we have furthered our work with the British Council, and are one of only 53 schools in the Country who have the *International Schools Award*. This highlights our commitment to an international curriculum. Mrs Webb and Mrs Christy recently went to London to collect the award and had the opportunity to meet other schools across the country as well as our local MP.



Spring is just around the corner and we have so many more things coming up like *World Book Day* celebrations, *British Science Week* and *curriculum trips* to Windsor Castle and Butser Ancient Farm.



Mothering Sunday

We have a special service on March 30th for Mothering Sunday at 10.30am.

Biscuits to decorate, cushion covers to paint, there'll be craft activities, glitter and glue, coffee and tea. All are very welcome to join us.

The Boundary Shop & Café - 1😊😊 Club

February 2025 draw:

£50 - Bat Redfern £20 - Pauline Chance
£20 - Kate Vernon £10 - Julia Peart

The next 1😊😊 Club Draw: Saturday 8th March

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Parish Council Activities

At its February meeting held on Tuesday 11th the Chairman announced, in her absence, the resignation of **Bridget Culley** from the Council after many years of responsible and conscientious service. She will be missed, and a

vote of thanks was supported by all members present. Notice of the procedure for filling the vacancy on the Council will be advised in due course.

The Flood and Emergency group representatives reported that the **Southern Water** Holdway works were approaching completion, and it is hoped that the works at Applegate, the last stage in the current main programme, will start shortly.

Southern Water are aware that with the current high levels groundwater is still getting into the sewer system but will deal with leaks from the relevant manholes and private laterals once the major works are complete and water levels have dropped, at which stage they will also repair the verges they have damaged over the past year.

Finally, a reminder of the two dates set for **litter picking**: Saturday **March 15th** in St Mary Bourne (meet at the Summerhaugh 10am) and Sunday **March 23rd** with the Stoke Village Fund Committee.

In both cases yellow vests, strong plastic bags and litter picking tools provided; all help much appreciated, even if only for a limited time.

Planning applications:

25/00035/FUL	Mac's Field SMB	4 Dwellings
25/00074/FUL	Field House, Middle Wyke	Machinery and wood store
T/00029/25/TCA	Yew Tree Cottage, Gangbridge Lane	Tree work
T/00055/25/TCA	2 Pound Cottage, SMB	Tree work
APP/H1705/W/25/3359477	Adjacent land at Wyke Down Farm	Inspectorate appeal

Copies of meeting minutes are available on the parish council website - and please email any questions or agenda points to Maxine Owen on clerk@stmarybournepc.gov.uk

Facebook: Search for www.facebook.com/SMB.PCpage - and like and follow to get updates or arrange to pop along to the parish council office for a chat. PF

Next parish council meeting at 19.30 on Tuesday 11th March 2025

Village Centre Main Hall - Public more than welcome
www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk



Join us to find out how we're investing in St Mary Bourne to improve the sewer network.

Pop along and meet the team:

- **Monday, 31 March 2025**
- **7.30pm – 9.30pm**
- **St Mary Bourne Village Centre, Bourne Meadow, Andover SP11 6BE.**

We've already made improvements to deliver a more reliable service in St Mary Bourne, but we know that more needs to be done.

We'll also be sharing some exciting news at the event, so we hope to see as many of you as possible.

Please RSVP to clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk



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Enter Our Community Play Space Prize Draw! ★

Be a part of history!

Purchase a ticket at the Village Shop during the month of March for a chance to have your name (or a name of your choice) engraved on a commemorative plaque on one of the 5 pieces of new wooden play area equipment.

How it Works:

- Buy a ticket to enter the draw (£5 donation)
- Five lucky winner's names will be featured on play area equipment

All proceeds go towards supporting the St Mary Bourne Community Play Space

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Get your ticket from the Shop from 1st March!

'The Film' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre



2024 - 12A • 2 h

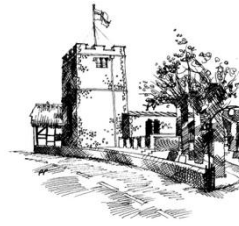
Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with running this covert process after the unexpected death of the beloved Pope. Once the Catholic Church's most powerful leaders have gathered from around the world and are locked together in the Vatican halls, Lawrence uncovers a trail of deep secrets left in the dead Pope's wake—secrets which could shake the foundations of the Church.

Tuesday 18th March 2025 - 7.15pm

Hall and Licensed Bar open from 6.45pm

Tickets **£5** in advance or **£7** at the door
Please reserve tickets in advance by email
villagecentre@stmarybourne.org

Next Film: Tuesday 15th April 2025



Advance Notice

ST PETER'S DAY 29th June

We are having a Flower Festival to celebrate St Peter. Sunday, June 29th's Service will be at 10.30am.

If you would like to try your hand at doing a flower arrangement, do please get in touch with us – even if you have never done it before!
Flower Ladies – you will also be contacted.



Andover Astronomical Society Thursday 20th March - 7.30pm Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre SP11 0AX

Visitors free. We are a very friendly society. We welcome all levels of interest and age. In addition to the speaker, there will be the regular, "What to See in the Night Sky", spot. A rolling display of recent photographs taken by members. If the sky is clear telescopes are set up for viewing the stars with observing guidance. Why not come along and **"SEE"**, what we are all about?

Quasars and Spectroscopy - Dr Jen Gupta

What are quasars? They are amongst the most luminous objects in the known Universe, emitting thousands of times lighter than the entire Milky Way. What is spectroscopy? Spectroscopy began with Isaac Newton splitting light into the rainbow colours with a prism. It tells us about the composition of stars and is perhaps the most important tool helping us understand the Universe. Jen will explain all of this and more, illustrated with the latest stunning images from space telescopes.

Jen is an Associate Professor in Public Engagement and Outreach at the University of Portsmouth. In addition to her university role, Jen works as a general science presenter and communicator and regularly appears on the TV and radio to talk about astronomy and science.

RS



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Postcard from Binley

It's been a drab day here in Binley. The bright, sharp weather of the last month with that biting cold north easterly has been replaced by a mild damp front. Dogs go to the open door and stare glumly at the rain before cocking a leg in the porch and huffing and puffing their way back to their beds by the fire. Tea is brewed, biscuits munched, books picked up and put down again as the hours are whiled away. But a brightening up in the late afternoon sees me out and leaning on a rusty gate in the corner of a meadow as dusk gathers around me. Above, an old buzzard calls for its mate. Believe it or not this is known as "mewing", and he'll soon head to his usual roost down the cattle drove. Back in July this meadow was a sea of buttercups, and I was here one evening trying to call in some fox cubs I'd seen about using that squeaky, kissy sound I've seen keepers use. I had no intention of harming them, I just wanted to see if I could do it. They were the reddest, earthiest cubs I'd ever seen but, on this occasion, too wily for me. What I did move however, was a weasel who popped his head up not three feet from me. But I'm not here tonight for fox cubs, buzzards or weasels. I'm here for Binley's most secretive creature. The Polecat! There has been a colony of Polecats here in Binley for as long as I have knocked about here, and I am certain now roughly where their home is. When you first see one you are usually a little confused. I can remember my brain thinking I'd just seen a skunk but of course their bandit type black face markings can throw you. They'll feed mostly on small rodents, birds and amphibians, but one ghastly but nevertheless interesting fact about them is, that they will often cripple their prey by piercing its brain with their teeth and then store it, still living, in their burrow for future consumption.

With pipistrelles fluttering around my ears and no sign of a polecat I check my watch. It's one of those diver's jobs and it's a ridiculous thing covered in dials and switches, and I'm told good for 100 metres of water pressure. I don't know what half of it does. It's got a shark resistant strap... I think to be honest, if all he wants is your watch it's probably best to let him have it. Thinking back to the only diving I've ever done it was considered bad manners to check your watch so there you are!

I have a wedding to attend and have been asked to do a reading. It's at a country hotel in Herefordshire; they are country people, and I have been told "nothing religious". Fair enough. So, I have waded through the usual suspects, Kipling (exceedingly good cakes), Hardy, Bronte, Lee but have settled on reading an excerpt from "The Wind in the Willows". It's the bit where Toad finds himself in prison and the jailor's daughter takes pity on him and brings him bubble and squeak and "hot buttered toast, cut thick, very brown on both sides with the butter running

through the holes in it in great golden drops like honey from the honeycomb." A reflective Toad starts to understand that the material things in life are not the be all and end all, it's actually the simple things we take for granted. The whole piece reminds me how important friendships are, how families are when we gather around a table with food to share but more than that, it's one of those special books that spans generations, makes one terribly nostalgic for how the countryside once was, but also the values we once held. Give it another read. *NA*



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LONGPARISH WILDLIFE by Chris Bowman

THE LONG-TAILED TIT



One of my favourite small birds, a small bundle of feathers on a stick. In the winter Long-Tailed Tits gather in small to large flocks which include other birds. When out on my travels around the village I look forward to finding a flock. They range from a small flock to over 20, but it's also what is with them that is of interest. I have found Blue, Coal and Great Tits, Nuthatches, Treecreepers, Goldcrests, Chiffchaff and Blackcaps. The largest flock I have seen is over 50 birds. They were flying over the road in front of me I thought they would never end.

They are 14cms long of which 9cms is the black and white tail. Their backs are black and pink and they have a white head with a wide black eye stripe and a pale pink belly. It's really nice if you are lucky enough to have them come to your bird feeders. They feed mostly on arthropods, especially bugs and their eggs. They start nesting in late February - late April with only one brood.

The nest is something extraordinary in a hedge or bramble patch I have even found one on the ground in brambles. It's a compact domed structure of moss woven with cobwebs and hair, covered in camouflaging greyish lichen, and lined with feathers and a small hole near the top. A nest was taken to bits after fledging and found to have over a 1000 feathers. The nest is expandable as they lay 8-12 eggs which hatch in 15 days and fledge in 14 days so if they all survive, the nest needs to expand. The parents are kept very busy, sometimes a failed pair will help with the feeding.

Planting of Disease-resistant Elm Trees by Paul Knipe

The 'Greening Longparish Group' have carried out the planting of five disease-resistant elm saplings. These free saplings were supplied by the Hampshire Forest Partnership, part of HCC and follows on from Middleton Estate's tapping into the Scheme last year. Three trees have been planted along the Spinal Path and two on the Village Green, along the hedgerow with Upper Mill.



The thinking behind this initiative is to plant the saplings in the many existing elm hedgerows in the village, which, being resistant to Dutch Elm

Disease fungus, will grow into mature trees. This is important to the life-cycle of the rare white-letter hairstreak butterfly whose larvae feed on elm leaves. In addition, the mature trees act as 'mast trees' (as in ships' masts) as mating posts for the adult butterflies. A disease-resistant variety 'Adamez', isolated in Catalonia in Spain, has been chosen, as being the closest in appearance to our native Small-leaved Elm.



St Nicholas Church

Results of the January Draw 2025

The 100 club draw was made on the 31st January 2025.

First prize: 25%	No. 16	£77.00
Second prize: 15%	No. 21	£46.00
Third Prize: 5%	No. 56	£16.00

We have 61 members, but, as the name suggests, we would like to get up to a 100 numbers/members. Please think about joining and supporting your local church in this way.

You can join at any time. Any queries contact John Young 01264 720233 07860 630489

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Tuesday Talk

Tuesday 11th March 2025

Richard Sutcliffe in conversation with Terry Hemming

Finding Mac - a journey of adoption, love and loss

Finding Mac tells the story of how one family came together, as Richard and his wife Swee welcome eight year old Mac into their lives as their adopted son. It recounts the highs and lows as they get to know and love each other and become a successful family unit. But all that changed when Mac was killed on his motorbike, just a few months after his sixteenth birthday. *Finding Mac* deals honestly with the feelings of a parent who faces the death of his child, and coping with the aftermath. This is a warm and life-affirming account, honest but never whimsical. Despite some of the difficult subjects, this memoir is overwhelmingly positive and a tribute to love.

The talk will begin at 7 p.m. Village Hall doors open at 6.30 p.m. Admission is free but donations are welcome to offset the cost of hiring the Hall. There will be a cash bar.

Longparish CE Primary School

By Mark Ward, Head Teacher

As a Church of England School we have 'Christian Crusaders' and a pupil Bishop. They are actively involved in our Collective Worship, and have recently visited and welcomed pupils from Pilgrims Cross Church of England School to compare good Christian practice in a different school.

We were thrilled to recently welcome a real Bishop to join us in Church. Bishop David, the Bishop of Basingstoke, who looks after 200 churches in the local area is sadly moving on, having accepted a post as the Bishop of Truro.

He came to join us in a farewell service in St Nicholas Church. Our little service, led by Rev Russ Smart started with a 'guess the real Bishop'. It was wonderful to have both Bishops meet. Bishop David gave a talk to the school about the importance of kindness, whilst our Bishop finished with a prayer wishing him well and ending with 'Thank you, dear Bishop, for leading us here. For showing us kindness, for spreading good cheer. May God bless your journey, and keep you in sight, as you shine Your light, making the world so bright.'

We wish Bishop David well in his new post and look forward to welcoming the new Bishop to Longparish.



Longparish Little School

At Little School, we take great delight in celebrating the occasions that children observe with their families at home.

Recently, we marked the Lunar New Year at Forest School by

using potato peelers to craft our own chopsticks. To complement our noodles and dumplings, we also prepared delicious Chinese Baked Peppers, and we even made an effort to eat our meal with the chopsticks. In our Write Dance sessions, we encouraged the children to explore bending all the pivot points in their bodies while moving in swirling patterns. They have thoroughly enjoyed the woodwork and hammers. Additionally, during our Physical Activity sessions in the hall, we have been working on our balance, coordination, and agility skills. If you would like to arrange a visit, please call us on 01264 7202455 or visit our website to learn more:

<https://www.longparishlittleschool.org.uk/>



LCA - L2SOTM - The Longparish Second Sunday of the Month handicap race

We welcomed new runner Elspeth Robertson to the February race on a bright, frosty morning.

Alexander and Henry Kidd set off first and led the whole way to finish as our joint Rising Stars. Raymond Searle and Alice Evans were our most improved adults and Jack Searle broke the course record. Well done all!



Thank you very much to Maggie Barber for marshalling, Rob Bryan for doing the signs and to David Gould for processing the results.

The next race is on Sunday 9 March, starting at 9am at The Plough. New runners are always welcome and you don't have to be fast. It's a handicap race so everyone, whatever their pace, has a chance of winning.

Please do give us a call or send an email if you'd like to join us. For more information please see <http://l2sotm.longparish.org.uk/index.php>

Jeremy Barber
01264 720459 mrjeremybarber@gmail.com



Save the Date!

Mother's Day - Sunday 30th March

It's time to cherish our Mums! Join us for one of our famous Sunday Roasts on this special day. For each precious mum, there'll be a complementary glass of fizz too..... *Not to be missed, pre-booking required with deposit, please call the team T: 01264 720069* www.ploughinn.org Email: info@ploughinn.org

LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Council Chairman: Emma Palmer
(emma.palmerpc@longparish.org.uk or telephone 07881 923150)

Parish Clerk: Hayley Thomas (clerk@longparish.org.uk or telephone 01256 396868)

REPORT FROM PC MEETING ON 10 FEBRUARY 2025

PLANNING: 24/02978/FULLN Watercress Beds, Nuns Walk

LPPC feedback: No objection.

VILLAGE UPDATES The next Village Clean-Up Day is scheduled for Saturday 26th April. See poster. On a less happy note, we have received reports of increasing amounts dog mess being left on pavements, footpaths, and green spaces throughout the village. The Parish Council urges all dog owners to clean up after their pets and dispose of dog waste responsibly using the designated waste bins provided or by taking it home.

Parish Council Meetings

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 10th March 2025**. Parish Council meetings are open to the public, and parishioners are welcome to attend and raise any matters during the Period for Public Speaking. www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council



The Plough New Manager Appointed Charlie Lechowski says:
I'm excited to be starting a new full time role as Manager of The Plough Inn, Longparish. Having run The Dove Inn, Micheldever for the last 8 years with my wife, I feel I know the area well and hope to bring the very best of this experience with me for the benefit of The Plough and its community. I'd absolutely love for you to pop in and say hello. It would mean the world to me.



Longparish Cricket Club

As days grow longer, and hopefully warmer, thoughts start turning to the summer and cricket! Preparations will soon be

underway at the LCC ground to get the pavilion and playing area ready for the outdoor season. Adult and Junior training sessions will start the week commencing 14 April, weather permitting, and AllStars sessions (children in Year 2&3) are scheduled to begin on 12 May 2025. AllStars registration is simple and easy, go

to <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars> and use the session finder to find Longparish CC. If you are interested in playing adult or junior cricket at Longparish CC please contact Justin Jackman at jackmanjustin@aol.com

We are holding a Quiz Night on Friday 9 May 2025 at the Village Hall in Longparish and everyone is invited to come along and join in this fun evening. Drinks and snacks are available and there will be fun prizes for the winning team! All funds raised go to LCC club funds.

The Club will be holding its AGM meeting on 6 March 2025 at The Plough Inn, Longparish starting at 7.30pm.

LONGPARISH CRICKET CLUB QUIZ NIGHT



FRIDAY 9 MAY 2025

7.30PM LONGPARISH VILLAGE HALL

COME ALONG AND ENJOY -

THE QUIZ!

A RAFFLE - FUN PRIZES

BAR - HOT DOGS - BURGERS - SNACKS

CASH OR CARD ACCEPTED FOR FOOD, BAR & RAFFLE PURCHASES

£5 PER PERSON (MAX OF 6 IN A TEAM) ADVANCE BOOKING REQUIRED

REGISTER YOUR TEAM AND PAY BY EMAILING

LONGPARISHCC.FUNDRAISING@GMAIL.COM

Barton Stacey WI

In 2025 the WI continues to act as a platform for women to learn, share skills and actively contribute to societal change, both on a local and national level.

We are a small group of ladies who meet on the last Thursday of each month in the Village Hall, from 7.30pm. We offer a warm welcome and encourage guests to our meetings to see what becoming a member of the WI can offer.

Being a member of the WI brings many benefits, including the ability to attend regular monthly meetings and make new friends. Sometimes our meetings include a speaker giving a presentation about subjects of interest, including history, the environment and local causes.

Recent speakers have included: Local author and Barton Stacey resident John Lander talking about the Women's Land Army in Hampshire, renowned naturalist and gardener Gilbert White, whose residence in Selborne, near Alton is a fascinating place to visit and in March we will be welcoming Trinity Winchester, not only to find out about their work, but also to present them with the collection of

items that have been kindly donated to them by our generous community.

For more information, please contact Sue Atrill (email: bartonstaceypres@hampshirewi.org.uk) or Donna Oliver (bartonstaceysec@hampshirewi.org.uk).

LITTER FREE LONGPARISH



Next Group Litter pick is on Friday 14th March. We've missed a few months and the litter is building up along the roads in

Longparish. Meet behind the Village Hall at 9.15 am, the Parish Council will provide litter picking sticks, hoops and bags. Coffee at the Plough afterwards.

For more information Tel Christian Dryden 720 398



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☎ 01264 401401

Or write to me at my constituency office:

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VOLUNTEER BEFRIENDING SERVICE

We are looking for Volunteers in your Community
Could you be a 'Befriender'?

What will I be doing? As a Volunteer Befriender your role will be to provide social companionship to patients who have a chronic or life limiting illness and who are isolated or lonely.

Visiting patients in their own homes, you will help them to feel more supported and help to improve their emotional well-being and confidence.

How much time do I need to commit? Just 2-hours a week, or less, can make a real difference to a patient living in your local community.

What support will I be given? All relevant training will be given, as well as regular and on-going support and supervision. Interested? For further information contact Caroline Nash, Befriending Manager on: 01264 835293 Email: Caroline.Nash@hhft.nhs.uk
Interested volunteers will be invited to an informal interview and the role is subject to references, simple health checks and DBS clearance.

Andover War Memorial Hospital
Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital
Royal Hampshire County Hospital

LONGPARISH. GARDENING. CLUB

Tuesday, 25th March 7 pm Village Hall, SP11 6PB
MARTYN COX: "CLEVER. WAYS. TO. GROW. VEGETABLES"
LGC members Free. (Visitors welcome £5.00) Usual Raffle and please bring cash for drinks. Any queries please to Rosie Lowry 01264720325 Or Marion Bell 01264720205



Please join us for the
next Friday Lunch Club
12-2pm 28th March

£3 for hot soup and freshly baked cake at the Village Hall.

A chance for warmth, conversation and meet up with Longparish folk. Open to anyone of any age but please book by Wednesday before for catering purposes. To book lunch and or transport ring Andrea 720 457 Christian 720398





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Dennis Luff

1937 - 2025



Dennis was born on 6 December 1937, the fourth child of Dorothy and Arthur Luff and the first baby to be born in the new council houses at North Acre.

After school he went to work on Middleton Farm for Capt Wills

until he was called up for his National Service.

On returning home he went back to farm work for a short time before starting at Kennedy and Kempe, the local engineering works, as a welder. He was made redundant from there in the late sixties and started at Stoner and Saunders in Andover. In 1981 he was made redundant again. He and friends, Barry and Vic, started their own business – DBV Fabrications in a unit on Thruxton Industrial Estate. They made fire escapes, metal staircases and railings. Dennis retired when he was 64 as he needed a hip replacement and the heavy work was becoming difficult.

He met Barbara when playing football for Barton Stacey and they married in April 1965. They had 59 wonderful years together. Of course, they had to get married in April as it was between the football and cricket season. She learnt to love football and cricket and became scorer and secretary.

Cricket was Dennis's main love. He started playing for Longparish when he was 14. He was offered trials for Hampshire when he was 15 but had to turn it down as his parents couldn't afford for him to keep travelling to Southampton.

He scored over 31,000 runs for Longparish including 55 centuries. Although renowned for his batting, in his earlier days he was also a fast bowler, taking 707 wickets. The highlight for him, however, was Lord's in 1980 when Longparish reached the final of the Whitbread Village Cup Competition.

Despite having both hips replaced, one of them three times, and a knee replacement Den never complained and was always actively doing something, still enjoying life. But, this last year took its toll with a series of strokes, which resulted

in other problems. He fought hard but he could not recover from his last bout of pneumonia and passed away peacefully with Barbara by his side.

Spring Tidy

**Meet at the Playground
Saturday 26th April**

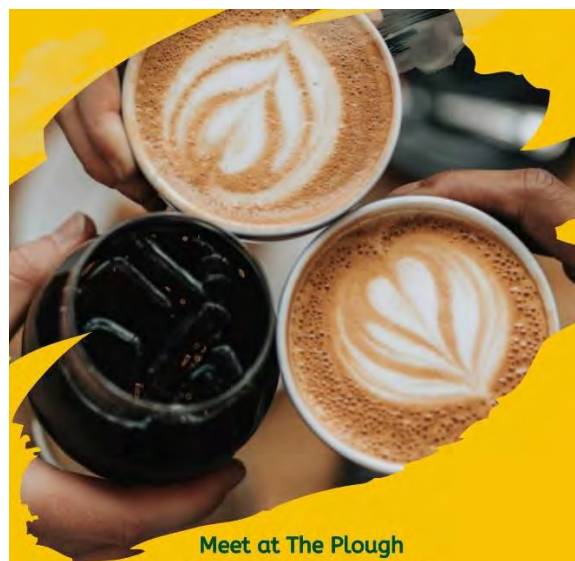
9.30am – 12.30pm

Join the team of volunteers for litter-picking, weeding, cutting back, leaf gathering and general cleaning and tidying etc. Some equipment provided. Wear wellies for the stream. Everyone welcome!

Keeping Longparish looking beautiful
then to "The Cricketers" for a drink & sandwich



Just let me know if you plan to come along
RSVP : joanne.lca@longparish.org.uk



**Meet at The Plough
Friday 14th March 2025**

from 10am – 11.45am

Drop in for a chat, everyone welcome.
Coffee or Tea and biscuits, all for £1.00



LONGPARISH
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**VE Day
80th Anniversary
Celebration
Saturday 10th May
2pm til late
The Cricketers**

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS

Hurstbourne Priors parish pages editor vacancy

Our editor for Hurstbourne Priors sadly had to give up editing the Hill & Valley pages at the end of last year. If you would like to take this on, or would like to know more about what it entails, please contact Michael Widén on ☎ 07880 808111 or write to hillandvalley@btinternet.com.

If no one will come forward to volunteer for this position by 19th March (copy date for the April edition), we will be unable to publish parish pages for Hurstbourne Priors next month.

LONGPARISH

- 6 from 7pm - Bingo Night - The Cricketers
- 6 7.30 - Longparish Cricket Club AGM - The Plough
- 7 7pm - Longparish Gardening Club -
Talk, Clever Ways to Grow Vegetables - Village Hall
- 9 9am - L2SOTM Run - The Plough
- 14 9.15am - **Village Litter Pick** - Village Hall
- 14 10 to 11.45am - Coffee Morning - The Plough
- 11 6.30 for 7pm - **Tuesday Talk** - Village Hall
- 23 9am for 10am start - **LONGPARISH RUN 2025**
- 28 12noon to 2pm - Lunch Club - Village Hall
- 30 Mother's Day Lunch - The Plough

ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT

- 1 10am to 12 Noon - Repair Café - The George Inn
- 7 7pm - Flower Show & Fête AGM - Village Centre
- 11 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
- 11 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre
- 15 10am - **St Mary Bourne Litter Pick** - Summerhaugh
- 18 7.15pm - 'The Film' - **CONCLAVE** - Village Centre
- 19 12.30pm - 'The Lunch' - Village Centre Main Hall
- 20 7.30pm - Andover Astronomical Society - Hurstbourne Tarrant
- 23 10am - **Stoke Litter Pick**
- 30 10.30 - Mothering Sunday service - St Peter's Church
- 31 7.30 - 9.30pm - **Southern Water** presentation - Village Centre

Saturday mornings - 10.30am to 12.30pm -
The Community Library - Village Centre Club Room

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is now available as an attractively illustrated booklet, combining the whole 11.1 mile jaunt published in *Hill & Valley* in 2024. It can be bought from **Acre Stores**,

Longparish and **The Boundary Community Shop** in St Mary Bourne.

At **£5**, it is an inexpensive, local gift...and all the sales proceeds go to Longparish and St Mary Bourne schools.

Front cover photograph: Paul Knipe

Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall: Mrs Helen Ford, ☎ 07789 691018, e: hbpvhbookings@gmail.com

Longparish Village Hall: Mrs Maggie Barber, ☎ 01264 720459, e: villagehall@longparish.org.uk

Longparish Community Hall: During school open hours, Mrs Christine Leach ☎ 01264 720317

St Mary Bourne Village Centre: Miss Angela Cook, ☎ 01264 738158, e: villagecentre@stmarybourne.org

Copy date for the April 2025 edition of Hill & Valley: Wednesday 19th March 2025

Your contributions - letters, pictures, comments or articles are always welcome. Contact your parish editor by the copy date. Please provide copy electronically as a text in Word (doc.) format with any accompanying images as JPEG files.

Printed by The Andover Printing Company Ltd ☎ 01264 334220 www.andoverprinting.co.uk © Hill & Valley Parish Magazine 2025

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