

The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of
St. Mark Ampfield*

February 2023

Vol 73 Issue 2 www.acnb-church.org £1

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.

Contents

- 4. Letter from Vanessa
- 5. Regular Service pattern
- 6.—11. Benefice News
- 12. Village News
- 14. Ampfield Art Class Gallery
- 15. Ron & Stella's Quiz Night
- 16. The First Potters Heron by Nick Jeffrey
- 19. Obituary for Diana Axford by Jennie Edwards
- 20. From the Messenger Archives - February 1977
- 22. The Kitchen Garden - G4G by Graham Roads
- 24. Local information and contacts
- 25. Answers to Ron and Stella's Quiz Night
From St. Mark's Register
- 26. Bagpipes in Churches by Liz Hallett
- 29. Prayer for Living and Loving in Faith
- 30. Rotas for St. Mark's

The Friends of Chapel Wood were rained off in January.



“When you come to sell your house, having a wonderful pub, a perfect golf course and a first class hotel in the village adds to the value of every dwelling in Ampfield.”

Please use us or lose us”

John, The White Horse

Letter from Vanessa

Dear Friends

Are you looking for a Valentines love poem? In case you are wanting inspiration to write your own, here's one I found online:



***“My love is like a cabbage, divided into two.
The leaves I give to others, the heart I give to you.”***

It's not a Shakespearean sonnet, I'll admit, but I guess it gets the point across. Valentines' Day can often be sickly sweet, there is a deep mystery at the heart of it, which has been expressed for millennia in the words of poets.

We are not always comfortable with mystery in our rationalistic western society, but love is one of those mysteries; it can be comfortable, heart-breaking, passionate, or tranquil. It can floor us when we are least expecting it – a helping hand from a stranger, a beautiful sunset, the right words at the right time ... We can't explain love. But, if we allow it to, it pervades and transforms our lives.

The poetry of the Hebrew scriptures expresses something of the mystery of love in this passage from the Psalms:

‘When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars that you have established, what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?’

Love comes from God – it challenges us, inspires us, comforts us. Wherever you find yourself this Valentines season, I pray you know the unconditional love of God.

With love and prayers *Vanessa*



Weekly service pattern

Sunday Services

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

Midweek Services

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

A very early primrose seen in St. Johns churchyard



Benefice News

Ampfield Market – St. Mark's Stall 4th February

The next market is on Saturday 4th February and we will be selling clothes, accessories and gifts. If you have any items to donate, we would love to have them for the stall please. Contact Chris on 01794 367104, or cl.kerr@hotmail.com to arrange delivery or collection.

Pause for Paws - Tuesday mornings at St Mark's

The coffee hub has been postponed until the spring weather arrives!



Friends for Lunch Wednesday 15th February.

12.15 for 12.30.

Agne cooked a delicious beef pot roast for January which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Please contact Chris on 01794 367104 or cl.kerr@hotmail.com to book a place for February's meal. The cost is £8 and includes a two course meal, a glass of wine and tea or coffee and chocs. Please bring a small prize for the raffle.



New Archbishops' Commission report on social care

Care and Support Reimagined: a National Care Covenant for England sets out the Church of England's vision for social care, arguing that tackling negative attitudes to ageing and disability must be the starting point to reimagining care and support. The report makes radical recommendations for redesigning the system, with a long-term aspiration of making care and support a universal entitlement. **[Read the report here](#)**

The Winchester Beacon

There is a letter of thanks in the porch of St. Mark's for our churches' contributions to the Winchester Homeless Shelter. The Beacon has been able to open the door to another four bedroomed house which allows them to accommodate 22 people across their 4 sites. Demand for their services remains high. Please leave any donations at our churches.

Benefice News

Brief Report of PCC Meeting 19th January '23

Rev'd Vanessa Lawrence opened our meeting with a prayer.

Christmas Services:

Vanessa and members of PCC felt that all the services held over the Christmas season went very well. There was good attendance at all services: Christingle, Carol and Crib Service. A cheque has been sent to The Children's Society from collections taken at the Christingle and Crib Services.

Lent Course:

Entitled Celtic Spirituality is at present being arranged.

Building Projects:

Adaptations to St. Mark's Room/ Disabled Access into Church. There has now been a survey carried out to define these alterations and work out costs. We are hoping to have a Concert in Church in April to raise funds towards this huge project. More information will be coming soon.

Electrical works/WiFi installation/Flat Roof repairs/Window frame repairs (St. Mark's Room and toilets):

We have a very long list of works/repairs etc that need to

be carried out as soon as possible. These jobs are going to be very expensive. It would also be good to clean the windows everywhere, but this will have to wait!

Church cleaning:

We have a small team who take it in turns to clean the Church and St. Mark's Room. If anyone would like to help, only a few times a year, do get in touch. We would love to have more help. It's a very peaceful place to get the duster and broom out!

Church flowers :

If anyone would like to provide flowers either for the altar, or on special occasions during the year for the window sills, please get in touch.

Friends of St. Mark's

There will be a meeting in St. Mark's Room at 7.00 pm on Thursday 9 February to plan for the future. Everyone is welcome to come along.

PCC will meet again on 9 March 2023, and our Annual Meeting will take place after the Church service on Sunday 14 May 2023

Jennie Edwards
PCC Secretary



Benefice News



LUNCHEES AT ST MARK'S AMPFIELD

Fridays

24th February

3rd March

10th March

17th March

24th March

31st March

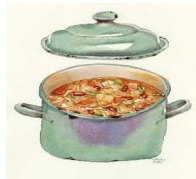
*Join us for a light lunch of home-made soup,
bread & cheese and fruit*

Come any time between 12noon and 2pm

St. Mark's Room

Donations will go to Romsey Foodbank and

The Winchester Beacon (Night Shelter)



Benefice News

The Friends of St. Mark's - a 're-boot'

The 're-boot' of the Friends of St. Mark's was curtailed by lockdown and the challenges brought about by the pandemic. The success of the Summer Fete & Dog Show demonstrates just how much support there is for St. Mark's in the local community. An inconvenient truth, however, is the burden of maintenance of this historic building and its grounds, alongside our ambition to improve access and enjoyment of the location. This means we must continue to find creative ways for the community to engage and to help us raise funds to support these works.

The Friends of St. Mark's plays an important role and one that can be improved further. Will you therefore please join me at a meeting to 'reboot' The Friends of St. Mark's.

7:00pm, Thursday, 9th February 2023, St. Mark's Room

We will discuss the purpose and constitution of the Friends of St. Mark's; appoint/re-appoint officials *(Chair' Secretary, Treasurer, Board members - nominations welcome); update our financial position; gather ideas and activities for FoSM to priorities and plan forthcoming meetings.

The currently defined purpose of The Friends of St. Mark's is to encourage the local community to visit, engage with and appreciate the value of St. Mark's as an important part of the village of Ampfield. To raise funds to maintain the heritage and quality of St. Mark's.

I hope you can join us at this meeting and play a part in the next phase of The Friends of St. Mark's.

Mark Braund

****Chair:** (currently me, however am happy to hand over to someone new to help revitalise);
Secretary:(currently Sally Kerson);
Treasurer: (currently Pam Morffew);
Board: (currently Graham Roads & Kate McCullum, additions welcome).

Benefice News

Sunshine Saints

Sunshine Saints is a toddler and baby group which meets every Friday in term time from 10:00am to 11:30am in All Saints Church. 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. Thank you to Beth and all the other helpers who come along and make this such a joyous morning as we welcome young children into the church. *Suggested donation: £2*



Welcome to our warm hub at All Saint's Church

We are delighted to offer a welcoming warm space to all who would like a friendly and inclusive welcome this winter.

It will be open every Wednesday morning 9.30-12 noon alongside the Community Library. During the morning there will be an opportunity to have a go at some crafts, play board games, relax with a book or sit and chat. For those that would like to learn a little more about the internet we have tablets available. There will be hot drinks and biscuits and we are planning to offer soup.



This warm space is for everyone - young and old and all those in-between! We are grateful to Test Valley Borough Council for the Cost of Living Grant which is enabling this warm hub.

Benefice News

Welcome Café at All Saints Church

The Welcome Café is for any and everyone in the community to come and meet friends for a catch-up and enjoy great coffee. There is no charge for coffee but donations are welcome. We particularly welcome those who find themselves lonely or who have been bereaved. There are trained 'listeners' who will be happy to talk, befriend and empathise with you and if appropriate signpost to other helpful organisations, all in complete confidence.



10am – 12 noon on Thursdays 9th and 23rd February.

Family Craft Session Tuesday 14th February 10.30-12

All Saints Church. Children to be accompanied by an adult, £1.50 per child, 50p for subsequent children in same family. Booking necessary, email joinin@acnb-church.org

Wine and Paint

We have spaces available for Wine and Paint on Friday 3rd February. We are usually fully booked so this is a great opportunity to come and experience this hugely popular Church Event. As it is the start of a New Year we are trying a brand new style so everyone will be starting from the same



place. Absolute Beginners Welcome, no experience necessary. This is a fun social event to try something new, where no one is judged on their painting skills, especially the teacher! Please let us know if you would like to come the price is £12.50 to include all painting materials.

Village News

A casual vacancy has arisen on Ampfield Parish Council. The seat will be up for election in May 2023, but the Council may fill it by co-option for the time remaining before the election.

Read about our areas of responsibility on our website.:

<http://www.ampfield.org.uk>

Here is a summary of the necessary qualifications, which are given in detail on the [Electoral Commission guidance](#) :

You are a British or Commonwealth citizen, at least 18 years old
AND at least one of the following:

- You are an elector in the parish of Ampfield; or
- You have owned or rented land or premises in the parish of Ampfield for at least the preceding 12 months*; or
- Your main work is within the parish of Ampfield; or
- You resided in the parish of Ampfield for at least the preceding 12 months*; or
- You resided within 3 miles of the parish of Ampfield for at least the preceding 12 months*
(*from the date of appointment)

If you are interested in being selected, please contact the Clerk in writing to confirm that you are qualified to stand, and include a summary of your relevant skills and experience. You will also need to attend the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council on 13 March 2023, at which the appointment will be made.

Canvassing of existing councillors will disqualify you from appointment.

Kate Orange, Clerk to Ampfield Parish Coun-



**The
Ampfield Market
(Established in 2000, now in its 23rd year !)**

**will take place
on**

**Saturday 4th February
From 10am to 12noon
in Ampfield Village Hall
(SO51 9BJ)**

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

**Fresh coffee and a wonderful selection of cakes will be
served all morning
in the Garden Room**

Parking and admission are always FREE.

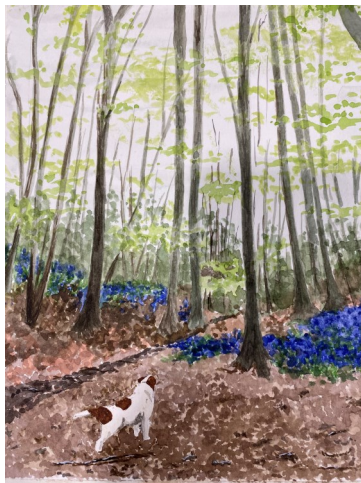
All proceeds support the Village Hall. Registered charity no.
1057353
Contact Julie on 023 80254587 for table bookings and
information.

Next date: Saturday March 4th 2023

Ampfield Art Class Gallery



Grace: Karen, acrylics

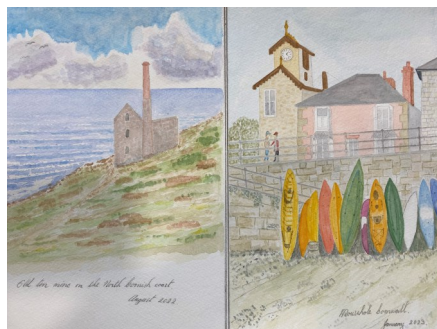


Marty in the bluebells:
Stephanie, watercolour



Tin mine in Cornwall: Nick,
watercolour

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



Old tin mine in North Cornwall
and Mousehole:
Nick, watercolour

Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

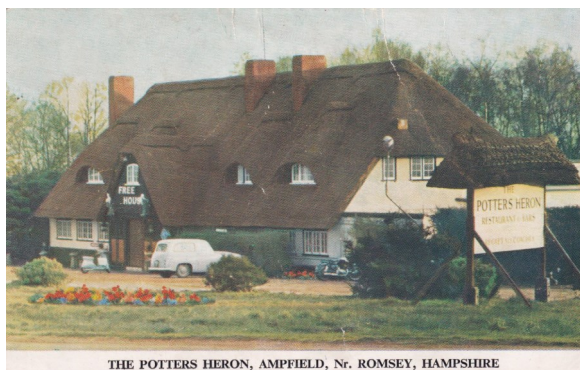
1. When did St Mark's room open?
2. What is the hottest planet in the solar system?
3. How many teeth does an adult human have?
4. What is the main source of Vitamin C?
5. Which is Britain's oldest Sunday newspaper, first published in 1791?
6. The velocipede was a nineteenth-century prototype of what?
7. In what year was the Concorde's first flight?
8. Who was the first president of the United States?
9. How old was Princess Diana when she died?
10. In what year did the French revolution start?



Answers on p. 25

The First Potters Heron

by Nick Jeffrey



On the Taylor's map of 1759 the Potters Heron corner was shown as a junction of five roads, it is certain that the name Heron is not connected with the bird, but comes from its situation, the old English word for corner being "hyrn," "hurn," "herne"

or heron. It is reputed that gypsies made pottery on the site and while digging my sewers through a white clay six feet deep at the lowest part of my garden old bottles were found.

The first Potters Heron was built in 1937 and being on the old A31 and no motorway this was the main road to the west country. The two photographs (see also p. 18) show it in the 1950's, if you look closely you will see two large porcelain herons mounted either side and above the heavy oak front door and two large brass pots either side of the entrance. To the right of the front door on the ground floor housed the kitchens, the restaurant was to the left, the second floor housed the owner's family and staff.

On entering a stuffed heron was in the porch and also a pay phone, through the next door one entered the restaurant and the bar which was surrounded by beautiful oak panelling. I was told that the panelling came from Mottisfont Abbey and only two years ago while visiting the "Whistler" room in that building, on looking through the "guides" book I realised that the famous room had once been panelled. There were also some beautiful paintings done by the then not famous David Shepherd. In the 1950s it was owned by a Mr and Mrs Jones who had three sons, and being on a busy main road it served morning coffee, lunch and afternoon teas and evening meals.

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It was sold to Mr and Mrs Hewlett who had two daughters Carol and Susan and a large extension was built on the rear of the building that could accommodate two hundred guests, a bar, band and a large dance floor. Under his guidance the business thrived, dinner dances every Saturday night, Christmas work functions started in November until March and weddings. It became a very busy and well respected eating place.

In the late 1950s I started a part-time job while still at school, my first job on Saturday morning was to polish the two large brass pots outside the main entrance, then I would tackle the large piles of empty bottles that had to be crated up and returned to the suppliers, “Brickwood” ales, “Simmons” and “Babysham” are some of the names no longer with us. This was outside and not much fun when covered with ice and snow in the winter, at busy times it would take me all of Saturday and Sunday morning for which I was paid one shilling and threepence per hour!! (15 pence).

At 14 or 15 I decided I wanted to earn more so progressed into to restaurant as a part-time waiter, black trousers and shoes, black bow tie, white jacket and shirt was my uniform. Every meal was served “silver service” which meant you always served from the left, holding the dish in your left hand serving with a spoon and fork onto the clients plate with your right. You always cleared dirty dishes from the right, no exceptions or you would be told off by the head of staff. As I progressed I carried large silver flats off which I served 10 portions of turkey - two slices of white and one dark slice, and one sausage per person, if you got it wrong and served more chef would shout obscenities at you. Other “black and whites” (the name given to extra staff that would arrive from Southampton on function nights in a mini bus) would follow behind with the vegetables.

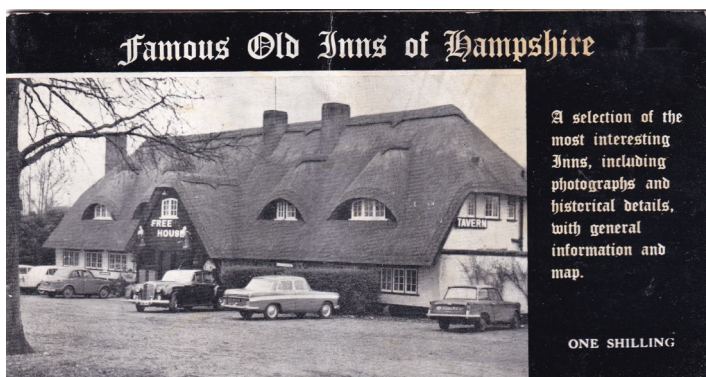
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No hotel rooms were built at that time but thinking back I am amazed at how well the kitchen functioned. The ovens were heated by coke that was manually lifted in to the top of the ovens through a removable plate, with a skuttle by the maintenance worker, there were never more than three chefs, one of which was a commie, two elderly KP's helped prepare vegetables and cleaned Pots. Only these few had to cook two hundred turkey dinners and serve an "a la carte" menu for 60/70 people at the same time.

My evening waiting tables started at 6pm and finished at about 11.30pm, while in the queue for food I would pass plates to the waiting staff to help chef, if I had any spare time I would clear glasses from the bar to help the barman. At the evening's end chef always cooked me a steak supper and the barman gave me a pint of flowers bitter plus £1 wages - a great result. The atmosphere over the Christmas period was wonderful and many an evening after midnight the staff would join in the dancing the "conga" that would often go out in the car park.

Mr Hewlett was well respected and loved by all the staff, always walking round in a smart dinner jacket overseeing everything but never too proud to help clear dirty plates or serve where needed. On the night of the fire November 18th 1966 Mr and Mrs Hewlett escaped through a window onto the extension flat roof and staff erected a painter's ladder which they climbed down just before the whole building burst into flames.



Nick Jeffrey

DIANA AXFORD, RIP

Diana, who died in the Winchester Hospice on 17 December 2022, used to collate and print our Church Magazine. Diana and her husband Mike did this for well over twenty years. She had to give up the printing after Mike died four years ago. Although Diana worshipped at St. Matthew's Church in Otterbourne, she always took a keen interest in St. Mark's and was very generous. She had green fingers and loved to take plant cuttings, many of which she donated to the Garden Stall at the fete each year. I have two Hibiscus shrubs which she cultivated.



Diana was a very interesting lady and loved to chat. She was born and grew up in Southend, moving to Otterbourne where she stayed for many years, and then moving to Chandler's Ford and meeting and marrying Mike. Diana loved all animals, but especially dogs and had several rescue dogs over the years. Diana and Mike had worked tirelessly in support of events staged by our Patron Mrs. Chamberlayne-MacDonald, at Cranbury Park. Diana always organised the raffle while Mike toasted in the haggis on Burn's Night there.

Her uplifting funeral was held at St. Matthew's Church on Friday 13 January, with many well-deserved tributes, particularly for her work for the Otterbourne Village Hall; she was their Treasurer for years and only gave up a few weeks before she died. She was a Brownie as soon as she could join and then went on to be a Girl Guide and was very involved in the Girlguiding movement all her life.

*Guide Taps
Day is done, Gone the sun
From the sea, from the hills, from the sky
All is well, safely rest
God is nigh.*

After the service the village hall refreshments were provided by the Village Hall Committee in grateful appreciation of Diana's dedication to the Village Hall. She will be sadly missed. Rest in peace Diana.

Jennie Edwards

From the Messenger Archives February 1977

ANY USE FOR LENT?

The Sundays in Lent are still festivals, as always, of the Resurrection. But the other days are days of fasting and abstinence; for abstaining from excess of gossiping and grumbling, wasting and wanting, eating and drinking. Reduce these and there should be a bit more time for contemplation. So if any are interested in a weekly evening meeting during the six weeks of Lent, please tell me and Winifred and I will be delighted to welcome you to the vicarage.

Yours in Christ, George Slater.

TWO PASSING TRIBUTES

The passing of Aileen St. George on New Year's Day was a sad beginning to the year for all who loved her. For many years she worked hard for Ampfield. Of recent years she had endured a crippling illness with patience and good humour. And to the end her husband, dear and devoted to her for nearly sixty years, and many of her friends were constantly in her thoughts. We are all the poorer for her death, but the richer for her friendship.

Then on Jan. 14th Mrs. Read of Lower Farm passed peacefully away at a great age. Her interests in music and reading were wide and keen to the end. Without her Ampfield is less interesting than it was. She had a good as well as a long life, and we did well to sing the Old Hundredth at her funeral.

CHURCH SUMMER FETE

A meeting will be held at the Vicarage on Fri. Feb. 11th at 7.30 p.m. to discuss the annual Summer Fete. We shall be pleased to see both new and old helpers and hopefully to receive some new ideas.

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Will members please note our next meeting is on Feb. 9th at 2.30 p.m. at Yew Tree Cottage. Our special speaker is Miss M. Lambert of Winchester. Please contact Mrs. Bardell or the Vicarage re any transport needed.

Marjorie Wagland

WOMENS INSTITUTE REPORT

At the Jan. meeting Mrs. V. Bignell, President expressed sorrow on the deaths of both Mrs. Aileen St. George and Mrs. Read. They were both founder members of the W.I. Several members attended their funerals.

The guest speaker Mrs. Rawlings gave a very interesting talk and showed slides on pot plant care. Mrs. F. Rose proposed the vote of thanks. The Whist Drive was not so well attended as in previous years. Mrs. V. Bignell thanked Mr. M. White for acting as M.C., those who gave prizes and all who made the evening successful.

Mrs. F.A.E. Green

AMPFIELD 'GET TOGETHER' CLUB - On Jan. 18th members who wished to do so joined an organized visit to the Crosfield Hall to enjoy a performance, of 'Puss in Boots' given by the Romsey Amateur Dramatic Soc. Anyone seeing this talented Society in action for the first time could hardly have expected such excellence in performance. From beginning to end the whole pantomime was sheer enjoyment and it was good to see and hear our members in full song during the 'audience participation' times. Unexpectedly good weather enabled us to make the journey home in comfort after a memorable evening. Unfortunately three members of the party were unable to come because of illness but they will be glad to know that two of their places were filled at short notice.

John Gale

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN AMPFIELD - The festivities to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee this year will be held at the White Horse Inn field on Sat. 28th May, starting at 2 p.m. The Silver Jubilee Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. M. White of the Ampfield Stores, propose to have an American Style family picnic, which entails bringing your own food, but tea, coffee and soft drinks will be available. There will also be novelty sports for the younger generation, a fancy dress cricket match, the IBM Folk Dancers & many other attractions. It is to be hoped that as many as possible will attend the festivities. To mark the occasion, it is hoped to present a suitable memento to all children & students aged 16 and under by 31 Dec. 1977. A letter setting out full details is being prepared and you will receive a copy in the next two weeks.

To make all this possible a great deal of money is required. To raise this, several fund raising events will be held. Among them is a dance on Feb. 18, and a social evening on March 18, both to be held in the Ampfield WI Hall. Tickets will be available from the Ampfield Stores or any committee member. All other fund-raising events will be advertised in all areas as soon as possible.

HOLY BAPTISM Jan. 16 Samuel Thomas, son of Raymond & Susan Thomas of Crampmoor

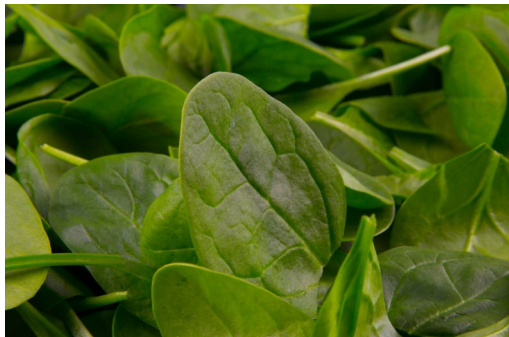
The Kitchen Garden - G4G

By Graham Roads

The opportunity to be able to grow food at home is one of life's great blessings. It doesn't matter if it is some flat leafed parsley on the window sill or a few square metres of potatoes hidden amongst the geraniums. It is the interest and the ability to grow something that is important.

We are currently high in the Austrian Tyrol enjoying a week in the mountains. On the way we passed through Freiburg, a city in the Black Forest with a most beautiful cathedral, where every Saturday there is a grand open market in the Cathedral square. There must have been a dozen stalls selling fresh vegetables, each laden with the most attractive displays. But this is January, it is cold, where do they come from? Then we found out: acres of greenhouses, not looking out of place, and supplying the local inhabitants with fresh grub. Some imagination!

On the subject of grub, there are two things we have tried recently that have worked out well. The first is with spinach. Thoroughly wash some spinach and place it still wet into a pan and let it steam for a couple of minutes. Remove the spinach and drain. In another pan, fry a few chicken thighs, cut into strips, and sprinkled liberally with smoked paprika and turmeric. Add lime juice and soy sauce. Place the steamed spinach in with the chicken and stir. Serve as it is or add some lentils.



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The second is a soup made from broccoli and stilton. Cook the broccoli and set aside. Melt the Stilton in the cooking liquor. Return the broccoli to the pot and blend, adding white wine or vegetable stock until you have the desired consistency. Adjust seasoning. Serve with good bread. Perfect for a winter supper.

Now is a good time to think about buying the seeds for this years cropping season. Looking around in the shops and garden centres, there is just so much variety, where to start. There are two worthwhile guides - the first is the RHS Award of Garden Merit.

This is an award given by the RHS for consistently good results, this can cover taste, shape, colour or size of cropping. The second is if a seed is marked as a F1 hybrid.

This means the grower has very carefully selected two pure bred lines from which he will produce seed. F1 seed is known for vigorous growing patterns and consistent result. If the

two, RHS AGM and F1 hybrid can be combined, much uncertainty of result is removed.



Information on all the work to do in the kitchen garden during February can be found on:

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

Please send your ideas and comments to Chris. It would be good to create an exchange of thoughts and experiences.



Graham Roads

Local Information

Nextdoor.co.uk

Neighbourhood hub for connecting with local services.

Online Facebook groups:

Romsey News and Information Group

The original Facebook Group for Romsey.

Romsey Garden, Nursery & Plants, Info. Sharing etc.

Good source of local plant delivery and availability, seeds and growing information.

Hampshire Coronavirus Helpline - 0333 370 4000

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults - 0300 555 1386

Romsey Community Pantry - 01794 522106

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

Frontline Debt Advice - 02380 552866

Southampton Basics Bank -

www.southamptoncitymission.co.uk/basics-banks

Local Representatives

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Answers to Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

1. 21st April 1991 (150th Anniversary of the opening of the church)
2. Venus (460 degrees Centigrade)
3. 32
4. Fruits
5. Observer
6. A bicycle
7. 1969
8. George Washington
9. 36
10. 1789



From the St. Mark's
Register.



*Paul Jerome's funeral service took place at
St. Mark's on the 9th January 2023*

Please remember him in your prayers

*What do pigs, dogs, devils, monkeys, bears,
angels and people have in common?
The answer to this, believe it or not, is
bagpipes!*

By Liz Hallett

I began a steep learning curve about bagpipers soon after seeing a request in The Church Times in 2007 from Sean Stewart asking for information about any images of bagpipers in churches. He was seeking examples of any types on gargoyles, corbels, angels, ceiling bosses, stained glass windows, pew ends, misericords etc., etc.

Mike and I had just returned from north Wales, where we had photographed a pair of splendid, colourful bagpipers in Llaneilian church on Anglesey, so I emailed Sean and sent him our photos. Sean has a real passion for the subject and belongs to a pipe band at Beverley in Yorkshire. He is on a one-man crusade to catalogue and record all the images he can identify in churches around the country, before some, at least, are lost through neglect or lack of recognition.



Llaneilian bagpiper in chancel

I was able to point him in the direction of various bagpipers, especially those listed in Simon Jenkins' 'England's Thousand Best Churches'. and in return Sean has given me a huge amount of information and some clues of where to go to see some of these pipers for myself.

...Cont.

It may seem unlikely, but depictions of bagpipers are actually fairly common all around the country in our older churches and in Victorian stained glass. In medieval times bagpipes of varying types were not just a speciality of Scotland and Northumberland. In fact they were the 'pop' instrument of their day, used by wandering players, the lowest of the low, who would travel round from place to place, playing or composing for anyone rich enough to buy them a drink! They would play for village fairs and weddings and obviously in pubs and inns, carrying



Norwich Cathedral roof boss



Stogursey bagpipng angel
detail

both old and new tunes wherever they went. The Miller, of Chaucer's Canterbury pilgrims, was a bagpiper: "*A baggepipe wel koude he blowe and sowne, And therwithal he broghte us out of towne.*"

Many noblemen and town corporations would also employ a piper who would play on civic occasions, play to indicate the curfew if there were no church bells, they might play at bear-baitings (a popular entertainment). They could be used to keep soldiers marching in step (as Scottish pipers do to this day).

I read up more on the subject and discovered that there are/were regional differences in the design of bagpipes and indeed on one of our trips north we had visited a maker of the smaller Northumbrian pipes, which are still in use and growing in popularity.

Cont. ...

...Cont.

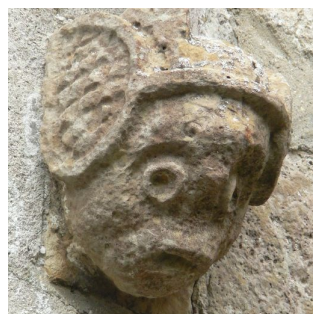
Common depictions to be found are pipe-playing pigs! Sean told me that in some images *the bagpipe plays the divine music, whilst in others it plays the devil's*. "What worse an image of the sound of Hell than a pig trying to play the bagpipes: it's enough to make anyone be good!!" he told me.

In fact, all the creatures listed in my title can be found playing their bagpipes somewhere around the country. One really excellent place to find pipers depicted is Beverley Minster, a church just full of carvings among which are thirteen different bagpipers, and nearby St. Mary's, Beverley, another remarkable church, has two more.

I pointed Sean in the direction of the wonderful website: www.hampshirechurchwindows.co.uk and within a couple of hours of starting his search he reported having found bagpipes in windows at St Michael and All Angels, Southampton and at St Mary and All Saints' Church, Ellingham, both in Victorian nativity scenes (shepherds are often shown with bagpipes). A favourite of mine is the piper carved outside the porch at Milford on Sea, while on the other side of the door is his wife apparently wearing ear muffs to keep the sound out - well, can you blame her!



Milford bagpiper
and wife with
ear muffs



It was good to make contact with a real enthusiast, who has opened my eyes to yet another aspect of medieval churches.

Liz Hallett



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*God, whose name is Love,
Whose gift is life,
Whose word holds all in being;
Bless Living in Love and Faith to your church
As we seek to grow together
Into the truth of our humanity and longings,
Into communities where all find welcome,
Into the fullness that is your image in us;
Through the Word made flesh,
Our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen*



Rotas for St. Mark's in February

Date	1 st Read- ing	2 nd Reading	Interces- sions	Sides	Coffee	Music
Sun 5 Feb 9.30	TIDY CHURCH					
Sun 12 Feb 9.30	Genesis 1: 1-2.3 Rob	Romans 8: 18-25 Jean	Ron	Diane Phil	Chris Cathy	Organist
Sun 19 Feb 9.30	Exodus 24: 12 - end Ron	2 Peter 1: 16 - end Jennie	Rob	Daryl Robyn	Jennie E	Jean
Sun 26 Feb 9.30	Genesis 2: 15 - 17 3: 1 7 Robyn	Romans 5 12 - 19 Heather S	Sally	Ron Mark B	Heather C	Organist

Flowers:
Chris

Coffee after Communion:

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