

# The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of  
St. Mark Ampfield*

**October 2020**

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**£1**

# **The Parish Church of St Mark, Ampfield**

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

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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*

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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.

# Online and In-Person Worship

As the seasons change, autumn brings with it All Souls day (2<sup>nd</sup> Nov) where we remember those we love who have died and Remembrance day (11<sup>th</sup> Nov) where we remember the members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty. In normal times, these would be marked with a service on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays in November, respectively. They will be this year too – it's just that the services will be a bit different so look out for details in the weekly news email and on the website.

And if you don't receive the weekly news email and would like to you can sign up on the website: <https://www.acnb-church.org/newsletter/> or email [joinin@acnb-church.org](mailto:joinin@acnb-church.org) and ask to be added to the list.

We have a new service to add to the service pattern this month – in person Communion using the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) at St Denys on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. We have also added events to the website to be clearer about the location of 'Communion to go' on any given week. So now the service pattern is:

## **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month**

09:30 Worship For All online

09:30 Communion at St Mark

Between 11:00 and 12:00 'Communion to go' at St Denys

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month**

09:30 Communion at All Saints, streamed live online

11:00 BCP Communion at St Denys

Between 11:30 and 12:00 'Communion to go' at St Denys

## **Other Sundays of the month**

09:30 Communion at All Saints, streamed live online

Between 11:00 and 12:00 'Communion to go'

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at St Mark

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday (if there is one in the month) – see website for details

## **Tuesdays: (weather permitting)**

10:30 Holy Communion in the glade at St Mark

Thursdays:

Morning Prayer online (all day)

If you would like to attend a Sunday service in person, please email [joinin@acnb-church.org](mailto:joinin@acnb-church.org) by the Friday before. **Abbie**

## Letter from Vicar Victoria

For several members of my family, October is birthday time. But I have to confess that for me, October means something else – the changing of the clocks. The last weekend in October is usually when we reset our clocks from British Summer Time back to Greenwich Mean Time. The transient pleasure of an extra hour in bed on the Saturday night is quickly replaced with the reality of the nights drawing in.

When I was a child, I struggled to understand both how and why we changed the clocks twice a year. How could we alter time? Wasn't time – just time? How could we mess about with it, and decide that what one day was 8am was now 7am (important for getting ready for school!)? And why did we bother? Did it really matter that in the summer it could be light until nearly 11pm – wouldn't 10pm do? The idea of time as something that could be manipulated and shifted baffled me. It wasn't until I was much older that I understood that the whole notion of measuring and naming 'time' was a human invention. Calendars (for reckoning intervals of time) and clocks (for measuring its passage) have a long history. The first calendars were lunar, and there's evidence of them as long as 6,000 years ago. The first clocks were a form of sundial, found in Egypt. Clearly humans have long felt the need to track the passage of time.

So that's what time is like for human beings. But what about for God? This is a question that has exercised much bigger brains than mine! Christians believe that God stands outside time. There was never a time when God wasn't, and there will never be a time when God isn't. As creatures living in time and subject to it, this is incredibly difficult for us to get our heads around.

The early church was also concerned about time. In the later half of the first century, there were many who believed that the risen and ascended Jesus would return during their lifetimes, to complete what he had started. When this didn't happen, they were puzzled, and some became disheartened. In 2 Peter, the writer, addressing these concerns, puts it like this: *But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.* From the perspective of God's realm of eternity, time looks very different.

But even though God exists outside time, and is not subject to it, God reveals Godself within time, because humanity and creation is. Starting with Abraham, God promised that through his descendants, all creation would know God's blessing. Some thousands of years later, and 2,000 years distant from us, God revealed Godself in human flesh, in the person of Jesus, a human being born in a specific place at a specific time, but ever present now. As Christians we feel the ever presence of Christ and all the Saints with us always, not just someone to be remembered.

The ancient Greeks had two words for time: *chronos*, referring to sequential time, and *kairos*, which signifies the proper or opportune moment for something. With God, we have all the time in the world.

With every blessing

**Victoria**

## **Contents**

- 6: Dogs of Ampfield** *Claire introduces us to Ffion*
- 7. Book Review:** *Jennie reviews 'The Love Child' by Rachel Hore*
- 8: Ampfield Neighbours:** *Help available during Covid*
- 9: Charity Christmas cards:** *Winchester's Christmas Card shop*
- 10. Parish Council Report**
- 11. Review Café Bingham**
- 12. Ampfield Primary School Report**
- 13. Plaza Cinema listings**
- 14. Salisbury Cathedral::** *Alan visits the 800th Anniversary exhibition*
- 16. 'Spare a Thought for the Village Hall':** *Julie*
- 18. 'Vehicles of Hope:** *Andrew describes the work of Hart UK*
- 20. Ride and Stride:** *2020's Ride and Stride in pictures*
- 22: Chapel Wood:** *Graham's*
- 24: Keep it Simple:** *Pongo's culinary memories*
- 26: Quiz: 'How Well do you know Ampfield?'** *Test your local knowledge*
- 28: Castaway of the Month:** *Nancy gives us her uplifting choices*
- 30: Recipe of the Month:** *Agne's Beetroot Soup*
- 31: Local Information**
- 32: Thought for the Month**

## Dogs of Ampfield

This is Ffion known as Fi and she is a purebred whippet who will be 14 in January. Despite a few mishaps of which she still bears the scars and a life threatening encounter with an adder, she is still active and enjoys her walks. Originally from a private breeder in Pembrokeshire she has lived all her life in and around the New Forest with my son.



However, she is very familiar in Ampfield too as I regularly look after her while my son is at work. She can often be seen around the village and at many of its events before Covid days, especially the coffee mornings.

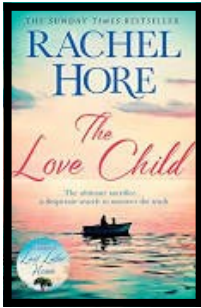
## Claire



## Nigel Babb

# Book Review

## The Love Child



by  
**Rachel Hore**

This story begins during the First World War and ends just before the Second. Alice is a young nurse caring for soldiers in France. She falls in love and has a baby, who is harrowingly taken away at birth and adopted by a childless couple. Alice's step-mother's advice is never to tell anyone about the baby and she doesn't until it is forced upon her many years later. The story follows her career, her friendships and finally her marriage and children. We learn about Alice's child's progress through life with an awkward, unemotional adoptive mother. Thankfully, she does become close to her father. Finding her birth mother was never going to be easy, but she is determined. It is a fascinating and absorbing story and I did not want it to end.

Rachel Hore has written many other books. I have also read *The Dream House*, *A Gathering Storm* and *The Glass Painter's Daughter*. I have thoroughly enjoyed each of them and would really recommend them.

**Jennie**



***Read a good book  
lately? Or a damp  
squib? Send us your  
reviews to share with  
readers of the  
Messenger***



In response to Covid-19

**AMPFIELD**

**NEIGHBOURS**

working with

**unity**

The Test Valley Borough Council Volunteer Support Group

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A group of Ampfield residents have come together to help as volunteers working with Unity during the Covid-19 pandemic. Unity is the Test Valley Borough Council Volunteer Support Group.

If you live in Ampfield and need help with collecting prescriptions or shopping  
**contact**

**Unity on the Test Valley Community Helpline -  
0330 400 4116**

**or**

**UnityC-19@unityonline.org.uk**



## Charity Christmas cards on the move

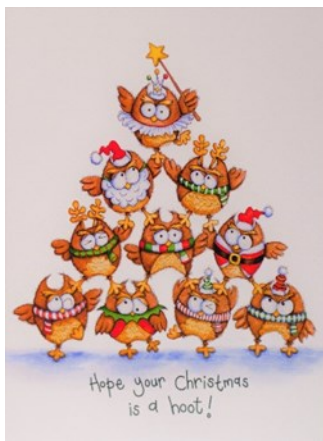
Just when you thought it was safe to go back into Winchester Guildhall, the traditional Charity Christmas Card shop has relocated. The Tourist Information Centre was deemed too small to house all those cards as well as the TIC staff in these times of social distancing.

The former Whittards shop, just down the High Street from W.H.Smith, is the new all-singing, all-dancing Christmas Card destination. Opening on Monday 19 October, the shop will house a wide range of local and national charity cards to suit all tastes. An example of a local card in aid of the Southampton Paediatric Intensive Care Unit is shown here. Most of the cards in aid of national charities will be supplied by Cards for Good Causes.

The shop is also looking for volunteers to help man the

unit; a lot of people will be needed to staff it every day from now until Christmas. If you think you could assist, please contact me,

**Cathy Wallis:**  
winchesterCFGC@gmail.com.



# Ampfield Parish Council

Ampfield Parish Council held a Meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

We are still meeting online as this continues to be the advice from our representative body the National Association of Local Councils. Members of the public are welcome to all our Meetings, and this is also the case for our online Meetings, which can be joined online or by telephone. Please contact either

- Chairman Bryan Nanson (bryan@ampfield.org.uk), or
- Clerk Kate Orange (clerk@ampfield.org.uk)

before noon on the day of any Meeting of the Council or Planning Committee, and you will be sent the details of how to join.

The construction of a new carpark at Ampfield Pavilion is underway and the Council decided some details including changes to the lighting arrangement, and fencing.

We have completed repairs to the boardwalk in Chapel Wood, which

was damaged during storms. Our Parish Councillor/Borough Councillor and Mayor of Test Valley, Martin Hatley, informed us that the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens recently received two awards: 'Gold' in the South & South East, Britain in Bloom, Heritage Garden Award 2020; and also Tripadvisor 'Travellers' Choice Award 2020'.

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 12 October 2020.

***Kate Orange - Clerk/  
Responsible Financial Officer  
Ampfield Parish Council***  
[www.ampfield.org.uk](http://www.ampfield.org.uk)  
**Telephone: 07922 118840**



## Café Bingham's Ampfield

We gave breakfast at Café Bingham's a try out on a lovely autumn morning after building up an appetite walking the dog. We were the first to arrive that morning and were given a jolly welcome which indicated a smile behind the face coverings.

The layout is much as it was in the time of Keats with dining cubicles along the walls and well-spaced tables elsewhere. The whole area was nicely fitted out which works well with its serving breakfasts, lunches and teas.

The menu offered a good range including many vegetarian and vegan options and a fine selection of drinks, including a wide range of smoothies. Service was friendly and relaxed. At no time did we feel rushed. Our scrambled eggs were cooked as we like them i.e. slightly loose so as not to resemble rubber, so don't think this is your typical roadside café where things often come as they come. The coffee was good and fairly priced (£2.50).

It was a well presented and enjoyable meal and overall, we were impressed. We will look forward to trying out the remainder of the menu in due course. Café Bingham's is a fine

addition to life in Ampfield and we wish it well particularly in these strange times.

There is disabled access albeit up a steepish slope which may require assistance.

Web site: [www.cafebinghams.com](http://www.cafebinghams.com) for full menu. A good breakfast for 3 cost us £35.

Opening times: 8am to 5pm Tues  
- Sun (to 4pm Oct 1st - March 31st)

## Hamish & Flora

### MacMillan Coffee Morning

This year due to restrictions we could not hold our usual Coffee morning at All Saints, North Baddesley, so three members of our congregation held Coffee/tea get togethers in their gardens keeping to the rule of six.

The result was a spectacular £400.07 raised for Macmillan.

Many thanks for the support and generosity we received.

**Pam**

## Autumn Days at Ampfield CofE Primary School

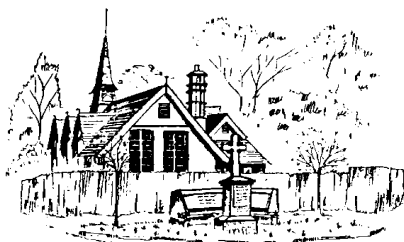
The new term is certainly well under way and the teachers and children have settled in well. Mr Cascarini is teaching the Juniors Class and Miss Flood is teaching the Infants Class, after moving from John Keble School (our partner school in the federation) this year. Miss Rebecca Green is our new Admin Assistant and she is in the school office each morning, before going to work at John Keble School in the afternoon. You can contact her on:

adminoffice@ampfield.hants.sch.uk  
or call on 01794 368219.

We welcomed seven new Year R (Reception) children into the school this year and they are doing really well in their lovely classroom and outside space. We are already thinking about how we can promote our school to potential applicants for Year R in September 2021 - we are hoping to produce a little video to show everyone what a wonderful learning environment our children benefit from. The Year R children settle in to school very well

because of the small class size, supportive adults and space around them. Please don't pass us by if you are thinking of where to apply for next year!

In these challenging times, we are trying to keep school life as normal as possible for the children. Although we can't do some things (like have whole school collective worship or singing) the children are still enjoying sports activities, playing together and having fun. Helping the children back to a 'normal' routine is the best thing we can do to help them achieve some stability in their lives; especially as some of them hadn't been at school for many months when they came back to us.



Cont....

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If would like to know more about the school in your community, to enquire about places or to work with us, please do get in touch\*.

**Marcus Roe**

**Executive Headteacher**

Federation of Ampfield & John  
Keble CofE Primary Schools

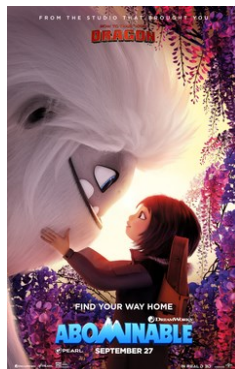
Ampfield: 01794 368219

John Keble: 01962 775241

\*We are always on the lookout for lunchtime supervisory staff for both schools so, if you have some time in the middle of the day, during term time, then give us a call! (Safeguarding checks undertaken, of course).

## **Plaza Theatre Romsey films now showing:**

**£6.50 per person**

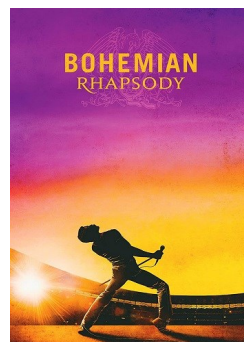


**Saturday 10th  
October**

**Abominable  
(Cert U)  
Matinee  
14.00**

**Wed 21st  
October**

**Bohemian  
Rhapsody  
(Cert 12A)  
19.30**



**Book online:**

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/plazatheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/plazatheatre)

**In person:**

Romsey Visitor Information  
Centre  
01794 512987

## SALISBURY AND NETHER WALLOP

Just prior to the Coronavirus, Salisbury Cathedral initiated their 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Like everything else, those events were quickly postponed. We had always intended to visit. The city has been an integral part of our lives since visits to the then Playhouse at the end of the 1960's. We still have the programmes; their covers are now a faded red but some of the memories, notably Moliere's *The Miser*, remain imperishable.

And so in August, when we gauged it was safe to leave the house for a day out, we travelled to the Cathedral to view the exhibition. It was worthwhile. We learned of the wonderful, but surely apocryphal, tale that its location was determined by an archer based at Old Sarum, shooting an arrow into the valley. It remains the only Cathedral in England built as a single piece, between 1220 and 1258. There have been no later external modifications, though a helpful guide showed us where there had been some internal work. The unique modern font (2008), the wonderful model of the building in construction, the world's oldest working mechanical clock, and the best preserved copy of the original Magna Carta were just some of the highlights.

Interestingly, Magna Carta was signed five years before work started on the Cathedral. The earliest founders and officials are also commemorated. There still remained reminders of Covid. Part of the nave was cordoned off; we all wore masks. Yet, within the Cathedral and its magnificent Close we felt "safe". Social distancing was a relatively simple discipline. Unlike the walk from the car park, Salisbury with its network of narrow, traffic filled streets was a challenge. It was simply impossible to create a safe space. And so, after a quick picnic in The Close, we left.



Where to go? Tracey Chevalier's *The Silver Thread* has struck a chord with many. One of the prime locations of the evocative love story was Nether Wallop Church, and so never having been there before, we visited on our way home. The setting could not have been more different than the crowded streets we had left behind. It was so peaceful. The church and its accompanying quirky pyramid – a memorial to an 18<sup>th</sup> century “Doctor of Physick” - are set on a mound, the views from which must be some of the best in Hampshire. By now there was not a cloud in the sky. The light was sharp and clear, enhancing the quality of the vista of cornfields, hedgerows and hills. And the church was open. After using the hand sanitiser, we entered. We made for the belfry to see five bells rung by Arthur in the book. There were some distinctive and well preserved wall paintings. One was a bell, over the entrance to the belfry.

Another was of St. George and the Dragon, emanating from the fact that the village allegedly once staged mystery plays some 500 years ago. There is also a brass memorial to Mary Gore, the only such monument to a prioress in the country. Double boxed pews run down the centre of the church. We read of the church's



historical associations with royalty, dating back to King Canute. It was a fascinating building.

And so, ultimately we had enjoyed a most pleasant day, one to treasure in this strangest of all years, in which our world has shrunk. Nevertheless, we came to appreciate that it was still possible to find places where normality (almost) prevails.

**Alan**

## **Spare a thought for the Village Hall**

### **Spare a thought for the Village Hall**

Our lovely community hall is standing empty and forlorn. The posters are fading on the notice boards, all abandoned following the rapid exodus in mid March. I find it almost too sad to reflect on how life used to be in the hall, the spaces echoing with the sounds of parties, life celebrations, barn dances, race nights, pantomimes and much more. Laughter, fun, happiness – now all curtailed for a while. The hall gardens have been beautiful throughout the summer, full of colour and scent, a real tribute to Liz Easterbrook who created them. The roses in particular have bloomed abundantly throughout the lockdown months.

### **Spare a thought for the monthly Market**

Now frozen in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, celebrations on hold. Eager shoppers and traders alike, waiting patiently for the

announcement 'come back, we are open once again !'

Midway through lockdown, I felt sure that the July Market would open its doors , a little optimistic perhaps, but as the months of solitude ticked by I comforted myself that by September we were sure to be open again and then we could look forward to a 'normal' run up to Christmas ! Sadly now, it looks like February 2021 may be our best hope for a triumphant return, but there's no certainty.

If you have been used to ordering your Christmas cards, advent calenders, wrapping paper etc. for collection at the December Market, you are very welcome to contact Emmie, (who has now replaced Julia), and she will be delighted to give you all the information you require to complete your order again this year. She can be contacted on 07900885211 or 01794 650279 or via [emie101@hotmail.com](mailto:emie101@hotmail.com) She will also be pleased to deliver your order.



## **Spare a thought for all the treasured hall activities**

The art class, Bridge Club, Brownies, Yoga and many more. There's no doubt that community halls and all the important activities within them will be the very last part of our former lives to properly return, which is so tragic because it's that part of life, enjoyed in each others company, that we crave for the most. (The Brownies and Yoga class have now restarted with safe social distancing).

## **Spare a thought for the future**

We have not been idle during this strange and difficult time, we've used this unusual opportunity to complete some much needed maintenance in the hall. The walls have a fresh coat of paint, roof repairs have been completed, we have gorgeous new curtains to hang, new and energy efficient heaters have been fitted in the garden room, the main hall floor is getting its finishing touches. The hall will look better and brighter than you'll

remember. The Market, when it reopens, will be bigger and better than you'll remember. We are more prepared than ever to face the future with our fabulous, thoroughly sanitised community hall than ever before ! We're very excited about welcoming you all back and celebrating a new beginning together, but we're happy to patient in order to make sure that our reopening will be as safe as possible for everyone.

## **The Village Hall AGM**

The Village Hall committee is hoping to hold an AGM on Tuesday 13th October at 7.00pm in the main hall with all the Trustees safely distanced and raring to go ! Members of the public are welcome to attend, but please could you let me know via [julie@ampfield.org.uk](mailto:julie@ampfield.org.uk) if you would like to be there, as numbers will be limited due to social distancing. So, on behalf of all of us, please stay safe and well and we'll look forward to seeing you again as soon as we get the all important go ahead.**Julie Trotter**

## Ride and Stride 2020

This year the Ride and Stride took place on 12th September. Given all the differences we are experiencing this year, we did wonder if it would take place at all, but take place it did. The day dawned with beautiful sunshine and just the right amount of heat for lots of walking. There were 7 of us this year - Phil, Lorraine, Michael, Sally, Jennie, Jemma and me, Jo. Chris should have joined us too, but unfortunately, due to car trouble, she was unable to come, however, at our final church, St Mark's, we had a wonderful welcome from her lovely husband, Rob, who had opened up the church and laid on squash and chocolate biscuits - a real treat! (Editors note: thoughtfully donated by Adrienne!)

To start our journey we met at All Saints and set off on the dot of 10.00am. Taking our life in our hands (I do hate that bend) we headed for St John's. After signing in and a few pics, we walked back to Body Farm, and then across country to Crampmoor, not in our benefice, but we



were so close, it seemed a shame not to pay a visit. From there we walked our final leg to St Mark. After being greeted, and fed and watered, by Rob, Michael and Lorraine walked home and the rest of us took our picnics and sat in the glade, at the back of the church. After so much disruption this year, it was such a delight to walk in beautiful surroundings and chat, with friends.



Cont.....



We also raised £415 in sponsorship, which will be split equally between St Mark's and The Churches Trust, who give grants to help churches maintain their buildings and who have previously contributed to work we have need on our church. Well done everyone - here's to next year!!

**Jo Hooper**



## ‘Vehicles of Hope’

“We were in the village when the war started. We had to flee and could not return for eight months. When we returned, we found Al Nusra had stolen everything and destroyed homes and churches. Our homes were burnt and we were left with nothing.” The speakers were Marie and Zakia in the small Syrian town of Maaloula.

Maaloula is a Christian-majority town dramatically situated against a rocky escarpment 60kms north of Damascus. By tradition, St. Thecla, a disciple of St. Paul, lived and died here and her shrine has been a place of pilgrimage for both Christians and Muslims for centuries. It is one of the few places remaining in the world where Aramaic, the language of Jesus, has survived as a spoken, rural dialect.

In 2013, the town was captured by Islamist ‘rebels’. Under their control, there was widespread desecration of holy sites and destruction of buildings. Several residents were murdered for refusing to convert to Islam and six young men were kidnapped, tortured and murdered. Since being liberated by the Syrian army in 2014, the town is being rebuilt, the churches are being restored and people are gradually returning.

Marie and Zakia are part of a project run by the Syriac Orthodox Church’s St. Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee, which operates projects all over Syria for those most affected by the war.

It is a partner with HART, (Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust), ([www.hart-uk.org](http://www.hart-uk.org)) of which I am privileged to be Manager of Governance and Advocacy Development. This grass-roots project in Maaloula helps to empower local women by facilitating food production through the preserving of fruit and other produce. There are 15-20 women working on the project who use the money they earn to buy more supplies and to prepare more products for sale in a town which, before the war, was famous for the quality of its agricultural produce. This is just one small example of the transformative work that HART supports with partners in some of the most conflicted corners of the planet often in places that other agencies and charities have left. We have partners in South Sudan, Sudan, Northern Nigeria, Burma, Nagorno Karabakh and Syria. All these areas are rarely out of the news. But HART is not just another aid organisation. Founded and headed by Baroness Caroline Cox, it is both committed to serving people in need, especially those who are or who have been suffering from oppression and persecution; and it combines that Aid with Advocacy; providing resources

for humanitarian aid in active conflict zones or post-conflict areas and working with local communities to serve as advocates for those with whom we work, who often are neglected by international media and unable to communicate with the wider world. And it is a privilege, as Manager of Advocacy Development, to support Baroness Cox in her Advocacy work within Parliament in relation to the areas where we work.

Last year, I had the privilege of visiting the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre in Nagorno Karabakh. This Centre, built and substantially funded by HART following the devastating conflict in Nagorno Karabagh between 1988-1992, has become an exemplary centre of excellence in the region for the care of people with disabilities, and the only facility of its kind in Armenia. (<https://www.hart-uk.org/the-lady-cox-rehabilitation-centre-stepanakert/>). It has also succeeded in changing attitudes to disability in a culture in which those with disability often faced a bleak and hopeless future. Sadly, Nagorno Karabakh has been in the news again just this month and Stepanakert, where the Centre is situated, once again came under attack from Azerbaijan at the end of September. But it is by sustaining support for life-transforming projects in the midst of conflict, that we are

able to be light amidst darkness and offer hope amidst situations of despair – and to bring to the world's attention the reality of situations on the ground that are either under-reported or unknown. That hope is very present in the wonderful people who run these projects in these complex situations. They also remind us in these difficult times of the gifts of courage and perseverance, and by placing our own lives in a wider context make it is easier for us to recognise our blessings even amidst the challenges we face.

## Andrew

Revd Dr. Andrew Ashdown is Manager of Good Governance and Advocacy Development for HART UK. He is the husband of Revd. Victoria Ashdown, Vicar of Ampfield, Chilworth and North Baddesley.

Andrew's Doctoral research into Christian-Muslim relations in Syria is being published by Routledge for global distribution in November 2020.



## Friends of Chapel Wood

Autumn in Chapel Wood can provide some wonderful experiences. When the Friends got together last time, this was very much at the forefront of their minds as they set about the tasks needed to put the woodland to bed for the winter. After a summer where the weather had encouraged strong plant growth there was much to do. Due to the COVID situation, it was necessary to make more detailed plans than normal regarding the morning's activities but probably this is a very good discipline, which we should adopt permanently.



For a start, the combination of sun, rain and the lockdown had left the pond area very overgrown. There was a good covering of surface weed on the water as well as substantial herbage around the fringes. Trying to clear as much of this away as possible is an important job this time of year. It let everything breathe a bit and allows better views of the pond and its inhabitants over the winter and the spring.



Another critical job for autumn is to clear out the various bits of rubbish that tend to accumulate in the bonfire pit and its surrounds during the summer. This is important because one of the highlights of our year is our annual winter bonfire and we can't do this if the pit is full of stuff.

Cont...

...Cont.

Not least because, unless we empty it, we do not know whether any small animals have decided to make a home there as winter approaches.

This year, we decided to extend our activities to clearing the bracken which was beginning to take over in this area and to tidying the site of our Diamond Jubilee oak tree nearby, which had become very over-grown. Happily, the oak tree we had planted to recognise the occasion was fine and it can now be seen thriving, slightly to the west of the bonfire pit.

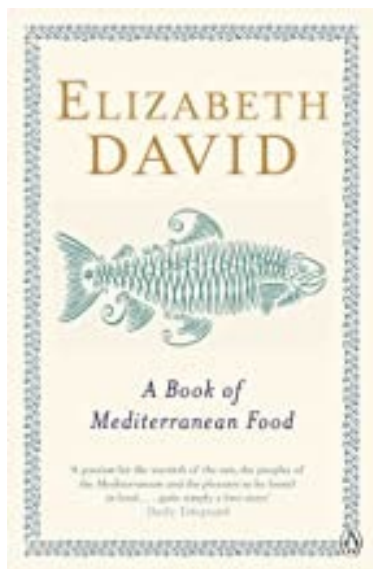
The final task we set ourselves was to improve the footpaths, repainting the signposts and clearing overgrown vegetation. We try to have a network of signposts that allow visitors to walk freely around the wood, enjoy the sights, sounds and smells, without worrying about getting lost. Over the years, many of the signposts had become faded, a number had fallen over and others had become buried in the undergrowth. Over the next few months, we hope to refurbish everything, starting in September by repainting the arrows on the signposts and clearing areas of undergrowth.

It was a good morning and again we were lucky with weather. Long may it continue!



**Graham**

## Keep it Simple



Not long ago I looked forward to the weekend papers to salivate over their travel articles. In lockdown, masked, travel curtailed, Brits returning en masse from forays foreign and countless holidays cancelled in expectation of a second wave, I now skip dismissively over them and return my newly renewed passport, now coloured blue, to the drawer.

So what to do? Pick up Elizabeth David's 'Mediterranean Food' and recollect the first experiences and tastes and often embarrassments of one's youth in France such as ordering prawns being something I

recognised on the menu and thinking to get the little pink things from a tin swimming in a watery sauce my mother would produce during the 70's. How was I to know when confronted by enormous beasts with whiskers in garlic to remove the shell first, but how? Or my first globe artichoke in simple melted butter had in an Aix-en-Provence pavement cafe to quickly learn, by watching other tables, to gently suck the leaves and not try to eat the whole thing. Or was it the rich and glossy aioli alongside coquilles saints Jacques in Grasse or the iced vichyssoise in a precipitous cafe in the hill perched village of Goudon?

Two words to remember of Auguste Escoffier are Faites Simple. Keeping it simple was demonstrated perfectly visiting our son whilst working in the Ile-de-France. We asked our son where the nearest restaurant was. He recommended Chez Mich' - the back room of a nearby house. He being young and surviving meals from the evening frites van we chose to ignore his advice and spread our net wider. We drove dozens of miles on the look out for somewhere open only to be thwarted. On our way back to our lodgings and hungry we saw Chez Mich'.

Cont....



...Cont.

I was cheesed off, my wife 'irritated' with my searching for hours so went in. Two small tables in the smallest of empty rooms. The plat de jour was steak, frites and tomato salad and a seemingly simple dressing. Whether horse meat or what we didn't much care at that stage but, in in short, it was spot on in its simplicity and taste and remembered often since. I've often tried to recreate the taste of that salad and dressing, but never quite succeeded.

Oh, how I miss our excursions to France and beyond or is it because we're currently constrained? Discuss.

**Pongo**



**Nigel Babb**

## How well do you know Ampfield?

1. Population?
2. Who owns Chapel Wood?
3. Which churches are included in the benefice with St. Mark?
4. What is the name of the Cricket Club's home team?
5. Which famous children's author lived in Ampfield?
6. What are the days and times of Ampfield Market?
7. On which Saturday in June is St. Mark's Fête always held?
8. What is the par rating of Ampfield Golf Club?  
How many holes?
9. Name the publicans of the White Horse.
10. What is the name of Ampfield's new café?

Cont...

11. Why is the Potters Heron so called?
12. Where is the parish Harvest Lunch held?
13. Where can you see a memorial to Canadian airmen?
14. In which year was the 'new' Ampfield Primary School opened?
15. Which famous walk that starts in Worcester and ends in Shoreham, W.Sussex runs through Ampfield?
16. What is the shape of the hedge in the parish burial ground in Chapel Wood?
17. What time is the last collection from the postbox in Winchester Rd.? (opposite the Village Hall)
18. How much is a family annual ticket for Hillier's Arboretum?
19. How often does the bus travel between Winchester & Romsey through Ampfield?
20. Who is our local M.P.?

Answers in next month's Messenger

## Castaway of the month

*Nancy has lived in Ampfield for 59 years. She has had a lifetime interest in travel, antiques, ballet and swimming in the sea, which is reflected in her choice of music for a desert island.*



### **La Mer: Charles Trenet**



I grew up by the sea and I vividly remember swimming in the surf in Rio and in the sea in Dorset - Dancing Ledge and Durdle Door before it became choc a bloc and a rubbish tip. I still swim in the sea at any opportunity, the last time was two weeks ago from the beach hut in Branksome Dene which we visit regularly. I'm hoping



to get at least one more swim before the winter!

### **Under Milkwood: Dylan Thomas, read by Richard Burton**

Richard Burton's voice as narrator in this radio drama is compelling. It is about a fictional fishing village in Wales, Llareggub (read this name backwards!). I remember visiting the Dylan Thomas Boathouse at Laugharne in the Taf estuary.

### **Swan Lake: The ballet by Tchaikovsky**

Ballet transports me into another world. I fell under the spell of Nureyev, Sylvie Guillem and Carlos Acosta. I saw Margot Fonteyn in Swan Lake many years ago and more recently experienced Matthew Bourne's interpretation with all male dancers at Sadler's Wells. Stunning!

### **Ain't She Sweet: Written by Milton Ager**

My first boyfriend used to play it to me on the piano. As teenagers we spent much of the summer holiday at the Bryanston Boat House where Bill the boatman let us row the skiffs and we would skim through the waters of the River. The sun was always shining!

**Let's Fall in Love: Noel Coward**

Happy memories of seeing his last appearance in London with Simon, my late husband.

**Non, je ne regrette rien: Edith Piaf (The Little Sparrow)**

Simon and I went to her grave in Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. Oscar Wilde is also buried there. We laid a rose.

**Chopin: Etude Op. 10 no.3**

I always loved the story of Chopin's piano being transported across Mallorca to where Chopin lived with George Sand. Now, that was an interesting relationship!

**Neil MacGregor: A History of the World in 100 objects**

Another captivating male voice, I could listen to him for hours. I particularly like to hear him discussing Egyptian artifacts.

**Book:****The Agony and the Ecstasy: Irving Stone.**

I have read this book many times. It is a biographical novel about Michelangelo. My interest in art and antiques began when I left school and went to art college to study antiques. I was apprenticed to a dealer in Bath and then worked in various antique shops. My best boss was a dealer in Bath called Mr. Dodge! When the children were older, I started to sell at Antique Fairs and still do. I am hoping that the Covid restrictions will allow me to take part in a fair on New Year's Day.

**Luxury:**

I am told that my 'Portal' (a digital screen which allows me to make video calls and see photos) will not be allowed, so I will have to settle for a snorkel. I intend to spend most of my time in the sea!

**If I can only take one record:**

It will have to be Edith Piaf. I've lived life to the full and have no regrets.

# Recipe of the Month

## **Beetroot Soup**

A very easy delicious and healthy soup. The trick to this soup is to make sure you have a really good stock. I prefer to make my own using beef, onions and celery, but you could use bought stock or Marigold stock powder.

### **Ingredients:**

Beetroot (whole, raw)  
Pearl Barley  
Stock  
Soured cream

### **Method:**

- Scrub the beetroot.
- In a large saucepan add the stock, the pearl barley and the whole beetroot and boil until the beetroot is cooked through.
- Remove the beetroot with a slotted spoon and allow to cool.
- When cool enough to handle grate the beetroot and return it to the stock.
- Add soured cream to taste and warm gently through.  
Season.

***A soup enjoyed in Latvia and other Balkan countries***



**Agne**

# Information

If you need any Zoom meeting links, would like to join in with readings or intercessions, would like prayers said for you or someone you know, or would just like to comment, please email or [joinin@acnb-church.org](mailto:joinin@acnb-church.org).

**Films showing at the Plaza in Romsey—see p.17**

## **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.

## **Nextdoor.co.uk**

Neighbourhood hub for connecting with local services.

## **Recommended online suppliers:**

Donald Russell (meat): [hello@donaldrussell.co.uk](mailto:hello@donaldrussell.co.uk);

[www.donaldrussell.com](http://www.donaldrussell.com)

Regal Fish: [info@regalfish.co.uk](mailto:info@regalfish.co.uk); [www.regalfish.co.uk](http://www.regalfish.co.uk)

## **Local Representatives**

Member of Parliament: Caroline Nokes; Phone: 01794 521155

County Councillor: Alan Dowden; Phone 02380 266458

TVBC Councillor: Martin Hatley; Phone: 02380 254040

Ampfield Parish Council: Chair Bryan Nanson; Phone: 02380 267760

\*\*\*\*

## Thought for the Month

*Nobody waves – but everyone waves back*  
*Jessica Pan*

Do you come out of the supermarket with a lighter heart and a smile on your face after a pleasant chat with the till operator? Or a short exchange with a stranger in the queue? It doesn't take much. These days there is much discussion about loneliness, exacerbated by Covid and the restrictions on our daily lives. We all know that we should make that 'duty' phone call, check on our isolated neighbour, write that letter or email, listen properly to a friend or relative's worry. But life can get in the way.

The pandemic has taught us that we have less control over our lives than we thought. We are forced to live in the present and it is hard to plan. Whilst Covid has meant that many of us have more time on our hands, life is more complicated and many of the smallest of tasks have become more time-consuming. We must be on our guard all the time.

Very often, we are reluctant to make the first move for fear of rejection. Or we are so caught up in our own problems that we fail to notice what's going on around us. But sometimes a smile and a few words is all it takes to raise our spirits, and cheer up someone else – and this warm feeling can stay with us. Perhaps we can use this current situation to get into the habit of noticing these opportunities and bring a little more kindness into our lives. I'm certainly trying hard.

*“Strength and dignity are her garments; she smiles about the future”:*  
***Proverbs 31:25***



## Contributing to the Messenger

Contributions to this magazine are always welcome, however it may be necessary to edit or shorten articles.

Copy should reach the editors by the 15th of the month please.

As a guide, one page = approx. 325 words (fewer if you would like to include a photo).

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and receptions. Clubs and other  
organisations are welcome.

Good parking.

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**Tel: 023 8025 4040/07970 501050**  
**Email:- [villagehall@ampfield.org.uk](mailto:villagehall@ampfield.org.uk)**

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**If things are getting to you. Any time you like, in your own way - about whatever is on your mind.**

• **Free to phone 116 123**

**Email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)**

• **Visit us: 13 Upper High Street, Winchester SO23 8UT**

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