

The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of
St. Mark Ampfield*

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The Parish Church of St Mark, Ampfield

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

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DEADLINE:

The third Friday of each calendar month.

Contributions to this magazine are always welcome, however it may be necessary to edit or shorten articles. Note that the views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor or the Parochial Church Council. Advertisements in this publication do not carry the endorsement of the editor or the Parochial Church Council.

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*Nutty enjoying the sunshine in our poet
Lyn's garden - spring is in the air!*

Dear Friends

An Easter Message of Hope and Joy

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

At Easter, we celebrate the truth at the heart of our faith: that love is stronger than death, light overcomes darkness, and hope is never in vain. The empty tomb reminds us that even in uncertain or difficult moments, God is at work, bringing new life where we least expect it. As spring unfolds, we see signs of renewal everywhere - buds on trees, longer days, and returning warmth. In the same way, Easter invites renewal in our hearts. Whatever burdens we carry, the risen Christ meets us with peace, grace, and a promise of new beginnings.

Yet the world often feels uncertain and burdened. Conflicts and wars bring suffering to countless families. Many face hunger and displacement, living in conditions of severe food insecurity. We see the growing impact of climate change, pressures on food and water supplies worldwide, and economic inequality affecting countless lives, both globally and here at home. It can all be quite overwhelming.

Still, Easter speaks into this reality. The resurrection of Christ is not a distant story, but a living promise: even in fear, God brings renewal; in suffering, God's compassion is present; and where there seems no way forward, new life can break through. The first Easter morning came after darkness and grief. The disciples did not expect joy - but it found them, and it still finds us today.

So this Easter, let us not lose heart. Let us give thanks for the gift of life, show kindness to one another, and walk forward with renewed faith and courage. May we share hope where there is despair, light where there is darkness, and love in all that we do. May the light of the risen Christ shine in our lives and in our world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

With every blessing

Ann

Rev'd Ann Devereux
(Curate at ACNB)



Weekly service pattern

Sunday Services

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

Midweek Services

When	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



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

The Installation of the Archbishop of Canterbury Dame Sarah Mullally



The 106th Archbishop of Canterbury has been installed at Canterbury Cathedral in a service that gathered Primates and Anglican representatives from all around the world. In keeping with tradition, Archbishop Sarah struck the West Door of the Cathedral three times, and was welcomed in to her Cathedral. The Most Revd. and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally is the first woman to take up the ministry of the Archbishop of Canterbury in the 1400 year history of the office.

The service was attended by Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales and the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer. Also gathered were Anglican Primates and clergy, standing alongside representatives from community groups, charities, ecumenical and inter faith guests.

The service was a celebration of global family, with at least 32 provinces (member churches) of the Anglican Communion represented, with 26 Primates in attendance, and four others sending official representatives. Many robed and processed through the Cathedral's nave, including five of the 'Africa Six', the first female Anglican bishops from across Africa.

The service took place on the Feast of the Annunciation, when the Church remembers how Mary was told by the Angel Gabriel that she had been chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus.

*Have a
Blessed Easter!*



Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

7.30pm Communion Service at St. Mark
Ampfield

Good Friday 3rd April

10am North Baddesley, Walk of Witness
starting 10am at the precinct
2pm An Hour before the Cross Service
St. John the Baptist, North Baddesley

Easter Day

7am Dawn Communion
St. Denys, Chilworth
9.30am Easter Worship (all age)
St. Mark, Ampfield
11am Communion (all age)
All Saints, North Baddesley



acnb-church.org

Hook Road water works

This work has obviously going on for a long time, but living near I am enjoying the peaceful walks while the woods are so muddy, so what are they doing? They are laying a new 300 mm plastic water pipe which involves digging holes about 40 metres apart, and using a machine called a “Witch Ditch” that drills a tunnel between them. First, they drill a small hole then they drill again using a larger drill head, which then when it reaches the next hole the pipe is attached and pulled through to the hole that they started drilling from. At the time I was watching this happen it was drilling about 1 meter per minute.



Only one man drives this machine and the drilling lengths of pipe automatically drop down and attach themselves to each other, similar to how a machine gun works. The blue lengths pipe are welded together so a whole series of them can be pulled through in one go. The drill head is guided

by a man with a handheld yellow machine which can make it go up or down, left or right and costs £27,000. I am told they are able to drill a maximum of 140 meters. Round the corner the trenches had to be dug as a previous road surface was found about a meter below the surface which stopped their drilling.



Cont. ...

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I expect you are aware of another 900 mm water pipe being dug from Otterbourne to Toothill near Southampton, a very interesting display was recently shown at the village hall where artifacts of 25,000 years old have been found. I have been told that they intend to drill under Hursley and Hook Road and even under the Sandpit woods to the northeast of Hook Road. Having recently drilled under the motorway it should not present a problem.

I will be surprised if the work in Hook Road is finished on the 27th March as intended as there is still a lot to do and the “Witch Ditch” is being used on other sites, in the meantime I shall continue my peaceful walk along Hook Road.

Nick



“You wouldn’t worry so much what people thought of you, if you realised how seldom they did”

Adage on a matchbox

Parish News

Ampfield

Lent Lunches in St. Mark's Room

We held two lunches for lent. The menu was three different soups with crusty bread, cheese and fruit. We would like to thank everyone who attended for their lively company and their generosity. The lunches raised £230.00 which will be split between The Romsey Food Bank and The Beacon at Winchester. Many thanks from the Soup Team.



Pam

St. Mark's stall at the Ampfield Market

Next Market Saturday 4th April 10am - noon

Check out that summer wardrobe!

Thank you Adrienne and Pam for taking charge of the stall in my absence in March. £33 was raised, mostly through items costing £1. We are part of a nice friendly community which is important to maintain and they enjoyed themselves immensely!!

For April only we plan to sell pre-loved clothes again. Now's the time to get those summer clothes out of storage! Chris and Pam will be happy to collect any you wish to donate.

Chris

Church Cleaning

If anyone would like to help with cleaning the Church (taking it in turns on our monthly rota) that would be very helpful. It is best to do this in pairs to be safe, and does not take very long to Hoover, sweep, and dust! If you would like to offer or chat about this please contact Jennie Edwards (Tel: 02380 365041; Email: jenniee@acnb-church.org).

Parish News

Ampfield

Friends of St. Mark's Hearts and Voices

We welcome you to an exciting evening of choral singing by 'Heart & Voice'. They are an established and popular Southampton based gospel choir. Their set includes traditional gospel, spiritual mixed with African. There are modern songs and standards some of which we can all sing along to so come in full voice! It promises to be a really enjoyable evening.

Tickets are £10 (under 16 free)

Including NIBBLES at the interval. There's a CASH BAR, wine £3 glass, beer/cider £3 can, soft drinks and zero alcohol also available. We'll also squeeze in a RAFFLE

We look forward to seeing you.

Stephen

Save the date: St. Mark's Fete Saturday 13th June

Planning is underway and the next meeting is:

Thursday 9th April in St. Mark's room at 7pm

Phil

All Saints

Good news!

We have been awarded the Community Delivery Fund grant for the church roof and ceiling at All Saints. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed their messages of support to the application, it really helped our case.

Parish News



Preparation for Easter Service at Knights Grove Care Home



In March Ann and Sally led a service for the residents of Knights Grove Care Home. The following message of thanks was received from the care home:

“This afternoon’s church service was very moving. Ann and Sally from the Church of England led a solemn and beautiful service in preparation for Easter. Sally also visited the Elm floor to see other residents Thank you for giving your time and uplifting our residents’ spirits“

Mothering Sunday 15th March

Mothering Sunday invites us to give thanks for the people who nurture faith, hope and love in our lives, and to pray that our churches continue to be places of welcome and compassion. A few photos from this year’s services in particular remembering our families and the family of God.



Parish News



We are delighted that The Open Teapot afternoons have been such a success since they began in August 2025.

Many people have been welcomed and have enjoyed the company and new friendships have been made.

Being bereaved, living alone or perhaps a carer can all be a lonely business; however, having something to look forward to can help make you feel better. Why not come and join us at 'The Open Teapot' on the second Sunday afternoon of each month?

During the afternoon, guided by Kayte from The Memory Box Foundation, we explore a themed reminiscence box full of objects, documents, photos, sounds and smells. This is an opportunity to look back at times gone by and share our memories over tea (or coffee) and cake, all free of charge thanks to grant funding from [Hampshire County Council](#). The Open Teapot afternoons normally take place on the second Sunday of the month but keep an eye on [our calendar](#) for exact dates and times.

Parish News



AMPFIELD • CHILWORTH • NORTH BADDESLEY

Explore faith inspired by creation

All ages welcome

Relaxed and informal

Dress for the weather

FOREST CHURCH

St Mark's Church, Ampfield

We are looking forward to our next Forest Church session on

Sunday 24th May, 3 - 4pm,
at St Mark's.

Forest Church is held outside in the church grounds, so please dress for the weather. See p.17 for a report of the last session.

ST MARK'S MINNOWS

FUN AND FRIENDLY
BABY AND TODDLER GROUP!



TERM TIME THURSDAYS

9.30 - 11AM

COFFEE ON FROM 9.15!



Parish News

Friends of St. Mark's

invite you to an evening with the



*Heart
Voice*

Gospel Choir

Saturday 25th April 7pm

St. Mark's church, Ampfield SO51 9BU



bit.ly/4uCtdUk

**Cash Bar
Nibbles
Raffle**



Tickets £10
(under 16 free entry)

07799 435 715

Registered Charity No: 1214465

Parish News

Forest Church at St. Mark's, 22nd March

The weather was perfect for March's Forest Church. The session was all about New Life. The Scavenger Hunt proved to be very popular. All the items from nature were put on the cross. We planted sunflower seeds and made sheep with wool. Also we did some 'forest bathing' by looking through cut out crosses.



What's on in the Parish every week

St. Mark's

St. Mark's Minnows

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

All Welcome! Kettle's on from 9.15.

St. Mark's Fridge Magnets and cards

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



All Saints

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

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

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

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

Welcome Cafe at All Saints Thursdays at 10am

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

Sunshine Saints

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

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

What's on in the Parish every month

St. Mark's

Friends for Lunch:

3rd. Wednesday of the month

please contact Pam on : Tel. 02380 411146 or
Email - pammorf@virginmedia.com to book your place.



St. Mark's Stall at the Ampfield Market

1st. Saturday of the month

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

Pam and Chris

Pilgrim Course:

2nd Saturday of the month



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

All Saints

Pilgrim Course:

Wednesdays 8th and 22nd April 2pm - 3.30pm

Every second and fourth Wednesday afternoon.

Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

1. How many continents are there on the earth?
2. Which metal is most commonly used for electrical wiring?
3. Which company develops the mobile operation system called Android?
4. Which renaissance artist painted The Sistine Chapel ceiling?
5. What was bubble wrap originally invented for?
6. Which Asian country banned Time Travel in movies?
7. What character have both Robert Downey Junior and Benedict Cumberland played?
8. In tenpin bowling what do you call it when a bowler makes three strikes in a row?
9. What sporting event has a strict dress code of all white?
10. Which is the only continent with land in all four Hemispheres?

Answers on p. 24



I'd Like To Buy The World A ...

While moving a big old piano
"You hum it I'll play it" she said
And instantly lots of old adverts
Came swirling around in my head

"The sweet you can eat between meals"
Might tempt one to favour that treat
"Where's number four?", "At the dentist"
Well he should have turned down that
sweet

Observed as we were from a spacecraft
They laughed at us half-witted Brits
For peeling and boiling potatoes
Then lastly we'd smash them to bits

It's graded grains make finer flour
And it's those fish that John West reject
These old ads are etched in my memory
Yours too, if my age, I suspect

Mummy, why are your hands so soft?
The Milky Bars are on me
There's a tiger in my tank
"Luton Airport" uttered she

T'was a grand ride back though
Mars helps you work, rest, and play
"Schhhh – you know who" remember?
Because the lady loves Milk Tray

Andy Sutton

www.facebook.com/andysuttonpoetry



With thanks to Nottingham poet Andy Sutton. Designed to be accessible, often witty, and infused with word play, his poems may also have something to say. His poems deal with the familiar absurdities of life, and the injustices suffered by too many people. In there are also observations about fatherhood and his mixed-up dog. Andy enjoys performing, and aims to make you smile and think.

Check out his poem : "Never" - says it all!

From the Archives April 1991

The Revd. John Keble

Our present parish was part of the much larger parish of Hursley, whose vicar was the Revd. John Keble, until he and Sir William Heathcote of Hursley Park decided in the late 1830s that the population was large enough to justify the building of a new church in the hamlet of Ampfield. Thus Keble, a man whose views were having an enormous influence on the whole Anglican church, had a special part in the history of St Mark's.

Who was John Keble?

Born on St Mark's day, 25th April, 1792, the son of a Gloucestershire clergyman, he was a brilliant scholar - obtaining a double first at Oxford at the age of just eighteen. He was ordained in 1815, becoming a Fellow and Tutor of Oriel College, where one of his students was Sir William Heathcote of Hursley Park.

Poet and author: From an early age Keble wrote poetry, and in 1827 published a volume entitled "The Christian Year", which rapidly became a best-seller.

Parish priest: After retiring from Oxford, Keble acted as curate for his father at Southrop, until in 1825 he became curate of Hursley, under the then vicar, Archdeacon Gilbert Heathcote. He only stayed for one year, since his father's health became poor, and Keble returned to Gloucestershire until his father's death in 1835. Sir William then offered him the now-vacant incumbency of Hursley, and with his young wife, Charlotte, Keble came to Hursley in 1836. He was to remain for the rest of his life, a much loved and respected priest.

A Founder of the Oxford Movement: His "Assize Sermon" on Apostasy (ie the abandonment of religious faith, vows and principles), preached in Oxford in 1833, had long-lasting results. He felt that the church of the time needed a reawakening of religious fervour, a return to the Holy Communion as the centre of worship, and a general move away from the slackness which was commonplace, with many absentee clergy and slovenly services. His views found much support, especially from the Revd. J.H. Newman and the Revd. E.B.



From the Archives April 1991

Pusey, and this was the start of the Oxford (or Tractarian - so-called because of the tracts they published expressing their ideas) Movement, forerunner of today's Anglo-Catholic movement.

Many church buildings were in a very neglected state, and the Tractarians also believed in the importance of suitable buildings, designed to provide a beautiful setting to reflect the glory of worship.

Church builder: As vicar of Hursley, a parish which at that time included Otterbourne, Ampfield and much of the present Chandlers Ford, Keble was able to put his beliefs into practice. Otterbourne church, much dilapidated, was rebuilt in the centre of the modern village, and shortly afterwards St Mark's, Ampfield, (paid for by Sir William Heathcote) was begun. In these two churches the development of Keble's ideas can be traced, with the development of the chancel arch, and the



increasing length of the choir area. By 1848, when Hursley church was dedicated, following the rebuilding of all except its old tower, and paid for from the profits of his book, "The Christian Year", Keble had built what, to him, was the perfect setting for worship.



The Tractarian views were not welcomed by all. The Bishop of Winchester, Bishop Sumner, considered the Hursley area a "plague spot" in his diocese, and would not allow Keble and his curates to attend any diocesan meetings. It was some years before his ideas gained widespread approval. However, within his parish and far beyond it, Keble was greatly loved and much respected. When he died in 1866 he was greatly mourned, and the changes which he started still affect the life of the Church today.

Answers to Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. Seven
2. Copper
3. Google
4. Michelangelo
5. Wallpaper
6. China
7. Sherlock Holmes
8. Turkey
9. Wimbledon
10. Africa



From the St. Mark's
Register



Baptism

We recently welcomed into the church by Baptism:

29 March, Rocco Warrington

Please remember him in your prayers

**The
Ampfield Market**
(Established in 2000, now in its 26th year !)



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

Our Market has a great reputation, we regularly sell fresh fruit and veg supplied by Hansards in Awbridge and delicious bread and cakes supplied by Matts Bakery. Honey, preserves, plants and fresh flowers. Cards, wrapping paper and books. Collectables, unusual crafts and jewellery. Clothes, toys and puzzles. Bric a brac, seasonal treats and much, much more !

We serve fresh coffee and a wonderful selection of cakes throughout the morning.
Come along with friends and family to enjoy this Special monthly community event.

Parking and admission are always FREE.

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

Next date. Saturday 2nd. May

WHAT'S ON IN THE AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL SPRING 2026 - JOIN IN ONE!

MONDAYS

PILATES WITH HANNAH – Two sessions in the morning. **9.15am to 10.20am & 10.30am to 11.35am**. Mixed ability mat class. Details at www.pilateswithaplomb.com

AMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL regularly meet on a Monday evening for their ordinary meetings, planning meetings and other meetings.

NB. NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS www.ampfieldparish.gov.uk

TUESDAYS

AMPFIELD BRIDGE CLUB is a very popular club playing friendly duplicate bridge. It meets every Tuesday evening (except at Xmas time) from 7pm to 10pm. If you require a partner or want more information contact Mel Cook on 07889 689302 or email melcook@sky.com . New members always welcome.

WEDNESDAYS

NEW CLASS! YOGA MORNING with Yoga by Gaynor – **10.00 to 11am** for details see Friday below

1st AMPFIELD BROWNIES meet every Wed. evening during term time. 6pm to 7.30pm Tel. Sue Moore 01794 523947

ROMSEY MODELLERS Build model kits? Want to get more from your hobby? Join this club on the 1st and 3rd. Wed. of each month 8pm to 10pm.

www.romseymodellers.co.uk

THURSDAYS

[NB. YOGA with Diana Craven. – Sadly, from March this class will no longer take place in Ampfield.]

AMPFIELD ART GROUP meets Thurs. afternoons during term time 2pm to 4pm. Very friendly atmosphere. Beginners and those wishing to develop their skills welcome. Contact email: Julie@ampfield.org.uk

PILATES WITH HANNAH PLOMB - TWO SESSIONS. 6.15 to 7.20pm (improvers and Intermediate) & EXTRA CLASS: 7.30 to 8.35pm (Beginners). Mat classes. For details: see Monday above.

FRIDAYS

YOGA ON FRIDAY MORNINGS with YogaByGaynor 9.30 to 10.30am

All levels, Gentle, Vinyasa Flow Yoga. All welcome. Facebook:
@yogaByGaynor OR Email: yogabygaynor@yahoo.com

SATURDAYS

VILLAGE MARKET (IN ITS 26th YEAR!) First Saturday of every month 10-12noon (except Jan. and Aug.). Entry free. Regularly on sale are fresh bread, rolls, jams, chutneys and pickles, cakes, plants and fresh flowers, cards, books, antiques, unusual crafts, jewellery, toys, seasonal surprises, bric a brac etc. Fresh coffee and delicious cakes are served all morning in the Garden Room. Interested in renting a table? Ring Julie on 02380 254587 or email Julie@ampfield.org.uk. This is a great event to meet up with people.

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

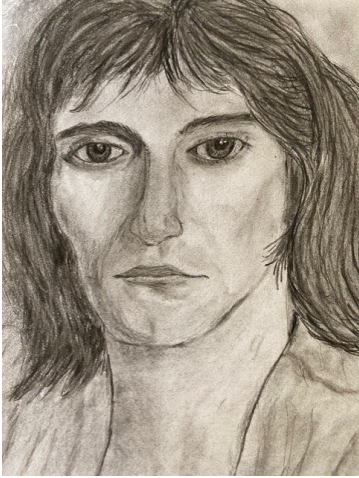
SUNDAYS

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

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

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

Ampfield Art Class Gallery



Rod Stewart:
David, pencil/charcoal.

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



Winter Hare:
Pauline, watercolour.



Snowdrop wood:
Jenny, watercolour.



Hayling Highland:
Denise, watercolour.



Portrait of a young Woman:
Frank pencil & charcoal.

Ampfield Art Class Gallery



Spring flowers:
Carol , watercolour.



Bowl of Lilac: Christina,
watercolour pencils.



Tarantula: Jerry, watercolour.



Fruit Salad: Sheila, watercolour .

The Ampfield Pavilion Solar Panel and Battery System



Ampfield Pavilion is now being powered by a new solar panel and battery system. The solar panels are mounted on the South facing roof of the pavilion which has clear sun all day. There is a battery system that stores excess electricity produced during the day for use overnight and on days when there is less sun. The battery system with a gateway also provides backup power. This means that the pavilion can be used as a resilience hub in the event of widespread power outage. As the pavilion is heated with Calor Gas, it means that electricity from the batteries will power the boiler for an extended period of time during such a power outage. There is also a hot water diverter which diverts excess electricity once the battery is fully charged to the immersion heater to heat hot water.

Once the battery is fully charged and the immersion heater has heated the hot water then excess electricity is exported to the power network. This is paid at a rate which is lower than is paid for electricity provided to the pavilion, but nevertheless creates an income from the excess electricity.

Cont. ...

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Fortunately, when the pavilion was first built, the then parish councillors had the foresight to install a three phase electricity supply to the meter box, even though the pavilion was only powered by single phase electricity. The system evolved from a single phase system to a three phase system, meaning that a maximum of 11.04kW can be exported, which will substantially increase the income received.

The system has been in operation for a month, during which there were some interruptions when it first went live whilst the pavilion electrics were tested, the hot water diverter has only been operating for the last ten days or so and we are not yet getting paid for the electricity we export. The system has so far produced 1052 kWh of electricity. A small amount of electricity has been imported from the grid, although it has now been found to be to power an item that had been left switched on overnight. There has been a saving of almost £200 in the first month. The hot water diverter has produced a saving of £3 in the short time it has been in use. No Calor Gas has been used at all to heat hot water since the diverter has been operating. Half of the electricity produced has been exported which will result in an income once the supplier has registered all the paperwork. Overall, for the period from mid February to mid March, it would appear to be a very successful result.

The system is largely funded with a Climate Change grant from Test Valley Borough Council and with developer contributions from housing developments. Ampfield Parish Council has then topped up these contributions. KR Electrics of North Baddesley carried out the installation.

The app associated with the system tells us that we have saved 490kg of CO2 being emitted in the short time that the system has been in operation. As well as the sustainability, the system will also provide a very good resilience hub.

Chris Ling
Vice Chairman Ampfield Parish Council



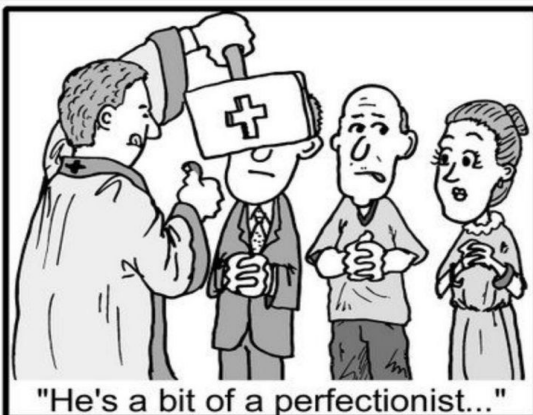
Who was the world's first comedian? Samson. He brought the house down

How do you make holy water? Put water in a pot and boil the hell out of it.

The Sunday School teacher asks the children to draw Christmas pictures. She goes over to one student and sees he's drawn a picture of four people on an aeroplane.

"What is this?" she asked.

"Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus on a flight to Egypt," he says.



"He's a bit of a perfectionist..."



Thought for the Month

As we drove home after doing our weekly shop in Winchester the other day, I was pleased to see that we were passing through St. Cross, which holds so many memories for me. The Bell Inn, still operating was where I spent a lot of time (too much) in the period between 1963 and 1968. The pub has changed so much, totally lacking the excitement of those heady days. Nostalgia is what we all possess and my thoughts constantly go back, more so as I get older. That pub was like my second home, as was The White Swan in Hyde Street, now called The Mucky Duck, which I frequented a lot in the next ten to fifteen years.

All those memories. I often wonder what has happened to all the people that I used to know. The same thoughts came to me the other day when a photo popped up on Facebook of St Faith's Primary School in St. Cross, taken in the early 1950's and it was my old class. I recognised the teacher instantly and some of the pupils, although the picture was very grainy. Again, I wonder what the other children are doing now.

Unfortunately, some of them are probably no longer with us. I have wonderful memories of childhood in St. Cross Water Meadows and of trainspotting at the local level crossing. A hobby that I still enjoy. We all have memories and where possible, hold on to them as they are so precious. We all at the same time wish we could start again, but I am happy with today, especially because I have a wife I adore, and a wonderful family. I feel very privileged.



I am second left in the back row.

Ron

F

riends of
Chapel
Wood
by
Graham Roads

This month, it is time for the pond area. Over the autumn and winter, our wildlife pond seems to attract all sorts of irregular stuff, we have even found the odd seat. However, bits of wood aside, the biggest problem is normally duckweed. It forms a green blanket over the pond's surface. Apart from the fact it disguises the water underneath, it also restricts the passage of light and oxygen reaching the bottom of the pond. Not helpful for those creatures who call this area home.

Over the years we have devised a variety of methods that are good at clearing out duckweed, but our favourite remains the floating dredger. This is a length of green netting, weighted with bricks at the bottom, with a long piece of wood sown into it. The wood, then, has a length of rope attached to each end. The whole contraption is pulled along through the water by volunteers who walk up and down the pond. The duckweed is caught in the netting and removed when it reaches the end of the pond. Simple!!
Cont. ...



...Cont.

After a couple of hours wandering up and down, it is possible to notice quite a difference. We even saw something swimming in the water, beneath the weed. Although, sadly, we could not identify it, a quick head count confirmed it was not one of the volunteers! By the time we stopped for coffee and cakes, we had squelched our way quite happily through the morning. It was time to pack up and go home.

If you fancy the idea of joining some like-minded neighbours for a few hours once a month, just turn up in the St. Mark's car park at 09:45 on the second Saturday of every month. The Friends are a good bunch. Tools are provided. It is a good way to have a bit of fun and help our community at the same time.



Graham
Roads

A Prayer for Peace at Easter



Lord, in a world filled with chaos and discord,
we seek Your divine harmony this Easter.

Unite us in Your love, bridging divides and
fostering understanding.

Let the message of Christ's resurrection
inspire reconciliation,

and may the power of Your peace prevail in our
hearts and communities.

Amen



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