

The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of
St. Mark Ampfield*

December 2022

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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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***The Robin on the cover was photographed by
Charlie Allen***

Letter from Vanessa

Dear Friends



I met my best friend from school for lunch last week. I'd not seen her for a few months, but we have been friends for over 30 years, and can always find something to talk about, and most importantly laugh about. I also love being in that coffee shop. The welcome that awaits when we push open the door is always warm and inviting.

What a great invitation - A warm welcome and a wonderful friend! Is that what you think of when you think of church, however? With another friend I have been reflecting recently on what we think about when we hear the name "Jesus". Do we see a white man from the Home Counties with long flowing hair and a crisp white robe? I suspect for many of us, our mental picture of Jesus does not readily motivate us to "Come and See" where Jesus is. But, in fact, those who encountered Jesus, ran to their friends and invited them along.

The Church of England's message for this Christmas is "Follow the Star: The Great Invitation". We would love you to know that in everything we do at St Mark's, everyone is invited and there will always be a warm welcome. Whether if that is for the Midweek service with coffee; the Christingle, community carols or Crib service; or any other activity, you are invited. Come and see - you will find a really warm welcome!

With love and prayers,
Vanessa



Christmas Services at St. Mark's

11th December (Sunday)
4pm Christingle

22nd December (Thursday)
7.30pm Community Carols

24th December (Christmas Eve, Saturday)
3pm Crib service



Christmas Services Throughout the Benefice

11th December (Sunday)

Services as usual for 2nd Sunday of the month

2pm Christingle at All Saints

4pm Christingle as St Mark's



15th December (Thursday)

10am Carols and Cakes at Welcome Café at All Saints

7.30pm Carol service at St Denys

17th December (Saturday)

4pm Community Carols at All Saints (outside: so wrap up warm)

18th December (Sunday)

Services as usual for 3rd Sunday of the month

22nd December (Thursday)

2pm - 4pm Christmas Family Crafts -

email office@acnb-church.org to book

7.30pm Community Carols at St Mark's



24th December (Christmas Eve - Saturday)

3pm Crib service at St Mark's

5pm Crib Service at All Saints

11.30pm Midnight Communion at St John's



25th December

(Christmas Day - Sunday)

9.30am BCP Communion at St Denys

11am Communion at All Saints

5pm BCP Evening Prayer on Zoom

1st January 2023

(New Year's Day - Sunday)

9.30am BCP Communion at St Denys

11am Communion at St John

5pm BCP Evening Prayer on Zoom

No Tidy Church or Messy Church



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

Dear Readers

We would like to thank our contributors (pictured on pp. 18 & 19) for their sterling efforts this year. If you haven't already written for the Messenger, please have a go.

We would also like to thank the ministry team - Vanessa, Sally and Jonathan - for their dedication and for making so much happen this year.

And last but not least, our loyal readers. If you know anyone who would like to receive the Messenger in their inbox, please contact us.

Happy Christmas!
Rob and Chris



Benefice News

Ampfield Market – St. Mark's stall

The November market was particularly busy and I think the weather helped as it was a dark, rainy morning. Not in the village hall though, it was cheerful and had a real buzz about it. We did particularly well on the clothes stall and bizarrely the sale of earrings. The next market is the Christmas Market on Saturday 3rd December so if you have any appropriate clothes or unwanted quality gifts we would love to have them for the stall please.

Pause for Paws

St. Mark's is planning to start a coffee hub for Chapel Wood dog walkers. It will be from 8.30 - 10.30am on Tuesday mornings and we are looking for volunteers to serve coffee. We hope to set up a rota so that each person only has to do it once a month. Please contact Vanessa on 023 8073 7617 if you would like to help.



Pre - Advent Quiet Morning



The Hopeweavers Community led a calm and quiet space at this busy time of the year. This was a well attended benefice wide event and a chance for members of the three parishes to get together. There were creative resources available and a simple liturgy, some went for a mindful walk while others read or reflected quietly. The morning ended with a shared lunch. We look forward to more of these events in the future. For more information about Hopeweavers go to: <https://hopeweavers.org.uk>.

Friends for Lunch

We hosted 19 diners on a lovely autumn day. We welcomed our new helpers Charlie and Jenny who quickly threw themselves into the duties of the day, many thanks to them both. The lunch of Bangers & Mash was very well received and then for dessert we had cake - a well known Ampfield resident, Leslie Richards, had a Memorial Service on the Monday, the left over cakes were kindly donated by his family. Our next lunch at St Mark's Room is Wednesday 18th January 2023. We look forward to the Christmas Lunch being held at the Golf Club in Ampfield and will report back next month.



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. The children have been busy decorating stars which are now hung up in All Saints Church.



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

Christmas Card for All Saints and St. Mark

This Sunday and throughout Advent there will be a Christmas card for the congregations to sign as a greeting to each other. The card is not necessary taking the place of individual cards. However, you may consider signing it instead and at the same time donating to 'Crisis', the charity who help the homeless, especially at Christmas.

Adult Craft 1st December 12.30 at All Saints Church

You can experience making some gifts, pyrography, jewellery, wreaths, macrame, Christmas Cards and other items. You can enjoy a drink of mulled apple juice and a mince pie. All materials included £10 per person.

Christmas Wine and Paint

Tuesday, 13th December 6.45 - 9:30pm at All Saints Church.

The cost will be £10 to include some mulled wine and a mince pie as well as all painting materials required.

Please email allsaintsartevents@gmail.com to confirm your place at either event quoting either "WINE" or "CRAFT" to denote which event you are interested in. Places are limited at both events. There will be a small stall selling local artists gifts and trinkets at both events where you can purchase hand made items in time for Christmas. This is separate from the cost of either events and are cash only. We look forward to seeing you there.

Village News

Ampfield Market at the Village Hall

Saturday 3rd. December

This promises to be an excellent Market with a visit from Father Christmas and our annual raffle in aid of charity. We have a full house of exciting and varied tables offering great Christmas cards, wrapping paper and unusual gifts. Fresh bread and fruit and veg. will be available as usual. Delicious refreshments will be served all morning from 10 to 12. The Market team are all looking forward to welcoming you all to the last Market in 2022.



the last
Julie Trotter.



Thanks to Nadine Pafard (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-24-200

**THAT'S THE BEST ONE-STAR HOTEL THAT I'VE
EVER SEEN**

Brief Report of St. Mark's PCC Meeting 10 November.

Rev. Vanessa chaired this meeting held in St. Mark's Room, and the following were discussed:-

WiFi Internet Connection - PCC agreed to go ahead with this work and an application for a faculty has now been submitted to the Diocese. This will be a great asset for the Church/Church Room. It is hoped the work will be carried out by BHM at a cost of £1,330.05, which includes the first year costs. The annual running costs will then be £132.20. We are very grateful to Phil Budden who has been working on this project. Phil also regularly carries out a Health and Safety Inspection of the Church, inside and out.

The Electrics - there is a great deal of vital work needed on the Church electrics which will cost between £6,000 and £7,000.

St Mark's Room Adaptations/ Disabled Access to the Church These are two separate projects. Discussions have been ongoing with the Diocese and Duncan McKellar, Architect, and there will be plans available on noticeboards soon of the proposed new access into St. Mark's room, and the area outside. Leaflets giving details of

this work will be delivered to all those living in the Parish in the near future. It is hoped that we may be able to have disabled access into the Church from St Mark's in the future, which would be such a help to wheelchair users. Grants may be available for some of this work, but we will need to raise funds for much of the above.

Mission - We are delighted to be donating this year's amount of £553 to be split between the following charities:-
The Romsey Food Bank/ Romsey Young Carers/ Crisis
Donations from the Christingle Service, to be held on Sunday 11 December, will be sent to the Children's Society.

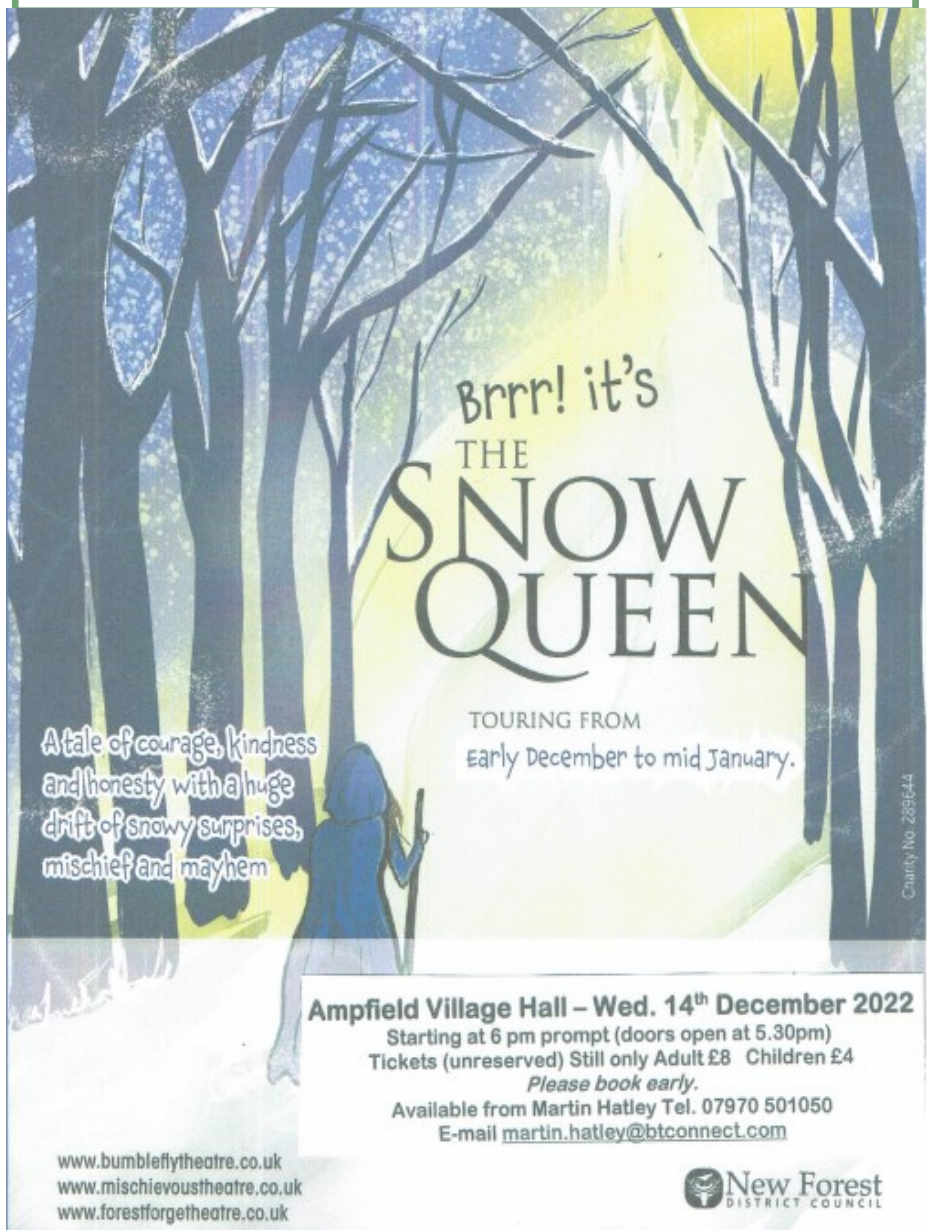
Fete and Dog Show 2023 - we are excited to plan this event again after the very successful and fun time last year. It will be held on Saturday 10 June.

Church Open - we are lucky to have three local people who are happy to continue opening and shutting the Church daily. Please feel free to pop in whenever you are passing - it is usually open between 10am and 4pm (it might shut slightly earlier at this time of year).

Jennie Edwards
(PCC Secretary)



What's on



Brrr! it's
THE
SNOW
QUEEN


A tale of courage, kindness
and honesty with a huge
drift of snowy surprises,
mischief and mayhem

TOURING FROM
Early December to mid January.

Charity No. 285644

Ampfield Village Hall – Wed. 14th December 2022
Starting at 6 pm prompt (doors open at 5.30pm)
Tickets (unreserved) Still only Adult £8 Children £4
Please book early.
Available from Martin Hatley Tel. 07970 501050
E-mail martin.hatley@btconnect.com

www.bumbleflytheatre.co.uk
www.mischievoustheatre.co.uk
www.forestforgetheatre.co.uk

 **New Forest**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

What's on

**The
Ampfield Market
(Established in 2000, now in its 23rd year !)
will take place on
Saturday 3rd December
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 February 4th 2023



What's on

What's On in Romsey

Christmas 22

www.romseytc.org.uk

26 November 6pm Light Switch On, Winter Carnival & Lantern Parade

9 December 5.30pm Saving Santa in the Market Place

19 December 7pm Christmas Carols in the Market Place

Romsey Christmas Markets

2, 9 & 16 December
11:30am - 12:30pm
Romsey Country Market and Community Café, Romsey Town Hall

4 & 18 December
10am - 2pm
Hampshire Farmers Christmas Market, Alma Road Car Park

4, 11 & 18 December
10am - 3pm
Romsey Makers Market, Market Place and Corn Market

What's on

the Snowman

**SAT 17 DECEMBER
ROMSEY ABBEY**

Experience the Magic of Christmas with a screening of Howard Blake's timeless classic *The Snowman*—accompanied by Live Orchestra Suitable for all the family.

romsey **sinfonietta**
CRAIG LAWTON Conductor
SOLOIST from the Abbey Choir

www.thesnowman.com

SCREENINGS AT 2, 3.30 + 5PM
TICKETS from £12/£8 under 16's £45/35 Group 2 Adults + 2 Children
1 Adult + 3 Children

AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE FROM ticketsource.co.uk/romseyabbey
Romsey Visitor Information Centre, Church Street 01794 512 987

Romsey Carnival Committee presents...

Christmas Tea Party

1pm - 3pm
Saturday
17th December

Crosfield Hall, Romsey

For more information visit:
www.romseycarnival.co.uk
f /RomseyCarnival



Wreath Making Workshops

The cost is £50 per person, including a glass of mulled wine, some festive nibbles and all the materials for you to make a wreath to take home and hang on your front door.

Friday 2nd December

6 - 8pm

Sunday 4th December

4 - 6pm

The workshops will be held
Abbotswood Community
Rooms,

What's on



Romsey Youth Choirs - Christmas Concert Romsey Abbey Sat 10th December 2022

A wonderful evening of Christmas music from Romsey Youth Choir, Romsey Youth Chamber Choir and Romsey Youth Children's Choir. We look forward to welcoming you all.



Romsey Scouts Christmas Market Sunday 11th December 10am - 2pm

We are hosting an amazing Christmas Market at the Scout Headquarters. We will be showcasing a vast variety of gifts perfect for Christmas. We are supporting lots of small and local businesses, who will be showcasing their



beautiful makes. Items will be unique covering a whole variety of goodies, from vegan beauty gifts, personalised items.

10th Romsey Scout Group HQ 10th Romsey Scout Group, Scout Headquarters, Braishfield Road,,

What's on



New for 2022 is the first ever light trail event at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens. With rare evening access, see the gardens as they've never been seen before, A truly magical walking experience for the whole family, and lovers of the great outdoors. Limited capacity so Book Now:

[Sir Harold Hillier Gardens |](https://www.sirharoldhilliergardens.co.uk/)
[Hampshire County Council](https://www.hants.gov.uk/)
[\(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/)

Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market

18th November – 22nd December,

The market is recognised as one of the best in Europe.

Winchester Cathedral's Christmas Market is renowned for its bustling atmosphere, stunning location and handpicked high quality exhibitors. It attracts visitors from around the world each year who come to shop at the pretty wooden chalets, situated within the historic grounds.

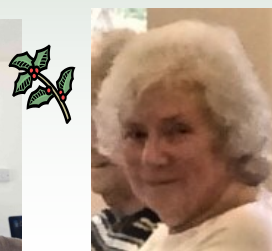


This acrylic painting of the market is by Karen from Julie Trotter's Art Class

Happy Christmas and thank you to all our Contributors in 2022



Happy Christmas and thank you to all our Contributors in 2022



The Mayor of Test Valley, Cllr Alan Dowden, Christmas Message 2022

2 022 has been a significant year for us all.

The Covid virus shocked us into a recognition of just how fragile our world is. It also reminded us of what really matters – our health, community spirit and our solidarity. We have come to value those we rely on most – our doctors, nurses and all health care workers who are at the fore of our defence against this virus.

Over the last two years we have been asked to stay away from loved ones to protect them. Then, earlier this year with the easing of Covid restrictions, we have been able to enjoy getting out and about, meeting family and friends and in June, to take part in the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. And what wonderful events they were as people across the borough acknowledged the dedication and commitment of Queen Elizabeth II. An accident in May left me immobile for many weeks. So, the Mayoress attended the Jubilee events, on my behalf, recounting to me each time how much she had enjoyed them.

Now that I am back on my feet, albeit quite a lot slower, I particularly enjoyed hosting an event at Jermyns House and the internationally renowned Sir Harold Hillier Gardens. We received many compliments about the gardens from Hampshire Civic Heads.

My wife, Celia, and I have been able to attend engagements and meet many people in groups, organisations and business across Test Valley. There are so many different ways in which people are actively involved and contributing really positively to our community. We are fortunate to have a wonderful richness of voluntary groups and many organisations, who are working hard to make Test Valley a really special place. And on a smaller scale, there are many examples of like minded people joining together, getting their voices heard and making a difference. They are the unsung heroes of our Community, who contribute so much in all sorts of ways.

Cont. ...

...Cont.

This year is also significant for monumental events: The invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces. This war is daily bringing devastation to Ukraine and its people. Test Valley residents have opened their homes to support displaced Ukrainian families and willingly given support to send emergency help to Ukraine.

In September the passing of Queen Elizabeth II saw the country in mourning for our longest reigning monarch. But, we felt pride at the pageantry and dignity of the funeral for our much loved and respected Queen. I was immensely proud to give the proclamation for King Charles III and to know that I will be Mayor when His Majesty is crowned.

The financial instability, due to many influences and factors, has, and will, take a toll. The rise in energy prices and the cost of living generally is deeply worrying for many residents. Residents can contact Test Valley Council for advice and support, via the webpage or directly.

However, this year we can choose to celebrate our festival of Christmas without excessive spending. A simpler Christmas, some may say, as they used to be. It can still be that special family time when we get together with those we love. Time together is a present we give, worth more than any gift. We can reach out to those around us in the community who are alone, and share some time with them during the festive days.



Celia and I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year



**The Mayor & Mayoress - Cllrs
Alan and Celia Dowden**

Castaway of the Month

John Rendell



When Chris and Rob asked me to jot down eight disks I would like to take to my imaginary dessert island I recalled the first time I heard Desert Island Disks. The old school valve radio was warming up in readiness for afternoon radio for schools programme, the transformer hum



gradually receding into the background as the rich tones of Roy Plumley boomed through the large free standing speaker. I had been held back from playtime, a punishment for not eating raw carrot served as part of lunch. I cannot hear the strains of The Sleepy Lagoon without thinking of blasted carrots!

1st Track – Deadwood Stage – by Doris Day from the musical Calamity Jane. Dad was an amateur radio enthusiast and frequented many local auction houses looking for radios and radiograms that he could tinker with. One weekend a beautiful Marconi radiogram was delivered. While we waited for the valves to warm up we sorted through a number of 78s that came with the radiogram one of them was the Deadwood Stage.

2nd Track – Telstar – The Tornados 1962.

Telstar was the first single I bought. Hearing this will bring back memories of going into Salisbury on the bus and visiting Sutton's record department.

3rd Track – On a Little Street in Singapore – Manhattan Transfer.

Dad had played drums for a local group The Orchid Dance Band during the forties so it's not surprising that I too played drums with a local group in my teens. The band's singer, Lois, was to become a life-long friend and one of our shared loves was Manhattan Transfer. Sadly, Lois died in 2001.

Cont. ...

...Cont.

4th Track - Tiger Rag (Hold That Tiger)

I was raised in a village on the edge of the New Forest. The local doctor was a Scot and loved to celebrate Hogmanay. His New Year's Eve dance was a must, the music being provided by the Orchid Dance Band. With Dad as their drummer, this tune will remind me of him.

5th Track - How Great Thou Art - Dursley Male Voice Choir.

I lived in Gloucestershire from 1988 to 2006. For three of those years I sang with Dursley Male Voice Choir. One of my favourite pieces was the hymn how great though art

6th Track - In The Midnight Hour - The Commitments.

In 1999 I took up playing alto sax again after a break of 30 odd years. Playing mainly for my own entertainment I was asked by a friend to play a couple of numbers with his band at his wife's birthday party. The music he chose was In The Midnight Hour in the style of The Commitments.

7th Track - Slow Boat To China - Bing Crosby and Peggy Lee.

This track always reminds me of my Mum. When I was living at home I bought a book of sheet music and this number was contained in it. Practising in my bedroom I played each tune over and over until I was note perfect. Occasionally Mum would come to my bedroom door and sing along, Slow Boat to China was her favourite.

8th Track - I only have eyes for you - Rod

Stewart from his Great American Songbook. I met my darling wife Lou in November 2008. Rod Stewart and his American song book were favourite CDs. When we married in 2009 we danced our first dance to this tune at our reception.



Luxury Item - An alto saxophone and selection of sheet music.

Book - A publication that will aid a better understanding of music composition and theory.

F

riends of
Chapel
Wood
by
Graham Roads

Two of the nicest things about being involved with the woodland volunteers are, firstly, the camaraderie of the people you are lucky enough to work with and, secondly, the fact that the project never ends. It is real time and

perpetual; we are simply acting as a happy bunch of custodians for future generations. One week we are all working hard building ideas and laying the groundwork for a new phase of the woodland's development and the next we are back to basics with routine maintenance.

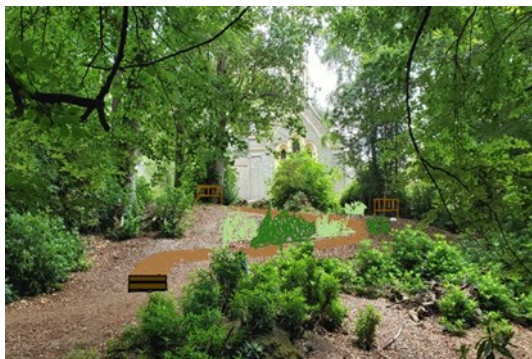
This working party was very much the latter. We started by trying to patch up the posts protecting the box hedge in the burial ground. They are coming to the end of their useful lives, with many now rotting off at the base. As an interim measure, we are trying keep them going as long as possible, swapping a number of the really rotten ones with some that are a bit more robust. We have a similar problem with the fencing along the eastern perimeter boundary where the woodland abuts estate land. Again, the fence posts are in an accelerated rot mode. Over the next six months all will probably need to be replaced.

We are also concerned for the health of the box that form the cruciform in the burial ground. We think that they are succumbing to a mixture of blight and box caterpillar. We may need to resort to chemicals, but it seems these are only effective when used as a part of an integrated strategy. Once it stops raining, we will experiment. Realistically, however, we may need an alternative plant to buxus as we seek to maintain the cruciform effect in the future.

Cont. ...

...Cont.

Finally, we would like to mention a new project for 2023. The slope into the wood from the west end of St. Mark's Church offers a great opportunity to create an area that lends itself to peaceful reflexion and contemplation. The slope is sheltered yet offers the possibility to install good seating, which will enjoy dappled shade most of the year. The view to the west overlooks the pond, whilst the views back from the pond would have as a backdrop the most attractive west wall of the church. There is easy access that could be made available from St. Mark's room, by constructing a footpath from St. Mark's room to connect with the wood's existing network. The whole area would be landscaped with native woodland bulbs, flowers and plants. See rough artist's impression below.



We believe that this an exciting opportunity to enhance, very considerably, the overall amenity value of Chapel Wood and to provide a new experience for visitors. There are grants available to help fund community projects such as this but we

will need to demonstrate local community support. In the January edition of the Messenger, we will tell you a bit more about it and how you might be able to help.

The Friends of Chapel Wood is a group of keen volunteers who look after Chapel Wood, the Ampfield community wood that surrounds St. Mark's church. New recruits are always welcomed, so 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.

Graham Roads



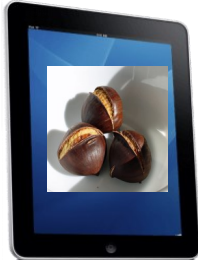
Christmas Quiz

1. What is Frosty the Snowman's nose made of?
2. In what year was 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens published? a)1799 b)1801 c)1837 d)1843
1. What is the name of Scrooge's dead business partner?
2. Which continent does Christmas dinner favourite, the turkey, originate from?
3. The most popular toy of 1980 was designed by a professor of architecture in Budapest to teach his students about spatial awareness. What is it called?
4. Which country is the largest exporter of Christmas Trees?
5. Which US president banned Christmas trees from the White House?
6. Which plant often given as a gift at Christmas has bright red and green leaves and is sometimes known as the Christmas flower?
7. What colour are mistletoe berries?
8. Which Christmas product did Sir Henry Cole produce in 1843?
9. What gifts did the wise men give Jesus on his birthday?
10. On what day of the week does Advent commence?
11. Balsam, Douglas, Fraser, and Noble are all types of what?
12. Which UK monarch delivered the first Christmas Broadcast to the BBC in 1932?
13. What Christmas item takes its name from the old French word 'estincelle' meaning spark?



Answers on p.32

Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Screen



TV adverts for French perfume, set in idyllic locations.
Luxury holidays, posh cars, Christmas celebrations.
Indulgent presents for children and close relations
presented to encourage us into buying contemplation
on screens imploring viewers into selfish temptation.

Please spare a thought for those left alone to cry
no one to live with, to love, or for whom to buy.
With little money coming in to heat their homes
Or pay rent, to buy food, least try to deck the halls.
Facing horrors of sleeping rough, no festivities at all.

Poor souls longing to enjoy a family Christmas Day
who have no chance of taking a foreign holiday.
Nothing to keep them well or take their pain away.
Who hide in fear of rape, hurt and torture,
forced to toe the line, or face almost certain disaster

No medical treatment, no shoes, no clean fresh water
no school, no education, no chance to prosper
no purpose, no opportunity, just the grim reality
we see in advertisements from many charities.
All asking for our help with increasing regularity.

If you are lucky to be warm in your safe home tonight
a glass of sherry, mince pies enjoyed by firesides bright.
Think of those fearing bombs aimed at them by satellite
exploding near their basements as they cower in fright.
Please think how you can help as you turn off the lights.

When you next board a plane to warm distant climes
expectantly focussed on enjoying great times
please think of the hurt given by the insensitivity,
of glossy adverts seen by those who only aspire,
a roof under which to roast chestnuts on an open fire.

Paul Oliver

Ampfield Art Class Gallery



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

Card design
Barbara, inks.



Cat in the Snow
Karen, watercolour



Madonna and Dove
Karen, acrylics.

Starlings
Frank, pencil.



Ampfield Art Class Gallery



Home grown tomatoes
Stephanie, watercolour

Lowry inspired
Seascape
Nick, watercolour



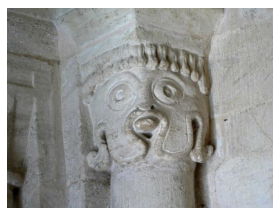
Rocky seascape with
basking seals
Graham, inks.

Beard Pullers and Column Swallowers

By Liz Hallett

Let's look this month at a couple of the strange beings found in some of our churches, but which may have failed to catch your eye!

Column Swallowers seem particularly common in France, but we also have some fine examples in England, mostly from the Romanesque or Norman period. The best ones I have found are at Elkstone in Gloucestershire, where the main doorway is protected by a fearsome pair of monsters with the supporting columns descending from their mouths. They clearly serve the same purpose as many of the carved monsters on the outside of churches: a symbol that evil is left outside when one enters into God's presence inside the church. In medieval times evil was always represented as ugly and frightening, while the saints and other religious figures were shown as beautiful.



Elkstone Column Swallower

Also at Elkstone is a remarkable boss in the chancel at the point where four vaulting ribs meet, and each rib is also a column swallower. All four faces have prominent teeth and some have panting tongues as well. Kilpeck church near Hereford has very similar 'rib swallowers'.

Bristol Cathedral has a horizontal pair in the Elder Lady Chapel. These actually form the two ends of an ornamental stone rod placed on the wall and serving no obvious purpose. It is interesting to note that these two have rather beautiful faces, and so bear little relation to the fierce Elkstone monsters.



Barfeston wheel window

Another example can be seen on the font at Hallerton and also in the 'wheel window' at Barfeston in Kent.

Cont.

...Cont.

Here each of the eight dividers on the outside of the circular window is a column swallower. Perhaps the oldest examples we can see in Britain are in The Book of Kells. It is clearly a very ancient motif and fun to look out for. The Book of Kells also shows examples of Beard Pullers.

Beard Pullers are again mostly found in Norman buildings, though the motif has its roots in Islamic art, where beard pullers indicated dispute and conflict. When in time it entered the Christian culture, the symbolism was perhaps not fully appreciated and it seems to have come to represent discord with perhaps an exhortation to behave in a more seemly manner. It has also been suggested that these figures might be a symbol of punishment, possibly for perceived sexual deviation. The significance is not really fully understood by us today, as is the case with many medieval symbols.

There are two local examples in Romsey Abbey, so you can take a look next time you go into Romsey. The free leaflet given to you by the steward on duty will show you where to find the one in St George's Chapel. This capital has been interpreted for various plausible historic reasons as showing King Alfred victorious over the Danish leader, Guthrum, after defeating him at the Battle of Edington in 878. But why does Alfred apparently pull his beard? Again, one of the corbels on the outside of the vestry apse shows a man pulling or stroking his beard.



Romsey beard
puller



Winchcombe
Grotesque

Here are some other beard pullers which may interest you: the rather worn grotesque on the exterior of Winchcombe church and a detail from the shrine of St Manchan in County Offaly, Ireland. Two French examples also amused us: cross-looking figures at Dinan and a more resigned looking figure at Conzac in the

Charente. But why all this beard pulling and column swallowing? - It's all very mysterious!

Liz Hallett



Answers to Ron & Stella's Christmas Quiz

1. A button
2. 1843
3. Jacob Marley
4. North America
5. Rubik's cube
6. Canada
7. Theodore Roosevelt
8. Poinsettia
9. White
10. Christmas cards.
11. Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh
12. Sunday
13. Christmas Trees
14. George V
15. Tinsel



From the St. Mark's Register.



A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Leslie Richards was held in St. Mark Church on 14th November after a service of cremation.

Know that you are in our prayers and thoughts.



A prayer for Christmas

Loving Jesus,
you were born in a stable but worshipped by
the angels.

Be with all who are lonely,
and with all who feel distant from celebrations.
Be for us a living hope that lightens their
hearts.

Amen.



A Kitchen Garden—G4G

by Graham Roads

Now is the time for clearing and cleaning. What we do during the winter months can be really important to the success of the harvest next year. The removal of dead and dying foliage will help to reduce the chance of plant borne diseases. It also helps provide a blank canvas onto which you can begin to plan next year's planting. As with most projects, good preparation is the key to future success and the kitchen garden is no exception.

To perform at their best, different crops need different nutrients but also some TLC. By good planning, we can ensure we are not continuously growing the same crop in the bit of soil. Effective crop rotation helps prevent the build-up of disease in the soil, as well as helping to ensure there is a good variety of nutrients. A very simple rotation would be peas and beans followed by onions and roots followed by the greens, kale and cabbage, followed by potatoes.

Planning is also important when it comes to buying seed. Despite an approach which says only grow what you like to eat, there is still a great variety. For instance, if you like waxy potatoes, try Charlotte – they have the advantage they crop slightly earlier and, if properly stored, you can still be eating them in December. Try cavolo di nero instead of cabbage or kale. It is brilliant added to a bubble and squeak, with just a hint of chilli. Broad beans also vary between those planted in the early winter and those a bit later.



Cont. ...

...Cont.

If you don't like the idea of leaving most of the beds unprotected during the winter, it is worth sowing some green manure. These are plants which can smother weeds, prevent soil erosion and, as many belong to the bean family, can return nutrients to the soil when they are eventually dug back in. It is probably a bit late to sow green manure now, but the unseasonal warm weather might help.



On final thought might be the importance of cleanliness, remove damaged leaves and plants, remove weeds and, above all, keep cutting fresh herbs. You can't beat fresh flat leafed parsley sprinkled over just about everything – although never tried it with Christmas

pudding. Again, think about what you like. Fresh pesto in December is hard to beat.

As usual, all the information needed for growing vegetables successfully can be found on the RHS website:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/grow-your-own>

This also provides a great summary and good ideas on what to do now as well as recipes. It would be great if we could all put together a collection of recipes, focusing on stuff that we have grown ourselves. Send all thoughts, ideas and contributions to Rob and Chris. They are most welcome.

Graham Roads

From the Archives The Messenger December 1988



150 Years On!

The foundation stone of St Mark's was laid on St Matthew's day, September 21st, 1838, and to mark this anniversary the *Sorbus 'Joseph Rock'* (a yellow-berried mountain ash) was planted in the churchyard.

Ampfield Village Store

To many of the older residents in Ampfield the closing of the shop means the passing of a piece of History.

The White family opened the store during 1934 after it had been closed for some time. Mrs White was an old resident of Ampfield having lived in the village since 1902.

Soon after the shop opened the bakery part was added with Mr White running that side of the business, leaving Mrs White in charge of the shop. In 1943 the Post Office was opened with a section of the kitchen being used as an office.

The bakery part was closed down during 1955 and a new shop, the one currently in use, was then built.

Mrs White retired in 1966 when Mr Michael White, who had recently completed his National Service took over control of the entire business.

Newspaper deliveries were started during 1958.

Mr and Mrs White are still remaining in Ampfield where they have had a house built adjacent to the store.

Christmas Fair

The annual Xmas Fair on Saturday 19th November was a wonderful success, and we are grateful to all who made it so; those who prepared and manned the stalls, and those who came and bought. We made just over £600 and this is a marvellous result

Ampfield Cricket Club

This year Ampfield Cricket club celebrated their Centenary.

Special celebrations included the President's match when R R Mackenzie invited some cricketing friends to play Ampfield. Despite the inclement weather a great time was had by all, and a fixture for next year has been arranged. Tea for that day was sponsored by the Romsey Advertiser. On the August Bank Holiday Kumar Pattani organised a match which again was a great time. On both days a buffet was arranged by Neil and Tracey at the White Horse.

We finished third in the Hampshire League County Division 3, our highest position to date, having played 13, won 11, lost 2. 3 games were rained off and 1 club withdrew during the season. We lost our first game in the Hydro Village Championship and on Sundays we played 18 won 10, drew 6, lost 1, tied 1. Altogether a successful season.

In October we held our Centenary Dinner at Keats Restaurant when 62 members and wives were present. Our President R R Mackenzie presented the trophies: Faber Cup to D Emery(Captain); South Holmes Trophy to B Wassell; Attlee Shield to R Light; Norris cup to B Rothwell; President's Trophies to A Lambert (Best Bowler in the League) and I Coote (best batter in the League). Sunday Trophies went to D Emery (Batting) and M Charrett (Bowling), the Sunday Captain's player R Light and Sunday Fielding P Palmer, Saturday Captain's player S Fisher. Altogether a great year for Ampfield.

C F Mead (Sec/Treasurer)

Ampfield Get Together Club

There was a good attendance at the November meeting. Amongst the apologies, the Chairman reported that Miss Souter was admitted into the Southampton Eye Hospital yesterday for an operation for the removal of a cataract from one eye. After the operation she is expected to go into convalescence on Thursday at Chilbolton. He said the Secretary had a Get-Well card to be autographed by the members

Rotas for St. Mark's in December

Date	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Intercessions	Sides	Coffee	Music
4 Dec 9.30am	Tidy Church					Mark & Abbie
11 Dec 9.30am	Isaiah 35: 1-10 Jean	James 5:7-10 Ron	Jean	Sally C Phil	Chris	Organ
11 Dec 4pm	CHRISTINGLE - Volunteers needed, please contact Jean					
18 Dec 9.30am	Isaiah 7: 10-16 Heather C	Romans 1: 1-7 Chris	Rob	Daryl Robyn	Jennie E	
22 Dec 7.30pm	COMMUNITY CAROLS - Volunteers needed, please contact Jean					
24 Dec 3pm	CRIB SERVICE - Volunteers needed, please contact Jean					
1 Jan	No Tidy Church					

Flowers:

Christmas flowers - If anyone would like to do an arrangement for one of the Church windows that would be lovely. There is oasis in the flower vestry cupboards and trays too. Also some red candles can be place into the arrangement if you like. These can be placed in Church for the Carol Service on 22 December.

Coffee after Communion:

We need more volunteers please. If you are able to offer your services, please contact Jean Smith on 01794 519685.



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