

# The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of  
St. Mark Ampfield*

**September 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*

## **Vicar**

**Rev'd Victoria Ashdown**      Tel: 02381 788031  
email: revdvictoria@gmail.com

## **Ministry Team**

**Rev'd Vanessa Lawrence**      Tel: 02380 736671

**Mrs. Sally Kerson**      Tel: 02380 737617

**Mr. Jonathan DeVile**      Tel: 02380 736522

For any enquiries about baptisms, weddings or churchyards please contact the parish office, telephone no: 023 8073 7617

Email us at: **office@acnb-church.org**

Website: **www.acnb-church.faith**

Facebook: **www.facebook.com/acnbchurch/**

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*

**Churchwardens:** Mr. Daryl Pugh,      Tel: 01794 524307  
Email: ampfield.churchwarden@gmail.com

**Secretary PCC** Jennie Edwards      Tel: 02380 365041

**Treasurer PCC** Mrs. Pamela Morffew      Tel. 02380 411146.  
Email - acnb@gmail.com

**Any cheques should be made payable to Ampfield PCC please**

**Gift Aid Secretary** Mrs A Jeffery,      Tel: 02380 252865  
Email: nickandade@gmail.com

**Magazine Editors** Chris & Rob Kerr,      Tel: 01794 367104  
E-mail: rc.kerr@btinternet.com

**Distribution** Margaret Philpott      Tel: 02380 741831

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 I wrote last month, we're gradually starting to open the church buildings for public worship, while continuing to stream live online. The service pattern is:

**Sundays** (except 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month)

*09:30 Communion at All Saints*, streamed live online

Between 11:00 and 12:00 'Communion to go' available at one of the other churches (see website/weekly newsletter for which one)

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

*09:30 Worship For All online*

*09:30 Communion* at one of the other churches (see website/weekly newsletter for which one)

**Tuesdays:**

*10:30 Holy Communion in the glade at St Mark* (weather permitting)

**Thursdays:**

*Morning Prayer* online (all day)

**'Communion to go'** provides a prayer of absolution, Communion (bread only) and a blessing. There is no need to book – just arrive any time within that hour. If you would like to attend a Sunday service in person, please email the address below by the Friday before.

Following some initial technical glitches (thank you for your patience), the online services once again involve readers and intercessors joining from their homes. If you are interested in participating in this way, please do email (address below) we would love more people to be involved.

The coffee mornings continue – both on Wednesdays at 11 and on Sundays immediately after the online service. If you need the details for joining, please email us at the address below.

Email address: [joinin@acnb-church.org](mailto:joinin@acnb-church.org)

## Letter from Vicar Victoria

We come into September, in the Anglican church, into the Season of Creation and it starts in September. This is a time when we renew our relationship with our Creator God and all His creation through celebration, and appreciation of the gifts of nature and the beauty of our world and would normally be celebrating Harvest with Services and lunch together. We consider how God created the World and continues to sustain everything in it. We also think about how mankind, being tasked by God to 'steward' the earth. We were told to look after it and nurture it, and we consider what sort of a job we are doing.

Often, it is easy to look around our beautiful countryside in Hampshire and overlook the fact that there is something seriously wrong with the climate and the weather. This year we have had some warnings of rather more extreme weather ahead for us and for our children. An extreme heat wave in early August, followed by torrential rain in mid-late August. Whether or not you believe that climate change is man-made or simply science / sun spots or natural changes in our weather, what is now indisputable is that the climate is changing, and these changes will be negative for most of the planet.

We have seen through other incidents this year (wasn't going to mention the virus this month) that we are all connected as a planet and that decisions we make locally or nationally will affect the entire planet sooner or later. We can't take a purely local view on climate change.

We have been encouraged to eat less and move more for our own health and to help us resist the virus (sorry, second mention) but in reality, consuming less and walking or biking instead of using the car benefits the planet as well as our waistlines and our mental health.

Do keep going with the wonderful work I hear about, helping our neighbours, growing your own fruit and veg and sharing it. Recycling and eating local produce. You are blessing your own wellbeing and the planet with these new ways of living.

So here is the short prayer for our Creation to pray at home.

Holy God, earth and air and water are your creation,  
and every living thing belongs to you:  
have mercy on us as climate change confronts us.  
Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way we live,  
to reduce the energy we use,  
to share the resources you provide,  
and to bear the cost of change.  
Forgive our past mistakes  
and send us your Spirit,  
with wisdom in present controversies  
and vision for the future to which you call us  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.     Amen

With every Blessing.

**Victoria**



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.

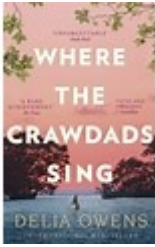
If you live in Ampfield and need help with collecting prescriptions or shopping  
**contact**

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

**or**

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

## Book Reviews



### Where the Crawdads sing: Delia Owens

Where the crawdads sing is the place "far in the bush where critters are wild, still behaving like critters". That is where Kya (the Marsh Girl) lived all her life. Her father brought the family to the marshland 4 miles from Barkley Cove, North Carolina after he was wounded in WWII. He was bitter, depressed, reclusive and mean. Finally, Kya's mother couldn't take it anymore and in 1952 when Kya was 6 her mother left and never returned. One by one Kya's 4 older siblings also left and none thought to take Kya along with them.

So Kya learned to survive on her own in the marsh, keeping away from her drunken father for the most part, until suddenly he was gone too. She grows up in isolation but finds a friend in Jumpin and his wife who offer advice and help keep her fed and clothed. There was one boy who befriended her, Tate Walker, who gave her gifts of feathers then later another boy, Chase Andrews. When he was found dead in 1969 Kya was suspected of his murder. I really enjoyed this book with a great 'twist' at the end, highly recommend.

**Rosea**



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

## From Small Beginnings



My earliest memory is probably my first day at school in 1949 at St. Faith's Primary

School in St. Cross, Winchester.

Our family lived in St. Faith's road, so I did not have far to go. I remember being hit in the face by a ball and running home up St. Faith's road on my first day.

Virtually no traffic at that time, so not the same concerns as today. It was all an enjoyable time with plenty of school friends and lots of play. We played hopscotch outside our houses. A lot of chalk - it did create a mess.

We all looked forward to winter because the outside toilets would always freeze up and we would be sent home. The weather always seemed much colder in those days. I remember the excitement one day when the house nearest the school had a chimney fire and we all had a ringside treat. I do also remember the free milk, I enjoyed it. Being a

church school, it was very involved with the lovely St. Cross church, so Sunday school and choir practise were part of the curriculum, lovely days. The school, dating from 1876 has been greatly enlarged now and is still going strong. The main difference today is the large amount of traffic during school time and all day, parked in that area.

In 1954 I started secondary school at Romsey Road County Secondary Boys School. The school had only opened two years earlier so it looked enormous and very smart. The school is today known as Kings School and is hugely respected and successful. I enjoyed my time there before leaving in 1959.

I particularly remember school dinners which always seemed to contain swede. I enjoyed swede when most of my classmates hated it, so I always had plenty. For dessert we often had 'frog spawn'. It was like a sago starchy pudding and again most of the pupils disliked it. I must have been a bit strange because, again, against the odds, I liked it.



I used to walk to school through Stanmore council estate, through what was known as The Valley. This was completely comprised of prefabricated houses, which looked really alien at the time. I believe they survived right through to the nineties. In those days all of us youngsters spent most of our free time in St. Cross meadows. We were always building camps in the undergrowth and also, sometimes, in trees. I was given the nickname fish hooks. This was because I was very good at catching minnows, sticklebacks, stone loaches and bullheads (miller's thumbs). Not for me a posh bamboo cane with a net on the end of it. I used a jam jar with string attached. A friend of mine at the time was always being very mischievous and used to drag me into all sorts of scrapes. He lifted a lock gate in the meadows one day with my help and flooded the meadow. He got his just deserts when the local farmer cuffed him round the ear. It must have been my angelic looks which spared me the same fate.

We used to buy fireworks, known as bangers and were always letting them off to the noisiest advantage. We set one off in a dead tree one day and, unknown to us, the fire brigade was called later because the tree was on

fire. I spent several days expecting a knock at the door but it never came. I clearly remember, at the end of 1955, watching Quatermas 2 on the television. This was definitely not for children and it really used to scare me but in an exciting way. Strangely enough I have that whole series now on a DVD and just listening to the title music, The Planet Mars Suite, reminds me how sinister it all was. Good memories.

The other passion of mine in the fifties was trainspotting, which I still indulge in today. Spotters today are known under the general heading of train enthusiasts, which sounds much more technical than train spotters. It has been lovely to go back in time and it does make me remember how enjoyable childhood was and how much we must encourage today's children to find childish enjoyment in this much more complicated world. Especially schooldays.

**Ron**



## Friends of Chapel Wood

It was a real delight to start our working parties again last month and we were all looking forward to getting together in August to finish a number of the jobs we had begun in July. First, we had to continue



the process of mending the perimeter fence where it had been broken by falling branches or rotting posts. Secondly, we had to give the hedging in the burial ground its annual trim.

We had a good turn out so we were able to get on with both. The

weather was just about perfect, not as hot as it had been but dry. We split into two groups and set to work. There is something very satisfying about mending fences – it's a woodland equivalent of a good spring clean. There is a certain amount of agility involved. Not all of the fences are placed on level ground. Some are on quite a steep incline, especially those around the pond area in Chapel Hill or by the footpath down to the fountain.



There is a need to carry the kit – coils of fencing wire, bags with tools and a collection of staples. The staples are interesting because there is a high requirement to have reasonable hand/eye coordination. This raises the subject of multi focus spectacle lenses. What is good at a metre is useless at six inches. By far the best policy is to be the Friend with the hammer. You will know if you have hit the wrong subject by the accompanying sound effects!

There is another good side to mending fences. You can easily find yourself in a position where there is a different angle on familiar sights. That is how we discovered that a large beech tree, growing behind the pond, near the junction with the A3090, had literally dropped a very large branch that was suspended in the canopy above. There was a call to our tree contractor the following week.

Meanwhile, away from this excitement, the more artistic members of the Friends were carefully exercising their topiary skills on the hedges that surround the burial ground. There is an argument that says this is possibly the most important job we do. The burial ground is an integral part of the church/woodland landscape. To have it presented attractively can make a big difference to many of the visitors to the wood. Although the hedges are relatively young, they are maturing nicely and provide excellent definition for the burial ground as a whole.

It was a good morning's work. Stuff had been finished, Friends had been met and news brought up to date. We look forward to next month. Hopefully, we will be able to have a look at the pond area, where the duck weed is gradually taking over. At some stage, we must organise our annual business meeting but more of that later.

**Graham**



# DOGS OF AMPFIELD

## LOST DOGS



Last week our dog Tilly escaped from the garden when frightened by the sound of thunder

(not quick enough to get her in doors). When she was two, she ran off in similar circumstances, only to be found the next day three miles away, having spent the night in a plant nursery greenhouse. Since then she has been spooked by the sound of rain on glass and thunderstorms.

After searching the surrounding area, we returned home extremely worried but received a 'phone call from a friend who lives in Shirley. "Tilly's on Facebook!". Unknown to us, Tilly's tag had come off and whilst she is chipped, she carried no obvious identification. Jess Cartwright, who was dog sitting Floss a mile away, had found Tilly exhausted in the fields some way behind her house. She had photographed Tilly and uploaded this to the Southampton Pets Lost and Found page on

Facebook. Our friend regularly checks this page and often circulates details of missing pets. So we were reunited within two hours. What a result! We encourage everyone to look at the websites on the next page and share details of missing pets. **IT WORKS!!**

***Learning from our experience, we suggest:***

- Always take your mobile phone with you when walking your dog (even better if it's charged!).
- Have your address, mobile and land line numbers on the dog's tag (not the dog's name). This is now a legal requirement.
- When you buy a new dog tag, purchase a spare at the same time so you always have one available. They can wear out quickly. Have a couple of extra holes made in the tag so that you can move to the next when one breaks. Join the webpages listed here and check and share regularly.
- If you can, carry a spare dog lead with you when walking.

This is especially important now as there are increasing reports of dog kidnapping since lockdown (The Independent).

The price of dogs has rocketed, a cocker spaniel can fetch as much as £3,500. So, we must all be careful and do our bit.

Many of us see Facebook and mobile phones as the curse of our times – but they have their uses!

### ***Facebook groups:***

Lost and found pets

Southampton

Lost and Found Pets - Romsey and Nearby Villages

### ***Dog Warden:***

Local Dog Warden:

**Andover 01264 368463**

(Monday - Thursday 8.30 - 5.00 and Friday 8.30 - 4.30).

Out of working hours

**01264 368000.**

### ***Local Vets:***

Orchard Vets, Romsey -

[www.orchardvetromsey.co.uk](http://www.orchardvetromsey.co.uk)

Mainstone Vets, Romsey -

[www.mainstonevets.co.uk](http://www.mainstonevets.co.uk)

Village Vets, Chandler's Ford - [http://](http://www.thevillageveterinarycentre.co.uk)

[www.thevillageveterinarycentre.co.uk](http://www.thevillageveterinarycentre.co.uk)

## **And now here is another Tilly!**

Tilly is a Blue Roan Cocker Spaniel.

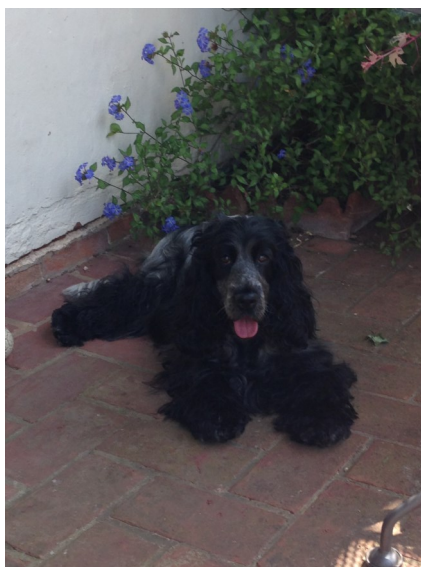
She is 9 years old.

She loves her food like most Cocker Spaniels do.

She is very kind and gentle with children.

She loves a bath but hates to be brushed.

She is a very good guard dog and protects her space. She loves going on walks and new adventures with the family.



**Julie**



## FAIRFORD CHURCH, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The Cotswolds have been an integral part of our lives for 50 years. Since making our first visit in 1970, there has rarely been a year when we have not returned. In terms of churches to visit, there are so many distinctive ones, large and small. The grandest, at **Fairford, Cirencester, Chipping Camden and Northleach** are of the perpendicular style. They all have tall square towers, opulent porches and rich interiors. They were financed by wealthy wool merchants in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. Fairford (St. Mary) epitomises all



these features. There is a notable Ampfield connection as John Keble was born in the town on 25 April 1792. There is a fitting memorial to him in the church. His father was also a vicar, and the house in which the family were raised is located nearby. The glory of the church is its magnificent stained-glass windows. There are 28 of them, each of the highest quality. In his book,

*England's Thousand Best Churches*, Simon Jenkins averred that, "Fairford is one of England's outstanding galleries of church art".

Another author, Susan Hill, was totally smitten when she visited and endorsed Jenkins' view. Indeed, she went further. In *The Spirit of The Cotswolds* she commented that the colours were "quite extraordinarily fresh ... and sing". She then, with the sharpest of eyes, describes the colours: "deep sea blues and greens, the ruddy brown of the Cotswold earth, the sharp acid green of apples, vermilion, scarlet, sun yellow ... "

The windows tell the story of the Christian church and would occupy some time to study them properly. Susan Hill concluded that “no



one could come away unmoved ... it would be worth coming from the other side of the world just for this”. The church also has superbly crafted choir screens and some amusing misericords.

The town is one of the most unspoilt in the Cotswolds. The dimensions of Cirencester Church (St John the Baptist) for such a small town are immense but without being overwhelming; it has an exceptional porch and a number of side chapels. Northleach (St Peter and St Paul) is famous for its brasses.



All the churches mentioned earlier in this piece are worth visiting. Chipping Camden (St James) contains England's only complete set of medieval altar hangings dating from the late 15<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Alan**

# WHAT'S GOING ON AT ST. MARK?

## PCC Meeting held on

**Monday 10  
August  
2020  
via Zoom**



All members of PCC were present.

Finance - our Treasurer, Pam, spoke about how generous the congregation and Friends had been during lockdown, when no one was able to attend Church. This enabled several months' payment of the Quota, and to keep up to date with paying the bills.

Services - Victoria spoke about the services that have been happening in St. Mark's and the Benefice. At present one service a month is held in St. Mark's, other Sundays there will continue to be a steamed service from All Saints. On some Sundays there is the chance to go to St. Mark's just for Communion and a blessing (between 11am and noon) – walk in/walk out arrangement. This has been very

popular.

The Messenger was discussed which at present is only available on line on the Ampfield Parish website. This arrangement will continue for now but possibly in the future there will be some paper copies printed again.

Annual Meetings (APCM) - we were unable to hold these meetings in April, but we now hope to go ahead on Sunday 25 October. It is not clear yet whether this will be "live" or on Zoom.

Churchwardens - at present we have only one Churchwarden, Daryl, and he is convalescing from a replacement knee operation. We have a vacancy for a second Churchwarden, and if anyone is able to volunteer for this post or would like to help out for a while, please contact Victoria.

Electoral Roll - if not already on the Electoral Roll and you would like to be, please contact Jennie (details below) and a form will be sent for you to complete.

Ampfield School – Victoria reported that the school had coped well during the recent months and the plan is for all children to return in September.

Cont....



### Gift Aid Envelopes – PCC

agreed to Adrienne's request to re-use the excess of envelopes of 2020, next year. Each person would be allocated a new number alongside their original one and the money donated will be entered against the correct date. This would save purchasing new boxed envelopes in December 2020.

### **Jennie Edwards**

PCC Secretary

[alan.edwards60@ntlworld.com](mailto:alan.edwards60@ntlworld.com)

or telephone 023 80 365041

### **Where does the money go?**



The Messenger has reported the recent costly repairs and improvements needed at St. Mark.

All churches have to pay a Quota to Winchester to help towards the cost of vicar's salaries, housing, pensions and a lot of other costs. St Marks has to pay £21104.00 this year, plus approximately £4100.00 to cover the cost of electric, oil, water and

insurance, together with unexpected repairs. This year our projected income from our congregation is £19875, this includes tax refunds. As you will see our outgoings exceed our income. Usually the deficit is covered by fund raising and rent received for the hall. This year due to the coronavirus we have been unable to rent the hall or fund raise.

How do we manage to pay our bills? The church is relying on donations from the congregation and friends of the Church.

The next large cost will be the windows, the quotes range from £35000.00 upwards. The friends of St Marks were going to embark on a major fund raising exercise over and above the general fund raising needed to pay the Churches every day costs. This has been put on hold due to the coronavirus. There is a large team of people who work tirelessly to keep the Church and grounds in good order for people to enjoy.

### **Pam Morfew**

Treasurer

[treasureracnb@gmail.com](mailto:treasureracnb@gmail.com)

or telephone 02380 411146

## Was it really that long ago...?

It was an incredible 164-days ago, at the time of writing (23rd August), in the early evening of 14th March 2020 that eleven Friends of St Mark gathered at their last meeting. It was important, we had set ourselves two tasks that have gone onto become our main purpose; they are, "how do we best..."

***"Encourage the local community to visit, engage with and appreciate the value of St. Mark's and it's grounds as an important part of the village" and...***

***"Raise funds to maintain the heritage and quality of St Mark's and the grounds that surround it"***

Nine days later these plans took a back seat to the challenge of Covid-19 and the lockdown, which in England began five months ago on the 23rd March 2020.

Throughout the past five months we have gone from almost complete isolation to some form of free movement with varying degrees of self-protection.

During this time St. Mark's and its grounds has become an important sanctuary for many,



Basking in the summer sunshine, the eastern entrance to St. Mark's

whether to pray or simply to walk in the grounds to enjoy fresh air and some personal, momentary time away from the constraints of lockdown Great Britain.

Thankfully, volunteers have ventured out to maintain the church building and it's grounds. The Church has progressively put in place measures to keep the congregation safe, culminating in a hugely popular on-line service which continues to experience strong participation via YouTube and Zoom. The Church has also provided a safe, physical connection with St. Mark's by offering a 'communion to go' at least twice a month where face-masked parishioners take it in turns to enter the church for communion and a blessing.



The stunning West Wall window, sadly in need of substantial repair

It is at times like these that St. Mark's is lifted from being just a part of the landscape to an important place for many, regardless of faith or practice. St. Mark's has an important contribution to make in the quality of local village life and we are doing everything we can to enable it to do so.

The Friends of St. Mark will be coming together again soon to revisit, in light of the ongoing challenges surrounding Covid-19, the tasks we have set ourselves. We will keep the local community up to date as things progress. In the meantime, if you would like further information on the work of the Friends, please contact

### **Mark Braund**

email: [markbraund@mac.com](mailto:markbraund@mac.com)  
Or phone:: 0798 222 000 1.

## Smiles for the month

*I ordered a chicken and an egg from the Internet, to see which comes first!"*

*"Despite the high cost of living, it remains very popular"*



*"I was struck by a bottle of Omega 3 tablets. Luckily, my wounds were only Super Fish Oil"*

**Mark**

A duck waddles into a New York book store and asks the manager: 'Got any grapes?'

The manager replies: 'No sir, I'm afraid that this is a book store and we don't sell grapes'.

The duck says 'O.K.' and waddles out.

The next day the duck returns and asks the same question 'Got any grapes?'

The manager replies 'Of course not. Can't you see that this is a book store?'

The duck says 'O.K.' and waddles out.

Next day the duck returns and asks the same question 'Got any grapes?'

This time the manager replies ' Listen buddy, this is a book store and if you come back here with the same question one more time, I'm gonna nail your webbed feet to this wooden floor.'

The duck says 'O.K.' and waddles out.

The fourth day the duck returns and asks the manager: 'Got any nails?'

The manager replies: 'Listen you aquatic freak, look around, this is not a hardware store. Of course we don't have any nails.'

The duck says: 'O.K. .. Got any grapes?'

**Roger**



## First wedding at St. Mark since lockdown Nicholas and Bethany



Nicholas and Bethany were married on  
15th August in St. Marks Church.  
photos by Marcel Grabowski  
([#marcelgrabowskiphotography](https://www.marcelgrabowskiphotography.com))

### and more good news...

Following Hannah's article in the Messenger sharing her experience of pregnancy during lockdown, Hannah and her husband Alex are happy to announce the safe delivery of their baby:

**Leo Alexander Wilson**  
**Born 29.8.20     8lbs 11 oz**



***Congratulations!***

## Parish Council Report

Traditionally, Parish Councils do not meet in August, but Ampfield Parish Council held a Meeting of the Planning Committee and Councillors were also busy with various projects.

We are extremely grateful to a local walker who alerted the fire brigade to a small fire in Chapel Woods on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. It began in some logs and fortunately it was found and extinguished before it could spread to the surrounding leaf-litter. Also in Chapel Woods, now that lockdown is easing we have been able to find a contractor to repair the two boardwalks. This work will take place soon.

Ampfield and North Baddesley Cricket Club were welcomed back to the Recreation Ground, where they are now playing carefully (Covid-19) regulated friendly games. The Pavilion is also available to hire again, although on-going restrictions mean that precautions needed for each event will need to be considered between the Parish Council and event organiser. The end of the nesting

season has allowed us to have the hedge cut back at the Recreation Ground, in readiness for construction of a new car park. We are finalising some details before the appointed contractor can set a start date.

On the home-page of our website (<https://ampfield.org.uk/>) there is link to our new website which will soon replace the current one. The new site was needed for better access by phones, tablets and screen-readers, and we have made changes to the layout. We welcome feedback. (If you are reading this later, we may have made the full transition to the new website.)

Our next Meeting is at 7pm on Monday 14 September 2020. Please check the Agenda on notice-boards or the website for the venue – we have provisionally arranged to hold this Meeting at Ampfield Village Hall, but this is subject to the Government advice nearer the time.

**Ampfield Parish Council,**  
[clerk@ampfield.org.uk](mailto:clerk@ampfield.org.uk)

## Café Bingham's

Café Bingham's will be opening mid to late September in a refurbished Keats Restaurant. It will offer breakfast, lunch and afternoon teas as well as private dining for private events. Look at its Facebook page or search online for [binghams@cafebingshams.com](mailto:binghams@cafebingshams.com).



Nigel Babb

*I thought I'd  
sell my Hoover  
- it was only  
collecting dust ...*





## The Applewood Smoker

During this extended period of lockdown and too much time to think about food, my husband decided to purchase, online, a



‘Smoky Mountain’ smoker. He had spent hours looking at video clips on YouTube and did lots of research about which was the best ‘smoker’ to buy. Then there was the tricky question of what meats to cook and after an exploratory visit to the Brazen Butchers at Cedar Nurseries we returned home with a shoulder of pork and a brisket of beef.

Once again, online, he purchased a variety of Rubs for the meat and having prepped the meat he set the smoker to cook for 8 hours. There was a lot of smoke to begin, which I guess from its name I should not have been

surprised about. This was followed by much checking, thermometer in hand and lots of lovely smells coming into the house. Well to say it was delicious is an understatement, the beef was amazing and the shoulder of pork was shredded to perfection and was now a proper dish of ‘pulled pork’.

When he enthused his golf pals with his tales of his new smoker one of them, a Knapp Lane golfer, very kindly stepped forward offered him some applewood from a tree he had just cut down. This had to quickly be reduced to an offer of a large bag full as the enthusiastic chef would have hired a trailer and taken all the wood!

Suffice to say we are looking forward to an applewood smoking and if anyone has any other good smoking wood then feel free to let me know .

**Kate**





## Ampfield School

Ampfield School fully re-opens to all children on Monday 7 September and we welcome a fresh new team to start the year. Miss Flood will be teaching the Infant Class and Mr Cascarini will be teaching the Junior Class. Both teachers are experienced and of a high standard after teaching at our sister school. John Keble CofE Primary School in Hursley. Mr Cascarini takes on the role of Senior Teacher to support Mr Roe (Executive Headteacher) and Mr Ware (Executive Deputy Headteacher) in the running of the school. The school also welcomes a new Admin Assistant, Miss Green, who will work at Ampfield in the mornings and at John Keble in the afternoons.

We are making arrangements for new applications for children starting school in September 2021 but you can call the school office on 01794 368219 for more information or to arrange a visit for admission during 2020/21 for current Year R - Year 6.

### **Marcus Roe**

Executive Headteacher  
Federation of Ampfield & John  
Keble CofE Primary Schools

## Chapel Wood Puzzle of the month



### What's happened here?

- a. The largest stick yet has been retrieved.
- b. A local lumberjack has cleared a fallen tree in Chapel Wood.
- c. Practising for the Highland Games.

Answer: This tree was  
blocking a footpath in Chapel  
Wood after recent winds.  
Thank you Graham!

## WE FELL ASLEEP

We fell asleep in one world and woke up in another.

Suddenly Disney is out of magic,  
Paris is no longer romantic,  
New York doesn't stand up anymore,  
the Chinese wall is no longer a fortress,  
and Mecca is empty.

Hugs and kisses suddenly become weapons,  
and not visiting parents & friends becomes an act of love.

Suddenly you realize that power, beauty and money are worthless,  
and can't get you the oxygen you're fighting for.  
The world continues its life and it is beautiful.  
It only puts humans in cages.  
I think it's sending us a message:

"Your are not necessary.  
The air, earth, water and sky without you are fine.  
When you come back, remember that you are my guests.  
Not my masters"

**Haroon Rashid**



## Ampfield Amblers

I count myself lucky that during these challenging times we live in an area of outstanding beauty, with a variety of walks on our doorstep. When I moved to Ampfield in 2017 my daughter gave me a custom made OS Explorer map entitled Gwen and Penny's Routes. At a Coffee morning held at the Ampfield Village Hall, the idea of a walking group was formulated. My aim was to organise a monthly walk on the first Tuesday of the month. Each walk to be approximately 4.5 miles, taking about ninety minutes to two hours.

The group has met more frequently as the guidelines were changed (socially distancing of course) and explored the local areas. The following walks have been completed. Details of most walks can be found on line.

Cranberry Park to Ladywell and back

Emer Bog

Mottisfont Estate walk National Trust website

Ampfield Woods

A favourite walk of the group has been the Ampfield Woods, particularly during the heat wave. The woods have provided shade from the sun and glimpses of wild life and even orchids. If you would like to join us for a walk, when we can extend the numbers my contact details are [gwensilvester@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gwensilvester@yahoo.co.uk)



**Gwen**

# CASTAWAY OF THE MONTH



**Kate McCallum**  
*shares her favourite music,  
book and luxury with our readers.*

## **1.Stranger on the Shore - Acker Bilk**

This is the first record I ever bought and it was for my mum who adored Acker Bilk. She said it took her away from her ordinary day and gave her time to dream.

## **2. Young Hearts Run Free - Candy Statton**

My all time favourite record which I have danced to for almost 25 years. It reminds me of my oldest friend Carole and the all night discos at the community centre in Slough. I passed by there just last week and although the original centre has now been pulled down it still made me smile to think of those great nights.

## **3. Brown Eyed Girl - Van Morrison**

Probably my Irish origin that has always drawn me to this song. It can get a room singing even on the dullest of days. I like Van because he says what he thinks and is a little wild at times.

## **4. Dock of a Bay - Otis Reading**

Otis Reading just makes me stop and listen, put my feet up and relax. I love the way this song soothes you, a record for a long gin and tonic on a sunny evening when my young babies had been settled down to sleep.



### **5. Dancing in the Moonlight - Top Loader**

This song is for my children when they were young and we would be travelling on holiday. We knew all the words and it would cheer us all up and stop the 'are we there yet?' Queries. I smile at those great memories whenever I hear it played.

### **6. Under The Boardwalk - Bette Middler**

I saw the film Beaches in my twenties and cried throughout but the best song of the film, for me, is this one. It's upbeat and sassy. Bette Middler was brilliant in the role and I've always wished I could sing like her but sadly I cannot□.

### **7. One Kiss - Dua Lipa**

For the last 15 summers we have a combined company/friends party which all my children and their friends come to. It is a big family event. In 2018 this song was on continual play at one point as everyone was dancing and happy. Sadly, the party had to be cancelled this year. Hoping to be back to normal next year, well you can only hope.

### **8. Unchained Melody - The Righteous Brothers**

This was the 'first dance' song at our wedding. The band went to the wrong venue and were an hour late. The wedding party was well oiled by that time and we only managed 2 minutes on the floor before everyone got up to join in!



**The record I would save** would be Young Hearts Run Free, so many wonderful memories of being young.

**My book** would be, Noel Coward's A Talent to Amuse which I read when I was 18 and working as a nanny. The family had an extensive library and for three years I extended my literary experience with this being my favourite.



**My luxury** would be my dogs although I'm not sure that is allowed. If not I would ask for a 'teach yourself Spanish' as it always sounds such a beautiful language.

## **RIDE+STRIDE**



### **Annual Ride & Stride**

**In aid of Hampshire & the Islands  
Historic Churches Trust**

During the last five months many of us have enjoyed being out of doors walking and cycling, mostly because restrictions on indoor gatherings have been limited. Therefore you may like to keep up your our exercise routine and consider taking part in the Annual Ride and Stride, organised by the Hampshire and Islands Historic Churches Trust.

The work of the trust is so important as it offers grants for the repair, maintenance and development of around 900 historically noteworthy churches in the county and St. Mark were fortunate to receive a grant from them when the bell tower was restored. Most of the trusts funds are raised through the annual ride and stride which takes place on Saturday 12 September when people will be sponsored to walk, cycle or even drive around a circuit of churches.

Taking part in the Ride and Stride gives an opportunity for us to see each other, at a safe distance, as well as raising money for our churches. A small group from St. Marks church will be taking part on an organised walk, if you would like to join them or sponsor them then please contact us by emailing [office@acnb-church.org](mailto:office@acnb-church.org).

Thank you for your support.

**Sally**

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Humans are a migrant people. Before the land was marked, we walked into the furthest corners of the earth. By mystery even the furthest islands were settled. It is the dust of the earth: carbon, that gives us life. In its abuse we make our stewardship pain. Pain for the earth. Pain for those who still walk. Truly we need forgiveness, for we do not know what we are doing.

The healing of our great act of earth harm begins in love. But the harm will not be swiftly healed. Among the consequences will be migrations driven by the earth's own pain. Unimaginable numbers of people may move. Through love our own lives may be preserved; even if we too join the newly walking peoples. Love is the only security for the wanderer and alien. In love, they are not other: they are us.

Our love is powerful, yet we know its limit and passing nature. Absent love, hatred and evil grows. Evil tears our dreams, condemns people of good will, and grows in power through every insufficiency of love. The only certain hope is the love that is God. It is the security by which all peoples may live and breath, and in it is the defeat of evil from everlasting to everlasting.

Every disruption brings fresh life. Life grows in goodness and hope by means of the love which is God. God-loved life pulses with luminous joy. It is the warrant that harbour and welcome may be found. It is a living fire, to be seen, not hidden. It is needed now for our broken world.

Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. Isaiah 55.7

**Ian Wiley**

# 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).

## **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

\*\*\*\*



*From the St. Mark's Register*



*We pray for the soul of of Katharine Mary Gardner whose funeral took place at Test Valley Crematorium, Romsey on 18th August 2020*

**Rest eternal, God bless**



## 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 (less if you would like to include a photo).

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## AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Bookings taken for private parties  
and receptions. Clubs and other  
organisations are welcome.

Good parking.

**For bookings ring  
Martin Hatley**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

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## Talk to us

**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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