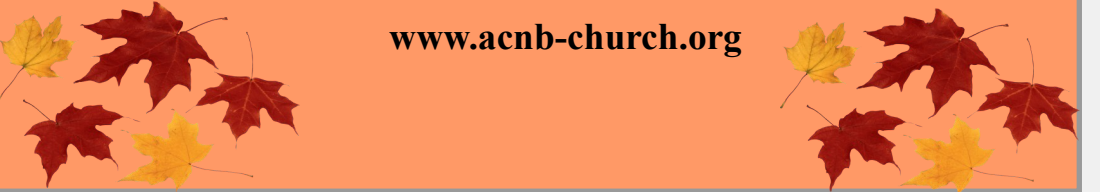


The Ampfield Messenger



***The Parish Magazine of
St. Mark Ampfield***

**September 2026
Vol. 76 Issue 9 £1**



www.acnb-church.org

The Parish Church of St Mark, Ampfield

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

Ministry Team

Vicar: Interregnum

Mrs. Sally Kerson, Lay Minister and Office Administrator

Tel: 02380 737617

Mr. Jonathan DeVile, Lay Minister Tel: 02380 736522

Mr. Keith Atton, Lay Minister

Beth Robertson, Children and Families Worker

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.org

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. Mark Braund Tel: 01489 860218

Email: markb@acnb-church.org

Mr. Phil Budden Tel: 07799 435 715

Email: philb@acnb-church.org

Treasurers and Gift Aid Secretaries Abbie West, Cathy Stokes

Email: treasurers@acnb-church.org

Magazine Editor Chris Kerr, Tel: 01794 367104

E-mail: cl.kerr@hotmail.com

Advertising Mr. Phil Budden Tel: 07799 435 715

Cheques should be made payable to ACNB PCC

DEADLINE:

The third Friday of each calendar month.

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

Contents

- 4. Letter from Sally
- 5. Weekly Service Pattern
- 6. A Day's Visit to London - July 2026 by Alan Edwards
- 9. Ron & Stella's Quiz Night
- 10. Friends of Chapel Wood by Graham Roads
- 12. - 19. Parish News
- 20. Ampfield Art Cass Gallery by Julie Trotter
- 22. What's on in the Parish every Week & Month
- 24. Romsey Festival Report by Sally
- 25. Words from a Garden by Anon.
- 26. From the Archives December 1954
- 28. Village News by Julie Trotter
- 30. What's on in the Village Hall by Martyn Hatley
- 32. Heaven's Grocery Store submitted by Diane
- 33. Cartoons
- 34. Thought for the Month
- 35. Answers to Ron & Stella's Quiz Night
- 36. Your Point of View
- 38. A Prayer for the New School Year
- 39. Contributions and Content

Looking forward to receiving your contributions for
next month's Messenger - now the summer is
drawing to a close it's time to get writing!

Cover photograph: Summer clouds over Morleys Green

Dear Friends

The Summer of 2026 here and in Europe has been marked by exceptional heat, unprecedentedly low rainfall and wildfires. While warm and dry conditions are not new, the science is clear that climate change has made this Summer hotter and dryer than it would otherwise be. We are not used to extremes in temperature, for many of us, 38C+ is just too hot yet that is the way things are heading unless real and radical change is made.

The Church of England, via our General Synod, has committed for the Church to be carbon neutral by 2030. This is an ambitious target, and I wonder how it will be achieved and yet there must be motivation and a goal, we can't sit and do nothing!

As a Church community, we can try to reduce our footprint: by doing such things as recycling, not using single-use plastics to sourcing food that is locally produced to reduce 'food miles'; from turning the thermostat down a degree in our homes in Winter to getting better insulation; from using our cars less to investing in renewable energy supplies, but of course this is just the tip of the iceberg. Nevertheless, we must do something!

Why are we doing all this? The obvious answer is because of Global Warming and the desire to preserve the planet. But for whom are we preserving it? Future generations? Yes... and God! As Christians we know that this earth is a gift from God and that we are charged to exercise stewardship. Sadly, our stewardship has been decidedly lacking in recent decades and our care for God's gift - creation - negligent to say the least. Everything we have is a gift from God and yet we often take it for granted. Now is the time for us to get real about the imminent crisis we are facing and our lack of gratitude to the God who loves the world so much he came to earth to be one of us in the form of Jesus Christ.

I do hope you had a lovely Summer and managed to enjoy some of the warmth, but it will be nice to look forward to the temperature being a bit cooler!
With love, Sally.

Sally Kerson



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	<u>Where</u>	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



A DAY'S VISIT TO LONDON – July 2026

By Alan Edwards

A recent visit to London produced the most memorable of days. We were there to see the play “Grace Pervades” which was about the relationship between Sir Henry Irving and Ellen Terry, two of the giants of the Victorian Stage in the latter part of the 19th century. The work was written by David Hare, one of our foremost playwrights, and starred Ralph Fiennes and Miranda Raison. And so quality and interest were guaranteed. Another catalyst for the visit was that Ellen Terry once lived at Smallhythe Place, our favourite National Trust house, located between Tenterden in Kent and Rye in Sussex. The house contains a museum devoted to her, which includes a small theatre in the barn (a most evocative experience), some of her costumes and in her library, are Shakespeare’s plays, duly annotated in her own handwriting. The play was interspersed with coloured photographs on a screen of Smallhythe, which prompted much discussion among the audience during the interval on how to find it. For Jennie and I it was a nostalgic afternoon.



Our cup was already overflowing. Our first port of call after disembarking from the train at Waterloo is normally having a coffee on the South Bank (Royal Festival Hall), and walking across the Hungerford Bridge, with its view of St. Paul’s, The Shard and the plethora of distinctive, modern, buildings along the Thames, until we reach St. Martin-in-the-Fields. It overlooks Trafalgar Square and is situated alongside the National Portrait Gallery and the National Gallery. I first visited the church, wearing short trousers aeons ago. My father’s side of the family are Londoners (and in the mid-19th century, Cockneys, who possibly were former residents of the Workhouse), and so London is in my blood. It always gives me a buzz.

Cont. ...

...Cont.

We have listened to many concerts there, attended church services and sampled tea, lunches and dinners. It has been an important part of our lives. What made this visit different, was that the foyer, which is the fulcrum of its activities, contained an exhibition celebrating its 300th

Anniversary. A pamphlet produced for the event is titled “Celebrating 300 years At the

Heart and on the Edge”. It then goes on: - Since the completion of this architectural masterpiece in 1726, the church has stood as a beacon in the heart of London, evolving from a literal church “in the fields” to a global landmark in Trafalgar Square... It has also long turned outwards towards people on the edge of society, offering refuge, welcome and practical care for those experiencing poverty and exclusion.



It's also a church on the cutting edge; it was quick to embrace new technologies and was one of the first churches to turn its crypt into a café, shop and events space, setting up a social enterprise alongside its worship and social outreach”...When it was established, it was the Royal Church (Buckingham Palace is just down the road). Its first Church Warden was George I. Later, Nell Gwyn left money to the church, including £100 for “clothes for the winter and such other necessities”.

It is famous for its work with homeless people, it launched Shelter and The Big Issue, hosted the first meeting of Liberty, and planted the idea of establishing Amnesty International, has a long association with the Pearly kings and queens, has a close connection with Christian Aid, supported the anti-Apartheid movement (the South African High Commission was nearby), hosted services of thanksgiving for the life of Nelson Mandela and more recently, provided social care and a meeting place for members of London's Chinese community. It conducts services for all faiths and is open twenty-fours a day.

Cont. ...

...Cont.

A friend of ours was full of praise for St. Martin. She arrived from Australia and was very lonely. She used to take her lunch into the church and slowly started building a social network. She eventually found work as a social worker. Though she has since returned to Brisbane, she was able to draw upon her experiences to help establish services in that city.

St. Martin is a unique church. Despite all our previous visits, our day in London was an exceptional and uplifting one.

Some of the narrative in this article has been taken from the St-Martin-in-the Fields Guidebook.



Alan Edwards

“A melancholy lesson of advancing years is the realisation that you can’t make any more old friends”

Christopher Hitchens quoted in the Observer

“Since we cannot get what we like, let us like what we can get.

We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned, so as to have the life waiting for us”

Spanish Proverb

Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

1. Which American novel features the character Scout Finch?
2. What is the most common letter in the English language?
3. What is the only continent with no active volcanoes?
4. What was the first toy to be advertised on television?
5. What animal cannot stick out its tongue?
6. What is the most frequently sung song in the English language?
7. Which fruit floats on water because it is 25% air?
8. What is the world's most expensive spice by weight?
9. How many continents are there on earth?
10. What is the term for harmful software such as Viruses or Ransomwares?



Ron Cobb

Answers on p. 35

F

riends of
Chapel
Wood
by
Graham Roads

The summer can be an uncertain time for the volunteers who look after Chapel Wood, our community woodland. You never know quite what is going to crop up, or how many people will be available to lend a hand when it does. With so many people away, July 2026 was a good case in point. We decided to switch Saturdays to the 18th July to give ourselves a bit more flexibility, but even then we struggled.

The one job that had to be done, come what may, was the clearing of the footpaths. The weather seemed to have produced perfect growing conditions for bracken, brambles and just about everything else. Our footpaths were becoming very overgrown. It was also becoming quite difficult to identify the posts used to mark the various paths in the wood.



We split ourselves into three groups, one to start at the north-western end of the wood and the other at the north-eastern end and our third person started in the south. Our optimistic hope was that, if all went well, we would clear about one third each. Ho, hum! It was fairly close. When we say ‘groups’, please consider this taking the most liberal translation you can manage.

Cont. ...

...Cont.



One area of note was the discovery of a large branch which had split from the main stem and was now resting partly on the woodland floor. Luckily, it was felt unlikely to fall on any of the footpaths, if the wind picked up.

Nevertheless, it is something we will need to get our contractor to look at over the next few months. Overall, it was a good morning, they always are. Chapel wood is a

lovely place. We went home quite content that we had done what we set out to do.

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. Next month we are hoping to finish knocking in the new footpath signs and start cutting back overgrown footpaths.



Graham

News around the Parish Ampfield

St. Mark's stall at the Ampfield Market

Next Market Saturday 5th September 10am - noon

Come along to the popular Market in the Village Hall and grab a bargain from our eclectic stall. If you have any items to donate please contact Pam or Chris.

Pilgrims

Saturday 19th September 10am

Following a summer break Pilgrims will meet on the 3rd. Saturday of each month, commencing in September. If you haven't been to one of these Pilgrim discussion groups before, then it is not too late to go along they are relaxed groups with no right or wrong answers. There is always cake involved!

Friends for Lunch

Sadly, we had to cancel July's tea due to the scorching weather. To make up for this we are returning in September this year. We now have a full list of members so early booking is essential. To book a place please contact Pam on :

02380 411146 or Email - pammorf@virginmedia.com



Flowers for St. Mark



September: Chris

October: Jean

Extra flower arrangements welcome for Harvest

News around the Parish

St Mark's Lead Theft

The church has had lead stolen from the roof again! This is the 5th time in a decade, and you may recall that lead was stolen from the main church ridge in 2024, and finally repaired last autumn. It was time we stopped putting lead back but St Mark's is a listed building so we needed permission to change the lead to a spe-



cial stainless steel that goes the colour of lead after 6-12 months. Crucially this stainless steel is extremely hard to remove and is low value, so is not worth stealing.

This time it is less obvious that lead has been stolen, although the scaffold for repairs is visible enough, and will be up for some weeks. But much more damage has been done, as the lead has been cut from the parapet walkways which drain the entire south roof, so any rain would have gone into the wall and/or the church in large volumes. Thankfully, it didn't rain before we got temporary protection in place, and we're now working out how best to replace it in a different material. Most of the lead on the church has now been stolen, and we hope to remove the remainder to avoid the damage and disruption of further thefts. Although the cost of the theft is insured, any pre-emptive replacement will be at our expense, but rest assured that we will remove all remaining lead that we can afford to. We hope this won't impact on our plans to insulate and refurbish St Mark's Room in the next few months.

Phil

News around the Parish

All Saints

The Birnie Boozle Band

Saturday 26th September 7.30pm

We are delighted that 'The Birnie Boozle Band' is making a return visit to All Saints. Tickets are £10 to include light refreshments. They can be purchased by using this [link](#).

Pilgrim Group

Wednesdays 2nd & 16th September 2pm - 3.30pm

Every second and fourth Wednesday afternoon. Lovely coffee and cake. We use a range of resource material to explore questions of faith. Our ethos is that we are exploring together, and there are no wrong answers - all are welcome to this relaxed and friendly group. Do [get in touch](#) if you would like more information.

The Open Teapot

Sunday 6th September

The next one takes place on Sunday. Come and join us for a cuppa and cake. The Memory Box Foundation will be bringing along lots of items from the past so we can all reminisce. Please do tell others about this afternoon, especially those who may be lonely on a Sunday afternoon. We celebrated one year of The Open Teapot on the 9th August and Carrie who regular attends, made us this amazing birthday cake.



News around the Parish

St. Denys

Wed 16th September 1pm

We will be visited by Nik Knight, Chairman and County Bat Recorder, of the Hampshire Bat Group. I'm sure his presentation is going to be very interesting and informative.



On **Wednesday 18th November**, the wonderful Consorte d'Amici return to give us another, brilliant, recorder recital. If you haven't seen them before, you really don't know what you're missing!

Trish

England's largest festival of history and culture!



Join us for four fascinating talks bringing the real people of our parishes and the everyday histories that shaped our villages back to life.

Friday 11th Sept: St. Denys

Learn about the village of Chilworth and those who lived there

- ♦ From the landowning Fleming family to Richard Searle, who rebuilt St Denys Church at his own expense, and sculptor Richard Cockle-Lucas - discover the people who shaped this Southampton village.
- ♦ St. Denys Church, Chilworth Old Village, Chilworth, Southampton, SO16 7NN
2:30–3:30pm

Tues 15th Sept: St. John's

A Philanthropist, A Poacher and An Airman

- ♦ The stories of three very different men: Robert Thorner, Charles Smith and Wing Commander John Dewar, all buried in the same quiet churchyard, yet worlds apart in how they lived and died.
- ♦ St. John the Baptist Church, Flexford Road, North Baddesley, SO52 9DF

Cont. ...

...Cont.

Wed 16th Sept: St. Mark's

The Story of St Mark, Ampfield

- ♦ Discover the church built under Revd John Keble's direction, the ideas that shaped its design, and the vicars who left their mark over the years.
- ♦ St. Mark Church, A3090, Ampfield, Romsey, SO51 9BU
2:30–3:30pm

Sat 19th Sept::St. Mark

Stories about the First Ampfield Vicarage

- ♦ From penny-farthing adventures to wartime refuge, hear the human stories of the vicars and families who called the old vicarage home between 1841–1968, including the birthplace of Revd Wilbert Awdry, creator of Thomas the Tank Engine!
- ♦ St. Marks Church, A3090, Ampfield, Romsey, SO51 9BU
2:30–3:30pm

*Pre-booking preferred for all talks - booking opens on
27th Aug via the
[Hampshire History Trust](#)*

***With many thanks to Liz Hallett for offering to give the
talks at St. Mark Church.***



The Birnie Boozle Band

Will be performing on

Saturday 26th September

**All Saints Church, Rownhams Road,
North Baddesley SO52 9ER**

7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm)

**Tickets £10 each and will
include light refreshments**



buy on line or use QR Code
<https://bit.ly/4hv31a5>



**or pay on night if tickets
are still available**



acnb-church.org

charity number 1214465

ST MARK'S MINNOWS

FUN AND FRIENDLY
BABY AND TODDLER GROUP!



TERM TIME THURSDAYS

9.30 – 11AM

COFFEE ON FROM 9.15!



Ampfield Art Class Gallery

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



Stroll on the beach - Sharon ,
oils .



Senorita - David, pencil and charcoal.



Bumble bee - Jerry, watercolour
and ink

2. Chinese New
Year lanterns -
Samantha, wa-
tercolour



.Berthe Morisot - John ,

Ampfield Art Class Gallery



Barn owl - Frank, pencil



. Hut in the Rockies - Nick, watercolour



Corfe Castle - Andy, watercolour



Van Gogh - John, pastel.

What's on in the Parish every week

St. Mark

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

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:

3rd 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:

Every second and fourth Wednesday afternoon.



The festival was a great success, and the two exhibitions entitled 'Windows into the Past' in St. Mark and St. John the Baptist Church attracted many visitors who left some affirming comments. The display of 'Thomas the Tank Engine' toys and books attracted a lot of attention and the connection with Revd. Wilbert Awdry.



If you would like to know more about the Awdry family, please join us for the talk on Sat 19th Sept:

[Stories about the First Ampfield Vicarage](#)



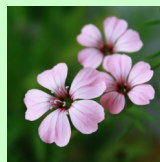
At St. Denys Tom Downes on the violin accompanied by our organist Clive Gregory delighted us with a recital.

We look forward to the next Romsey Festival in 2029.

Sally



Words from a Garden



He who plants a tree plants happiness

Chinese Proverb

What a desolate place a world would be without flowers. It would be like a face without a smile; a feast without a welcome.

C.L.Balfour

A real gardener is not a man who cultivates flowers; he is a man who cultivates the soil. If he came into the garden of Eden he would sniff excitedly and say: "Good Lord, what humus!"

Karen Caper 1890 - 1938)

The kiss of the sun for pardon
The song of the birds for mirth
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on Earth

D.F.Gurnet

A canny gardener plants four seeds
One for the rook
One for the Crow
One to die
And one to grow!

Anon.

And I couldn't resist adding this [Ed.]:

Adam was a gardener, and God, who made him, sees,
that half of all good gardening is done upon the knees.

Rudyard Kipling

From the Archives

THE AMFIELD MESSENGER

Vol.2. No.12

Threepence

DECEMBER 1954

CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH

- Tues. 30th Nov. S.Andrew A.M. H.C.9.50 a.m. Prayers
for the Church Overseas.
- Thurs. 2nd Dec. Confirmation at Hursley 7.30 p.m.
- Sun. 5th Dec. 2nd in Advent. Hook Rd. Service 8p.m.
Rev.Ian Maxwell preaches all day.
- Tues. 7th Dec. H.C.9.50 a.m. (Mothers' Union).
- Sun. 12th Dec. 3rd in Advent.
- Tues. 14th Dec. Mothers' Union Service 3p.m.Church.
- 15th, 17th, 18th. Ember Days: prayers for those to
be ordained.
- Sun. 19th Dec. 4th in Advent. H.C. Hook Rd. 9 a.m.
CHILDREN'S TOY SERVICE 3.30 p.m.
- Tues. 21st Dec. S.Thomas A.M. H.C.9.50 a.m.
- Sat. 25th Dec. CHRISTMAS DAY.
- THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
- Holy Communion 7 a.m., 8 a.m. (with hymns) 11.15 a.m.
Family Service for parents and children
and everyone 10.30 a.m.
Bus leaves Beechwood Crescent 7.40 a.m.
- Sun. 26th Dec. S.Stephen M. Christmas I.
Holy Communion 8 a.m., 12 noon & 7.30 p.m.
Other Services as usual.
- Mon. 27th Dec. S.John A.E. H.C.8 a.m.
- Tues. 28th Dec. Holy Innocents.
- Sat. 1st Jan. H.C.9.50 a.m.
- Sun. 2nd Jan. Christmas 2. CAROL SERVICE 6.30 p.m.
Bus leaves Beechwood Crescent 6.10 p.m.
Other services as usual.

----- WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

W.I.Hall DECEMBER 4th

3 p.m.

Entrance 6d.

Children 3d.

W.I. Christmas Whist Drive, Thursday 16th Dec.

Vicarage Working Party Wed. 1st, 2.30 p.m.
Hook Road Gardeners' Club, Tues. 7th, 7.30 p.m.

From the Archives

ALTAR SERVERS

I. T. CAWTE, M. H. FUSSELL, C. E. HAPPE, D. E. SLADE.

BELL RINGERS

J. PACK, N. A. BETTRIDGE, P. DOWN, J. EARLE, C. B. HEMSTRITCH
D. E. SLADE, D. S. BETTRIDGE, B. BARTER, C. JONES.

The COUNTY LIBRARY is open at 3.45 p.m. every Wednesday during term time at Ampfield School.

There is a Ministry of Food WELFARE FOOD CENTRE at EARLES MEAD, opposite the Church (Tel. Braishfield 336). National Dried Milk (Full Cream), Cod-Liver Oil, orange juice and vitamin tablets are obtainable any week-day when anyone is at home (which is nearly always).

Will local organisers, secretaries and correspondents please send to the Vicar by the 16th of each month information, notices, or reports to be included in the next month's Messenger ?

Village News

The Ampfield Market.

Our next market will be on September 5th, when we will begin celebrating our 27th year which seems unbelievable! I already have a full house with lots of new stall holders waiting for a chance to take part. On behalf of the Market team I'd like to thank everyone who comes along to our lovely market - your loyalty and support is very much appreciated. I hope you've all had a wonderful summer and we'll look forward to welcoming you to the next market on September 5th.



Julie Trotter

The Ampfield Market

(Established in 2000, now in its 27th year !)

**will take place
on**

Saturday Sept. 5th 2026

**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. Also, honey, preserves, plants and pet food. Cards, jigsaw puzzles and books. Collectables, unusual crafts and jewellery. Bric a brac, seasonal treats, beauty products, eggs 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 October 3rd 2026

WHAT'S ON IN THE AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL

JOIN IN ONE!

MONDAYS

PILATES WITH HANNAH PLOM – 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 323037** (**NB.** **This is a new phone number.**) 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

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 PLOM - **6.25 to 7.30pm** 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 27th 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 dressmaking, knitting or other textile projects. If interested email Michelle michelleewaters@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

DIARY DATE *The next POPULAR FUN QUIZ is on FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2026 7.30pm in the Village Hall £5 per entrant inc. bar snacks. Book a place or table now & just pay on the night.*



Heaven's Grocery Store

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago.

One day I saw a sign that read "Heaven's Grocery Store"

As I got a little closer, the door came open wide,

And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.

I saw a host of ANGELS. They were standing everywhere. One handed me a basket and said "My child, shop with care".

Everything a Christian needed was in the Grocery Store,

And all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for more.

First, I got some PATIENCE; LOVE was in the same row.

Further down was UNDERSTANDING; you need that everywhere you go.

I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH.

I couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST for it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me run this race.

By then my basket was getting full but I remembered some GRACE.

I didn't forget SALVATION for SALVATION is free,

So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.

Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,

For I thought I had everything to do my MASTER'S will.

As I went up the aisle I saw PRAYER and I just had to put that in,

For I knew when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.

PEACE and JOY were plentiful, they were on the last shelf.

SONG and PRAISES were hanging near so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the Angel, "Now, how much do I owe?"

He just smiled and said "Take them everywhere you go".

Again, I said, "How much do I really owe?"

He smiled again and said:-

"MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG, LONG TIME AGO!"

Submitted by Diane

If you have six oranges in one hand and eight bananas in another, what do you have?

Big hands.



What's the difference between ignorance and apathy?
I don't know, and I don't care.

Why don't scientists trust atoms?

Because they make up everything!



Thought for the Month

Jonathan Sacks, then Chief Rabbi, pointed out that the Hebrew Bible, along with the words “*You shall love your neighbour as yourself*”, no fewer than 36 times commands us to love the stranger. He goes on to say:

“We encounter God in the face of a stranger. That, I believe, is the Hebrew Bible’s single greatest and most counterintuitive contribution to ethics. God creates difference; therefore it is in one-who-is-different that we meet God.” ...

...“The abstract language of rights fails to enter into the depths... It suggests that the particularities of a culture are mere accretions to our essential and indivisible humanity, instead of being the very substance of how most people learn what it is to be human. In particular, it under states the difficulty and necessity of making space for strangers – the very thing that has been the source of racism and exclusion in almost every society known to history. If we are to live in close proximity to difference, as in a global age we do, we will need more than a code of rights, more even than mere tolerance. We will need to understand that just as the natural environment depends on biodiversity, so the human environment depends on cultural diversity, because no one creed has a monopoly on spiritual truth; no one civilization encompasses all the spiritual, ethical and artistic expressions on mankind.”...

...“The test of faith is whether I can make space for difference. Can I recognize God’s image in someone who is not in my image, whose language, faith, ideals, are different from mine? If I cannot, then I have made God in my image instead of allowing him to remake me in his.”

These words are from ‘The Dignity of Difference’ by Jonathan Sacks (2002) quoted by Richard Brand in his sermon at St. Mark on the 16th August.

Answers to Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. To Kill a Mockingbird
2. E
3. Australasia
4. Mr Potato Head (1952)
5. Crocodile
6. Happy Birthday to you
7. Apple
8. Saffron
9. Seven
10. Malware

“Everything’s already been said, but since nobody was listening, we have to start again”

André Gide, quoted in The Washington Post

Your point of view

Last month we asked for your response to Pope Leo's comments on AI:

"So-called artificial intelligences do not undergo experiences, do not possess a body, do not feel joy or pain, do not mature through relationships and do not know from within what love, work, friendship or responsibility mean"

When Pope Leo XIV speaks

I tend to listen and agree with all he says about AI.

We are subject to AI more often than we think. There are the frivolous & ridiculous AI created images on social media which can be harmful, but also there is much good in AI too. It's a case of rubbish in, rubbish out and I have experienced some of it.

AI created the record of my dental appointment which was placed on my medical records before I could pay the dentist's fee! It also helped me research several things recently and in that respect at least AI made my life easier.

AI is a great tool but it's not always accurate and it's wise to check. AI dumbly repeats the mistakes input by humans and this dumb human fell for it. Once. The many good things about AI come from human minds, like medical diagnosis and development. It's the good aspects of AI that I prefer, the things that needed all of the human qualities Pope Leo XIV spoke of.

The potential for AI seems to have no bounds. Will we see a greater force for good or an uncontrolled monster who becomes our master?

I will keep my faith in humanity and a critical eye on reality. A bit like Pope Leo XIV actually.

Paul

For next month, take a look at this extract from a recent study by YouGov:

"Our latest Big Survey takes an in-depth look at the relationships, values and expectations that shape family life — and finds that 39% of Brits wish their family was closer than it is. But do Brits think family is more important than friendship? Should unhappy couples stay together for the children? Are pets really part of the family? And what do we actually owe our relatives?"

Cont. ...

...Cont.

1. Most Britons say family is important to them, with two thirds saying it is “very important”
2. Six in ten Britons say they come from a close family, although more than a third say their family is not close
3. Almost four in ten Britons say they would like their family to be closer than it is
4. Mothers are the family members Britons are most likely to say they have a particularly close relationship with
5. Women are more likely than men to keep in regular contact with family
6. Two thirds of Britons say family is more important to them than friendships, although younger Britons are more likely than older people to prioritise friends
7. Most Britons with adult children say they are “friends” with at least one of them
8. Britons in relationships overwhelmingly say they get on well with their partner’s family – including their mothers-in-law
9. Half of pet owners say they consider their pets to be family Members to the same degree as human relatives
10. Most Britons think families today are weaker than they were in the past
11. Most Britons do not think couples raising children need to be married
12. Britons are more likely to say unhappy couples with children should separate than stay together for the sake of the children
13. The family obligation Britons are most likely to recognise is that adults should care for their parents if they become ill in old age
14. On most other obligations tested – including housing adult children, helping with grandchildren, supporting family members financially, or tolerating disliked relatives – Britons are more likely to say it is up to the individual.”

Looking forward to hearing your views on family life.

A Prayer for the new school year



Lord, thank You for the gift of a new school
year.

Let this first week be filled with fresh hope,
new beginnings,
and great expectations for what is ahead.

Amen.



CONTRIBUTIONS and CONTENT

DONATIONS :

Sort code: 82 12 08 Account No: 40239302

Account Name: ACNB PCC / Reference: Magazine

ADVERTISING

Please send to: Phil Budden Tel: 07799 435 715

Email: philb@acnb-church.org

Application for designs and rates for both commercial and charity advertisements will be agreed before submitting copy/drafts for inclusion as JPEGs in high resolution not PDFs or for any graphic design work that you may require to be published. The quality, copyright and content are the sole and legal responsibility of the advertiser.

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of Editors or PCCs nor will they accept any liability for such. They are not responsible for any of the views, statements or opinions expressed in the contributions and any reliance placed on them by the reader is at the readers sole risk.

Copyright is the legal responsibility of the contributor and not that of the editors or PCC with regard to any content. Advertisements are not endorsed or guaranteed on any product or services referred to in, or the content of, such contributions. Every care is taken on content, but possibly there could be cause for misunderstanding that was not intended.

NIGEL GUILDER

FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Serving the Community of Chandler's Ford and surrounding area for over 35 years

Nathan House, 27 Hursley Road, Chandler's Ford, SO53 2FS

Nigel Guilder Dip FDMBIFD

Lucy Guilder Dip FD MBIFD

John Firth Dip FD MBFID

Sarah Hayward Dip FAA

24 HOUR PERSONAL SERVICE

02380262555

www.nigelguilder.co.uk

Pre-paid Funeral Plans Available



Blackwell & Moody Ltd.

**Monumental Masons and
Restoration Specialists**

Jeffrey Higgins

**Magdalen Masonry Works,
Alresford Road, Winchester,
Hampshire. SO21 1HE**

Tel: 01962 852 476

Fax: 01962 850 865

Email: blackwellandmoody@gmail.com

Why not rent St. Mark's Room?

Wood floored room in open wooded churchyard:

- toilet and kitchen facilities
- vehicle access for organisers
- use of gopack tables and chairs, if required
- small carpark and nearby road-side parking
 - 7.7m x 7.7m
 - £15 p.h.
- use of church may be possible



**Over 100 years
of service
to the local
community**



**The Family
Owned Funeral
Directors**

The Peace
family have
proudly served
Romsey and
the surrounding
area for three
generations.



Experienced and Flexible

Honesty, integrity and transparency are at
the heart of our beliefs.

We understand every funeral is unique.

Modern Professional Facilities

Our premises have complete facilities on site
and our dedicated team are available
to support you 24 hours a day.

www.ahcheater.co.uk

ROMSEY
01794 513393

NORTH BADDESLEY
02382 358860

AVAILABLE 24 HOURS

Ampfield Parish Council
Ampfield Village Hall,
Morleys Lane
Ampfield
ROMSEY SO51 9BJ
☎07922 118840

AMPFIELD to ROMSEY
DIAL A RIDE

A transport service for disabled or elderly people who cannot use ordinary buses. We provide a door to door service using specially adapted vehicles, for shopping trips and other individual transport needs.

Tel: 01264 356808
www.tvcs.org.uk

Good Roots Garden Services

I have 20 years experience in horticulture and specialise in garden maintenance, small landscaping & repair works' I can either work with you to improve your outside space or offer a 'spruce up' service. Please get in touch so I can come and chat with you about what your garden needs with a free, no-obligation visit.

07749 299227

Tel. Pete Hale on :07749299227 or email pete@goodrootsgardening.co.uk



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

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



Autism Ambassador

Southampton - Hampshire
Isle of Wight - Portsmouth

2026-2027

Jo Hooper

BA (Hons) – RNMH - Reg. MBACP
Autism Ambassador

Counsellor, Psychotherapist, Trainer

Working with your emotions, thoughts and
feelings

Contact me for an informal chat today

- Website: <https://positive-people-partnerships.com/>
- Email: jo@positive-people-partnerships.com
- Based in Romsey, Hampshire
- 07450 347910

