

# The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of  
St. Mark Ampfield*

**January 2021**

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**£1**

# The Parish Church of St Mark, Ampfield

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

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

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The office is staffed 9 - 12 noon, Monday, Wednesday & Friday.  
*Please let us know if you have any news of those who are sick, in trouble, leaving or about to arrive*

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

# Online Worship

As we start the new year, unfortunately, COVID-19 infection rates are very high. In order to help keep everyone safe and well, the team have decided that, for the time being, services will once again be online only. This also means that there will be no Communion to Go.

We do realise that this is disappointing but the church is very much still here for you. The online services are available on the church website ([www.acnb-church.org](http://www.acnb-church.org)) and on our [YouTube channel](#) (to which we encourage you to subscribe):

Sunday 9:30am – Sunday Worship or Worship for All

(Worship for all 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)

Tuesday 5:15 – Visual Compline

And our zoom coffee activities continue on Sunday after the service and on a Wednesday at 11:00am. For the zoom details please email [joinin@acnb-church.org](mailto:joinin@acnb-church.org).

Also, the church buildings are still available to book for private prayer (use the [contact form on the website](#) or email [joinin@acnb-church.org](mailto:joinin@acnb-church.org)).

We love hearing from you so do get in touch with news or prayer requests. And please do send any photos you'd like to share in the weekly email. We look forward to worshipping with you in 2021 online and eventually in person.

**Abbie West**

## Contents

4. Letter from Vicar Victoria
6. Dogs of Ampfield: Virtual Fun Dog Show
8. Covid Babies: meet babies born in lockdown to Ampfield families
10. Friends of Chapel Wood by Graham
12. Pandemic Language by Sally Kersen
14. Happy New Year: a poem by Imogen Grosberg
15. Covid: You've got to laugh
16. Recipe of the month: leftover curry
17. Ampfield Friends: Information about support available during Covid
18. Memorials of Ampfield by The Rev H M Lake MA shared by Nick
20. Castaway of the Month: enjoy Jo's choices
22. Thought for the Month: by Ian Wyllie
23. Friends for Lunch: memories of Jean Freegood by Kate

## Letter from Vicar Victoria

As I write we are approaching Epiphany, the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas and into the beginning of a New Year. Although it hasn't started that well there is hope that this year will be much better than the last! In the Church Epiphany marks the change of season, as the wise men bring their gifts to the Christ child we look towards a new year with renewed hope and ask God to bless us in our life of faith. One of the ways that do this is to mark the doorways of our churches and our homes with a special blessing, and I thought perhaps you might like to do the same; -The practice of writing on doorways has a long history. Back in Deuteronomy 6:9, (just after the Ten Commandments),

***These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.***

Moses used it to help the Israelites remember how to be as people of faith. It also brought to mind the Passover, when the blood of the lamb was splashed on the doorposts as a sign that all inside were under God's protection. Today, chalking the doorway is a visible symbol of God's presence, peace and blessing. I don't know about you, but I could use a bit of that! You will need some chalk (well it's your doorway so you can use what you like!) and an outside doorway. Write these letters in chalk either above the door, down the sides, or on the doorstep.

**20 + C + M + B + 21**

The 20 and 21 are the current year (so change it to 22 or 23 etc in future years). The crosses remind us of Jesus and of the star that guided the Wise Men to him. The letters C, M and B are for their traditional names (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar), but can also stand for 'Christus Mansionem Benedicat', which is Latin for 'May Christ bless this house'.

Write the letters first, spaced out, then the numbers, and finally add the crosses. As you do so you might like to say:

***Peace be upon this house and upon all who enter here. Amen.***

***Bless this house and all who live and visit within. Amen***

***God, please bless (names of people) who live in this house.***

***May it be for them (us) a place of peace and blessing. Amen.***

Speak the words of Aaron's blessing to each other, then re-enter the house.

***The Lord bless us and keep us;  
the Lord make his face shine upon us  
and be gracious to us;  
the Lord turn his face toward us  
and give us peace.  
All: Amen.***

*(Numbers 6:24-26)*

*I pray that this New Year will bring to you new blessings and new opportunities....*

*God shall watch over your going out and your coming in, now and for ever.*

*(Psalm 121:8)*

Every blessing,

**Victoria**



## DOGS OF AMPFIELD

We all missed our Fun Dog Show at St. Mark's Fête this year. So here's a round up of the dogs that appeared in the Messenger last year for our 'virtual dog show'. They are all winners!



Mollie  
Trim, taut & terrific



Larni  
Glossy coat



Daisy & Willow  
Best friends



Maisey and Bonnie  
Little and Large



Massy  
Wise and smart



Ruari  
Cool dude



Tilly  
Golden Oldie



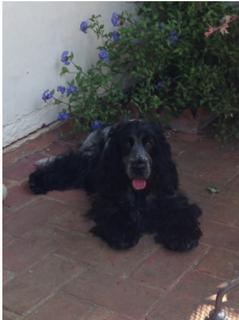
Charlie  
The inquisitive one



Stanley  
Waggy tail



Ffion  
Appealing eyes



Tilly  
Chilled out



Gracie  
Stars & Stripes  
forever!



Nutmeg  
Sweet & true



Dudley  
Cheeky smile

# Covid Babies

Last month we asked our readers to send in photos of babies born during the pandemic. Perhaps, reflecting the demographics of Ampfield, we should not have been surprised that they consist of 6 grandchildren and one great grandchild!



We start with Leo, who's mother Hannah wrote about being pregnant in lockdown for the Messenger. She and her husband Alex were living with his parents in Ampfield while waiting to move into this area, As you can see, he is thriving!

Frederick bodhi Birmingham was born on 30 March at Kingston hospital, a brother for Oscar and Coco. He is Annie & Oggie's grandson.



Winona was born in July and is the granddaughter of Marilyn and Paul. This was Marilyn's first cuddle in August after they had all isolated for 2 weeks. They have not seen Winona since October.



Robin and Nora welcomed their first Great Granddaughter Lucie into the world.

Born in December, Andrew cuddles his first grandchild Jacob John Anthony.



Valentina Belle daughter of first time Mum Jasmine and Dad David was born in September in Winchester Hospital. She is also the first grandchild of our recently appointed Church Warden, Mark Braund.

And last but not least, Chris and Rob's granddaughter Lottie Alice Amelia, born in April.



## Friends of Chapel Wood December 2020

It might possibly be the result of too many sausage rolls over Christmas but the events of 12th December 2020, our last working party, seem a very long time ago. It is a curious fact of life that the beginning of a new year can bring about such a change in perception. Stuff seems fresher. The light seems clearer and brighter. It is as if the sun is saying to us "Hey, you guys, I'm on my way back, you know. Just be patient." Despite all of the challenges we face currently, this year this seems particularly significant.



One of the more parochial challenges we face in Chapel Wood is the annual leaf drop. Whilst it is quite nostalgic to be able to kick up the dry leaves walking through the woodland, in practise the grass beneath the leaves can suffer from the lack of light and the introduction of moss and disease. Where the grass is important, it is necessary that the leaves are blown clear. Therefore, in the burial ground and the glade, our leaf blowers got to work. When the session drew to a close, the cruciform area was almost entirely clear as was a good part of the glade.



Another winter job is to inspect the way-marker posts, these posts are placed strategically on the footpaths to enable visitors to walk around the paths in the wood without (hopefully) getting lost. Thus, it is important to be able to see the next post from the previous one. Cont...

...Cont

These posts are substantial, too good to throw away, so we had refurbished a number over the summer, which were ready to go back in the ground. With so many tree roots around, installing posts is quite a tough job but it was great to see them back on duty by the time we left at the end of the morning.

In addition to compacting leaves, the non-stop autumn rain had reduced our piles of bonfire material to a soggy, boggy sort of mess; the sort that would not burn in a month of Sundays. Therefore, before we could build and enjoy this year's bonfire, we needed to dig out the now unrecognisable pile of plant gloop, let the air get in to dry it all out and rebuild. Fingers crossed we can build an effective bonfire in January!

In our lovely parish, we are lucky to have Chapel Wood. In the woodland habitat with its associated wildlife, we can experience first-hand the beauty nature has to offer. It also enables people to get out for a bit of exercise in the fresh air. Somehow, the incidence of the coronavirus adds a certain something to this experience, which makes it seem especially important. We have some major projects planned for 2021 and we are keen to make a start. Happy New Year to everyone.

## **Graham**



# Pandemic Language

Coronavirus has led to an explosion of new words and phrases. This new vocabulary helps us make sense of the changes that have suddenly become part of our everyday lives.

This new vocabulary also helps people articulate their worries about the biggest health crisis we have seen in generations. It brings people together around a set of collective cultural reference points that we have mainly learnt from the media. In the absence of the regular social contact, shared talk is an important part of helping people feel connected to one another and therefore the following words have become very familiar to us all. Words such as “self-isolating”, “social distancing” “pandemic”, “quarantine”, “lockdown” and “key workers” to name just a few.

The way we greet each other has also changed, many of us are now so familiar with the hand waving on a Zoom meeting, from a window or from across a street. Whilst a handshake is naturally now never given, in some cases it has been replaced with an ‘elbow bump’ a gesture akin to a ‘high five’, now considered, by some, as a safe way to greet another person.

And what about the word Covid-19 itself? Well there are many variations and these include “coviditot (someone ignoring public health advice), “covid party”(on line parties via Zoom or Skype), and “covexit” (the strategy for exiting lockdown). Or how about ‘the rona’ and “Miley Cyrus’ (Cockney rhyming slang).

Then there is “covid burnout” describing the stress that many are under because of the pandemic especially those who work in hospitals and other essential workers. No doubt before the pandemic is over new words will emerge as they have in the last month as we face a “new covid variant”.

There are of course the words that the Government keeps announcing to remind us how dangerous the virus is and to act accordingly: to wash our hands (hands) to wear masks (face) and to make sure we keep a distance from each other (space).

Our personnel interaction with people has also changed as we urge each other to “stay safe” which more than ever means , I hope you don’t get the virus.

So as we start another year we are all pinning our hopes on the Covid vaccine, but as we all know this will take time to roll out, so until then we all have to be careful in how we conduct our everyday lives in the middle of this health crisis.

Wishing you a Safe and Healthy 2021

**Sally Kersen**



**Nigel Babb**

# **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**By Imogen Grosberg**

**We wish you a year full  
of friends being cheerful  
of happiness, laughter  
and true peace of mind**

**New Year's Resolution  
to bring a solution -  
less tension, less worry,  
keep calm;**

**you will find real friends all  
around you,  
contentment surround you  
and may each firm handclasp  
be for auld lang syne**

Alan Edwards contributed this poem by his late friend, Imogen Grosberg, written several years ago. Alan wondered whether "elbow bump" might replace "firm handclasp". Let's hope that one day we will be able to clasp hands firmly again!

# Smiles of the Month



## Covid—you've got to laugh ...

The worst thing I ever bought was a 2020 Year Planner.

2019-Stay away from negative people; 2020-stay away from positive people.

The world has been turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay Indoors.

Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?

I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch him/her with a six foot pole" would become a national policy.

Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go into a bank with a mask on and ask for money.

I was stung by a bee last week — twenty quid for a jar of honey.

What was the name of the first Scotsman?  
MacAdam

## Leftover simple 'English' Curry

This recipe is a long time family favourite. It will probably make curry snobs sneer - no grinding spices, no faffing about! But a perfect way to use up leftovers from Christmas (or any roast).

Leftover cooked turkey, cubed

Leftover gravy

Leftover roast vegetables, chopped

Onion

Sultanas

Chutney

Curry Powder

- In a large non stick frying pan fry the onion in a little oil and add curry powder to taste.
- Add the gravy, a handful of sultanas and a spoonful of mango
- chutney.
- Add leftover roast veggies if you wish, but probably not the Brussels Sprouts!
- Add the turkey and cook for about 15 mins over a low heat.

And that's it! You can add yoghurt if you like, or even a glug of leftover cream. Sprinkle with something green.  
Serve with basmati rice.

### Words of Wisdom

"There is no greater impediment to the advancement of knowledge than the ambiguity of words" **Thomas Reid**  
(**quoted by Roy Tucker on Coronation Street**)

If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping in a bed with a mosquito.

In response to Covid-19

**AMPFIELD**

**NEIGHBOURS**

working with

**unity**

The Test Valley Borough Council Volunteer Support Group

---

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**

# MEMORIALS OF AMPFIELD HANTS 3

## By The Rev H M Lake MA

From consideration of the water we pass to the roads.

The main object of roads is to link up places of importance and incidently to provide means of communication between the hamlets and the towns.

In connection with the history of Ampfield there are four places of importance, whose story runs back into the dim ages of the past. On the one hand there was Romsey, a town of great antiquity, termed by the Romans "Roman alnsula" owing to the fact that the ancient town and Abbey then stood upon an island, one side of which was washed by the river Test, and the other by a stream which now runs through the town. The present Abbey building goes back to the early part of the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Then again there was Winchester, a town of greater importance and antiquity than Romsey, for we know that it existed in the time of the Britons who called it "Caer Gwent", (the camp on the fair plain). By the Romans it was called "Venta Belgarum". Winchester became the metropolis of south Britain, and subsequently of the Kingdom of Wessex, from which time it was the frequent residence of the English and Norman Monarchs some of whom were crowned and others held parliaments here.

Between Romsey and Winchester there lies a village, also of great antiquity – Hursley, previously spelt Hurstleghe, (hurst, a wood and leghe, a clearing in a wood), which is believed to be a British settlement.

The Rev John Marsh, curate of this parish 1786-1820 who wrote a book "Memoranda of the Parishes of Hursley and North Baddesley" gives it as his opinion that there was anciently an encampment of considerable extent a mile or two north of the village, still plainly to  
Cont...

Cont..

be traced with no fewer than eleven barrows, which on being opened some years since, were found to contain human bones, with decayed oren.

He also believed that a battle was fought here about 837 AD between the Saxon and the Danes. Whether correct in these surmises or not there is not the least doubt but that Hursley, like Ampfield, began its history in very early days, when a settlement was made in a clearing in the wood.

The history of Hursley is linked with that of Merdon Castle, built in 1138, by Henry de Blois, Bishop of Winchester, on the site of a Roman encampment as is generally thought.

From very early times there must have been a road to enable the people of Romsey and places beyond to reach Winchester, and for convenience sake this road would run through Ampfield and Hursley. There is every reason to believe that this road existed, passing out of Romsey through Cupernham and along what is still now called Jermyn's Lane, and continuing by what is still the high road. As evidence of this Jermyn's Lane is carried at one point over a stream by a bridge, which is commonly called "Bloody Bridge" the name recalling a tradition that Cyneigils, the first Christian King of Wessex (611-643 A D) who founded a Church at Winchester and gave for the maintenance of its Ministers there all the land within a circle of seven miles, met his death beside a brook in Jermyn's Lane.

The lane derives it name from a family called Jarman, who at one time owned the property of Abbot's wood.

To be continued. Contributed by **Nick**



## Castaway of the Month - Jo Hooper



Music is a huge part of my life; I love listening to it, singing along to it and dancing to it. One of my earliest memories is watching Top of the Pops with my Dad; he watched and I danced and sang my way around the lounge. I did ballet for 6 years so found a love of Tchaikovsky and classical music too, but my absolute passion is anything from the 50's and 60's and Elvis Presley. I fell in love with him when I was about 8, whilst playing my mum and dad's record collection, and finding a double A side of Elvis singing Can't Help Falling in Love and Rocka Hula Baby; boy, was I devastated when he died. So here goes.

**Can't Help Falling in Love, Elvis Presley** - well this won't come as a surprise. So difficult to choose an Elvis song, but we had this played at our wedding, on the organ, while we signed the register, so it will always have a special place in my heart.

**Dance of the Dying Swan, Tchaikovsky** - this is so sad, but so beautiful. It reminds me of my ballet days, going to the theatre to watch different ballets (which Mum and I often do/did) and Anna Pavlova. Whenever I hear it, it just gets me right in my soul.

**True Love Ways, Buddy Holly** - I love the simplicity and power of this beautiful song, and the stringed instruments just fill me with emotion. Dear Buddy, he died so very young and he was so talented; he left us with such a legacy of brilliant songs.

**What a Wonderful World, Sam Cooke** - I first heard this song when I went to see a stage show at the Nuffield Theatre. I was about 14 and this song just blew me away. When I came home I found out who it was by and still listen to it now.

**Born Free, Matt Munro** - I fell in love with the film, with Elsa the lion, the song and then Matt Munro; he had such beautiful voice. The lyrics just fill me with hope and positivity, and feeling very blessed, that I was born free.

(The other one!) **What a Wonderful World - Louis Armstrong** - who doesn't love this song? It makes me go weak at the knees. Louis' rich, deep voice and those lyrics, with the simple melody - gorgeous.

**I the Lord of Sea and Sky** - it is so very difficult for me to choose a favourite hymn but if I had to choose just one, I think it would be this one. I remember so clearly the first time I sang this, in St Mark's, it reduced me to tears. The words just make the hairs on the back of my neck stand up and the tune is perfect. Here I am Lord.

**When the Saints Go Marching In** - my dear Dad was a player, in the B Team, for Southampton FC, and a life long supporter, so this has got to be on my list. To celebrate my parents' 60th Wedding Anniversary we had afternoon tea, and a sing-a-long, around the piano, in St Mark's room. We finished with this song, and although my dad had quite well developed dementia by then, he knew all the words to this one, and sang along. Happy memories.

The book - again, so difficult to choose, as I also have a passion for books. However, I am going to plump for **Wind In The Willows by Kenneth Grahame**. When I was at primary school, the teacher would read to us for about 10 minutes at the end of the school day. When I was about 8-11, the teachers asked if we had read Wind in the Willows, and when we said "no" they replied "Oh well, you're a bit old for it now!" How daft is that? I have since read it myself and love it, and made sure I read it to my boys at bedtime. I just love all the characters and their adventures; it is so rich and I think you can never be too old for Moley, Ratty, Badger and Toady.

**My luxury item** - would have to be a toothbrush. Can't come downstairs in the morning, or go to bed, without cleaning my teeth!



## **Friends for Lunch**

### **Remembering Jean Freegood**

Friends for Lunch are very sad to report that one of our lovely, long standing members, Jean Freegood passed away suddenly on Sunday 3rd January. Carol Butler kindly informed us and as a friend of some 25 years she will miss her dearly.

Carol was always the driver as Jean was diabetic and her eyesight was poor. However, Carol assured me this did not stop Jean being a real trooper, and carrying on regardless. She still cooked and cut her grass, determined not to let this debilitating disease get the better of her. Determined would be the word!

On a happier note Jean's granddaughter had her second great grandchild on Christmas Day, which she was lucky enough to spend with her family and guess who she called when she got home, yes it was Carol.

Jean will be warmly remembered and we will keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

**Kate**

**From the St. Mark's**  
**Register**

The funeral of Jean Rose took place in St. Marks church on 31st  
December 2020 followed by a burial in the churchyard.  
*Please remember her in your prayers*

# 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).

**Hampshire public libraries are currently closed for browsing** for the remainder of the national lockdown however, they are offering many services. Check their website for details.

## **Nextdoor.co.uk**

Neighbourhood hub for connecting with local services.

## **Online Facebook groups:**

### **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.

## **Recommended online suppliers:**

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

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

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

## **Local Representatives**

Member of Parliament: Caroline Nokes; Phone: 01794 521155

County Councillor: Alan Dowden; Phone 02380 266458

TVBC Councillor: Martin Hatley; Phone: 02380 254040

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

## Thought for the month

The Christmas story is full of Angels. Not nice metaphorical angels, but fearful bearers of the news of heaven, breaking into the both ordered and hardscrabble human life. As we live through the Third Lockdown of Coronatide, God's holy angels who announced the birth of the Christ in Bethlehem, are still on the loose.

These days of rampant Coronavirus leave us with knowledge of the gravely sick, only held in life by medic's bounden hospitality to strangers. Our friends known and not yet met, drifting in the breathless sleep of the nearly dead. These are the days of angels, of inexplicable closeness, unexpected apparition, and the hope of life even as grief surrounds us.

In the days to come, when the pandemic recedes, grieving, survivor and spared alike will measure these days, and their happenings. The choice to muzzle, domesticate and submerge our experiences will be before us. This is neither good, nor godly, nor healthy. It is though the easy path. Harder, but wiser is to enter into the midst of the experiences we have had and be changed by them.

**Ian Wyllie**



## Contributing to the Messenger

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

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

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

Email to: [rc.kerr@btinternet.com](mailto:rc.kerr@btinternet.com) (tel. 01794 367104)

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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)**

  
**Good Roots Garden Services**  


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 Please get in touch so I can come and chat with you about what your  
 garden needs with a free, no-obligation visit.   
 Tel Pete Hale on :07749299227 or email [pete@goodrootsgardening.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)**

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

Jo Hooper  
BA (Hons) RNMH Reg. MBACP

Counsellor, Psychotherapist, Mentor,  
Based in Romsey

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Working with your emotions, thoughts and feelings  
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