

The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of
St. Mark Ampfield*

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The Parish Church of St Mark, Ampfield

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

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DEADLINE: The third Friday of each calendar month.

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

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Letter from Vanessa

Dear Friends

The sun is shining, and my gorgeous magnolia is in blossom! Have you been to St Mark's yet to admire the carpet of bluebells that is covering the church yard? It feels like summer is coming ... I can almost hear the chinking of the ice in the Pimms...

Talking of Pimms, are you raring to go for the fete on 3rd June? It's going to be a brilliant occasion, and the team have been working hard, organising food, music, games and of course the dog show. The raffle has some amazing prizes, so do buy lots of tickets, and come along to support the work of your local church.

As you know, St Marks is part of a Benefice of 3 parishes, including North Baddesley and Chilworth. We have just launched a new pattern of services across our benefice, which means that St Mark's has a 9.30 service every Sunday morning. There is something for everyone, from the café style service that is Tidy Church on the first Sunday, to the more familiar Holy Communion. St Mark's is well known for great coffee, so come and give us a try!

We can support you in other ways too, particularly with big life events that can be difficult, joyful or exciting. These occasions often make us think about where we are with God – what does it mean to have faith and doubt and questions, and where are we being challenged in the adventure that is our journey with God?

I'm looking forward to sharing the adventure with you this summer

Vanessa



Weekly service pattern

Sunday Services

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

Midweek Services

When	Where	What
Tuesday, 10:30	St Mark, Ampfield	Small group Communion in St Mark's room, followed by coffee
Wednesday, 19:00	All Saints, North Baddesley	Communion in a peaceful candle lit space in the midst of your busy week





First Sundays are changing, with *Worship for All* replaced by two new services at St Mark, Ampfield and All Saints, North Baddesley, starting on May 1.

We want first Sundays @ ANCB to offer a mix of services welcoming people of all ages, on-site and online. So here's what we've got planned. We're looking forward to seeing you at either or both!

9:30 @ St Mark, Ampfield - Tidy Church

Tidy Church is a short service, on-site and online (recorded or streamed on our YouTube channel). It'll share the same theme as *Messy Church* (see below), but be less activity-based. There will be coffee and croissants, an introduction, a reading, a short reflection on the reading, some prayers, and songs. It's a chance to meet up and think about a Bible story and about God in an accessible and bite-sized way.

11:00 @ All Saints, North Baddesley - Messy Church

Messy Church uses hands-on activities to encourage adults and children to explore Bible stories and learn about God. We'll start with drinks and elevenses to pick up before the service starts at 11:00. In *Messy Church* we will have a reading, do a range of activities based on the reading for everyone to explore together, have a short talk, prayers, and sing some songs.

These are both exciting services that we hope will help us grow from what we've done before to provide more for people of all ages to come together and learn about God.

Until we're able to stream, we'll record and post the service, but it won't be live. We'll let you know when and where you can watch *Tidy Church* online.

Benefice News

A Bench For Claire

December last we said farewell to Claire Ludwell who had passed away and although the church was full for her funeral and we had an opportunity to grieve together we have not had the chance to celebrate her life.

Not only was Claire a major part of the life of Ampfield village, she played an even bigger part in the church. She sat on the church council for many years, had been a church warden, sang in the choir until it disbanded, was part of the flowers, brass and cleaning rotas. Claire was a regular sidesperson, always ran the 'teas' at the fete and helped at many of the other fundraising events, too many to list. I am sure there are things I have missed but I hope you can see just what a wonderful lady Claire was. Probably the most important thing to point out would be Claire's love of people. She spent many hours in the churchyard and often stopped to speak to visitors, dog walkers, friends and actually anyone who happened to appear.

So, to best remember Claire, the church would like to erect a bench in the glade outside St Mark's Room. If you would like to donate towards the bench that would be wonderful. Pam Morffew, church treasurer, has set up a restricted fund for the purchase of the bench:

Lloyds Bank Account Name : PCC Ampfield

Sort Code: 30:92:94

Account No: 01254722

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this article and if you can support this lovely memorial to Claire we would be so grateful. Once the bench is in place we will hold a celebration of Claire's life for which, like her, we would love to see everyone. We hope to announce a date for the celebration during the summer months.

Kate McCallum St Mark's Church Council

Benefice News

The Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal — a great result!

For the last three months the money raised through Lent Lunches and St. Mark's stall at Ampfield market has been donated to the Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal. We are delighted to report that the total was **£920**. We would like to thank all those who attended the lunches and donated their unwanted gifts to the stall. The market stall continues and re-gifted items will be gratefully received.

A new home for the North Baddesley Community Library

North Baddesley community library is having to move out of its current premises and will be moving into the foyer of All Saints church with a children's library area on the balcony. There was an article about the move in the Romsey Advertiser which you can read on our [website](#). The library will be open 3 times a week, including overlapping with Welcome Café and Sunshine Saints which will hopefully encourage people into the building for all 3 activities.

St. Mark's Summer Raffle -

Win an Apple iPad (latest model) !!

The summer raffle is back - tickets are now on sale from members of the church. The raffle will be drawn at the Dog show and Fete. In addition to an iPad, prizes include:

John Lewis/Waitrose vouchers

Smart speaker

Luxury Hamper

Plus many other great prizes

Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

1. What is the capital of Finland?
2. How many bones are in the adult human body?
3. How many valves does the heart have?
4. Who has been the first minister of Wales since December 2018?
5. What is the name for a zebra crossed with a donkey?
6. Which novel begins - "It was a bright cold day in April and the clocks were striking thirteen?"
7. Who invented the world wide web in 1990?
8. In cockney rhyming slang, what is a dog and bone?
9. What was the name of Britney Spears first single?
10. What does the AC button on a calculator stand for?



Answers on p. 33

Baddesley Division County Councillor's

Annual Report 2022/23

This is my 31st year as your County Councillor. I serve on the Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee, and I am a member of the Hampshire Pension Fund Committee and Board

Waste and recycling are going to change. The New Government Environment Bill sets out changes for waste management. In October 2021, a **Joint Municipal Waste Strategy** was agreed by **Project Integra**, The County Council lead this with 14 local Borough, District & Unitary Councils. They agreed:

- *An entire system approach*
- *Commit to a Twin-Stream for dry recyclables*
- *Reduce contamination across all waste streams*
- *Increase reuse of bulky waste*
- *Improve service performance and delivery*
- *Improve communications*

The Borough Councils are responsible for the collection of waste, and the County are responsible for the disposal of waste. They are required to put in place a way to dispose of weekly collected Food waste. Until this is completed there is slow progress towards the above. I will update residents as it occurs.

My Parish Council have applied for a trial of a “**20 mph is Plenty Zone**” on a road through our Parish, which passes two primary schools and a leisure centre. Any Parish can get involved in this campaign information is on the web. Other Counties have already introduced 20mph Zones.

The Highway Lighting Scheme for the remainder of the Baddesley Road in Ampfield has been delayed, by an SSE objection to the County Scheme at the last minute.

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The County Council's lighting team now must produce an alternative design. I have requested that this is carried ASAP, to have this road fully lit by next autumn. The finance has already been allocated to HCC by the applicants as one of the many conditions for approving the Care Complex development.

In July 2021 the Prime Minister announced that he wished to reorganise Local Authorities. **The County Council attempted to set out a new plan of different responsibilities for each tier of local government, with themselves gaining more control. The Districts, Boroughs and Unitary authorities were not prepared to accept the New Deal as it was first proposed, and they are in negotiations with the County Council.**

The Hampshire County Council tax will increase by 2.99% resulting in the precept rising to £1390.86p for a Band "D" property. Local Authorities expected to be fully recompensed for all their Covid Expenditure. This however did not materialise. Most authorities were only funded for about 60% of their overall costs. £61.7 million will need to be drawn from Council County reserve funds to balance this year's budget. The Leader himself Cllr. Mans, who is stepping down in May, admitted without more government funding the long-term viability of this council is at risk.

The Government's Levelling Up White Paper aimed at tackling regional inequality, has been published promising improvements in education, broadband, transport and more. However, it is difficult to know how any of this will be achieved without any extra funding.

During the last twelve months I have allocated all my community funding allocation to various group organisations, including parish councils, within my division.

HCC Cllr Alan Dowden



A Retiring Nature - 2

by Lynda Emery

In beginning to write this second part of A Retiring Nature, I should point out that these are my ramblings rather than musings. The latter seeming much more learned and thought through, while the former are just my trains of thought - often delayed or overcrowded!

On retiring 12 years ago I brought to mind the experience of friends who took up lots of hobbies, pastimes, committee work and childcare in order to fill what they thought would be days with nothing to do. They became swamped, and somewhat overwhelmed at times, by their various commitments. I was determined to only take up or take on what I really wanted to do. I did not want to be one of those whose life was more hectic than when they were employed in work. I don't think things have worked out too badly (though my husband may say differently when I'm asleep on the settee at 9.00!)

I looked at my interests ... gardening, local and family history, child development ... and decided how they would fit into a retired lifestyle. I didn't, necessarily, do this consciously or at one point in time. The process evolved with some evaluation along the way.

The gardening had always been a joy in my life and, with working part time, could be given the continuity it needs even when I was teaching. Now I was free to spend whole days outside - weeding, mowing, edging (bit of a 'thing' with me, I'm afraid) and generally tending to and enjoying the plants. My garden was small but provided pleasure. In my 'new' garden (we moved 10 months ago into my Mum's house after she died) there is greater fun to be had as the garden is about 3 times larger. I have made a pond, chopped down shrubs which had outgrown themselves, made new flower beds, bought and propagated new plants and just , generally 'had a ball'! To wake to a flowering crab-apple peeping in the bedroom window is just wonderful. I shall hope to continue gardening for many years yet but, as the future is always an unknown,

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I have already decided that once I cannot cope we will move elsewhere. To see a garden gradually deteriorate would be awful.



At school I disliked History lessons as they seemed irrelevant. As I aged and became part of history, it all became much more real and I understood that all those folk in the past were just like us, working their way through life as best as they could. This led to my interest in local history and, eventually, to genealogy. Before my retirement I joined the Romsey Local History group and attended workshops, talks and film shows. Attendance at these frequent, and very interesting, meetings was increased as more time became available. I guess my enthusiasm was noted and I was asked to join the committee. I soon found out that it was not for me. The fellow members were all lovely people, but I found myself at Committee meetings on beautiful mornings when I could have been doing something much more enjoyable, so I decided to quit. I continued to help with selling and delivery of their publications and attend the meetings when Covid allows. I feel that in retirement, particularly, it is important to “know” yourself well enough to be able to say “no” to activities. The social history knowledge that is gained through a study of genealogy and local history is fascinating and, when it can be related to one’s own past family, gives a real flavour of past lives. Somehow this seems to add clarity and relevance to the life being lived in these retirement years.

In my next article the people in my retirement world will be centre stage. Children, grandchildren, friends, and those encountered in the pursuit of hobbies and pastimes. My enthusiasm for children and their development comes to the fore as I tackle the challenges but overwhelmingly, the pleasures of childcare!



Lynda Emery

Friends of Chapel Wood by Graham Roads



When you hear on the news that, at any one time, the incidence of Covid is causing havoc within British industry, the Friends of Chapel Wood can now provide irrefutable evidence that this is entirely plausible. At the time of our April working party, we had 40% of our brave woodlanders laid low with Covid or similar. Nevertheless, despite only having four volunteers available on the day, a great deal was achieved as you will see.

Our first job was to repair the fences along the north-eastern boundary. These are post and wire fences, which appear to have been rearranged on a regular basis. This time, the loose wire had caught a dog being walked in the wood, so action was needed. Armed with an assorted collection of equipment, we managed to unwrap all the loose wire from where it had been left, straighten it out again and re-staple it to the posts, adding extensions where necessary. It will be interesting to see how long it remains like that! It will not deter someone who does not like fences but, at least, it shows intent.

Whilst this was going on, the other half of the team set to work repairing the natural fence we had built between the glade and the open woodland. Over time the woodland material degrades and needs to be re-staked and topped up. When we had been coppicing holly and birch trees in March, we had identified suitable stems that could be made into stakes by creating a point at one end. These were set out at intervals to hold the fence in position.

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BEFORE

We could then infill the gaps using material taken from the arisings of the coppicing morning in March and the wind damaged branches taken from the church paths. This is a surprisingly therapeutic task as the fence grows instantly in front of your eyes. It also provides a home for unwanted foliage. The observation was made that the result resembled Becher's Brook of Grand National fame. Perhaps this should be another challenge for the forthcoming dog show?

After all this excitement, a cup of coffee and a chocolate cookie were very much appreciated. It had been a good morning. We hope all our colleagues who were laid low this time will fully recover and be able to join us again in May. We managed to save some stuff for them to do. The Friends meet at 09:45 in the church car park in St. Mark's. All are welcome.



AFTER

Graham Roads

What's on - save the dates



A great Village Occasion !

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend
Thursday June 2nd - Sunday June 5th 2022

I am compiling a dairy of special events to mark this occasion which will hopefully involve all the village groups and will be as inclusive as possible.

Friday 13th May:

A Village Hall 'royal' themed Quiz to herald the start of the celebrations. Featuring a bar and a raffle. Tickets £5. 7.00 for 7.30pm start. Teams of 6. Contact martin.hatley@btconnect.com or call 07970 501050 to book tickets.

Friday 3rd June:

A Fun Day in and around St. Marks Church. 11.30 - 3pm. This event will replace the annual Church fete and will feature a dog show, barbecue, various stalls, cream teas and a splendid raffle. To enter the dog show will be £2 per class. Free admission to the fun day, but donations warmly welcomed.

Saturday 4th June:

The Ampfield Market, 10 - 12 . Many sales tables and refreshments and a truly 'Royal' theme. Everyone will be encouraged to wear fancy dress or red, white and blue. Prizes will be awarded for the most creative!

What's on - save the dates

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Saturday 4th June:

Ampfield Cricket Club League home match against Cadnam, starting at 2pm on the recreation ground. An afternoon tea with a selection of sandwiches, scones and cakes will be served during the match. Please contact Dave Hunt on 07976 413522 for further details.

Sunday 5th June:

Martin Hatley will lead a village walk via Slackstead, which will include a woodland trail in Chapel Wood. Meet at the Village Hall and the walk will start promptly at 10.30am. The walk will be free and all ages are very welcome to come along. The walk should finish at 12noon. Contact martin.hatley@btconnect.com or call 07970 501050 for more information.

Sunday 5th June:

1- 3.30pm An open and free invitation for everyone to get together on **Morley's Village Green** to share a picnic with friends, family and neighbours. Please bring your own food and drink and candelabras ! There will be music to enhance this special Ampfield celebration to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Potters Heron Hotel will be offering a special Platinum Jubilee afternoon tea as one of their menu options from June 2nd until June 5th.

Please come and join us for as many of these events as you can to make this a truly memorable village occasion. Please contact julie@ampfield.org.uk for further information on any of the above events.

Julie Trotter

What's on

St Mark's Church Ampfield
3rd June
11.30am to 3pm



JUBILEE CHURCH FETE & DOG SHOW



In the church
grounds and
Chapel Wood



Raffle



Fancy dress for all



**Side shows for
the children**



BBQ



Afternoon tea

Fete Enquiries: Tel **02380 737617** email **office@acnb-church.org**
Dog Show Information and Entry: Tel Kate on **07738467350**

What's on



FRIENDS FOR LUNCH

Wednesday 18th May

At 12 noon

If you would like to attend, please ring Kate on **07738467350**



Welcome Café

All Saints Church,

Rownhams Road, North Baddesley SO52 9EQ

The Welcome Café is for any and everyone in the community to come and meet friends for a catch-up and enjoy great coffee. There is no charge for coffee but donations are welcome.

We particularly welcome those who find themselves lonely or who have been bereaved. There are trained 'listeners' who will be happy to talk, befriend and empathise with you and if appropriate signpost to other helpful organisations, all in complete confidence.

10am – 12 noon on

Thursdays 12th & 26th May

Contact joinin@acnb-church.org ☎ 023 8073 7617

What's on

The Ampfield Market

**Saturday 7th May
From 10am to 12noon**



in Ampfield Village Hall

Our Market has a great reputation, we regularly sell:-
Fresh fruit and veg, Fairtrade foods, jams, chutneys and pickles,
cakes, biscuits and scones, plants and fresh flowers, cards and
wrapping paper, books, antiques, unusual crafts, jewellery,
children's clothes, toys, honey, seasonal surprises, bric a brac
and much much more.

***Fresh coffee and a wonderful selection of cakes will be
served all morning in the Garden Room***

Parking and admission are always FREE

All proceeds support the Village Hall

Registered charity no.1057353

Contact Julie:023 80254587 for table bookings and info

What's on

Concerts at Romsey Abbey

Sunday 8th May 2.30pm

Saint-Saëns: The Carnival of the Animals

Romsey Sinfonietta

Romsey Sinfonietta continue their Sunday concert series aimed at children and families. The orchestra welcomes two brilliant young pianists for Saint-Saëns' famous depiction of animals.

Saturday 21st May 7.30pm

Virtuoso Classics

Nova Foresta Classical Players

Come and hear the exciting piano concerto No. 2 by Saint-Saëns played by virtuoso pianist Valentina Seferinova. Paul Ingram takes the baton for Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture and Beethoven's first Symphony.

For ticket purchases and enquiries (unless stated otherwise) please contact Romsey Visitor Information Centre, 13 Church Street, Romsey, Tel 01794 512987 (*no booking fee*)

Or

[book online for Music in Romsey Abbey concerts in Romsey Abbey](#)

(*booking fee applies*)



The Story of St Mark's, Ampfield

by Liz Hallett

The 150th celebrations continued all year. The hard work involved with raising two large sums of money between 1984 and 1991 had engendered a wonderful spirit in the parish and we had so enjoyed organising a major fund-raising effort each month that it seemed a shame to stop! At Arthur Moore's suggestion, we decided to continue the pattern, but the events would be non-fundraising, for pleasure and just to prolong the celebrations. I was able to facilitate a very special service which started off the year on January 13th, when the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Coggan, came and preached at a Sunday service. Lord Coggan had been a close friend of my



Lord Coggan preached at St. Mark's, 13th Jan. 1991



Chris Awdry opening the street fair

uncle, when they both taught at the London College of Divinity, and had always kept in touch, and he had recently retired to live in Winchester. He was delighted to be asked and was very impressed with all we had achieved in the last few years. There was one exception to the non-fundraising decision however, and a street fair was held on June 29th in the lower part of Knapp Lane between Chapel Lane and the main road. Having made such close contacts with the Rev Wilbert Awdry, and with Thomas the Tank Engine being at the height of its popularity, we made this the theme of the day. Wilbert and his son Christopher agreed to open the fair, although sadly in the event Wilbert was unwell and unable to come.

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We invited every pupil in every school from Winchester to Romsey and beyond, which ensured the attendance of almost every child from within a ten mile radius, together with their families. Ampfield School was the main focus of activities, with a wonderful array of Thomas paraphernalia. Christopher Awdry



Stalls in the lane before the event started

arrived in Leslie Richards' yellow Rolls Royce, preceded by the Michelmersh Silver Band. We had stalls on each side up the lane and in several gardens, notably the Vicarage, the Old Vicarage and Kingfisher House, with many stallholders dressed in Victorian costume. Many friends from Local Crafts of Wessex (a group which Renate and I belonged to) brought their wares for sale,



Stallholders in costume

adding to those produced locally, and we also had books, bric-a-brac, local charity stalls such as Guides, Scouts, Hearing Dogs, St John Ambulance and the Red Cross. There was a stall laden with Thomas jumpers knitted for the occasion, mostly by members of the church Craft Group.

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A Romsey Fire Engine was on display and Ray Meader's steam engine (with a Thomas face), both of which delighted the children. There were displays by Test Valley, the Forestry Commission and Hilliers Nurseries. A fancy dress competition was judged by Chris Awdry, accompanied by Robin Mackenzie dressed as the Fat Controller, and also a performance of maypole dancing by the school children. Painting competitions for different age groups were also judged by Chris Awdry. More than 2,000 people attended the fair and £3,000 was raised towards church funds.



Anita Wood in costume with Ray Meader's steam engine



Knapp Lane was so crowded all day that I wondered if the ground sank a little under the weight of people! An added bonus was that the 29th was the ONLY day that June when it didn't rain!

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All the other monthly celebrations were of a rather less high profile and stressful nature, with lunches (food was always popular), music, and special services. I can't now remember all that we did but one event stands out in my memory. The Keble Choir, run by Gary Philbrick, then the organist at Otterbourne, came down from Oxford and gave a wonderful concert in St Mark's, free of charge, to commemorate how much Ampfield owes to the Rev John Keble.

What an amazing time in the life of the parish Arthur Moore's incumbency was. It was so wonderful to see how the whole community came together under his leadership, first to conserve the urgent fabric needs of the building and then so soon afterwards to undertake the massive project of funding and building St Mark's Room and celebrating the important anniversary of the gift by Keble and Sir William Heathcote 150 years earlier. The spiritual life of the parish grew enormously and it was a time we shall never forget.



Liz Hallet



The History of Ampfield Village Hall

2008 - 2009

By Julie Trotter

2008

On January 5th the Smith Family Pantomime started the year. On March 1st there was a jazz evening entitled 'Strings ain't what they used to be'. On November 15th Miles Jupp came to the Hall, some of the content of the evening upset a few of the audience, this was reported back to HCC and an apology was received! We received a refund of £100 as compensation. He has since risen in popularity and regularly appears on TV and Radio 4.

The extension to the Lease begun in 2005 was finally completed on September 9th The new lease would secure the place of the hall in the village until July 1st 2103!

Quotes were obtained for a new sound system complete with a hearing loop. The company selected was Impact Marcom, (recommended by TVBC) and it was agreed that the work should go ahead at a cost of £3840 + VAT. We had our own steel cabinets for the equipment thus saving £300! The W.I. gave the committee a donation towards the curtains and the sound system. A quote for new deep blue stage curtains was accepted and Bournemouth Curtains were selected to supply and fit the curtains in the spring 2009 at a cost of £3800 + VAT. The 6 hall window curtains which had certainly served their purpose for a long time, were also replaced. The total cost being £6734.

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2009

The Pantomime in January was Jack and the Beanstalk. It was minuted on January 26th that the Ampfield W.I. had finally closed due to a lack of new members. The annual lease payment would now be made to the Hampshire Federation of the W.I in Winchester. An attempt was made in the autumn of 2011 to restart the Ampfield W.I., but sadly this wasn't successful and all the

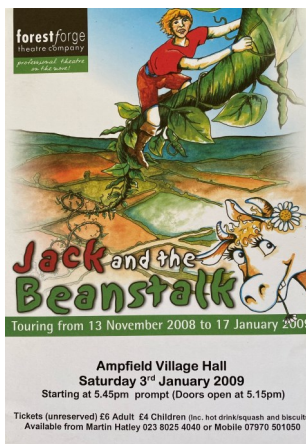
remaining accounts were transferred to HFWI. The Ampfield W.I was officially dissolved in December 2011, it was a sad loss, the older members wanted to meet during the day and the younger members found that an evening meeting would suit them better, this difference could never be resolved.

Mas Y Mas appeared on February 28th for the first

time in the Hall and proved very popular indeed. On April 25th there was a Quiz Night. The Buffalo Girls appeared in the hall on December 5th



Julie Trotter



GROUND OFS OF APPEAL

By Alan Edwards



Though County cricket now starts in April, the club game still begins in May. We are fortunate in this area to possess some of the most appealing cricket grounds in Hampshire.

Ampfield possesses a state of the art pavilion, one of the best in the whole of the County. Hursley Park has two large grounds, tucked away in the countryside; the entry to the playing area still draws a gasp from those visiting for the first time, as the view is so surprising. Across the road, the plateau that forms IBM Hursley's ground is aesthetically pleasing.

In Winchester, the Abbey of St. Cross forms a backdrop to two grounds. St. Cross is now one of the largest clubs in Hampshire, if not *the* largest, a virtual nursery for the County Club itself.

Less than a mile away, towards the city centre, cricket can be enjoyed in the timeless surroundings of Winchester College. The main ground lies in the shadow of St. Catherine's Hill. There is also another ground, sheltered behind a wall, and bounded by the chapel and other historic buildings and a courtyard. The former Australian test cricketer, Paul Sheahan, who taught at the College in the 1970's, felt it was one of the most beautiful grounds he played on.

Further afield, just outside Winchester, there are two further attractive village grounds: at Sparsholt, which is a small homely arena, and at Easton, in a bowl, overlooked by thatched cottages. And we should not forget the estate village of Tichborne, which played host to some of the greatest cricketers the world has ever seen in charity matches in the 1960's.

...Cont.

Cricket can be viewed on the club grounds on most evenings, and some days. The clubs collectively play host to hundreds of children, both boys and girls. Girl's cricket is now thriving in the area. There is an extensive coaching network, staffed exclusively by volunteers who give freely of their time. They organise skills training, nets, and matches for children from the age of five to 16. The clubs provide a valuable community service. For children attending state schools they fill an important void, as so few now have cricket fields. (However, independent schools continue to thrive). The grounds are also the most friendly and uplifting of environments. It is difficult not to be carried away by the sheer enthusiasm generated.

And so if you are wondering what to do on a lovely sunny afternoon at weekends, or virtually any evening, pop along to one of these grounds. You will not be disappointed.

Just occasionally, you may see a county cricketer. Former Hampshire players Adrian Aymes and Chris Tremlett (both Hursley Park) and ex Hampshire captain Jimmy Adams (St. Cross) all learnt their cricket in their formative years at their club (though the latter enjoyed the benefits of Canford School). Tremlett, of course, went to play for England and famously took the wicket which sealed the Ashes victory in 2010/11.



Alan Edwards

A Local Life - 4

Margaret (Meg) Rothwell

A pioneer for women in the Diplomatic Service



London 1980

In 1981 Meg returned to the Foreign Office in London to take up the position of Counsellor and Head of the Training. Sharing a flat with 5 men, they were on call from Monday to Friday, including two night shifts. They dealt with “whatever came into the office”. In this post, Meg took on the task of tackling the received wisdom that women were not suitable for posts in Arab countries:

‘Rothwell ... asked the relevant ambassadors and departmental heads whether, in their view, those jobs could be performed satisfactorily by a woman... [in] seventy-five per cent of cases, the answer that came back was ‘yes’.’ As a result of this survey, Arabic language training was finally opened up to female officers, whilst women graduates with degrees in Arabic could now join the Diplomatic Service confident that their linguistic skills would be put to good use. It would still be some time before any woman would hold a top post in an Arab country, but the basic principle had at least been conceded. Rothwell recalled her victory in ‘opening the Middle East up to women’ with some pleasure. Back in the early 1960s, she had shared digs with another female Branch A recruit who was, as Rothwell put it, ‘Arabic mad’, and who was therefore crestfallen to discover that, as a woman, she would have no opportunity to train in the language. Rothwell, who would have quite liked to learn Arabic herself, felt great satisfaction in settling this score on both their behalves twenty years later.’ (McCarthy)

Trainees learnt Arabic at the Middle East Centre for Arabic Studies (MECAS). Arabic was considered difficult to learn and a language centre was set up by the British Army in the 1940s in Lebanon. MECAS later became known as ‘the British spy school’ in the Middle East. (National Archives Website).

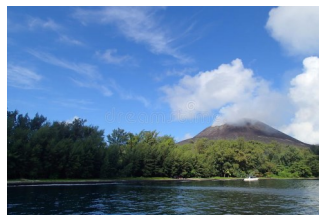
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Indonesia 1984 - 1987

In 1984 Meg took up the post of Counsellor, Consul-General and Head of Chancery in Jakarta. She was second in command to the Ambassador, Alan Donald who went on to be Ambassador to China. Meg got on very well with him and Indonesia turned out to be her favourite posting. However, she was the only female member of staff, a situation she faced many times during her career “you were immediately suspected of having designs [on male officers] – but you learnt to deal with this” Meg believes that things have now changed, women are allowed to take husbands on postings and in general attitudes have improved. However, “to be accepted as a professional, one always had to prove you were as good as a man”

Indonesia was in the throes of civil war when Meg arrived, on one occasion she watched a gun fight between the two factions from her balcony. This war carried on for years. However, Meg loved Jakarta. The people were “charming” and there was much to do and see. She would spend weekends at a beach house in Sambolo, overlooking Krakatoa. The climate was pleasant with a dry and rainy season. Meg had a “marvellous gardener, Bouba Diarra, who helped her design a garden for the next resident. His speciality was growing orchids, an interest that Meg had maintained since collecting wild flowers with her aunt on Pepper Box Hill as a young girl. This led to Meg’s life long love of gardening.



Meg continued to improve her entertaining skills, but in Indonesia she had more help – a cook, the cook’s husband and a ‘house boy’. Meg made life long friends in Indonesia and many still visit her now. One regular visitor was the ‘main spook’ in Indonesia, where he lived a normal life with his family while picking up intelligence and keeping his finger on the pulse of Indonesian affairs. One imagines that they have plenty to talk about on these visits!

Next month we conclude with Meg’s first post as Ambassador. This article is written from interviews with Meg. Quotations in italics are from:

McCarthy, Helen. Women of the World Bloomsbury Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Chris Kerr

...Cont.

PEACE

Since the Greeks and Romans,
The symbol of peace is the dove.
The rose is the timeless emblem
Of beauty, transience and love.

Fossilised roses exist from
35 million years ago.
Now 30,000 varieties
Are here for us to grow.

In Iraq, in 2000 BC
The wild rose attracted the bees.
In 500 BC, cultivation
Was started, by the Chinese.

Roman patricians loved them
As medicine and perfume sweet.
They made the peasants grow
them
Instead of food to eat...

The China rose came to England
In 1752.
These flower right through the
season,
Not just once, as wild ones do.

Now there's climbers, ramblers
and shrubs
Hybrid tea is a winner.
Old fashioned, modern, patio.
More sorts than I've had hot
dinners.

A Frenchman, Francis Meilland
Bred a beautiful hybrid tea.
He wanted to keep it safe when
France
Was invaded by Germany.

On the last flight out of Paris
It was shipped to the USA,
Propagated by Conard Pyle,
It still exists today.

M. Meilland wanted to rename his
rose
After Field Marshall Brooke,
But the soldier said it should be
called 'Peace',
So that's the name it took.

This beautiful creamy,
pink-tipped rose
Named when hostilities ceased,
And voted the world's favourite,
Is the one that we love as 'Peace'.

Peace Loving Poet

Sue Goldsmith



Answers to Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. Helsinki
2. 206
3. Four. The Mitral, Tricuspid, Aortic and Pulmonic
4. Mark Drakeford
5. A Zeedonk
6. 1984
7. Tim Berners-Lee
8. A Phone
9. Baby one more time
10. All Clear

How desperately difficult it is to be honest with oneself. It is much easier to be honest with other people.”

E.F.Benson

“A man wrapped up in himself makes a very small parcel.”

John Ruskin

“At 50 everyone has the face he deserves.”

George Orwell

A Kitchen Garden – April 2022

By Graham Roads

Although each season has its own attractions, there is an argument to suggest this time of year is the most exciting of all, especially in the Kitchen Garden. We have prepared the beds, chosen the varieties of seed, and lovingly planted them to precisely the correct depth. All we need to do is to wait and see what actually grows. Every morning there is a strong temptation to rush out to the greenhouse to see if any new little bits of green have appeared overnight!



Where is you, nice little bean?



Is that a jalapeño pepper for my pizza?

This year seems to have been somewhat more fraught than usual. A lot of stuff seems to have taken longer to germinate. Whether this has something to do with the weather, it is hard to say. We enjoyed a lot of unseasonably warm weather in March followed by a few very severe frosts. That could have set stuff back a few weeks but quite a few things have failed to germinate at all. The first sowing of broad beans came to naught – not one, the little dears!

Similarly, the jalapeños peppers have proved uncharacteristically shy. It has been necessary to resow and, happily, there is some evidence that the second sitting is slightly more adventurous than the first.

Cont. ...

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...Cont.

We are looking forward to trying some deep-fried jalapeños in batter as an aperitif to go with the customary glass of lemonade. We are also hoping to perfect pureed broad beans with spices as an accompaniment to our favourite Mexican. This sense of anticipation brings its own pressures!! It means that now is the best time to lose a few unwanted kilos as the summer can be a difficult period with so much temptation everywhere.

Elsewhere in the green house, the Shirley tomatoes seem to have done OK, as do the cucumbers and courgettes. The season for sowing outdoors is only just getting underway. We will have to keep our fingers crossed! The concept of raised beds should help the soil warm up a bit quicker, so by the end of this month hopefully there will be something to see and, by next month, some might be worth sampling. Pesto made with flat-leafed spinach or rocket is always worth trying.

The idea of raised beds can also be transferred, quite usefully into the green house. When planting tomatoes into growbags, instead of planting them directly into the growbag take an old plastic flowerpot and cut off the base. Cut a hole into the growbag and push in the plastic pot. Fill the pot up with good quality growing material and try planting the tomatoes in the pot. It is easier to regulate the watering and can produce a better growing environment.

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

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

This also provides some good ideas on what to do now as well as varieties, especially those that have been awarded the RHS Award of Garden Merit. One final thought, it is always worth keeping notes of what went where, when, and how did it do. This can save a degree of angst in future years (from experience!) All thoughts, contributions, ideas are welcome.

Graham Roads

Rotas for St Mark's May 2022

Sunday 1st. May 9.30 - Easter 3 - Tidy Church

Coffee: Jean; **Music:** Mark & Abbie

Sunday 8th May 9.30 - Easter 4 - Holy Communion

Sides: Sally C, Jennie

Reader 1: Heather S. **Reader 2:** Ron

Intercessions: Rob

Coffee: Heather C; **Music:** Mark B.

Sunday 15th. May 9.30 - Easter 5 - Holy Communion

Sides: Daryl, Ron.

Reader 1: Doreen **Reader 2:** Mark B

Intercessions: Sally K.

Coffee: Stella, Cathy S **Music:** Jean

Sunday 22nd. May 9.30 - Easter 6 - Holy Communion

Sides: Mark B., Robyn

Reader 1: Chris **Reader 2:** Jennie

Intercessions: Ron

Coffee: Jean **Music:** Nick & Jean

Sunday 29th May 9.30 - Easter 7 - Holy Communion

Sides: Heather C., Stella

Reader 1: Jean, **Reader 2:** Mark B

Intercessions: Heather S.

Coffee: Jennie **Music:** Jean

Please make sure you find someone to take your place if you are unable to do your turn, and annotate the rotas displayed in the vestry and the porch accordingly.

Thank you for all your help

Jean Smith

The Collect for Ascension Day

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God,
that like as we do believe
thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ
to have ascended into the heavens;
so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend,
and with him continually dwell,
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost,
one God, world without end.

Amen.



From the Book of Common Prayer

Thought for the Month - Ron's intercessions at St. Mark's on Palm Sunday

Dear Lord, how great it is for me to be standing here after what seems forever, to be able to share some prayers with you all. With today being Palm Sunday, I toyed with the idea of arriving triumphantly on a donkey but I wonder how Christ must have felt with the palm leaves strewn about and the car park not donkey friendly. The car seemed the better option. After not being too well in 2020, I would like to thank all of you who prayed for me. Thankfully, your prayers were answered and I feel pretty much as I did before. Following our eldest daughter's christening here forty years ago, Stella and I fell in love with this special church and still love it today. A place of tranquillity, solitude, laughter, sadness and, above all, hope. A place in which to sit quietly and reflect. Thank you, Lord, so much, for this beautiful church. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

As we sit here in this wonderful company enjoying the new freedom, it is sad to realise that for so many people life is far from peaceful. I wonder how Christ must have felt, triumphantly entering Jerusalem on that donkey knowing in his heart that he was going to be betrayed and all the sad drama that was to follow. Imagine how the people of Ukraine must feel, trusting that Russia would never invade, to suddenly find themselves betrayed and seeing everything around them destroyed. Not to mention the appalling deaths, including innocent citizens and children. Sanctions are proving ineffective and talking is not really working. Afghanistan is another hot spot. The world stands effectively helpless. If ever there was a time to trust in God then this is it. Thank you Lord for all the aid pouring in from around the world. We pray for all who are suffering aggression. Oh, what we would all give for peace and love everywhere. Lord in your mercy ...

We pray for all who are unwell. For Kevin, still suffering after major surgery. Lift up all who are unwell Lord and give comfort to all who care for them.

Cont. ...

...Cont.

We pray for all who have died in the faith of Christ. Covid has claimed many lives but so too have other diseases, accidents, conditions and for the lucky few, simply dignified old age. We have all lost loved ones and miss them so much. Who would have believed that this church would survive without people such as Claire, so sadly taken? The church is certainly worse off without people like her. Be there Lord for all those we have lost, keep them safe until we see them again.

Lord in your mercy ...

Pease give your guidance to all who are involved in the APCM after this service. It is not easy Lord, especially during Covid, to function as normal. Thanks to great efforts by many, this church and the other churches in our benefice seem to have weathered the storm. Ampfield, without this church, is unthinkable. There are so many caring, generous people, happy to dig deep in hard times to keep us afloat. Lord, we thank you for all the beleaguered committee and their hard, dedicated work, many doing more than they need to, just to help the cause. God bless all who take on committee roles for the next phase of the church's life. How lovely that some of the events that we are so used to are back again. We look forward to the revised fete and dog show. Bless the teams for Friends for Lunch, the Lent Lunches and the Village Market — such lovely get-togethers. Lord in your mercy ...

We thank you for Vanessa taking the role of vicar. I so love her enthusiasm. A breath of fresh air, she has shown, even in this short time, her commitment to be involved in all things. How great that she is so forward thinking in getting extra services to all the churches, just what is needed. Lord, once again thank you for this this beautiful church. I always bang on about this but I really feel that this church is something special. Better than Asda on a Sunday morning. Bless you Lord.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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 joinin@acnb-church.org.

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.

Hampshire Coronavirus Helpline - 0333 370 4000

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Romsey Community Pantry - 01794 522106

Romsey Foodbank - www.romsey.foodbank.org.uk

Frontline Debt Advice - 02380 552866

Southampton Basics Bank -

www.southamptoncitymission.co.uk/basics-banks

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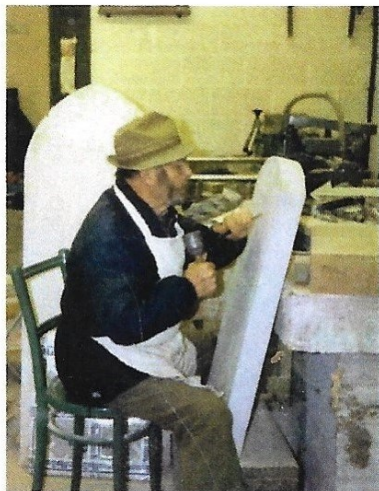
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