

# The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of  
St. Mark Ampfield*

**December 2023  
January 2024**

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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

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## *Letter from Vanessa*

### *Dear Friends*

The cold and frosty weather we have enjoyed this week has been very beautiful – although I know some have been in a rush to cover up their dahlias! It has felt very much in keep with Advent approaching – a time of waiting, expectancy, quiet and dormancy. Nature retreats to wait for new birth. We retreat into the warmth of our homes to wait for the burst of colour and celebration that Christmas brings.

But it also gives us time to reflect on those who are less fortunate – those who have to sleep on the frosty streets, or who live in places that are unsafe. Amid the fun this time of year we have opportunities to remember that – we hope you will join us for our carol singing at the Potters Heron and the White Horse on 1<sup>st</sup> December, raising money for Crisis, and then our Christingle on 10<sup>th</sup> December will raise money for the Children's Society.

Please do come and join us for our Community Carols and mulled wine on 21<sup>st</sup> December, Crib service full of laughter and chaos on 24<sup>th</sup> December, and 9am Christmas Morning Communion. Celebrate Christmas with us – into a broken and torn world, the birth of the Christ child brings light and hope and love for all.

With every blessing for you and your loved ones this Advent and Christmastime.

*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 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	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



*Merry Christmas to our readers*

## Christmas Services at St. Mark's



**10th December (Sunday)**

Services as usual for 2nd Sunday of the month

**4pm Christingle**

**17th December (Sunday)**

Services as usual for 3rd Sunday of the month

**21st December (Thursday)**

**7:30pm Community Carols**

**24th December (Christmas Eve - Sunday)**

**3pm Crib service**

**25th December (Christmas Day - Monday)**

**9am BCP Communion**

**26th December (Tuesday)**

**No midweek Communion**

**31st December (Sunday)**

Services as usual for 5th Sunday of the month

## Christmas in the Benefice



**10th December (Sunday)**

Services as usual for 2nd Sunday of the month

**2pm Christingle at All Saints**

**14th December (Thursday)**

**10am Carols and Cakes at Welcome Café at All Saints**

**7:30pm Carol service at St Denys'**

**15th December (Friday)**

**10 - 11:30am Sunshine Saints Christmas Party**

**17th December (Sunday)**

Services as usual for 3rd Sunday of the month

**4pm Carol service at St John's**

**18th December (Monday)**

**10:30am - 12pm Christmas Children's Crafts**

**22nd December (Friday)**

**7pm Alternative Christmas at All Saints - a quiet contemplative service for those who are sad or struggling, whilst others around them may be caught up in celebrating**

**24th December (Christmas Eve - Sunday)**

**9:30am Whole Benefice Communion at St Denys' -**

**note this is different from the usual 4th Sunday services**

**5pm Crib Service at All Saints**

**5pm BCP Evening Prayer on Zoom**

**11:30pm Midnight Communion at St John's**

**25th December (Christmas Day - Monday)**

**10:30am Communion at All Saints**

**27th December (Wednesday)**

**10am Social Hub is on as usual at All Saints**

**No All Saints midweek Communion**

**28th December (Thursday)**

**10am Welcome Café is on as usual**

**31st December (Sunday)**

Services as usual for 5th Sunday of the month



# Benefice News

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!



### Carol Singing

The Potters Heron (7.30)

and

The White Horse

8.30 on the evening of 1st Dec.



If you would like to join in, please email Phil Budden on: [philb@acnb-church.org](mailto:philb@acnb-church.org), Or you can just come along on the night to The Potters Heron and The White Horse to enjoy listening to our carols with your meal or drink!

### Following a Star

In preparation for our Christmas events, we are collecting knitted or crocheted stars - it would be fantastic if the churches in the group could be filled with these handcrafted stars at Christmas. Our colour theme is gold, silver, white, yellow and cream and the stars can be of any size and will be put up in the church of your choice. More information, plus a crochet and knitting pattern can be found using this link:



### Following a Star

Calling all those who  
can crochet or knit!

Help us to decorate the churches this Christmas



<https://www.acnb-church.org/blog/2023-christmas-stars/>





## Benefice News



### Friends for Lunch

There was a good turnout for November's meal when Agne cooked a delicious chicken pie. Clare's Banoffee pie was a perfect pudding. December's meal will be at the Golf Club and is now fully booked. We welcome our new helper Kerrie.

We would like to thank Kate for 9 years of wonderful work with us as she moves from helper to diner.



Agne, Kate, Chris, Rosea, Sheila, Annie,  
Charlie, Clare and Kerrie wish all our loyal  
diners a Happy  
Christmas and a healthy New Year

### St. Mark's Stall at the Ampfield Market Sat 2nd Dec

We're back at the Christmas market selling gifts, Christmas Hampers, Stocking Fillers and bric-a-brac. Thank you to all of you who have donated so generously.

### Esprimo Concert at St. Mark's

We were visited once again by Esprimo and a cappella quartet who on a glorious Saturday morning with sun streaming through the windows of St Mark gave a fine recital of early and contemporary part songs. The music included pieces by Tallis, Busoni and others ending with a medley of contemporary songs well known to many. Although it was a chilly day with overcoats a necessity the music transcended the chill making it a happy event with many from near and far. A cheese ploughmans', followed by scones and jam was enjoyed in the church room afterwards and conversations were continued and new friends made.

We look forward to welcoming Esprimo again!



## Benefice News



### Sunshine Saints

Every Friday, 10 - 11:30am, we welcome families to the **Sunshine Saints baby and toddler group** in All Saints Church. The craft activities are starting to get very Christmassy! On Friday 15th December, 10 - 11:30am **Sunshine Saints' Christmas Party** will have its final gathering before Christmas.

### Diddy Disciples

Every Wednesday during term time, 9:15 - 10am, we welcome preschoolers, and their grown-ups, to join us for **Diddy Disciples at All Saints**. In December the sessions will focus on the Christmas story, so join us for refreshments, singing, craft and fun.

### Advent Quiet Day at St. Mark's Sat 2nd December

Why not join us from 10am - 2pm at St Mark's Church for our **Advent Quiet Day**. Let's prepare ourselves for the love and joy of Christmas time with a quiet day before the busyness of Christmas Day.

### Messy Christmas Sunday 3rd December at all Saints

It is a real favourite of everyone at All Saints. Come from 10:30am for refreshments, with the service and activities starting at 11am. This is lots of fun for everyone. There will be crafts to make to take home at this session.

### Tidy Christmas Sun 3rd December at St Mark's 9.30

There will be 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.

### Welcome Café at All Saints Church

On Thursday 14th December you are warmly invited to join us at Welcome Café in All Saints Church for **Carols and Cakes** celebrations, 10am - 12noon.

***For details of all Christmas church services see pp 6-7***



## Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. Which actors real name was Archibald Leach?
2. Which European Nation was said to have invented hot dogs?
3. What is your body's largest organ?
4. Which element is said to keep bones strong?
5. What is the largest island in the Mediterranean sea?
6. What was the name of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America in 1620?
7. The Roman God of war inspired the name of which planet?
8. What fashion fad did the 1983 film "Flashdance" make popular?
9. Which mammal has no vocal cords?
10. What is the plant Vinca more commonly known as?



Answers on p. 33



## Village News



### Ampfield Bridge Club

**Ampfield Bridge Club** is a friendly club that plays duplicate Bridge every Tuesday evening in Ampfield Village Hall at 7.00 pm until 10.00 pm. New members are very welcome. If you are interested, please contact Janet on 07879915726 or email [janetwallace1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janetwallace1@hotmail.co.uk).



*Christmas Greetings  
to all residents and  
A Happy New Year  
From  
Cllr Alan Dowden  
Baddesley Division  
Ampfield*

### The Ampfield Market - Sat 2nd December 10-12

Join us at a very special market with Father Christmas and a splendid raffle. Stock up for Christmas !

### A new Pilates class at the Village Hall

Pilates with aplomb will be starting new classes from beginner to advanced in the New Year. Contact Hannah Plom on 07928 067 190 to register and for more information.



**The  
Ampfield Market  
(Established in 2000, now in its 24<sup>th</sup> year !)**

**will take place  
on**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
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. Honey, preserves, plants and fresh flowers. Cards, wrapping paper and books. Collectables, unusual crafts and jewellery. Clothes, toys and puzzles. Bric a brac, seasonal treats 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](mailto:Julie@ampfield.org.uk) for  
table bookings etc.

**Next date. Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024**

## What happens in the Ampfield Village Hall every month?

### MONDAYS

**PILATES WITH HANNAH** – Two sessions in the morning. Details at [www.pilateswithaplomb.com](http://www.pilateswithaplomb.com)

**AMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL** regularly meet on a Monday evening for their ordinary meetings, planning meetings and other meetings. Details at [www.Ampfield.org.uk](http://www.Ampfield.org.uk)

**AMPFIELD CLICKERS** informal and friendly, resumes knitting, crocheting, skill sharing and chatting (!) 3rd Monday evening Jan 2024.

Contact Jo on 07970 509450. Email [joannehatley@aol.com](mailto:joannehatley@aol.com)

### TUESDAYS

**AMPFIELD BRIDGE CLUB** friendly duplicate bridge. Every Tuesday (except at Xmas time) from 7pm to 10pm. If you require a partner or want more information contact Janet Cox on 07879 915726 or email [janetwallace1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janetwallace1@hotmail.co.uk) New members always welcome.

### WEDNESDAYS

**TODDLER SENSE SALISBURY** – two morning sessions. 13 months to 4 years. Call Sian on 07984 051713 or Email: [salisbury@toddlersense.co.uk](mailto:salisbury@toddlersense.co.uk)

**1<sup>st</sup> AMPFIELD BROWNIES** meet every Wed. evening during term time. 6pm to 7.30pm Tel. Sue Moore 01794 523947

**ROMSEY MODELLERS** Build model kits? Join this club on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of each month 8pm to 10pm.. [www.romseymodellers.co.uk](http://www.romseymodellers.co.uk)

### THURSDAYS

**YOGA MORNING with Diana Craven 9.30 to 11.30am**

E-mail: [diana\\_craven@hotmail.com](mailto:diana_craven@hotmail.com) for details.

**AMPFIELD ART GROUP** meets Thurs. afternoons during term time 2pm to 4pm. All abilities welcome Contact email: [Julie@ampfield.org.uk](mailto:Julie@ampfield.org.uk)

**(NEW PILATES CLASS planned, Thursday evenings from January '24)**

### 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](mailto:yogabygaynor@yahoo.com)

### SATURDAYS

**VILLAGE MARKET (Established 2000) (see p.13)**

Ring Julie on 02380 254587. This is a great event to meet up with people.

**CARD MAKING WORKSHOP WITH VANESSA.** A range of crafts, monthly, 10am to 4pm. Details from Vanessa 01794 515490 or email [Ampfieldcards@gmail.com](mailto:Ampfieldcards@gmail.com)

**For general enquiries and hall bookings tel. Martin Hatley 07970 501050**

**Or visit our new website: [www.ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk) Or E mail: [info@ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:info@ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk)**

**SEE OUR NEW WEBSITE [www.ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk) and take a virtual tour, book the hall or buy tickets for *The Merry Adventures of***



Mischievous  
Theatre

A co-production with

BUMBLEFLY  
Theatre

forestforge  
theatre company

THE  
MERRY ADVENTURES OF

# ROBIN HOOD

A swashbuckling tale, of derring-do  
and ridiculousness, fresh from the  
travelling players suitcase

**Ampfield Village Hall – Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Starting at 6 pm prompt (doors open at 5.30pm)

Tickets (unreserved) Adult £10 Children £5

*Please book early.*

Available from Martin Hatley Tel. 07970 501050

E-mail: [info@ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:info@ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk)

Visit our website to keep updated [www.bumbleflytheatre.co.uk](http://www.bumbleflytheatre.co.uk)  
[www.mischievoustheatre.co.uk](http://www.mischievoustheatre.co.uk) [www.forestforgetheatre.co.uk](http://www.forestforgetheatre.co.uk)



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## “Put the Change in the Poppy tin”

**A**s she collected the two Poppy “tins” I knew that she must have been disappointed. I felt the same. The faint rattle of the coppers inside, together with the feather like weight of the boxes were in sharp contrast to the usual substantial amounts that we had raised in years gone by. It was difficult to believe that there was an apathy from our customers in remembering the young lads who had fallen in the wars, perhaps the reason for the empty tins might have been that nobody uses cash anymore. Once when you served a beer at this time of year the customer would often say, “Put the change in the Poppy tin”, but no longer. Had people truly forgotten?

The service at the War memorial in Ampfield is always well attended, and the Cornish granite cross was in perfect condition thanks to the friends of Knapp Lane, the names of the fallen stood out in the Winter sunshine. It was a little later that day that I had an email headed “Armistice Day”, it was from Herman, a gentleman in Holland who has visited the pub twice over the last few years. Why does he visit? To stand in front of the memorial and give thanks to Ian Campbell.



Herman’s family, his wife Ingrid & their daughters, Denise & Lynn, live in the village of Baarlo, and in the true spirit of the liberated Dutch people they, and many other families had made the decision to adopt one of the war dead that are buried in their villages. They chose Ian Campbell, whose name adorns the bench of Ampfield war memorial.

Dear reader, please let me tell you the story of Ian and his family.

The Campbell family lived in Scotland, his father, John, had been a baker in Aberfeldy and when the first World War broke out, he joined the Black Watch and rose to the rank of sergeant. After the war he returned to Scotland and worked in the timber industry.

Cont. ...





..Cont.  
**I**n 1931, looking for a better life John & his wife Flora moved to Ampfield and lived in a little wooden cottage between Pound Lane and the railway line. Ian had a brother and two sisters and looking at the pictures of them playing in their garden they enjoyed a happy life.

When war broke out Ian duly answered the call and like his father joined the Black Watch. He was serving in Holland in 1944. On a dark and probably noisy advance, he was in a slit trench with a

comrade when a friendly British tank sadly crushed them to death. He was aged 19.

Ian only lived in Ampfield for a few years, but his parents continued to live in the village, naming their house Venray after the British War Cemetery that was now home to their son. They eventually moved into Green Pond Lane where they spent the rest of their lives. His father worked for Hillier's and his mother was an avid gardener, they were very proud to have won many prizes for their garden. Their Golden wedding anniversary was held at the Potters Heron.

Most of us only remember Ian's life, and the rest of the fallen, on the 11th hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, every year, standing in front of the War Memorial.

I feel very grateful that a Dutch family visit Ian's grave often to ensure that it is looked after and has fresh flowers and that at Christmas the whole village ensures that candles are placed on every grave in the British Cemetery in Venray to celebrate the lives of the brave British soldiers who gave their lives so that they had freedom.

**John from the White Horse**



## Wartime farms in Ampfield

**I**n 1941 the farmers of Ampfield were caring for 1,158 cows, 38 horses, 18 goats, 12 sheep together with 4,148 chickens, 100 ducks and 17 geese, but no turkeys. On the half of the parish that was classified as farmland, they also grew a wide range of crops, for animals and humans but none under glass. Mr Martin of Lower farm was growing vegetables for sale in his greengrocery shop at Southampton.

Livestock ownership was unevenly spread. Sherwood at Pucknall Farm had 778 cows and one bull. Wilkins at Upper Ratlake farm had 223 cows and one bull. Mr Kimber (who I once worked for), had 69 cows and two bulls, while six others had 88 cows and two bulls between them. Two of the farmers, Mr D Read at lower farm had 1,715 hens, and Lloyd-Jones at Home farm had 1,300. Others had fewer hens, some barely more than would have provided for their own means.

These and other figures come from a survey of all farms in the United Kingdom commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture. In Ampfield 23 holdings were included in the initial part of this survey. Firstly, farmers were sent a questionnaire, then many were surveyed to see how competently their farms were being run. Farmers were graded A,B or C, those receiving B or C had to improve their standards, and the C`s were in danger of having their lands confiscated.



Cont. ...

...Cont.

**T**welve farms were surveyed and only Sherwood at Pucknall, with 325 acres, received an A marking, his was the largest farm in the parish. The others were graded B+to B-, namely Mr. Wilkins at Ratlake farm who it was noted suffered from ill health. Mr. Kimber of Gosport farm had recently taken over Knapp farm and he was raising its standard from C classification.

There were few tractors, and one old car was used as a tractor but many horses were still employed. Twenty one men and five women had full time jobs on the farms including at least one land girl, usually on farms larger than 50 acres. Ampfield's farms were generally small scale.

The pictures of Gosport Farm and Lower Farm were taken from the sale catalogue when the Whole of Ampfield was sold in 1932.

*Contributed by Nick taken from his personal archives on Ampfield.*



# Ampfield Art Class Gallery



Harvest mouse -  
Jackie, watercolour.



Morning Flight -  
Graham, inks

Fields of wild Phlox -  
Hilary, watercolour.

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



Lavender Fields in Provence - Pete,  
watercolour





# Ampfield Art Class Gallery



Winston - Andy, pencils

Llanerchaeron,  
Ceredigion, W. Wales -  
Stephanie, watercolour.



Kingfisher in Flight -  
Pauline, watercolour



Running Hare - Christina, pastels.



# What's on



## Romsey Abbey events

- George's Trust Christmas Concert, **2 December**, 7pm
- Maggie's Charity Christmas Concert, **9 December** - 6.30pm
- Romsey Youth Choir Christmas Concert, **15 December** - 7.30pm
- The Snowman Performances, **16 December** - 3pm, 4.30 and 6pm
- Nine Lessons and Carols Service, **17 December** - 6.30pm
- Romsey Singers Concert, **22 December** - 7.30pm
- Christingle Nativity Service, **24 December** - 4pm
- Midnight Mass Service, **24 December** - 11.30pm
- Christmas Day Service, **25 December** - 10am
- Holy Innocents Service, **28 December** - 4pm

## Saving Santa

**Friday 8 December - 4pm**

An evening of entertainment will start with a 'Desperately Seeking Santa Trail' through Romsey's shops and businesses. Father Christmas is expected to visit at 6.45pm and Romsey Fire Station will be standing by in case he makes his usual navigational error, lands on a roof and needs rescuing



**8 & 9 December**

### Christmas Tree Festival

Romsey Methodist Church are bringing back their successful Christmas Tree Festival this year, everyone welcome.



# What's on



## Markets

### **Romsey Country Market and Community Café, 1, 8 & 15 December – 10.30am to 12.30pm**

Held inside Romsey Town Hall, this is a wonderful opportunity to buy homemade Christmas food and gifts and to make new friends over a cup of tea and a mince pie.

### **Romsey Country Market, 2 December – 8:30am to 3pm**

Held in the Corn Market, this is another great opportunity to buy homemade Christmas food and gifts whilst soaking up the festive atmosphere of Romsey.

### **Craft and Gift market, 2 December - 10am to 4pm**

Taking place in Romsey Town Hall, shop for unique gifts from scented candles to fragrant soaps and handmade jewellery.

### **Hampshire Farmers Christmas Market, 3 & 17 December – 10am to 2pm**

Held in the Alma Road car park, this market focuses on Christmas items and is a lovely chance to purchase fresh, local, seasonal foods.

### **Romsey Makers Market, 3, 10 & 17 December - 10am to 3pm**

Held in the Market Place and Corn Market, there will be stalls selling handmade Christmas gifts and food from local crafters, makers & bakers.





# What's on



**A MAGICAL WALK UNDER THE STARS**

*light up*

Sir Harold  
Hillier Gardens  
**AT CHRISTMAS**

**30 NOV - 31 DEC 2023**

 **LIGHT UP**  
TRAILS

 **Romsey Library**  
**Tuesday 19th December**  
**13:00**  
**Come and watch**



**Silly Scott's Family Christmas Show**

All events to include a goody bag with an activity,  
plus lunch/tea bag to take away.  
Suitable for all children 4-11 years old who receive free school meals  
or are supported under SEN/EHCP  
Children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/carer.



Scan this code to book  
- limited numbers so  
book early!



[hants.gov.uk/lib](https://hants.gov.uk/lib)

## Carols in the Market Place



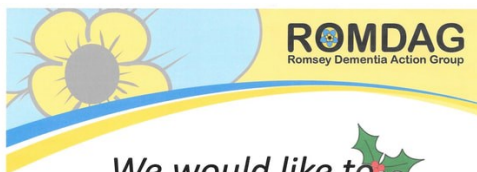
### 18 December - 7pm

Gather around the Christmas tree in the Market Place for a festive evening of carol singing and live music.





# What's on



*We would like to*  
*invite you to our*  
**“Christmas Party”**



**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**  
10:30am – 12:30pm



**Crosfield Hall, Broadwater Road, Romsey**

*For people living with dementia  
and their carers.*

Come along and find out more about ROMDAG, and  
how we can support you and your families with fun,  
friendship and refreshments.

***Message us to book your FREE places***

Romsey Dementia Action Group | Text/Whatsapp 07857 881913 | [www.romdag.co.uk](http://www.romdag.co.uk)  
[romseydementiaactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:romseydementiaactiongroup@gmail.com) | [Facebook @romdag](https://www.facebook.com/romdag) | [Instagram @romsey\\_DAG](https://www.instagram.com/romsey_DAG)

## MY HEART WILL NOT BE SHUSHED

I fell for a librarian  
I asked her to be mine

I said 'My love for you  
Is overdue'  
And she said 'Fine'

Henry Normal

## Church Screens-Part One

### By Liz Hallett

A very common feature of parish churches in medieval times was a screen, usually wooden but occasionally stone, which separated the nave from the chancel. The nave was often used for secular purposes, being the only place in most villages where large groups could meet together. The screen also marked the divide between the nave, where responsibility for the upkeep was with the parish, and the chancel, where the upkeep was often by the rector. In Jacobean times

so-called parclose screens were also built, to separate chancels from chancel aisles. The screens would be ornately carved and painted in rich colours, some retaining their medieval paint to this day.

Two areas of England where an abundance of screens still remain are Devon and East Anglia. The collections of saints depicted on these screens formed a very helpful teaching aid for medieval church-goers -and to us today too, since many of us would probably have to do some research to learn the stories of saints such as Lucia, Zita and St. Agatha, all of whom are depicted at Plymtree, Devon.



Plymtree looking east

...Cont.

Screens are less common in Hampshire, though some, like Bighton's green and gilded screen by Sir Ninian Comper (1864-1960), have been added since they once again became popular in Victorian times. You can see what remains of Romsey's medieval chancel screen because a 19th century vicar used a row of carved heads from the old disused 14th Century one to form part of a new Victorian chancel screen, which he then erected across the chancel step. In the 1920s this was moved to allow a clear view of the full length of the church, and it now separates the North Transept from the Choir in the Crossing. At the same time a complementary screen was made for the south side. Interesting but not as special as some of the wonderful medieval screens seen elsewhere.



Ranworth screen 4 Marys



Attleborough screen



Ranworth screen St Michael

**Liz Hallett**



## Thought for the Month

**I**n this month of December we cannot help but look back on the year and take stock of just what life has been like in the last 11 months. I have known both great sadness and great joy in 2023. My sister died in April leaving such a chasm in my life that I did not feel I would ever recover. And then the birth of our first grandchild in July was unbelievably wonderful and joyous. My heart leaps whenever I see him and he has helped to soothe my broken heart. I am actually crying whilst writing this as my spiritual journey has been chaotic to say the least and I find it very hard to control my emotions.

As if this were not enough to absorb, one of my great friends succumbed to her long battle with cancer just 2 weeks ago. When I heard this news I felt like I had been punched in the stomach, not only did it bring back memories from April but I wondered where my God is?

Well, He is here, I know because I can rage at night about the unfairness of losing people or give thanks for the joy of my grandson. Since April I have spent a lot of time reflecting on my life and I have stepped back from many of my pastimes. I have needed space and solitude to be able to move forward, yet try and manage to carry all this emotion. And it is my God I turn too even when I am angry and question my Faith.

I am looking forward to Christmas however I am not thinking of the presents and the food and drink, I am looking forward to letting God help to heal my sadness and give me some energy to understanding that life goes on and 2024 may be a little better.

Peace, joy and love  
Kate



## ALFIE

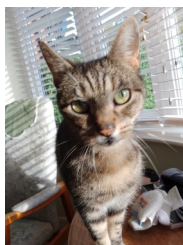
Alfie was a happy boy  
His owner loved him dear.  
Sadly, the pair of them  
Grew older every year...

So one day the time came  
When Alfie's owner had  
To move into a care home.  
Alfie was very sad.

He couldn't go along as well,  
They don't take cats you see.  
So a Cat's Protection volunteer  
Took him to the cattery.

He had a nice little cabin.  
Bed and dining on the top  
floor.  
En suite and exercise space  
downstairs.  
Cosy, that's for sure.

But Alfie hoped somewhere  
out there  
Was a place he could call his  
own.  
And just a few  
days later  
He found his  
forever home!



Now Alfie has moved in with  
me.

I knew it to be a good sign  
That he didn't pee in the  
carrier  
On his way back to mine!

Alfie made himself at home,  
Christened his litter tray,  
Ate a handful of Dreamies,  
Then hid himself away.

Two days he spent hiding  
under a bed,  
And at night, when I was  
asleep  
He'd venture into the kitchen  
And find himself something  
to eat.

Now one week on, he's full of  
beans  
He pals up with visitors, and  
He's found the feline toy box -  
Those catnip mice are just  
grand!

Alfie's 12 years old, but oh!  
Alfie's very spry.  
We're planning to grow old  
together now,  
Alfie, the tabby, and I...

**Alphiphile Poet**

# Friends of Chapel Wood

Again, we were lucky with the weather in November. It was dry for our working party and days this past Autumn have been few and far between. Despite a number of regulars feeling less than 100%, we had another good turn out of Friends, which meant we could consider completing some serious tasks. In particular, we could spend some time working on the slope and the new footpath behind the church.

At the top end of the path, we needed to join up with the small area of hard standing by St. Mark's room, where there was a small two metre gap. We had to dig the area out to create a base in which we laid three square metres of a plastic grid. This was then filled up with gravel and compressed until relatively solid.

The process of compression created a wonderful sight. The more robust members of the team took up positions on the grid and then



proceeded to provide a wonderful exhibition of agility. Imagine a cross between the New Zealand All Black's Haka and an acrobatic version of Strictly Come Dancing! We really ought to try to persuade them to repeat the performance at St. Mark's fete, next year.

Cont,. ...



...Cont.

With the path now completed, save for a minor bit of snagging, we need to think about the planting. The first step was a survey of the area, from which we could produce a scale drawing. This has now been completed and we hope to be able to produce the plan and



source the plants early in the new year. If any reader has any thoughts on plants they would like to see included, please pass them on to Chris and we will do our best to accommodate. However, they must be native to the woods around Ampfield and, ideally, non-invasive.

Despite the excitement of the path, it is important that the routine stuff is maintained. We

completed our monthly inspection of the wood, looking for hazards and litter. We had to cut back a few branches that had come down in the wind but, happily, there was no litter. In the main. We are a tidy bunch in Ampfield. We also, trimmed back the yew hedge in the burial ground and cut back more rhododendron around the glade. Hopefully, weather permitting, this can continue in December in preparation for a bonfire in January.

The Friends of Chapel Wood wish all their readers a very happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year! See you next year, if you fancy a spot of harmless exercise!

**Graham Roads**



## Prayers for these times

O God, we pray for all the children of Abraham in Israel and Palestine and in every country of the world.

We pray for Muslims, Jews and Christians that we will draw on the best of our traditions to guide us away from words and acts of division and discrimination so that everyone may be free to live in safety.

Protect the vulnerable, strengthen the fearful and comfort the grieving.

In Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

Holy Jesus,  
by being born one of us,  
and lying humbly in a manger,  
you show how much God loves the world.  
Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,  
until we reach our home in heaven,  
and see you on your throne of glory.

**Amen.**







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



*We remember in our prayers all those who have been  
married, baptised or had their funeral at St. Mark's in  
2023*

**Answers to Ron & Stella's Quiz Night**

1. Cary Grant
2. Germany
3. The Skin
4. Calcium
5. Sicily
6. The Mayflower
7. Mars
8. Legwarmers
9. Giraffe
10. Periwinkle

## Rotas for St. Mark's in December

Date	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Intercessions	Sides	Coffee	Music
3Dec Advent Sunday	Tidy Church				Doreen	Mark & Abbie
10 Dec	Isaiah 40 1-11 Robyn	2 Peter 3 8-15a Heather S	Jean	Ron Sally C	Chris	Organist
10 Dec	Christingle 4pm - Volunteers Please					
17 Dec	Isaiah 62 1-4, 8-11 Mark B	1 Thessalonians 16-24 Doreen	Rob	Heather C Stephen	Jennie	Jean
21 Dec	Carol Service 7.30 pm -Volunteers Please					
24 Dec	Crib Service 3pm - Volunteers Please					
25 Dec	Isaiah 9 2-7 Heather C	Titus 2 11-14 Robyn	Sally K	Mark B Robyn	No coffee	Organist
31 Dec	Isaiah 61 10-62,3 Rob	Galatians 4 4-7 Jennie E	Sally	Phil Chris	Jean	Organist

**Christmas Flowers — if you would like to do a Christmas arrangement for St Mark's please leave it in the church. If you need information contact Jennie:**

Tel: 02380 365041

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

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