

# The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of  
St. Mark Ampfield*

September 2025  
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[www.acnb-church.org](http://www.acnb-church.org)

# 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*

Well, it has certainly been a long hot summer! And while the dry summer with lots of sunshine has certainly been great for holidays, picnics and cricket, the lack of rain is less good for our farmers, and for the prices of crops, feed, and ultimately, our food. In church, we are about to start the season of Creationtide. This is the time of year when we think about how we as human beings impact the planet we live on, and how we might, alongside the God of Creation, work towards a planet that is more whole, and less damaged than we have currently made it to be.

The theme for the Season of Creation 2025 is peace with creation, based on Isaiah 32:14-18. The prophet Isaiah pictured the desolated Creation without peace because of the lack of justice and the broken relationship between people and God. This description of devastated cities and wastelands reveals how human destructive behaviours have a negative impact on the Earth. Our hope is that creation will find peace when justice is restored. There is still hope and the expectation for a peaceful Earth. To hope does not mean to stand still and quiet, but to act, pray, change, and reconcile with Creation and the Creator in unity, repentance and solidarity.

I certainly believe there is hope for change! You may like to read this story from Positive News <https://www.positive.news/society/weaving-a-story-of-hope-with-nature-recovery/> (If you haven't seen Positive News before, it's a great antidote to most of the things we read in the news!) This story is about the work of Sara King, who coordinates Rewilding Britain, a charity that helps landowners to restore the nation's ecosystems. So, for example, the Knebb Estate in Sussex, now home to the largest colony of Purple Emperor butterflies in the country thanks to years of rewilding. Sara comments; "Even in Britain, one of the most nature-depleted countries, if we give nature the space and the conditions it needs, and a little bit of a helping hand, it can bounce back. That's something to be hopeful about."

It certainly gives me hope too! *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

*Need a break from the hurly burly of life?*

*St. Mark's is usually open daily from 10am - 4pm*



# *Castaway of the Month*

## *Simon Sharland*



**I** grew up in a Service family and having been born in Malta I spent my childhood years in the 1960's living between Singapore and our home on Hayling Island. I was sent off to boarding school outside Bath where the sports field rather than the examination paper proved to be my more successful activity. After university I spent 37 years in the Royal Marines.

### **Spanish Flea** (Bert Kaempfert)

Growing up in Singapore where we led a wonderful life largely spent around the swimming pool, with frequent holidays spent either in the hills or on the beaches of Malaya. This tune was constantly on my parents' record player.

### **Small Hours** (John Martyn)

I loved my 10 years away at where I developed a lifelong love of folk music and John Martyn was the artist that reminds me of that time more than any other.

### **One Of Those days In England** (Roy Harper)

At Leicester University I was introduced to the theatre and narrow boating holidays, both of which I have continued to enjoy over the rest of my life. This song reminds me of lazy days in our student house garden, listening to music and quenching our thirst on cider.

### **Sarie Marais** (Trad South African Folk Song)

This tune was adopted by the Royal Marines as our commando slow march. We stole it from the Boer commandos after the Boer war. Life in the Royal Marines took me all over the world and gave me many fascinating experiences.



**...Cont.**

**Margaritaville (Jimmy Buffet)**

In the late 1980's I spent 18 months on the island of Diego Garcia (now much in the news) where I commanded the Royal Marines Detachment. The music of Jimmy Buffet was played at every party and whenever I hear him I am transported back to those fabulous beaches and tropical seas.

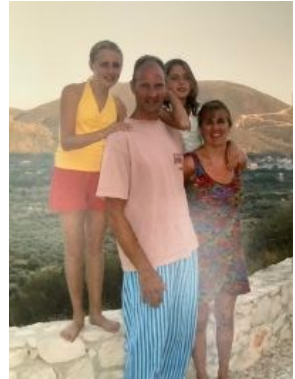
**I Want To See The Bright Lights Tonight**

(Richard and Linda Thompson)

I married my wife Clare in 1994. Always a bundle of energy this song sums up for me her love of life and her great sense of fun.

**Grace Kelly (Mika)**

When our girls, Helen and Trina, were young we spent most summers camping or staying in Gites in France. This song will always remind me of us barreling down the peage with everyone in full voice.



**Who Knows Where The Time Goes?**

(Sandy Denny)

We moved into Knapp Lane in 2014. We still can't believe how lucky we are to live here where we have made so many good friends. I just can't believe how quickly time has passed since we arrived.

**Book:**

**The Jungle is Neutral (F Spencer Chapman)**

A stirring tale of fortitude and courage. Just what would be required to survive on the island and there would also be practical survival advice within the story.

**Luxury Item:**

A Set of Watercolour Paints and Paper to allow me to learn how to paint and record my existence on the island.

**Simon Sharland**

# Friends of Chapel Wood by Graham Roads

Under normal circumstances, the FoCW do not have a working party in August. Our happy band of woodlanders take the opportunity to grab buckets and spades and disappear to far-flung beaches, sometimes even as far as Dorset, where they can recharge batteries ready for the new season of wood-

land adventures. However, this year, the almost total lack of rain in the spring and early summer meant we would need to break with tradition and engage in watering duties. Over the winter, we had planted 150 yew trees in the cruciform, as well as a number of blackthorn, hazels and other woodland understory trees. We did not want to lose any, if we could help it.

In this connection, a very big 'thank you' must go to the St. Mark's PCC, who, in exchange for a modest contribution to their water costs, allowed us to access the water supply. Without their help, it would have been virtually impossible to get water on to the newly planted areas. Luckily for us, it seemed the ground had retained some moisture from the winter rains, and, as you can see, the



young plants were managing to survive, just!

Whilst we were on site, it was clear that there were several other areas that would benefit from some attention. The network of footpaths can quickly become overgrown, making walking around the wood quite difficult in places. In particular, the brambles seemed to be thriving and, whilst their blackberries are always most welcome, the vegetation can be a real menace. It can block paths, scratch legs and catch unwary feet, if you are not paying close attention.



Cont. ...

...Cont.

Walking the footpaths also provided a good opportunity to complete one of our regular woodland risk assessments. Apart from the obvious, these assessments provide a useful way of keeping an eye on what is going on in the wood. This year the bracken has been most prolific. The newly sown grass areas to the rear of the burial ground have been particularly badly affected. So much so, that trying to pull it up this year is no longer a practical proposition. We



will need to give this further thought over the autumn and winter.



Also, as a part of this exercise, we found one of the benches close to the burial ground was in need of repair or replacement. One of the front struts had rotted and come adrift from the frame. We will look at this further at

our next working party but, in the meantime, we decided it would be best to take the bench out of service, using tape to ensure it could not be used.

If you fancy the idea of joining some like-minded neighbours for a few hours once a month, just turn up in the St. Mark's car park at 09:45 on the second Saturday of every month. The Friends are a good bunch. Tools are provided. It is a good way to have a bit of fun and help our community at the same time.



**Graham**

## Can you identify this plant from St. Mark's churchyard?



Last month our contributor asked for help to identify the plant she had found:

*"I think it might be *Potentilla Angelica* also known as trailing Formentil. **BUT** the formation of the three large serrated leaves with two small smooth ones, all springing from the same spot on the stem, does not match any description/illustration in my wild flower books. Maybe it is a hybrid or perhaps I need to go to Specsavers?!"*

*Any enlightenment is welcome via the Messenger."*

We received the following:

Hi Chris,  
The plant in the churchyard is Tormentil. I had a cousin who had been a headmistress back in the 1930s. She explained to me when I was a little girl that although it looked like cinquefoil, it was tormentil - one of the petals had been tormented away! So *potentilla erecta*. The Wiki photo looks like your pic.



*Good to know that someone actually reads The Messenger! Ed.*

# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Harvest Home in 1865

We thought you might be interested to read another excerpt from the book "Seven Years in a Country Parish" written by our very first vicar, Rev. Robert Wilson, in 1872. This refers to his time as vicar of Rownhams, but gives an idea of what harvest might have been like in Ampfield then. This letter first appeared in the Rownhams parish magazine dated October 1865.

"Dear friends,

Our third harvest home has been successfully and happily kept, and as last month I expressed a hope that no evil or scandal might arise from the festive part of its celebration, I am glad and thankful now to be able to say that I have good reason to hope there was nothing of the kind. All were happy, cheerful, contented and well-conducted. As long as our people can thus be merry and wise, we may, I think, consider the Harvest Home as one of our Parochial Institutions, and look forward to meeting year by year in the same way; those of us I mean who are spared, and whose work here is still going on. And may each such meeting find us more forward with our life's work, and more ready for the great Harvest Home of which we are thus so continually and vividly reminded, when we shall be, not the reapers, but ourselves the sheaves, carried by God's Reapers safe to his everlasting and blessed storehouse.

Your faithful friend and Pastor,

Robert Francis Wilson"



*Let's hope that at **our** harvest supper this year we have no "evil or scandal"!*

Our Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 7th October  
Services: Family Communion 9.30 am  
Evening Prayer 6.00 pm

Harvest Supper at the W.I. Hall  
on Friday 12th October at 7.30 pm  
Entertainment by Mr Peter Peace  
Tickets will be available shortly, £3.50 (children £2)  
**Proceeds in aid of the Appeal.**

# Masters Pentathlon in Madrid July 2025

by **Phil Budden**

You may have seen my report in March 2024 on an informal Winter Pentathlon I did in Davos which involved running and skiing in the snow. Since then I've been competing at UIPM Masters Pentathlon, last autumn at the World Championships in Hungary, and in July the European Championships in Madrid when it was by contrast very hot!



*In front of the flags of competing nations*

centre, twice as long as had been expected. I've been focused on my fencing, and it paid off as I won the 60+.

We started with the fencing where all 32 of us fought everyone else which took 6 hours in a humid sports



*Phil fencing*

It was a relief to move on to the swimming to cool off, although it's my least favourite event. I finished refreshed but close to last. The riding would have been next, and my favourite, but has now been replaced with an Obstacle course. I'd been uncertain whether to compete, worrying about injuring myself, but in the end I couldn't resist, and happily survived undamaged. It's been a long time since I swung on monkey bars and rings and the like!

Cont. ...

...Cont.

That left the Laser Run. This is alternately running and shooting, where you only lose time if you miss the bull, but you have to get 5 hits before running on for another lap. The start is handicapped, so that the first to finish has won the whole event. I was delighted to take the finish banner to win the 70+!



*On the monkey bars*



*Laser run finish*



*On the podium!*

**Phil**

# Hillsborough - 15th April 1989

by Stephen Phillips



As another football season starts I thought I would put down my experience of what had become known as the Hillsborough tragedy.

I spent a good deal of my career as a buyer in the FMCG industry; fast moving goods or simply the things that we buy every week at the supermarket. I negotiated cost of goods and other support for promotions, events etc. I dealt with many of the

major companies especially in the beers, wines & spirits, soft drinks categories and was fortunate enough to be invited to many of the top sports showcases; Wimbledon, Royal Ascot, Twickenham, F1, Lords, Wembley to name a few.

One of my suppliers was a company named Taunton Cider and my account manager asked me on a number of occasions to football matches- I went to a few but also passed on the invites to other colleagues. One such match I went to was the FA Cup semi-final between Nottingham Forest and Liverpool on April 15th 1989.

I got picked up in the morning and we drove to Sheffield, had lunch in a local hotel and walked to the ground in good time. We had seats in the second tier of the main stand level with the penalty area at the Leppings Lane end. The atmosphere was tremendous and both sets of supporters were in full voice in the warm spring sunshine. For a neutral (I'm a Spurs supporter) it was enjoyable.

The noise levels grew as kick off approached - no one could have foreseen what would happen next.

The game kicked off with equal possession in the first few minutes. I remember Nottingham Forest attacking down the right side only for a policeman in a long coat running onto the pitch from behind the Liverpool goal and frantically waving his arm to halt the match. I also recall the Forest fans booing - their attack being stooped. From where we were sitting we had no idea why and couldn't see any reason.

Cont. ...

...Cont.

The next few hours still stay with me. Apparently on TV news, cameras (in those days the games were not shown live) brought the reality to millions in their homes. Paradoxically although we were in the stadium we weren't aware of the scale of what was unfolding although we could see it was Serious.

We saw people being hauled up from the terrace below by others in the seats above. I also saw advertising hoardings being used as makeshift stretchers. I witnessed someone being given mouth to mouth - successfully I add.

It's important to remember these were pre mobile phone days. After an hour we decided we'd leave as it was announced the match was abandoned. Outside we met other people asking what it was like and what we knew. Someone told us four people were dead - we just couldn't believe it. When we got back to the car we switched on the radio and learned that the fatalities was on double figures.

For those who know the M1 we had to drive as far as Leicester Forest East before we could find a phone box without a massive queue.

Karen will tell you her own feelings as we couldn't communicate. Needless to say she was very worried. I eventually managed to get through to my mother who I think then spoke to Karen.

Eventually I got home - still in a daze.

The final list of fatalities was 96 and it took more than 30 years of legal battles and official enquiries for the families to get some degree of closure.

For me it remains a surreal experience, being there but not being aware - like watching a film where you can't follow the plot.

The following weekend Spurs were at home to Everton, Liverpool's neighbours and rivals. I felt I had to go - in those days you could still buy a ticket on the day. The result didn't matter but the friendship and sympathy shown to the Everton supporters was a credit and I'm proud to have been part of that.



**Stephen**

# What's on in the Benefice every week

## St. Mark's

### St. Mark's Minnows is back on the 4th September Thursdays in St. Mark's Room 9.30 - 11am

We are very excited that our Minnows will be swimming back together and returning with a splash on 4th September! All Welcome! Kettle's on from 9.15.

### St. Mark's Fridge Magnets and cards

Jennie has made cards and fridge magnets with a picture of Ampfield Church - £1.50 for a card, or £5 for 4 cards, and £2 for a fridge magnet. Available to buy at Ampfield Market or in church.



## All Saints

### Digital Hub - All Saints: Wednesdays 10.30am - 12 noon

We have expanded Wednesday mornings to include some support for those who have laptops, tablets or phones and need a little extra help on how to use them. If you need any advice then please bring them along and hopefully we can be of help.

### Social Hub - Wednesdays at All Saints 10am - 12 noon

Have a go at some crafts, do jigsaws or just relax with a book that has been borrowed from the Community Library (also open on a Wednesday morning) or just sit and chat. Free drinks and biscuits and sometimes other treats!

### Welcome Cafe at All Saints Thursdays at 10am

The café is for any and everyone in the community to come and meet friends for a catch-up and enjoy great coffee. We particularly welcome those who find themselves lonely or bereaved.

## Sunshine Saints

### Fri: 10:00am - 11.30am at All Saints (term-time only)

Sunshine Saints is the toddler and baby group. It is an opportunity for the children to have fun playing together. There are snacks for the children and tea and coffee for those who accompany them, suggested donation: £2.

# What's on in the Benefice every month

## St. Mark's

### Friends for Lunch Wednesday 15th October and Christmas Lunch Wednesday 3rd December

Friends for lunch will be back in October. Christmas Lunch will take place in St. Mark's Room on Wednesday 3rd. December. Places will be limited so sign up soon! To book a place for either lunch, please contact Pam on :Tel. 02380 411146 or Email - [pamm@acnb-church.org](mailto:pamm@acnb-church.org)

### St. Mark's Stall at the Ampfield Market Saturday 6th September 10.00 - 12noon

We sell bric - a - brac, gifts and seasonal items to raise money for the maintenance of the buildings of St. Mark's. If you have anything to donate, please contact Chris on 01794 367104. We are happy to collect. Thank you.

Pam and Chris

### Pilgrim Course - back on Saturday 20th September

The Ampfield group will start back after the summer break but will be meeting in All Saints church at 10am just for this one time. This is an opportunity to ask questions about faith. Our ethos is that we are exploring together, and there are no wrong answers - all are welcome to these relaxed and friendly group. . Do get in touch if you would like more information.

### Flowers for September - Chris



### Church Cleaning

If anyone would like to help with cleaning the Church (taking it in turns on our monthly rota) that would be very helpful. It is best to do this in pairs to be safe, and does not take very long to Hoover, sweep, and dust! If you would like to offer or chat about this please contact Jennie Edwards (details at the front of the Messenger). Thank you so much.

Jennie

# Benefice News

## All Saints (Cont.)

### The Open Teapot - Sunday 14th September 3.15pm

The first of these tea afternoons on Sunday was a great success with 35 people attending. There will be an opportunity to reminisce with the help of The Memory Box Foundation and the theme will be 'A Night on the Town'. The picture shows Lesley (representing the Lions Club Romsey).

The club sponsored the first Open Teapot and Kayte (Memory Box Foundation). Grateful thanks to all who made the afternoon possible. See article in the Romsey Advertiser.



### Pilgrim Course

(See details on previous page). Pilgrims will meet Wednesday 3rd September starting at 2pm (and will continue on the first and third Wednesday of the month) .

## St. Denys

Chilworth Lunchtime Recitals will be back after the Summer break

### 1pm, Wednesday 10th September - Tom Downes

Tom Downes, a violinist who plays with Sound Worship will be giving a recital which will include 'Classics, Hymns and Irish Tunes'.

### 1pm, Wednesday 22nd October - The Southampton Salty Sea Dogs

Will be performing sea shanties and songs with a few jokes thrown in. Those of you who supported their performance last year will know just how much fun this motley crew are!

*As usual there will be cake and a cuppa afterwards and donations are welcome.*

**"It is easier to build strong children  
than to repair broken men"**  
Frederick Douglas, quoted in The Daily Telegraph



## **Ride and Stride - Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust Saturday 13th September**

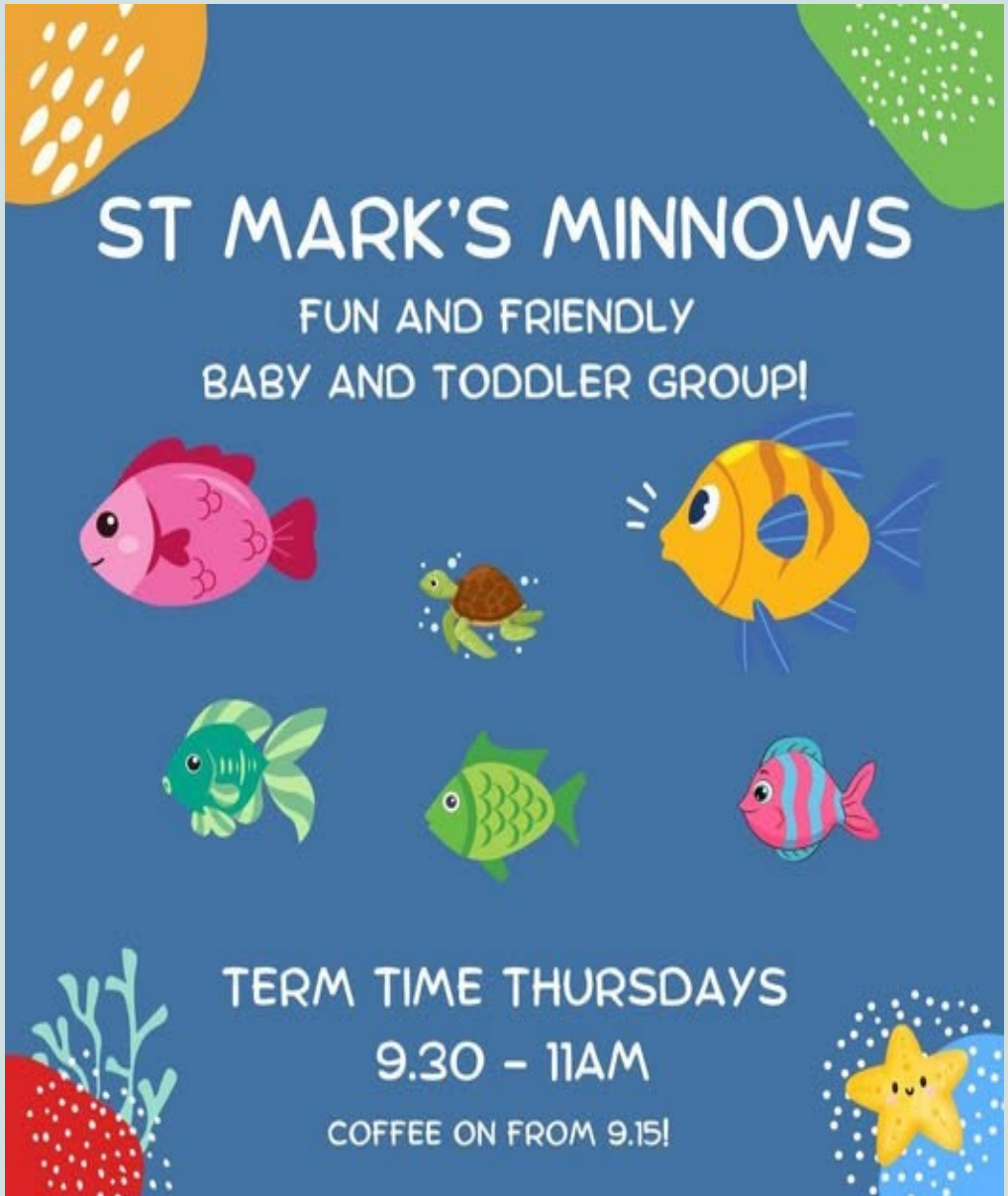
Francois will be getting on his bike again and riding around Romsey Deanery and visiting the Anglican churches. Phil and Jo are planning a walk and will be visiting the acnb churches! If you would like to join them for the walk please let them or me know, it is always fun and usually good weather! The more people that take part means more money can be raised for our churches. If you are unable to take part in Ride and Stride yourself then please consider sponsoring Jo, Phil or Francois by filling in a sponsor form in St. Mark or St. Denys. The money being raised is for all for the churches in acnb, shared with the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust.

### **Vocations Morning Saturday 18th October, 9.30am – 12.30pm St Boniface Church, Hursley Road, Chandler's Ford SO53 2FT**

Do you think God might be calling you to use your gifts to serve Jesus Christ, but you're unsure of what your next step might be?

Join Bishop Rhiannon and Rev'd Dr Amy Roche, along with members of the Mission & Ministry Team, to find out more about the pathways available for both lay and ordained ministries. There will be a particular focus on opportunities for lay ministry including Exploring Theology, Bishops Commission for Mission and Bishops Permission to Preach.

For more information and to book, please contact Tracey Nicholls  
[tracey.nicholls@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:tracey.nicholls@winchester.anglican.org) / 01962 710983

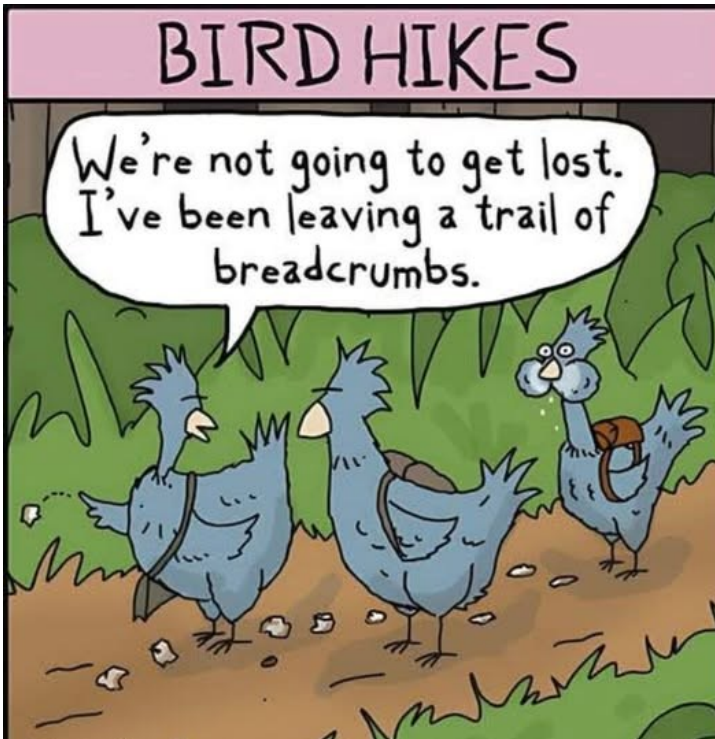


Back on the 4th September!

Benefice News  
Forest Church  
Exploring Spirituality through Nature  
for All Ages  
Sunday 21st September



Will take place at St. Mark, Ampfield starting at 3pm. It is for all ages to explore faith and spirituality through creation. Please dress for the weather. Tea and coffee will be available. We are looking forward to connecting with God through our interactions with nature and as we approach Autumn the theme will be Harvest.



A priest, a pastor and a rabbit entered a clinic to donate blood.  
The nurse asked the rabbit  
“What’s your blood type?”  
“I’m probably a type O”  
said the rabbit



## **Friends of St. Marks Church**

Invite you to an evening of Folk and Acoustic Music  
at St. Mark Church, Ampfield SO51 9BU

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

**7.30 - 10pm**

**(doors open at 7pm)**

performed by the band

**Beggar's Belief**



**Tickets £10 each - Cash Bar and nibbles**



Please book by using the QR code or  
<https://bit.ly/4jCCiWS>

or phone 07799 435715



# Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. What is the common name for dried plums?
2. How many taste buds does the average human tongue have?  
[1] 5,000 [2] 8,000 [3] 10,000
3. Which American state is the largest by area?
4. What would you find in the Indian city of Agra?
5. John F Kennedy was assassinated in which city?
6. On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 1815, which famous battle took place?
7. Who was the lead singer of the iconic 80's band Culture Club?
8. Who is the writer of the Merchant of Venice?
9. Which famous Australian building opened in 1973, was designed by Jorn Utzon?
10. Which American president was involved in The Watergate Scandal?

Answers on p. 31



**The  
Ampfield Market**  
(Established in 2000, now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year !)

**will take place  
On  
Saturday 6th september  
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 market Saturday 4th October**

## WHAT'S ON IN THE AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL THIS MONTH –

JULY 2025- JOIN IN ONE!

### MONDAYS

**PILATES WITH HANNAH** – Two sessions in the morning. 9.15am to 10.20am & 10.30am to 11.35am. Mixed ability mat class. 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.

**NB. NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS [www.ampfieldparish.gov.uk](http://www.ampfieldparish.gov.uk)**

### TUESDAYS

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

### WEDNESDAYS

**NEW CLASS! YOGA MORNING with Yoga by Gaynor** – 9.30 to 10.30 for details see Friday below

**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? Want to get more from your hobby? 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.** Diana is back with her regular class. 9.30 -10.30 am.

E-mail address for further details [cravendiana18@gmail.com](mailto:cravendiana18@gmail.com)

**AMPFIELD ART GROUP** meets Thurs. afternoons during term time 2pm to 4pm. Very friendly atmosphere. Beginners and those wishing to develop their skills welcome. Contact email: [Julie@ampfield.org.uk](mailto:Julie@ampfield.org.uk)

**PILATES WITH HANNAH PLOMB - TWO SESSIONS. 6.15 to 7.20pm (improvers and Intermediate) & 7.30 to 8.35pm (Beginners).** Mat classes. For details: see Monday above.

...Cont.

## 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 (IN ITS 25<sup>th</sup> YEAR!)** First Saturday of every month 10-12noon (except Jan. and Aug.). Entry free. Regularly on sale are fresh bread, rolls, jams, chutneys and pickles, cakes, plants and fresh flowers, cards, books, antiques, unusual crafts, jewellery, toys, seasonal surprises, bric a brac etc. Fresh coffee and delicious cakes are served all morning in the Garden Room. Interested in renting a table? Ring Julie on 02380 254587 or email [Julie@ampfield.org.uk](mailto:Julie@ampfield.org.uk).

This is a great event to meet up with people.

**CARD MAKING WORKSHOP WITH VANESSA.** A range of crafts taught, meets monthly, normally on the second Saturday of each month from 10am to 4pm. A very relaxed day and delicious coffee provided. Details from Vanessa 01794 515490 or email [Amppfieldcards@gmail.com](mailto:Amppfieldcards@gmail.com).

## SUNDAYS

**NEW GROUP! SEWING SUNDAYS** Small group of crafters, who meet once a month on a Sunday. Open to all who want to bring along their dressmaking, knitting or other textile projects. If interested email Michelle [michel-leewaters@gmail.com](mailto:michel-leewaters@gmail.com) Lovely group, offers advice, help pinning and fitting toiles + natter & cuppa

*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)*

**NEW DIARY DATES: The next EVER POPULAR FUN QUIZ NIGHT is on FRIDAY NOV 21<sup>st</sup> in the Village Hall £5 per entrant Inc. bar snacks. Book a place or table now & pay on the night. STOP PRESS! Pantomime returns. It's Pinocchio! Wed. 10 December'25. 6pm The usual great fun cast from Bumblefly Theatre, Forest Forge Theatre Company and Misch-evous Theatre return, together with the Hob Nobs, squash and coffee ! Make a note in your diary – further details to follow.**

## Thought for the Month

### A childhood in Africa



I found it very difficult to think of a topic for Thought for the Month. Then one of my sons suggested that I write about my early life as the daughter of CMS missionaries so here we go! I am the middle child.

My parents, who were both schoolteachers, went out to what was known as the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan as newlyweds in 1938/39. The mission station was in

Yambio, close to the border with the Belgian Congo. In 1939 war was declared in Europe and my parents were unable to return home. My brother and I were born in an American Mission Hospital just over the border and my sister was born in Nairobi. Meat was very scarce, just the occasional scrawny chicken, and my parents had the front lawn dug up to plant groundnuts. These were a good source of protein so we existed on peanut butter in varying forms. We were there until 1945 when my parents brought us home on leave. We travelled on a troop ship from Port Said in Egypt, the troops eagerly volunteered to help with childcare! On arrival in British waters, the troops disembarked in Plymouth. However, our ship continued to Greenock in Scotland where we disembarked. My mother was horrified as she saw our pram right at the bottom of a cargo net!

I can remember spending time with both sets of grandparents who were thrilled to see their grandchildren for the first time. About this time my father decided he had a calling to the priesthood. We returned to the Sudan in early 1946, leaving my brother, just 6 years old, behind in boarding school. My sister and I spent a very happy two years in Yambio, travelling to various mission stations with our parents. My father was ordained by Bishop Oliver Allison, Bishop in the Sudan. My sister and I were looked after by one of the house boys and home schooled by my mother. We saw very little wildlife, but I can remember a leopard getting into the chicken house at the girls school one night. The District Commissioner shot it and then it was paraded through the village tied to a pole.

Cont. ...

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In 1948 my mother, my sister and I returned to England. We travelled to Khartoum, then by Nile steamer to Port Said. Khartoum was a fascinating place, all the hustle and bustle of a large city and camels. The journey on the paddle steamer gave the opportunity to see hippos with mouths agape, and crocodiles basking on the riverbank.

We lived with my mother's parents and my father joined us later in the year. We moved to Leicester where a friend of my father had a flat made for us in the attic of his vicarage. My father spent most of his leave at Wycliffe Hall in Oxford and then returned on his own to the Sudan in 1949 where he sadly died of peritonitis in February 1950 at Juba, now the capital of South Sudan. We were aged 10, 8 and 6. My mother returned to teaching and my siblings and I were sent to the Clergy Orphan Schools in Canterbury and Bushey (Hertfordshire). My mother never told us how hard life had been as a young widow until just before her death in 1976. She continued teaching until she retired at the age of 61.

When I look back at my early life, I wonder how my parents managed without all the modern conveniences we have today. No running water, no fridge, and a loo in a thatched hut over a deep pit. I can remember, when I was about 5 years old, sitting on the loo when a tarantula came out from under the seat. I can still see myself running up the path to the house with my knickers round my ankles and screaming my head off! I still have difficulty with spiders, although after 4 years in El Salvador with tarantulas and other creepy crawlies, I have a little more self-control!

## Jean Smith

*May 1942 - My mother, aged 30, my brother Paul, aged 2 and me, aged 6 months with Maya who was the "baby boy" and the cook. He was from the Zande tribe. My father annotated the photo "Maya is the only boy who can control Paul".*



## Instant Thought

In an instant you know what you always knew  
That old friends are important and have a value  
well beyond the imagined sum of their parts.  
It is natural, organic and has grown over many years  
of friendliness and support.

We may not agree with one another on some things,  
even important things, but we respect each other's beliefs  
and differences and that is the most powerfully important  
thing which allows friendships to endure.

To keep being our own selves, keep our beliefs in our hearts,  
while understanding that we must allow each other to  
believe in the humanity of life as we each see it, cherish it  
and share in the difference which brings vitality to our lives.

**Paul Oliver**



### *From St Mark's Register*

#### **Baptism**

Sun 13<sup>th</sup> July - Grace Pippa Sammut

Sun 20<sup>th</sup> July - Freddi Albert Wyatt

#### **Funerals**

17<sup>th</sup> June - Nancy Atlee

1<sup>st</sup> August - Sylvia Daisy Hockey

11<sup>th</sup> August - Ann Weaver

1<sup>st</sup> September - Christina Masters

*Please hold them in your prayers*

## Answers to Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. PRUNES
2. 10,000
3. ALASKA
4. TAJ MAHAL
5. DALLAS
6. THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO
7. BOY GEORGE
8. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
9. SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE
10. RICHARD NIXON



*A sign up sheet is on the font at St. Mark's - it's booking up fast!*

*A Prayer for children and young  
people starting school or work.*

Loving God, let me be strong today  
as I meet new people in new places.  
Make me brave when I am worried,  
show me how to learn  
from everyone around me,  
and help me to do my very best.  
Amen.



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