

# The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of  
St. Mark Ampfield*

**April 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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Cover photograph of St. Mark's Church from a painting  
by Ian Case

## *Letter from Vanessa*

### *Dear Friends*

I wonder when the last time was that you felt excluded from something? We are human beings, designed by God for relationship and connection, but we are also all broken humans - so inevitably we are going to misalign those connections sometimes! It happens to us all from time to time.

But churches are places where being excluded can feel particularly hard. Perhaps because faith is so intrinsic to our self identity - it is absolutely at the core of who we are. As Christians, we naturally want to show the love and compassion of God to everyone we meet, but sometimes we are all products of our traditions, our theological stance, or our cultural awareness. Over the centuries, many people have been excluded from the church for the colour of their skin, their gender, or their sexuality. People with disabilities have often been physically unable to get into the church. Single parents have felt frowned upon, parents of noisy children have been tutted at, those struggling with their mental health have found it hard to find a place of compassion.

We all want to welcome all who want to come to church. But we need to be honest and acknowledge that we don't always get it right! As a leadership team across our Benefice, we are working on a number of different areas of inclusion and welcome, and we would very much value your thoughts. We are working on accessible entrances at St Mark's, and also thinking about the welcome we give to LBGTQ+ people - look out for a survey coming soon in the newsletter! Please do get in touch and let us know your feelings about inclusion in our churches!



*Vanessa*

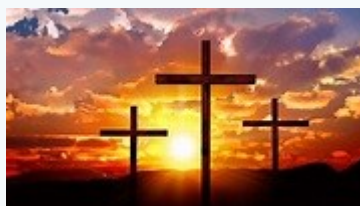
# Weekly service pattern

## 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



*Details of Easter services across the Benefice can be found on p. 15*

# ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND MINSTEAD CHURCH

By Alan Edwards

A few days ago, we enjoyed a delightful day at Minstead. The day had much to commend it. We met two other couples whom we first met 56 years ago. It has been the most enduring of friendships. We ate in The Trusty Servant, which possesses one of the most distinctive of pub signs: a copy of a picture in Winchester College showing a man with a pig's snout, the ears of an ass and the feet of a stag. The pub is adjacent to a thriving community shop, opposite a small green on which is located some stocks, in which those unfortunate enough to be sentenced to a session there either were required to sit down, which looked so uncomfortable, or stand in a more conventional position. It did not require much imagination to see the poor man being pelted with gooey substances. In the front garden of a house overlooking the side of the pub was a glorious acacia in its full yellow flowering bloom. Two ponies wandered by. It was an archetypal New Forest scene.



The village church, All Saints, was a few yards up the hill. As most will know, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is buried in the churchyard. We last visited many moons ago, when his grave/headstone was located in a fairly isolated position at the rear. This is no longer the case. It is now surrounded by many other graves. When he died in 1930, Conan Doyle was buried in the garden of his home, Windlesham, near Crowborough in East

Sussex. He was not a Christian, but a Spiritualist. He had bought a house in Minstead in 1925. Hence when his second wife, Lady Jean, and family later wanted him to be buried in the Minstead churchyard, the necessary approvals could not be obtained; another factor was that the timing coincided with the start of WW2.

Cont. ...

...Cont.

When permission was eventually granted, his second and final resting place was placed away from others in the graveyard in order to avoid any local sensitivities about his religion. There appears to be no foundation to the oft quoted supposition that he was originally buried upright and bricked in a wall.



The church itself has many unusual features, both internally and externally. The facade resembles a country cottage. Inside, there is a three decker pulpit dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The font is thought to be of early Norman origin. It disappeared for some time, thought to be buried for safety during the Cromwellian era. It was discovered by a gardener at the Old Rectory in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and restored to the church. There are also a variety of box pews, originally built for private use. There is also a grand lychgate, for which funds are being raised to replace the huge oak base plates. The church is steeped in history.

Minstead appears to be a thriving community. As we approached the door, we heard voices. Should we enter? We did so, to find the parishioners clearing up after an afternoon tea. They welcomed us warmly, and were pleased to show us around and answer questions about the church and Conan Doyle. It was a fitting end to an interesting day.

Sir Arthur had other Hampshire connections, particularly in the Portsmouth area. Some 140 years on, he remains a legendary figure in the city. As, though to a lesser extent, does Dr. Watson. More next month.

**Alan Edwards**



# Friends of Chapel Wood by Graham Roads

Our original game plan for the March working party was to light a bonfire and burn all the rhododendron arisings that had been accumulated over the winter. As it happened,

events on the day conspired against us. The rain from the previous few days had successfully soaked all the stuff we were planning to burn, added to which, our numbers for the work party were much depleted.



We decided the best course of action was to cut up the available bonfire material into smaller pieces, which would be easier to burn and would make life easier for ourselves when conditions improved. Although there was a lot of vegetation to be sorted out, in practice it did not take us too long, and we could begin to think about cutting back some the rhodo that was beginning to regrow

in the area below the steps. This could also be burnt next time.

It is pleasing to report the upheavals experienced in burial ground over the past year have now nearly come to an end. Our contractors have been working extremely hard and have now finished replanting the cruciform with yew, which has been encased in a wire frame for protection. The whole operation has taken over a year, for one reason or another, but the result has been worth the trouble.

Cont. ...



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In addition to the replanting, our contractors have also made considerable progress with the plan to enlarge the burial ground. The area that had been cleared has now been graded and prepared, prior to sowing grass seed over the next month or so. This essential work has very materially increased

the available size of the burial area, which should now be able to accommodate local demand for years to come.



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 Roads**

## ***Ron & Stella's Quiz Night***

1. What is a group of Goldfinches known as?
2. Do Sponges have hearts?
3. How many stripes does Adidas have?
4. Oktoberfest in Germany is celebrated with what drink?
5. What is the world's fifth largest religion?
6. What is the name of the sea located between Tunisia and Italy?
7. In which year did Four Weddings and a Funeral Premier?  
(1) 1994 (2) 1995 (3) 1996
8. Who played the character of Jack Dawson in the movie Titanic?
9. What colour is the tongue of a Giraffe?
10. Which marsupial is known for sleeping most of the day?



**Ron Cobb**

Answers on p. 34



Did you hear about the agnostic, dyslexic insomniac?  
He stayed up all night wondering if he was a dog ...

A police officer called the station on his radio  
"I need back up here. The vicar's wife shot her husband for walking  
on the floor she'd just washed"  
"Have you arrested the woman?"  
"Not yet Sarge. The floor's still wet"

Atheist:

"Do you honestly believe that Jonah spent three days and three  
nights in the belly of a whale?"

Vicar:

"I don't know sir, but when I get to heaven, I'll ask him"

Atheist:

"But suppose he isn't in heaven?"

Vicar:

"Then you ask him."

What do you call a man with a spade on his head?

Doug

What do you call a man without a spade on his head?

Douglas



# Benefice News

## Lent Lunch Friday 11th April 12noon — 2pm

The last Lent lunch will take place in St. Mark's room - we are raising money for the Romsey Foodbank and the Winchester night shelter (The Winchester Beacon) so please come along and support these worthwhile causes.

see p.16 for full details.



## Friends for Lunch Wednesday April 16th

We celebrate our 10th anniversary in April with a special Italian-themed meal. It's booking up fast, so if you would like to join the celebrations please contact Pam on Tel. 02380 411146 or Email - [pamm@acnb-church.org](mailto:pamm@acnb-church.org) for availability.

## St. Mark's Stall at the Ampfield Market

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 for your support.

## Friends of St. Mark's

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Sat 19th April:</b>   | Coffee morning with Easter egg hunt, Easter bunny face painting, Easter card making, produce and cake stalls and raffle. All for £3 per adult and £1 per child. |
| <b>Fri 9th May:</b>      | Back by popular demand - Quiz Night with Ron as Question Master. Tickets will be online and there will be a bar. Look out for more details.                     |
| <b>Sat 5th July:</b>     | Summer Cream Tea with children's treasure hunt  |
| <b>Fri 10th October:</b> | Wine Tasting  |
| <b>Dates TBA:</b>        | Live Band 'Beggar's Belief' and Beetle Drive  |

**Pilgrim Course** Will be back .....

# Benefice News

## St. Mark's Minnows

Hello Everyone

I am so excited to tell you about our NEW Thursday morning Baby and Toddler Group.

We have only been going for a few weeks now but we have some lovely mums/ grandmas who bring along their little ones.



We have background Nursery Rhyme Music to enhance the wonderful atmosphere of chatter amongst us all. The little ones love to play with toys on the mats. We also have sand/ play dough/ arts and crafts/ jigsaws and puzzles. Midway through we have drinks and snacks for those who would like them and the Tea/Coffee pot is on the go from 9.15 am all through out the morning. At 11am we turn up the Nursery Rhymes to help us all to pack away.

If you would like to join us on a Thursday morning and bring your babies and toddlers, please feel free to. Our next session is on the 3rd April , then we are closed for the School holidays and are back to play on Thursday 24th April. We look forward to seeing you here.

Please note:-

There is parking and respectively ask our wonderful dog walkers not to park in our car park on a Thursday morning. This will ensure that our mums and children are able to come and park safely. Thank you.

**Heather Claxton**



# Benefice News



## Across the Benefice

### Lent Courses at St. Mark's and All Saints

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and repentance - preparation for Easter. Join us for a Lent discussion course on Wednesday afternoons or Thursday evenings:

*Wednesdays: 14:00 - 15:30 at All Saints, North Baddesley  
(2nd, 9th April)*

*Thursdays: 19:30 - 21:00 at St Mark's, Ampfield  
(3rd, 10th April)*

### Lent Quiet Morning 12th April 9.30 - 1pm at St. Denys

Join us for some time of reflection in the beautiful space that is St Denys' Church. There will be a combination of reflection, discussion, and worship. Relaxed and informal, all are welcome.

*Note that there will be no Pilgrim's session at St Mark's on 12th April.*

### Lent Lunches at St. Mark's Friday 11th April

Join us for delicious home made soup, bread and cheese. Lent Lunches in St Mark's Room, Ampfield: . Come anytime between 12:00 and 13:30 - No booking necessary

Donations go to The Romsey Foodbank and The Winchester Beacon (Night Shelter).



# Benefice News

## *Easter Services*

### Palm Sunday (13th April)

[Services as usual for 2nd Sunday of the month](#)



### Holy week

**Tuesday 10:30 at St Mark:** midweek Communion service as usual

**Wednesday 19:00 at All Saints:** midweek Communion service as usual

### Maundy Thursday (17th April)

**19:30 Maundy Thursday Communion service at All Saints -** remembering the Last Supper and the garden of Gethsemane

### Good Friday (18th April)

**14:00 Good Friday service at St John -** a service of readings, music and reflections

### Easter Day (20th April):

**09:30 Communion at St Mark**

**11:00 Communion at All Saints**





A wooden bowl filled with a smooth, yellow soup, garnished with a small pile of green peas and a fresh green leaf. A wooden spoon rests on the rim of the bowl. The background is a dark, textured wooden surface.

# LENT LUNCHES

St Mark's Room  
Drop in between  
12 - 1.30pm for some  
delicious home made  
soup!

Donations to the  
Foodbank and  
Winchester Beacon

**7TH, 28TH MARCH, 11TH APRIL**

A small bunch of fresh green herbs, likely parsley, lying on the dark wooden surface.Three horizontal white brushstrokes on the dark wooden background.

# ST MARK'S MINNOWS

FUN AND FRIENDLY  
BABY AND TODDLER GROUP!

ST MARK'S CHURCH ROOM, AMPFIELD SO51 9BU



## TERM TIME THURSDAYS

(FROM 27TH FEB)

9.30 – 11AM

COFFEE ON FROM 9.15!



**ACNB CHURCH**

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN AMPFIELD,  
CHELWORTH AND NORTH BADDESLEY

St Mark's Church  
A3090 Ampfield SO51 9BU  
search online for @acnbchurch

### Safeguarding, Sun and a Special Sunday!

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March Vanessa, Ann, Jonathan and members of all the PCCs in the benefice met in St Mark's Room. As the Benefice Safeguarding Officer (BSO) I had invited people to join together to discuss how we can ensure our churches create a safe and healthy culture, and how we can support those who could be more vulnerable to abuse, and support those who are survivors of abuse. These are not always easy conversations, but they are very important in fulfilling our duty to those who need our help and support; in meeting the high safeguarding standards which the church expects, and, most importantly, in putting God at the centre of looking after ourselves and others.

As always, the PCCs didn't let me down. There was a great turn out and some interesting discussions, from which we can define actions to improve our church cultures, so that the churches are seen as welcoming, safe and inclusive spaces. Although this was a requirement from the Diocese, I have also received a number of lovely thank you messages, and people telling me how much they enjoyed the interactions. My sincere thanks to the clergy team and PCC members, without whom I couldn't do the safeguarding work that my role entails.

The date and time of our meeting just happened to coincide with the partial eclipse of the sun, so during our coffee break, François, from St Denys, led us into the beautiful glade, outside the room, in the sunshine and with clear blue skies, to experience the partial eclipse. He provided special glasses so we could look directly at the sun and cards to see the reflection of the partial eclipse; it was really exciting to see the shadow of the moon across the sun. (see photos on next page).

Cont. ...



## Benefice News



As if that wasn't enough to pack into a morning, during coffee break, and before and after the safeguarding discussions, we helped make the posies of flowers, ready for the Mothering Sunday services, in our churches across the benefice.

Finally, Helen, from St Denys, brought cakes left over from her grandson's cake sale, which he held to raise desperately needed funds for Romsey Young Carers. The cakes were delicious, and we also raised £60 to add to the donations; what a great morning!



Jo Hooper, BSO

# Benefice News

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

If you know anyone who would like some extra help when using their laptops, tablets or phones then please pass on details about digital hub. This is a group that has been set up to support those who are finding difficulty with such technology. They meet every Wednesday from 10.30 - 12 noon in All Saints.

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

During the morning there will be an opportunity to 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. There are 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. 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 sit with you and if appropriate signpost to other helpful organisations, all in complete confidence



## Sunshine Saints

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

Sunshine Saints is the toddler and baby group which meets every Friday in term time from 10:00am to 11:30am in All Saints Church. 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.





# FOREST CHURCH

## (Exploring Spirituality through Nature for All Ages)

The first Forest Church of the year took place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March outside St. Mark's Church. It was an opportunity to remind ourselves of the season of Lent and the Lenten traditions. In some places of the world there are Carnivals known as 'Mardi Gras' so masks were made, and the children particularly enjoyed using leaves and twigs to adorn them. It is also a time to use up the rich food in the home before the beginning of Lenten abstinences and so pancakes were cooked and eaten. This was closely followed by pancake races which everyone enjoyed, especially the adults! The ashes from Ash Wednesday were used to mark stones with the sign of the cross reminding us of repentance and to turn to Christ. All this

happened outdoors in God's beautiful world and gave all those who attended an opportunity to connect with nature.

Join us for the next Forest Church which will take place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May when the theme will be 'Musical Forest'.



# Friends of St. Marks

Invite you to  
**A COFFEE MORNING**  
AND  
**EASTER EGG HUNT**

Entry £3 adults £1 children

(to include coffee/tea and cake)

ON

**SAT 19TH APRIL 9AM - 12PM**

**ST. MARK'S CHURCH ROOM**

**SO51 9BU**

Easter Bunny face  
painting

Jewellery stall

Raffle

Jam and Chutney stall

**JOIN US FOR SOME EGG-CITING FUN!**



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



Jennie has made cards and fridge magnets with a picture of Ampfield Church. We are selling them for church funds - £1.50 for a card, or £5 for 4 cards, and £2 for a fridge magnet. They will make wonderful Easter cards!

Available in St. Mark's Church or from our stall at the Ampfield Market.

## Benefice News

### St. Denys - talks and recitals

**1pm, Wednesday 23rd April - Dennis Bryant, "The Humorous Poet"**

Author, Poet and Public Speaker, he will recite some poems, with a few jokes and anecdotes thrown in, maybe even a cheeky duet, sung with his wife, Sheila.

**1pm, Wednesday 14th May - Duncan McKellar**

Our church architect is planning to entertain us with a fun, eclectic, folk-inspired vocal/guitar performance.

**1pm, Wednesday 18th June - Jonathan Durrant, River Keeper**

and Chairman of the Test & Itchen Association will be giving us a talk  
*"A Journey Down The River Test."*

**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!

## Village News

### The Village Hall Quiz Night

The Village Hall held a Spring Quiz night on Friday 21st March. The evening went incredibly well, there were 13 tables of 6 and everyone had a great time. The hall chairman Denis Payne set the questions which were fun and informative as always. The hall treasurer, Trevor Easterbrook, presented the evening with the benefit this time of a new and much improved sound system. Martin Hatley provided the usual bar. The raffle was very successful with a prize table laden with pots of spring flowers, Easter chocolates and lots more. The next Village Hall quiz will take place in the Autumn, details will follow later.

**Julie Trotter**

# **The Ampfield Market**

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

**will take place  
on**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
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 May 3rd 2025**

## WHAT'S ON IN THE AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL THIS MONTH – SPRING 2025- JOIN IN ONE!

### MONDAYS

**PILATES WITH HANNAH** – Two sessions in the morning. Starting at 9.15 & 10.30am. Mixed ability mat class. Details at [www.pilateswithaplomb.com](http://www.pilateswithaplomb.com)

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

### TUESDAYS

**AMPFIELD BRIDGE CLUB** Play friendly duplicate bridge. Meets Tuesday evenings (except at Xmas time) from 7pm to 10pm. Need a partner or 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** - for details see Friday 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** . We are pleased to welcome back Diana to her regular class. 9.30-10.30 am. Please note her new email 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 6.15-7.20pm** . For details:see Monday or [www.pilateswithaplomb.com](http://www.pilateswithaplomb.com)

### FRIDAYS

**YOGA ON FRIDAY MORNINGS with YogaByGaynor 9.30 to 10.30am** All levels, Gentle, Vinyasa Flow Yoga. Facebook: @yogaByGaynor /or Email: [yogabygaynor@yahoo.com](mailto:yogabygaynor@yahoo.com)

### SATURDAYS

**VILLAGE MARKET (Established 2000)** The first Saturday of every month 10-12noon (except Jan. and Aug.). Interested in renting a table? Ring Julie on 02380 254587 or email [Julie@ampfield.org.uk](mailto:Julie@ampfield.org.uk).

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

**Enquiries & 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 QUIZ NIGHT returns on FRIDAY March 21<sup>st</sup> in the Village Hall £5 per entrant inc, bar snacks. Book a place or table now & pay on the night.*

# Ampfield Art Class Gallery

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



Vermillion Geranium -  
Christina , watercolour



Cotswold Water Park - Edwina,  
watercolour



Solstice dawn - Alison,  
watercolour and ink



# Ampfield Art Class Gallery



Ffwdgrech Falls - Nick



Pine cone - Jenny, watercolour.



Blue tits and butterflies - Pauline,  
watercolour

# Living Hope – A Lent Journey

## by Jo Hooper

“Living Hope” is the Church of England’s theme for Lent this year and since the beginning of Lent, a group of us have been meeting regularly on a Thursday evening to explore, discuss and reflect.

*“In Lent we journey with Jesus on the difficult and thorny road that leads all the way to the cross on Good Friday - and beyond, to the transformation of Easter Day. God invites us to bring to him our own journey through everyday life. In the disappointment of daily setbacks and the pain of deeper hurts, we discover that God is present with us. And God promises a future where all things are healed and made new.”*

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/living-hope-resources-lent-2025>

It feels these days, that, wherever we look in the world, there is a catastrophe, a conflict, a political situation, or a financial situation which causes us pain, anxiety or worry; life is tough. As Christians we know our duty is to pray, and act with kindness and compassion to counterbalance the impact of all the stresses and strains of life. We know that God understands our pain but sometimes it is still difficult for us to feel hopeful. Every year Lent provides us with a time to take the opportunity to join Jesus “*on the difficult and thorny road,*” to step back and face the difficulties head on.

Cont....

...Cont.

This is never easy, but I have found meeting with a beautiful group of people, at the Living Hope Lent sessions each week, has been so uplifting, and yes, a place of hope. We don't dodge the difficult bits, but through skilled leadership, bible readings, prayers and humble conversations we each come away with a different perspective and renewed hope.

The Living Hope programme provides short daily readings and comments on all aspects of hope, so that our spiritual growth and understanding can continue between sessions. I am so enjoying it, as I think, are the other group members. If you feel inspired, or are just curious, there is still time to join us on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7.30pm in St Mark's room, everyone is welcome, or there the Everyday Faith App, which also follows the programme.

Wishing you all a hope filled Lent.



**Jo**

# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## APRIL 1993

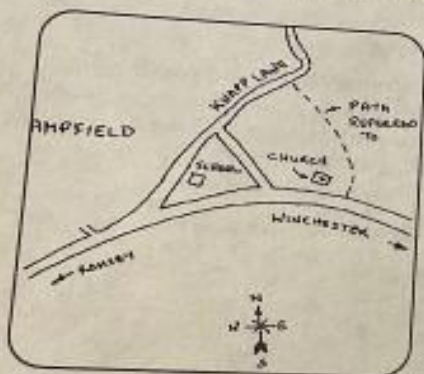


### *Ampfield Parish Council*

#### *Please help to save our footpaths*

The traditional footpath from Knapp Lane to St Mark's Church is under threat of closure. The owners of the wood have refused to dedicate this path as a definitive right of way and for a short time they closed it completely. However, it was opened by local people who believe that after continuous use for many years, there is a presumed right of way under the Highways Act.

The Parish Council supports this application and Hampshire County Council has agreed to progress an application **for this and other paths in Ampfield Woods to be added to the definitive map.**



All the paths have been surveyed and a map is being prepared showing the individual paths to be claimed. New claim forms will have to be submitted for **each path**. The persons who have already submitted forms will be contacted again.

We do however need more evidence to show that the public have been using the paths as of right for a period of not less than twenty years (although persons providing evidence do not themselves have to prove they used the path for that length of time - any period of time is relevant).

Please write to the Parish Footpath Warden, Geoff Lord, at 23 Beechwood Crescent, Chandlers Ford, Hants SO5 1PE (Tel: 0703 253270), setting out as much information as you can provide about your personal knowledge and use of this path, and of any other paths you have used in Ampfield Woods.

Ampfield Parish Council invite everybody to

### *The Annual Parish Assembly*

on Monday 19th April

at 7.30 pm in the W.I. Hall



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## APRIL 1993



### *Ampfield Parish Council*

Spring had definitely arrived at the March Meeting of the Ampfield Parish Council when the Chairman, Miss J M Cornwell, reported on the many planting schemes which had taken place in the village over recent weeks.

The oak tree that was donated to the Parish Council for Test Valley in Bloom Tree Planting Week was planted on 24th February, in Hook Road, to reinforce the existing tree line.

Councillor Mrs P Harris organised the Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area's roadside planting of wild flowers by the Potters Heron and in Pound Lane on Saturday 13th March. The response for volunteers was very good on a lovely sunny morning for the planting of several thousand seedlings.

Also, under the direction of the Council's Tree Warden Mr B Permain, a new hedge line comprising some 300 plants covering eight different species has been planted on the boundary of Ampfield School abutting the A31. All the work was carried out by volunteer labour with grants from the Parish Council, Test Valley Borough Council, Ampfield Conservation Trust and plant contributions from Hilliers Nurseries.

Councillors were very pleased to hear of the proposed introduction of a 40 mph speed limit for part of Hook Road, but were disappointed that their wish for the extension of the speed limit throughout the whole length of the road had not been met, leaving the most vulnerable section, namely the two bends at the vicinity of Hookwood Lane, totally without restriction. Hampshire County Council does not believe a speed limit would necessarily solve the difficulties experienced in this area but have arranged for an accident study to be carried out.

The poor condition of Green Lane was brought to the attention of the Council. It was agreed to investigate what could be done to repair the damage caused mostly by the motor vehicle, and to try and find a long term solution to this on-going problem that affects single track country lanes.

A new oak seat has now been made by local craftsman, Mr G Garner, to replace the Coronation seat that was stolen from Ampfield Churchyard last July. The seat will be installed as soon as a new base has been prepared.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 17th May 1993 in the W.I. Hall at 7.00 pm

## Thought for the Month

**P**rayers of intercession are said in church every Sunday, during communion. Sometimes they are composed and read by a member of the congregation. They follow roughly a set pattern:

The Church

Human society

The Sovereign and those in authority

The local community

Those who suffer

The communion of saints (the departed)

This month, we share an extract from Ron's intercessions on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>. March:

Dear Lord

In today's world the world repentance seems to have little relevance. We are surrounded by so much conflict, so much hate and greed that any humility, any sign of remorse, seems a no show. Surely conscience should play a part when the net result of these conflicts seems to be the deaths of so many innocent people, including (can you believe?) children.

Cont. ...



...cont.

Lord, guide us all to find better ways of shaming the perpetrators of these evil wars. We need real negotiation, not deals between power hungry leaders and terrorists that result in the innocent parties being ripped off and never getting back to where they should be. The protagonists are well aware of the worldwide condemnation of their actions and yet show no shame. Please bring back some normality Lord, some sense of remorse, some sense of love for each other.

Dear Lord

As the warmer weather dawns upon us and the lovely yellow plant period is in its prime, we thank you for the beauty all around us. Thank you, Lord, for this wonderful church and its stunning surroundings. Although churchyards have such sad memories, they can look so beautiful, especially at this time of year. Thank you for all the lovely groups meeting in the Church Room, especially the Minnows toddler group that has taken off so well. We look forward to Mothering Sunday and the Easter celebrations Lord. It must be time for more chocolate eggs.



**Ron Cobb**

## Answers to Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. Charm
2. No
3. Three
4. Beer
5. Buddhism
6. Mediterranean
7. Answer (1) 1994
8. Leonardo DiCaprio
9. Purple
10. Koala



***Please hold the people of Myanmar  
in your prayers***

# An Easter Prayer

## This Joyous Time of Year

May the glory and the promise of this joyous  
time of year bring peace and happiness to you  
and those you hold most dear.

And may Christ, Our Risen Saviour, always be  
there by your side to bless you most abundantly  
and be your loving guide.

Amen



## Rotas for St. Mark's in April

Date Service Time		Sides		1 <sup>st</sup> Reading		2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Inter- cessions	Coffee	Music
6Apr	Lent 5	Café Church						Heath er C	Mark Ab- bie
13Apr HC 9.30	Palm Sunday	Jennie Stephen		Reading of the Passion			Ann	Jean	Clive
20Apr HC	Easter Sunday	Chris Heather C		Acts 10.34–43 Stephen		1 Corinthians 15.19–26 Heather C	Jean	Chris	Karen CDs
2Apr HC	2nd of Easter	Sally C Diane		Acts 5.27–32 Robyn		Revelation 1.4–8 Chris	Sally	Jennie	Clive

***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.  
Thanks for all your help.***

***Phil Budden***

**Church Cleaning** - If anyone would like to help with cleaning the Church (once a month if possible) 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.

**Easter Flowers** - would you like to provide some Easter flowers in a vase or an arrangement to decorate our beautiful church for Easter Day? If you would, please let Jennie Edwards know (details at the front of the Messenger) or just bring your contribution along on Easter Saturday. The Church will be open and there is an Easter Coffee morning on that day so do come and join us. There are more details of this event elsewhere in the magazine. Thank you!

## 'Make do' Recipes

Many of us will be eating turkey on Easter Sunday. Recently, on a self-catering holiday on the Isle of Wight with friends I decided to make bread sauce to go with the turkey we had brought with us. However, I had forgotten to bring an onion. I discovered a very tasty alternative using what we had in the cupboard:

### Garlic Bread Sauce

Break a loaf of garlic bread into small bits  
Add milk to cover the bread, salt and a bay leaf.  
Simmer in a saucepan until all the milk is absorbed.  
Delicious!



*Politics is the womb in which war develops...  
War is not a mere act of policy but a true political  
instrument, a continuation of political activity by  
other means.*

*Clausewitz*

*After reading a book, never ... allow yourself  
another new one until you have read an old  
one in between*

*C.S. Lewis '*

*On the Reading of Old Books'*

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