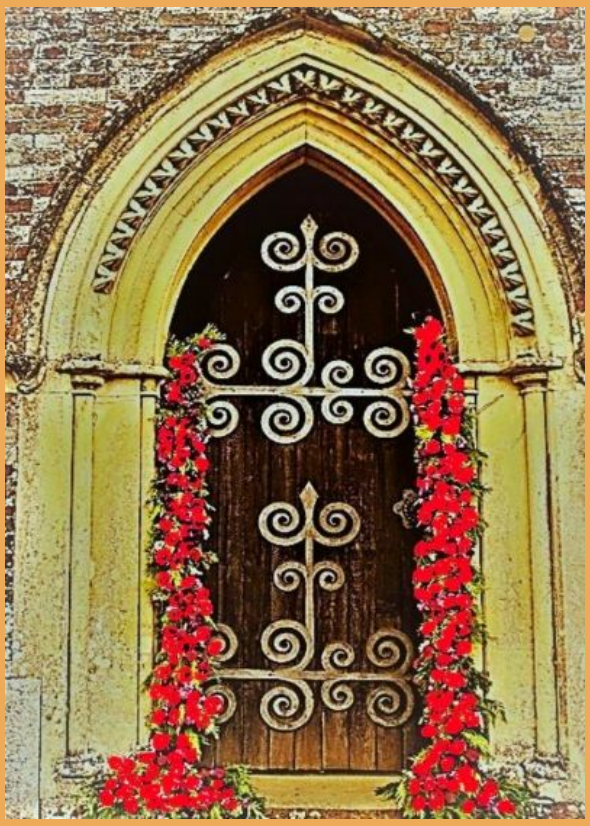
The Ampfield Messenger



The Parish Magazine of
St. Mark Ampfield

November 2026
Vol. 76 Issue 11 £1
www.acnb-church.org

The Parish Church of St Mark, Ampfield

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

Ministry Team
Vicar: Interregnum

Mrs. Sally Kerson, Lay Minister and Office Administrator
Tel: 02380 737617
Mr. Jonathan DeVile, Lay Minister Tel: 02380 736522
Mr. Keith Atton, Lay Minister
Beth Robertson, Children and Families Worker
For any enquiries about baptisms, weddings or churchyards please contact the parish office, telephone no: 023 8073 7617
Email us at: **office@acnb-church.org**
Website: **www.acnb-church.org**
Facebook: **www.facebook.com/acnbchurch/**

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

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Cheques should be made payable to ACNB PCC

The PCC of Ampfield, Chilworth and North Baddesley
is a Registered Charity number 1214465

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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An important announcement

We are delighted to announce that Revd Claire Wilkinson has been appointed as the new vicar of Ampfield, Chilworth and North Baddesley. We look forward to welcoming Claire and to celebrating her licensing on 8th February 2027 at All Saints Church.

Please keep Claire and the parish ministry team in your prayers as she prepares to join us.

Dear Friends,

As November arrives, we enter a month rich with tradition, memory, and a deep sense of connection. It is a season when we take time to reflect on life, death, and the unbroken bond we share with all of God's people. We are reminded of our heritage in faith, the promises of hope, and the light of Christ that guides us through each season.

We observe All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, two occasions that give us space to remember and honour those who have passed from this life. All Saints' Day is a day of celebration for all the saints, known and unknown, who have walked in faith and whose lives shine as beacons of God's love.

All Souls' Day, meanwhile, is a more personal and intimate time – a day for remembering those in our own lives who have passed away. It is a sacred opportunity to remember parents, siblings, friends, and loved ones who touched our lives deeply and to light a candle in their memory. You are most welcome to come to the service at All Saints on Sunday 1st November.

As we move through the month, we also gather for Remembrance Sunday, an occasion that invites us to remember the courage and sacrifice of those who served in times of conflict. We stand in gratitude by war memorials for those who gave their lives for peace, and for all who continue to serve in His Majesty's armed and security services. The silence we observe is a solemn reminder of the cost of war and a powerful call to cherish and uphold the peace we have been given.

As we move toward the close of November, our focus begins to shift toward Advent—a season of waiting, preparation, and longing for the light that is to come. Advent calls us to pause, to slow down, and to prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of Christ, although everything around us seems so busy.

November is a month of remembrance, but also of hope. As we honour the saints, remember our loved ones, and reflect on the sacrifices of those who served, we do so in the light of Christ's promise that life and love endure. May this season draw us closer to one another and to the God who is present in every season of life. May we find comfort in remembering, strength in hope, and joy in the anticipation of the Saviour's birth.

With blessings and peace

Sally



Weekly service pattern

Sunday Services

	All Saints	St Mark	St Denys	St John
1st Sunday	11:00 Messy Church	09:30 Café 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



Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorials

On Sunday 8th November there will be an Act of Remembrance at each of the three War Memorials in the Benefice, as we remember those who gave their lives in the two world wars and all who have died in combat since.

Ampfield War Memorial
(On corner of A3090 and Knapp Lane)

There will be a short Act of Remembrance beginning at approximately **10:50 am** at the War Memorial. Assemble at the Ampfield War Memorial by **10:45.** There will be a service as usual at **9:30** in St. Mark's, Ampfield, before the Act of Remembrance.

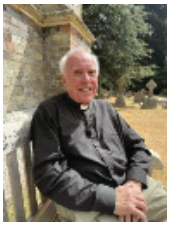
Chilworth War Memorial
(On A27, opposite the Chilworth Arms)

There will be a short Act of Remembrance beginning at approximately **10:50 am** at the War Memorial. Assemble at the Chilworth War Memorial by **10:45.** There will be a service as usual at 9:30 in St. Denys', Chilworth, before the Act of Remembrance.

North Baddesley War Memorial
(St. John the Baptist, North Baddesley)

There will be a parade of uniformed organisations and local dignitaries, plus anyone else who would like to join. It will leave All Saints Church, Rownhams Road at **10:15 am** and the service around the War Memorial at the church will start at approximately **10:50 am.** All are welcome to refreshments afterwards at All Saints, Rownhams Road, North Baddesley





Castaway of the Month Reverend Bruce Hartnell

1. Cornish Floral Dance

will remind me of the singing and dancing that was part of primary school in the years after the War. Lots of emphasis on traditional songs like the Dashing White Sergeant and Skye Boat Song and mass dances with a caller. We must have done serious learning as well but you didn't get whirled away in them!

2. Tchaikovsky Rococo Theme and Variations for Cello and Orchestra



I was at secondary school when first Russian musicians were allowed to visit this country. Dad was generous enough to take me to the Festival Hall on the South Bank in London to hear Rostropovich play this which left me breathless and delighted.

3. Maurice Ravel's String Quartet in F, second movement

While a student in Exeter I joined (for a very small price) a chamber music concert group which presented visiting musicians in the Physics building. Mostly we heard well-known classics. This piece was startlingly different and set toes tapping.

4. Music a While by Henry Purcell

Another chance to hear an artist in person came in Exeter when the counter-tenor Alfred Deller appeared there. Amongst his pieces was one by Henry Purcell. Its lyrical beauty and still calm has never been forgotten and will sooth in the isolation of being cast away.

5. The 6th Brandenburg Concerto by J.S. Bach

I spent three years in Devon and grew to love it. Exams loomed large however and one of my neighbours frequently played a piece I found to be by Bach which always cheered me up and gave me courage. It has never failed me since and is the sixth and last of his Brandenburg Concertos.

Cont. ...

6. The Magic Flute by Mozart

I came late to opera, mainly through a friend who invited me along when he was visiting Covent Garden. What luck this was and didn't I jump at the chance. Mozart's Magic Flute has an overture brimming with laughter and tunefulness, suggestive of the pantomime-like plot when the curtain goes up.

7. September by Richard Strauss

Richard Strauss wrote several operas of which Der Rosenkavalier is my favourite but I have chosen one of his lovely songs as a companion on my desert island. 'September' is one of his Four Last Songs. Nothing could represent better gratitude for the beauties of the world when expecting soon to be parted from them.

8. The Intrada to Dies Natalis by Gerald Finzi

My final choice is by way of appreciation to a composer whose output has enriched my life for many years. Gerald Finzi founded the Newbury String Players in Berkshire town of my youth. I went to its concerts as often as I could although he had by then died. He loved English poetry and countryside, and had set to music little-known reflections by Thomas Traherne written in the period of the English Civil War. In Dies Natalis a new-born child revels in the glories of the world in which he finds himself in with suitably rapturous delight. To give some of the flavour, I have settled on the Intrada.

If you are still with me, you will appreciate how much music has featured in my life and happiness. If, as a luxury, you could float me onto the beach a violin case with an instrument dry inside, I could perhaps make up for much lost time and actually get to make the thing sound pleasant to my non-existent neighbours - which I never did as a young learner!



And as a book, I should like the recent translation by Emily Wilson of The Odyssey by Homer. I had to read chunks of it in Greek at school and liked it very much but a long-held plan to read it right through has never been fulfilled.

This unexpected exile on a desert island offers the ideal opportunity to keep one worthwhile promise.

Childhood Memories of Ampfield

by Nick Jeffrey

The countryside in Ampfield 60 years ago was a very busy place with many people who lived in the village working on the land.

The woods were being replanted as most of the mature timber had been removed during the war. People could still make a good living from a very small farm and it was the animals as a child I found so fascinating. The Lesleys farmed Lower Ratlake and they had a small herd of about a dozen milking Dairy Shorthorns. These lovely animals could be brown, deep red, white, roan or a combination of all these colours.

At Ratlake farm was Gordon Hillier with his herd of about 40 Ayrshires that have that beautiful wedge shape and were brown and white. He was from a small Somerset farm and called his farm the "plains of Hampshire".

At Hawstead farm where part of the farmhouse is 14th century, there were cows as there are now. I find this the prettiest farm in the parish.

Broadgate farm had a large herd of about 50 milking Friesian cattle that were large and black and white. A Mr Kimber from Crawley was renting this farm from Miss Cornwall's mother.

Redburn farm next to Green Pound Lane had a milking parlour and was later taken over by Len Barter but I cannot remember what cattle were there 60 years ago.

The Fabers lived at Ampfield House and they owned a large beef herd of Hereford cattle. With their red bodies and white faces they looked magnificent standing under the large trees in their park opposite the village hall.

Cont...

Where the golf course is now was Old Home farm of Mr Furnace with a herd of Jersey Cattle that were small and brown. In those days all cattle had horns!!

At Gosport farm there was a herd of milking cows that I believe were dairy shorthorns and this farm has perhaps the best traditional farm buildings left in Ampfield.

At Green Lane farm run by Mr Crowther was the home to the Ampfield herd of Wessex Saddleback pigs.

Many of these breeds are almost on the rare breed list now and I will endeavour to tell you more about these farms later.

Nick



News around the Parish

Ampfield

St. Mark's stall at the Ampfield Market

Next Market Saturday 7th November10am - noon

Come along to the popular Market in the Village Hall and grab a bargain from our eclectic stall. If you have any items to donate please contact Pam or Chris. We are getting ready for Christmas, so donations of gifts, decorations, cakes and anything Christmassy will be very welcome. We will also be selling clothes, so come along and buy that Christmas outfit.



October's Friends for Lunch

A full complement of diners enjoyed Beef casserole (with dumplings!) and Victoria's delicious trifle. With special thanks to Ron for his quiz, calling the raffle and welcoming everyone with a glass of wine, and Pam who kept us organised as usual! We now have a full list of members so early booking is essential. November's lunch is now fully booked. For information please contact Pam on :
02380 411146 or
Email - pammorf@virginmedia.com
Rosea, Clare, Victoria and Chris

Beetle Drive

Friday 20th November 7pm

Cash bar and bring our own nibbles.
There will be a silent auction for paintings displayed in the church. If you have any paintings you would like to donate please contact Chris on cl.kerr@hotmail.com.

Flowers for St. Mark

November: Diane -
greenery during Advent



News around the Parish

St. Mark

Christmas Coffee Morning Sat. 28th Nov. 10am - 12 noon

Produce stall, raffle and Christmas crafts. Another chance to buy pictures from the silent auction. £5 - includes coffee, cake & mince pies.

All Saints

Christmas Craft Market Sat. Nov. 14th 10am - 1pm

Christmas shopping starts here! On sale - Wooden items, handmade soap, preserves, bags, jewellery and much much more - put the date in your diary.

St. Denys

Christmas Tree Festival

Our first miniature Christmas Tree Festival is open to everyone, so please get involved! St. Denys, Chilworth is one of our smallest churches and a collection of trees will give it a properly festive feel. Maybe you have a particular hobby, interest or sport that you can use as a theme for a tree? Just use your imagination and email Sally at office@acnb-church.org if you would like to take part.

Lunchtime Recital - The Consorte d'Amici
Wed 18th November - 1pm

Consorte d'Amici return to give us another, brilliant, recorder recital. If you haven't seen them before, you really don't know what you're missing!

Tickets are free and donations welcome. The events start at 1pm, tea, coffee and cake provided. For further information please email: **office@acnb-church.org** or phone **023 8073 7617**

Friends of St Mark's invite you to a

Beetle Drive

7:00PM FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2026

ST MARK'S CHURCH ROOM, AMPFIELD SO51 9BU

Raffle



Cash Bar but Bring your own nibbles

Tickets £5 - Call 07799 435715 or buy online

HTTPS://T.LY/Q-RB9

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

CHRISTMAS
CRAFT MARKET

SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

10am - 1pm

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, ROWNHAMS ROAD
NORTH BADDESLEY

FREE ENTRY

CRAFT GIFTS RAFFLE
REFRESHMENTS

acnb-church.org

Community Christmas Tree Festival

St. Denys Church, Chilworth

We are excited to invite you to take part in our upcoming Community Christmas Tree Festival.
We aim to display as many miniature trees as possible.
All can take part, community groups, families, children.

Decorate a real or artificial miniature tree however you like following a theme of your choice. Handmade and recycled materials are especially welcome

Festival Details

- Dates: Start 8th Dec until the New Year!
- Location: St. Denys Church, Chilworth
- Cost: Free to enter and display a tree (prize for the winning tree)
- Size: The base of the tree must be no bigger than. 15 cm and it should be no taller than 50 cm.

How to participate

- To reserve your place email office@acnb-church.org by 30th November with your name and brief details of your decorated tree and we will send you setting up times and final instructions.

acnb-church.org

Help us share some community festive cheer in this beautiful church

You are invited to a

Christmas Coffee Morning

St. Mark's Church Room
Ampfield SO51 9BU

Saturday 28th November

10.00 - 12 noon

Entrance £5

coffee, cake and mince pies

Produce Stall, Raffle
Christmas Crafts

Registered Charity Number 1214465





acnb-church.org

FRIENDS OF CHAPEL WOOD

by Graham Roads

It seems strange now to be talking about droughts and a lack of water, but it was only a few months ago that the water in the pond was restricted to just a couple of isolated puddles, so much had evaporated. We have never seen anything like it before! However, whilst on the one hand this made everyone feel quite sad, it did provide an opportunity to give the pond a good clear. Whilst we have all played and enjoyed a good game of pooh sticks, you really need running water and an element of surprise. None of this is available in the Chapel Wood pond but that does not seem to deter visitors from throwing in the odd log two to see if they float. A summer's worth of debris was now high and dry and able to be removed, relatively simply.



The first thing to understand is, contrary to what common sense might tell you, putting on wellies and jumping around in mud is actually good fun! So, from the point of view of memorable working parties, September and October proved to be brilliant.



Cont...

... Cont.



Surprisingly, not everyone picked waterproof boots as the footwear of choice. One of our happy team wore what seemed to be open toed sandals; ho, hum! Still, it all worked very well. All the logs were removed, most of the remaining weeds and a lot of mud.

The lack of rain, combined with a hose pipe ban had us scratching our heads as to how we could refill the pond. However, we remembered there has been a small stream, which descends from the upper part of the wood. If we could clear a channel, we might be able to redirect that into the pond. A couple of hours of digging later and we had the start of a recovery plan. If it works, that is - fingers crossed.



Post-script: This past week's rain has continued the process we started. The water level has risen significantly, as you can see. Next month we are hoping to finish cleaning up the pond area, tidying where we have removed surplus mud from the bottom. Once this has been completed, we will start knocking in the remaining footpath signposts.

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

Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

1. What is the name of Batman's crime fighting partner?
2. Sue Pollard is an actress and singer probably best known for which comedy series?
3. Que Sera Sera is a song made famous by which American actress in 1956?
4. Eastenders was first broadcast in which year?
   [1] 1982 [2] 1984 [3] 1985
5. Delilah is a song recorded in December 1967 by which singer?
6. What is the length of the Pennine Way which runs through England into Scotland?
   [1] 266 miles [2] 268 miles [3] 270 miles
7. On August 9th 1945 an atomic bomb was dropped on which Japanese city?
8. Which underground line in London has the most stations and is coloured green on the underground map?
9. What is buried underneath the monument at Farley Mount and goes by the name of Beware Chalk Pit?
10. Apart from a silver cross what is the other item worn around the neck to keep vampires at bay



See p.29 for answers.

Ampfield Art Class Gallery

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



Sunset over the reed bed -
Denise, watercolour.



Tossa de Mar -
Samantha, Watercolour.



A truss of tomatoes -
Karen, watercolour.



Largo Bay -
Frank , watercolour.

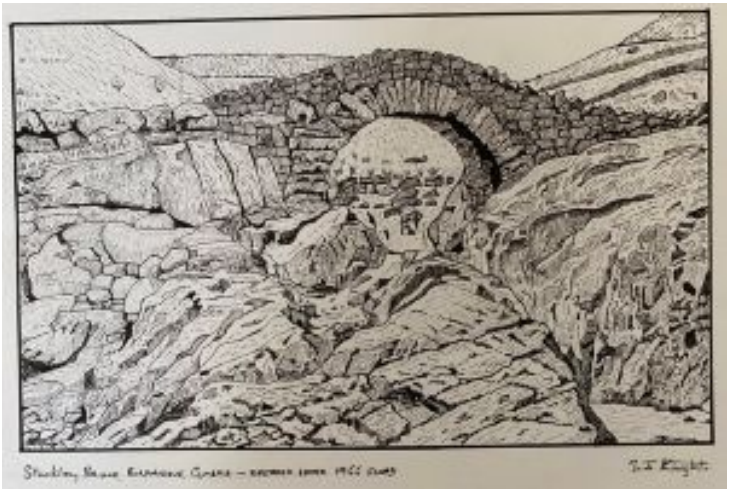
Ampfield Art Class Gallery



White Horse -
Andy, pencils.



Dog Rose -
Monica, watercolour.



Stookley Bridge , Borrowdale , Cumbria-
Graham , pen and ink.

What's on in the Parish every week

St. Mark

St. Mark's Minnows
Thursdays in term-time St. Mark's Room 9.30 - 11am
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.

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, we particularly welcome those who find themselves lonely or bereaved.

Sunshine Saints
Fri: 10:00am - 11.30am All Saints (term-time only)
Sunshine Saints is our toddler and baby group. It is an opportunity for the children to have fun playing together. There are snacks for children and tea and coffee for those who accompany them; suggested donation: £2.

What's on in the Parish every week

All Saints

Pilgrim Course:
1st Wednesday of the month
2pm - 3.30pm

The Open Teapot
2nd Sunday of the Month

We are delighted that The Open Teapot afternoons have been such a success since they began in August 2025. Many people have been welcomed and have enjoyed the company and new friendships have been made.

Being bereaved, living alone or perhaps a carer can all be a lonely business; however, having something to look forward to can help make you feel better. Why not come and join us at 'The Open Teapot' on the second Sunday afternoon of each month?

During the afternoon, guided by Kayte from The Memory Box Foundation, we will explore a themed reminiscence box full of objects, documents, photos, sounds and smells. This is an opportunity to look back at times gone by and share our memories over tea (or coffee) and cake, all free of charge thanks to a grant from **Hampshire County Council**. The Open Teapot normally take place on the second Sunday of the month but keep an eye on o**ur calendar** for exact dates and time.



WHAT'S ON IN THE AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL
AUTUMN 2026 - JOIN IN ONE!

MONDAYS

PILATES WITH HANNAH PLOM
Two morning sessions**. 9.15 to 10.20am & 10.30 to 11.35am**.Mixed ability mat class. Details at www.pilateswithaplomb.com

AMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
regularly meet on a Monday evening, at 7pm, for their monthly meetings, planning meetings and other meetings. For information:
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
Mel Cook on **07889 323037** or email melcook@sky.com
New members always welcome

WEDNESDAYS

YOGA ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS with Gaynor
10.00 to 11am details see Friday below

1st AMPFIELD BROWNIES
meet every Wed. evening during term time. **6pm to 7.30pm**
Tel. Sue Moore (Brown Owl) 01794 523947 or 07814 879845 for information.

ROMSEY MODELLERS
Build model kits? Want to get more from your hobby? Join this club on the **1st and 3rd. Wed**. of each month **8 to 10pm**.
www.romseymodellers.co.uk
A great friendly group of modellers

THURSDAYS

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

PILATES WITH HANNAH PLOM **- 6.25 to 7.30pm.** 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 (**Also Wed. mornings)**.

SATURDAYS

VILLAGE MARKET (IN ITS 27th 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.
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 Ampfieldcards@gmail.com .

SUNDAYS

SEWING SUNDAYS WITH MICHELLE.

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 michelleewaters@gmail.com
Friendly group, offers advice, help pinning and fitting toiles + natter & cuppa

WEEKENDS: THE ORTHODOX PARISH OF St. SILOUAN of Mt. ATHOS

now normally hold their services here every **1st weekend of the month**.
For details see their new website:
www.silouan-soton.org or ring **07518 417052 (English & Russian**).
A friendly non-political church. All welcome!

For general enquiries and hall bookings:

Tel. Martin Hatley **07970 501050**
Or visit our website: www.ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk
Or E mail: info@ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk

DIARY DATE

The next POPULAR FUN QUIZ is on **FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2026 7.30pm** in the Village Hall £5 per entrant inc. bar snacks. Book a place or table now & just pay on the night.
Email: info@ampfieldvillagehall.org.ukTel./WhatsApp **07970 501050**

The
Ampfield Market
(Established in 2000, now in its 27th year !)

will take place on
Saturday 7th November 2026
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. Also, honey, preserves, plants and pet food . Cards, jigsaw puzzles and books. Collectables, unusual crafts and jewellery. Bric a brac, seasonal treats, beauty products, eggs
and much, much more!

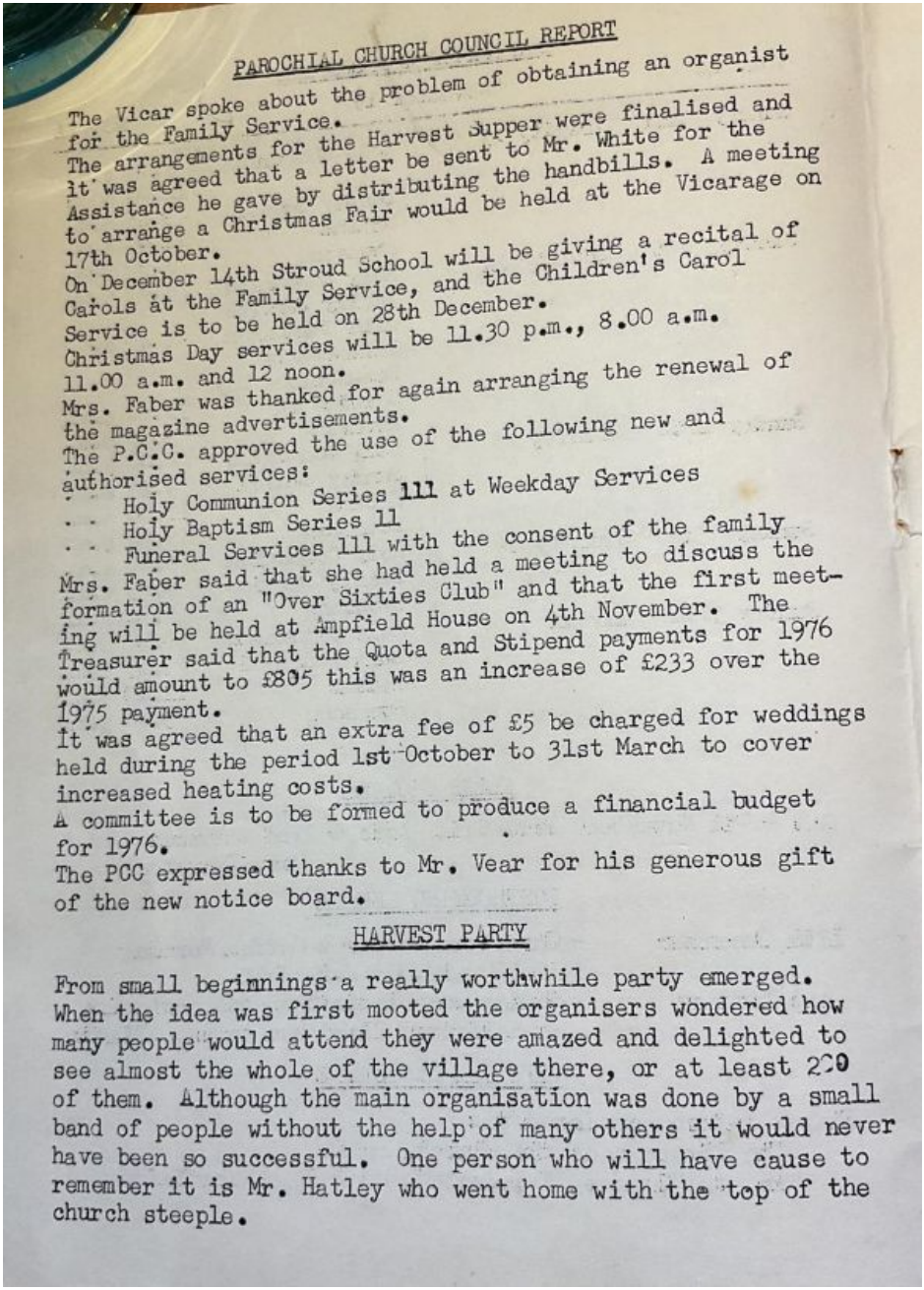
We serve fresh coffee and a wonderful selection of cakes throughout the morning.
Come along with friends and family to enjoy this special monthly community event.

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 for table bookings etc.

Next date: Saturday 5th December 2026

From the Archives
November 1975



PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The Vicar spoke about the problem of obtaining an organist for the Family Service.
The arrangements for the Harvest Supper were finalised and it was agreed that a letter be sent to Mr. White for the Assistance he gave by distributing the handbills. A meeting to arrange a Christmas Fair would be held at the Vicarage on 17th October.
On December 14th Stroud School will be giving a recital of Carols at the Family Service, and the Children's Carol Service is to be held on 28th December.
Christmas Day services will be 11.30 p.m., 8.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m. and 12 noon.
Mrs. Faber was thanked for again arranging the renewal of the magazine advertisements.
The P.C.C. approved the use of the following new and authorised services:

- Holy Communion Series 111 at Weekday Services
- Holy Baptism Series 11
- Funeral Services 111 with the consent of the family

Mrs. Faber said that she had held a meeting to discuss the formation of an "Over Sixties Club" and that the first meeting will be held at Ampfield House on 4th November. The Treasurer said that the Quota and Stipend payments for 1976 would amount to £805 this was an increase of £233 over the 1975 payment.
It was agreed that an extra fee of £5 be charged for weddings held during the period 1st October to 31st March to cover increased heating costs.
A committee is to be formed to produce a financial budget for 1976.
The PCC expressed thanks to Mr. Vear for his generous gift of the new notice board.

HARVEST PARTY

From small beginnings a really worthwhile party emerged. When the idea was first mooted the organisers wondered how many people would attend they were amazed and delighted to see almost the whole of the village there, or at least 200 of them. Although the main organisation was done by a small band of people without the help of many others it would never have been so successful. One person who will have cause to remember it is Mr. Hatley who went home with the top of the church steeple.

From the Archives
November 1975

The winners of Competitions at the Party were as follows:

Guess the Adverts	Mrs. M. Sims
Headlines	Mrs. Blair
Places in Hampshire	Victoria Atlee
Sweets in the Bottle	Ian Morrison
Height of the Steeple	Mrs. Rose
Your P.C.C. as Babies	Mr. S. Wood
People in the News	Mr. S. Wood
Town Twisters	Mrs. Schofield

WELL DONE!

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to Mrs. Richards and her helpers who made such a success of the Harvest Party. Most of us expected something less than 100 there, and when well over 200 of you came, I was amazed that there was sufficient food. And what food! Many thanks to all of you for a fine community achievement.

And while I'm in this unusually genial mood, many thanks also to Mrs. Loader, teachers, parents and children, and to all who decorated and sent gifts and came (125 of you), for the Family Harvest Service. It was a very encouraging effort.

Family Services. They are disjointed, unpolished and distracting. If only we could have some good music and a competent choir and create a real sense of joy and mystery. If only .. But we are trying to do something far more elementary and basic. To make an opportunity for parents and children together to take part in saying prayers, leading the creed and coming to the altar for blessing and communion. These services are not for private prayer. We are there to put up with the occasional energetic baby and thank God it is there. We are there to help one another to put up with the difficulties and mistakes and to enjoy being there in spite of them. After all that's what life is.

Let's Be Frank. When they began I asked for your comments and criticisms. I am quite serious about this. They would be a help. So don't be afraid. I may not agree but I won't bite.

Confirmation. When we begin classes I would like to have them for 30 Mins at a time, right after the Family Services, or some of them. And could we not try to have adults and children aged 10 and upwards together? The old methods have been very largely a failure, so let us try another way. What do you think? Yours in Christ, George Slater.



The Garden Seat

Its former green is blue and thin,
And its once firm legs sink in and in;
Soon it will break down unaware,
Soon it will break down unaware.

At night when reddest flowers are black
Those who once sat thereon come back;
Quite a row of them sitting there,
Quite a row of them sitting there.

With them the seat does not break own,
Nor winter freeze them, nor floods drown,
For they are light as upper air,
For they re light as upper air!

Thomas Hardy
Contributed by Anon.



Answers to Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. Robin
2. Hi Di Hi
3. Doris Day
4. 1985
5. Tom Jones
6. 268 miles
7. Nagasaki
8. District Line
9. A Horse
10. Garlic

A Prayer for Remembrance



God of the nations,

as we look to that day
when you will gather people

from north and south, east and west,

into the unity of your peaceable Kingdom,

guide with your just and gentle wisdom
all who take counsel

for the nations of the world,

that all your people may spend their days in
security, freedom, and peace,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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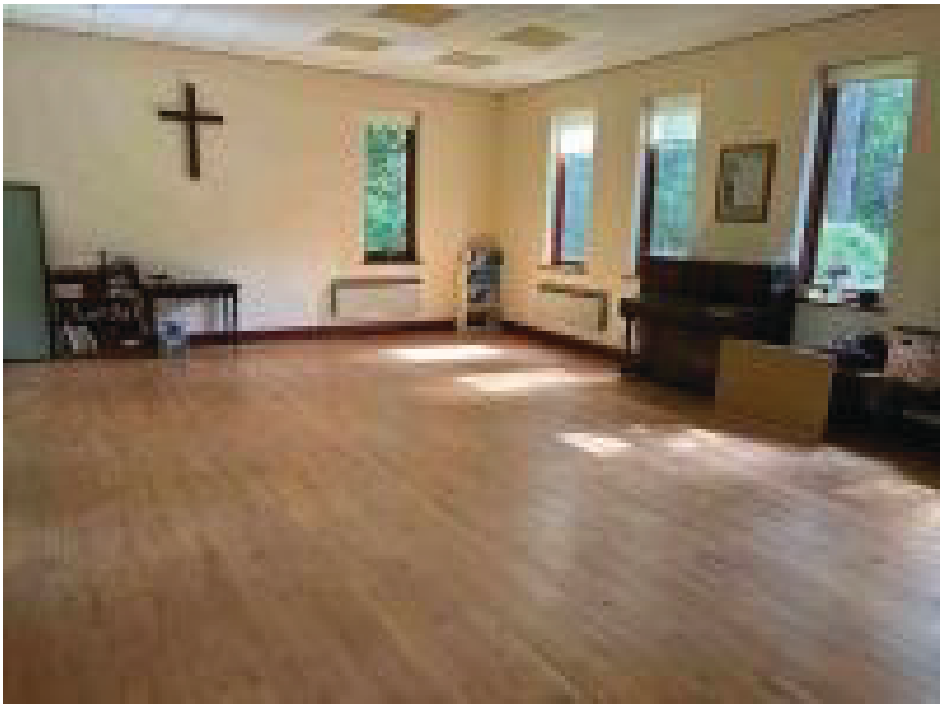
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