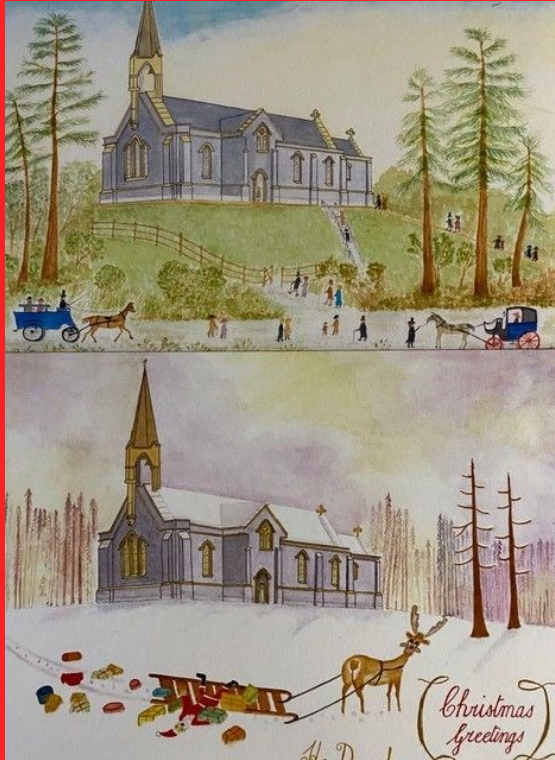


The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of
St. Mark Ampfield*

December 2025/January 2026



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 picture is by Nick Jeffrey. See p. 14 for details of where to buy Christmas cards with this print.

Dear Friends



*"Let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.
This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem
And find our kneeling place"*

These final lines from a poem written by Ann Weems entitled "In search of our kneeling places" is what I believe Advent is all about, a time of waiting and preparation as we find our own space for God in the busiest time of the year.

The Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme for 2025 revolves round a single word: Joy! It is a three-letter word that can evoke such emotion and is associated with the Christmas story particularly when the angel proclaims to the shepherds: *"Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people"*. The birth of Jesus is announced to the most unlikely and unpopular people of the time working in the fields.

These winged messengers also visited Mary and Joseph and a few others, with important messages. They transformed the vision of ordinary people going about their ordinary routines by revealing to them that the living God was in fact entering the world. Such joy, such good news for those people 2000 years ago.

Sadly, if we look at the world of today there are wars, conflicts and hatred we wonder where is the joy? Where is the humility, care or love? Thankfully joy does thrive even amid challenges. We know because local communities will gather to support struggling families or elderly people who are alone and vulnerable. They will also gather to send important aid to war torn countries or places where there have been disasters. Christmas is about bringing joy, hope and the love of God to others in so many ways. This Christmas come to church and experience 'Joy' with open hearts and minds and yearn for those 'thin places' where heaven and earth meet. 'Listen for the brush of angel's wings' that will help us all transform the world around us. Wishing you love and joy this Christmas and always.

Sally





St. Mark's

Christmas Services and Carols



5th December (Wednesday)
Carol Singing in the White Horse Pub
7pm

18th December (Sunday)
Minnows Christmas Session
9.30am - 11am

22nd December (Monday)
7:30pm Community Carols

24th December (Christmas Eve - Wednesday)
3pm Crib and Christingle service
25th December Christmas Day - Thursday)
9am Communion





Welcome to our Christmas and New Year edition of the Messenger.

2025 has been a difficult year on many fronts. We hope that 2026 will be a fresh start and bring happiness to everyone.

Thank you for your many interesting and informative articles. Keep them coming!

Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful 2026.

The editors



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

St. Mark's is open most days

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



All Saints, St Mark's, St John's and St Denys'



5

Carol Singing in Pubs
7pm The White Horse
Join us for fun carols in The White Horse in Ampfield.

7

Messy Christingle
11am All Saints Church
It's Messy Christmas! Join us for Christmas activities and our Christingle celebration as we share the light this Christmas.

13

Community Carol Singing
10:30am
The Baptist Church
All the churches in North Baddesley will be meeting to sing carols together. Refreshments available.

16

Carols by Candlelight
7:30pm
St Denys' Church
Join us for our carols by candlelight with Consorte d'Amici. Refreshments served afterwards.

18

Carols and Cakes
10am - 12noon
All Saints Church
Join us at Welcome Cafe for cake and refreshments while we enjoy carols together.

18

Singing Carols
3pm
Fleming Avenue
All churches in North Baddesley will be meeting to sing carols together.

21

Carol Service
4pm St John's Church
Join us for carols by candlelight at St John's Church.

22

Community Carols
7:30pm St Mark's Church
Join us for our carol service by candlelight at St Mark's Church.

23

Contemplative Christmas
7pm All Saints Church
Join us for a contemplative service at All Saints Church, with none of the 'busy celebrations.'

24

Crib and Christingle Service
3pm St Mark's Church
Join us as we retell the nativity story and celebrate our Christingle as we share the light this Christmas.

24

Midnight Communion
11:30pm St John's Church
Join us for a traditional service of Communion at Christmas.

25

Christmas Day
9am St Mark's Church
Communion
10:30am All Saints Church
Family Communion
Join us as we celebrate the greatest gift of all - the gift of light and hope through Jesus, the light of the world!



Castaway of the Month : Anne Taylor



In 1939, at the age of 6, I was evacuated from Southampton to Cheddar in Somerset to live with my auntie for several years. She had no children, so I always called her my 'second Mummy'. I had just commenced piano lessons so had to practice on her friend's. Deanna Durbin became my idol at the local cinema when this lovely young soprano star became so popular.

1. Can't help Singing

'It's Raining Sunbeams' and 'Waltzing in the Clouds' made her famous and myself envious. I would sing these songs in private in an outdoor shed! Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy in 'The Desert Song' had the same effect on me - so romantic.

2. See Amid the Winter Snow

Fast forward to 14 years of age, I was one of several pupils asked to sing solo - one verse each of the carol in the morning school assembly. Our itinerant school singing master was also conductor of the Southampton Philharmonic Orchestra and I was selected to join their Youth Choir whereupon I found myself tackling Bach's mighty 'Mass in B Minor' and Vaughan Williams 'Serenade to Music'. In the fifth form we had coach outings to the King's Theatre Southsea to enjoy Ivor Novello's



3. The Dancing Years

and King's Rhapsody. During my nurse training years, I could not guarantee attending every Tuesday night rehearsals. However, an opportunity to sing occurred when some of us nurses processed through the Wards singing carols with our red lined capes inverted to give Christmas colour.

Cont. ...

...Cont.

In 1955 I met my husband-to-be Ron at a Friday Night Dance in the very Guildhall where I had participated in a choral concert and seen many Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, in which my father played the violin. He learnt to play from the age of 14 years, his precious scrapbook full of newspaper cuttings and programme illustrations. As a young man he played at



gigs, my mother lovingly turning the pages for him. They had sung in their church choir for years before their marriage.



During my 20's in Malta, I was District Nurse and Midwife for three years in the English-speaking area, travelling on my bicycle ... "call the midwife!". My husband and I attended the English Church and sang the hymns there. Whilst living in Hong Kong, we enjoyed a performance of:

4. *The Merry Widow* by Franz Lehar, such memorable melodies.

Whilst living in Cyprus, I joined the Church Choir, and we performed Noah by Flanders and Swann. Later, when practicing as a Health Visitor my colleague was delighted to be told by me of the newly formed Romsey Choral Society and quickly joined. She became a strong member of the committee, eventually Chairman and then marrying another committee member. Laughing, she said it was the best thing I ever did for her! I belonged for 20 years as second soprano. Highlights included the oratorios Elgar's Dream of Gerontius, Mendelsohn's Elijah, Haydn's The Creation, Bach's Saint Matthew's Passion, Mozart's Requiem and Handel's Messiah - all performed in Romsey Abbey.

Cont. ...

....Cont.

5. I know that my Redeemer Liveth from Handel's Messiah.

The eternal hope confirmed for me, giving great comfort.

6. Sir John Rutter's The Lord Bless You and Keep You.

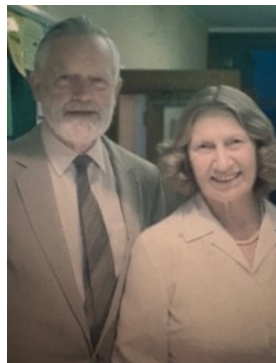
I love all his compositions. At a concert on a return trip to our honeymoon island of Guernsey, we both fell in love with:

7. Max Bruch's Violin Concerto.

A recording of a section of the poignant second part was played at Ron's funeral.

8. The Nearness of You by Hogeey Carmichael.

if only one choice is allowed on the desert island,
then this song is it - as it was 'Our Song'.



My Book

The Rector's Wife by Joanna Trollope. She is gifted with a deep perception of human interaction and articulates this to the reader so well.

My Luxury item

A piano and a seat with a lid containing sheet music of all the musical shows and if this is a too much of a tall order then just the music with words of shows, carols and hymns. For then God will rescue me from this Island himself, for I am 92 years old, and we shall meet again and sing together.

I think we will allow the piano (although a few extra pieces of music seem to have slipped in!) Thank you for a memorable Castaway Anne.

Anne's choice for the Ampfield Christmas Carol



See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See, the gentle Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.

*Hail thou ever blessèd morn!
Hail redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

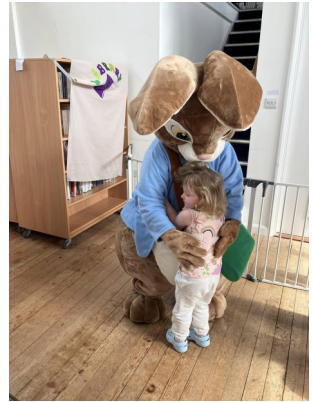
Parish News

Children and Families Work Update

We have all been busy with our Children and Families work in 2025. Our Sunshine Saints sessions on Fridays at All Saints have been so much fun this year. We welcome a core group of adults and children each week with other people joining when they like to. It is important that we are a welcoming group for everyone who chooses to join us.

We had a visit from Peter Rabbit and lots of craft sessions throughout the year. We made hot cross buns at Easter, with varying amounts of sultanas used! Our craft sessions are run for any children who wish to join us. We enjoyed Easter and Summer craft sessions this year.

September is a time of new beginnings, with many children moving on from our weekly groups at St. Marks Minnows and Sunshine Saints. We also see new families at both of these groups, which is a real joy for all of us who help run them.



In January we started Friday Lunches at All Saints after Sunshine Saints. These have been really popular and enjoyed by our families. We have served a selection of food, from jacket potatoes to hot dogs and salad tortillas. We extended our lunches in the Summer holidays and welcomed up to 24 children to each session.



Messy Church has been fun this year, with a different theme each month. Refreshments are served from 10.30am with the service starting at 11am. We have welcomed a wonderful mix of ages and it is fantastic to welcome some of our Sunshine Saints families to these sessions, as well as our other members of church who enjoy joining us for these celebrations. We always have refreshments, activities, a story and songs based on the month's theme. If you would like to join us at All Saints Messy Church it runs on the first Sunday of every month from 10.30am - 12 noon.

Parish News

We invited everyone to our all ages Forest Church at St. Marks. We have had some amazing sessions this year. We started in March with Shrove Tuesday as the theme. We created some fantastic pancakes and had a pancake flipping contest between Phil and Rev'd. Vanessa around the church!



The September session was all about the Autumn Equinox and the changes that occur in nature at this time of the year. In October we celebrated Light and had a wonderful time pumpkin carving and

fishing for doughnuts. Our Forest Church is a great fun way to connect with God outside in the fresh air and celebrating all that we have around us. Please keep a look out for Forest Church sessions in 2026. We look forward to welcoming you.



We have lots to look forward to in December as we head towards Christmas festivities. At Sunshine Saints we are having a Christmas Session on Friday 19th December which is fully booked. We will enjoy making crafts together, tasting Christmas party food and we even get a visit from Father Christmas this year! We are very excited.

We are really looking forward to our Christingle celebrations in both All Saints (7th. December) and St. Marks (24th December) churches this year. We would love to see you there to celebrate the light of the world - Jesus - at Christmas.

I will look forward to sharing some photos of our Christmas events in the next issue. If you would like any further information on any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me on:

bethr@acnb-church.org

Beth



Parish News

Friends of St. Mark's

Beetle Drive Friday 14th November and Christmas Coffee Morning Saturday 22nd November

There was a very lively **Beetle Drive** at St. Mark's. There were six tables of six people and many had never played this before, me included. The first problem was to throw a six so you could begin by drawing a beetle's body - this could and did take ages for some of us! You could then carry on with throwing the dice to drawing the rest of the beetle. When the first person completed their beetle, a loud shout meant we all had to stop. It was a really fun evening with various people moving from table to table at the end of each round. There was a bar for drinks and a raffle to enjoy too. Thanks to Heather and Stella for organising the evening, and to those who came along.

On Saturday 22 November we had a jolly **Christmas Coffee Morning** with lots of Christmas decorations and gifts for sale; cakes, jams, marmalades and chutneys were also available. Lots of coffee and mincepies/cakes were consumed and there was once again a super raffle. Thanks to all who helped at the event and also to those who attended.

Jennie

St. Mark's Christmas Cards

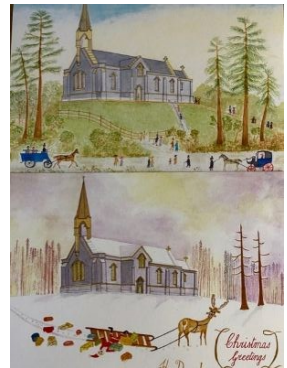
From a painting by Nick. Available at the church and from the Ampfield Market.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 5th December 7pm - **Carol Singing** at the White Horse.

Wine tasting - this popular event will be back in the spring - watch this space!

There will be a meeting in the New Year to brainstorm ideas for new events - your ideas will be gratefully received!



Carols by Candlelight

with Congregate of Amici

Join us for Christmas
Carols by Candlelight
followed by mulled wine
and mince pies

December 16th

7.30pm

St Denys Church

Chilworth



www.acnb-church.org

Parish News

ST MARK'S MINNOWS

FUN AND FRIENDLY
BABY AND TODDLER GROUP!



TERM TIME THURSDAYS

9.30 – 11AM

COFFEE ON FROM 9.15!



Christmas Greetings to All Residents
and
A Happy New Year
from
HCC Cllr Alan Dowden
Baddesley Division

*"I will honour Christmas in my heart,
and try to keep it all the year"*

Charles Dickens

*"Christmas is a necessity. There has
to be at least one day of the year
to remind us that we're here for
something else beside ourselves"*

Eric Severeid



With thanks to Annie Tempest who allowed us to print her cartoon.



*What do you call a
blind
reindeer?
I have no eye deer.*

*What do you call people
who are afraid of Santa
Claus?*

Claustrophobic

From the archives 1997



Ampfield Village Hall



On Tuesday 2nd December
The Forest Forge Theatre Company will present

'The Pied Piper'



in the Village Hall
starting promptly at 7.00 pm.



The action will not take place on audience participation with the both parents and children.



the stage and will include children. It will be fun for

Tickets, priced at £3.75 (children aged 13 and under £1.50) can be obtained from Martin Hatley (01703 254040) or Barry Permain. Please be in your seats before 7 pm. The price includes a glass of wine or soft drink which will be served during the interval. Book right away!

Do come and support
village pantomime



Ampfield's first
for many years.



Ampfield Get Together



On Tuesday November 4th we were pleased to welcome two visitors to our get together. Although weatherwise it was a dismal afternoon, we had a pleasant time, making up our minds what produce items to buy and looking for bargains on the bric-a-brac table. The result was very satisfactory, making it possible to send a nice cheque to the children's hospice, our second one this year.

On December 2nd we will be going on our Christmas Dinner Outing, times as arranged.

Vi Bignell

The Ampfield War Memorial

Anyone driving along the A3090 in the weeks prior to Remembrance Sunday might have noticed an unusual amount of activity in the small garden area behind the war memorial. This special garden plays a very important role in the war memorial setting. Its planting provides a softer, natural framework against which the simple, yet elegant stonework of the memorial is presented.



For years, the garden has been tended by locals, who, from time to time, would cut the grass, weed the paving and keep the planting under control, adding new plants occasionally. Looking at older pictures, over the years the backdrop has changed, but, in the background, each photo shows a view of Ampfield School.

Recently, however, this local view has all but disappeared, together, sadly with much of the footpath. Whilst deregulation is clearly fashionable; in planting terms, this can very quickly drift into chaos. Soon, there would be too little space to hold the traditional November service. It was time to act!



To start with it seemed like routine pruning. Cut back branches that were in the way and taking up useful space; and cut out all dead, damaged and diseased wood. However, as we delved deeper into the undergrowth, we found there was more of this than we realised. We also found a variety of footballs, tennis balls and a curious brightly painted metal object, which we had no idea as to its use! Cont. ...

...Cont.



The prevailing view was we should do as much as possible by the Remembrance service. We would then pause to see if any of the seemingly dead yews would regrow. The yews are important because they provide the evergreen backdrop. Once we know what we have got, we can then replant as necessary. using plants offering multiple seasons of interest.

Please don't think we were unsupervised during this exercise. At all times we were overseen by the Chief of Woodland Security, who was most concerned we did not waste any worms or bugs we uncovered. On reflection, we were very lucky he could spare the time. We subsequently discovered he had been offered a new contract, modelling 2026 Christmas cards!



Graham Roads



Terri Stromeyer
&
Barry Malizia
were married at St. Mark's on the
6th. September by Vanessa.
Terri and Barry celebrated their
union after 32
wonderful years together.



We've got instant coffee. We've got fast food. We can binge watch TV series. I admit that I enjoy the convenience. I still think some things are worth waiting for; worth looking forward to. For me, Christmas is one of those things, although I know that's sadly far from true for everyone. Advent is the start of the church's year and it's a season of anticipation. In a life lived in fast-forward it can be hard to properly wait. Besides, the surprise of the Christmas story has been dulled by repetition. In *Blind Noel* R.S. Thomas wrote:



*Christmas; the themes are exhausted
Yet there is always room
on the heart for another
snowflake to reveal a pattern.*



At Christmas, God opts in to the baroque messiness of the human condition. Christmas tells us that Jesus arrives as a baby born into an uncertain world. Babies and children are entranced by the world. Every sensation and experience is new. The world is a thing of wonder. Whatever else Christmas means to us, I hope we can take time to explore our sense of wonder. May there be room on all our hearts for a snowflake to unlock something new, some fragment of wonder to sustain us into 2026.

Mark West

Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. Who was Henry VIII's first wife?
2. What is the smallest state in America?
3. Kangaroos can only jump forwards. True or False?
4. Saint Andrew, Saint David and St George are three of the Patron Saints of the UK. Can you name the fourth Saint?
5. What is the largest fish in the ocean?
6. What is the longest river in the USA?
7. Which country hosted the 2022 FIFA world cup?
8. How many squares does a chessboard have?
9. How many teeth does an adult human being have?
10. What is the name of the first Disney movie released in 1937?



Answers on p.37

Ron Cobb

Friends of Chapel Wood by Graham Roads

For months now, the Friends have been itching to have a bonfire. We spent a good few hours back in the spring cutting back rhododendron and other plants which had grown where they

could be a bit of a nuisance. To this growing pile of material had been added a couple of Christmas Trees, bits of assorted wood and many armfuls of bracken. Burning this lot and getting rid of a dozen unsightly piles of rubbish was very high on the agenda, just as soon as when we had a bit of settled weather. This was going to be November.



In the days running up to the working party, anyone walking along Knapp Lane would have been treated to a variety of what can best be described as contra-rain dances. Even the local doggy community joined in with such enthusiastic wailing and tail wagging, one might say it all seemed completely 'barking mad'.

In the end we decided that the only way to guarantee success would be to build such a large pile of dry material that we would quickly get a good blaze going. On this, we would pile rhododendron branches, whose oily leaves would provide an additional stimulus. With luck, if we could get the timing right, the core would become so hot that we could transform the soggy piles of bracken into something more like steam and crispy noodles.

Cont. ...



...Cont.

It is surprising how much effort goes into the manufacture of a good bonfire. It is a constant balance of building up the heat and then turning it down, all the time moving stuff around from one area to another. It is vitally important to keep up the calorie levels; you don't want to flag on top of a soggy fire! In this we were very fortunate, as we were rearmed at regular intervals with sausages, cake and assorted beverages.

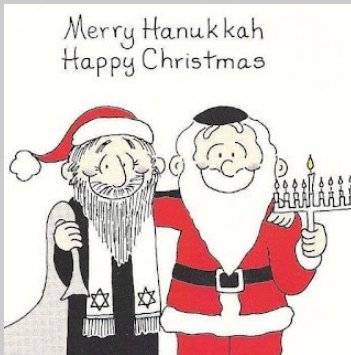
By the end of the morning, the large piles of dead vegetation had disappeared, along with a few other bits of wood that were in the vicinity. Being responsible woodlanders, we made sure the fire was fully extinguished before we vacated the site. There was just time for one more look around and we could all remark how good it was to get our woodland back and how quickly the remaining leaves would fall and disguise the site. A successful morning!

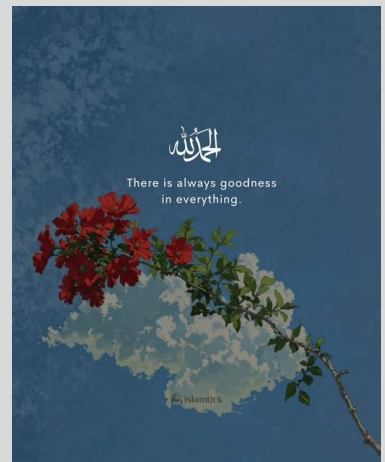
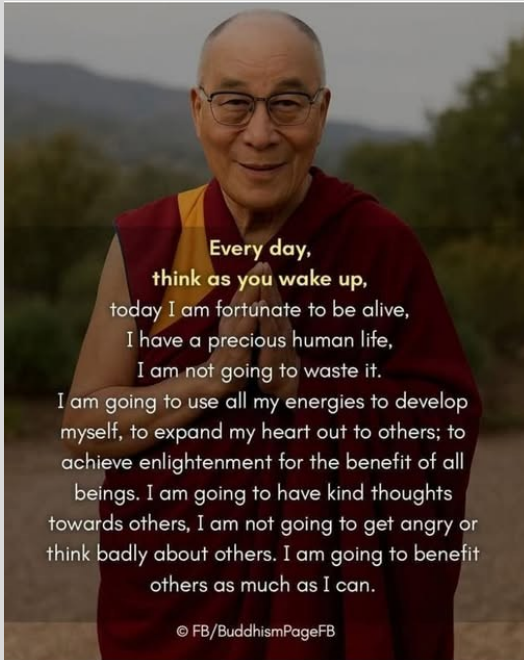
If you fancy the idea of joining some like-minded neighbours for a few hours once a month, just turn up in the St. Mark's car park at 09:45 on the second Saturday of every month. The Friends are a good bunch. Tools are provided. It is a good way to have a bit of fun and help our community at the same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



Graham Roads







Ampfield Art Class Gallery



Autumn Squashes & Chillies
Pauline, watercolour.



Bald Eagle
Jerry, pencils.



Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
Karen, acrylic.

St. Mark's Christmas Cards
By Nick. See p. 14

Ampfield Art Class Gallery



.Bele Femme
Carle, watercolour.



Stray Duckling
Jeny, watercolour.



Megan
David, pencil.

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



.Fishing Sheds
Nick, watercolour.

What's on in the Parish every week

St. Mark's

St. Mark's Minnows

Thursdays in 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. 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 Parish every month

St. Mark's

Friends for Lunch Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 3rd December

In November a full turnout of diners enjoyed cottage pie and Rosea's rice pudding with cherries - no leftovers! Father Christmas will be joining us for our Christmas Lunch which is now fully booked. We will be back in January, Wednesday 21st., please contact Pam on :

Tel. 02380 411146 or Email - pamm@acnb-church.org to book your place.

St. Mark's Stall at the Ampfield Market

Saturday 6th December

We raised £ £119.20 at November's market where there were many bargains, a great turnout and happy atmosphere .We sell bric - a - brac, gifts and seasonal items to raise money for the maintenance of the buildings of St. Mark's. We are now stocking up on Christmas decorations and gifts. If you have anything to donate, please contact Chris on 01794 367104. We are happy to collect. Thank you for your support!

Pam and Chris

Pilgrim Course -

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 this relaxed and friendly group. Do get in touch if you would like more information.

Flowers for December: Jennie:

Greenery until Christmas then extra arrangements welcome.

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 (Tel: 02380 365041; Email: jenniee@acnb-church.org). Thank you so much.

BUMBLEFLY
Theatre

Misch evous
Theatre

FOREST
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Ampfield Village Hall – Wed. 10th December 2025

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

Tickets (unreserved) Adult £10 Children £5

Please book early.

Available from Martin Hatley Tel. 07970 501050

E-mail: info@ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk

**The
Ampfield Market
(Established in 2000, now in its 26th year !)**

**will take place
on**

**Saturday 6th December
From 10am to 12noon
in Ampfield Village Hall
(SO51 9BJ)**

Our Market has a great reputation, we regularly sell fresh fruit and veg supplied by Hansards in Awbridge and delicious bread and cakes supplied by Matts Bakery. Honey, preserves, plants and fresh flowers. Cards, wrapping paper and books. Collectables, unusual crafts and jewellery. Clothes, toys and puzzles. Bric a brac, seasonal treats and much much more !

We serve fresh coffee and a wonderful selection of cakes throughout the morning.

Come along with friends and family to enjoy this special monthly community event.

Parking and admission are always FREE.

All proceeds support the Village Hall. Registered charity no. 1057353
Contact Julie on 023 80254587 or Julie@ampfield.org.uk
for table bookings etc.

**Next date. Saturday 7th February
2026**

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

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

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 689302 or email mel-cook@sky.com New members always welcome.

WEDNESDAYS

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

1st 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 1st and 3rd. Wed. of each month 8pm to 10pm. www.romseymodellers.co.uk

THURSDAYS

YOGA MORNING with Diana Craven. Diana is back with her regular class. 9.45 -11.00 am. E-mail address for further details 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

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

FRIDAYS

YOGA ON FRIDAY MORNINGS with YogaByGaynor 9.30 to 10.30am All levels, Gentle, Vinyasa Flow Yoga. All welcome. Facebook: [@yogaByGaynor](https://www.facebook.com/yogaByGaynor) OR Email: yogabygaynor@yahoo.com

Cont. ...

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WHAT'S ON IN THE AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAYS

VILLAGE MARKET (IN ITS 26th 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 Ampfield-cards@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 michelleewaters@gmail.com Friendly 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

Or E mail: info@ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk

NEW DIARY DATES: The next **EVER POPULAR FUN QUIZ NIGHT** is on FRIDAY NOV 21st in the Village Hall £5 per entrant Inc. bar snacks. Book a place or table now & pay on the night.

STOP PRESS! Pantomime time. 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. Still £10 for adults and £5 children. Early bird discount of 10% if you book and pay bef

Thought for the Month

Trying to stay positive is a life skill that is hard to cultivate. Difficult times for ourselves and/or others are felt deeply and affect our mood and outlook. The thought that all things will pass, that change happens and attempting to live in the present are all strategies that I have felt helpful. I was introduced to this way of thinking when I attended a Buddhist group in Southampton ... it now seems that this has become a mainstream approach for helping those who find life hard. I'm not saying that this "works" all the time, or is easy but it's good to have it my armoury.

For me, being in the garden and in woodlands is my positive place. Whenever I feel stressed or anxious, that is where I'll go. A combination of physical activity and time to ponder. You only have to see how the weekly programme Gardeners' World has changed it's format over the years to realise that much more emphasis is placed on gardening as a "therapy". A place to be at ease in your body and mind. To have your hands in the soil, to nurture growth, to see bees, ladybirds, slugs and snails — all going about their business, leading their lives and being at one with the world. The bible talks about the lilies of the fields and the birds of the air, being mindful and only of the now. Of course just thinking about the present is not always practical but finding that which is actually meaningful in a situation can be beneficial.

For the last couple of years I have been volunteering at the school where I taught for 21 years. I was the Special Needs teacher and also ran the Gardening Club. This has involved regenerating and maintaining the school allotment and gardens and has given me great enjoyment. I was asked if I would do a weekly gardening session with 7 & 8 year olds. I said I'd love to try that!

It has been a joy and many more children have become involved. The thrill that we all get from seeing things grow and learning about the creatures that share the grounds with us is amazing and gladdens my heart. Such a positive vibe!

Lynda Emery



Answers to Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. Catherine of Aragon
2. Rhode Island
3. False
4. Saint Patrick
5. Whale Shark
6. The Missouri River
7. Qatar
8. 64
9. 32
10. Snow White



A Happy Christmas

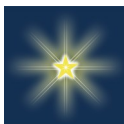


What do you think of as Christmas draws nigh?
Meeting with friends and family around the tree,
drinking mulled wine, perhaps eating a mince pie.
Or of choirboy voices soaring blissfully high?

Will it be joyful or just hard work for some,
Christmas mums making sure the turkey is done?
We hope it all goes well and is ready on time,
Has the champagne been chilled, is there enough wine?

Christmas is a time for the giving and receiving of presents
While remembering those no longer here to give presence
To reflect upon blessings, restore lives, make good wishes
And hope it doesn't take too long washing the dishes.

I think of these things as Christmas draws near
of a time to be cherished, of gratefulness and cheer.
So with wishes of a Christmas to enjoy free of fear,
then of singing Auld Lang Syne into a Happy New Year.



Paul Oliver



A Prayer for the beginning of Advent

Gracious Saviour, this week, we begin the journey of Advent.

This is a season of expectation and anticipation,

a time of preparation and confession.

And so it is that we bring to the Lord a broken and contrite spirit which we know our God will honour.

We take this time to prepare for the coming Saviour truly.

Amen



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