

# The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of  
St. Mark Ampfield*

**February 2022**

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**£1**

# The Parish Church of St Mark, Ampfield

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

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## **DEADLINE: The third Friday of each calendar month.**

Contributions to this magazine are always welcome, however it may be necessary to edit or shorten articles. Note that the views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor or the Parochial Church Council. Advertisements in this publication do not carry the endorsement of the editor or the Parochial Church Council.

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## *Letter from Sally*

### *Dear Friends*

February can seem a very dismal time of year as we await the warmer lighter days, but the celebration of Candlemas 2<sup>nd</sup> February (or nearest Sunday) is when we are called to think of light as banishing away darkness. Candlemas is one of the oldest Christian festivals and takes its name from the festival day - or mass - of the candles. It was the day when people brought all the candles to be used throughout the year to church to be blessed. Some people thought that candles provided protection against plague, illness and famine. They were asking God's protection on their homes and families for the coming year. Clergy would bless the candles and give them to the people. In the middle of a cold, dark winter the lights of Candlemas were placed in every window to remind people of the light of Christ shining in the darkness, bringing hope during uncertain times.

Historically, and before the invention of electricity, candles had a practical and liturgical use. We use candles in our Sunday worship, at baptisms, Advent and the Pascal candle used at Easter is lit for each funeral held in church to remind us of Christ's promise of eternal life. Whether or not we associate light with anything or anyone, we all need the hope of some light to come in our lives especially when dealing with difficult and painful issues, like the illness of a loved one, a bereavement, mental health concerns or financial worries.

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Elsewhere in this magazine you will see a picture of snowdrops, another name for a snowdrop is 'Candlemas bell'. This simple pure flower has no scent; it is only available in white and green, but it is one of the first to emerge not long after the shortest day and the longest night. Those fingers of green leaves bravely push through the frosty soil, to reveal a tightly closed white bud and when we first see them, they bring us joy and hope. So let us celebrate the simple and the pure in our lives and let us be touched by the green signs of life emerging from the darkness of the earth at this time of the year.

The first verse of a poem by John Keble:

### *To The Snowdrop*

*Thou first-born of the year's delight,  
Pride of the dewy glade,  
In vernal green and virgin white,  
Thy vestal robes, arrayed.*



*Sally*

## Regular Service Pattern in the Benefice

### Sundays at 09:30

- 1st Sunday: (6<sup>th</sup> Feb) – Worship for All, online only
- 2nd Sunday : (13<sup>th</sup> Feb) – Communion at St Mark, Ampfield
- 3rd Sunday: (20<sup>th</sup> Feb) – Communion at All Saints, North Baddesley and streamed live online
- 4th Sunday (27<sup>th</sup> Feb) – Communion at St Denys, Chilworth
- No 5th Sunday this month* but when there is one: Communion at St. John's North Baddesley

**Every Sunday at 17:00:** Evening Prayer using Book of Common Prayer (on Zoom)

**Every Tuesday at 10:30:** Morning prayer in St. Mark's Room  
**Abbie West**

# CHURCHYARDS

## Wildflower Spotters!

There are about 19,000 graveyards belonging to the church of England in the UK. Many are in rural settings whilst others can be situated in the middle of a busy town, each one is unique. They contain memorials which often tell us of the social history of the area, but they are also havens for wildlife.

St. Marks, Ampfield is no exception. January begins with the beauty of the first snowdrops followed by more splendour as the year progresses, bluebells and primroses appear in April and May. There are also wild orchids to be seen in June, if you know where to look! There are more than likely other unusual and rare plants.

Have you seen a wildflower in the churchyard that perhaps has caught your eye? Next time take photograph and let us know. Or maybe there is someone reading this that would like to do a wildflower survey? If so, this would help us better manage the churchyard and preserve these plants? Or alternatively perhaps you know a group who would undertake a wildlife survey, please let us know if you do so that we can support them with this task.



## Digitally Mapping Graves for future Generations

A project is also now under way to tackle the Herculean task of digitally mapping every grave in the Church of England's graveyards. The result will be an online resource which will allow users to see the exact location of a burial plot, as well as photographs of the headstone and, where possible, the burial record from the church's archives. It will be an invaluable tool for historians, genealogists, and anyone wanting to find where their ancestors were laid to rest. Funded by Historic England, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and two genealogy websites, the company charged with the task, Atlantic Geomatics, hope to complete the survey in seven years.



The researchers visit the graveyards wearing hi-tech backpacks. Inside are two laser scanners, five cameras, and GPS tracking sensors. As they walk among the tombstones, millions of measurements are taken to map the exact locations of the graves. The graveyards are then revisited for the headstones and mausoleums to be photographed.

This may sound very hi-tec and you might think unnecessary, but we do know that paper records have been lost due to fires or other disasters so this project will make sure this information is kept for generations to come.



Sally

# What's on

## Welcome Café



All Saints Church,  
Rownhams Road, North Baddesley SO52 9EQ

The Welcome 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 talk, befriend and empathise with you and if appropriate signpost to other helpful organisations, all in complete confidence.

10am – 12 noon on  
Thursdays 3rd, 17th February  
3rd March

Contact [joinin@acnb-church.org](mailto:joinin@acnb-church.org) ☎ 023 8073 7617



# What's on - Save the dates

*After two years of Covid restrictions we are pleased to announce that our regular events at St. Mark's are beginning to return:*

## FRIENDS FOR LUNCH



**Wednesday 16th March at 12 noon**

If you have not been contacted and would like to attend, please ring Kate on **07738467350**

## LENT LUNCHES



**From Friday 4th March 12 noon—2pm**

Every Friday for 6 weeks

Please contact Chris and Rob on 01794 367104 for bookings and information

*Numbers for the above will be limited and Covid precautions will be in place.*

# **What's on**

## **The Ampfield Market**

**Saturday 5th February  
From 10am to 12noon**



### **in Ampfield Village Hall**

Our Market has a great reputation, we regularly sell:-  
Fresh fruit and veg, Fairtrade foods, jams, chutneys and pickles,  
cakes, biscuits and scones, plants and fresh flowers, cards and  
wrapping paper, books, antiques, unusual crafts, jewellery,  
children's clothes, toys, honey, seasonal surprises, bric a brac  
and much much more.

***Fresh coffee and a wonderful selection of cakes will be  
served all morning in the Garden Room***

Parking and admission are always FREE

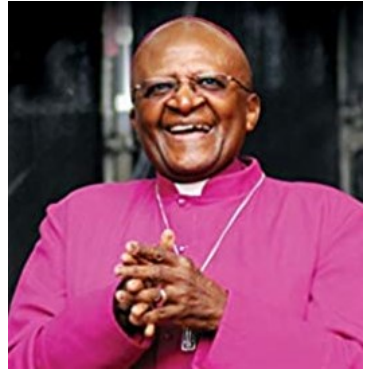
All proceeds support the Village Hall

Registered charity no.1057353

Contact Julie:023 80254587 for table bookings and info

## THE HUMOUR OF DESMOND TUTU

The death of Desmond Tutu, Archbishop of Cape Town, on 26 December marked the passing of one of the most remarkable and much loved individuals in world history. This most diminutive of men, who was born in poverty, never compromised his high principles, gave a voice to the oppressed and the voiceless, and always preached non-violence. He advocated economic sanctions and isolation as the way to dismantle Apartheid. He was proved right.



A Nobel peace prize followed. But he still wasn't finished. He became a stern critic of the Zuma regime that followed. However, despite all the hatred and horrors that he witnessed, he never lost faith in the inherent goodness of humanity.

It was his bravery, inexhaustible energy, infectious humour, smiling countenance, and sparkling eyes that endeared. Two statements in the many obituaries in the media encapsulated his personality and beliefs.

Whilst the white establishment ruled the roost, usually acting as if his fellow black countrymen scarcely existed, except for their benefit, he said he wanted to whisper in God's ear, "God, we know that you are in charge. Why don't you make it slightly more obvious?"

He joked once that, owing to a mix up at the Pearly Gates, he was sent to hell. A few days later St. Peter heard repeated banging on Heaven's door. He opened it. And found the devil there. St. Peter exclaimed "what are *you* doing here?!" The devil replied, "Since you sent Tutu down to the warmer place, he's been causing too much trouble! I came here to claim political asylum." Redemption, stemming from Desmond Tutu's unshakeable faith.



**Alan Edwards**

## The History of Ampfield Village Hall: 3

2000

Another pantomime launched the new year, this time, Hansel and Gretel. As part of the new ACHA programme, a popular local historian, Liz Hallett, came along in February to talk about 'Ampfield, then and now'. In March, John Hiller came to describe 'Behind the scenes at Chelsea', the funds raised were divided between the Hall and the Romsey Hospital appeal.

In September 2000 an important new enterprise began, the brainchild of Julie and Martin Trotter. The Ampfield Market was created primarily to bring together all the various groups in the village on a more regular basis.



Special delivery...Wendy Cox (right), chairman of the Ampfield Village Hall committee, and Julie Trotter, the secretary, check out the goodies in Santa's basket at the special Christmas market on Saturday, one of a series of month markets held in the village hall since September TC90/84/21

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**I**t would be a regular monthly event and soon proved to be a success. Users groups were invited to hire a table to raise funds and all proceeds from the table hire and refreshments were donated to the hall, this funding has continued until the present day, thanks to the very generous support of many people who have always donated their time and skills free.



## 2001

The Market continued to thrive, but went from 12 months of the year to 8 months to allow for a much needed break.

The people who took part in the very first Market were :- Greenacre Organics- fruit and veg, Christina Hillier - plants, Karen Harrison - aromatherapy, Mrs Philpot - bric a brac, Mrs Langford - bric a brac, Joyce James - cards, dried flowers, Martin Trotter - pots and beans, Ampfield WI - produce and loaves, Angela Thompson - china and linen, Mr Malloy - bird tables and baskets, Carol Keogh - Jewellery. Interest rapidly grew and we now raise around £1500 annually . Father Christmas made his first appearance during the December Market and this tradition has continued ever since.

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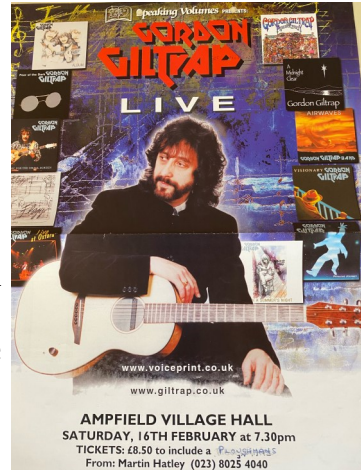


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2002

Started with the traditional pantomime, this time Briar Rose, a Sleeping Beauty. In February, thanks to support from Hog the Limelight, the Hall welcomed Gordon Giltrap, a celebrated international guitarist, to Ampfield. He provided a rare opportunity for 20 aspiring guitarists to join him for a two hour workshop, this was followed by a wonderful concert in the evening. All tickets were sold out and the hall was packed to capacity.

A new side access to the hall was created so that the garden of Birch House in Knapp Lane could be used for the Village Fete in June. At the same time a new shed was erected for the Pre-School to use for storage. In June the village held a Summer Celebration which was launched by the Market and featured Ampfield Open Gardens on June 8<sup>th</sup>, the



hall served refreshments all day. On June 9<sup>th</sup> there was an informal Songs of Praise in St. Marks Church followed by a summer lunch in the village hall. On November 16<sup>th</sup> Hog the Limelight helped to fund a tribute night to Joyce Grenfell by Tricia Lewis.

A poster for a tribute to Joyce Grenfell. The top left features the text "Ampfield Village Hall Saturday, 16th November at 7.30pm" and "Bringing arts &amp; entertainment to rural Hampshire". Below this is a black and white illustration of a woman's face. The top right has a logo for "HOG THE LIMELIGHT". The main title is "MORE JOYCE GRENFELL - Tricia Lewis with Graham Rogers on piano". The text describes the event as a one-woman tribute and includes a quote from an audience member: "Wonderful relaxed evening... brought back so many memories". The bottom section provides the venue, date, time, and ticket information: "Ampfield Village Hall, Saturday, 16th November at 7.30pm, £10, including supper. Tickets available from Martin Hatley (023) 8025 4040." Logos for Hampshire County Council, West Valley, and the Portman Trust are at the bottom.



Julie Trotter

## Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

1. In what year did Tony Blair become British Prime Minister?
2. Which two students founded Google in 1998?
3. Which football club plays its home games at Loftus Road?
4. Who was the head of state in Japan during the second world war?
5. Which country in the world is believed to have the most miles of Motorway?
6. In what year did the Beatles split up?
7. What are the five colours of the Olympic Rings?
8. When did Big Brother first air on channel 4?
9. Eastenders began broadcasting on BBC One in which year?
10. Which southern Italian city is usually credited as the birthplace of the Pizza?



**Answers on page 34**

## Short Story by Lyn Smith

### Those Dear Little Cups



**H**e sat in the café with his Americano and today's paper. Looking idly around at the other customers he felt sure he had seen an elderly lady putting, no surely not, yes, again putting the cutlery in her handbag. She caught his eye, and he was the one to feel embarrassed. She actually smiled at him. Then, it was her Espresso cup and saucer, carefully wrapped in a scarf. From the way that she did this, he was sure it was to protect them rather than to hide the theft.

She was well dressed and he guessed in her eighties, and reminded him of his grandmother. Perhaps that was why he felt he must try to save her from being discovered and arrested. "Excuse this intrusion but, are you short of sups?" He felt so embarrassed even as he heard himself. Unexpectedly, there were peals of laughter. "My dear boy, do sit with me for a minute. I am more than bored and long for someone to talk to. Bring your coffee over here." Because she seemed like his grandmother, he did.

She introduced herself as Edith, and said she was desperate for a bit of excitement in her life. All her friends seem to have died off, as she put it, and her beloved husband was long departed. She said it had almost started as a dare to herself and had been promoted to a hobby. "You see, I never take anything really valuable and most of the time, I pass it on to charity shops or the beggars in the street.

Cont. ...



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But, I've taken a real liking to these dear little cups and saucers, and I just needed one more to make up the set. Foolish really because all I really need is one as I never have any visitors. I wonder, would you come and have coffee with me one day, or would you feel complicit in my thieving?"

He couldn't help liking Edith and they continued to chat over another coffee. He insisted that the cups remain on the table after they had finished. When they parted, he had agreed to go to her mews flat for coffee and he kissed her on the cheek. She smelt of lavender talc and L'Air du Temps, so like his grandmother. Pressing his hand between both of hers, she said "Goodbye, dear boy. Bless you and I will try to be good for the next week." He thought it was unlikely but smiled anyway.

**Lyn Smith**



## *Building St Mark's Room, 1990 -1991*

*by Liz Hallett*



**T**he PCC was discussing ways to celebrate the forthcoming 150th anniversary of St Mark's and it was churchwarden Peter Towler who convinced the PCC that we should bite the bullet and raise funds to build a meeting room behind the church. This would make church activities so much easier and we hoped it would provide as useful an amenity for the next 150 years, as our Victorian predecessors had provided the church for us. This was a major decision, especially as we had only very recently raised £34,000 for fabric repairs. The huge energy and enthusiasm of the vicar, Dr Arthur Moore, was largely responsible for what followed.

We quickly returned to our earlier successful fund-raising routine, with a major fund-raiser event each month, and the wonderful spirit of fellowship and joint endeavour worked as it had a few years earlier. We grew together as a very strong community. This time we had to raise £50,000 and amazingly this amount and more was given by the end of 1990. Covenants were again a major source of promised income and we arranged lunches, coffee mornings, talks with desserts, a grand auction, a band concert, a sponsored cricket match - so many activities. The Craft Group, run by Renate and myself, worked overtime creating goods for sale at every opportunity with also the occasional market stall in Romsey and Winchester, and the group raised several thousand pounds of profit. It was a chaotic year but SO rewarding at many levels.

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At the same time we were looking ahead, and we had six committees on the go, organising the building project, the fundraising, the actual celebrations, a major flower and craft festival to coincide with the grand opening, and the street fair planned for July 1991 - I forget what the 6th one was! And during all this activity the regular worship and church activities carried on as always, greatly enhanced by the

spiritual togetherness which the project engendered.



Meanwhile the building, designed by Barry Permain, progressed quickly under the eye of Brian Vear and Barry - how lucky we were to have two such experienced builders who gave their time and expertise freely.

Cutting the first turf, April 1990

The land was cleared (no graves involved luckily) and the footings went in. Then the walls began to rise and you could begin to see the outline of the future building. The bricks were chosen to blend with the north side of St Mark's and the roof slates matched the new church roof.



The footings in place



The building takes shape

...Cont.

Arthur was away for a three-month sabbatical in the USA during the last months of construction, but was back in time for Harvest Festival when he climbed up onto the roof of the link passage for a topping out ceremony with a green bough as the roof was completed.



Topping out

Once the structure was complete, all the interior decoration was carried out by members of the congregation - with Arthur in the forefront of everything which was happening. We reached 21st April with the project completed and the money for it either raised or covenanted - a huge achievement. Next month I will write about the actual anniversary.

**Liz Hallett**



**Brief Report of  
St. Mark's PCC Meeting  
held via zoom on  
Monday 10 January 2022**

This was a busy meeting with a lengthy discussion on the end of year accounts and the budget for 2022. Pam, our Treasurer, works tirelessly for St. Mark's.

Here are a few of the other items that were discussed:-

Benefice Profile re. new Vicar - the Profile has been completed and the PCC was very happy with the final document. Thanks are due to Mark West at All Saints for his work collating all the information gathered from the Benefice, and Chris Kerr and Mark Braund for the work they did on St. Mark's and the village of Ampfield.

Church Electrics - there have been problems with the lighting for a while and estimates will be obtained so that a thorough check can be carried out. The height of the lights above the floor also makes it difficult to replace light bulbs. We will be asking for advice about how we can make this easier for the long term future.

Church Rotas - are being prepared for sidespeople, who welcome people into services; a monthly Flower rota; a Cleaning rota, for the Church and the Church Room; and brass

cleaning. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with any of these jobs, please contact Jennie.

Sound System - this new system will be installed, hopefully by the end of January, which will make a real difference for all who attend St. Mark's.

Heckfield Estate, Hook - the Head Arborist visited St. Mark's Churchyard after the PCC agreed that he could collect some seeds from the Redwood, the Wellingtonia, now called Sequoia, and the Tulip tree. The seeds are now in a freezer and will be planted in February at the Heckfield Estate. We look forward to hearing how well the seeds are growing.

The Friends of St. Mark's and Fundraising - the PCC are hopeful that there will be some fundraising events, possibly mostly outdoors, later in the year.

**Our next meeting will be  
held on Monday 14th  
March 2022**

**Jennie Edwards  
PCC Secretary**



## Claire Ludwell and Ampfield School

**M**any people may be unaware that Claire founded the Ampfield Community Pre- School which she started in her own home, eventually transferring to the village hall. There is a reference in the book, 'Ampfield Village School' written by Elizabeth Hallett, that mentions Claire as running the playgroup in 1980 and the link with the school making the transfer to primary school less daunting. I can imagine there were many children who would have preferred to stay with Claire. In 1989 the Romsey Advertiser reported on a celebration of the playgroup still going strong after 20 years. By this time Claire was working at the school having given up the playgroup reins to Sandy Oliver who retired a few years ago. Sadly there is currently no playgroup running in the village.



Can anyone recognise any faces here?  
Photo supplied by Liz Hallett

Cont....



Both of Claire's boys attended the playgroup and then went on to attend Ampfield School, her son Andrew is pictured in Liz's book along with four other pupils having opened the village fete in 1981

Claire's work at the school was varied but I personally remember her from the day my two boys joined in 1999 as she worked with some of the children who had particular needs. One of my boys is on the autism spectrum and Claire was appointed one of his assistants. She was so good with him, with me and with us all as a family. Claire was the person who carried out her faith in her actions and in her nurturing ways. She encouraged us as parents to set up adventure weekends in the glade and Chapel Wood and even acted as our lifeguard at a local friend's private swimming pool. These weekends culminated in the children having a great big fry up before attending a family service on the Sunday and all the parents of the children involved came along too, it was a joyful time.

Claire loved children and they loved her. She had endless patience and time for any child and she continued to support the school even after she retired. In so many ways she is missed, I am just so grateful that we were able to be a part of her life. **Kate McCallum**

“There's fewer more distressing sights than that of an Englishman in a baseball cap.”

***The Libertines.***

“The length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of the human bladder.”

***Alfred Hitchcock***

“Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance.”

***Will Durant***

# Friends of Chapel Wood

**H**APPY NEW YEAR to all our readers. There is always something magical about the early part of a new year, particularly when the weather is dry and sunny. It is like the great overcoat of winter has put back on its peg for a while. We can breathe a bit more easily and we feel more confident to make plans for the future. OK - so this year we may have needed to keep the outside news bulletins switched off or to the absolute bare minimum, but when the sun was shining, stuff was good. Walking around the woodland, in the sunshine, it felt great just to be there!

Now for the touch of reality - our original January working party, set for the 8<sup>th</sup>, had been abandoned due to the weather, but we agreed to reconvene on the following Saturday. We had been clearing areas overgrown with rhododendron and planned to dispose of the arising by way of a bonfire. We built a good base and soon had a merry blaze. In fact, we built several good bases and had several merry blazes but,



(there's always a 'but') they all fizzled out when we added the cuttings we wanted to burn. Despite not having any rain for a while, it was still all just to wet. We will try again next month. Ho, hum!

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Happily, our other activities for the morning progressed considerably better. We wanted to clear the soggy blanket of fallen leaves that lay covering the glade area before what remained of the grass was finally killed. We started by using a couple of blowers. Although these were reasonably effective at first, as we progressed it was clear the leaves were simply too wet and heavy to be cleared with blowers. In any case, blowers can also be a bit noisy if they are used at high volume incessantly.



It was time to bring out our high-tech hand rakes and clear stuff away manually. That worked well. With most of the leaves

removed, we could then access the mole hills beneath. The strategy was to rake the little mounds of earth into the surrounding grass so that next time we could scatter in grass seed with the hope that our lovely glade area might be rejuvenated. So far so good!

When we finally all sat down to enjoy chatting, coffee and buns, we could see we were leaving the wood in a better state than we found it. We are looking forward to next month already. Hopefully, the weather will remain benign, and stuff will dry out. We have a great team of woodlanders and, speaking as a community, we are most grateful to the work they put in. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, in the church car park at 09:45. All are welcome.

**Graham Roads**



## A Local Life

### Margaret (Meg) Rothwell

*A pioneer for women in the Diplomatic Service*



#### 1. Starting out

**M**any of us know Margaret (Meg) Rothwell from her past work in Ampfield as Chair of the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee, and her cooking as Meg's Kitchen. However, Meg was a pioneer for women in the Diplomatic Service. On her retirement in 1998, she undertook the Quinquennial Review of the Marshall Scholarship Scheme for Parliament. The scheme is a scholarship programme with the United States, linked to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. In 1992 she was awarded the CMG and in 1993 was made an Honorary Doctor of Laws by the University of Southampton. She is a committee member of the Lady Margaret Hall Association.

Meg was born in Edinburgh and moved to Southampton when she was seven. She lived in Highfield and attended the Girls' Grammar School, followed by Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford where she read Classics. Her parents moved to Knapp Lane and at the time Hill House was the lodge to the next-door cottage. Meg remembers large swathes of primroses and orchids in the woodland nearby. There were more footpaths in those days but many of these have now been closed off.

Meg decided to join the Foreign Office in 1961 because "women didn't get into the Foreign Service". This was despite the fact that she was encouraged at university to become a hospital almoner or social worker.

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Her mother sent her to London to do a Cordon Bleu cookery course in a basement in Marylebone Street. She believed that to succeed as diplomat Meg would need to host and entertain. Women had not been allowed to enter the service until 1946 when a Labour government and changing social attitudes after the war had paved the way.

However, women were required to resign if they married, and numbers were restricted to 10% so that “embarrassing numbers” of women did not join. It was believed that women were “too emotional”. Women were denied the opportunity to learn difficult languages such as Chinese because it was thought that they would soon get married and leave. They were told that few countries respected a woman.

Later, in 1972, Meg was to be initially refused a position in Helsinki because the ambassador believed that all the business was conducted by men in saunas. It was thought that men would not follow their wives around the world. During her time working at the foreign office in London, Meg was instrumental in having the marriage bar removed but it was not until 1987 that the first married female ambassador was appointed.

Meg’s first appointment was in London in the Northern Department which concentrated on Soviet and Eastern European countries. She shared a flat in Chelsea with a friend she had met at St. Hilda’s and enjoyed many concerts sitting in the ‘God’s’ at Covent Garden.



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Meg shared a tiny office with ten telephones and four men and “rubbed along well with her fellow third secretaries” including a young chap “who ambled in about 11 o’clock in the morning, rang his stock - broker and spent the next half hour dealing with his investments”. In 2014 Helen McCarthy published her book ‘Women of the World — the Rise of the Female diplomat’. McCarthy interviewed Meg and these extracts are from her book:

*“but they couldn’t actually hide the fact that I was really rather an embarrassment and they didn’t quite know how to use me . . . they didn’t see me as any kind of addition to the team . It was quite clear that I knew nothing about, understood nothing about politics or how things worked in Whitehall or anything , and I certainly had no idea. So I was more a liability I think and certainly to the number 2 ; he was a very distinguished man but he just found me quite impossible to deal with”.*

Her first chief in the Northern Department, she remembered:

*“couldn’t cope with women . . . didn’t approve, didn’t like them , [thought] they were a waste of space . . . he clearly regarded me as expendable and not worth paying much attention to ’. His attitude, Rothwell added , ‘ wasn’t hostile, it was just complete incapacity to cope. He was a nice enough man, competent . . . Just didn’t know what to do with a woman in the service . ”*

We will leave Meg in London this month. The Council of Europe Delegation in Strasburg was her first posting abroad and in the March Messenger we will continue with Meg’s career overseas.



**Chris Kerr**

Dear Residents,

We all welcome the changes during 2021 which have seen a relaxing of restrictions and a move back to a more familiar lifestyle. But we all need to be mindful, Covid is still here and we must all adapt our behaviour to keep ourselves and others safe. My gratitude goes out to all the NHS staff, both in Acute and Primary Care. All the frontline workers and volunteers we all depend on to many to name them all. Last year I said we must rise to a further challenge, The Climate Emergency. Over the last twelve months it has shown us that it is certainly the “Biggest challenge” that we all face.

It is only the actions that each of us can, and must, make in our daily lives, supported by local Councils and all Governments during the next decade that will be crucial to Save our Planet, for the next generations.

I look forward to 2022 with hope and purpose to do what we do best, work together and respond positively to difficulties and start working together to ‘Save our planet.’

*I wish you all a Healthy New Year,*

*Alan G Dowden*

County Cllr for Baddesley Division

Borough Cllr for Valley Park Ward’ Chairman of Valley Park Parish Council, Deputy Mayor TVBC.

## **Benefice News**

At St Mark’s we have just come to the end of the financial year, and I am pleased to report that in 2021, thanks to the generous support we have received, we have been able to pay all our bills. We were able to obtain a grant to pay for the replacement of two stained glass windows and our insurance covered the cost of the lead stolen from the church roof. The kitchen in the Church Room was renovated by the Men’s Shed. Kitchen units and a new sound system were paid for by donations.

A big thank you goes to the congregation and friends who have supported St. Mark’s through an expensive year and we look forward to a happy and trouble free 2022.

**Pam Morfew, Treasurer.**

*Thank you Pam for your sterling work in a difficult year*

## *Castaway of the Month—Lynda Emery*

1. The Listen with Mother theme (Berceuse from Gabriel Fauve's Dolly Suite). This was on our radio at 1.45 on weekday afternoons and I would play and listen whilst Mum was often at her sewing machine, making our clothes. A time of peace and security.



2. The Children's Favourites with Uncle Mac theme (Puffin' Billy) when DerekMc.Culloch played children of the 1950's requests. The Laughing Policeman was a firm favourite, but not with me! However the theme tune reminds me of leisurely Saturday mornings when Dad would often make a fried breakfast and we would have a family day.

3. The theme music and song of the Lone Ranger (complete with gunshots!) meant Saturday evening had begun. I loved Westerns when I was 8, 9,10. The baddies always lost! No blood was ever seen!

4. Nearing teenage years pop music was in its infancy. Initially, 6.5 Special (title song by the Bob Court Skiffle group) with Don Lang and the Frantic Five. This was closely followed by Oh Boy, where I discovered Cliff Richard, who was my fave until, in 1962/3...

5. THE BEATLES!! If I wasn't their biggest fan, then I'd like to know who was!! (perhaps it was YOU!). [No - it was ME - Ed.] I would choose Please, please me as it started all the madness. I bought albums, which we called LPs, from a small record shop on the way home from school in Winchester. I knew the words of every song (pretty much still do). Mum bought me the singles to play on the Dansette. This went on for years, followed by a huge gap in anything significant for me music wise.



Cont. ...

...Cont.

6. After teacher training, marriage, work and 2 children keeping me really busy, my interest in music was reawakened by my teenage daughter's friends. They loved bands like Metallica, Nirvana, Terrorvison, Smashing Pumpkins, Skunk Anansie, Placebo and Prodigy. I absolutely loved the energy, the sound and excitement generated by this music and still listen to it, though the teenagers, now in their 40s, have moved on music-wise. My son then joined a band and I began ferrying him and drum kit to gigs. It was great fun. I was also a driver and attendee to gigs by some of the bands above, so exciting to see them live. The atmosphere at these occasions is "electric" The best was an "all-dayer" at Milton Keynes Bowl in July 1999, headlined by Metallica. I've chosen their "Master of puppets", though I could have picked any number of others.



7. About 15 years ago , I began an interested in Buddhism and attended regular classes, including meditation. These have influenced my thinking and "way of being" for at least the past decade. So my 7th song, not specifically Buddhist but very spiritual I feel, is George Harrison singing "Within you, without you". Indeed this is one of the possibles on my "to be played at my memorial" songs .

8. Finally, one to remind me of my darling grandchildren. I must have sung it a hundred times at Toddler clubs and playgroups with them. "The wheels on the bus go round and round.". This reminds me of the late, great, John Lennon who wrote that he was "just sitting here watching the wheels go round and round" - all about getting off life's merry go round, but that's a whole other story !!

Of all these varied pieces, I would have to choose ... oh so difficult !!" Within you, without you" though it would be hard to live without some others as well.

As a luxury, some 85% cocoa dark chocolate.

As a book (am I allowed a series?). Bernard Cornwall's Viking series about Uhtred of Bebbanburg, such an exciting read.





## A Kitchen Garden (G4G)

In many respects, this is one of our favourite times of the year to be out working in the kitchen garden. All the beds are cleared of debris, the soft fruit bushes have been pruned and the perpetual herb beds have been tidied. We have our planting plan for the new season, and we are busy searching out the seed packets from various sources. We can dream of orderly rows of bright, fresh, green vegetables. We can imagine lazy summer days when we can prepare, cook and enjoy grub outside with our friends and family. It all starts here.

The first thought for this month should perhaps be maintenance. How many new beds do we need to make? We tend to use treated timber, 150mm x 50mm, painted with a preservative paint, in any colour you can stand to look at for the next few years. Our beds are all 1 metre wide and either 2 or 3 metres long, held together by steel brackets and screws. As nothing detracts from nice new raised beds than weeds growing on the paths between, they all need to be removed during January.

Another job to be finished this month is cleaning out the green house. The days are fast approaching when we will want to be sowing seeds and, by then, it will work better if we have washed and sterilised as much as we can, including seed trays and pots. We need to be thinking of putting together our seed compost for the greenhouse; we try to use peat free whenever possible. It might be worth getting some horticultural grit or horticultural grade sand. Compost can get a bit claggy so mixing in some grit or sand helps it to drain better and stay aerated.



Cont. ...



...Cont.

We spoke last time about the soil. Those of us that are of a certain age might remember a famous radio gardener called Arthur Fallowfield (aka Kenneth Williams). His stock reply to any question was “The answer lies in the soil”. He was not wrong. Time spent working out what different plants like will not be time wasted later. The RHS website provides masses of really good information on this topic. For instance, if you want to grow potatoes look up

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/vegetables/potatoes/grow-your-own> ,



the investment in time now will pay dividends in the long run. As an example, we always grow Charlotte potatoes – they are relatively less prone to problems, can be lifted during the summer, they are versatile and can be used as salad potatoes or fried, plus we find they have an excellent flavour. It is a good allrounder!

For what to do this month in the kitchen garden, paste into your browser

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/january>

- other months are available on the site. It would be good to get a chat going, please contact Chris and Rob K to exchange ideas with your own stories, tips and particularly your own recipes?

**Graham Roads**

## Service Rota St. Mark's

### 13 Feb (3rd. Before Lent)

OT reading: Jeremiah	17.5 - 10	Jeanne
NT reading: 1 Corinthians	15. 12 - 20	Ron
Intercessions:		Rob
Sides:		Jennie and Phil
Coffee:		The two Heathers

### Cleaning

Church: Jennie & Adrienne      Church Room: Kate and Chris

### Flowers

Sally C

### Brass

Ron

## Answers to Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

- 1.1997
- 2.Larry Page and Sergey Brin
- 3.Queens Park Rangers
- 4.Emperor Hirohito
- 5.China
- 6.1970
- 7.Blue, Yellow, Black, Green and Red
- 8.2000
- 9.1985
- 10.Naples

## Information

If you need any Zoom meeting links, would like to join in with readings or intercessions, would like prayers said for you or someone you know, or would just like to comment, please email [joinin@acnb-church.org](mailto:joinin@acnb-church.org).

### **Nextdoor.co.uk**

Neighbourhood hub for connecting with local services.

### ***Online Facebook groups:***

#### **Romsey News and Information Group**

The original Facebook Group for Romsey.

#### **Romsey Garden, Nursery & Plants, Info. Sharing etc.**

Good source of local plant delivery and availability, seeds and growing information.

**Hampshire Coronavirus Helpline - 0333 370 4000**

**Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults - 0300 555 1386**

**Romsey Community Pantry - 01794 522106**

**Romsey Foodbank - [www.romsey.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.romsey.foodbank.org.uk)**

**Frontline Debt Advice - 02380 552866**

**Southampton Basics Bank -**

**[www.southamptoncitymission.co.uk/basics-banks](http://www.southamptoncitymission.co.uk/basics-banks)**

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County Councillor: Alan Dowden; Phone 02380 266458

TVBC Councillor: Martin Hatley; Phone: 02380 254040

Ampfield Parish Council: Chair Bryan Nanson; Phone: 02380 267760

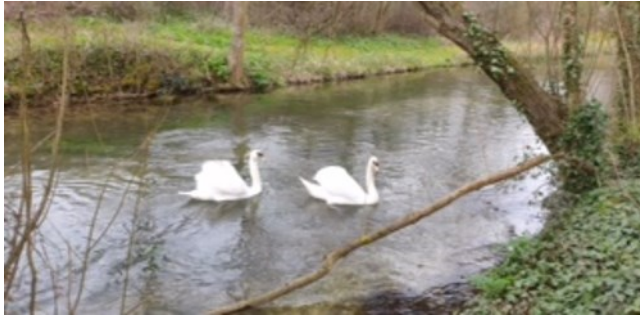
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and steadfastness to our people,  
and bring us at last  
to that fair city of peace whose foundations are mercy,  
justice, and goodwill,  
of which you are the designer and builder;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*By Woodrow Wilson*





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