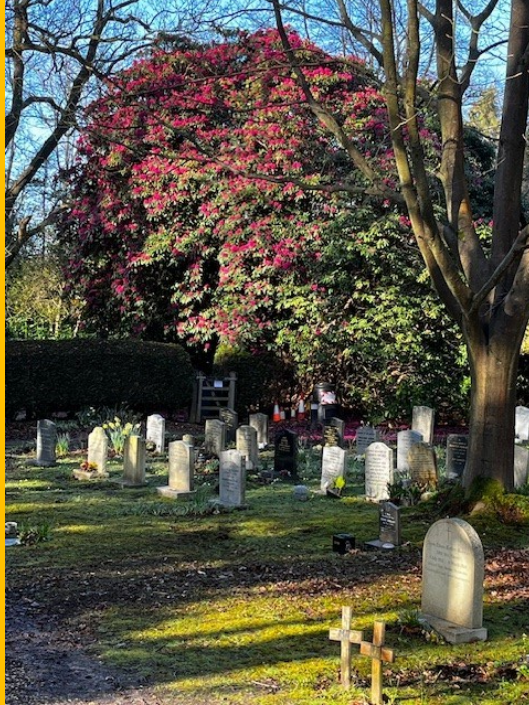


The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of
St. Mark Ampfield*

March 2024

Vol 74 Issue 3 £1

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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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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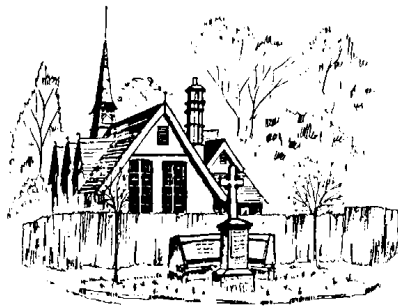
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DEADLINE: The third Friday of each calendar month.

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

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Letter from Vanessa

Dear Friends

I have just been watching an interview with the author of the 2024 Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book, [Tarry Awhile: Wisdom from Black Spirituality for people of faith by Selina Stone](#). 'Tarry awhile' is an interesting phrase – it's rather old fashioned, not language we might often use today. And yet, it's a phrase that Selina Stone grew up hearing often in her Pentecostal church.

'Tarry awhile' gives a sense of a peaceful waiting, where we might be hanging out with a friend, perhaps simply enjoying the others company, but the author describes it in a spiritual sense as intentionally setting aside time with God. She goes on to say that this is not necessarily a passive experience - sometimes this can involve our whole bodies. Certainly, it is true that many people find prayer easier when their bodies are moving – whether that's out for a walk, or doing the washing up! There are as many different ways to pray as there are people, and we all have our own unique ways of connecting with God.

We can certainly see that in the bible – whether that is the Psalms of lament, Jacob wrestling with God and ending up limping, or Jesus withdrawing to a quiet place to pray alone. Lent is certainly time for that spiritual spring clean! How will you 'tarry awhile' with God? St. Mark's church is open every day – but perhaps you prefer to walk in the woods as you connect with God? I'd love to hear your experiences of prayer!

If you want to watch the interview with Selina Stone, please look up the YouTube channel for St Paul's Cathedral, or click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IlkiC7Kcuel>

Vanessa



Weekly service pattern

Sunday Services

	All Saints	St Mark	St Denys	St John
1st Sunday	11:00 Messy Church	09:30 Tidy Church	09:30 BCP Matins or Communion	11:00 Communion or Morning Prayer
2nd Sunday	11:00 Communion	09:30 Communion	09:30 informal Morning Prayer	
3rd Sunday	11:00 Communion	09:30 Communion or Morning prayer	09:30 BCP Matins or Communion	
4th Sunday	11:00 Communion	09:30 Communion		
5th Sunday	11:00 Communion	09:30 Communion		

Midweek Services

When	Where	What
Tuesday, 10:30	St Mark, Ampfield	Small group Communion in St Mark's room, followed by coffee
Wednesday, 19:00	All Saints, North Baddesley	Communion in a peaceful candle lit space in the midst of your busy week

Join us online

Sunday 17:00 every week: BCP Evening prayer

Meeting ID: 555 680 7118 and Passcode: a or

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5556807118?pwd=Om5SL0RVbktqTnN5emVHc0tnRTVNZz09>

Benefice News

Friends for Lunch

20 diners enjoyed Simon's delicious Boeuf Bourguignon and Rosea's rice pudding with cherries. We welcomed our new helper Vicky and Ron provided an excellent quiz, won by Anne. Every month we put any profits into a charity fund and this had grown to around £500 over the last two years. Diners and helpers agreed to donate £250 to Jo's Marathon run (to go to the NSPCC) and £250 to Alzheimer's Research. Thank you all for your support. Next lunch is on Wednesday 20th March: please ring Pam on 02380 411146 to book a place.

St. Mark's Stall at the Ampfield Market

Sat 2nd March 10am - noon

Last month we raised £80. Thank you to all of you who have donated so generously. If you have anything for the March market please contact Chris or Kate (see p.2 for contact nos.).

St. Mark's Fête and Dog Show Saturday 8th June

Helpers Needed!

Planning for this year's fête is well underway. We will kick off with our renowned Raffle. The BBQ, Pimm's Tent, Beer Tent, Cake Stall, Refreshments, Bottles, Plants, Fairground Games, Jewellery, Face Painting and Ice Cream will all be back. There will be several new stalls alongside our regulars - including a Petting Area for Farm Animals. Watch this space for more details next month. If you are able to help out in any way, please contact Phil (see P.2).

Friends of St. Mark's committee meeting

The Friends met on the 13th February and there are some exciting plans for 2024/5. See p. 11 for details.

Benefice News



Lunches at St Mark's Ampfield

Fridays

1st March 15th March

Join us for a light lunch of home-made soup, bread & cheese and fruit

Come any time between 12noon and 2pm

St. Mark's Room

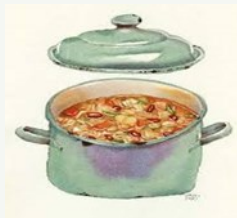
Donations will go to Romsey Foodbank and

The Winchester Beacon (Night Shelter)

Last orders 1.30

Just turn up, or for more details phone:

Chris: 01794 367104



Obituary



**Dr Marek (Mark) Andrzej Herbich
1938 – 2024**

On Wednesday 7th February 2024 the funeral mass of Mark Herbich was held at St Edward's Church in Chandlers Ford, lead by Father Raffaele Cossa. Mark and his wife Sheila have been residents in Knapp Lane for over 40 years where they brought up their two girls Andrea and Natasha and in time were surrounded by their grandchildren whom Mark adored.

Mark's son - in - law David read the eulogy which spoke of a man with a strong faith, a real love for his family and a zest for life, particularly his golf. David gave us a picture of Mark's childhood, born in Poland and surviving a very difficult first few years of his life, eventually escaping to Edinburgh which he always called home.

In his youth Mark was a gifted athlete and footballer, winning a cap for the under 21 Scotland football team. Academically, Mark went on to study a PhD in Chemistry and was employed by Esso for whom he worked his whole career.

It was obvious from many of the Royal Winchester Golf Captains' jackets worn in the church that Mark was a very keen golfer. He was captain in 2002. The packed church was a tribute to the special place Mark and Sheila hold in many people's lives. Mark is interred in Ampfield Burial Ground in Chapel Wood, just a stone's throw from his back garden, a very fitting place of rest.

Kate

Benefice News

Pop-up Spring Craft Market:

Tuesday 5th March 10.30 - 4pm at All Saints

Due to the very successful Christmas Market we are holding another one on Tuesday 5th March. A variety of handmade items are going to be for sale at the Craft Market on Tuesday 5th March from 10.30 - 4pm in All Saints. This is a chance to buy some hand crafted gifts for Mothering Sunday and Easter. Please come along and support, refreshments will be available.

Sunshine Saints - Fridays 10am - 11.30am

Every Friday we welcome families to the **Sunshine Saints baby and toddler group** in All Saints Church.

Diddy Disciples - Wednesdays

Every Wednesday during term time, 9:15 - 10am, we welcome preschoolers, and their grown-ups, to join us for **Diddy Disciples at All Saints**.

Social Hub at All Saints - Wednesdays 10am - Noon

An opportunity to have a go at some crafts, do jigsaws or just relax with a book that has been borrowed from the Community Library (also open on a Wednesday morning) or just sit and chat. There are free drinks and biscuits and sometimes other treats! It continues to be 10am - 12pm every Wednesday at All Saints Church, North Baddesley.

Welcome Café Thursdays at All Saints Church

Thursdays 10am - 12 noon.

An opportunity for everyone, especially those lonely or bereaved to meet.

Lunchtime Recitals St. Denys Chilworth

Starting Wednesday 6th March 1pm

The first one this year will take place on Wednesday 6th March starting at 1pm. 'Sunnendae' are a small group of female voices and they will be singing genres from classical to pop music. There is no need to book, there will be refreshments, donations welcome.

Benefice News

Update on Jo's London Marathon fundraising for the NSPCC

As you know the benefice is currently supporting Jo, who is running the London Marathon this year, in her efforts to raise money for the NSPCC, which provides crucial services in supporting children who are at risk of, or are experiencing abuse and neglect. Recently Arthur's Play Space kindly accommodated Jo for a day, where she sold raffle tickets and they sold "coffee and cake" packages; then last week the usual Thursday "Welcome Café," at All Saints, allowed Jo to take over the morning.

At the Café, in addition to the usual refreshments, there were delicious cakes, cheese scones and cookies, many of which were homemade, available for a donation. Jo again had her raffle, which proved very popular, and she was kept busy selling tickets all morning. Jo also drew the raffle that day, and Anne, Teresa, Kate and Suzanne were all delighted with their package prizes. Jo said, "It was a great morning, the atmosphere was buzzing from the time we opened the doors, to when the last person left. Everyone was incredibly generous. It was great to chat to such lovely people, who offered so many words of encouragement, which will really help me to get around the 26.2 mile course. A big thank you to everyone who made cakes, helped run both days, and who gave so generously, it has been amazing!"

I am thrilled to report that thanks to Arthur's Play Space and the Welcome Café, Jo raised in excess of £500!



Sally

Friends of St. Mark's Meeting 13 February 2024

Present: Stephen Phillips, Karen Phillips, Phil Budden, Mark Braund, Graham Roads and Jenny Edwards (via Zoom)

Apologies: Kate McCallum

Review of 2023

*In 2023, wine tasting contributed £400, carol singing raised £250 for Crisis, & the Community Carol Service was a success.

*At the end of 2023, the available funds were £10,191.00

Likely funding

requirements over the foreseeable future

St Mark's Room Phase 1 - to create double doors on the Eastern wall, install an outside terraced area and to enlarge the kitchen area - was estimated at £100k. A CAF grant (max £25k) has been applied for from TVBC, but this phase as currently planned seems out of reach at present. We are seeking help to apply for other grants, but also considering how to simplify the new access and/or kitchen to radically reduce the cost.

Maintenance from The Quinquennial (five yearly) Inspection.

*The QI is designed to help us keep the church in good repair, like the MOT for a car.

*Urgent electrical work costing £7,300 has been

completed, primarily funded from the Fabric Fund, but incl. £300 grant from TVBC via Sally Yalden.

*There is outstanding work to repair two roof leaks

(c. £10k in 2023 prices), and significant stonework repairs.

Specifications for the stonework are in hand but formal quotations can't be procured until these have been completed. Expectations are from £25k.

Future Events to be

Considered in 2024:

*A quiz night. Provisional target late April / early May but avoid Bank Holiday and Village Hall quiz nights.

Check if worth getting a licence.

*Poetry and Reading

Evening in early autumn.

*Another wine tasting in late autumn.

In 2025:

A flower festival - Jenny and Karen had experience of very successful similar events elsewhere, but this would take too much organising to be ready for this year. Likely target June 2025, but avoid fete.

Other fund raising possibilities

*Sell window panes as memorials

*Sell bricks in proposed new terrace as memorials

Next meeting: to be arranged to follow fete meeting again e.g. 13 or 14 March, tbc.

Phil

Benefice News

Lay Vocations Morning Saturday 6th April,

9.30am – 12.30pm

All Saints Church Hall, St Leonards & St Ives BH24 2LS

Do you think God might be calling you to use your gifts to serve Jesus Christ? But unsure of what your next step might be? Join us at All Saints Church Hall, St Leonards & St Ives where Bishop David will share about God's calling on our lives and how we can respond to that call. The Winchester School of Mission team will share about the pathways available and afterwards the team will be on hand to answer your questions. · Do you already serve or want to serve but would value training and networking opportunities? – Come and find out more about the Bishop's Commission for Mission (BCM) available in Pastoral Care, Worship, Children, Youth & Families Ministry, and Beyond Church Walls. · Do you feel called to preach regularly in your church? - Our Bishop's Permission To Preach programme could help you flourish. · Would you like to explore licensed lay ministry? - We can help you explore the pathways available. All are welcome to join us for this morning, designed to help you prayerfully consider your response to God's call on your life - no strings or expectations attached.

Please contact Tracey Nicholls via
tracey.nicholls@winchester.anglican.org
to book your place.

**Tracey Nicholls Team Administrator
Winchester School Of Mission**



The Ampfield Market

(Established in 2000, now in its 24th year !)

**will take place
on
Saturday March 2nd
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 April 6th 2024

**The Ampfield Village Hall
29th Annual General Meeting
Monday 25th March 2024
at 7.00pm in the Committee Room**

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on June 5th 2023
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairmans Report
- Treasurers Financial Report and Accounts
Dec 2022 – Dec 2023
6. Composition of the Management Committee
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of the next meeting

All are welcome to attend

“Life is a cemetery of retrospective lucidities”
Jean-François Revel, La Reconnaissance Inutile

What happens in the Ampfield Village Hall every month?

MONDAYS

PILATES WITH HANNAH – Two sessions in the morning. Details at www.pilateswithaplomb.com

AMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL regularly meet on a Monday evening for their ordinary meetings, planning meetings and other meetings. Details at www.Ampfield.org.uk .

AMPFIELD CLICKERS informal and friendly, resumes knitting, crocheting, skill sharing and chatting (!) 3rd Monday evening Jan 2024.

Contact Jo on 07970 509450. Email joannehatley@aol.com

TUESDAYS

AMPFIELD BRIDGE CLUB friendly duplicate bridge. Every Tuesday (except at Xmas time) from 7pm to 10pm. If you require a partner or want more information contact Janet Cox on 07879 915726 or email janetwallace1@hotmail.co.uk New members always welcome.

WEDNESDAYS

TODDLER SENSE SALISBURY – two morning sessions. 13 months to 4 years. Call Sian on 07984 051713 or Email: salisbury@toddlersense.co.uk
1st AMPFIELD BROWNIES meet every Wed. evening during term time. 6pm to 7.30pm Tel. Sue Moore 01794 523947

ROMSEY MODELLERS Build model kits? Join this club on the 1st and 3rd. Wed. of each month 8pm to 10pm.. www.romseymodellers.co.uk

THURSDAYS

YOGA MORNING with Diana Craven 9.30 to 11.30am

E-mail: diana_craven@hotmail.com for details. This class is run temporarily by Gem of Gem Yoga and Wellness: gem@gemyogaandwellness.co.uk

AMPFIELD ART GROUP meets Thurs. afternoons during term time 2pm to 4pm. All abilities welcome Contact email: Julie@ampfield.org.uk

NEW PILATES CLASS Thursday evenings with Hannah Plomb

Details: www.pilateswithaplomb.com

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

SATURDAYS

VILLAGE MARKET (Established 2000) (see p.13)

Ring Julie on 02380 254587. This is a great event to meet up with people.

CARD MAKING WORKSHOP WITH VANESSA. A range of crafts, monthly, 10am to 4pm. Details from Vanessa 01794 515490 or email

Ampfieldcards@gmail.com .

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

SEE OUR NEW WEBSITE www.ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk and take a virtual tour, book the hall or buy tickets.

Village News

The Ampfield Market

New members needed for the Village Hall Committee

The Village Hall Committee is looking for new members with lots of fresh ideas! If you would like to be part of our enthusiastic team please contact julie@ampfield.org.uk for more information. Our AGM will take place in the hall on Monday 25th March 2024.

BOOK A TABLE NOW & JUST PAY ON THE NIGHT!

Ampfield Village Hall QUIZ NIGHT

? ? ? ? ? ? ?

**Join us at our ever popular friendly fun Quiz Night with Raffle!
the evening**

By demand, the Ampfield Quizmasters are back!

**Friday 15 March 2024 at 7.30pm
(Doors open at 7pm)**

**Come as a team of up to 6, or in smaller numbers and teams will
be made up on the night.**

**A bar will be available and 'bar snacks' will be put on your tables. If
you wish, please bring along your own picnic supper to enjoy during
the interval or throughout**

Cost £5 per person inc. 'bar' snacks

BAR Prizes for winning table. RAFFLE

Pay on the evening but please book your place or a table first.

Contact: Martin Hatley 07970 501050

Or email:

info@ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk

**All proceeds to go to the Village Hall Funds – a registered charity
No. 1057353**

Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. Which Ampfield Vicar died in March 1982 and his ashes were laid under the Wellingtonia near the church's main entrance?
2. Where was the primitive Methodist Chapel sited in Ampfield that was closed in the 1930's?
3. The old schoolhouse closed in Knapp Lane and moved to its present location in which year?
4. Which modern innovation happened to Ampfield Church in 1938/9 which removed the old oily smell immediately?
5. Ampfield Church was built over three years. 1838 to 1841. What was the name of the architect, who also designed Winchester Cornmarket (now library) in 1836/7?
6. In which year did John Keble and his wife Mary die within two weeks of each other?
7. What was the name of the vicar that started in Ampfield in 1983, along with his lovely wife Renate?
8. Stella and I were married in Romsey Abbey in 1976. What was the name of the Canon who presided over the ceremony at that time, a resident of Lower Farm Lane, Ampfield?
9. What was presented to Ampfield Church at the East and West ends in 1855 by the Reverend Robert Wilson after he had left Ampfield?
10. In 1846, what was erected in the church grounds after a visit to the Tyrol, by Maria Wilson?

Answers on p. 33



Remembering Florence Suckling: *“When the Colours Changed at Ampfield”* Part 2

We know some attendees at the 1876 wedding of Florence and Thomas because of the *Hampshire Advertiser*. Perhaps the most prominent member was Robert Alfred John Suckling (RAJS).

RAJS, Lord of the Manor of Barsham, appeared ensconced in his home parish. In 1880, a shocked sister, Anna Maria, would write to Thomas announcing her brother was leaving Suffolk for St. Peter's, in the 'dingy and dreary' London Docklands. Robert

disregarded all pleas to abandon his calling. Two years later, Robert's superiors chose him to replace the extreme high-churchman, Father Mackonochie at St Alban's, Holborn. Robert calmed the unrest at St Alban's, while maintaining his high-church inclinations.

Regarding the bridesmaids, Sarah Shelton Suckling, aged 23, was the daughter of Thomas Suckling's uncle, the Reverend Maurice Shelton Suckling of Shipmeadow, Suffolk. The Ampfield wedding must have inspired Sarah, as she married in the following year. Constance Suckling, aged 26, was the bridegroom's young sister. She lived later in Cavendish, Suffolk, with her servants, until moving to Barsham. She died unmarried, in 1914, eight years before Thomas' death in Romsey.



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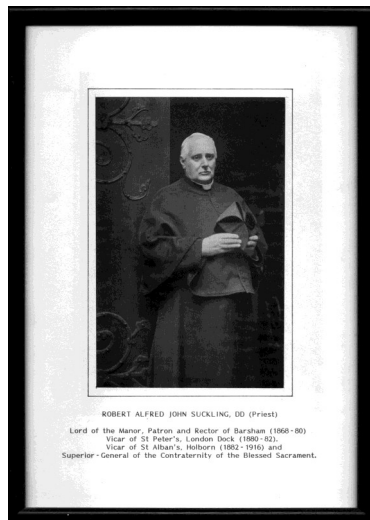
One bridesmaid was a Miss Ward. She was probably a descendant of the marriage between Reverend Philip Ward and Horatia Nelson, the admiral's illegitimate daughter.

We know something about the fourth bridesmaid, Selina Moor, from the publications of Liz Hallett and Anita Wood. Selina's move to Chislehurst appeared less eventful than Ampfield once her parents had died. She lived comfortably with her servants before declining in old age. The 1939 Register for Hastings, describes a person with this name as 'incapacitated' at St. Peter's Grange, St. Leonard's, Sussex. She died in 1944, aged 83 (Death Index, Hastings, 1916-2007, 2b 22).

The last bridesmaid, a Miss Acton (Helen Beatrice) was the only daughter of Captain Edward Acton, who led Florence to the altar, owing to the death of her father in 1865. Acton's mother was Mary Anne Suckling, daughter of the Reverend Horace Suckling of Barsham, the bride's great uncle.

Captain Acton's mother lived until 1890, so she could have been at the wedding. The surviving mothers of Florence and Thomas, Caroline and Anna Maria (Yelloly) Suckling, were also unnamed by newspapers.

by Raymond Metters



Winter Pentathlon in Davos February 2024 by Phil Budden

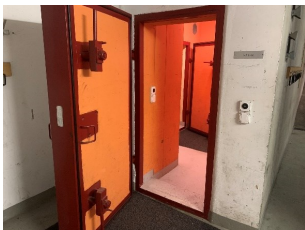
You may not be aware of Modern Pentathlon which was created by Pierre de Coubertin for the 1912 Olympics. It involves five events representing what a Napoleonic courier might have to do to get their message through: riding, fencing, swimming, shooting and running. It's now even more modern and combines the running and shooting as 'Laser Run' which alternates shooting with a Laser pistol and running, rather like Ski Biathlon.



I competed at Modern Pentathlon in my youth, and in the past few years have competed at Masters Laser Run which is now also run as a separate event, so when I heard of a Masters Winter Pentathlon in Davos, it sounded fun. In fact it's more a family reunion for retired pentathletes than a serious competition, but despite the high average age, the competitive urge for all is proven still to be strong! In fact 'Summer' and 'Winter' competitions are run together, with Riding and Fencing counting in both, but this still gives 8 events in 3 days.



In previous years, the show-jumping on snow was a highlight, but sadly this year, there were complications and we had to drop it, so we started with cross country skiing. I'm not the most graceful on skis, but I went out 3 days early to practice my skiing, and managed not to disgrace myself.



We were staying in the Swiss Army nuclear bunker which was an experience in itself. Obviously self-contained, and with the organiser acting as chef, it's an interesting way to holiday in Switzerland on a budget! The next event was precision shooting, inside the bunker. No pictures of the actual shooting but the multiple reinforced concrete doors at the bottom of a long ramp underground give an idea of that it's like!

Cont. ...

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In the morning we had the Laser Ski. The Laser pistol alternates with cross country skiing, where the shooting needs accuracy when your heart is in overdrive. It was cold and snowing, so we also needed gloves which complicated gently

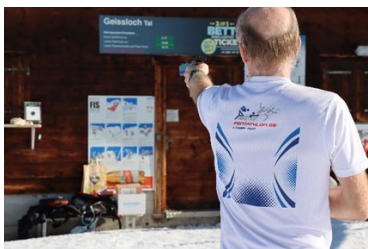
squeezing the trigger on the right heartbeat! Next was swimming, which was happily inside, but followed by relaxing in the outside hot pool.



This was followed by the Giant Slalom which proved what I really already knew, that my lack of style absolutely does have an effect on how fast I can ski downhill!



On the final day we fenced in the morning followed by Laser Run in trainers on the snow. Thankfully the sun shone, so I was back to shorts. You can just see the green lights on the target – you have to get 5 green lights before running another lap.



So what about the results, I hear you ask. The results are genuinely unimportant, and last year I won nothing. This year, without winning any event but by dint of doing okay in all of them, I

came 2nd in both Winter and Summer competitions, and won the combined event. I'm here in the bunker with the Ladies and Youth winners with our carved Ibex trophies.



Phil

Christian Comment Friday 6th February
Romsey Advertiser
Signs of Stability in a Changing World

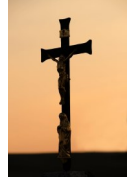
Churches have stood for centuries; they are a sign of permanence, stability and serenity in an ever-changing world. The wonderful architecture, beautiful windows, memorials and other interesting features draw people to enter them. When inside there is a sense of awe and wonder to think of how much prayer the walls have absorbed over the centuries. Churches are places where it is possible to sit and reflect, pray and feel closer to God. There are other reasons for visiting a place of worship, people like to return to where a significant life event happened, bringing back happy or maybe painful memories.

It is now usual to see places of worship increasingly utilising their space for wider purposes than just Sunday services, making them a hub for community events which benefit everyone. Of course, there are some churches that do not have such a rich history and are classed as modern, even though they were built in the last century, which is the case of All Saints North Baddesley, about to celebrate 70yrs as a place of worship in the village. It now houses the Community Library.

A community that appreciates their church can only be a good and positive. In medieval times churches were hectic places, they were meeting halls and markets, so everyone would go inside them not just for worship. There is nothing new in utilising these sacred buildings. Churches should not be museums, but ever-evolving places of worship, community, joy, and reflection both physically and spiritually, they are places of heritage but also very important places for the future. They therefore should be welcoming in every respect. A church that serves the needs of its community and offers a sacred space for all will thrive in every way.

Sally Kerson

Thought for the Month



Lent is a time to take time to let the power of our faith story
take hold of us, a time to
let the events get up
and walk around in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and
listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder...
Lent is a time to allow
a fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
for thoughts come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future
knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God,
to hear your Word
and to read our living into it.
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven
and give us the faith
to take up our lives and walk.

Ann Weems

Ampfield Art Class Gallery

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



Chaffinch
Christina: pastels



Romsey Scenes
Nick: watercolour



Winter Landscape
Nick: watercolour

Ampfield Art Class Gallery



Spring Landscape
Nick: watercolour

Merry Dance
Carle:
watercolour



Christmas Card 2023
Graham: pen and ink

Friends of Chapel Wood

As ever with our woodland working parties, we are very much at the mercy of the weather. It had been raining for continuously for days and everything was wet and slippery, so more rain on the day would have meant curtains for our morning's workload. As it happened, on this occasion we were very lucky – the weather was dry, and it stayed dry.

With it being so wet underfoot, our planned activities were always subject to change. For instance, we had hoped to clear away the wet leaves, which were covering the glade areas and the footpaths down by the fountain. However, this proved too time consuming as they tended to stick together as if glued, so we decided to work on improving the views around the woodland by cutting back some of the overgrown areas of Rhododendron.



Cont. ...

...Cont.

In particular, we are trying to improve the longer-range vistas. We have a very attractive church and a stunning area of woodland; it would be good if people could see the church while walking around the wood and the wood whilst sitting in St. Mark's room. The rhodos are a problem but they can be managed, particularly if they are kept at a height of about a metre

We felt we had enough person-power to be able to work effectively in two separate area. We chose the area adjacent to the burial ground where the American memorial sits and the area behind St. Mark's room. The photos give a before and after perspective. Of course, the plants will put on fresh growth but, if we can keep them trimmed, they will be less intrusive than previously. Neither area is completely finished, we will do that next month, but the photos show what is possible. The area around the US airmen's memorial is part of the burial ground and designated as an area to scatter ashes.



Graham Roads



Church Screens: Part Two

Rood Lofts

By Liz Hallett

Last month I wrote about the screens which frequently separated the nave and chancel in medieval churches. From the fourteenth century until the Reformation in the mid-1500s, these screens often incorporated a loft or gallery across the top, supported on a large timber 'rood beam'. The loft would usually be reached from inside the church by a staircase built into the wall adjacent to the chancel arch, and we can still see the stairs in many old churches today, even when the screen has disappeared altogether.

Above the rood beam would usually be a carved crucifix or rood, large enough to be visible from all over the church, a representation, usually in wood, of Christ on the cross flanked by St Mary on one side and St John on the other. This served as a constant reminder to the faithful of the central truth of Christianity and was often highly decorated and gilded. 'Rood lights' - candles, or oil and a wick in stone cressets were lit along the beam below these figures. During Lent the rood would be covered with a violet or black cloth.

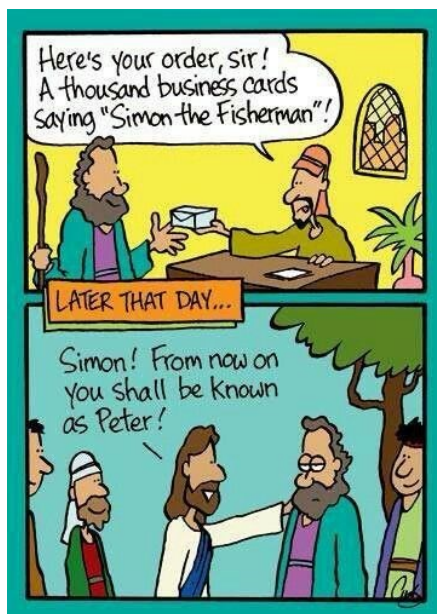
A remarkable example of a rood beam has been preserved at the back of St Andrew's Church at Cullompton in Devon. Here the beam was not destroyed at the time of the Reformation, but was cut in half and kept for many years in the porch. (see below) The beam itself had been carved to form part of the crucifixion scene, and the skulls representing Golgotha can be seen, with the position of the three figures clearly evident. However the carved figures themselves did not survive.

Cont. ...

...Cont.

The rood loft had various uses. A practical purpose was to allow access to keep the rood lights burning, but other uses developed. The Gospel could be read from there and it was sometimes used as a convenient position for the choir and maybe to house an organ. The front of the loft was often richly carved and decorated, the depth being supported by a large carved cornice or a series of small ornamented ribs, which linked it to the screen below. Most rood lofts have gone but there are still a number to be found. We have visited St Andrew's Cullompton and St John the Baptist, Plymtree, both in Devon and St Mary's, Attleborough, Norfolk, all of which still retain their rood lofts. Photos of these accompanied last month's article.

Liz Hallett



From Pinterest

FROM THE ARCHIVES

MARCH 1976

AMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The January meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday last in the School, Ampfield under the chairmanship of Miss Joan Cornwall.

Mr. Robert Corry (Test Valley Borough Councillor) reported that he was continuing to have discussions with Eastleigh Borough Council (as agent for Hampshire County Council) over Baddesley Road. There had been another accident recently in the Road and it was hoped that progress on the extension of the 30 m.p.h. speed limit might eventually be forthcoming.

It was noted that a distribution was made from the Wyndham's Charity Fund to two widows just before Christmas.

The Council spent a considerable time discussing the Draft Romsey Area Local Plan prepared by Test Valley Borough Council. There had been a presentation in the village by members of the Borough Council Planning Department. The Parish Council's main comments centred around the following points:

- (a) a need for a development free wedge between Ampfield and Chandlers Ford. It was suggested that when the extension of the proposed distributor road is built from Flexford to the A31 the land to the west should be maintained as open ground:
- (b) there appears to be a fundamental error on some of the supporting tables dealing with population in Ampfield and housing:
- (c) there was a need to improve the junctions of Pound Lane with the A31 and Nutburn Road and to improve sight lines:
- (d) recreational facilities are virtually non-existent in the village (the Parish Council own nothing). The suggestion of the use of Ampfield Wood for recreational purposes was acceptable, except no mention was made of access. It is suggested by the Parish Council that Knapp is out of the question, the alternatives being Jermyns or Pucknall:

FROM THE ARCHIVES

MARCH 1976

- (e) there was an additional problem in the village in that unless the P.C.C. were able to extend the Churchyard, this would soon be full and it would fall on the Parish Council to provide a Cemetery. It was not known where though.

It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Assembly on Monday, 18 April 1983 at the Village School, Ampfield. The Clerk (Mr. John Murray) was asked to make the necessary arrangements including issuing invitations to the County Councillor (Mr. Phillip Merridale) and the Borough Councillor (Mr. Robert Corry).

- - - - -

WARDEN'S LETTER

Good News! - the Rev. Dr. Arthur Moore, presently Vice-Principal of Wycliffe College, Oxford, has been appointed as the new Priest-in-Charge of Ampfield Parish. He will take up residence in the Vicarage at the beginning of July, when his present academic year ends.

Mr. Sanger-Davies and I spent most of a day in the company of Dr. Moore and his wife; we were suitably impressed. St. Mark's is indeed fortunate - Dr. Moore being an able and active person in his early fifties. He will be a welcome leader for our growing Christian Community.

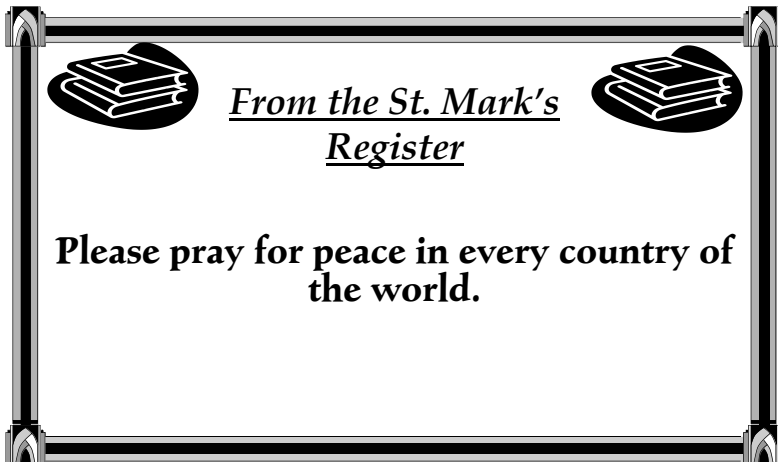
A Prayer for Mothering Sunday

Loving God,
Thank you for mums and children
and for all the joy of family life.
Be with those who are grieving because they have no
mother;
Be close to those who are struggling because they
have no children;
Be near to those who are sad because they are far
apart from those they love.
Let your love be present in every home,
And help your church to have eyes to see and ears to
hear the needs of all who come.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Answers to Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. John Hobbs
2. Chapel Lane
3. 1896
4. The installation of electric lighting
5. Owen Carter
6. 1866
7. Dr Arthur Moore
8. Canon Samuel Boothman
9. The two magnificent stained-glass windows
10. A fountain.



Rotas for St. Mark's in March

Date	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Intercessions	Sides	Coffee	Music
3rd March	Tidy Church				Jean	Mark & Abbie
10th March Mother- ing Sunday	Exodus 1: 1 - 10 Mark B	2 Corinthi- ans 1: 3 - 7 Jean	Ron	Phil Daryl	Chris Cathy	Organist
17th March Passion Sunday	Jeremiah 31: 3 - 34 Heather C	Hebrews 5: 5 - 10 Robyn	Sally K	Sally C Ron	Jennie E	Jean
24th March Palm Sunday	READING PASSION	OF THE	Jean	Mark B Heather C	Heather C	Organist
31st March Easter Day	Acts 10: 34 - 43 Jean	1 Corinthians 15: 1 11 Heather S	Rob	Phil Robyn	Stella	Organist

Flowers: No flowers in Lent

Easter: Extra Easter arrangements please



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