

The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of
St. Mark Ampfield*

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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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**Our cover photo is of Nancy Attlee who died on 27th May
'The matriarch of Knapp'
See p. 6 for her obituary**

Letter from Vanessa

Dear Friends

When I was at theological college, training for ministry, one of the sounds that really signalled summer to us was the sound of the croquet mallets hitting the wooden balls across the grass of the quad outside our rooms. (Sometimes, this ended in disaster, as more than once the ball thudded into Hort, the community tortoise, who was peacefully minding his own business in the long grass) But mostly, it was a wonderfully distracting sound when we were trying to get essays written, or study for exams! Even still today, when I think of summer, this idyllic sound comes to mind.

At our last Forest Church, our theme was Musical Forest – we thought about the passage from Isaiah where we are told ‘the trees of the field clap their hands’ in praise of God. That proved to be somewhat of a challenge to explain to some of our smaller members – but when the sun comes out, and we take time to stop and listen and look at the trees around us, it’s easy to see the beauty of creation – as if the very leaves themselves are praising God through their beauty!

Our summer fete is coming up fast on 14th June, and there too will be a joyful noise! The sizzling of the BBQ, the ice in the Pimms glasses, the music from the band – all iconic sounds of summer in Ampfield, as we come together as a community to celebrate summer and to raise money to support the church. St Mark’s is the spiritual heartbeat of Ampfield, the place that lifts our eyes beyond our own concerns to what is really important in our world. The very presence of this amazing building challenges each one of us to think about our own meaning and purpose in the world, and how we might share the unconditional love of God to those around us.

So join us on 14th June, as we make a joyful noise, in celebration of our community, our church and the beauty with which we are surrounded!

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

Need a break from the hurly burly of life?

St. Mark's is open most days

From 10am - 4pm



Nancy Attlee, the matriarch of Knapp

"I've lived life to the full and have no regrets"

by Susie Case

Nancy died on May 27th. She lived in the Lane all her married life, bringing up two children, Rupert and Sophie, with her husband Simon, a local solicitor. In later years she became Grandmother to five girls and Great-grandmother to three boys. Nancy adored her family and was much loved in return, relating naturally with all generations.



Nancy and Simon welcomed us to the Lane 45 years ago and were wonderful, fun-loving neighbours. They were happy to babysit and even drive us to events and pick us up to give us a relaxing evening out. Nancy and Simon were amazing, generous hosts; there were many drinks' parties to which it seemed everyone in the neighbourhood was invited and invitations to dine out at restaurants. These continued after Simon died and even when Nancy needed the use of a wheelchair, small lunch parties continued for her many friends, latterly with the help of her live in carer.

Nancy was involved in the community helping Lady Jean with the weekly get together club for the elderly residents, held at Kingfisher House. She volunteered at the Cedar School helping disabled youngsters in the swimming pool, riding for the disabled, fundraising for NSPCC and fostered children for a couple of summers.

The sea was a great joy and they had a house in Swanage since the 1950s where they loved to spend time with family and friends.

After a 48 year marriage Simon died but Nancy stayed busy with all her art and cultural interests attending lectures, museums, galleries, theatre and ballet. She loved dealing in antiques, buying and selling at fairs. Napoleon was a must for her, be it a picture or figurine.

Over 100 friends attended her 90th birthday party, organised by her family. Nancy was the Belle of the Ball looking stunning and radiating happiness. Rupert ran a quiz asking "how many countries has Nancy visited?" Nancy loved travel; the answer 54!

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Nancy seemed to know everyone and everything. Having lived in the area so long she knew much about previous generations and events and had a wonderful memory despite having suffered a stroke in 2012. If you wanted to know the latest gossip or scandal ask Nancy; always recounted with a twinkle in her eye and a hint of mischief. That was Nancy.

Susie Case

In one's life, you rarely meet many genuinely exceptional people. Nancy was one of them. Always so gracious, courageous and well loved.

Jennie

Nancy was a regular diner with Friends for Lunch and will be sorely missed. She stood out not only for her wonderfully painted nails and colourful clothes, but also for her kindness. Nancy would welcome new members, regale them with stories of her amazing travels and always take an interest in their lives. She was such a bright, lovely lady, her memory was amazing, she was an inspiration to us all. She truly was one in million!

Rosea and Clare

It was a pleasure to be in Nancy's company and a privilege to know her. Not only did she have fascinating tales to tell, she was a wonderful listener. My daughter Natasha always enjoyed visiting to give her physiotherapy, Nancy always kept her amused and the time flew by. Nancy was a very special person.

Sheila

Nancy had a twinkle in her eye from the moment we met to the very last time we saw her. She was always curious, always interested, and never less than wonderful company. An inspiring neighbour for 26 years. We hope to be like her when we grow up.

Nick & Wendy

We arrived in Knapp Lane shortly after Nancy's husband died. Nancy called in to welcome us and invited me to the Ampfield Market on the following Saturday. Sitting me down with a coffee and cake, Nancy invited neighbours and friends over to meet me, she seemed to know everyone! It was a wonderful welcome to Ampfield. Over the following years Nancy has been the best neighbour anyone could have. Knapp Lane will never be the same.

Chris



These are just a few of the many tributes to Nancy we have received. In October 2020 Nancy submitted her 'Castaway of the Month' to the Messenger. If you would like to read this, please go to: ampfield.org.uk and look under Ampfield, Newsletters.

A Birthday bike ride by Nick

On this lovely late April morning I could not resist going for a bike ride on my special day. You probably think of Lycra clad head down cyclists with streams of traffic behind, how can that be going green!!? No, I like to be off road in bright but casual clothing travelling slowly enjoying the rural scenery, moving over onto the verge to allow cars to pass in the rural lanes.

I start by entering Ampfield woods via Knapp lane and notice that the oak is well out before the ash this year, Oak before the ash we will only have a splash, time will tell. As I leave the gravel track and enter the clay path churned up during the wet winter by horses, I dismount and push the bike having fallen off in the ruts the week before, but this provided a bonus, the birdsong which is prevalent at this time of the year was loud, I could hear robin, chaffinch, blackbird, chiff chaff the distant drumming of the woodpecker and other songs I knew not.

Emerging from the wood by the field called Dell copse on my right, through the thin blades of the spring corn, could be seen the ground covered in flints. This reminded me that a prehistoric flint mine was found near Braishfield, how valuable it must have been for knives, axes, spear and arrow heads before iron was invented, and must have been traded over great distances and been the owners pride possession. Later it was used for building walls as seen in the old city walls of Winchester but the finest knapped flint walls I have seen are on the buildings of Winchester college. I like to refer to them as Hampshire diamonds.

Travelling north towards Farley I pass the field called Berry Down where I did my first full days work 65 years ago helping the shepherd clean the feet of Clun Forest sheep. There were hares, partridge, pheasants to be seen with buzzards and red kites flying overhead, the bright plumage of a cock stonechat on a hawthorn hedge was a rewarding sight.



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My next stop is the 12th century Farley church from which the views are far reaching, the war memorial lime trees are just showing green but when in flower they will hum to the sound of bees. Inside the tower is supported by massive timbers and the roof has a regiment of old beams. There is a memorial to John and Susannah St John who died young within a year of each other over three centuries ago.



Travelling upwards still through the farmyard where my mother milked the cows while in the land army during the war, I am pleased to see flocks of sparrows and enjoy their cheerful chirping in the quickthorn hedging that is just showing leaf. These would have been picked and put in the plough boys cheese or bacon sandwich years ago having tired of strong cabbage all winter.



I now come to Parnholt wood where under the bright canopy of the beech trees the beautiful blue haze of the bluebells stretch for hundreds of yards, this is only found in northern France and Great Britain. After you have feasted your eyes on the spectacle look closer and you will see celandines, stitchwort, wood anemones and clumps of primrose this year the largest I have ever seen. Leaving the wood the field north of the track is yellow with hundreds of cowslips.

I stop at the 17th century monument of Farley mount to enjoy the views, on a clear day the Spinnaker Tower at Portsmouth can be seen. I travel on towards Winchester but stop in a car park to view the woods to the north where in the 1960s a forester took me to a secret dig of a Roman villa that was taking place, to see the walls, central heating system and mosaic flooring exposed among the trees. It was an unforgettable experience. The floor now hangs in the Winchester museum.
Cont. ...



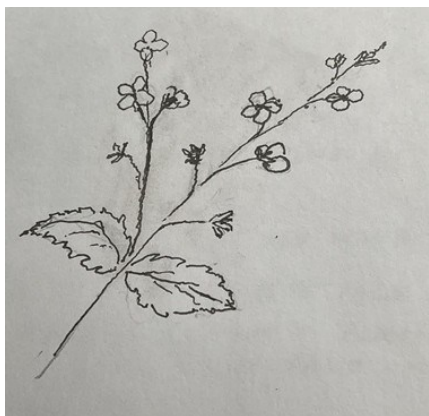
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At the road junction I turn right onto a narrow footpath with wide hedges either side, the blackthorn which is in flower will soon be followed by may and elderflower. Hazel, ash, yew and Oak trees also line this narrow footpath that is a haven for wildlife, besides providing shelter it also serves as safe route in which they can travel from one wood to another. In the 1960s the farmers were paid to remove hedges, now they are paid by the government to plant them!!



Returning through Ampfield Wood my last stop is at St Marks Church where I retrieve the key that I hid earlier after opening the door. The sun is streaming through the stained glass windows making them vibrant and alive, I sit looking at this and enjoying the peace and say a silent prayer to God for giving me the strength and health to cover 14 plus miles on my 81st birthday and enjoy England's countryside at its finest.

Nick



Can you identify this small blue-flowered plant from St. Mark's churchyard?

Go to p.24 for a clue

Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. What vegetable is added to eggs to make a Spanish omelette, also known as Tortilla?
2. What type of meat is Pancetta?
3. The Piri Piri style of cooking originates in which country?
4. Who assassinated John F Kennedy?
5. In what year did The Vietnam war end
[1] 1975 [2] 1976 [3] 1977?
6. Which English king was beheaded during The English Civil War?
7. Which Island is separated from the British mainland by the Menai Straits?
8. Yorkshire is clearly the largest county by area in England and the UK. Which county is England's second largest?
9. Which is the most southerly of the Channel Islands?
10. Which European city has the highest milage of canals in the world?



Answers on p.29

Ron Cobb

Friends of Chapel Wood by

Graham Roads

For anyone trying to describe our group of Chapel Wooders at the May

work party, a good place to start would be - "Small but beautifully proportioned" intent on making our community woodland a very pleasant place to visit. Of particular note this month were the irises which are just beginning to flower. The yellow flowers looked spectacular as they reflected the sunlight against the green backdrop of the pond area.



We had repaired two of the woodland signs and now we wanted to put them back into the woodland, where they belong. It is certainly good to see the signs back in action. In addition to the signposts, we felt that the baby yew trees in the cruciform area needed some attention. These were planted just at the

start of the current dry period and have felt very little rainfall since. In the main, they are doing extremely well, with only one casualty so far, but like all of us in hot weather they could do with a drink. As an aside, walking in the burial ground a few weeks ago, we spotted a young pheasant had somehow found a way inside the wire cage. Luckily, we managed to help her escape, and she flew off squawking, I'm sure she was saying 'thank you'.

Cont. ...

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Finally, we went back to clearing out the rhododendron roots from the area at the bottom of the steps over to the pond. It is a job that is strangely very rewarding.

These roots can be massive, and the one quality needed is patience. It can be literally a question of digging under the root ball

and sawing off one root at a time. Then winching the root out and filling in the hole. There are a number still to be done, so that will keep us out of mischief for a while!



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



VE DAY CELEBRATIONS AT ALL SAINTS

About 50 people with the age range from two to ninety three years came together on Sunday 11th May for a party to celebrate 80yrs since Victory in Europe at All Saints Church, North Baddesley. The church was decorated with the help of the local Brownie group and after a tea of sandwiches and cake there was a poem to remind us of VE Day. This was followed by part of Winston Churchill's original speech,



a voice from the past which echoed around the church. The Memory Box Foundation, with the help of ROMDAG (Romsey Dementia Action Group) took over the proceedings by passing around 'Memory Boxes' containing items from 80yrs ago, these provoked many interesting conversations. The North Baddesley History Group put on a magnificent display showing pictures of people in the village during the war. The afternoon finished listening and singing to war time music. It was lovely seeing all generations coming together to celebrate such a momentous time in history.



Sally

VE Day by Nick

I was on a bike ride and called into the Pantry at Braishfield to buy a coffee when I saw some people looking at VE papers, being curious I asked what was going on. They told me that they were having a display at the church hall that could be viewed after a service in the church starting at 7 pm Thursday evening. This was something I could not miss as my Godfather was the last name on the Braishfield war memorial, and I had lots of photos etc. that I would love the people of Braishfield to see.

Adrienne delved in a drawer and produced original VE newspapers and even a paper with war declared on it. I produced my ration books, my Mother was a cook in the RAF and I still have her recipes per 100 men, as the war went on the meat ration kept getting crossed off and became less and less. Eventually we produced enough material to cover a large table.

So now to tell you about my Godparents---



Jean and John Watts lived at Fernside at Braishfield and both signed up when war was declared, Jean in the RAF and John in the tank regiment, Jean rose to the rank of sergeant and obtained a Pilots' licence. After the war she worked in the Town Hall, Romsey and died in 1974 and is buried in Ampfield churchyard. John rose to the rank of Major in the 3rd battalion Royal Tank Regiment and was awarded the Military Cross, he was killed on the 5th April 1945 and is buried in Germany.

So we were delighted to spread all this out in the village hall and after a delightful and very moving church service a lot of interest was shown in it by the people of Braishfield. The pictures show John Watts in his tank in Germany shortly before he was killed, and Jean Watts who was in the barrage balloon regiment beside her "tiger moth" at I believe Lee on Solent.



Nick

932 Squadron RAF (Barrage Balloon) February 1940 Magazine.

Flight Cooking

Since rationing came into force,
Beef has given way to horse,
A lady, whilst she wasn't looking,
Had her dog pinched for Flight cooking.

Such a state of affairs we strongly deplore
But tighten up our belts once more,
We give up hope; the end seems near,
When someone declares the hay box is here.

Into the confines of this wizard,
We all peer with a longing gizzard,
But with the lid off our hopes are dashed,
In face of swedes, potatoes and sweet, all mashed.

And then we think of the other sites,
Which reminds us of dinner-time scrambles and fights,
When half of the crew on the floor are looking,
For a piece of meat by our Flight cooking.

But even though our meals are rough,
And occasionally the meat is tough,
We sympathise with the cook a lot,
And think of them sweating by the old stew-pot.

Nick's mum was a cook in the RAF stationed in the Barrage Balloon regiment at Titchfield. The meat ration kept getting cut down as the war continued.

Hotpot for 100 men

57 lbs Meat (often crossed off)
6 lbs onions
50 lbs Potatoes
4 ozs salt
1 oz pepper

Duffs (plain) to be spotted dick for 100 men

16 lbs flour
4 lbs fat
4 lbs suet
Sugar if you are lucky
pinch salt

Adrienne



Being a Samaritans Listener

by Stephen Phillips



I first trained as a listener with Samaritans in 2009 and after a break in 2022 I've recently rejoined at the Southampton branch.

Founded in 1953 by Chad Varah, a local vicar in London, Samaritans are now situated in over 200 branches covering the whole of the UK and Ireland with a vision that fewer people will die by suicide.

We offer non-judgmental support for those who are going through tough times and seem to have no where else to turn. We don't give advice, in other words we don't tell people what to do; instead we give callers time and space to share what's happening in their lives in a hope that they may find a way through their difficulties.

The phone lines are open 24/7/365; that's every moment of every day of the year.

Over the course of my 14 years there have been conversations with people who have experienced suicidal thoughts and have been in turmoil, despair or just at the end of their tether and seem unable to cope.

My role of being a listener means that I commit to do a weekly duty in Southampton of either 3 or 4 hours and this could be at any time of the day. Some of my duties can start at 5am and others at 10pm so early alarm calls are a regularity.

To say I enjoy being a Samaritans listener would be wrong. Instead I'd say it's rewarding, fulfilling and a privilege to be there for someone who reaches out to us in their darkest hours.





CHURCH FETE & DOG SHOW

**St. Mark's Church
Ampfield SO51 9BU**

in Church Grounds and Chapel Wood

Saturday 14th June

11.30 am to 2.30 pm

Cream Teas and Cake


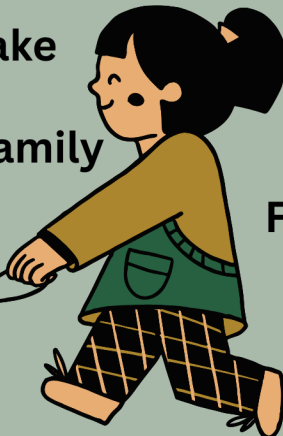
Games for all the family

Plant Stall


Raffle

Fun Dog Show

BBQ



dog show
chrisk@acnb-church.org



enquiries
philb@acnb-church.org

St. Mark's Fête & Dog Show

11.30am - 2.30pm
Saturday 14th June

Final preparations are well underway and raffle tickets are now on sale. There are some wonderful prizes including:

**£250 John Lewis voucher *Luxury Hamper*

**Lainston House Cream Tea*

**Speciality Gin & Gin Experience
and many more*

Tickets can be purchased from Heather or Phil or at the fête.

Cakes

The cake stall is back this year- if you would like to bake a cake or biscuits to sell, please bring along on the day.



Books

Please could you save unwanted books (especially children's books) for the book stall. These can be left in the back of the church from the beginning of June.



Thank you! Adrienne

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS



Can you help on the day?

Ring Phil: 07799 435 715

Benefice News

St. Mark's

Friends of St. Mark's Quiz Night

On Friday 9th May the Friends of St Mark 's held a Quiz Night with questions once again set by the top quiz master Ron who was ably assisted by Stella, Abi, Seth and Toby. We had 7 teams and over 40 people came. Karen and Stephen ran the bar and Heather sold raffle tickets. Questions were wide ranging, testing our knowledge of car makes, UK geography, Folk music, Food and Drink and everyday brands among others. It was a very close contest with only ONE point separating the top 3 teams with 'The Nobodys' triumphing by just half a point. A great time was had by all.

Upcoming events

5th July 2.30 - 4.30

Afternoon Tea and Cake

In the grounds of St. Mark's or inside if wet. Join us for Tea, scones and cake, plus jam and cake sale. £3 person.

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.



St. Mark's Minnows



The Minnows continue to be popular. We had an extra session this half term just gone where 9 month old chums Daisy and Henry caused great excitement to their mums (and all of us!) by taking their first steps behind a walker.

Benefice News

St Denys

We're all going on a Bug Hunt!

Here in the acnb Benefice we are blessed with such beautiful church yards, so how about an opportunity to take a more detailed look? On **Friday 13th June, 4.30-6.30pm** do come and join us **at St Denys, Chilworth**, for the Churches Count on Nature, an annual scheme where people visit churchyards and record the plant and animal species they encounter.



In the last four years, over 1625 counting events have taken place across churches in England and Wales, with over 30,000 people involved! More than 43,021 wildlife records were submitted to Caring for God's Acre, and 3,021 species were recorded. The data will be used to determine where different species are located in the country. This can aid churches of all denominations in increasing biodiversity on their land for the enrichment of the environment and local communities.

<https://arocha.org.uk/churches-count-on-nature-2025/>

Previously different churches from the Benefice have been involved, so we are already part of these wonderful statistics. Simple refreshments will be provided, so bring the whole family and come and get involved in our nature count and bug hunt.

Jo Hooper

1pm, Wednesday 18th June - Jonathan Durrant, River Keeper and Chairman of the Test & Itchen Association will be giving us a talk:

"A Journey Down The River Test."

1pm, Wed. 22nd October - The Southampton Salty Sea Dogs
Will be performing sea shanties and songs with a few jokes thrown in. Those of you who supported their performance last year will know just how much fun this motley crew are!

What's on in the Benefice Every week

St. Mark's

St. Mark's Minnows:

Thursdays in St. Mark's Room (term time only)

9.30 - 11am

Mother, Baby and Toddler group similar to Sunshine Saints.

All Saints

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

If you know anyone who would like some extra help when using their laptops, tablets or phones then please pass on details about digital hub.

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.

Bishop Philip visiting the Benefice on Sunday 20th July

We are really looking forward to his visit and there may be an opportunity for a Confirmation Service in the morning, therefore if you or anyone you know wishes to be confirmed please can you have a chat with Vanessa.

What's on in the Benefice every Month



St. Mark's

Friends for Lunch Wednesday 18th June 12noon for 12.30

June's lunch is our popular cold buffet. To book a place, please contact Pam on: 02380 411146 or Email - pamm@acnb-church.org for availability.

St. Mark's Stall at the Ampfield Market Saturday 7th June 10.00 - 12noon

We sell bric - a - brac, gifts and seasonal items to raise money for the maintenance of the buildings of St. Mark's. 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.

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

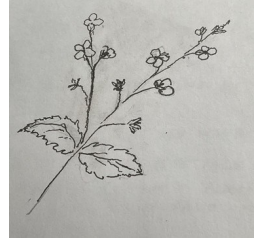
Come and join us for our monthly Benefice discussion group! Every second Saturday morning in St Mark's room, 10:00 - 11:30 and every first Wednesday afternoon at All Saints, 2:30 - 3:30, with lovely coffee and cake. We will use a range of resource material to explore questions of faith. Our ethos is 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.

Can you identify this plant from St. Mark's churchyard?

Hint:

"Go swiftly and safely"

Answer on p. 29



"Conscience is the inner voice that
warns us someone may be looking"
H. L. Mencken

"Never underestimate a man who
overestimates himself"
Franklin D. Roosevelt

ST MARK'S MINNOWS

FUN AND FRIENDLY TODDLER GROUP

ST MARK'S CHURCH ROOM, AMPFIELD SO51 9BU



TERM TIME THURSDAYS

9.30 – 11AM

COFFEE ON FROM 9.15!



ACNB CHURCH

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN AMPFIELD,
CHILWORTH AND NORTH BADDESLEY

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

Friends of St. Marks
invite you to
Tea, Cake and a Chat

Saturday 5th July
2.30 - 4.30pm

St. Mark's Glade, Ampfield
SO51 9BU
(if wet in the Church Room)

Homemade Cakes & Jams for Sale
plus a raffle

Entry £3



Benefice News

Forest Church Exploring Spirituality through Nature for All Ages

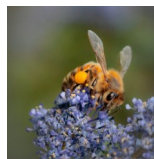


It was a warm Spring afternoon on Sunday 18th May when we gathered to celebrate the signs of growth and to make music!

Ann invited us to think about the trees waving their branches in the breeze and the wonder of new signs of life as Summer approaches. The rhododendron bushes added some bright colour to the surroundings and even though the grass was dry from lack of rain there were plenty of signs of new growth.

We were invited to make musical instruments out of what we could find in the area, the musical twigs were very successful. Some of us strung some food on twine for the birds and others pressed flowers, leaves and twigs into clay to make patterns. Then at the end we all sang with the aid of bells, twigs, shakers and clappers.

*The next Forest Church will be on
Sunday 13th July at 3pm
when we will be talking about bees!*



NATURE'S BOUNTY

Drizzle mizzle dampneaa
The first look out at dawn
It seeps into your psyche
Drowning all creative thoughts

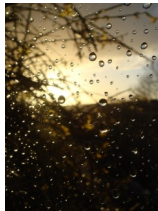
Drip, drip, drip
The rhythmic sound of rain
It gathers in the gutters
and dashes down the drain

Puddles, pools and lakes
There is nowhere it can go
then sheets of diamonds from the sky
tiny frozen drops of rain

Will it, won't it, course it will
relentless, here it comes, the rain
windscreen wipers squeal in tune
pedestrians get soaked again

Drenching dousing downpours
drowning every plant it finds
none can swim and none can float
just waterlilies smile

Waterworld and windy
we now have confirmation
that British summer's here again
and soaking all the nation



Lyn Smith

Answer to 'Can you identify this plant?'

No - It is not a forget-me-not - It is a Germander Speedwell which is a member of the Veronica family. Some folk give it the common name of "Billie Bright Eye". Do not confuse this with Eye bright which is a member of the Euphrasia family that is also blue but whose petals are rather fork-shaped.



Speedwell is said to have been, in the past, used to cure gout. This nearly extinguished Speedwell due to it being over-picked in some areas.

Anon.

Answers to Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. POTATO
2. BACON
3. PORTUGAL
4. LEE HARVEY OSWALD
5. 1975
6. CHARLES 1ST
7. ANGLSEY
8. LINCOLNSHIRE
9. JERSEY
10. BIRMINGHAM



A Jewish rabbi and a Catholic priest were good friends. At a picnic one day, the priest was eating a ham sandwich. "You know," he said to his friend, "this ham sandwich is delicious. I know you're not supposed to eat ham, but I don't understand why such a good thing would be forbidden. When will you give in and try it?" To which the rabbi replied, "At your wedding."

How does Moses make coffee?
... he brews it.

God is talking to one of his angels and says, "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?" The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?" God says, "I think I'll call it a day."



**The
Ampfield Market**
(Established in 2000, now
in its 25th year !)
will take place
On
June 7th 2025



**Saturday 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.



**July's market is on
Saturday 5th.**



WHAT'S ON IN THE AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL THIS MONTH – JOIN IN ONE!

MONDAYS

PILATES WITH HANNAH

Two sessions in the morning. Starting at 9.15 & 10.30am. Mixed ability mat class. Details at www.pilateswithaplomb.com

AMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

regularly meet on a Monday evening for their ordinary meetings, planning meetings and other meetings. Details at www.Ampfield.org.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 Janet Cox on 07879 915726 or email janetwallace1@hotmail.co.uk New members always welcome.

WEDNESDAYS

NEW CLASS! YOGA MORNING with Yoga by Gaynor

for details see Friday on next page

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

We are pleased to welcome back Diana to her regular class.

9.30-10.30 am. Please note her new email address for further details: cravendiana18@gmail.com

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 - 6.15 and 7.20pm . Mixed abilities and beginners mat classes. Details: see Monday **above**. Cont.

...Cont.

FRIDAYS

YOGA ON FRIDAY MORNINGS with YogaByGaynor

9.30 to 10.30am All levels, Gentle, Vinyasa Flow Yoga. All welcome.

Facebook: @yogaByGaynor or Email: yogabygaynor@yahoo.com

SATURDAYS

VILLAGE MARKET (Established 2000)

This takes place on the 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 and wrapping paper, books, antiques, unusual crafts, jewellery, toys, honey, jig saws, seasonal surprises, bric-a-brac and much more. 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.

Ring Vanessa on 01794 515490 or email Ampfieldcards@gmail.com.

SUNDAYS

NEW GROUP! SEWING SUNDAYS

Small group of crafters, who meet once a month on a Sunday. Open to all who want to bring along their dressmaking, knitting or other textile projects. If interested email Michelle michelleewaters@gmail.com Lovely 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 EVER POPULAR FUN QUIZ NIGHT returns on
FRIDAY NOV 21st in the Village Hall £5 per entrant inc, bar
snacks. Book a place or table now & pay on the night.***

Rotas for St. Mark's in June

Dat Time	Sides 1 & 2	1 st Reading		2 nd Reading		Interces-sions	Coffee	Music
1 June 9.30	Café Church						Phil	Mark & Abbie
8 June 9.30	Jennie Phil	Rob	Acts 2.1-21	Chris K	Romans 8.14-17	Rob	Stella	Clive
15 June	Diane Sally	Robyn	Proverbs 8.1-4, 22-31	Heather C	Romans 5.1-5	Ann	Jean	Clive
22 June	Stephen Phil	Heather S	Isaiah 65.1-9	Stephen	Gala-tians 3.23-29	Jean	Chris	Karen - CDs
29 June	Ron Robyn	Ron	Zechari-ah 4.1-6a, 10b-1<1	Jennie	Acts 12. 1-11	Ron	Heather C	Clive

Please make sure you find someone to take your place if you are unable to do your turn, and annotate the rotas displayed in the vestry and the porch. Thanks for all your help.
Phil Budden



Flowers for June: Sally

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 (details at the front of the Messenger).
 Thank you so much.

A Prayer for union with creation



God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

This is part of a Christian prayer for union with creation and was published in Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si'.



CONTRIBUTIONS and CONTENT

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