

Issue No. 285

Hill & Valley

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF HURSTBOURNE PRIORS, LONGPARISH, ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT

£1

February 2025



Revd Sue Hart



I am writing this letter at the beginning of Advent 2024. What with one thing and another, I fear if I don't begin to write it now, it won't get written at all. It's a strange thing to be skipping forward a few months, skating through Advent, barely acknowledging Christmas and completely ignoring New Year!

But, is that really so different to how we are prone to living our lives anyway? How often are we actually in the present moment, fully aware of the here and now, alert to the sounds, sights, smells and feels of the specific time and space we occupy in any given moment? Our minds seem to have minds of their own. While we might be having a conversation, taking a walk, praying, our minds are invariably elsewhere, thinking about what we need to do next, what we should have done previously, or, what we wished we were doing instead.

The explosion in mindfulness that has happened over recent years is, partly, in response to our inability as human beings to Be Here Now (I hate quoting Oasis, but they got this right at least!); it is also a response to an epidemic of mental ill-health that has overtaken so many of us. While mindfulness is helpful for many people, I wonder if sometimes the modern-day focus on 'self-care' can serve to mask the fact that so much of what is causing distress and grief in our society – particularly among young people – is systemic rather than personal. There is increasing acknowledgement that depression and anxiety are often symptoms of unmanageable stress caused by external factors such as poverty, homelessness, or a poor environment. Under such circumstances, it is doubtful whether self-care alone can provide real, fundamental answers to life's challenges.

While I am a strong advocate for mindfulness, and know personally how helpful it can be, as a Christian, I do not believe it is enough. People are designed for relationship with each other, and it is often within community connection that people find the deepest healing and liberation from the things that limit their ability to flourish.

Recently I watched an episode of 'Dogs Behaving Very Badly', and found it to be great TV, and not just because I am a dog lover, but because of the heart-warming connection formed between the dog trainer and the person whose dog was behaving very badly. It wasn't just that the trainer fixed the problem, it was the fact they seemed genuinely interested in the person they were helping; they listened non-judgementally while offering understanding, kindness and connection.

Connection or 'communion' is at the heart of the Christian church. We believe that however fractured a person or situation, connection with a community that is grounded in love for God and each other, can help to remind us that we are worth something; we are loved and valuable, and that each of us, even in the face of what can seem insurmountable societal problems, have the ability to live rich and satisfying lives through relationship with each other.

The church is far from perfect, and in the Church of England we have had cause to hold up our hands in shame recently for mistakes made in the past, but there is still something uniquely wonderful about a group of disparate people, inspired by love, trying to make a difference in the world – stumbling, failing often – by simply being together, accepting each other, offering friendship and maybe a helping hand when needed.

If any of this has piqued your interest, but perhaps you're not a particularly 'churchy' person, you might like to explore a new 'para-church' community that is due to begin shortly in the local area. Drawing on Franciscan spirituality and firmly grounded in nature, short Franciscan half-days throughout the year aim to build a community based around walking, talking and eating! Please contact either me (revdsuehart@icloud.com), or Andrew Ricketts (ADW.Ricketts@btinternet.com) if you would like to find out more.

Sue

Revd Sue Hart is priest to St. James the Less Litchfield and St. James Woodcott. She is a chaplain at the University of Winchester, a PhD student with The Queen's Foundation Birmingham and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and a singer-songwriter. Sue and her husband Steve, their lurcher, Muffin, and three cats settled in Litchfield in August 2024

February 2025

All Zoom details are available from the Church wardens or Dodie Marsden.

Sunday 2nd - Presentation of the Lord

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Morning Prayer
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Family Service
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Holy Communion
All Hallows, Whitchurch	5.00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Home Zoom Service at 10.30am		

Sunday 9th - 4th Sunday before Lent

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	No Service	
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Family Service
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	No Service	
All Hallows, Whitchurch	5.00pm	Deanery Evensong
<i>Bishop David, Farewell Service Celebration</i>		
Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online		

Wednesday 12th

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 16th - 3rd Sunday before Lent

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Matins
Home Zoom Service at 10.30am		

Sunday 23rd - 2nd Sunday before Lent

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Family Praise
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
St James', Woodcott	No service	
Home Zoom Service at 10.30am		

Wednesday 26th

All Hallows, Whitchurch	9.30am	Holy Communion
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For all enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals in any of the parish churches, please contact the Church Office Administrator:

☎ 01256 893573

brightwatersbenefice@gmail.com

Rev David Roche: ☎ 01256 892535
revd.davidroche@hotmail.com

Rev Canon Dodie Marsden:

☎ 01264 738211

dodie.marsden@gmail.com

• For details of **Roman Catholic Services** in Whitchurch or Andover: ☎ 01264 352829

• **Methodist Minister** for our parishes:

The Revd Rachel Borgars, 11 Lapwing Rise, Whitchurch, RG28 7SU ☎ 01256 895878 or **rachel.borgars@methodist.org.uk**

From the Church Registers

• Baptisms

"Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father."

Becky Hunt

Woodcott - 06/12/2024

Alfie Rupert Barry-Walsh

St Mary Bourne - 11/12/2024

• Weddings

"Marriage is a gift of God in creation ..."

Isabella Astrid St Aubyn and William Alexander Jenks

St Mary Bourne - 07/12/2024

• Funerals

"Into God's loving care we commit you ..."

Robert Mew

St Mary Bourne - 03/12/2024

Frederick Henry Cook

St Mary Bourne - 11/12/2024

Oliver Colman (interment of ashes)

Hurstbourne Priors - 17/01/2025

LET US PRAY - If you would like us to pray for you or someone else, please email stnbrightwaters@icloud.com giving the name (no surname required) and include a reason if you wish, or contact a member of the local ministry team.



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The Community Library - Club Room
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The George Inn St Mary Bourne on
Tuesday 11th February at 10.30am

£2.50 for coffee and biscuits - For more information
contact Win Coventry - ☎ 01264 738 199.

The Lunch

Nearly ninety people attended our
festive Christmas Lunch in December.

With sherry on arrival, all enjoyed a traditional roast turkey
meal followed by mince pies and tea or coffee. There was a
superb raffle and once again, children from St Mary Bourne
Primary School kindly came to sing for us.

Our thanks go to everyone who supports us each year. In
particular: Vitacress Salads, the Village School, Bourne
Valley PYO, Ken White Distribution, The Flower Show, and
everyone who generously donated raffle prizes.

Our next lunch will be on **Wednesday 19th February** as
usual at St Mary Bourne Village Centre, serving at 12.30pm.
If a lift is needed, please phone Chris on ☎ 01264 738 110
by Noon on the Tuesday. CS

Stoke Coffee Morning



Wednesday 5th February
Stable House, SP11 ONP

10-11.30am
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History of the Hill & Valley area in Ten Objects

1 - Woodcott Churchyard Wall



A subtle one. The photo shows the very skilled joint
between the old churchyard wall, alongside the road, and
the new, built when Woodcott churchyard was extended.
The original wall, with the white efflorescence and yellow
lichen patches, was built in 1850 by the Earl of Carnarvon's
master bricklayer, George Criswick. When the churchyard
was extended in 1925 on land granted by the Carnarvon
estate, the new boundary wall was so expertly added,
presumably using bricks also from the estate's brickworks in
Whitway, that the joint is hardly visible. The new work has
weathered well, celebrating its centenary this year. MC



Candlemas Family Service

Sunday 2nd February at 10.30am.

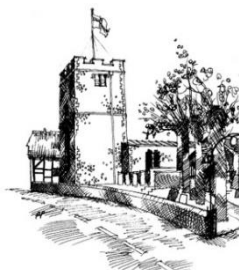
Everyone is welcome. It is a service of
light. There will be lanterns to make,
candles to carry, lots of other things to
do and coffee too. It's about 45 to 50
minutes, and it's good fun!

The Churchyard

In February and March, we begin tidying up the
churchyard ready for the Spring flowers. We will be
removing Christmas wreaths and worn out and battered
flower arrangements. We always take care when working in
amongst the graves, knowing that many old friends and
family rest in peace.

Church Flowers

A big thank you to everyone who
helped to decorate the church for the
Christmas period. It looked beautiful;
with Ivy, ribbons, candles, laughter and
of course, hot coffee and homemade
mince pies... It really was fun. Great
work!
Lorraine Riley



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Hello fellow volunteers and patrons of The Boundary, Happy New Year!

Thank you so much to all our existing volunteers for all their hard work in 2024; I have really enjoyed spending time with everyone. The volunteers are an integral part of *The Boundary*, and it would not be possible to continue running the shop without them.

With the start of a new year we often make resolutions, and this is a perfect time to consider whether 2025 is the year to volunteer in *The Boundary*. I have spoken before about the benefits of volunteering for your community and for yourself, and this time I have a few words from some of our wonderful group of volunteers to share with you.

'Volunteering in the shop is a win-win for me, (a) you are helping in a brilliant community enterprise and (b) you get to see all sorts of friends and neighbours who you might not see otherwise or very occasionally' - Fiona.

'I've been volunteering at the Boundary since 2020, thinking I'd like to help the village in a small way during Covid. I'm still doing the same regular shift now and I love seeing the same customers come in on a Monday morning. Even though I am still working for a living, the regular shift fits into my working week, and as volunteering has been shown to be good for your wellbeing I would recommend it to anyone' - Jane.

We have some new recruits and some familiar faces returning and I will begin training them shortly. However, we could always do with more volunteers, so if you would like to join our group please get in touch. There are a variety of times available, and you can do as little as 1 hour a week. There is training provided, and you can even share a shift with a friend if you wish. We also offer a coffee or hot drink for you to enjoy while you work. Perhaps, if you already volunteer, you could consider making it a weekly commitment to the shop this year. Our regular slot holders report that they find it much easier to commit to a time each week and we can always move things around for holidays and commitments as needed.

See you all in the shop! Caroline d P - 07786 264421



St Mary Bourne Primary School

It was a very busy term in Autumn, particularly with the Christmas and End of Year learning and celebrations.

Key Stage One put on a wonderful Nativity performance in December. *Oak class* continued to explore further the concept of welcoming new babies in different faiths and communities.

Key Stage Two then performed a fantastic Carol Service in the church which was enjoyed by all.



This term

Hawthorn and *Sycamore* have an exciting trip to Windsor Castle planned, to learn about the Monarchy and the changes over the years.

We have Safer Internet week and Children's Mental Health week coming up too and swimming lessons for years 4 and 5, so lots in the pipeline.



Furthermore, our new website has launched, with a fresh modern look. We aim to keep it updated with everything going on in school. It is full of information for current and prospective parents.

www.stmarybourneschool.co.uk



Happy News from Woodcott

Becky Hunt was baptised at St James' Woodcott on Friday 6th December



The Boundary Shop & Café - 1☺☺ Club

December 2024 draw:

£50 - Len Mew **£20** - Kate Vernon
£20 - Michael Widén **£10** - Lesley Sarson

The 1☺☺ Club Christmas 2024 Draw:

£50 - Oliver Cumberlege

January 2025 draw:

£50 - Katie Dixon **£20** - Pat France
£20 - Thea Prestwood **£10** - Serena Coulton

The next 1☺☺ Club Draw: Saturday 8th February

All proceeds in support of our Boundary Shop & Café

Village Centre AGM

St Mary Bourne Village Centre will hold its AGM at **7.30pm** on **Tuesday 25th February** in the Village Centre. All are welcome to attend, particularly if you are interested in joining our committee to manage this vital community asset.

Stoke Litter Pick and Spring Clean

SAVE THE DATE



Sunday 23rd March at 10am

svfcommunitygroup@aol.com



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Parish Council Activities

The Parish Council held its first meeting of the year on Tuesday January 14th, and not surprisingly **Southern Water** and their continuing efforts to find long term solutions for drainage along the valley was a major item for discussion. The road closure by the Bourne Valley Inn, and more particularly the closure signs all along the valley have caused frustration, and the Flood and Emergency Group are raising this with the Southern Water team to see if the signs could be more specific. However, it was pointed out that by this time last year, with a similarly high water table, we were enduring constant tankering along the valley, and so far this has been avoided, so while the scheduled programme of Southern Water works is not complete, there has clearly been effective progress.

The Big Breakfast was held on Sunday 12th January as a fund raiser for the planned reorganisation of the children's play area, MUGA and car parking space, and provisional plans were on display. It was very well attended and provided a useful contribution to the sums that need to be raised.

Dates have been agreed for **spring litter picking sessions**: the **Stoke** Village Fund plan theirs for **Saturday March 23rd**, and **St Mary Bourne** will be the week before on **Saturday March 15th**. Please make a note of these dates if you could spare a few hours on a Saturday morning; there will be a reminder in next month's copy.

Planning Applications:

24/02786/HSE	Swampton House	Extension, wall and garage
24/02787/LBC	Breach Farm Barn	Amendment
24/02976/ROC	Medhurst	Variation on condition
APP/H1705/W/24/3356378	Horse paddock, Old Chapel House	Inspectorate appeal
24/02993/LDPO	Binley Cottage, Binley Bottom	Permitted development – thatch to tile
24/03022/FUL	Egbury Farm Barns	4 dwellings
25/00035/FUL	Land At Mac's Field To The South West Of Bells Meadow	Construction of four dwellings and associated access

Next parish council meeting at 19.30 on

Tuesday 11th February

Village Centre Club Room - Public more than welcome.

www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk



We are very much looking forward to **Saturday 26th July 2025** which will be the **78th St Mary Bourne and District Flower Show and Fête**. Please save the date.

The Committee are already preparing the new show, and we are delighted to announce the **POTATO GROWING COMPETITION** is back due to popular demand! Last year's winner weighed in at 2.75kg which seems a realistic target to beat for this year's competitors. The competition is open to all and all that is required is a big pot/bucket or bag and

a bag of compost. Full instructions will be provided. Please collect your seed potato from outside the Boundary Shop on Saturday **1st March** from **9 to 11am**. There will be another opportunity to collect a seed potato at our **AGM** which will be on **Friday 7th March** at **7pm** in the Village Centre - all are welcome. Please note, all entries must only use the seed potatoes provided.

For our keenest competitors and Domestic Goddesses this is the month to be **Making Marmalade**. Seville Oranges are in the shops for Jan/Feb only and are ready to be peeled, shredded and turned into competition winning marmalade. All other classes to be announced next month.

If you'd like to get involved or would like to know more, please come along to the **AGM on the 7th of March** or contact any of the Committee members. The members are: Harriet Dickinson (President), John Banbury (retiring Chairman), Andrew Shegog, Mike Strong, Kate Coldicott, Mark Lewendon, Shauna Askey, Richard Long, Lulu Vallings, Fiona Foote, Emma Foster, Alison Wessely, Ashley Coaker, Rachel Makgill, Jeremy Bakes and Anna Vivian. AV



The Big Breakfast

'Thank you to everyone who came to the Big Breakfast on Sunday 12th of January at the St Mary Bourne Village Centre. Over 120 breakfasts were

served, raising a total of £1,008, which has been donated through the Good Exchange platform in contribution to the Community Play Space project. The project team are grateful to all the Big Breakfast volunteers and Parish Council members for their support.



For more information on the plans for a new playground, resurfaced MUGA and increased parking, please visit the Good Exchange website via the QR code.



Here at St Mary Bourne CC

we hope everyone had a fantastic festive period! Now is the time to think ahead to the summer and what better way than playing some cricket? It doesn't matter if you are a current member, someone looking to get back into cricket or you have never picked

up a bat before we would love for you to come along to our indoor net sessions starting in February at John Hanson School in Andover! If you have any questions, drop us a message! Feel free to email us

at stmarybourne.cc@outlook.com or find us on Facebook and Instagram!

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5 th February	7.45-8.45pm	19 th March	7.45-8.45pm
12 th February	7.45-8.45pm	26 th March	7.45-8.45pm
19 th February	7.45-8.45pm	2 nd April	7.45-8.45pm
26 th February	7.45-8.45pm	9 th April	7.45-8.45pm
12 th March	7.45-8.45pm	16 th April	7.45-8.45pm



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'The Film' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre



2024 - 12A • 1 h 38 m

Small Things Like These takes place over Christmas in 1985, when devoted father and coal merchant Bill Furlong (Cillian Murphy) discovers startling secrets kept by the convent in his town, along with some shocking truths of his own. The film reveals truths about Ireland's Magdalene laundries - horrific asylums run by Roman Catholic institutions from the 1820s until 1996, ostensibly to reform "fallen young women." Adapted from the Booker Prize nominated novel by Claire Keegan.

Tuesday 18th February 2025 - 7.15pm

Hall and Licensed Bar open from 6.45pm

Tickets £5 in advance or £7 at the door

Please reserve tickets in advance by email

villagecentre@stmarybourne.org

www.stmarybourne.co.uk

Next Film: Tuesday 18th March 2025

Top Tips for February

Basingstoke and Deane Green Team

Great and easy ways to use less energy, save money and cut carbon and to nurture a wildlife-friendly garden.

Book free surveys with the Green Team at Basingstoke

and Deane Borough Council; either

- email GreenTeam@basinstoke.gov.uk
- go to sustainable-basingstoke.co.uk/green-team
- call 01256 845777

Or get in touch with:

SBV sustainablebournevalley@gmail.com to borrow



- The thermal imaging camera to find out where there are draughts in your house
- or the wildlife camera to spot any wildlife in your garden



Andover Astronomical Society

Thursday 20th February - 7.30pm
Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre
SP11 0AX

Dave Shave Wall - will tell us about the Vera Rubin observatory - a wide-open window on our universe. It's a marvel of modern technology which will survey the whole visible sky once a week detecting new supernovae and even dark matter. It will catalogue near-Earth asteroids and assess the threat they pose to life on Earth. Dave will also tell us about Vera Rubin, one of the astronomers who paved the way for other women in the field, as a "guiding light" for those who wished to have families and careers in astronomy.

Visitors free. We are a very friendly society and welcome all levels of interest. There will be equipment and guidance for observing as well as the speaker. Why not come along and "see" what we are all about.

Fantastic Four achieve first foundation belt!

Congratulations are in order to four young students (karate-ka) of the St Mary Bourne Su-Ha-Ri Karate club! At the end of last year, Felix Simmen, Billy Ferris, Téa Creighton-Wilson, and Patrick Maitland attended the Hart Leisure Centre in Fleet for their first official grading. In our style of Karate, Wado-Ryu, the students are awarded a red belt as their first level - known as "9th Kyu". They may not have known it at the time, but they were graded by the World Chief Instructor. There is no rush - as there is an emphasis on getting the techniques right to give them that foundation on which to build. The style includes Jiu-Jutsu and fighting.

Following the bow-on etiquette, the karate-ka were tested on delivering their deadly punches, head blocks and lower blocks, while standing in "Shiko-dachi" or 'ready' stance. Secondly, from "Hanmi-gamae" or 'fighting' stance, they were required to show a front-kick and a "gyaku-zuki", punching from the fist opposite the front foot. Finally, in another test of body co-ordination, they had to execute a turning block - i.e. you hear someone attacking you from behind, so you turn quickly to face them and block their attack. Unfortunately for me, no cars were waxed or fences painted in preparation for this test as teaching methods have been modernised since 1984(!)

All four showed great courage: This was a test taken with probably 30-40 other children of different ages from all over Hampshire - all going for different grades. There were 9 altogether taking their red belts, and Sensei will fail the students if they do not meet the standard. Given the young ages of our students, this may well have been their first experience of performing under the pressure of 'exam' conditions, real character-building stuff! I am sure the reader will join me in congratulating them again and wishing them good luck for the next level: Yellow belt.

Finally - a call out for new members please, we need a few more students to cover the village hall fees and to continue to make this a viable kid's activity - come along and try on a Wednesday night from 6.15pm to 7.15pm. We wish all readers and villagers a very Happy New Year from the club! For any enquiries see the posters in the hall, or email me directly at simonmattison@outlook.com

Shinkenmi Ni Tesseyo, **Sensei Simon**

Postcard from Binley

I bring you this postcard from Old Felixstowe in Suffolk where I am up to celebrate my mother's 95th birthday. On the last few days evidence, the secret to this longevity appears to be a steady intake of Lidl's sherry and Fox's glacier mints and not very much else. We are sitting in what is laughably called the sunroom staring out at a grey sea under a grey sky with a grey mist rolling in over the promenade. Unlike so many seaside resorts Old Felixstowe has retained a great deal of its charm and grandeur and I don't find it remotely as depressing as say Weston Super Mare which is quite the most ghastly place I've ever been to. The irony being there is simply nothing Super about it. I have just noticed one of the neighbour's chickens in the garden standing on one leg with its mouth open. This is called "The Gapes" and is not a good sign in a chicken. I know because I have kept chickens and when they get the gapes they are generally not long for this world. Perhaps I should give it some sherry and a glacier mint? But chickens give up on life easily and there is only one creature that beats them at that game; and that is sheep. Sheep get depressed and will come up with almost any excuse to die. If they could read, then I'm sure a poor Google review would finish them off. The life expectancy of a sheep in Weston Super Mare must be zilch.

But I should be writing about Binley, and I have resorted to the internet to find out some interesting facts. But hang on... what's this? The Binley Mega Chippy? A chippy here in Binley? Who is behind this fantastic idea? Those entrepreneurial Maclays? I suddenly have visions of Elizabeth manhandling the saveloys as Mark in a stained apron skims the scraps from the top of the frying fat. But there's more... apparently couples are driving up to Binley woods at night where "shenanigans" are taking place? Shenanigans? I must have been going around with my eyes shut! Ah... Damn! Different Binley. Apologies. This is Binley a suburb of Coventry! So, no fish suppers and no shenanigans. How very disappointing. But I do have something real and exciting to tell you about, because someone has faithfully recreated The Somme circa 1916 between Cold Harbour Farm and the Wadwick road complete with water filled foxholes, trenches, barbed wire, mud and **** everywhere and rats! Hundreds of 'em! Pedestrians run the risk of contracting typhoid or at the very least trench foot and the only thing missing is getting shot at and I'm sure that can be arranged. But those wishing to participate can pull up a tree stump and eat beans straight from the tin, or fish a rancid bit of corned beef out of their pocket and chew on that. If you are accompanied by children, it is recommended they don't pet or feed the rats as they can get awfully snappy.

One very welcome thing I have noticed over these last winter months (and I can't be the only one) is an increase in the numbers of grey partridge about. The English Grey is quite the prettiest of game birds with beautiful paisley patterned feathering. Numbers over the last forty years have been in steep decline but much

work has been done to try and improve their numbers, and I should mention Andrew Hughes when he was up at Trinley for praise on this. Sadly, like many other creatures they fell foul of modern farming methods and that is not a criticism of famers, just a sad but inescapable fact. I wonder if these are wild or reared birds? Many keepers have given up on greys, favouring the hardier red legged Frenchmen. But nevertheless, lovely to have seen them about. *NA*

Remembering...

Frederick Henry Cook

16th May 1932 – 15th November 2024

Freddie was born at Hoopers Farm, Kings Somborne on 16 May 1932, where his father was working at the time. He had a younger brother David and sister Doreen. After school, Fred started work with his father as a farm worker. They worked at many different farms until coming to Egbury Farm where the family lived the longest. Fred's brother David also joined them there to work on the farm.

Fred enjoyed dancing and used to go to dance classes and that is how he met Sylvia at a dance at Woodcott Hall. Sylvia lived at Woodcott at this time with her parents and worked in Binley for Lady Mellor. Fred and Sylvia later married at Woodcott Church on 28th March 1959. They had 4 children Ian, Trevor, Michael and Debbie. They also had 3 wonderful grandchildren, Daryl, Natalie and Mia.

In the early days of marriage, Fred had a motorbike with a sidecar which he and Sylvia used to travel around in. One day when Sylvia was pregnant with their first child, Fred had to swerve to avoid a big American car and then hit a telegraph post which brought on Sylvia's labour and Ian was born early. The couple then lived at Wadwick in a house which came with Fred's job on the farm. Trevor and Michael were born there. Later, the family moved to Dunley and in 1965 their daughter Debbie was born.

Fred continued to work on the farm until he retired at the age of 65 when he had the luxury of a workshop with a pit where he could work on his love of cars. He spent a lot of his time in his workshop, known to the family as his 'shed'. When he retired Fred and Sylvie moved to a smaller cottage next

door to where the family had lived. During retirement, Fred continued to buy and sell cars and repair local people's cars in his shed in Dunley. Fred had a few hobbies: motorbikes, flying hang gliders and he progressed to a microlight aircraft. He also bought a 3 wheeled kit car which Sylvie and he would enjoy days



out in. Fred gained his pilot's licence to fly light aircraft and he bought a microlight and used to go off to places like Isle of Wight and France with his mate (Jimmy Jones) who he spent many happy days with. When Jimmy died he decided to sell the microlight and spent more time driving his kit car and his motorbikes. Fred also helped out in the garden at the Dunley Manor and would chauffeur Captain and Mrs Brodrick around.

Unfortunately Fred suffered a brain aneurysm at the age of 79. Thankfully he recovered relatively well. He was able to celebrate his 80th birthday the following May and the family arranged a party and hired a motorbike and sidecar to take him there. Fred and Sylvie celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary 5 years ago with a party and 65th wedding anniversary last year; and his 90th birthday 2 years ago. Fred's health deteriorated and he struggled to get around which he found extremely frustrating being such an active man. He went into hospital in May 2024 and then onto a 24/7 care nursing home close by so that Sylvie could continue to drive herself and Tina (the family dog) to visit him.

Fred is sadly missed by all his family and friends who hold cherished memories of him

Robert Mew

2nd March 1945 - 30th October 2024

Robert Mew was born in St Mary Bourne on the 2nd March 1945, a fact which accorded him much quiet amusement every time he was asked his date of birth - 2.3.45. Rob was the second son of Frank, Blacksmith



and Master Farrier, and Joan Mew of The Forge St Mary Bourne - Len being the eldest and David being the youngest. The Mews had lived in St Mary Bourne ever since Oscar Mew, farrier, came to

the village after the First World War. Their craftsmanship can be seen throughout the valley. Going for a walk with Robert was always punctuated by "My brother made that, my father made that, we put that in, I made that" and he was exceptionally pleased when he once mended a horseshoe gate that his grandfather had made in the 1920s. He loved the idea of something he had made lasting for a century or more, and the continuity of the family. Rob's entire life was lived in the Valley - St Mary Bourne, Hurstbourne Priors, Stoke and finally to Binley.

In many ways, Rob was a product of a bygone age - he had the values, outlook and attitudes of an era which no longer exists. He would have fitted in very well in Lark Rise, or one of the villages that Thomas Hardy knew. He enjoyed being part of a community, where, especially growing up, he felt he knew everybody, he enjoyed the pace of living, the environment where the river rose and

fell, the crops grew and were harvested, and the Church reflected the seasons. The rhythms of life of living in a small village. He loved being the blacksmith and feeling that he had an important role to play in the village. He liked that The Forge had been passed down the generations, and that he handled the tools that his grandfather and father had made, and was able to continue with the same sort of work that they had done; he was resolved to continue until he could say there had been a Mew doing blacksmith work in the valley for more than 100 years, which he and Izzy achieved whilst working at various venues around the area.

At different times in his life Rob worked alongside all his children; Luke, when Luke was at school and college and used to go down the Blacksmith during holidays and weekends where he learnt how to weld and how to forge (metal that is, not signatures!); Abby and Polly, when he retired and joined them in the Inion Arts where he became known as the Expert Packer but was so much more; but mostly with Izzy. He taught her welding, forge work and how to mend machinery, and continued working with her when she swapped her welder for a mower and became involved in the upkeep of various football and cricket pitches.

Family was important to Rob - he gloried in the fact that his children lived so close to him. Izzy at home, Abby next door, Luke in Stoke and Polly up the road in Hurstbourne Tarrant. He particularly enjoyed being a grandfather and this was reflected in the care and concern all his grandchildren displayed towards him in his final days. During the last few days of his life, he made sure he spoke to each of them individually, and right up to the very end he was worrying about making sure Christmas would still be a magical time for them, no matter that he wouldn't be here to enjoy it with them.

He was a good man, with an innate desire to help anyone that needed his help and who could turn his hand to virtually anything. He was a hard worker, with a strong work ethic, who believed in giving good value, and a talented craftsman who took great pride in making beautiful and useful things in metal and in wood. Above all else, he was a kind man who took pleasure in just being himself. Rob lived the life he wanted, in the way he wanted, and we, his family and his friends, are all the richer for having been a part of it.

Robert Mew - a much-loved man indeed.



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If you are interested in joining us, you can collect an application form from the shop or we can send you one electronically (email: vinetrustandover@gmail.com). All our volunteers get full training on working at the shop."



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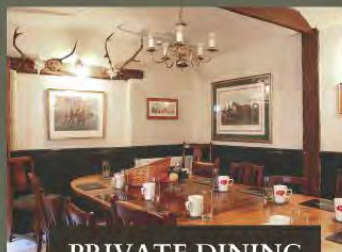
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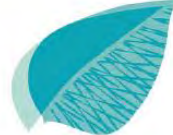


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Longparish Parish Council

Council Chairman: Emma Palmer

Emma.palmerpc@longparish.org.uk or telephone 07881 923150

Parish Clerk: Hayley Thomas clerk@longparish.org.uk or telephone 01256 396868

REPORT FROM PC MEETING ON 13 JANUARY

PLANNING

24/02383/FULLN Firgo Farm

LPPC feedback: No objection.

Tree Notice 24/02967/TREEN Church Farmhouse

LPPC feedback: No objection.

Tree Notice 25/00019/TREEN Plough Inn

LPPC feedback: No objection.

PRECEPT 2025/26

The precept is the council tax collected on behalf of a parish council to cover its service delivery within the community. Parish councils do not receive any direct funding from central government and rely on their precept, plus any income they generate from services or facilities they provide.

In Longparish, the Parish Council are responsible for a number of the facilities and services in the village, many of which are funded by the precept. Services that Longparish Parish Council provide include but are not limited to grass cutting, tree maintenance, litter and dog refuse management, provision of and management of local amenities including the playground, football field, allotments, cemetery, Village Hall (gravel) car park, bus shelters, the War Memorial, the Ashburn Rest, the Grindstone, the Stocks, the Burnaby Cross, the Common nature reserve (off Southside Road), the sand pit by Larkwhistle Farm, and the chalk pit by Vale Farm. Additionally, the Parish Council acts on behalf of the village in presenting local opinion to Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council on highways issues, planning applications and other matters affecting the village. Councillors give their time and services freely to benefit the parish however a Clerk is employed on a part-time basis to ensure sound financial and administrative management of the Parish Council's activities. Many repair and maintenance tasks continue to be undertaken by parish councillors and our wonderful group of dedicated volunteers, reducing the pressure on the budget and the precept.

At the Parish Council meeting on 13th January, the Longparish Parish Council resolved to set the precept at £25,534 for 2025/26 (increased from £20,295 in 2024/25.) This was calculated based on a budget forecast of £13,037 income, £38,570 expenditure for the year, with the shortfall to be covered by the precept. The amount listed on your council tax bill for a Band D property is estimated at £74.88 per household for the

year. However, the charge for properties in different housing bands will vary.

The reasons for the necessary increase this year is that Longparish Parish Council have for many years benefited from reduced costs for its grass cutting and administration. These services were delivered by dedicated individuals who worked on behalf of the Parish Council for a great number of years at consistent rates, however both have recently stepped down from their roles. When going out to tender, the Parish Council discovered the sector rates for these services are much higher than they have been paying. This combined with increasing regulatory obligations means that the Parish Council have had to increase the budget by £2513 for grass cutting and £2683 for administration in a bid to find suitable contractors willing to fulfil these services.

The full budget with details of where funds will be allocated in 2025/26 can be viewed on the village website www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council.

Parish Council Meetings

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 10th February 2025.**

Parish Council meetings are open to the public, and parishioners are welcome to attend and raise any matters during the Period for Public Speaking. Minutes of all previous meetings are available on the Longparish website www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council



Tuesday 11th February 2025

Romania - Home of Vlad the Impaler and other Accursed Despots

Talk to be given by Tom Bremridge. Although inhabited since prehistoric times Romania only achieved statehood in the 19th century. Transylvania, one third of the entire country was acquired as recently as 1918. The Romans, Saxons (Germans), Hungarians, and Ottomans have all had a go at colonising Romania. So, the past has been turbulent. Stability and normal political development did not come until the overthrow and execution of Ceausescu on Christmas day 1989

The talk will cover the confused history of Romania and show pictures of a trip made there in 2019

The talk will begin at 7 p.m.

Village Hall doors open at 6.30 p.m.

Admission is free but donations are welcome to offset the cost of hiring the Hall. There will be a cash bar.

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Longparish Mummers

Thank you to everyone who supported the Longparish Mummers at The Cricketers and The Plough on Boxing Day. Your generous donations raised £332.79 which was shared between Andover Foodbank and Mityana.

Lots of schools in the area support Mityana but here's a link in case you aren't familiar with the work they do.

<http://mityana-projects-trust.co.uk/>



Lantern walk



We started the festive season with a beautiful lantern walk. We sang songs round the Christmas tree and then went inside for a hot drink and mince pie. A very special guest joined us, the children were overjoyed to see Father Christmas and he was kind enough to switch on the Christmas lights. Thank you to everyone who helped make our first lantern walk, truly magical.

Laura Harding

Christmas Fayre



Our Fayre was wonderful, and it felt very Christmassy with all the beautiful decorations and handmade wreaths. Children enjoyed visiting Santa in his grotto and his elves were very well behaved. Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen and to all those that braved the storm. We raised an incredible £1172.94, and this was split between Andover Foodbank and our beautiful church.

Laura Harding



LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB



Tuesday, 25th February 7 pm
Longparish Village Hall, SP11 6PB
Subject: Zona McGlynn speaking on "Plants for Shade"
Members Free (Visitors Welcome £5.00)

Any queries please to **Rosie Lowry 01264 720325** or **Marion Bell 01264 720205**

LCA - L2SOTM - The Longparish Second Sunday of the Month handicap race

There was a good turnout for the pre- Christmas race, perhaps they were encouraged by the mulled wine and mince pies served afterwards.

We welcomed new runner Steve Squibbs and welcomed back Andrew Gibson after over seven years. Steve is clearly an expert because his time was exactly as he predicted, to the second.

Our trophy winners were Graham Capper, Alice Evans and Megan Brunwin. Well done all!



We paused to remember runner number 24, Jeffrey Wiseman pictured with Sandra Jones, Jack Ellicock, Jacqui Healey and Alice when he won the April 2012 event. Sandra, Jacqui and Alice finished hand-in-hand and Jack was not sure whether to disqualify them for collusion or congratulate them for teamwork.



Thank you very much to Christina Searle and Maggie Barber for marshalling, Andy Smith for doing the signs and to David Gould for processing the results. January's event was cancelled because of icy conditions. The next race is on **Sunday 9 February**, starting at **9am** at The Plough. New runners are always welcome, and you don't have to be fast. It's a handicap race so everyone, whatever their pace, has a chance of winning.

Please do give us a call or send an email if you'd like to join us. For more information, please see

<http://l2sotm.longparish.org.uk/index.php>

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Friends of Longparish School

The FoLS were kept busy at the end of last term with our wonderful parade of Christmas events: Christmas jumper sales, the hugely popular Christmas Bazaar and of course the annual Christmas party for the children. We had a circus skills workshop come and spend the day at school, teaching the children how to juggle, walk tightropes and spin plates with the best of them.



We are proud to say that alongside our Christmas activities and fundraising efforts for the Lookout Lodge, FoLS funds have also been put to great use

towards a wooden Arbour for the Herons Class outdoor space, and also providing ingredients and resources for the Kingfishers Class baking project last term.

Registration is now open for the Longparish Run! The Longparish Run returns on Sunday 23rd March 2025 for its third year. Choose from a 10k, 5k or 3k route around our beautiful village – all ages welcome. New for this year, we are thrilled to say we have been approved as a canicross run! Canicross, 10k and 5k routes start from 10am, with canicross runners setting off first. The 3k children's route starts at 11.30am. Visit pta-events.co.uk/Longparish for more info and to register or contact longparishrun@gmail.com.

More information:

Website: www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish
Facebook: fb.me/FriendsofLongparishSchool
Instagram: @friendsoflongparishschool



Longparish Little School

In memory of Chris Sherman
(Preschool Assistant 2015 to 2024)

It was with great sorrow, that we had to inform our families that Chris passed away unexpectedly over the Christmas holidays.



Chris was part of the Little School family for almost ten years, and as a team we had just come to terms with the fact that Chris was planning to leave us at the end of this school year. So we were deeply saddened to learn that

our time with Chris had been dramatically cut short, far sooner than we wanted, and without giving us the opportunity to express our enormous thanks and give her the send-off into retirement that she truly deserved.



Chris was so dependable, kind, generous, reliable, brilliantly supportive, and always willing to go above and beyond. With the children she was always gentle and caring. We are a team that thrives on cups of tea, and the first and last thing Chris did every day for us was make us all a cuppa – a simple thing, but it's what kept us all going. Chris was a lady who took pride in her work. She enjoyed sorting out the lunches for the children and staff every day and making sure that the rest of the team got a good break.



Chris was also superb at handicrafts, sharing her skills with the children, and we took full advantage of her expertise as a seamstress and knitter! Her legacy are the knitted owls that the children take home, and who knew you could knit a slug??

So, on behalf of your family at Little School, we send our love, and our most heart-felt thanks. We will all miss you so much. Rest in peace, dear Chris. We raise our mugs of tea to you and will think of you with love and affection.

From the Longparish Little School team



Longparish Cricket Club

Longparish Cricket Club would like to thank the Longparish Village Fete

Committee for its generous donation to the Club. The funds are to be allocated towards either the purchase of a new lawn mower or a mobile practice net.

Preparations are underway to organise the new outdoor season for the burgeoning junior section of the club. To be able to offer cricket to children aged from 5-18 years at LCC we need to recruit more coaches and parent helpers for a variety of roles. If you would like to offer some of your time to assist, please contact either Justin Jackman, Junior Coordinator (jackmanjustin@aol.com) or James Hillier, Chairman, (JamesHillier@hillier.co.uk)

If you are interested in playing cricket either at junior or senior level, please get in touch with either James or Justin, details above, or contact us via the club's website <https://longparishcc.hitscricket.com/>. We are always keen to welcome new players to our friendly club.

Finally, our 2 indoor teams remain undefeated in the Winter Indoor Leagues at Dummer Cricket Centre at the midway point of the competition, so congratulations to them and we wish them ongoing success for the rest of the season.

Alison Allen

LONGPARISH

More information about village and events can be found on the website <https://www.longparish.org.uk/>

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**Saint Nicholas
Church 100 Club**
Results of the
November &
December 2024
Draws



First of all - Thank you to all those who continued with their subscription for the year December 2024 to November 2025. Your continued participation in the scheme is greatly appreciated.

At the end of last year there were 63 members/numbers. We would like to get up to a minimum of 100 numbers/members, and we would be extremely grateful if you would consider becoming a member of the club this year and supporting your parish church in this way.

Prizes are allocated on a percentage basis. First prize is 25% of the total income for the month, second prize 15% and third prize 5%.

November Results

First prize:	No. 3	£77.00
Second prize:	No. 62	£46.00
Third Prize:	No. 56	£16.00

December Results

First prize:	No. 47	£77.00
Second prize:	No. 32	£46.00
Third Prize:	No. 63	£16.00

You can join at any time, and it works like this - Membership is set at £5.00 per number per month. There is no limit to the numbers you can purchase. If you would like to join, please let me know, and I will let you have the relevant forms. Or, if you have any other queries about church finances or how the church is administered, for example, please contact me:-

John Young, PCC Stewardship Officer, St. Nicholas 100 Club
Tel: 01264 720233
Mob: 07860 630489 or
Email: jayoung1322@gmail.com



**Retroperspective - a Concert by the Trifarious
Ensemble to raise funds for St. Nicholas' Church**

Saturday 22nd February 7.30pm at St. Nicholas' Church, Longparish

Tickets (on the door): £10, £5 for children under 16

Think of a classical music recital and images of polite applause, a hushed atmosphere and performers in formal clothes might come to mind. But the way classical music is performed is starting to change. Programmes are diversifying, performers are trying their hand at composing, arranging and improvising, and new technology is making it ever easier to incorporate images and sounds into a concert alongside live music. Classical musicians are becoming producers or curators as well as performers; they are thinking about how a concert programme can be an integrated experience like listening to a favourite playlist,

podcast or album. The Trifarious ensemble - Tim Redpath (clarinets/soprano saxophone), Rachel Calaminus (violin/viola) and Tom Armstrong (arranger) - are big fans of these innovations. For several years they have been researching and experimenting together to create a concert that takes old music in new directions; their performance in aid of St Nicholas' Church will be the first opportunity for an audience to experience the result.



'Retroperspective' looks backwards and forwards; some of the pieces were composed hundreds of years ago, others are more recent, but each one has been reworked to provide a new lease of life and a fresh interpretation. The performance uses the latest technology to create a multimedia experience: video, lighting and sound design combine with music to stimulate the eye alongside the ear. Classical music is a varied and marvellous world; arrangements of symphonies, tone poems, preludes and even tangos rub shoulders on the programme. For the novice listener, classical music buff and all those concertgoers in between, Trifarious Ensemble at St Nicholas' will offer something new to experience this winter.

Tom Armstrong



FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB

Thank you to the LCA, all the volunteer s and the Longparish School Choir who all made the Christmas Lunch a roaring success. Even Santa dropped in!



Start 2025 with the Friday Lunch Club, on the last Friday of the month in the Village Hall
12-2pm, £3 for hot homemade soup and freshly baked cake.

A chance for warmth, conversation and meet up with Longparish folk. Open to anyone of any age but need to book for catering purposes.

Next dates:

28th February 28th March

To book lunch and or transport ring Andrea 720 457 or Christian 720 398

Longparish Village Fete Committee Update:**Distribution of the 50% of fete funds to village projects**

Very many thanks to the whole village for all your support resulting in a really good profit for last year's fete 2024. The 50% of that profit meant that we had £6,000 available for distribution to the various village projects, who applied for funds.

The committee deciding the distribution consisted of: -

John Young - Chairman of the fete committee 2024, and Churchwarden
 Harriet Lily - Chairman elect for 2025
 Gill Williamson - Church Treasurer
 Peter Hull - Churchwarden
 Stuart Montague - Chairman of the Village Hall
 Andrea Hulme - representing the LCA
 Malcolm Edwards - representing the Parish Council

We met early in December to allow distribution of funds before Christmas, or year end. A fruitful discussion was had as we considered the various projects, and we unanimously came up with the following distribution: -

- **Longparish Church of England Primary School** - £1,500 towards a new audio system for the School and Community Hall.
- **Little School** - £500
- **Longparish Cricket Club** - £1,500 towards various costs in running the club (e.g a new lawn mower, an electronic upgrade for doing the scoring etc.).
- **Greening Longparish** - £500 towards wet meadow seed and grass mix, and the purchase of Swift, Swallow and Martin nesting boxes.
- **The Parish Council** - £1,000 towards a gas-powered generator to be located at the Plough to be used if and when there are any significant power outages due to adverse weather, in order to look after any vulnerable residents.
- **St Nicholas Parish Church** - £1,000 towards gutter repairs and path lighting.

My thanks go to this committee and to the fete committee 2024.

Please give all the support you can to Harriet Lily, who has very kindly stepped up to be Fete chairman for 2025 - Thank you Harriet!

John Young, Chairman Fete Committee 2024

A MID WINTER WALK

Looking out of the window it's very frosty and the thermometer is reading -3C. So, wrap up warm and off we go. A quick look at the feeders. **Blue** and **Great Tits** and 7 **Goldfinches** not a bad start. Down the back path and see what's on Arthur's feeders: the same except for **House Sparrows**. Turn right at the shop and 6 **Starlings** are in a tree at Test Cottage. A lot more **Sparrows** at Preston Cottage. Moving on, a pair of **Collared Doves** and a **Woodpigeon** are sat in an apple tree on my right. At the Pony Paddock are some **Rooks**, **Jackdaws**, and a **Magpie** flying over. Turn left into Mill Lane and a pair of **Greenfinches** are sat at the top of a beech tree. There are 3 **Blackbirds** raking the leaf litter looking for food. There is a lot of honking coming from the fir trees. It's hard to make out how many there are when 2 fly out still a lot of honking and another 2 fly out and I can hear 2 still honking. That is at least 6 **Ravens**, not seen that many together before. At Lower Mill bridge there are 4 **Cormorants** sat in an old oak tree that will please Andy. Turn left towards the Ford and at the Trout Farm are **Great Herring** and **Black Headed Gulls**, **Mallard**, **Tufted Duck**, **Gadwall**, **Moorhen**, **Coot** and a noisy **Carrion Crow** oh and 2 **Redwings**. On we go towards the ford a pair of **Dunnocks** on the side of the road. I'm going over the frozen puddles I love the sound of breaking ice. At the ford only **Mallards**, blimey 29 that's a lot. Turn right into Nuns Walk and a flock of **Long Tailed Tits**, nothing else with them, a bit disappointing. The usual **Buzzard** in the trees to my left. Turn right on to South Side bridge, there is a **Little Egret** catching fish close to the bridge. Upriver there are 2 **Little Grebes**, and the usual **Kingfisher** is sat on its usual branch which is 3-4m above the river. Turn right back into Mill Lane and a male **Chaffinch** is sat on the old ash tree. Carrying on and a **Robin** is sitting on top of the hedge singing, one of the few birds which sing all year. On we go. Just before the bridge I can see a small bird on the dead thistles. Need the binoculars for this, it's a **Marsh Tit**. I don't see many of them. Back to the bridge nothing new here so on we go. Halfway down the beech hedge a **Jay** flies over, off to find it's stash of acorns. Turn right, a quick look in the Pony Paddock, nothing new. So, on we go, I think it's time we headed home. Up the back path and a **Wren** is in the bush to my right. Back home to get warm and just have a quick look at the feeders- yes, a female **Blackcap** who visits every now and then.

So, I hope you enjoyed our walk we saw 38 different birds, not bad.

Chris Bowman



Meet at The Cricketers
from 10am - 11,45am

Drop in for a chat, everyone welcome.

Friday 14th February 2025

Coffee or Tea and biscuits, all for £1.00





Jeffrey Wiseman
1935 – 2024

Jeffrey and his wife, Susan, bought their cottage in Longparish in the early 80s when his furniture company, Ducal, outgrew London and started acquiring space in Andover. Eventually it had 11 units and became the second biggest employer in Andover, with over 900 people at its height.

Jeffrey was born in Whitechapel, London. His grandfather came to London from Romania and set up as a cabinet maker. Jeffrey's father set up on his own during the war and named his company after the road off Brick Lane where they were located - Ducal Street. In the late 50s, Jeffrey joined the business and later took it over.

Jeffrey met his wife, Susan, at Finchley Lido on a day off from work. She was a beautiful Austrian au pair learning English, a necessity for her chosen career in hotel management. She also learned the rules and customs of Judaism, and after a lengthy conversion process, they were married in 1964 though in the climate at the time "marrying out" caused many problems from both families and it was only after the birth of James in 1967 that relations mellowed. Their second son, Simon, was born in 1970.

They both loved Longparish. He generously supported various village projects and took part in the L2SOTM run when he was in the village. He was a governor at Icknield School in Andover and often went in at the weekend to sweep leaves from the playground.

Jeffrey was, at his core, a salesman, with a genuine interest in people and an outgoing personality. He loved to talk to everyone he met. At Ducal, he was at his happiest being on the road with the guys visiting customers, understanding

their businesses, taking orders, or chatting on the factory or showroom floor. He wanted to create a place where everyone - colleagues and customers - felt genuinely valued, and proud to be part of the Ducal "family".

He worked tirelessly to build on the success of his business. But he was devoted to his family and particularly to his wife, Susan, who died in 2018. He took the opportunity to retire in 2001, reluctantly selling Ducal to Silentnight.

After retirement, Jeffrey took up creative writing again and followed his other passion, music. He took singing lessons and sang in choirs. He became part of a choir going into nursing and care homes, cheering up the residents with songs from the shows which he loved.

Jeffrey was an inspiring father who looked after, encouraged and loved his family. In their retirement, his and Susan's great delight was their grandchildren, Hannah, Sam and Max and he was their role model. He worked hard and achieved great success, inspired others but was modest to the end. He knew how to enjoy life and lived with curiosity and passion. His strength, love and kindness, will live on in all of us who knew him.



The Cricketers Inn

The Cricketers Inn is up and cooking!



In February, a special
Valentine's Menu from February
13th – 15th.

Come stop in for our fortnightly Quiz evenings.

For more information or to reserve a table please visit Thecricketerslongparish.co.uk



We had a fantastic festive season at the Plough and want to say a BIG thank you to all our customers, staff and volunteers for supporting us through Christmas and the New year!

Save the date: Valentines Day
Friday 14th February



Our chefs are creating a wonderful romantic menu for this very special day! Join us for Lunch or Dinner and keep an eye on the blackboards in the pub and on social media as the details emerge.....

Not to be missed, pre-booking recommended

Andover's Top Spots for a Sunday Roast

We were delighted to be featured in the Advertiser for our famous Sunday Roasts, our warm cosy atmosphere and consistently good food.

Coming Soon

A great selection of Cask Ale products from quality Hampshire Brewers, watch the blackboards in the pub

Revised hours & kitchen service for Monday & Tuesday

On **Monday & Tuesday**, The Plough will be open from 12 noon to 3pm, and 5pm to 10pm.

Normal kitchen and bar opening hours will be unchanged for the rest of the week.

On Monday & Tuesday, the kitchen will offer a choice of delicious Chef's home-made Soups with Crusty Bread and Quiche & Salad. This will be available for lunch and in the evening.

See you soon!

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WEATHER: DECEMBER 2024



Total rainfall for this month	69mm/2.71in
Total for 2024	1129mm/44.45in
Total for 2023	1190mm/46.85in
Max temp	14°C/57f (10 th)
Min temp	0°C/32f (10 th)

February 2024: warmest on record, least frosty on record, wettest ever (6.14ins)

May 2024: warmest on record, coolest summer for 12 years.

September 2024: wettest month (7.56ins)

Average rainfall (10 years): 39 ins

2024 rainfall: 44.5ins

John Smail

LADIES COFFEE MORNING

Our February Coffee Morning will be held by Susie Corby at Bourne House, no. 53, on **Thursday 13th February from 10.15am to 12 noon**. All ages welcome!

For more information or for offers to hold a coffee morning, please contact Susie Sorby (tel. 892665 or email: sbsorby@hotmail.com)



MAY FAIR 2025

May Fair launch meeting: please come along and find out about this year's May Fair Monday 5th May. With only a few months to go, we have lots to share, lots of ideas for new stalls and the opportunity to volunteer for the firm favourites. Thursday, **13th February at 7.30pm**, Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall. There will be wine.

SAFARI SUPPER

**Hurstbourne Priors
Safari Supper - 1st March 2025**

Invitation

All villagers are invited to join the next Hurstbourne Priors Safari Supper. We would like to welcome anyone who has not been before or is new to the village.

Each couple hosts one course, going to other houses for different courses, meeting different people at each location.

The programme for the evening will be:-

6.45 pm	Drinks/nibbles
7.30 pm	Starter
8.15pm	Mains
9.15pm	Pudding/cheese
10.00pm	Coffee in the Village Hall

Those who do not have a partner can join with someone else to form a 'couple' for the evening.

If you would like to participate, please email by Wednesday 12th February to:

SafariSupperHBP@gmail.com
to register and for full details.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2025

The Parish Council meet every other month, on the last Thursday of the month, at 6.30PM in the Village Hall. The dates of meetings for the rest of 2025 are as follows:

Thursday 27th March
Thursday 29th May
Thursday 31st July
Thursday 25th September
Thursday 27th November

Any resident of the Parish can attend and there is no need to alert the Council if you are coming.

However, if there is a matter which you might feel the members might want to look into before you attend please do let me know: 01264 772460 or email richard.waterman150@btinternet.com

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GARDENING CLUB

The seeds we sowed in the Autumn are now healthy seedlings which need potting on ready for the May Fair. We also have lots of cuttings ready to move into bigger pots. There are also plenty more seeds which need sowing over the next few weeks and months. Anyone who would like to help get plants ready for the May Fair is most welcome to join. This month, we will be meeting on **Wednesday 12th February at 6.00pm** at Hurstbourne Priors House.

We have all the seeds, compost etc but do bring gardening gloves if you would like. If you are able to write labels that is just as useful! It would be helpful if you could give an indication if you were able to come.

*With many thanks,
Kat, Clare and Rosie*



SILK MILL NEWS AND EVENTS

Congratulations to Shannon Bye on winning the 2024 Fashion Textile Maker of the Year Award! This is a significant achievement; especially given the tough competition she faced. Additionally, the Mill's success at the 2024 Tourism

South East's Beautiful South Awards is commendable, with a gold in the 'Café/Tearoom of the Year' and a bronze in the 'Small Visitor Attraction' categories.

Looking ahead, Whitchurch Silk Mill has several exciting events planned. On **Sunday, 22nd June 2025**, the Mill will host an Open Gardens event in Whitchurch. Building on the success of the 2023 event, which sold over 200 tickets and raised more than £2,600, this year's event will offer more information about the gardens and activities for children. If you're interested in opening your garden as part of the event, you can contact the Mill for more information.

Currently running until **9th March 2025** is the exhibition 'Powering Through: The Conservation of the Waterwheel'. This exhibition celebrates the craftsmanship and dedication that have kept the Waterwheel at Whitchurch Silk Mill turning for over

two centuries. It offers a rare glimpse behind the scenes into the meticulous conservation of the waterwheel, the challenges faced by the engineers, and the innovative solutions employed to bring this historic powerhouse back into working order. Entrance to the exhibition is included in the Mill admission fee.

On **18th February 2025, from 7 to 8.30pm**, Kathy Brown from The 1805 Club will present 'The Trafalgar Way'. She will tell the story of the historic 271-mile journey from Falmouth to Admiralty House in London made by Lt John Lapenotiere in November 1805, to bring the official news of Britain's victory in the Battle of Trafalgar and the news of Lord Nelson's death. Tickets for this event are £15 per person and must be booked in advance. Doors will open at 6.30 pm, and tea and coffee will be available for a donation.

On **11th March 2025, from 7 to 8.30pm**, Sarah Howard, a trained and accredited freelance textile conservator, will present 'A Stitch in Time: How to Care for Textile Treasures in Museums and in the Home'. She will talk about how and why textiles deteriorate, giving top tips on how to preserve your own textiles. Sarah will use examples from recent conservation projects and demonstrate how museums store and display their textile collections. Attendees are welcome to bring along textiles for Sarah to offer advice on. Tickets are £15 per person and must be booked in advance. Doors will open at 6.30 pm, and tea and coffee will be available for a donation.

For those interested in learning a new skill, the Beginners 'Braiding Workshop on **15th March 2025, from 10.45am to 12.45pm**, is a great opportunity. Participants will learn Japanese kumihimo techniques to create classic eight-strand spiral and eight-strand linked diamond braids. The workshop costs £35 per person, and all materials will be provided, along with detailed instructions for making the braids. For more information or to book tickets for any of these events, you can visit the Mill Shop or the Whitchurch Silk Mill website.

HAMPSHIRE SEWING CIRCLE

Please join Hampshire Sewing Circle on **15th February** at Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall, RG28 7SB for a few hours of relaxed crafting and chatting. Cost £15 per person to cover hall charges and insurance. Not a lesson, bring your own project and tools. Coffee, tea and biscuits provided. Contact Kate hampshiresewingcircle@gmail.com to book your space. Hosted by @toodlipops

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CRIB SERVICE AND NATIVITY

A heavenly host of angels, shepherds, and wise men gathered at St Andrews to sing our favourite carols and hear the Christmas story. Thank you to Dodie and Ann who led the service, to Lottie and Emma for their musical accompaniment, to the readers and to Lulu and her donkey. We finished with enthusiastic singing of Jingle Bells and warmed ourselves with mulled wine and hot chocolate.





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EDITOR VACANCY

THE reason these pages consist mainly of photographs is that our current editor has stepped down from the Hurstbourne Priors pages of the *Hill & Valley*.

We are therefore urgently looking for a volunteer to take on the task of assembling our village pages of the magazine.

The *Hill & Valley* is delivered free to every household in our three villages and provides a valuable community service, with information and publicity about local events.

Without an editor to assemble the Hurstbourne Priors pages, the pages will have to be removed and we will no longer have a presence in the magazine.

The editor's role could be shared by more than one person: e.g. one person could gather the content, and another person could lay it out. Or they could do alternate issues.

If you think this could be you, or if you would like to know more about the role, please email hillandvalleyhbp@gmail.com. Please help if you can!

ST ANDREWS CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The Church Electoral Roll is usually revised annually and every sixth year the preparation of a new electoral roll takes place - which means that everyone must come off the roll and re-apply. This year, 2025, is the sixth year and we have to prepare a new roll.

If you wish to apply to go on the Church Electoral Roll for St Andrew's Church, please contact Denise Bradley (denise@bradleys.org.uk)

Hurstbourne Priors parish pages editor vacancy

Our editor for Hurstbourne Priors sadly had to give up editing these Hill & Valley pages at the end of last year.

If you would like to take this on, or would like to know more about what it entails, please contact

Michael Widén

on ☎ **07880 808111**

or write to

hillandvalley@btinternet.com

If no one will come forward to volunteer for this position by 19th February (copy date for the March edition), we will be unable to publish the Hurstbourne Priors parish pages next month.

ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT

- 1 10am to 12 Noon - Repair Café - The George Inn
 2 10.30am - Candlemas Family Service - St Peter's
 5 10 to 11.30am - Stoke Coffee Morning - Stable House
 11 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
 11 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre Main Hall
 18 7.15pm - 'The Film' - **SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE** - Village Centre
 19 12.30pm - '**The Lunch**' - Village Centre Main Hall
 20 7.30pm - Andover Astronomical Society - Hurstbourne Tarrant
 25 7.30pm - **Village Centre AGM** - Main Hall

Saturday mornings - 10.30am to 12.30pm - **The Community Library** - Village Centre Club Room

LONGPARISH

- 9 9am - L2SOTM Race - The Plough
 14 10 to 11.45 - LCA's Coffee Morning - The Cricketers
 10 7.30pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
 11 7pm - **Tuesday Talk** - Romania - Home of Vlad the Impaler and other Accursed Despots - Village Hall
 22 7.30pm - **Retroperspective** - a Concert by the Trifarious Ensemble - St. Nicholas Church
 25 7pm - Longparish Garden Club - Village Hall
 28 12noon to 2.30pm - LCA Lunch Club - Village Hall

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS

- 12 6pm - Gardening Club - Hurstbourne Priors House
 13 from 10.15am - Ladies Coffee Morning - Bourne House, 53 Hurstbourne Priors
 13 7.30pm - May Fair Launch meeting - Village Hall
 15 1 to 4pm - Hampshire Sewing Circle - Village Hall

Hurstbourne Priors parish pages editor vacancy

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**B3048, Highway to the North**

is now available as an attractively illustrated booklet, combining the whole 11.1 mile jaunt published in Hill & Valley in 2024. It can be bought from *Acre Stores*, *Longparish* and *The Boundary Community Shop* in St Mary Bourne.

At **£5**, it is an inexpensive, local gift...and all the sales proceeds go to Longparish and St Mary Bourne schools.

Front cover photograph: Michael Widén

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Longparish Village Hall: Mrs Maggie Barber, ☎ 01264 720459, e: villagehall@longparish.org.uk

Longparish Community Hall: During school open hours, Mrs Christine Leach ☎ 01264 720317

St Mary Bourne Village Centre: Miss Angela Cook, ☎ 01264 738158, e: villagecentre@stmarybourne.org

Copy date for the March 2025 edition of Hill & Valley: Wednesday 19th February 2025

Your contributions - letters, pictures, comments or articles are always welcome. Contact your parish editor by the copy date.

Please provide copy electronically as a text in Word (doc.) format with any accompanying images as JPEG files.

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St Mary Bourne:

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