

Issue No. 287

# *Hill & Valley*

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

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April 2025



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## *Happy Easter*



Dear Friends,

Two major things happened for me in 2006. It was a big year. Coming up to twenty years ago.

Firstly, I decided to do a pilgrimage on my bike and chose the Camino Primitivo which begins in Santander and finishes in Santiago de Compostela. But I joined it in Oviedo, with a little over two hundred miles in ten days. I have to confess, I slightly miscalculated the days because I forgot that day one and day ten were to fly out and back, and day 9 I wanted to spend in Santiago. So that brought the number of days to seven! But I made it, on my own, with almost non-existent Spanish.

Tolkien says this in 'The Lord of the Rings'

*'The road goes ever on and on, down from the door where it began,  
now far ahead the road has gone on ~ and I must follow if I can'.*

The Camino de Santiago is in fact a network of routes, many of Roman origin extending through Europe that have been used by pilgrims since 11<sup>th</sup> century to reach Santiago de Compostela. The Camino Primitivo, as its name suggests, is one of the earliest routes crossing northern Spain, over the Cantabrian Mountains and down to Santiago. This is a place of significance for Christians as we are told it is the resting place of St James, or so the legends suggest.

Then, as now, pilgrims stayed in refugios run by volunteers based on the medieval model of charity allowing pilgrims shelter that is available & affordable. I found these impossible to stay in if I needed any sleep. With up to twenty in a room the snoring was unbearable. I met a Dutch couple after one very difficult day and the wife said: *'No more refugios for you. Two-star hotels it must be, if you will finish your pilgrimage.'* My body knew tiredness that it had never known before.

Often the routes are marked with a scallop shell and pilgrims also carry one of these and a credential – a document stamped along the way. I still have the same scallop shell on the back of my bike. The real mark of a pilgrim. The credential was put in a safe place when I got home, I haven't seen it since!

A pilgrimage may begin with a decision to make the journey but it rarely ends with the arrival in the city. When someone decides to make a pilgrimage, what they are really deciding to do is to begin a journey - opening themselves to a path of transformation, even if they don't know it. And because of everyone's different pace, how far they want to go each day, their fitness & commitments, the composition of the Camino is somehow fluid, each pilgrim making his/her own journey – physical and spiritual, that is uncontained, unstructured and personal.

And what you find is that transformation comes through interpreting the struggles or suffering, and what I mean by that is: taking the struggles and suffering as you continue, (for the walker very often the feet, for the cyclist ~ I'll let you guess!) but for all ~ interpreting the energy, determination and the unexpected in relation to where you are, how you are, and for Christians what the

stories of Jesus really mean to you. It seems the Camino is a metaphor for life, and the help offered on the way and solidarity of pilgrims are a model for community. The outward activity of walking or cycling parallels the inward activity of growth and maturity, in the hope that new understandings about self, the world and God will be gleaned along the way.

The Camino provides the space and time to reflect. Time away from the usual routine. I look back with huge affection. My time on the Camino was wonderful, but it wasn't easy. Some of the roads were utterly exhausting. Local people would help if you needed it but they wouldn't interfere and a) make it easier for you or b) solve your problems – these were for you, alone.

Santiago has a huge medieval cathedral – each day at 12 noon there is a Pilgrims' Service. It is just too big in my heart to articulate, but it is very moving and something I will never forget.

And the second major event in 2006 was Joseph. He had eleven brothers – that was a challenge – finding eleven men brave enough to sing. This was not about being alone, it was about community. And etched in my memory are scenes like Joseph being thrown into a wheelie bin and taken off to Egypt, Potiphar's wife throwing a wobbly when Jo said no, Pharaoh desperate for an answer to his dreams and Joseph's answer which went something like this:

*Noble king, there is no doubt, what your dreams are all about*

*All these things you saw in your pyjamas are a long-range forecast for your farmers*

And of course, so much more. Wonderful, blond curly haired Benjamin, the musicians, narrator, people in the kitchen & behind stage, singers, dancers and the list goes on. All sorts of people were involved: The kids were in Yr 5 & 6 – aged 10 and 11 and now twenty years on they are – well, I'll let you do the maths!

Community involvement and Individual experience. It sounds like church to me. We come together, to be together, but we also come to experience God individually, to learn and go out and share what we have been given with others.

Have a HAPPY EASTER everyone. Come and join us on Easter morning – a great celebration in church.

*Dodie*

**The Revd Canon Dodie Marsden**





## Services in the Parish Churches

### April 2025

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

#### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> - Lent 5

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
<b>Home Zoom Service at 10.30am</b>		

#### Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
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#### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> - Holy Week Palm Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	<i>Benefice Evensong</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Family Service</i>
St James', Woodcott		<i>No Service</i>
<b>Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online</b>		

#### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> - Maundy Thursday

St Nicholas', Longparish	7.00pm	<i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Benefice Service</i>
<b>Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online</b>		

#### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday

St Nicholas', Longparish	2.00pm	<i>Meditation Service</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Meditation Service</i>
<b>Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online</b>		

#### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> - Easter Day

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Family Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
<b>Home Zoom Service at 10.30am</b>		

#### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

All Hallows, Whitchurch	9.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
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#### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> - Easter 2

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	<i>Family Service</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Benefice Evensong</i>
St James', Woodcott		<i>No service</i>
<b>Home Zoom Service at 10.30am</b>		

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."

**George Alfred Robert Makgill**

St Mary Bourne - 16/3/2025

#### • Funerals

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

**Jennifer Mary Charlson**

St Mary Bourne - 25/2/2025

**Jeffrey Graham Hardy Harrison**

St Mary Bourne - 27/3/2025

**Pauline Mary Wood**

St Mary Bourne - 28/3/25

**LET US PRAY** - If you would like us to pray for

You or someone else, please email

[stnbrightwaters@icloud.com](mailto: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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## LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

**Council Chairman:** Emma Palmer

([emma.palmerpc@longparish.org.uk](mailto:emma.palmerpc@longparish.org.uk) or telephone 07881 923150)

**Parish Clerk:** Hayley Thomas ([clerk@longparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@longparish.org.uk) or telephone 01256 396868)

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Longparish Parish Council would like to invite residents of the village to join us for our Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April at the Longparish CofE Primary School. This is your opportunity to meet the various organisations that support the village and its community.

Speakers from Longparish Parish Council and its various working groups, Hampshire County Council, Test Valley Borough Council, the Longparish Community Association, the Longparish Community Pub Limited, the Village Hall Committee, the Longparish School, and other village groups will each give a 2-minute update on their work in the village over the past year and any plans for the year ahead.

Please note that the meeting will close promptly at 8pm to allow for the monthly Parish Council meeting to commence.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 8pm on **Monday 14th April 2025**.

Minutes of previous meetings are available on the Longparish website [www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council](http://www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council)

### PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Longparish Parish Council is looking for two community minded individuals to fill the rewarding role of a Parish Councillor.

Longparish Parish Council acts as a link between the village and the other bodies responsible for services to the community including Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council, as well as works on multiple projects for the betterment of the village. Current projects the Longparish Parish Council are working on include:

- Reviewing and commenting on planning applications in and around the parish
- Maintenance works throughout the village including to trees, the football pitch, play park, noticeboards and bus shelters.
- Establishing a resilience plan to support the village in times of emergency, including installing generators at the Plough Inn in case of village electric blackout.

To find out more about the Parish Council and the role of a Councillor, or to put your name forward, please contact [clerk@longparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@longparish.org.uk)



## ST NICHOLAS - EASTER LILIES

If you would like to contribute towards the Easter Lilies in memory of a loved one please contact Clare Francis on 720361 or 07801 414906.

## Spring Tidy

**Meet at the Playground  
Saturday 26th April**

**9.30am – 12.30pm**

Join the team of volunteers for litter-picking, weeding, cutting back, leaf gathering and general cleaning and tidying etc  
Some equipment provided. Wear wellies for the stream.  
Everyone welcome!

**Keeping Longparish looking beautiful**

then to "The Cricketers" for a drink & sandwich



**Just let me know if you plan to come along  
RSVP : [joanne.lca@longparish.org.uk](mailto:joanne.lca@longparish.org.uk)**

### Longparish Gardening Club



**Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>  
Whole Day Coach Trip to The  
Newt in Somerset**

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





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## How to contact your Member of Parliament Kit Malthouse

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## LITTER FREE LONGPARISH for 2025!!



Next Group litter pick is on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April**. Meet behind the **Village Hall at 9.15 am**, the Parish Council will provide litter picking sticks, hoops and bags. Coffee at the Cricketers afterwards.

There will be litter picking to do on the Village Clean Up Day too **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April**.

For more information Tel Christian Dryden 720 398

**Meet at The Cricketers**  
from 10am - 11.45am  
Drop in for a chat, everyone welcome.  
**Friday 11th April 2025**  
Coffee or Tea and biscuits, all for £1.00



Please join us for the next **Friday Lunch Club 12-2pm**  
**25<sup>th</sup> April**

A chance for conversation and meet up with Longparish folk. Open to anyone of any age, but please book for catering purposes.  
To book lunch and or transport ring Andrea 720457

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

It was a bright, sunny, joy-to-be-alive morning for the March race and conditions were ideal for running. It was the day after International Women's Day, so it is fitting that our first three finishers were female. First home and Most Improved Woman was Alice Evans who was awarded a special gold cup. Second in a new course record was Christina Searle. It is a strange quirk of the handicap system that you can set a new course record but not be the most improved. In third place was our Rising Star, Megan Brunwin and Andy Mountain was Most Improved Man in fourth. Well done all.



Thank you very much to Maggie Barber and the Sait family for marshalling, Ailsa Wiggans for doing the signs and to David Gould for processing the results. The next race is on **Sunday 13 April**, 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>

Jeremy Barber

01264 720459 [mrjeremybarber@gmail.com](mailto:mrjeremybarber@gmail.com)



### Save the Date

Meet and greet your neighbours for new residents.

**Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at Village Hall**



More information to follow



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## Longparish Wildlife

This winter has been a bit of a let down where the birds are concerned. Out of all the migrants that come to the village for winter the only one I have seen are Redwings. I have seen no Fieldfares, Siskins, Bramblings, or Redpolls. Experts are saying as winters are getting warmer the birds are staying at home instead of migrating hundreds of miles. It makes sense if your'e a small bird, why risk flying across the North Sea when you can stay at home. Sadly, our summer visitors are also in decline. In Cyprus, it is estimated that 620,000 migrant birds were killed last Autumn, and the government does not seem interested in doing much about it. Locals are using mist nets to capture some birds. Mist nets are fine netting put out in a long line, they play bird calls to attract them into the nets. The other way they are being captured is by putting glue on branches and when the bird lands on it, it becomes stuck. What do they do with all those birds? Blackcaps, Warblers etc are a delicacy in Cyprus.

Another reason for decline, is something I have told you about before. A disease called Trichomonas, or more commonly named Canker, is a parasite which affects the mouth and throat of birds. The birds have

difficulty eating as they cannot swallow, so as they try to eat they are forced spit the food out.

Then along comes another bird and eats it so that bird is infected too. This horrible disease eventually kills them. It is responsible for killing a lot of the Greenfinches and Chaffinches, and it has also spread to House Sparrows, Dunnocks and Great Tits.



In an effort to stop the spread of this horrid disease, the RSPB has now stopped selling flat seed trays.

But it's not all doom and gloom the Greenfinches seem to be on the up.

Chris Bowman

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For further information contact Caroline Nash, Befriending Manager on: 01264 835293  
Email: [Caroline.Nash@hhft.nhs.uk](mailto:Caroline.Nash@hhft.nhs.uk)

Interested volunteers will be invited to an informal interview and the role is subject to references, simple health checks and DBS clearance.

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## Barton Stacey WI

Have you ever been to Selborne and visited Gilbert White's house? Some of our members had been before, and others hadn't, but that did not diminish the interest in the fascinating presentation at our February meeting. Gilbert White had an incredible knowledge about plants and the natural environment, bringing this to life through land at his home in Selborne, which can still be experienced to this day. We found the talk so interesting; we are considering a group visit to Selborne to experience it for ourselves.

We held our regular Coffee Morning at the end of February, and this was welcomed by all those who attended, especially as it provided a perfect opportunity to get together for a good old chat with friends and neighbours over a slice of delicious homemade cake and a cuppa. These mornings are offered regularly, please keep an eye out on social media and in local businesses for details of our next one.

As we approach the warmer months, we are really looking forward to sharing lots of fun and exciting events with our members. We are busy planning how we will be supporting village commemorations of the 80th anniversary of VE day in May and are looking forward to baking the official WI ginger and orange cake for this occasion.

Look out for our report in the May edition of the Hill and Valley where we will share information about our talk from Trinity Winchester, how we are already supporting this valuable charity, and what we can do in the future to help them.

Being a member of the WI brings many benefits, including the ability to attend regular monthly meetings and make new friends. Sometimes our meetings include a speaker giving a presentation about subjects of interest, including history, the environment and local causes. At other meetings we get the opportunity to learn a new skill. We also enjoy activities together between meetings, including coffee mornings and craft evenings.

We are a small group of ladies who meet on the last Thursday of each month in the Village Hall, from 7.30pm.

For more information, please contact Sue Atrill (email: [bartonstaceypres@hampshirewi.org.uk](mailto:bartonstaceypres@hampshirewi.org.uk)) or Donna Oliver ([bartonstaceysec@hampshirewi.org.uk](mailto:bartonstaceysec@hampshirewi.org.uk)).

## Longparish CE Primary School



At Longparish CE Primary School, we are fortunate to have a dedicated group of governors who play a crucial role in shaping the future of our school. While many people may think that school governors need to have a background in education or a close connection to the school, the reality is quite different. Governors come

from all walks of life and bring with them a wealth of knowledge from different careers. For instance, individuals with expertise in finance, law, marketing, or community services can provide invaluable insights that help guide our school's strategic direction. Their skills in budgeting, risk assessment, and community engagement are essential in ensuring that we allocate resources effectively and make informed decisions that benefit our pupils. Our governing body thrives on diversity, and it is the varied skills and experiences of our governors that contribute significantly to our school's success.

Governors work collaboratively with the headteacher and staff to set long-term goals, monitor progress, and ensure that the school remains a safe, stimulating environments for all pupils. Their commitment to upholding our school's values of excellence, friendship, and respect is paramount in fostering a positive school culture.

As we look to the future, we recognise the need for new governors to join our team. We are particularly interested in individuals who may not have previous experience in education but possess skills that can enhance our governing body. If you have a passion for making a difference in our community and want to contribute to the education of our children, we would love to hear from you. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a governor at Longparish CE Primary School, please reach out to our Chair of Governors at [Chair@longparish.hants.sch.uk](mailto:Chair@longparish.hants.sch.uk). Your involvement could make a lasting impact on the lives of our pupils and help us continue to provide an excellent education in a nurturing environment.

**Mark Ward**  
Headteacher  
Longparish CE Primary School

**Legasee**  
The Veterans Video Archive

## Be the First 'Local Hero'!

Legasee Educational Trust, in partnership with Longparish Primary School, is piloting a *Local Heroes Video Project* — and we need your help! We're looking for a Longparish resident, preferably with some military background, to be our very first interviewee. This is a unique opportunity to help children learn about oral history—how to ask open questions, be curious, and discover the past from those who lived it.

Your filmed conversation with the children will be part of a pilot project, testing whether this could become a lasting tradition for the school and community. Interested? Get in touch with Lucy at [lucy@legasee.org.uk](mailto:lucy@legasee.org.uk) or call 07736 150195 to find out more.



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FOLS have been busy planning 2025 activities! Next month we will be running a **Car Boot and Tabletop Sale** at the school on 26 April (10am-12pm). If you'd like to

book a space to sell, please email [chairfols@gmail.com](mailto:chairfols@gmail.com) to book a space (£10 for one car and £5 per table). Entry will be £1 for adults and free for under 16s. We look forward to seeing everyone there for a great event and an opportunity to pick up some goodies (and ice cream!).

This year is a 'fallow' year for the school fayre, after such a busy 2024 we have decided to run the fayre every other year to allow us to focus on other great activities.

There are lots of ways to support FOLS if you'd like, here are some ideas!

### Easyfundraising

Did you know that you can raise funds for FoLS when you shop online by registering with [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)? Retailers such as John Lewis, M&S, Amazon and Next are signed up to the scheme and contribute to FoLS every time you spend through the site. Visit <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/friendsoflongparish> to find out more.

### Your School Lottery

Join in with Your School Lottery. Boost school funds and win up to £25000! Tickets cost just £1 a week, and there is a cash prize winner every week. For more information, visit [YourSchoolLottery.co.uk](https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk) and search for Longparish.

### Amazon Smile

Just sign up and FoLS receive a donation from Amazon every time you shop. It's that easy! Sign up at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk)

### Standing order

Set up a monthly standing order to 'Friends of Longparish School' Account number: 02750004, sort code 30 90 21

### Volunteer

Or help out at any of the activities we run, we always love to welcome new joiners and any helpers!



### Longparish Little School

This month began as a time for celebrations at Little School, as we cherish the important days for the families in our community. Our first celebration was for St David's Day, where we delighted in making scrumptious Welsh cakes. We also placed a bouquet of daffodils at the centre of our easel, inspiring the children to create beautiful paintings of them. Following this, we celebrated the Rio Carnival. For our snack, we baked a delicious Brazilian carrot cake that was a firm favourite. Additionally, we crafted

colourful carnival masks and passed through a glittery curtain that transported us to Rio, where we danced the Samba with our homemade shakers and enjoyed watching highlights of last year's carnival on the big screen. During Forest School, we celebrated Pancake Day by preparing

pancake mix to cook over our campfire. We also had the thrill of observing new wildlife, as we had frogspawn that we've watched transform into tiny tadpoles. Last week was particularly exciting with the arrival of duck eggs in the incubator. This activity, in collaboration with the Robin class, provides the children with the opportunity to learn about the life cycle of ducks. The excitement peaked when the first duckling hatched, followed by its siblings the next day. The children were incredibly gentle and caring as they held the ducklings for the first time, enjoying watching them take their first little swim.

Throughout this month, we have not only assumed the role of livestock farmers, caring for our ducklings and tadpoles, but we have also ventured into arable farming. One of the children kindly brought in some wheat seeds from his grandfather's farm, and our wheat crop has already begun to germinate. We have been diligent in ensuring it is well-watered during this dry spell. Additionally, we noted on our calendar that it took 14 days for the green shoots to appear. We have also started to explore how litter affects our planet and wildlife as part of our Eco School curriculum. The children have engaged in litter picking to help keep our local environment tidy and welcomed village resident Christine Dryden, who



regularly conducts litter picks. She shared the rubbish she had collected and explained how it can harm local birds and animals. To further illustrate this issue, we created a small world beach scene and added some plastic pollution, allowing the children to observe how sea creatures can become trapped or even ingest the plastic that is carelessly discarded.

If you would like to arrange a visit, please call us on 01264 720455 or visit our website to learn more: <https://www.longparishlittleschool.org.uk/>







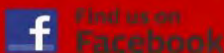
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Following on from a very successful indoor winter season, Adult and Junior outdoor training sessions will start the week commencing **14 April 2025**, weather permitting, with Adult League fixtures scheduled to begin on **3 May 2025** and Junior fixtures starting on the **4<sup>th</sup> of May**.

AllStars sessions (for children aged 5-8 years) are scheduled to begin on **12 May 2025**. AllStars registration is simple and easy, go to <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars> and use the session finder to find Longparish CC. If you are interested in playing Adult or Junior cricket at Longparish CC please contact Justin Jackman at [jackmanjustin@aol.com](mailto:jackmanjustin@aol.com)

The Club is holding a **Quiz Night** on **Friday 9 May** at the **Village Hall** in Longparish and everyone is invited to come along to join in this fun evening and support your local cricket club. Entry is £5 per person, and you can register by emailing [longparishcc.fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:longparishcc.fundraising@gmail.com).

Drinks and snacks are available and there will be fun prizes for the winning team! All money raised goes to LCC club funds. We hope to see you there!

Alison Allen

**VE Day**  
**80th Anniversary**  
**Celebration**  
**Saturday 10th May**  
**2pm til late**  
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It's Springtime at the Plough and our wonderful garden is getting ready for warmer evenings, sunnier days and fun times ahead.

Fancy a chilled glass anyone?

So... what's happening in April?

### Plough Quiz Night Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April

Yes! the pub is starting its Quiz Nights again

Come and join us for a fun-packed evening

Start time will be 6pm

Teams of 6

Team entry and pre-booking is required, spaces will go fast, book ahead to avoid disappointment.

### Easter Weekend Activities

#### Easter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Treat yourself to one of our famous Sunday Roasts

#### Easter Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April Family BBQ

Serving food from 12noon – 2.30pm

Polish Sausages, Greek Souvlaki, Middleton Wild

Venison Burgers

Not to be missed!

Our huge thanks to all our local customers, staff, volunteers and supporters. We are truly grateful and hope you'll enjoy The Plough's warm welcome throughout the Spring

Call us on 01264 720069 or book via the website

[www.ploughinn.org](http://www.ploughinn.org)

E: [info@ploughinn.org](mailto:info@ploughinn.org)



Hampshire Choral Festival

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2025

The Anvil, Basingstoke, 7 pm

Hampshire Choral Festival's seven community choirs and orchestra will perform Verdi's mighty Requiem directed by **John Sutton MBE** together with the premiere of a Centenary piece written for the festival.

Tickets £30, £25, £20 (all include a £4 booking fee)

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**£50** - Bob Harrell      **£20** - Jade Brudenell

**£20** - Jenny Cutbill      **£10** - Lucy Pilkington

**The next 100 Club Draw: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April**



**Coffee at The George Inn**

All ages are welcome, from all the villages, to a social coffee morning at

**The George Inn** St Mary Bourne on

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am**

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

## The Lunch

Our next village lunch will be held on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April** at St Mary Bourne Village Centre, as usual starting to serve at 12.30pm. All are welcome to come along and enjoy our monthly light social lunch. If a lift is needed, please phone **Chris** on ☎ **01264-738110** by Noon on the Tuesday.



## Andover Riding for the Disabled

is holding an exciting **Summer Garden Party** at the Clouds Hill House, Penton Harroway, the home of garden designer Chairwoman, Alex Hanbury-Williams on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025** from 6pm.

The event will be held in a beautiful garden with a decorated marquee where you can enjoy your own picnic supper at tables of up to eight people. There will be a welcome drink and a cash bar.

The evening will include a fun quiz, an auction and a talk by Alan Hiscox, 'Tales of a Mounted Copper in London'.

Tickets are **£20** and all proceeds go to help children and adults with disabilities to enjoy riding and being with horses and ponies.

Contact [info@andover-rda.uk.org](mailto:info@andover-rda.uk.org) for tickets please.

## History of the Hill & Valley area in Ten Objects

### 3 - Longparish, Britwell Priors, Nuns Walk



Britwell Priors, overlooking the River Test, was reconstructed from a derelict Elizabethan house in the Oxfordshire village of Britwell Salome, Wallingford (near Boris Johnson's new mansion!). Captain Charles and Lady Clare King were friends of the Dawnays, then living at Longparish House, and wanted to live near them. So, they moved... the house, complete with fittings. Major-General Dawnay let them rebuild it above the Cleaves, overlooking the river.

MC



## EASTER LILIES

The Easter Sunday flower arrangements each year traditionally contain many lilies donated by relatives and friends in memory of those in their thoughts at the Festival of the Resurrection. It is a gift symbolizing hope and beautifying the Easter

services with sight and scent. We also make a display of the names of those who are being commemorated.

If you would like to donate in memory of a member of your family or a friend who has died, please deliver it to **Eve Lind-Smith** at The Cottage, High Street, or to her personally by **Palm Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April at the very latest.**

We ask for **£1** for each person remembered, in an envelope marked **Easter Lilies**, with the name(s) **printed** on the outside of the envelope or on a card inside. **NOTE:** only list the usual Christian name and surname rather than full names - e.g.: Bill Jones rather than William Edward Jones.

EL-S



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**March already!** Is it me or is this Year just flying by - Spring is Springing and Summer must surely be just around the corner - talking of Summer, Vicky and I have been concerned about the safety of the furniture that is on the decking - Mills Ahl is heading up a small

committee consisting of Hilary Gaffney, Emma Carter, myself and Vicky to organise a Quiz evening to raise funds to enable us to buy newer, safer seating. It is to be held on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May, £15 per head for tables of 8** - the £15 includes a game of 'Heads & Tails' before we start.

Paul Gaffney has kindly agreed to be our Quiz Master. Vicky and I are doing a raffle, and tickets will be available in *The Boundary* beforehand and on the night. There will be a cash only bar and food will be the *bring your own picnic type* - maybe order a Pizza from 'The George' - they are so good but remember to book your Pizza early! There will be no plates or cutlery available on the night.

**Book early to avoid disappointment - it promises to be a good night!**

*Sandra & Vicky*

### Some connections with Eggs and Easter

**Ancient Symbolism:** Eggs have long been associated with spring and new beginnings in various cultures, long before Christianity.

**Christian Adaptation:** Early Christians adopted this symbolism, viewing the egg as a metaphor for the empty tomb from which Jesus rose.

**Lent and Easter:** During Lent, a period of fasting before Easter, Christians traditionally abstained from eating eggs and meat. Easter Sunday marked the end of the fast and the beginning of a period of feasting, with eggs becoming a special treat.

**Decorated Eggs:** The practice of decorating eggs, particularly with red to symbolize the blood of Christ, became a common tradition in many Christian cultures.

**Easter Egg Hunts:** Easter egg hunts, where children search for hidden eggs, are a popular tradition that combines the symbolism of eggs with the joy of the Easter holiday.

**Chocolate Eggs:** The tradition of eating chocolate Easter eggs is a relatively modern development, with chocolate eggs becoming a popular treat during the holiday.



## St Mary Bourne Community Play Space Project Fundraising Update

We're excited to announce that additional funding has been secured

for the Community Play Space Project this month. Thanks to the generous support of **Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council** and **Hampshire County Council** we have received funding for new wooden play equipment.

Through the Councillor Community Grant schemes Cllr Samuel Carr and Cllr Jo Perry from the Borough contributed an allocation of £2,000 and £1,000 for a new swing set respectively. County Cllr Tom Thacker has allocated funds for a seesaw and roll over bars amounting to £2,000.

But that's not all - we have also been awarded **£15,000 in National Lottery** funding from **Sport England** to refurbish the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) with sports grade surfacing for tennis, netball and more.

We're nearly there and every little bit helps. A reminder, you can still help us to reach our goal by purchasing a **£5 ticket and entering the Prize Draw** to win a commemorative name plaque for the play area. We've extended this through April and May. Details inside the SMB Village Shop.

Every grant and donation brings us closer to creating a vibrant, accessible and engaging play space that will benefit everyone. A big thank you to our supporters, local councillors, and Sport England for believing in this project.



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*The Project Team*



### ST MARY BOURNE PARISH COMMUNITY FUND

can support anyone living in the parish of St Mary Bourne (including Stoke, Binley, Egbury, Wadwick, Little London & The Wykes) who is worried about essential living expenses, or unexpected extra costs due to illness, employment changes, family difficulties, medical conditions, or accidents.

**For more information** about the PCF for yourself or someone else, please contact: Ruth Widen - 01264 738 250 - [ruth.widen@btinternet.com](mailto:ruth.widen@btinternet.com)  
All enquiries are treated in complete confidence.





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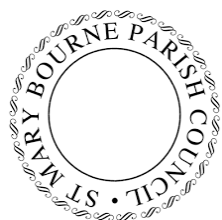
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## Parish Council Activities

The Parish Council held its monthly meeting on Tuesday March 11<sup>th</sup> at which local councillor Sam Carr reported on the current state of planning for the

**major reorganisation of local government** that the Government is introducing, and will see the end of the structures that have been in place for the past fifty years with new bodies to replace them. This will have a major impact at county and district level, but parish councils are expected to continue in their current form.

After Bridget Culley's resignation there is a **vacancy on the Council**, and it is hoped that we will be able to co-opt a candidate at the next meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The clerk has been approached by some individuals showing an interest.

The **Flood and Emergency Group** reported that work at Holdway Cottages is complete and the traffic lights and pumps at the Bourne Valley Inn are in the process of being removed, leaving the scheduled work at Applegate to be carried out in May. Meanwhile plans are being drawn up to identify the areas of **roadside verges** that need to be reinstated after the pumping and sewer repairs over the past two years.

**Southern Water** will be holding a public meeting in the Village Centre on **Monday March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm** to talk to all interested residents about what has been done over the past year and gather information on outstanding problems. It is hoped that this will be well attended by parishioners from along the valley, Stoke and St Mary Bourne.

### Planning Applications:

25/00097/LDEO	Horse Paddock, Stoke Road	Certificate of Lawfulness
25/00241/FUL	Hilliers Farm, Upper Wyke	Barn to residential
T/00084/25/TCA	Swampton House, SMB	Trees
T/00086/25/TCA	Highland House, Stoke	Trees
25/00297/FUL	Valley Farm, Stoke	Replacement dwelling

### Next parish council meeting:

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at - 19.30**

Village Centre Club Room - Public more than welcome.

[www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk)

Copies of meeting minutes are available on the parish council website - and please email any questions or agenda points to Maxine Owen on [clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk)

Facebook: Search for [www.facebook.com/SMB.PCpage](https://www.facebook.com/SMB.PCpage) - and like and follow to get updates or arrange to pop along to the parish council office for a chat. PF



**The cricket season is upon us! With our first game coming up on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, it's not long now till summer is in full swing!**

With 2 league teams, a Sunday friendly side and a midweek T20 team playing a mixture of cup and friendly games there has never been more opportunity to play for your local village team! Please get in contact if you are interested in representing the mighty Bourne this year!

### Friday night coaching:

- U7s and U9s - years 2-4 @ 17:30-18:45

### Matches on weekend mornings

- U11s - years 5-6 @ 18.15 - 19:30

### Matches on Monday nights and Sunday am

- U13s - years 7 & above @ 18:45 - 20:15 +

There will be youth cricket matches on most Monday evenings, Saturday and Sunday mornings!

**We are still looking** for more under 15's and senior team players so please do get in contact with us if your child or yourself would be interested in joining up either on our social media's or by emailing [stmarybourne.cc@outlook.com](mailto:stmarybourne.cc@outlook.com)



## Stoke Coffee Morning

Wednesday 2nd April  
10am - 11.30am

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## 'The Film' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre



In **'Paddington in Peru,'** the lovable bear Paddington returns to visit his Aunt Lucy at the Home for Retired Bears. Accompanied by the Brown Family they embark on a thrilling adventure through the Amazon rainforest and the mountain peaks of Peru to solve a mystery and find Aunt Lucy.

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 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](mailto:villagecentre@stmarybourne.org)

**Next Film: Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025**



**Andover Astronomy Society**  
**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm**  
**Hurstbourne Tarrant**  
**Community Centre SP11 0AX**  
**Scientific Imaging: Gavin James**

We are often amazed by the latest photographs of the night sky, stars, galaxies and nebulae but what can we learn from them? Astronomers analyse these images to work out how the universe was created, estimate the ages of stars and much more. Without scientific imaging we couldn't do any of this – we would only have pictures.

Our last meeting of the 2024/25 season welcomes back Gavin James who will show the images and explain what we can learn from them.

Gavin runs the Blackett Observatory at nearby Marlborough School and is a superb photographer. Before switching careers, he was a professional photographer specialising in horse racing reporting – now he shares his knowledge and pictures with schools and public.

**Visitors free.** We are a very friendly society and welcome all levels of interest. The Andover Astronomical website <https://www.andoverastronomy.org.uk> has more information about all our activities as well as links to more information about astronomy, what to see in the night sky and telescopes.



## AGM roundup

**Mike Strong, Treasurer** recounted the highlights of the 2024 Flower Show, including an increase in footfall, classes, time spent at the show and record takings. Stall takings were an outstanding £10,500 and **£9,100** of funds were donated

to local charities with enough money in reserve to allow for contingencies. The success of the show depends on a vast number of helpers and unnamed villagers who were all thanked for their generous contributions.

## Finally,

**Andrew Shegog** was elected as the new Flower Show Chairman. Having lived in the village for 27 years he is an excellent addition to the Committee and was welcomed by outgoing Chairman **John Banbury**. Our thanks go to John for his hard work and excellent leadership over the last 3 years.



## Classes



All classes for the 2025 show are now available to view on our Facebook page (St Mary Bourne Flower Show and Fête). Please scan the QR code for full details and look out for the class lists on the village noticeboards.

## What to do this month in the garden

**Sow greenhouse crops** including tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines, peppers and chillies. If you haven't had time to sow crops this spring, catch up by buying young plants instead - supermarkets, garden centres and the Hurstbourne Priors May Fair are all good sources.

**Be vigilant as the temperature rises** – look out for slugs and protect your new plants. Lift and divide congested clumps of perennials. Tie in new shoots on clematis, roses and other climbers to ensure they grow in the right direction.

**Deadhead bulbs** – pick off old flowerheads and leave the foliage to die down naturally. Sprinkle fertiliser around perennials, trees, shrubs & roses.

**Support tall growing perennials with sticks,** canes or metal supports.

Don't forget to keep your competition seed potatoes safe from frosts. Water well to ensure the compost never dries out and once the shoots break through - roughly every 7-10 days - earth up potatoes to cover over the shoots.

**Any enquiries about the Flower Show, sponsorship, taking a stall or helping please email: [smbflowershowandfete@gmail.com](mailto:smbflowershowandfete@gmail.com)**





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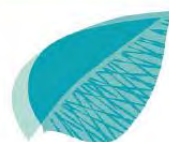
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## Postcard from Binland

I saw the most extraordinary thing this morning as I walked my dogs down the cattle drove at 6.45. Not ten feet in front of me a Barn Owl, from nowhere hit a sparrow hawk perched in a small tree. The pair ended up on the track in front of me where there ensued a form of school yard tussle before the owl broke free and flew off. The sparrow hawk, somewhat kerfuffled dusted himself off, checked he still had all his functions and then did the same. But what I can't fathom out is was this a territorial dispute? A warning? I've seen the owl there many times, he probably has a box in the Frogley's garden, or was the owl going for a kill? We shall never know but it made for an interesting walk.

Evening drinks in St Mary Bourne at an old friend's I heard someone refer to Binley as "Binland" and the residents as "Binliners"! Before the local red trouser brigade get a bit sniffy about it I have to say although initially a little twitchy about being a "Binliner" as I thought more and more about it I rather like the idea of Binland. "Binland! The land of Bin! Where men are men and sheep are... petrified!" Great slogan. Driving home to Binland my loins were stirred by the thought of us breaking away from the yoke of a tyrannical St Mary Bourne Parish Council and seeking our own independence! It's terribly fashionable at the moment! We need a catchphrase... how about "Take back control!" Genius! We can govern ourselves, make our own laws and fill in our own potholes! But we'll need a leader. Thinking about the obvious candidate, politically he's a little to the right of Gengis Khan so it might have to be a more unifying resident. I'll start a WhatsApp group and dip a toe in the water. I'll keep you posted.

One thing I have been worried about lately are our ponds. The UK has lost over half a million ponds in the last 100 years and it is believed that one in five ponds remaining are now in very poor condition. As a child, dear reader almost all of you would have had a favourite pond. You probably went "dipping" for Sticklebacks and put them in a jam jar. A simple pleasure and what a noble little fish the Stickleback is. The only fish that builds a home for its mate in the form of a nest where she will lay her eggs as he stands sentinel out front. My favourite pond was in the grounds of a stately home that had been converted into a women's open prison where there was a secret pond in the middle of a wood. As a teenager a friend and I would climb over the perimeter fence at daybreak and sneak over with our fishing rods where Golden Rudd, Crucian Carp and Tench came freely to the

maggot. We dreamed that a couple of toothsome lovelies in prison pyjamas, starved as they were of love and affection would come and find us and all would be well. In reality a couple of sturdy inmates with tattoos, skinhead haircuts and bovver boots (remember them?) turned up and mugged us for our cigarettes and loose change before kicking our gear in to the water. Another dream shattered.

Whilst running water has its obvious charms there is nothing quite sitting by a pond on a summer's day. It's Yoga for the mind and soul. The humming of insects, the bubbling of fish the breeze through the Iris's, the dragonflies, the damsels. There is almost always something happening by a pond and they are the most wonderful places to get lost in your own thoughts. *NA*



Sustainable Bourne Valley  
**AGM** on Tuesday  
**29<sup>th</sup> April** 7pm at The  
Village Centre for a glass  
of wine and nibbles whilst  
discussing the group's  
progress and giving your  
ideas.

[www.sustainablebournevalley.org.uk](http://www.sustainablebournevalley.org.uk)

## Litter Picking in St Mary Bourne



**On 15<sup>th</sup> March the intrepid team of litter pickers began to assemble outside the Summerhaugh.**



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Jenny Cutbill

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We would love it if you could join us at a reception at  
The George Inn, St Mary Bourne, SP11 6BG

Please wear colour, as Jenny loved it  
when the Spring flowers came out

In lieu of flowers, please consider a  
donation to the British Heart Foundation

Jenny was a regular member of our church community and has helped in so many ways. She acted as a Sidesman and Reader, not to mention cleaning. We all miss her and will be forever grateful for her contribution to St Peter's.

# Books at the Barn

**Susie Dent - *Murder by Definition***

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 6.00 for 6.30pm**

The debut murder mystery from the genius of Countdown's Dictionary Corner.

**Frank Gardner - *Invasion***

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 7.00 for 7.30pm**

Farleigh School

BBC security correspondent Frank Gardner's latest spy thriller sees MI6 operative Luke Carlton racing against time to prevent the next geo-political cataclysm: China's invasion of Taiwan.

**Emily Howes - *The Painter's Daughters***

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 7.00 for 7.30pm**

Meadow, Stockbridge

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## B3048, Highway to the North



is 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.

## Andover Choral Society Choral Classics for Spring

Conducted by Craig Lawton

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Works by Mozart, Brahms, Bruckner and Elgar

**Saturday 3rd May 2025 - 7.30pm**

**St Mary's Church Andover**

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01264 368368 or online at [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk)





## LONGPARISH

- 3 7.30pm - **Bingo Night** - The Cricketers  
 11 9.15am - Litter Pick - Village Hall  
 11 10 to 11.45am - LCA's Coffee Morning - The Cricketers  
 13 9am - L2SOTM Race - The Plough  
 14 8pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall  
 25 12noon to 2pm - LCA Lunch Club - Village Hall  
 26 10am to 12noon - FoLS Car Boot and Tabletop Sale - Longparish Primary School  
 26 9.30am to 12.30pm - Spring Tidy - Longparish Playground  
 29 tba - Longparish Garden Club - tba

## ST MARY BOURNE &amp; WOODCOTT

- 2 10 to 11.30am - Stoke Coffee Morning - Sarum Cottage  
 5 10am to 12 Noon - Repair Café - The George Inn  
 8 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn  
 8 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre  
 15 7.15pm - 'The Film' - **Paddington in Peru** - Village Centre  
 16 12.30pm - 'The Lunch' - Village Centre Main Hall  
 24 7.30pm - Andover Astronomical Society - H'bourne Tarrant  
 29 7pm - Sustainable Bourne Valley AGM - Village Centre

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

## HURSTBOURNE PRIORS

- 10 10.15am - Coffee morning - Hurstbourne Priors House  
 13 5pm - Annual PCC Meeting - St Andrew's Church  
 May 5 12noon to 4pm - **May Fair** - Recreation Ground



### HURSTBOURNE PRIORS MAY FAIR

**BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> May**  
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In Hurstbourne Priors you will find a flyer with more information about the May Fair inside this magazine.

Front cover photograph: Tom Bremridge

### Hurstbourne Priors parish pages editor vacancy

The position of editor for the Hurstbourne Priors parish pages remains vacant. We are unable to publish any pages for Hurstbourne Priors this month. If you would like to take this on, or know more about what it entails, please contact Michael Widén on ☎ 07880 808111 or write to [hillandvalley@btinternet.com](mailto:hillandvalley@btinternet.com).

**Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall:** Mrs Helen Ford, ☎ 07789 691018, e: [hbpvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:hbpvhbookings@gmail.com)

**Longparish Village Hall:** Mrs Maggie Barber, ☎ 01264 720459, e: [villagehall@longparish.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:villagecentre@stmarybourne.org)

### Copy date for the May 2025 edition of Hill & Valley is **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

Your contributions - letters, pictures, comments or articles are always welcome. Contact your parish editor by the copy date. Please provide editorial copy electronically as a text in Word (doc.) with any accompanying images in JPEG format.

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### Parish Editors

**Hurstbourne Priors: vacant**

**Contact:** ☎ 07880 808111 - [hillandvalley@btinternet.com](mailto:hillandvalley@btinternet.com)

**Longparish:** Angie Curtis

☎ 07572 753512 - [hillandvalley@longparish.org.uk](mailto:hillandvalley@longparish.org.uk)

**St Mary Bourne & Woodcott:** Nigel Dickinson

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### Websites

\* Hill & Valley pages on-line

**Hurstbourne Priors:**

Parish Council: [www.hurstbournepriorsparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.hurstbournepriorsparishcouncil.org.uk) \*

**Longparish:**

Parish Council: [www.longparish.org.uk](http://www.longparish.org.uk) \*

**St Mary Bourne:**

Parish Council: [www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk) \*

Village Centre: [www.stmarybourne.co.uk](http://www.stmarybourne.co.uk)

Community Hub: [www.stmarybourne.org](http://www.stmarybourne.org) \*

**Village Scrap Book:** Jeanette Davies, [daviesmb@aol.com](mailto:daviesmb@aol.com),

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### Advertising

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