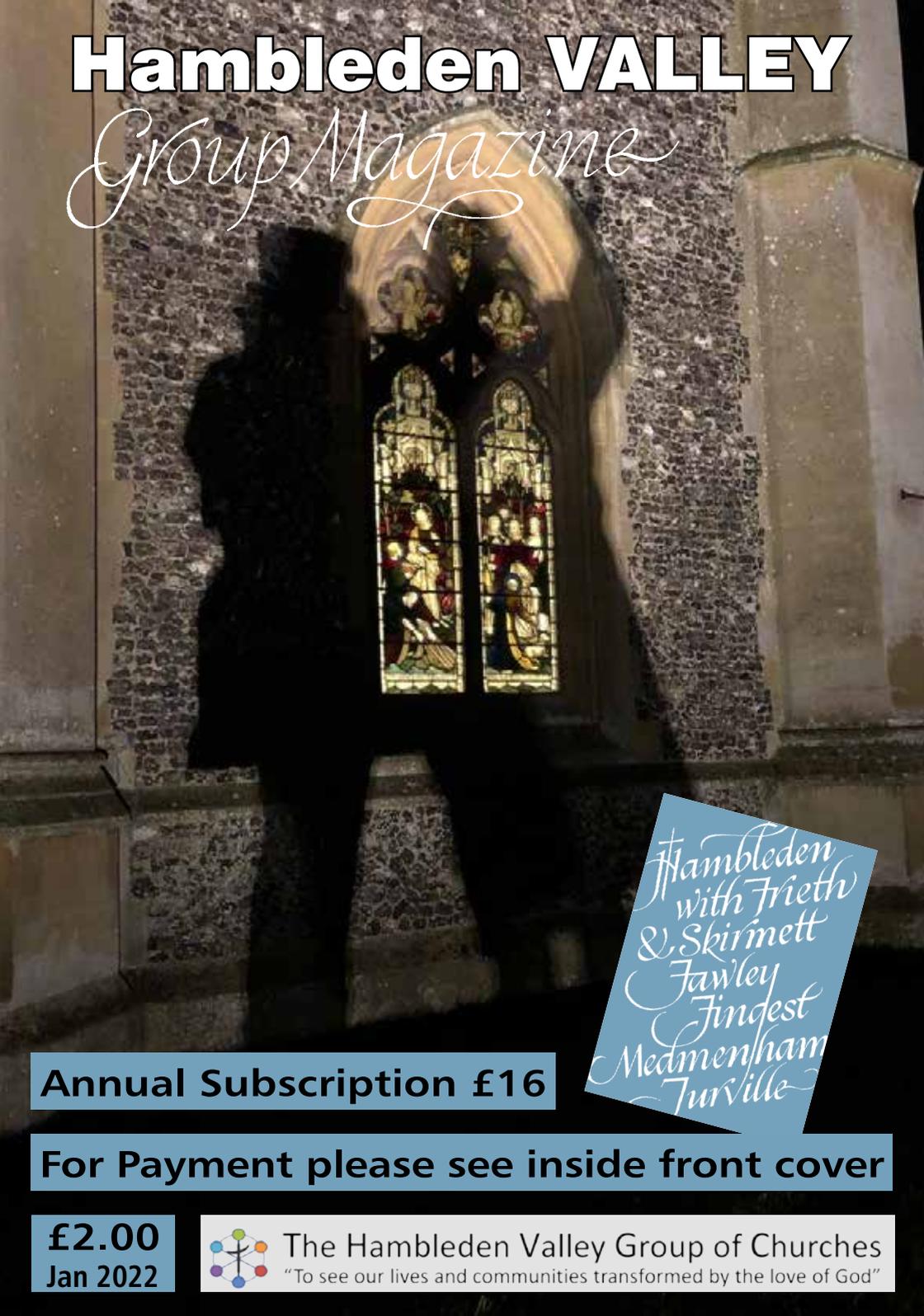


# Hambleton VALLEY

*Group Magazine*



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& Skirmett  
Fawley  
Findest  
Medmenham  
Turville*

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**Jan 2022**



The Hambleton Valley Group of Churches  
"To see our lives and communities transformed by the love of God"



Cover: Floodlit Hambleden Church Photo Deb MacIntyre. This page: Sue Lepp at The Railway Nativity.

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**Wednesday - 9.30am, Zoom**

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Communion, Turville**

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### Group Letter for January 2022

Dear Friends,



Happy New Year!

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the Christmas services happen (at the time of writing everything took place as planned!) and for those who attended. We hope that you found some comfort and joy in the midst of the uncertainty of the season. I really enjoyed my first Christmas in the Hambleden Valley (at least I think I did!) as I met lots of people and got to grips with the various Valley traditions.

It does feel slightly odd to be writing this a few weeks ahead as I have no idea what 2022 is going to bring. The new year will continue to present challenges and opportunities in equal measure; of this, I am sure. Many people are wrestling with their faith at this time for many good reasons. It is comforting that God is able to contend with us, our doubts and anxieties. Sometimes in these moments it

is helpful to go back to the basics. There is a Bible Study group beginning to meet in Turville this month (details on page 7). Or maybe stepping back into church feels like an option too. You will be warmly welcomed and not interrogated or put on any rotas (at least for the first week)! The doors are always open to you. The Sues are also willing and available to offer any pastoral support and conversations needed.

On January 1st 2020 I posted this on my Facebook page from the American writer and evangelist Beth Moore: We have no idea what the coming year holds but this I can promise you based on the unsurpassed authority of Scripture: our God's going to be faithful. He's going to be good. He's going to love us and be our light in the darkness. He's going to keep His word. He cannot do otherwise.

On the cusp on January 1st 2022, I believe it still holds true. We may not know what is coming but we can know and trust God will be faithful. Blessings to you all.

**Sue Lepp**

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## GROUP NOTES AND NEWS

### Valley Magazine

Dear distributors, subscribers and readers of the Hambleden Valley Group magazine, all of us connected with producing the monthly publication take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and healthy New Year. We trust that life will steadily return to more normal patterns in the months ahead with the Covid vaccines enabling us to worship in our churches and enjoy gathering together and generally regaining our freedoms in all walks of life. The latest omicron variant will mean continued caution but writing this early in December we shall hope that it is not going to be a significant set-back.

You will see from the front cover of January's edition that we are increasing the annual subscription price from £15 to £16. This is due to higher print costs. We continue to strive to offer good value and hopefully you will agree that it is an excellent quality production. The monthly per copy cover charge will remain at £2. We continue to rely on our loyal and extensive range of advertisers who cover a significant share of the printing costs.

Annual Subscriptions: Last year we again encouraged subscribers to pay their annual dues by way of a bank transfer directly into the Group bank account and now over 60% of subscriptions are paid in this way. It avoids handling cash and cheques which has proved especially helpful. We urge you again to please make magazine subscription payments in this way during 2022. The Hambleden Valley Group of Churches Executive Committee account is at Barclays Bank in Henley: Sort Code 20-39-53 and account number 70439002

When setting up the £16 transfer please show your name and village/location in the reference section. For example, Mr W H Smith of Hambleden would insert an abbreviated "W H Smith/Ham" in this section. Abbreviation may be necessary because there is only space for a maximum 18 characters.

The subscriptions received as bank transfers in January will be notified to the distributors early

in February so they are aware of all relevant receipts. This will be repeated each month. In practice the great majority of subscriptions come through during the first two months of the year which is much appreciated.

With our best wishes to you all for good health and happiness in the year ahead.

**Sue Lepp, Priest-in-charge and  
Sue Morton, Associate Priest**

**Penny McLeish, Editor**

**David Napier, Group Treasurer**

### The Rural Review

Following the conclusion of the rural review, our neighbouring benefices, South Chilterns and West Wycombe, will continue to work together and find ways to put the ideas that were discussed into practice. The representatives from Hambleden Valley Churches have opted not to be involved any further for now, although there may be another opportunity for our benefice to join in later, with the benefit of seeing how things have developed with the other parishes.

Nevertheless, the review has given us an opportunity to think about the role of the church in the wider community from many different points of view and the discussions provided much food for thought that is relevant to all of us as we discern the way forward. I share ideas arising from one of the most important focus groups below. We were fortunate to have the input of Toby Long, Schools Adviser for Oxford Diocese, who lives in Ibstone and chaired our group on Schools and young people. Please send any thoughts or questions you may have via Helen Chadley, the rural review administrator at [admin@westwycombebenefice.org.uk](mailto:admin@westwycombebenefice.org.uk)

### Schools, Children and Youth Focus Group

This Focus Group looked at five key areas:

**Relationships** - to focus on developing, re-establishing, and rebuilding relationships between the 9 schools and churches.

*Continued on page 7*

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To include opportunities to meet with school leaders to explore how we can support each other. **Educational Resources** – develop what the churches can offer to all schools in terms of educational and curriculum support. Developing resources for churches to share with schools. **Spirituality** – Here we focus on collective worship and assemblies. The possibilities of Godly Play, Open the Book and Prayer Spaces. Our invitation for schools, staff, families, and children is to explore Christianity in a non-confessional environment and support everyone on their spiritual journey. School **Governance** –Focusing on the four Church of England schools who require a high proportion of their school governors to be appointed by the local PCC and Diocese. We want to offer a ‘try before you buy’ session for those interested to hear from serving governors. We want to make it very clear that anyone across the patch can serve as a governor in any of the four Church schools. Finally, we look at the possibility of a shared **Schools and Youth Worker** for the 14 Churches. This was a key priority from every church in the Rural Review – how can we engage with younger people more effectively? We will explore the feasibility of such a role, the logistics, costs, and desired outcomes.

### **Caroline Sants**

### **Hambleden Valley Bible Study Group**

In the new year we will be meeting for a regular, gentle bible study and discussion each Tuesday afternoon from 2pm - 3.30pm in Turville, starting on Tuesday 11th January. We're going to be reading Mark's gospel, and will be using a guide by Tom Wright: [For Everyone Bible Study Guides: Mark](#) (NT For Everyone: Bible Study Guide)

It is a straightforward guide and Mark's gospel is the shortest, as well as the first to be written, so a good place to start. If you would like to try this but are worried about committing the time it would be fine to come along whenever

you can, if you can't manage every week. The study itself can be done independently in your own time as well and we would aim to be as flexible as possible.

If you'd like to come, or would like more information please contact Sue Dawkes on 01491 638221 or fatherheartjourney@gmail.com

### **Vicky Hollier, Sue Dawkes and Caroline Sants**

### **George Howson MC - Remembrance**



On Friday 26th November the sun shone at a Service led by Sue Morton, for the laying of a wreath at the graveside of George Howson, who was responsible for the first poppy factory 99 years ago. The wreath is placed every year on the anniversary of his death by Mr John Newbury from the original poppy factory in Richmond.

Major George Howson served on the Western Front and then after the war founded the Disabled Society. The factory making poppies employed disabled war veterans.

In 1922 at the founding of the factory, George Howson wrote “I have been given a cheque for £2000. It is a large responsibility and will be very difficult. I do not think it can be a great success, but it is worth trying”

George Howson's legacy has been monumental.

The single word FULFILMENT is aptly inscribed on his grave.

George Howson lived at the Hyde, Hambleden and it was wonderful that his granddaughter,

Harriet Coleridge could attend with her cousin Mark Westcott who read Psalm 121 after Sue's prayers and blessing.

**Samantha Webb and Roddy Baird**

### **Advent Carols by Candlelight in Hambleden**

The traditional service of Advent carols and readings by candlelight was held at Hambleden on Advent Sunday, at the end of November. This is a service for all six churches in the Valley. Advent is the first season of the church year and is a time for quiet reflection and prayer, as we look forward to the light of Christmas when God sent his son to be a light living among us.

The service begins with the church in total darkness and silence, symbolising the end of the old year. Light is gradually introduced, symbolising the start of something new.

The Revd Sue Morton brought in the light, from which candlelight was spread through the church and large congregation, by a team of discreet sides people. The two Brians lit the chandeliers in the Sanctuary, the first time since Christmas 2019. The choir sang an anthem and processed in.

The Revd Sue Lepp and Revd Sue Morton had designed and printed a service sheet, so the service could move on without distraction, and the congregation could be immersed in the quiet atmosphere and gentle light, better to focus on the powerful and well-known readings. These were read by a churchwarden from each of the Valley churches, and began with Jeremiah and Isaiah's prophecies in the Old Testament, and moved through others, to Luke and John in the New. These last describing the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary and John the Baptist's preparing the world for Jesus' ministry.

The choir sang beautiful anthems and led the congregation in well known and loved Advent carols.

At the end the bright lights came on and we were able to go out into the winter night,

thoughtful, heartened, and looking forward into a new year.

**Jill Steward**



**Wild Church at Epiphany**  
**9<sup>th</sup> January 2022 2pm Hambleden**

Join us for an Epiphany Walk in Hambleden! Along the way we will be making a 'journey stick', collecting items that remind us of our past year and looking ahead to the coming one. For anyone who prefers something less energetic, there will be the opportunity to make a journey stick inside church. We will return to church for a couple of well-known hymns, Epiphany cake and tea.



You are warmly welcome to join us! As always do **dress for the weather** - we will meet come rain or shine!

\*\*To find out more, please get in touch with one of the Wild Church Team: Mary Campbell [grandma.marycampbell@googlemail.com](mailto:grandma.marycampbell@googlemail.com) Mardi Wilkins [mardi43@btinternet.com](mailto:mardi43@btinternet.com) Rev Sue Morton 01491 639286 or [suemorton131@gmail.com](mailto:suemorton131@gmail.com) Wild Church takes place every second Sunday at a different outdoor venue each month

### **Wild Nativity**



The drizzle didn't discourage a large turnout at the North End Wild Church last Sunday. That stable in Bethlehem was evoked perfectly with some hay bales, the lowing of a cow (with excellent comedic timing) and a real baby

*Continued on page 11*

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Jesus! (Many thanks to Peter Langford for the cows and also to baby Max). Sue Morton, resplendent as a wise man, took us through the Nativity story with help from a crowd of re-enactors. First the shepherds - AKA Wendy and Mary - stood gazing at the star, before being wowed by the heavenly host of the Wild Choir. Next the Wise Men arrived on their 'camels' and the whole party set off to the stable. Lottie and Oliver did a wonderful job of controlling the 'camel', especially impressive while doing a reading from the saddle... At 'Bethlehem' Sue gave us a thought-provoking message about being a light and following the star of God year round.



We finished with a rousing rendition of We Wish You a Merry Christmas and the gift of some gold(en chocolate coins) from the Wise Men.

### **Ellie Gowers**

#### **The Old Violin**

'Twas battered and scarred,  
 And the auctioneer thought it  
 hardly worth his while  
 To waste his time on the old violin,  
 but he held it up with a smile.  
 "What am I bid, good people", he cried,  
 "Who starts the bidding for me?"  
 "One dollar, one dollar, Do I hear two?"  
 "Two dollars, who makes it three?"  
 "Three dollars once, three dollars twice,  
 going for three,"

But, No,  
 From the room far back a gray bearded man  
 Came forward and picked up the bow,  
 Then wiping the dust from the old violin

And tightening up the strings,  
 He played a melody, pure and sweet  
 As sweet as the angel sings.

The music ceased and the auctioneer  
 With a voice that was quiet and low,  
 Said "What now am I bid for this old violin?"  
 As he held it aloft with its' bow.

"One thousand, one thousand, Do I hear two?"  
 "Two thousand, Who makes it three?"  
 "Three thousand once, three thousand twice,  
 Going and gone", said he.

The audience cheered,  
 But some of them cried,  
 "We just don't understand."  
 "What changed its' worth?"  
 Swift came the reply.  
 "The Touch of the Masters Hand."

"And many a man with life out of tune  
 All battered and bruised with hardship  
 Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd  
 Much like that old violin

A mess of pottage, a glass of wine,  
 A game and he travels on.  
 He is going once, he is going twice,  
 He is going and almost gone.

But the Master comes,  
 And the foolish crowd never can quite  
 understand,  
 The worth of a soul and the change that is  
 wrought  
 By the Touch of the Masters' Hand.

### **Myra Brooks Welch**

#### **Hambleton Valley Garden Club**

The last meeting of the year for the Garden Club was an enjoyable affair but one that was tinged with sadness too. We enjoyed a glass of warm mulled wine and mince pies which were so welcome on such a stormy night. One of the committee members had put together a garden quiz which was most enjoyable and really required members to put their thinking caps on. There was a lot of laughter when we were trying to work out the answers. We then had a slide show of gardens we had

## WILDLIFE

visited over the past 14 years. It was lovely to reminisce and see all these beautiful gardens at their best whilst we are sitting in the depths of winter.

The sad part of this meeting was when our chairperson, Celia Warren, informed members that she was to “hang up her wellies” in March 2022, after 14 years long and dedicated service. This decision had been made by Celia back in 2019 but she had said she would work towards the retirement in 2020. This would give the committee time to work out what we were to do. Then of course COVID comes a long and none of the committee wanted to let the Club just fold with no chance of it being kept going. So, we carried on but, sadly, the rest of the committee, who have also mostly been members for 14 years, decided that they had reached the end of the road as well.

The committee presented to the members all the roles that the Club covered and what an enjoyable task it all had been. The Club is in really good shape, with active members who are keen that the Club should continue. The committee has put it to members that they hope person/persons would come forward to take over the reins. The committee would support anyone who would take over the Club roles and have a wealth of information they can hand on.

We still have booked speakers for January, February and March 2022. The January meeting will be held on **Tuesday 11th January 2022** (rearranged from the normal first Tuesday of the month due to the long Christmas and New Year holidays) and the speaker is John Anderson, Keeper of Crown Estates. He will be talking about the gardens at Windsor

**Janet Collins**

## WILDLIFE

### **In praise of the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch 2022**

January has arrived and with it a new year for our individual nature reserves, the ones

right outside our front and back doors. There is beauty in nature as it rests during these winter months, muted colours maybe but they are calming and induce me to slow down too. Bird life continues around us unabated unlike the debate on should we feed them or not; I do but it is crucial to clean the feeders frequently to keep them free of disease. The insect world is quiet but showing promising signs of life. Early bumble bee queens have emerged from hibernation in the soil and scour the area, inches from the ground, searching for abandoned mouse nests to use themselves to raise a new generation. Their loud buzz in the crisp, cold silence during this mostly dormant month often takes me by surprise. These large queens need every dandelion, hellebore, pussy willow or other early nectar producing plant to sustain them. Our mature pussy willow (*Salix caprea*), is a hotspot for these early queens when it flowers; I once counted seven at one time on the lowest branch and goodness knows how many there were on the crown. The flower beds in my personal reserve are filled with an assortment of slowly deteriorating plants in varying shades of umber. The ruddy brown or coffee-coloured stalks of flowers that once graced my kitchen table sway under the weight of finches searching for those last remaining seeds from unpicked flower heads before eventually collapsing to renourish the earth below. Other stems already toppled by a combination of rain, snow and freezing temperatures are tossed about by blackbirds looking for worms. Something feathered searches through the leaves in my gutters for its breakfast causing soggy specimens to cascade down past my windows reminding me I haven't yet cleared them. At the end of January, the RSPB hold the annual Big Garden Birdwatch to monitor populations. It is an hour of your choosing out of a weekend counting the birds you can see in your garden and registering the tally online. I inevitably find my blackbirds, long-tailed tits and wagtails have scarpereed elsewhere during my

*Continued on page 17*

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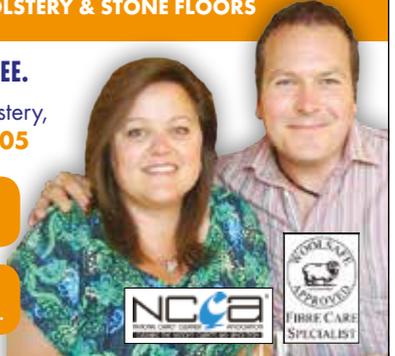
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# Church Services and Events

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## From The Registers

### Holy Baptism

Dec 5 Charles James Manderfield Medmenham

### Naming and Blessing

Nov 21 Victoria Tebbot Frieth  
Nov 28 Isabel Hayley Owen Turville

### Rest in Peace

Nov 29 Timothy Osborn-Jones Funeral, Hamblenden, and Cremation  
Dec 3 Robin Peppiatt Funeral and Burial, Turville  
Dec 7 Grace Turner Funeral, Fingest, and Cremation  
Dec 13 Peter Scott Funeral and Burial, Fawley



## Hamblenden Valley Prayer Group

We have formed a contemplative listening and confidential prayer group, forming a circle round the valley with God at the centre. If you would like prayer please send a request to the email below:

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# CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2022

## Pattern of Worship Jan 2022

Please see below for Sunday services. There will also be Zoom services at 9:30am and the 10.15am midweek Holy Communion at Turville on Wednesdays. The calendar here is subject to change. The wellbeing of staff and members can cause last minute adjustments to our scheduled services. Please refer to our website for the most up-to-date information or contact Jenny Neagle on [hambledenvalleyadmin@gmail.com](mailto:hambledenvalleyadmin@gmail.com) (07769 599616).

## Sunday Services

	Fawley	Fingest	Frieth	Hambleden	Medmenham	Turville	Zoom
2nd Jan Epiphany					10am Group Service		None
9th Jan	11am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion 2pm Wild Church			9.30am
16th Jan			9am Holy Communion/Zoom	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Worship	11am Holy Communion		9am
23rd Jan	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion/Zoom	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion	9am
30th Jan Candlemas	9.30am Family Breakfast Service		8am BCP Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion		None

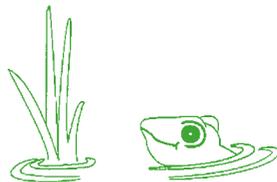
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preferred time slot so please sign up and get involved if you have the time because then they will be recorded at yours! <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/birdwatch-take-part/>

## Sarah Ronan December 2021

### HAMBLEDEN

#### Church Teas

I am sorry not to be able to give you the final result of church teas this year, but it is around £2,500, I will give the exact amount next month.

This article is to appeal for someone to take over the running of the teas this year as I am nursing my terminally ill husband. It is not an onerous job, does not involve baking cakes and there are notes on how it is run. I would be so grateful if somebody would step forward to continue this 50 year tradition.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on my email address below and I will be happy to talk you through it.

Happy and peaceful new year to you all.

#### Penny Hurtley

[penny.hurtley@gmail.com](mailto:penny.hurtley@gmail.com)

### Hambleden Cinema

James Corden will be appearing at Hambleden Village Hall on Saturday 15th January as the star performer in *One Chance*, rated 12A, a biographical film about opera singer and Britain's Got Talent winner Paul Potts.

Once a month the hall is transformed into a cosy bijoux cinema with a high-resolution projection screen and crisp amplified audio. Tickets at £8 can be bought at [www.hambledencinema.co.uk](http://www.hambledencinema.co.uk)

There is a bar with wine, beer and soft drinks along with delicious snacks. It's a great place to socialise before and after the film.

#### Gwyneth Ashcroft



**HAMBLEDEN VILLAGE HALL**  
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 and at Hambleden Village Stores  
In Aid of Raising Funds for Hambleden Village Hall Registered Charity 300275

### Hambleden WI

#### December 2021

On the approach to Christmas, thirty of our members came together at the Leander Club for our WI Christmas party. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening with good food, friendship and fun and everyone left feeling very much in the festive spirit in spite of more potential restrictions to come. Our raffle raised £120 and we will make a donation to be split between two local charities, Nomad and Cowshed. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and donated prizes.

Both the Book Club and Walking Group met this month and we will notify everyone of the next meetings via e-mail. Ruth and Sally-Ann also ran a most enjoyable and instructive wreath-making workshop in the village hall. Ten of us made wreaths under their expert tutelage! Mulled wine and mince pies were served and along with the carols, marked the start of festivities for many of us.

January's general meeting will feature a yoga session, all of which can be done as chair-

## FAWLEY AND FRIETH

based exercises. This will involve learning and experiencing various Pawanmuktasanas which are exercises synchronised with the breath. Claire, our instructor, will explain the benefits of these and the session promises to be most enlightening. We will meet as usual on the second Thursday of the month which will be 13th January 2022, at 7.30pm.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas with our very best wishes for 2022.

Our website is [www.hambleden-wi.org](http://www.hambleden-wi.org) if any readers want more details.

**Jo Martin**

### Hambleden Bell Ringers



After eighteen months enforced inactivity, we are once again back to normal, thankfully.

During 2021 we have rung the bells, either 6 or 8, at 12 weddings and also have some bookings for 2022 already.

We are always trying to recruit new members and this year we are very fortunate to have two new members from Marlow. Jon, an experienced ringer, and Sam his eldest son who is 10 years old! Sam is learning really quickly and has already rung for his first Sunday service. Both of them are great assets to our Band.

We practise at 6.45pm on Friday nights followed by a drink at the Village Sports Club!

If you are interested in learning, please either just turn up on a Friday evening or contact our Tower Captain, Helen, by email at [hambledenbells@mycomputer.email](mailto:hambledenbells@mycomputer.email)

**Sandy Daggart**

### FAWLEY

#### Bulb Planting in the Churchyard

Sarah Ronan organized our usual churchyard clear up, burning excess wood and all the

leaves that were far too many for the worms to pull down.



*Photo Richard Hester*

This year James Ogilvie had kindly donated many bags of snowdrops, fritillaries and many varieties of daffodils. He was helped enthusiastically by a group of youngsters.

**Hilary Beck-Burridge**

### FRIETH



#### Frieth School

As my first full term as Headteacher of Frieth CEC School draws to a close, I can genuinely say it's been an absolute privilege leading the school and getting to know the whole Frieth community.

With COVID-19 cases being relatively low in the school towards the end of this term, how wonderful it has been to enjoy some of the festivities we unfortunately weren't able to last year due to restrictions.

*Continued on page 21*

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The nativity performance is always a highlight for any school and this year did not disappoint. Having watched a fair few of these in my time, I can honestly say this was right up there with the best! Along with sport, I believe that music is the soul of the school and I thought the singing in particular throughout the entire performance was exceptional.



The merriment continued with our Christmas Fair. With us missing out on so much last year, it was super to see everybody getting into the festive spirit and having such a lovely time. I would like to extend a huge thank you to our PTA for organising this event, especially considering all the extra preparations that were necessary due to COVID restrictions. Not only did the children have a wonderful time, but we raised a significant amount of money for school. Needless to say, a special thanks must also be given to Father Christmas and his elves for taking the time out of their busy schedules to visit Frieth!

We also had a delightful Christmas Service superbly led by our Year 6 pupils, with some thought-provoking words also given by Reverend Sue Morton. As always, our children did us proud with their exemplary behaviour and singing, and we were also fortunate to have our talented choir perform a rendition of 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'.

Wishing everybody a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

**Martin Gosling**

### **Fred Simmons Article 2**

The Simmons family at the Gables increased with the birth of Eric Thomas (1903), Percy (1905) and Cecil (1908) and all attended Frieth school next door. A school photo from



1905 shows Hilda, Walter, Fred, Beat and Charles. My father Fred, with brother Walter, is in the back row holding a cricket stump. (The headmaster's fondness for sport probably inspired my father's sporting interests). Beatrice wears a long pinafore and Charles a large lace collar. My father left school in May 1910 having been awarded the Bucks CC Certificate of Proficiency at 5th standard. The certificate notes that a child must be 13 before he can work. In the 1911 Census, father Charles is noted as a 44-year-old hard wood turner in a chair factory making church furniture. Four children are in school with the youngest at home. Walter is a furniture maker and Hilda, 17, a domestic servant in Hyde Park, London. My father, 13, has no occupation noted, presumably having left school seeking work. By the 24th November 1911 he had started a 5-year apprenticeship at North and Son's, Piddington. It provided for 2 weeks fixed holiday a year with a five-and-a-half-day week. A long way on the bike each morning!

But by 1914 things change. Brother Walter joins up followed in 1915 by Fred. I still have a copy of Mr North's letter of 16th November when my father joined the guards. "Dear Young Friend, I am sorry that duty calls you away from our factory ... Give the Germans as many bullets as you can". On the back of a postcard showing the 1st Life Guards in full dress, to which he now belongs, he tells his mother that he is sending his clothes to Marlow Station to be collected. He has seen Hilda, as he is at Knightsbridge Barracks and not far from her in Hyde Park. He reassures his mother he is "having good food and not much work".

To be continued.

**Margaret Gutteridge**

# FINGEST AND TURVILLE

## FINGEST

### Fingest Past



### The Church Tower, Fingest

– The Rev. T. W. Oswald-Hicks in his forward to The Register of English Monuments Vol. II, Parts I and II

(1913) wrote,

*“Standing at the S. W. corner of the parish, St. Bartholomew’s, is a peculiarly interesting and perfect example of a village church – the massive Early Norman western Tower, dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> century – being essentially typical of the continuity and placidity of English country life and feeling.”*

The Rector of Fingest, George Augustus Baker (1841-1866), expressed his thoughts on the tower in a poem, *“The Old Church Tower (Fingest)”*, written in 1856.

### The Old Church Tower (Fingest)

When on yon old grey Tower I look,  
Standing in that sequester’d nook,  
Where, by the will of providence,  
Has been my humble residence,  
I never of the prospect tire,  
I never weary to admire  
That singularly lofty pile  
Of Saxon structure, where awhile  
Friar and monk were wont to pray  
Their superstitious vows, to pray  
To Saints and Virgin, till a Creed  
More pure than Rome’s did here succeed.

I love to stand on yonder hill  
And my imagination fill,  
As I look downward on the scene  
With visions of what there have been,  
Thro’ a long course of centuries flown,  
Th’ events of history unknown.  
Oh! had that Tower the power of speech,  
Had it a spirit that could teach;  
How much of wisdom might we learn,  
From its revealings, how discern  
In the sad tales it might narrate  
Of what had often been the fate  
Of the ungodly, -- ample cause  
For the observance of God’s laws,  
Esteeming it a warning giv’n  
As though it were a voice from Heaven.  
Oh! when my body with the dust  
Shall mingle, as ere long it must,  
May it beneath thy sacred shade  
Thou old grey Tower, in peace be laid!  
While my freed spirit still shall see,  
And seeing, shall delight in thee.

**Don Boreham**

## TURVILLE

### Christmas Events at Turville Northend Village Hall

A number of enjoyable events have taken place at the Turville Northend Village Hall, in the run up to Christmas. Pip’s Northend Lights drinks night in November proved ever popular and in December we held a Christmas wreath making workshop and the Turville Parish Christmas Party. After the party, the Rev. Sue Morton then led Wild Church on the common outside the hall.



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## Christmas Wreath Workshop.



*Juliet and Eddie from Babylon Flowers and some of our wonderful creations*

Juliet Bennett from Babylon Flowers hosted the Christmas Wreath making workshop. The hall was full of lovely foliage and dried fruit and flowers. Firstly, she guided us through the process of mossing our wreath to provide a good solid base, then we picked out the

green foliage we wanted to make some small bunches to attach in a circle around the wreath. Then the real fun began as we had the choice of different fruits and flowers, colour schemes and ribbons to really make our masterpieces our own. Everyone's wreath was different, and we all went home very proud of our creations. Many doors in the Parish and beyond are now beautifully adorned with the most fabulous wreaths, do take a look over the festive period. Juliet loved the hall and is hoping to come back in 2022 and host a few more workshops. We will keep you posted.

**Clare Barrows**



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### *Have you ever ventured inside the Hambleton Social Club?*

**Hambleton Sports and Social Club** is a community organisation providing sporting facilities on the Dene in Hambleton, as well as a Social Club in the village centre. The current sporting sections are cricket, tennis, football and pool.

Take a look at our website at [hambletonssc.co.uk](http://hambletonssc.co.uk) for more information.

The **Social Club** is situated in the centre of Hambleton Village, to the left of the Post Office/Shop. The club is a members club which allows us to provide alcohol and soft drinks at low prices, for consumption by our members and their guests. The Social Club offers fruit machines, pool table, darts, TV, comfortable seating and a friendly atmosphere!

**Membership:-** £25 per year or £13 for OAPs and Students

**Opening hours:-** 8pm - 11pm (Tuesday – Saturday)

You can also hire the Social Club for meetings during the day and functions in the evening. Please contact **Pat Eldridge 01491 576067** for more information.

*We are lucky to have this facility in our wonderful valley, please do pop in and take a look for yourself!*

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## CHURCH AND VILLAGE ACTIVITIES AND CONTACTS

### **Hambleden Valley Group of Churches**

**Priest-in-Charge:** The Revd. Sue Lepp,  
07930 520562, revdsuelepp@gmail.com

**Associate Priest:** The Revd Sue Morton,  
01491 639286, suemorton131@gmail.com

**Director of Music and Choir:**  
Christine Wells BEM, 01491 571588,  
c@wells.vnworks.net

**Group Treasurer:** David Napier, 01491  
574230, david\_napier@btopenworld.com

**Group Administrator:** Jenny Neagle, 07769  
599616,  
hambledenvalleyoffice@gmail.com

**Weddings and Blessings:** Paul and Lynda  
Marston-Weston 01494 883188  
hambledenvalleyweddings@gmail.com

**Tea Club:** St. Katharine's, Parmoor,  
Currently suspended

**Barney's Toddler Group:** Frieth Village Hall,  
Currently suspended

**Website:**  
www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk

### **Fawley (St Mary the Virgin)**

**Churchwarden:** David Napier,  
01491 574230,  
david\_napier@btopenworld.com

**Clerk to Fawley Parish Meeting and  
Village Hall booking:**  
David Burton - davidburtn83@hotmail.co.uk

### **Fingest (St Bartholomew)**

**Churchwardens:**  
Brian Barnes, 01494 882613,  
brianbarnes346@gmail.com

Jill Dean, 01491 638678,  
jill@sundawn.uk.com

### **Frieth (St John the Evangelist)**

**Churchwarden:** Judy Hunt, 01494 882227,  
ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com

**Village Hall Bookings:**  
website www.friethvillagehall.org  
email friethvillagehall@gmail.com  
Tel 01494 880737

**Brownies:**  
Jennie Batt leads Frieth Brownies.

Brownies meet on a Monday evening from  
5.30 - 7.00pm at Frieth Village Hall.  
Friethbrownies@hotmail.com, 07422  
377858

**Frieth Natural History Society:**  
Alan Gudge, 01494 881464

**Frieth Village Society:** Caroline Walker  
01494 882333

**Frieth Cricket Club:**  
Ben Smiley  
friethcricket@btinternet.com

**Frieth Lunch Club:** meets on last  
Thursday of the month at the Yew Tree Pub.  
Judy Hunt, 01494 882227  
ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com

**Pilates:** Mondays at 2pm - 3pm. Wednesdays  
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### **Hambleden (St Mary the Virgin)**

**Churchwarden:**  
Jill Steward 01491 571320  
jillsteward@hambleden.com

**Bell Ringing:** Fri 7.45pm practice, Helen or  
Karen, hambledenbells@mycomputer.email

**Village Hall Bookings:** Jamie Baker,  
01491 410669, www.hambledenvillagehall.org

**Women's Institute:**  
Sarah Williams, 07817 120339

**Pilates:** Mondays 11 – 12 Fran Presho,  
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**Bridge Club:** Fridays 1.30 – 4.30  
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**Hambleden Social and Sports Club:** Open  
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**Tennis Coaching:** Chris Marshall,  
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debby@debbyflavell.com

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debby@debbyflavell.com

### **Medmenham (St Peter and St Paul)**

**Churchwardens:** Dennis Harwood,  
01628 810143,  
dennis.harwood411@btinternet.com  
Angela Magee, 01628 484043,  
angela.magee@yahoo.co.uk

**Village Hall Bookings:** Emma Tentori,  
07759 014396

#### **Uniformed organisations:**

**1st Danesfield Scouts, Cubs and Beavers:** leader Nick Currie,  
enquiries@danefeldscouts.org.uk

**Medmenham News:**  
medmenhamnews@icloud.com

### **Skirmett**

**Village Hall Bookings:** Mandy Heller, 01491  
638355 www.skirmettvillagehall.org

**Pilates:** Mon 11.15am – 12.15 pm  
Julia Farey, 07747 825 830

**Hambleden Valley Garden Club:** Meetings  
Oct-Mar on first Tuesday each month at Skirmett  
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638691.

### **Turville (St Mary the Virgin)**

#### **Church Warden:**

Anne Jones, 01491 639344,  
annejones.tur@btopenworld.com

**Bell Ringing:** Sat 4pm practice,  
Rachel Wallace, 01494 883025  
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### **Turville Northend**

#### **Village Hall Bookings:**

David & Susan Faragher 01491 638960 or  
07563 903678, davidfaragher@fastmail.fm  
smfaragher@fastmail.fm

**Yoga:** Saturday 8.45-9.45am,  
Tiffany 07785 615583

#### **Parish Council Contacts**

**Hambleden:** Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell  
01494 881483, clerk@hambleden.org.uk,  
www.hambleden.org.uk

**Medmenham:** Parish Clerk Carole Burslem  
01494 449215, mpc.clerk@gmail.com

**Turville:** Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell,  
01494 881483, turvilleparishcouncil@gmail.  
com, www.turvilleparishcouncil.org.uk

**Fawley:** Clerk to Fawley Parish Meeting  
Mr Ross McDonald, 07769 971252  
r.mcdonald2007@yahoo.co.uk

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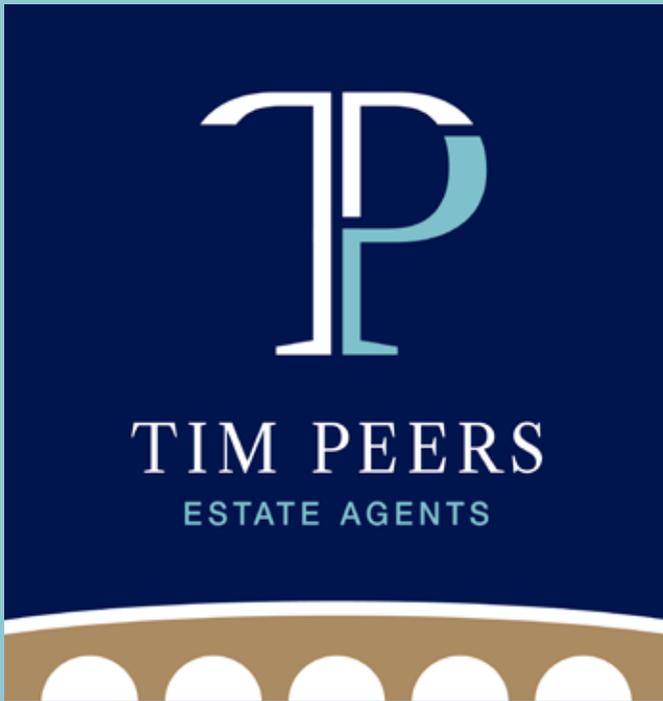
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