

# Hambleton VALLEY *Group Magazine*



*#Hambleton  
with Frieth  
& Skirmett  
Fawley  
Findest  
Medmenham  
Turville*

**Annual Subscription £16**

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**Feb 2023**

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



Cover: Hambleden Christingle photo Lucy Williams. This page: Canoeists on the River Thames in full flow, photo Maddy Field.

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## Weekday Services

**Wednesday - 9.30am, Zoom**

**Daily Prayer - 10.15am, Holy**

**Communion, Turville**

### Emergencies:

If you are unable to contact the Group Priests, please get in touch with your churchwarden.

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All contributions are welcome, to the Editor, Penny McLeish  
hambledenvalleyeditor@gmail.com (please note change of email address)  
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### February 2023



Have you ever arrived late at one of our six churches in the Hambleden Valley and tried to tiptoe in quietly, only to be caught out by the click of the latch,

the squeak of a hinge, the clunk of the door?

A few years ago, some of us had a discussion about which Valley church you could sneak into most silently – we weren't convinced that there was one!

February is a good month to be thinking about doors and hinges. There are times in our lives when it can be helpful to stop, pause - like standing in a doorway - to look back on what has been, and to look ahead at what is to come. We can be the link between the two – the past and the future - rather like the hinge on a doorframe.

Candlemas – or the Presentation of Christ at the Temple - is that kind of hinge: it looks back to Christmas and the birth of

a tiny vulnerable child in Bethlehem and it looks forward to the eventual shining bright light of Christ throughout the world, but also points to his suffering and death that is to come. Candlemas this year will be celebrated at Fingest on Sunday 29th January at 6pm – do come along to this special service.

And looking further ahead in February brings us to Ash Wednesday (22nd), a day when we pause again in a doorway and are encouraged to honestly acknowledge before God, the creaks and clunks, the rusty hinges in our lives, the things we try to cover up or hide, as we prepare to step into Lent and head on the journey towards Easter. Travelling along that Lent path, admitting to God these areas of our lives that are not the way we long for them to be, can be freeing, releasing as we experience God's loving forgiveness.

The following prayer from a New Guinea Christian may help us:

*Lord, oil the hinges of our hearts' doors that they may swing gently and easily to welcome you.*

**With every blessing  
Sue**

---

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## **Hambleden Sports & Social Club**

Hambleden Sports and Social Club is a community organisation providing sporting facilities on the Dene in Hambleden, 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 [www.hambledenssc.co.uk](http://www.hambledenssc.co.uk) for more information.



The **Social Club** is situated in the centre of Hambleden 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)

**HIRE the Social Club** for meetings during the day and functions in the evening

**HIRE the Dene & Pavilion** – funerals, weddings, christenings, meetings, events etc.

Please contact **Pat Eldridge 01491 576067** or email [hambledenssc@gmail.com](mailto:hambledenssc@gmail.com)

***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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## GROUP NOTES AND NEWS



### Wild Plough Sunday



Many thanks to the Jacksons for inviting us to Hanger Farm, Fingest to shelter in the barn on Plough Sunday. Over forty people several tractors with two ploughs braved the weather which stayed dry almost until the end.

As a local farmer I see society becoming more urbanised and more remote from where food comes from. It is refreshing to celebrate Plough Sunday, where we ask for God's blessing on the land we farm, strength and wisdom to raise the year's crops and the different challenges of the seasons.



*Peter Newcombe's tractor.*

The lesson was the parable of the Sower, found in Matthew, Mark and Luke's gospels and unusually Jesus explained the meaning of this story. Rev. Sue Morton explored the idea that at different times in life we are sowers of the word, growers of the word and harvesters of the word. We had a large handmade map of the Valley on which we could draw local places and buildings and place a little soil from our fields and gardens for a blessing. There was also a giant jigsaw of a tractor and plough.



*Frances and Ralph  
Photos Mardi Wilkins*



On our farm we have a steep field on the right-hand side of Fingest Lane going up to Bolter End. During the War, when Britain faced starvation, my grandfather had to plough up this field for wheat, he said "if this poor bank can grow a crop of wheat, we shall surely have victory" It did produce a crop and we call this field Victory Bank to this day. Forward to autumn 2021 we reseeded the field and it failed due to drought, that is the seed germinated and there was insufficient moisture and the seedlings died, we resowed in spring 2022 and the same happened again, the third sowing in Autumn 2022 finally seems satisfactory, albeit with a few bare patches. Now, when my grandson and I go past we have taken to calling the field Disaster Bank!

Wild Church Plough Sunday reminded us that God is with us in challenging times and times of growth and encouraged us to notice him at work in the world around us.

### **Gid Lacey**

#### **Wild Church coming up:**

The Wild Church Team is on sabbatical!  
Our future dates are:

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 3pm

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm

Continued on page 7

# Hambleden Village Hall

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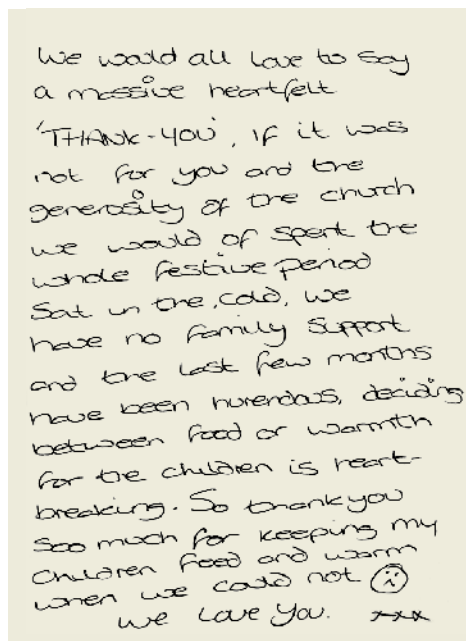
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At Wild Church we will sing a couple of well-known hymns, hear a Bible reading and simple prayer. As always do **dress for the weather** –we will meet come rain or shine!  
\*\*To find out more, please get in touch with one of the Wild Church Team:

Mary Campbell  
grandma.marycampbell@googlemail.com  
Mardi Wilkins mardi43@btinternet.com  
Rev Sue Morton 01491 639286  
or suemorton131@gmail.com

### **Community Matters: A Christmas thank you**



We would all love to say a massive heartfelt 'THANK-YOU', if it was not for you and the generosity of the church we would of spent the whole festive period sat in the cold, we have no family support and the last few months have been horrendous, deciding between food or warmth for the children is heart-breaking. So thank you so much for keeping my children fed and warm when we could not. 😊  
we love you. xxx

Community Matters is so very grateful for the support they receive from the Hambleton Valley. Barbara Ewing from Community Matters showed us a hand written Christmas card from one of the families when we made our December delivery... it is transcribed here:

*"We would all love to say a massive heartfelt THANK YOU. If it was not for you and the generosity of the church we would of spent the whole festive period sat in the cold. We have no family support and the last few months have been horrendous, deciding between food or warmth for the children is heart-breaking. So thank you so much for keeping my children fed and warm when we could not. We love you xxx"*

### **On the Chilean Trail...**



By the time this magazine drops through your letter box, we will just about be ready to begin our journey on the Chilean Trail! Among other places, for part of that journey we will be staying with Assistant Bishop Alf Cooper in Santiago to hear more about his work supporting the Chilean miners, during the mine collapse in 2010; the cross above marks the site in the desert.

Mark and I are so encouraged by your interest in our trip and will be very grateful for your prayers as we travel!

God bless you

**Sue Morton**

If you would like to receive some simple photo updates of our journey, please send an email with your name to: [onthechileantrail@gmail.com](mailto:onthechileantrail@gmail.com)



## **Footprints**

**A service of remembrance for the loss of a child:**

**Friday 2nd June 2023 at 7.30pm  
St John the Evangelist, Frieth**

On Friday 2nd June at 7.30pm, we will be holding our annual Footprints Service at St John the Evangelist Church, Frieth, RG9 6PR. Usually held just before Mother's Day, this year Footprints will take place in the lead-up to Father's Day. At these particular times of year, the loss of a child can be particularly hard. They may be times of year when the pain of losing a child is difficult to bear, whether that loss is recent or many years ago. It may also be a time when remembering is important and a significant part of the pathway through grief.

The Footprints Service is a service for anyone who has lost a child during pregnancy or at any age or stage of life or has been affected by such a loss, whether parent, grandparent, teacher, friend or family member. All are welcome.

Footprints will offer space to remember your child or children and the opportunity to light a candle in their memory if you wish. There will be music, readings and prayers included as part of our time of remembering. Refreshments will be served after the service.

## **The Footprints Team**

Mary Campbell

[grandma.marycampbell@googlemail.com](mailto:grandma.marycampbell@googlemail.com)

Mardi Wilkins [mardi43@btinternet.com](mailto:mardi43@btinternet.com)

Angela Magee [angela.magee@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angela.magee@yahoo.co.uk)

The Revd Sue Morton Tel: 01491 639286

07808 517347 Email: [suemorton131@gmail.com](mailto:suemorton131@gmail.com) (from 15th April)

[www.wycombedeanery.com](http://www.wycombedeanery.com)



## **Shopkeepers**

The green and gold HOVIS sign over the bridge in Hambleden is all that's left of the "Stores and Bakery". The baker delivered his bread in an affectionate manner. The proprietors, Peter and Anne Johnson, were unexpected: they had "cut glass" accents and a willingness to stock something wanted by only one customer. When he handed it over the counter with a conspiratorial smile, we did not know that Peter had commanded Lancaster Squadrons in the war and been a member of the elite band of Pathfinders. He later wrote (of Dresden) that he found it hard to justify "the deliberate destruction of a city whose military value to the enemy seemed negligible". It's all in his book *The Withered Garland: Doubts and Reflections of a Bomber* (New European Publications, 1996).

Arthur Wheeler's butchers in Hambleden has featured in many films but he was proudest of a clip not of him but of his gory hands at work, making a guest appearance in a Hammer Horror. You can now get your sausages from Hambleden Stores and Post Office.

Frieth, Pheasants Hill, Medmenham and even Turville had village shops. In Skirmett the one adjoining The Crown was run by Mrs Hodder from Lancashire. She wore a raised eyebrow and a starched white coat and treated children with suspicion. Few were brave enough to complete important bubblegum card collections.

A haberdasher in Lane End had a different attitude to children. Reels of cotton in every colour were bought one at a time to allow for return visits. The shop was named after the proprietor, Josephine, who sat behind the counter in a long grey housecoat, only revealing when she slowly rose to get another reel from the drawer that she was over 7ft tall.

**Caroline Davis**



## Your **local** experts

If you're thinking of selling your home, or require any advice on the current market in the Hambleton Valley, please get in touch. We'd love to help you.

**Nick Warner**  
Office Head, Partner  
[nick.warner@knightfrank.com](mailto:nick.warner@knightfrank.com)

**Matt Davies**  
Partner  
[matt.davies@knightfrank.com](mailto:matt.davies@knightfrank.com)

**Jason Applebey**  
Associate  
[jason.applebey@knightfrank.com](mailto:jason.applebey@knightfrank.com)

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An excellent raffle tombola drum is available to use and return. It was last used pre-pandemic.

**Alan Armstrong 571324**

### WILDLIFE

#### In praise of trees, from saplings to ancients and beyond



I am in awe of trees not just from their size but also their individual and collective role in our well-being; I hug them with gratitude fairly regularly. From little saplings, bursting through the leaf litter in their hope and mine of not being gnashed by deer, (although sadly a fat chance for most these days unless protected), to the huge ancients as they are known and everything in between. The ancients are possibly the most valuable for nature and us, either as standing dead, dying or prostrate; though obviously not across a thoroughfare. Dendrology is the study of trees and the three stages in their lives are young, mature and ancient, the latter being usually the longest phase. An approximate age of a tree can be gleaned by flinging a tape around it five feet from the ground and measuring the result. An inch of girth equates to a year's growth for a tree in the open and half an inch per year for a tree in a wood. There are variables such as young trees grow

faster and trees fighting for nutrients, space and water will grow slower but overall, this method works well. I have learnt to my surprise that a hollow trunk is not a sign of ill-health but is quite normal and is thought might help trees live longer. At maturity, trees stop growing taller and the crown reduces in size by gentle self-pruning. This is known as retrenchment and heralds the tree entering the ancient phase which can last centuries. Some branches are dispensed with and ejected and leaf production at the canopy is reduced yet the girth still grows to aid stability particularly during stormy weather. Trees can take decades to die and many further decades to succumb to storms. We have an oak tree here (see photo) undisputedly dead since the early nineties yet it still stands tall and even now provides a home for an incalculable number of living organisms. Every tree should be cherished but I accept that woodland management, about which I know very little, is also vital for conservation and often requires cutting down healthy trees to create glades. Especially ancient or interesting trees known as champions or veterans are recorded at [treeregister.org](http://treeregister.org) on a map available to all and are worth stopping off to see on your travels. Personally, I find my girth increase as I age into an ancient phase very helpful for stability in all sorts of weather not just stormy.

**Sarah Ronan**

### HAMBLEDEN

#### Hambleden Cinema

Please join us on 18th February to watch the gripping film, *The Courier*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch, the true story of a British businessman unwittingly recruited into one of the greatest international conflicts in history. Forming an unlikely partnership with a Soviet officer hoping to prevent a nuclear confrontation, the two men work together to provide the crucial intelligence used to defuse

# FRIETH

the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Doors open 7pm, programme begins 8pm. Tickets £8 each can be bought from [www.hambledecinema.co.uk](http://www.hambledecinema.co.uk) and from Hambleden Village Stores. There will be a bar selling soft drinks, wine, beer and tempting delicious cinema snacks!

In aid of raising funds for Hambleden Village Hall Registered Charity 30027

## The Hambleden Cinema Team



## Lent Lunches

Lent Lunch in Hambleden this year will be served on March 4th, March 18th and April 1st 2023. Please come and enjoy delicious home-made soup, bread and cheese, fruit and coffee or tea with your friends. Served from 12noon to 2pm in the delightful Hambleden Village Hall.

## Mardi Wilkins

## FRIETH

### Frieth Village Hall Clock

After an extraordinary journey of discovery and learning, the Thomas West Memorial Clock that is sited above the Frieth Village Hall, is once again in residence.



*Frieth Dial and Hands Before Restoration*



*After Restoration.*

Thomas West, (1877 - 1898) was one of the early Headmasters of Frieth School, his mother being the very first. He was trained by a past visionary Rector of Hambleden and taught at Frieth School for 21 years. Numerous

contemporary articles attest to the fact that Thomas West was forward thinking and toiled tirelessly for the betterment of the whole Hambleden Valley community. Upon his passing

it was known that he had long wished for a Village Clock so, in memory of his good works for church, school and village, funds were raised and our Bracher & Sydenham Turret clock arrived in 1901.

Much time has passed since then and, to the credit of its numerous previous custodians, voluntary local clock repairers, Village Hall Committee members and generous benefactors of Friethians, past and present, it has just about survived... Several years ago, however, the Village Hall Committee decided that it needed to

Continued on page 17

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SCAN ME

# Church Services and Events

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## From The Registers

### Rest in Peace

|        |                 |                                       |
|--------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Jan 10 | Peter Jackson   | Cremation and Thanksgiving, Hambleden |
| Jan 13 | Jean Packer     | Cremation and Thanksgiving, Frieth    |
| Jan 19 | Trish MacLennan | Thanksgiving, Turville                |



## Hambleton 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 FEBRUARY 2023

## Sunday Services

### Pattern of Worship February 2023

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 and 12noon Prayers at Fawley on Fridays. Currently, the calendar is subject to change so please check our website [www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk](http://www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk) for latest updates or contact our administrator Jenny Neagle on 07769 599616 – [hambledenvalleyoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hambledenvalleyoffice@gmail.com) with any query

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|                     | Fawley              | Fingest                | Frieth                  | Hambleden  | Medmenham           | Turville              | Zoom |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------------|------|
| 29th Jan            |                     | 6pm Candlemas Evensong | 8am, BCP Holy Communion |  |                     |                       | none |
| 5th Feb             |                     |                        |                         | 10am Group Service                                     |                     |                       | none |
| 12th Feb            | 11am Holy Communion | 9am Holy Communion     |                         | 11am Holy Communion                                    |                     |                       | none |
| 19th Feb            |                     |                        | 9am Holy Communion/Zoom | 8am BCP Holy Communion<br>10am Lay-led Morning Worship | 11am Holy Communion |                       | 9am  |
| 26th Feb<br>Lent 1  | 11am Holy Communion | 6pm Evensong           | 9am Holy Communion/Zoom | 11am Holy Communion                                    |                     | 9.30am Holy Communion | 9am  |
| 5th March<br>Lent 2 |                     | 10am Group Service     |                         |  |                     |                       | none |

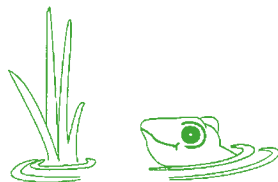
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be restored back to its original glory and progress is beginning to be noticeable.

The exterior dial and hands have been carefully restored and repaired and, thanks to several local companies, the exterior woodwork has been able to be straightened and re-varnished. Just before Christmas all was re-installed much to the excitement of villagers and the children at Frieth School.

Importantly, the Village Hall Committee has sought to involve Frieth C.E.C School and inform the children of the challenges that we have faced and their Headteacher, Mr. Martin Gosling, has been hugely supportive. After several talks in school, it was felt that such was the enthusiasm for our project – that we should ask the children to design their own assembly hall clock dial, which indeed they have. A winning dial design that reflected the school motto ‘*Let my Light Shine*’ has been chosen and the children are being kept informed of the varying stages of its manufacture.

With all this community interest in preserving our ‘Turret’ clock, we must now turn to the next challenge which is the restoring of the clock’s inner mechanical working (clock movement) which is a hugely complex matter. As with the external restoration, we are fortunate to have the expertise of a renowned Buckinghamshire clockmaker who, alongside his workshop team, is more than up for the task. In a nutshell, the overhaul and servicing of our clock movement together with the reinstallation work will cost almost three times the amount already spent on the exterior so fundraising for phase two is critical.

We are very grateful to previous fund providers who have enabled us to complete phase one of the restoration. We are now seeking additional donors who might wish to share in the wider satisfaction of contributing to the completion of phase two which we hope to achieve by the end of 2024 and,

in so doing, ensuring that the clock will be around to celebrate its bicentenary!

**To receive details on how to donate please email: [friethvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:friethvillagehall@gmail.com)**

**Thank you for reading – Jolyon Marshall – The Official Frieth Clock Winder Upper (07802 483128)**

## FINGEST

**Peter Jackson**



Peter Jackson was born on the 29th of July 1925 in Bracknell, in Berkshire. He used to joke that he had his own personal bodyguard, because his nanny was “stepping out” with the local Policeman.

In 1939 he was sent to Harrow School in North London. He enjoyed only one term there before war broke out. As a Harrow alumnus, Winston Churchill told the school that they were not to evacuate, and Dad endured the blitz, sleeping in the cellar of the school bookshop. He and his classmates

would have to attend morning chapel still caked in dust from the bombing the night before. He left Harrow and attended a local Bracknell School, and joined the Bracknell Home Guard – he was “Private Pike” about 25 years before that character was invented. Eventually he was able to join up and he was enrolled with the Royal Welch Fusiliers. After a frustrating few months of training, unable to contribute to the war effort, he was posted into Europe to join the push of the Nazis back through Belgium & Holland - back over the Rhine. Many years later, at a dental appointment, an unidentified foreign object was found in an X-ray of his jaw – “oh that’s that bit of shrapnel I picked up in Belgium, I wondered if that was still there”. He was then posted to East Africa and joined the Somaliland Scouts. There he learned Swahili and how to ride a motorbike. Dad was still in East Africa in 1946, when his father concluded it was time to re-locate from Bracknell, and he bought Hanger Wood, which had been cleared for the war effort.

On Dad’s return from Africa, he and his father embarked on a programme of further land acquisition – Pound Farm in Cadmore End and Glebe Farm in Fingest were bought. And when the entire Parmoor Estate came up for auction, they successfully bid for the Mousells side of the Fingest valley. They had also intended to bid for Fingest Farm, but withdrew when they realised that the incumbent tenant was going to bid for his own land. Albert Prince did not forget that.

By the end of the 1940s, Dad found leisure time to take up motorsport and to go courting. A sports car was bought – an Allard - a British Sports Car with a large American engine. Dad was introduced to mum by a mutual friend, and they were married in London in 1953. By the end of the 1950s Mum and Dad had produced two of four sons and Dad concluded that more living space was required and Mousells was doubled in size.

In the early sixties, after a hard winter during which Dad had been attacked by a recalcitrant bull, he wanted to give up farming. He had other interests he wanted to pursue - and was lucky enough to secure a tenant for the farm in the form of Dick Barnes.

Dad joined JB Corrie, a fencing company, initially as a contractor/consultant and then as an employee, Director & Shareholder. He secured a company car, and as his work took him all over the country, the car was fitted with a 2-way radio to enable him to keep in contact with his office base (20 years before mobile phones became a “thing”). Indeed, when mobile phones were developed, Dad was one of the first people in the country to have one fitted in his car.

In the early 70s, death and serious injury were becoming an increasing concern in motorsport, and Silverstone Circuit concluded that they needed to engineer the “soft crash”. Corries were consulted and Dad discussed various ideas with Silverstone. Used car tyres looked promising and Brian Trott was

Continued on page 21



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employed to construct the “proof of concept” – very quickly, the “tyre wall” became an accepted feature of racing circuits throughout the world.

Albert Prince at Fingest Farm died in 1976. He had remembered Dad in his Will, but regrettably the money simply wasn't available to buy the land. However, Dick Barnes was able to take up the offer of “first refusal” and bought the land in Dad's place.

Into the 1980s, Dick Barnes was retiring, and James and Helen were ready to take on the farming operation at Hanger. Dad was also planning to retire, and one of the farm cottages was extended and re-modelled to become Long Hanger. Mousells was sold, and with her share of the proceeds, Mum was able to buy the Fingest Farm land from Dick Barnes – at last Fingest Farm became part of the overall holding.

On the 29th July 1990 Dad retired and devoted himself to Hanger Wood – to timber operations and shooting of course. Long after he had hung up his guns, Dad continued to support the shoot at Harecramp with his various unruly Labradors and his Land Rover, which was ingeniously fitted out to hang pheasants from its sides. He was still picking up at Harecramp in his nineties.

I took on the management of the shoot at Hanger - on a much reduced scale. Dad would have loved to keep going, but Mum was getting older and couldn't really be left on her own, so he became her carer. They continued to go out for a pub lunch 2 or 3 times a week. Mum died at the end of 2019. And so, as soon as covid restrictions started to lift, I took dad out to lunch every Thursday. He didn't care that at first, we were only allowed to sit outside the pub. He loved the community of Fingest and the Hambleton Valley.

**Helen Jackson**

## Fingest Past



*The sexton cutting grass in St. Bartholomew's churchyard, Fingest*

**Fingest Church, the Sexton** – The role of sexton is a centuries old position in the church. The job of the sexton is to look after the contents and cleaning of the church, maintenance of the churchyard and graves and general duties. Another ancient post in the church was the Parish Clerk. This position was usually filled by a layman whose job it was to assist the priest in the care of the church and leading the responses of the congregation at services. The sexton was supervised by the Parish Clerk. Today a sexton is appointed by the minister and the Parochial Church Council. Not all churches have a sexton, the work being carried out by volunteers and contractors. However, large churches and cathedrals may have a sexton or a number of sextons working as a team.

*“St. Bartholomew's, Fingest, Vestry Meeting*

## FAWLEY

*held at the Old Rectory, Fingest, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 1909. It was agreed that the Sexton should be paid at a rate of £3. 12. 0 per annum – an advance of 10/- per annum.”*

The current rate of remuneration for a sexton is on average £21,128 per annum with an average bonus of £231. Entry salary is £19,759 rising to an average of £24,869 at senior level.

The sexton was often asked to carry out additional duties eg. gravedigging, raising the flag for festivals and special occasions, preparing the church for services and ringing the bell.

*“The Easter Vestry was held in the Vestry of Fingest Church on the Tuesday in Easter week April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1929 at 7.30 p.m.*

*It was arranged for the flag to be regularly put up at Xmas, Easter and Whitsuntide and any other special occasions. It was arranged that the sexton should receive 2/6 a year for this work”.*

**Don Boreham**

## FAWLEY

### **Fawley Christmas Carol Concert St Mary’s Church Saturday, December 17th, 2022**

Village rectors up and down the land will marvel at how on a crisp Saturday afternoon the majority of Fawley parishioners forewent their Christmas shopping to squeeze themselves and their posteriors onto every



available perch of St Mary the Virgin. At the appointed time, the expectant hubbub was tamed by the welcoming words of our favourite visiting priest, Sue Lepp, Priest-in-Charge of the Hambleden Valley and then we were into a riot of readings, singing and solo pieces from the Fogle, Evetts and Swinglehurst children. Then came “The Scientist” played and sung by Eva, accompanied by her grand-father, Seb Piper and not be outdone, Rose (Seb’s other grand-daughter) played and sung “True Colours”, accompanied by Lawrence Tubb who was having busy afternoon playing all the congregational carols as well. The outrageously



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talented Foster family belted out “Supersonic” and “Teen Spirit” on the electric guitar (Charlie) with cool moves (Gordon) and then a tinkle of “Twinkle, Twinkle” on the violin by Gordon, accompanied by mum Nina. Korngold’s “Gluckwunsch” was then played by Michael Temporal-Darrell, accompanied by Lawrence with eponymously named “Seb’s Boogie” played by maestro Piper coming next. The musical finale took the form of four members of the Andrew’s family playing “Take Five” with the vacant spot taken up at the last minute by Lawrence (of the Aria) Tubb as poor David Ledingham, a carol concert stalwart had been brought down by the flu.

We all marvelled at the fabulous festive flowers and decorations arranged by Lady Judy MacAlpine as well as the beautiful Christmas tree so kindly donated by the Tree Barn. All proceeds from the wonderful event went to the Kasisi Children’s home in Zambia and a grateful letter from Sister Mariola was read out by Trevor Cooper. Julia Ogilvy also gave thanks to everyone who had contributed during the year to the Friends of Fawley campaign that is now

within touching distance of the required funds to overhaul and renovate St Mary’s Fawley for the next generation of parishioners, who as it happens had just sung and played their hearts out so gloriously. The most important thank you was saved to last - for Guy Andrews who manages every year to orchestrate such a wonderful event which is integral to Fawley Christmas!

**Lucy Swinglehurst**

## **TURVILLE**

### **Crib Service, Turville Christmas 2022**



Christmas Eve got off to a wonderfully uplifting start at Turville with our Crib Service. The church was full of children and their parents, excited at a return to normality after the restrictions of the past few years. The service was led by Revd Sue Morton ably assisted by two readers, Rupert and Angelica. Many children took part as they rushed up to the chancel to place stickers on a special board to build up a colourful picture of the Nativity. We sang carols, of course, and took part in a very active Blessing. This was a very happy and special event.

**Anne Jones**

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### **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:** Stephen Sidders,  
01491 639271 stephensidders@sky.com

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

**Weddings and Blessings:** Jenny Neagle,  
07769 599616,  
hambledenvalleyoffice@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](http://www.friethvillagehall.org)  
email [friethvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:friethvillagehall@gmail.com)  
Tel 01494 880737

### **Frieth Natural History Society:**

Alan Gudge, 01494 881464

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

### **Frieth Cricket Club:**

Ben Smiley  
[friethcricket@btinternet.com](mailto:friethcricket@btinternet.com)

**Frieth Lunch Club:** meets on last  
Friday of the month at the Yew Tree Pub.  
Judy Hunt, 01494 882227  
[ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com](mailto:ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com)

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

#### **Churchwarden:**

Jill Steward 01491 571320  
[jillsteward@hambleden.com](mailto:jillsteward@hambleden.com)

#### **Deputy Churchwarden:**

Sharon Smith 01628 487458 [sharon-smith0505@btinternet.com](mailto:sharon-smith0505@btinternet.com)

**Bell Ringing:** Fri 7.45pm practice, Helen or  
Karen, [hambledenbells@mycomputer.email](mailto:hambledenbells@mycomputer.email)

**Village Hall Bookings:** Jamie Baker,  
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**Pilates:** Mondays 11 – 12 Fran Presho,  
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### **Churchwarden:**

Vacant. Please contact Rev. Sue Lepp, 07930 520562, revsuelepp@gmail.com

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

### **Uniformed organisations:**

**1st Danesfield Scouts, Cubs and**

**Beavers:** leader Nick Currie, enquiries@danefieldscouts.org.uk

### **Medmenham News:**

medmenhamnews@icloud.com

## **Skirmett**

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

**Tai Chi:** Friday 9.30am - 10.30am.

Contact: junekingsburytaichi@gmail.com

**Hambleden Valley Garden Club:** Meetings Oct-Mar on first Tuesday each month at Skirmett Village Hall 7.30. Contact Celia Warren, 01491 638691.

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

### **Church Warden:**

Caroline Sants, 01491 638994 turvillechurchwardens@gmail.com

### **Deputy Churchwarden:**

Vicky Hollier vickyhollier@aol.com

**Bell Ringing:** Wed practice, Rachel Wallace, 01494 883025 rachel@markjwallace.com

**Sunday School:** Sara Harman, 01491 639211

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**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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