

# Hambleton VALLEY

## Group Magazine



Annual Subscription £16

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June 2023

Hambleton  
with Frieth  
& Skirmett  
Fawley  
Findest  
Medmenham  
Turville



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



Cover: Hambleton Celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III, Lychgate Cottage. This page: Ragged robin.

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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.

All contributions are welcome, to the  
Editor, Penny McLeish  
hambledenvalleyeditor@gmail.com (please  
note change of email address)  
3 Abbey Cottages, Ferry Lane,  
Medmenham SL7 2HB  
Telephone 01491 571288

Please keep articles within 350 words. Copy  
deadline is 15th of the month.

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April 2023



Many of you have asked what particularly stood out about my sabbatical in Chile. That's a tricky question: there was much to see, from the northern desert to

the magnificent mountains in Patagonia, and plenty in between!

Yet, on reflection, it was the gift of time that I appreciated most: time on the other side of the world; time spent with God and the generous amount of time that people gave us.

And many of the Chilean people we spent time with were keen to know about our ancient churches here in the Hambleden Valley.

One lovely family invited us to join them for once, Spanish for 'eleven'. We thought: 'Ah! We're being invited for elevenses!' But no, once in Chilean means tea-time with a selection of fresh rolls, avocado, ham and cheese. We soon got the hang of it!

This family was generous with their time with us, as were the staff at the two schools

we visited, the Bible Translators and many others. And this was a double blessing. The Chileans we met certainly blessed us and I hope we blessed them too as we were keen to learn about their country, their work and their traditions.

As we all enter the (hopefully) summer month of June - wintertime in Chile - and enjoy the beautiful leafy lanes and wild flowers of the Hambleden Valley, we will have many people from all over the world coming to visit us: perhaps for our Open Gardens in Medmenham or Hambleden, or Church Teas. Will there be opportunities for us to offer others the gift of our time?

And then, in Frieth Church on Friday 2nd June at 7.30pm, we will have a special time of remembering, remembering our lost children, as we gather together at our annual Footprints Service. Please do take a look at the details inside this magazine.

Wherever you are this month, I pray that you will know the precious gift of time: time with God, with others, and for yourself. And may it bless you,

**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)

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## GROUP NOTES AND NEWS

### Jeremy Mais



Jeremy Mais was our priest in the Hambleton Valley between 2009 and 2015, living with Sarah and their labradoodle, Doogle, in The Vicarage in Turville. Originally a travel agent, Jeremy was ordained and ministered first in Bibury and then here in the Hambleton Valley.

Sue Brice and I were fortunate to have Jeremy to support us in our ministerial training - you could ask him anything and we used to save up all the questions we dare not ask anyone else! Jeremy would never make us feel small or foolish and would approach most situations with a good dose of humour in his wonderfully quirky way.

When it came to the Tea Club pantomime, Jeremy needed no second invitation to dress up and would play his part with great enthusiasm, much to the joy and laughter of his audience. Nevertheless, there was a competitive spirit within him, quickly evident if you played against him at his much-loved table tennis!

As a priest, among many areas of ministry, Jeremy had a heart for wedding couples and would support them through their marriage preparation and wedding. Couples returning to the Valley years later would still ask after him.

But above all, Jeremy had a heart for God and a deep faith. Long after he left the Hambleton Valley, an encouraging prayer or poem would arrive from time to time in our

inboxes and we knew that we had been in his prayers. We know that Jeremy now rests in God's everlasting arms and we give thanks for this good and faithful servant.

Please do keep Sarah, Jenny, Tom and Jeremy's four grandchildren in your prayers.

### Sue Morton and Sue Brice



### Wild Church Spring-clean in Fingest Churchyard



At the first Wild Church of the year on Rogation Sunday, 14th March, around 25 of us potentially candidate conservators, met in Fingest churchyard to learn how to clean, and more importantly how not to clean, our gravestones and stone monuments. For this session the Reverend Sue Morton had arranged for us to be joined by Kris Zykubek, a senior conservator with Cliveden Conservation.

We gathered mid-afternoon under a bright sunny sky. Sue started the service with a pause to take in the beauty of the sights and sounds of our surroundings. Under the leadership of

Continued on page 7

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the Wild Church choir, we sang our fist hymn: "Give me joy in my heart".

After a few prayers and a reading from Genesis by Tiger, Sue then handed over to Kris, who explained that conservation is all about keeping the right balance between the extent of cleaning to improve the look of the artefacts and the need to preserve them so they continue to reflect their true age – the connection with the past.

In the case of gravestones and other stone monuments, Kris explained how the various types of stone will be affected over time by the growth of algae, bacteria, fungi, lichens, moss and other plants. For instance, the roots of plants will grow into the pores in the stone and allow ingress of water, which in winter will freeze and cause cracking. Moss, especially, acts like a sponge, so keeping the stone wet and susceptible to damage. Both plants and moss can just be removed. However, in the case of lichens, many of the 20 UK species are protected in law, so lichens should not be cleaned off.

We should also be careful that over time sedimentary rocks such as sandstone will become soft and thus cleaning should always be gentle (or in some cases even avoided!). A gentle spray with water and brushing with a soft brush, such as a toothbrush or washing up brush, are the tools of the conservator. Kris gave us an enlightening demonstration of the cleaning technique, so we were fully briefed on what to do.

Everybody then grabbed a bucket of water and various brushes and set to work on cleaning some of the more recent gravestones (we are after all beginners and thus needed to gain experience before tackling the more challenging older stones).

We rounded off the day with a final hymn: "To God be the glory", followed by tea and cake.

**Graham Vincent**

## **Do join us for Wild Church!**

Sunday 11th June 3pm – Returning to Colstrope

Sunday 9th July 3pm – Down by the River, Medmenham



## **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. 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

Mardi Wilkins mardidi43@btinternet.com

Angela Magee angela.magee@yahoo.co.uk

The Revd Sue Morton Tel: 01491  
639286/07808 517347

Email: suemorton131@gmail.com

www.wycombedeanery.com



Henley on Thames Churches Debt Centre was set up in Henley during 2022 to meet the proven needs of local residents in severe financial hardship with unmanageable levels of debt. Both Citizens Advice and NOMAD, the local community / food bank charity have strongly encouraged our formation. We are affiliated to the national charity “Christians Against Poverty” (CAP) who provide us with professional financial advice in return for contracted monthly fees and are regulated by the FCA. However, we remain responsible locally for all our costs of operation.

We aim to support up to 48 local families a year with debt advice to resolve financial hardship. We do not pay off people’s debts but rather help them to restructure their finances in a viable way to become debt-free, giving them a sense of hope and self-respect.

A typical CAP client is facing severe debt often with the threat of bailiffs, eviction and looming bankruptcy. A CAP intervention helps them to restructure all their debts, often obtaining a repayment schedule at beneficial interest rates over a long period to help restore financial stability

2023 plans include:

- After Easter '23, running life-skills courses to improve self organisation, budgeting and even cookery skills. Our first course commences 20th April and runs for 8 consecutive weeks
- Opening a Job Club to help local residents find suitable work opportunities. We are advertising for a Job Club Manager

amongst local Church congregations with a closing date of 21st April. Subject to appointing a suitable candidate and completing training, we plan to open the Job Club by July '23

- Recruiting an additional Debt Coach to increase our capacity to provide debt advice to 48 families a year. Subject to successful fundraising, we plan to advertise this vacancy in September '23 and become operational in Jan '24

There is no requirement to be a Christian to take up any of these services, which are free to all users. The only restriction is that the client lives within the Henley & outlying areas with a postcode of RG9.

This project is based on expressing Christian faith, including the Bible’s message to “love your neighbour”. It was founded initially by four local Churches: St Mary’s Church, Trinity @ 4, Henley Baptist Church, Christchurch URC. 2023 sees The Sacred Heart Church, Henley and St Nicholas, Remenham, joining the project. Other local churches are very welcome to join us. Financial support has also been promised /provided by Henley Town Council, SODC, local trust funds, Henley Lions, Aliquando Chamber Choir and private donations.

If you would like to apply for any service, please initially contact Debbie Bruwer, CAP Henley Centre Manager, email [debbiebruwer@capuk.org](mailto:debbiebruwer@capuk.org), or mobile 07379 040116, who will give you more information and help you.

If you would like to offer any assistance or volunteer to support, please contact Terry Grourk, Trustee mobile 07768 610213 or email [terrygrourk@icloud.com](mailto:terrygrourk@icloud.com) We are a registered charity and have obtained HMRC approval to offer Gift Aid on any donations. (Charity No: 1199558)

**The Revd Jeremy Tayler**



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## Fridge Pet - lockdown inspired



My cool pet - Bubbles - is 3 years old. He's kept in the fridge; comes out to play and feed once a week; floats on water; has a very poor carbon footprint, generating loads of carbon dioxide; is riven with bacteria and ... smells.

Sometimes Bubbles is depressed, cold and swimming in a horrible goo, but, at his best, he overflows with excitement. He has inspired moments of sheer joy and pride and it all started when we became "locked down" or ... locked in.

March 2020: shopping became hard; supermarket deliveries involve many "substitutes"; sourdough bread was in short supply and many folk warmed to home baking but - the bread machine did not do... sourdough. Hands, a pet, some science and patience were needed. The learning curve was steep but rewards came daily and for three years thereafter. Amazingly satisfying.

That first slice off a fresh warm loaf, a splash of olive oil, dressed with Bovril or honey or just steaming with melted butter is close to gastronomic bliss. Soft centred, crisp at the edges, hints of herbs and fruit - thoroughly, thoroughly, scrummy.

Bubbles took 10 days to germinate, YouTube is full of advice for starters but how hard can a water and flour mix be? He now has a favourite jar; knows where in the kitchen he prefers to rest and get ready. He sort of smiles

when keen to go - lots of bubbles - and always knows that I will never use too much of him.

We've added him to many a mix including garlic and olives and even an after eight mint that was spare. We've tried lots of messy, finger sticking, kneading with wet and dry work surfaces but now pull and stretch in a bowl a few times during the day and leave in fridge overnight, along with a refreshed Bubbles. I am sure they chat.

Recipe:

Three cups of strong white; three of whole grain; 3 spoons fennel seeds; 1 fenugreek; teaspoon of salt; 3 to 4 grabs of mixed currants; 3 cups 'ish, water and 2/3rds of bubbling Bubbles. Stretched and pulled during day, fridge overnight. Proved with sesame seeds sprinkled all over and sometimes a dollop of black treacle, for 4 hours or so next day; cooked for 40 mins (200C) in cast iron pot with lid and then naked for 15 mins ... perfecto sourdough loaf.

Such fun,

**Chris Howgego**

## WILDLIFE

### Frieth Natural History Society

Calling all orchid lovers and anyone wanting to learn more about these fascinating native plants.

For our June Event, Frieth Natural History Society are visiting a local nature reserve renowned for its orchids. If you are free on the morning of Tuesday 6th June, do please join us as we have arranged for an expert to show us round.

Anyone is welcome, but for further details and to book your place please make contact.

Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586, FNHS2023@gmail.com

**Mary Webb**

## HAMBLEDEN

### In praise of the hairy-footed flower bee (*Anthophora plumipes*)



I am excited because cob bricks I made last year for hairy-footed flower bees are currently being used by two females of this species. These creatures are 10-11mm, resembling bumble bees in shape and have quite a high-pitched buzz. They dart about rather than fly smoothly which helps identify them. The males arrive on the scene in February and are ginger in colour with hair on their faces, legs and feet. Sometime later, females appear with their beautiful black bodies, pale orange hairs on front and mid legs and a ginger pollen brush on their hind legs. They like to excavate nests in cob walls, soft mortar or underground and numbers of individual nest cavities can reach the hundreds at suitable venues. I watch HFFBs here every year, they love lungwort (pulmonaria), comfrey and dead-nettles of which there are plenty but I have never discovered a nest site. John Walters, an entomologist, has good numbers of HFFBs using his homemade cob bricks with ready-made holes so I loosely followed a YouTube video of his (<https://youtu.be/HWGxlivcw9g>) in anticipation of similar success. It's a messy process but fun to do especially, I imagine, with children. My dried mud, clay and straw apartment blocks were temporarily occupied by all sorts of insects simply seeking shelter last year but not by HFFBs. Perhaps because my cobbled together cob, dried very hard indeed and I am not sure I got the depth of hole correct either. This year, the bricks were again spurned but then I remembered the possible depth issue. I carefully checked the holes were empty and grabbed a drill. I had nothing to lose and

seconds later they were back in various dry sunny spots with longer tunnels. Within days various entrances were being checked out and I now have two busy tenants. Finally, thanks to John Walters, I can study these beautiful bees in closer detail right outside my back door and learn. Judging by little piles of debris beneath the entrances, certain internal dimensions were somewhat off because both females have made further alterations but overall, my efforts have proved satisfactory. Their season is March until early June and they are confined to the south of England and Wales. The photographs show a male sheltering from the rain and a female flying in with her pollen brush clearly visible and laden.

**Sarah Ronan**

## HAMBLEDEN

### Long Live the King! Long Live Hambleden Community Spirit!

Our joyful celebrations began with a church service in St Mary's. The church was full of locals and their visitors, the organ was played on par with Westminster Abbey by Shean Bowers and Revd Sue Morton gave us a thoughtful reflection on the coronation. The service ended with the glorious ding-donging of the Hambleden Bellringers who had been practising their 'Ring for the King' for months including some new members.

The celebration then moved onto the Dene. We were greeted by the creatively decorated marquee, tables and gazebos. Penny Hurtle won the best decorated gazebo. The Hambleden Bellringers won the best decorated table. Humph Armstrong won the best crown. Our impartial and gracious judge was Mr Paul Webb.

After delicious picnic lunches and under the blazing sun, we enjoyed the afternoon listening and dancing to the 'The Spinning Orchids' or bouncing on the bouncy castles.

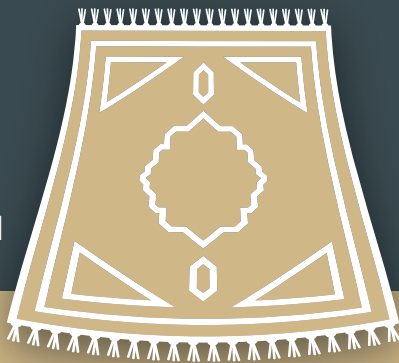
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# Church Services and Events

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## From The Registers

### Holy Matrimony

May 2	Marius Pretorius and Sarah Harris	Hamblenden
May 5	James Loughridge and Jennifer Anderson	Hamblenden
May 12	Steven Gabb and Lianna Harris	Hamblenden

### Rest in Peace

April 25	Robin Sanderson	Cremation and Thanksgiving, Hamblenden
April 28	John Swinglehurst	Funeral and Burial, Fawley
April 28	Margaret Drage	Service of Thanksgiving, Turville
May 5	Diana Squires	Cremation and Thanksgiving, Turville



## 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: [hamblendenvalleyprayergroup@gmail.com](mailto:hamblendenvalleyprayergroup@gmail.com)

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## Sunday Services

### Pattern of Worship June 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 Churchyard Prayers at Fawley on Fridays. These prayers are continuing despite the building work but there are no church services at Fawley for six months due to re-ordering of the church building, 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
28th May		6pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion/Zoom	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion	9am
Fri 2nd June			7.30pm Footprints				
4th June			10am Group Service				none
11th June		9am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion 3pm Wild Church (Colstroe)			none
18th June			9am Holy Communion/Zoom	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Prayer	11am Village Service		9am
25th June		6pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion/Zoom	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion	9am
2nd July					10am Group Service		

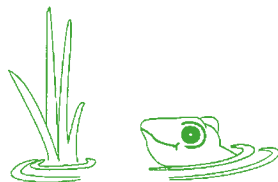
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Given the fantastic weather, many people stayed around chatting and imbibing until the evening.

Huge thanks to all who made the day possible: Fran Keene for bravely leading the planning committee; Mr and Mrs Peter Steward who generously donated the marquee; The Parish Council, Sports and Social Club, The Community Group and Gwyneth Ashcroft for the beautiful posters. Thank you!

### Revd Sue Lepp

## Teas in the Churchyard

**Come and join us** for Tea and Cake in Hambleton Churchyard every Bank Holiday Monday and Sunday afternoons 14:00 to 17:00 from Sunday 28th May until the Sunday 24th September. If it's raining we will still be there but inside the Church.

Cakes will range from tasty Lemon Drizzle, traditional Fruit Cake, gooey Chocolate Cake, divine Coffee and Walnut Cake, scented Pear Pistachio and Rosewater Cake, sticky Flapjacks, chocolatey chocolate Brownies and many many more tempting flavours.

Each Sunday is run by a group of local people who give their time and make most of the cakes and delicacies. On a rare occasion a bought cake appears! Some weeks we even have wonderful homemade savoury cakes and quiche/flans. It all depends on who is running Teas that Sunday.

On some Sundays there will be live music. Violinists, a Ukulele group or even a choir or two will surprise you by performing in the church/churchyard...but not every week.

### The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Hambleton

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The Norman church had a central tower which collapsed in 1703 and a new tower was built at the west end in 1721, .....come and learn more.



## Coronation Commemoration



St Mary the Virgin Hambleton was a riot of patriotic colour on Sunday 7th May as we came together for a special service to commemorate the Coronation. Every pew was full and the congregation sported creative nods to the colours of our flag, from bright blue jeans to scarlet jumpers and Union Jack scarves. It all contributed to an overwhelming feeling of joy and patriotism.

The Revs Sue Lepp and Sue Morton led us in a simple and reflective service, but one where the mood was entirely celebratory. We loudly sang perennial favourite hymns, *Be Thou My Vision* and *Praise my Soul the King of Heaven*, and joined in prayers for the King and the world led by members of the congregation handpicked (pleasantly ambushed?!) by Rev Sue Lepp as they entered the church.

Rev Sue Morton gave the reflection, asking us to consider what stood out for us this coronation weekend. Beyond thoughts of quiche and chicken, she suggested that, like the newly crowned King, we too are God's anointed, chosen holy people, called to serve Him and each other. And that, like King Charles, we cannot do this alone, but with the strength that comes from God Himself to help us.



## Skirmett Village Hall

A bright lovely hall with fully equipped kitchen in the Hambleton Valley available for meetings, workshops classes and parties. Website: [Skirmettvillagehall.org](http://Skirmettvillagehall.org). For bookings Contact Mandy Heller 01491638355

## FAWLEY

We finished the service with a joyous rendition of *Jerusalem* followed by the National Anthem, and left the church to the peals of the bells in a special Ring for the King. A truly stirring commemoration of the Coronation of King Charles III from the Hambleden valley.

**Victoria Whittley**

### **HAMBLEDEN VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE**

Notice of Annual General Meeting  
Tuesday 27th June 2023  
7pm  
Hambleden Village Hall  
ALL WELCOME

The Committee is seeking new members to take the village hall forward and inject new ideas. Please come and hear how YOU can help keep this fantastic village amenity running. If you would like to join the Committee please email [helenjaneturner@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helenjaneturner@hotmail.co.uk) or come to the AGM!



## Open Gardens Hambleden Village

**Saturday 10th June 12-4 pm**

Tickets : Adults £5, children free  
available on the day from Village Hall

### Summer Market & Pop Up Cafe Village Hall 10 - 4 pm

Free Parking - Sorry No Dogs

Proceeds in aid of Hambleden Village Hall  
Registered Charity Number 300275



## FAWLEY

### **Fawley Beating the Bounds**



The ancient tradition of beating the bounds is rarely observed in today's world of maps and technology. Not so in Fawley however where, on Sun 14th May, the annual walk once again took place.

The custom of beating the bounds dates back to Medieval days

when, once a year on Rogation Sunday, the village boundary was walked by clergy and the children of the parish in order to reaffirm the territory. Each boundary stone was struck with a stick and, according to legend, each child turned upside down and their head knocked against the stone to reinforce their memory. Thus, each generation was able to pass on this knowledge to the next. It also determined important issues, such as where parishioners could graze their livestock, or the limits between different jurisdictions.

Continued on page 21



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This year, third generation Fawleyite Jon Sloper, led the walk which started at the church, taking in almost eleven miles of countryside before returning to the start point. Keen to maintain the tradition that his father and grandfather took part in every year, Jon happily volunteered to step in for Jane Maskell who was unable to lead on this occasion. We set out in brilliant sunshine, leaving the village via Roundhouse, making our way down Dairy Lane, crossing the Henley-Marlow road and over to the riverside at Temple Island before a saunter into Henley. Leaving Henley on the Fairmile, we headed sharp right, up into the hills and through woodlands into Bix.

Pond Cottage in Fawley marked the halfway point where the walk's founder, Alfred Waller, joined us for the second half. Now in his late eighties, Alfred's knowledge of palaeontology and the countryside meant the walk slowed into a brilliant learning lesson on Chiltern flint, flora, and fauna. Taking in Fawley Bottom and Bosmore, before returning to Fawley in the late afternoon, the miles and hours disappeared in no time.

Sadly, with just three of us to mark the auspicious occasion this year, the tradition looks as if it might well die out. Happily, however, I can report that no children were picked up to have their heads tapped against a boundary stone! With near perfect weather, a picnic-stop, and ice-cold drinks supplied at the halfway point, it couldn't have been a better day to observe this time-honoured tradition. Until next year then!

**Sara Horner**

**FRIETH**

**Frieth School**

I hope everyone enjoyed the bank holidays and in particular the King's Coronation. We had a special assembly in school and I know the children had lots of exciting things

planned with their families to mark this historic occasion.

We continue to have a big focus on saving the planet here at Frieth. A big well done to the winners of our ECO Week poster competition. Keep your eyes out for the winning designs which have been placed all around the local area to remind people to clear up their litter. I would to offer a huge thanks to Linda Brown and 'Greener Frieth' for organising the competition and the generous prizes you provided for our winners!



The children have also created posters linked to Earth Day and helping our pollinators. We were very fortunate to welcome in Lane End Parish Councillor, Donna Graham, who awarded some of the children with prizes.



The Year 5/6 netball team continue their unbeaten run with a stunning 7-1 league win against Carrington. Not to be outdone, our Year 4/5 netball team had a great win away against St. Paul's 6-0. It has been fantastic to hear such high praise for Frieth's players and coaches from our opposition. You should all be proud!

## FINGEST



Well done to our rugby team who played brilliantly in their match against Lowbrook Academy a few weeks back. In an absolutely cracking game that could have gone either way, congratulations to Lowbrook who just edged it 15-14. Thanks for hosting and great to see such sportsmanship and respect between the teams.



**Martin Gosling**  
**Headteacher**

## FINGEST

### Fingest News

On the afternoon of the Coronation, and despite the rain, the folk of Fingest turned out in numbers to toast our King “on the Verge” in Chequers Lane. Ancient and modern bunting adorned our reliable marquees and the champagne flowed. It was good to welcome new and longstanding residents and to spot the sparks of new friendships developing. Don Boreham, now our oldest male resident proposed the Loyal Toast with great aplomb, three cheers rang out and a remarkably tuneful rendition of the National Anthem brought the



afternoon to an end. Thank you to everyone who helped in so many ways both before, during and after the event.

**Jill Dean**

### Fingest Past

#### Fingest Village Hall (2)

The Village Hall opened for business in early 1933. In March of that year there were 130 members paying a membership fee of four shillings per year. On Saturday the 4th March 1933 an evening of entertainment followed by a dance was held in the Hall. The membership had increased to nearly 150 by August the same year with over 50 belonging to a slate



club run by the Hall. Slate clubs were friendly



Advertisement for Fingest Village Hall published in the Fingest and Ibstone Parish Magazine April, 1936 and a ticket for entertainment and dance held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 1933

societies where a member paid a subscription in order to receive maintenance when unable to work through sickness or infirmity. The hall provided a library as well as catering for all the usual events of a village hall as shown in the advertisement.

The Hall was run by a general committee of twenty-four made up of members from the three villages. The main committee was divided into sub-committees responsible for entertainment, catering, library etc. The Hall closed during the summer months as people were busy in their gardens and there were other events taking place locally. The membership gradually fell off and in the summer of 1937 the hall was closed and the furniture removed. However, during the Second World War it served as an Air Raid Wardens Post and it also hosted wedding receptions. The Hall was eventually sold, dismantled and re-erected at Ibstone.

## Don Boreham



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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:** 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,  
Tuesdays, 3 - 4.30pm  
Sue Brice, 01491 638788, mail@suebrice.com

**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

**Frieth Natural History Society:**  
Mary (01494 881501), Andy (01494 881586),  
FNHS2023@gmail.com

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

**Frieth Cricket Club:**  
Ben Smiley  
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

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

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

**Deputy Churchwarden:**  
Sharon Smith 01628 487458 sharon-  
smith0505@btinternet.com

**Bell Ringing:** Fri 6.45pm practice, Helen or  
Karen, hambledenbells@mycomputer.email

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

**Pilates:** Mondays 11 – 12 Fran Presho,  
07951 019594

**Bridge Club:** Fridays 1.30 – 4.30  
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**Hambleden Social and Sports Club:** Open  
daily from 8 pm Pat Eldridge,  
01491 576067

**Tennis Club:** Heather Symons,  
01491 577344, heathersymons16@hotmail.com

**Tennis Coaching:** Chris Marshall,  
07801 999230, chrismarshall20@hotmail.com

**Indoor Market:** Hambleden, 2nd Saturday in  
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## **Medmenham (St Peter and St Paul)**

### **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@danefeldscouts.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,  
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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

## **Magazine details**

**Editor:** Penny McLeish,  
01491 571288,  
hambledenvalleyeditor@gmail.com

**New subscriptions:** Penny McLeish,  
01491 571288, penny\_mcleish@hotmail.com

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

## **Distributors:**

Fawley: Hilary Beck-Burridge, 01491 413171;  
Fingest: Brian Barnes, 01494 882613;  
Frieth: Tony Parkins, 01494 882170;  
Hambleden: Samantha Webb, 01491 414418;  
Medmenham: Jim Tilbury, 01628 487135;  
Mill End: Robert Spicer, 01491 577747;  
Northend: Susie Phillips, 01491 639584;  
Elizabeth Arnott, 01491 638337,  
Sarah Evans, 01491 639240;  
Pheasants Hill: Kate Hussey, 01491 576913;  
Skirmett: Bessie Webb, 01491 638574;  
Southend: Valmai Pickett 01491 638523;  
Turville: Anne Jones, 01491 639344;  
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