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Group Magazine

Hambleton
with Frieth
& Skirmett
Fawley
Fingest
Meamensham
Turville

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Mar 2024



The Hambleton Valley Group of Churches

"To see our lives and communities transformed by the love of God"



Cover: Mirabelle plum trees, Mill End. This page: Spring violets.

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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
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Please keep articles within 350 words. Copy
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Group Letter

Long, long ago a music student sought distraction from her reading in the library to rifle through some local newspapers. Her eye was caught by the Marlow newspaper's advert for an organist in Hambleden. £100 per year: what a sum! She knew she was an accomplished organist already, having been cycling to Purley-on-Thames to practise playing the church organ since she had grown long enough to reach the pedals!

She applied for the post and was thrilled to start a life-long career directing music for Hambleden, Frieth, and beyond. 67 happy years have passed with her leading the choir and filling the Valley with heavenly anthems, during which she has achieved and received a variety of accolades. Here is a photo of her receiving her "British Empire Medal" from the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire in 2013. You probably know, she eschews the limelight!



It has been a great but brief pleasure for me to meet and befriend our wonderful Christine and

stories about her abound. It seems everyone has been in her choir and all are proud to say so! Sadly, I now find myself conducting funerals for old choir members and their families and there is only one person they request to play at the service.

Last month Christine's own article explained she has reached the point of stepping down as Director of Music. Time waits for no one. Yet we look forward to a joyous "Christine Choral Evensong" on Palm Sunday, 24th March, when she shall play pieces and settings of her choosing and be presented with the title Organist Emeritus, allowing her to continue to play on an ad hoc basis as she steps down as Director. Do join us then.

And Christine, may I take these pages to thank you sincerely, on behalf of all of my 8 predecessors you have worked with, all the choirs down the ages, all the parishioners and their families, for your dedication, expertise, commitment, patience, energy, excellence and service over these near seven decades!

Andy Storch

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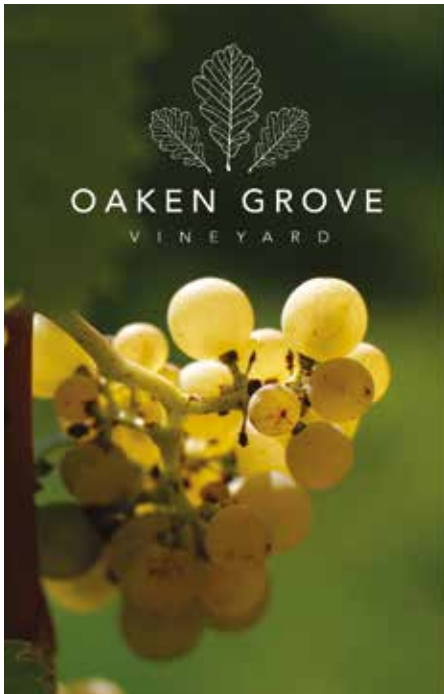


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GROUP NOTES AND NEWS

The Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson



It was with enormous shock and sadness that Hambleton Valley Group of Churches learned of the sudden death of our bishop on Saturday 17th February.

A special prayer written by The Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, was said at all our services the following day and the family, Lucy his wife, their five children and all the extended family were remembered in our intercessions. Our bishop since 2003, Alan Wilson was loved and appreciated by so many and will be acutely missed. He was at the start of a well-earned and long overdue sabbatical and was planning to retire in only two years. Bishop Steven's tribute



includes: "He has offered remarkable leadership to our work in education and church schools over more than a decade. Alan has been a friend and advocate for survivors of abuse and a strong ally and supporter

of the LGBTQIA+ community for many years." The Archdeacon of Buckingham, the Ven Guy Elsmore, added: "We have lost a courageous, wise and exceptional pastoral leader and teacher. Alan's ministry was centred in people, in valuing every person he met and in the quest to expand the circle of the Church's love to embrace all. He will be deeply missed by us all."

Revd Andy Storch

HAMBLEDEN VALLEY GROUP OF CHURCHES

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TO ST MARY THE VIRGIN HAMBLEDEN

FOR A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING



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Wild Church!

The Deanery Wild Lent Pilgrimage 11th February 2024 hosted by the Hambleden Valley Wild Church



We finally arrived at the cross in Hambleden churchyard and heard Jesus's words: *"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."* We were not physically all that weary, but we were glad of the cuppa and scrumptious cakes generously provided for us. Some had come "burdened" with backpacks containing First Aid kit, or water bottle, or waterproofs, or emergency rations for the kids, or even the you-know-what for the dog!



Earlier we'd set off from Skirmett, and heard how Jesus sent his disciples out with nothing for their journey: no bread, no money, no

spare shirt, but I didn't notice anybody putting stuff back in their cars! Our lifestyle is easy: we don't gladly accept hardship. Yet Lent is the time we remember Jesus being sent into the wilderness to be tempted for 40 days: that is hardship.

A gentle stroll down the soft green valley parallel to the Hambleden Brook: not exactly wild-erness, even if organised by Wild Church! But every half mile or so, we stopped to let everyone catch up, then hear a few words of scripture and a brief challenge from one of the ministers, and sing a verse or two from *My Song is Love Unknown*. Everyone listened intently, including the children and the dogs! Though the children did have clipboards with activities specially for them.



Some prayed as they walked; some talked to old friends and new friends; some noted yet another robin every 100 yards or so, singing and marking his territory, or tried counting the hundreds of molehills, or pondered the leafless blackthorn just beginning its 5-petalled starlet flowers. All enjoyed the tale of the topiary worm gobbling all but the wellies. We were thankful for the excellent organisers and planners, and they and we were thankful for a dry and mild day.

At the end of it all we thanked the Lord for a lovely day out and a great start to Lent. All that's left is to put into practice what we experienced, and that will be the challenge!

Mike Hill



Join us for Wild Church future dates –

**Sunday 10th March 3pm:
A Wild Mothering Sunday!**

on the Green in front of Frieth Church
(inside the church if inclement weather).

**Sunday 14th April 3pm:
Wild Gardening!**

at The Lady Ryder Memorial Garden, St
Katharine's, Parmoor.

Wild Church takes place every second
Sunday at a different outdoor venue each
month!

Please do dress to suit the weather!

Do join us – we would love to see you!



The Wild Church Team

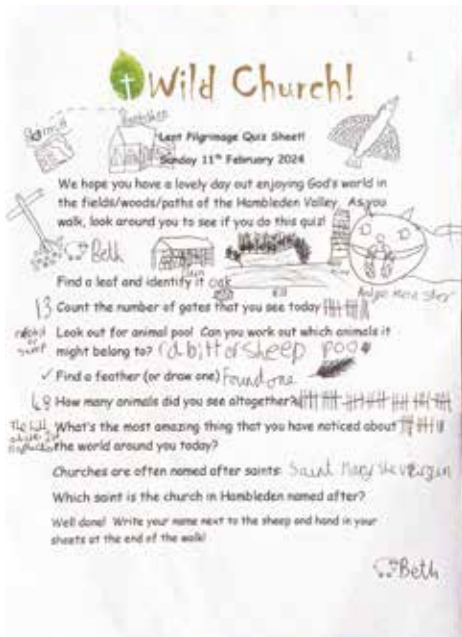
Rev Sue Morton 01491
639286/07808 517347 or

suemorton131@gmail.com

Mary Campbell

grandma.marycampbell@googlemail.com

Mardi Wilkins mardi43@btinternet.com



**MAUNDY THURSDAY
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HALL**

Join us on Thursday 28th March
2024 at 7pm

to share a meal and hear from
the point of view of the disciples
how that last meal was, and from
scripture the words of Jesus.

Communion will be taken and
we will leave in silence to reflect.

There will be a charge of £10
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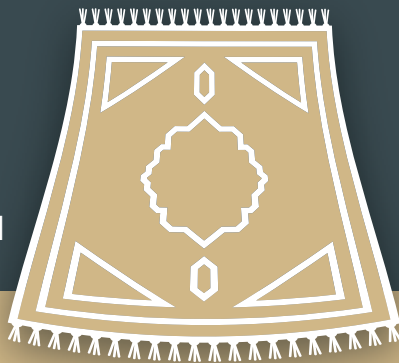
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Footprints:

A special Service of Remembrance for the loss of a child:

Sunday 3rd March 2024 at 3pm

St Peter & St Paul's Church, Medmenham SL7 2HF

On Sunday 3rd March at 3pm, we will be holding our annual Footprints Service at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Medmenham SL7 2HF. This annual service takes place the weekend before Mother's Day, a time when the loss of a child can be particularly difficult. It may be a time 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.

Footprints is a special 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 warmly 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.

For more details please contact:

The Revd Sue Morton Tel: 01491 639286/07808 517347

Email: suemorton131@gmail.com

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**Community Matters Update:
February 2024**

For a family we had supported three years previously, things had improved so much in their lives that they did not need Community Matters. However, now they need us again. A letter came: *“I currently have no mobile and am struggling. Trying to reach you to see if we could come to the foodbank”*. Of course, she was contacted the same day and invited to come to our foodbank in Holy Trinity Church to fill four large bags for her family and we gave her some cash to put in her meters. She had lost her job and was searching for another. It has all ended happily and we are now supporting her again until she can find employment.

Circumstances and encounters like this happen frequently in Community Matters. We have 26 families that we now help with food and some financial needs. Community Matters sees this on a daily basis. So, thank

you everyone in the Hambleden Valley for the wonderful generosity you show in your donations to us. Everything you give is much needed and very much appreciated.

Barbara Ewing

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With demand for GP services at an all-time high and a finite number of GPs your request can often be better dealt with by another primary care team member. We will always offer you an appointment with the most appropriate clinician which may be a member of our paramedic, pharmacy, nursing, health care assistant or musculoskeletal teams.

- The practice operates a triage system, which based on symptoms described uses artificial intelligence to assign urgency to the query in a safe and consistent way. If a case is flagged as urgent, we usually offer an urgent appointment within 48 hours. If a query is non urgent, we aim to advise you of an appointment date and time within 48 hours. The length of time for you to be seen routinely may be days or weeks based on demand.

Continued on page 17



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Church Services and Events

From The Registers

Rest in Peace

Jan 18	John Sandeman	Funeral and Burial, Frieth
Jan 19	Barry Campbell Taylor	Funeral and Burial, Hambleden
Jan 22	Milly Tilbury	Thanksgiving and Ashes Burial, Hambleden
Feb 2	Roy Stephen	Funeral, Medmenham and Cremation



Hambleden 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:

hambledenvalleyprayergroup@gmail.com



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Sun 9am - 2pm

CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2024

Sunday Services

Pattern of Worship March 2024

Please see below for Sunday and Holy Week 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. Please check our website www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk for latest updates or contact our administrator Jenny Neagle on 07769 599616 – hambledenvalleyoffice@gmail.com with any query.

www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk

	Fawley	Fingest	Frieth	Hambleden	Medmenham	Turville
3rd March		10am Group Service			3pm Footprints	
10th March	11am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion	3pm Wild Church, Mothering Sunday	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Mothering Sunday informal family service
17th March			9am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Worship	11am Village Service	
Palm Sunday 24th March	11am Holy Communion	10am Palm Sunday Procession and family service		6pm Evening Service and Presentation to Christine Wells		
Monday 25th March	7.30pm Compline					
Tuesday 26th March		7.30pm Compline				
Wednesday 27th March			7.30pm Compline			10.15am Holy Communion
Good Friday 29th March	12noon Fri prayers			2pm The Last Hour at the Cross		
Easter Sunday 31st March	11am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Possible outdoor service
7th April					10am Group Service	

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- We are a member practice of the ARC Primary Care Network who offer additional clinical and non-clinical services such as talking and digital cafes. Patients can self-refer to their Social Prescribing and Health and Wellbeing Coaches. Website: <https://arcbuckspcn.org/>.

**Raymond Cavendish
Digital Support Champion
Marlow Medical Group**

WILDLIFE

Henley Toad Patrol 2024

It was migrating mayhem last night beside the Marlow Road. There were astonishing scenes along the length of the toad barrier which was erected by Henley Toad Patrol at the end of January. Hundreds of toads emerged from Culden Faw woods, were gently gathered by volunteers into buckets and taken safely across the A4155 to their spawning pond. Muddy, wet individuals and I am talking about the volunteers here, ran a taxi service for amphibians from dusk until 00.45am. More sleepy souls (humans) arrived on site at 6.15am to fill further

bucketloads of creatures who had reached the barrier in the early hours. Professor John Sumpter collated all the volunteers' tallies and has declared 14th February 2024 as the busiest night since records began 25 years ago with a grand total of 3035.

Sarah Ronan

Frieth Natural History Society

The next meeting of FNHS will be held in Frieth Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 7th March and everyone is welcome to attend. The short AGM will be followed at 7.45pm by a talk entitled 'The World of British Bats' to be given by Veritie Turner from the North Bucks Bat Group.

"Get ready for a whistle stop tour looking into the fascinating world of the only true flying mammal. Find out lots of interesting facts about different species, what they eat, where they live, how they interact and how we can help them. Be prepared to start to understand and love these amazing creatures of the night!"

Contact details; Mary 01494 881501,
Andy 01494 881586 or
email FNHS2023@gmail.com

Mary Webb

A Naturalist's Reminiscences No.5

My Basic Training at the Northampton Regiment's Depot was a doddle since I had done it all in the CCF (Combined Cadet Force) at school. The RSM (Regimental Sergeant Major) made me Best Recruit for the Passing Out Parade. However, by then my Commanding Officer had decided that I might make a suitable officer and sent me off to WOSBY (War Office Selection Board) in Dorset. En route I had to stay at Woolwich Arsenal. The barracks had a huge dormitory full of empty steel beds. On arrival I was given a small slip of paper to certify that '23379868

HAMBLEDEN

Pte Waller' had drawn out a straw palliasse i.e. a straw mattress. I didn't sleep a wink.

The following morning, I continued on to Dorset where I had three days of tests. On my crucial 'Command Test', I was given a large heavy barrel, ropes and wooden poles with which to get this barrel over a mythical stream. Unfortunately, the barrel collapsed into the middle of the stream. On being asked by the supervising Major what I would then do, I responded 'Get the hell out quickly'. I realised immediately that perhaps that might not be the required answer. Fortunately, the Major had a sense of humour and at the end of the tests he handed me another small slip of paper indicating that I was a suitable candidate for officer training.

On return to Northampton, the RSM was not amused. It seemed he disliked all officers and promptly put me on special duties, one of which consisted of moving a large heap of coke from one side of the Guard Room to the other and back again. The other was scrubbing the cookhouse floor. At least there was some insect life to study – numerous cockroaches and maggots. The latter would transpose into Blue Bottle Flies and not moths. Then I was summoned to the CO's office who asked me how I had fared in Dorset. I handed him my small slip of paper and he almost fell off his chair laughing. He then passed it back to me. It read 'This is to certify that 23379868 Pte Waller, Sir', had drawn out a straw palliasse.

Alfred Waller

HAMBLEDEN



Easter Lilies

A lovely and long-standing tradition at Hambleden parish church has been for parishioners (church-goers and non-churchgoers) to donate lilies in remembrance of those who have been especially loved and who have departed this life. It makes a stunning display for Easter services and for the many visitors who come into church in the weeks following Easter Day.

You can add your name to the list in the church porch on or before Palm Sunday 24th March at the latest, noting how many lilies you want at £4.50 each.

Elspeth Armstrong will place an order with a florist who supplies long stem lilies. They will be timed to open on Easter eve and will be set out in the church by the flower arrangers.

You can instruct Elspeth on 01491 571324 or

Continued on page 21



Classes are held at: **Lane End Youth and Community Centre, Edmonds Road, Lane End HP14 3EJ**

For further details of Puppy School and other dog training services, please go to the Tip Top Puppy and Dog Training website or contact Melanie direct.

Melanie Mathews
Member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (01569)

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at elspetharmstrong@outlook.com. She will be happy to receive your cash or a cheque made payable to Elspeth Armstrong at Pheasants Coombe House, Hambleton RG9 6SD.

Alan Armstrong

The Hambleton Story



On April 26th I will be giving a short (45 mins) illustrated talk in the Village Hall on the history of Hambleton from the year dot to 1320. I will be covering the influences of the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons and the Normans – all of whom have contributed to the village that we all know today.

The talk will start at 7.30pm and tickets will be £5 from Hambleton Stores.

All proceed will go to the Village Hall funds.

Chris Whitehead

Hambleton Cinema

Please join us on 16th March for the 2022 American mystery drama *Where the Crawdads Sing*, rated 15, based on the best-selling novel and starring Daisy Edgar-Jones. The story follows an abandoned yet defiant girl, Kya, who raises herself to adulthood in a North Carolina marshland, becoming a naturalist in the process. When the town’s hotshot is found dead, she is the prime suspect and is tried for murder.

The trailer;

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9411972/>

Doors open 7pm, programme begins 8pm. Tickets £8 each can be bought from



www.hambletoncinema.co.uk and from Hambleton Village Stores. There will be a bar selling soft drinks, wine, beer and tempting delicious cinema snacks! In aid of raising funds for Hambleton Village Hall Registered Charity 30027.

Hambleton Cinema Team

FRIETH

Frieth School

Can you believe we are already half way through the school year! It’s been another great half term with lots going on at Frieth.

Eagles class got really into their Victorian day! Mrs Lampard and I had lots of fun getting into character and administering some Victorian style punishments and the children were even fortunate enough to get a visit from the honourable Reverend Burn! Well done Year 6 for the great effort with outfits and being good sports.



schools. Miss Steventon and the children had been working tirelessly to prepare for the event which was clear to see in their performance.

Kites class had a brilliant day at the Ashmolean Museum. In the morning they had a self-guided tour exploring Pre-Historic Britain, looking at artefacts from the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. In the afternoon, they took part in a brilliant workshop on the impact of the Romans on Britain.

As always, a highlight of the year was the Young Voices Concert. Along with thousands of children from other schools, forty-six Frieth pupils headed up to Wembley Arena where they performed a range of wonderful songs along with thousands of pupils from other



Martin Gosling
Headteacher



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. For bookings Contact Mandy Heller 01491 638355.

Forest School Leader

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1.00pm to 3:30pm (7.5 hours) Term Time Only Closing date: 28/03/2024. Interviews: Date to be confirmed. Bucks Pay Band 7 SP 36 is £21.72 per hour (Inclusive of holiday pay)

We are looking for someone to join our team to lead our thriving Forest School. The successful candidate will be passionate about outdoor learning and is required to plan and deliver forest school sessions. The role would be operating during term time weeks under a casual contract. Experience is preferred but not essential as full training will be provided. For more details, please contact Martin Gosling (Headteacher) via office@friethschool.co.uk or telephone 01494 881554.

Frieth CEC Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The role is subject to a successful DBS check and pre-employment checks which will be undertaken before an appointment is confirmed.

Applications will be considered on receipt after which suitable candidates will be invited to interview prior to closing date.

FINGEST

Celebrating Candlemas at Evensong St Bartholomew 28th January 2024



As has been the tradition in recent years a Group Candlemas Evensong was held at St Bartholomew. 176 candles were lit (beating our previous record) creating an atmosphere so appropriate for the service. The Church was full, and we were delighted to welcome worshippers from churches outside the valley, particularly our neighbours in the South Chiltern group. We were blessed to have both Andy and Sue to lead us in worship and to retell the story of Jesus’ presentation to God in the Temple; to remind us of Simeon declaring



Jesus to be a “Light to the World”. The service ended with the congregation blowing out their candles and Andy reflecting that the light of Christ lives on in us.

Thank you to everyone who made this such a special service.

St Bartholomew feels privileged to be the place where evening prayer or compline has been celebrated once a month for many years and is currently the only regular monthly evening worship. These traditional services give a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a time for peaceful prayer and reflection before the bustle of Monday ... we look forward to seeing you soon!

Jill Dean

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Rock, North Cornwall.

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Isle of Mull. The Bothy sleeps 4, available for weekly holiday lets, and The Studio sleeps 2, available for 2-5 nights. An ideal peaceful location for exploring this beautiful island. Wonderful panoramic views, walks, beaches, wildlife. Visit www.thesmithymull.co.uk for more information.

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Do You Need Your Logs Stacking and/or Leaf Clearance? If so then please contact Tom on 07866 683383.

Group Yoga Classes in Hambleden Every Thursday Evening
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CHURCH AND VILLAGE ACTIVITIES AND CONTACTS

Hambleton Valley Group of Churches

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd. Andy Storch,
07811 430898, Revandystorch@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,
hambletonvalleyoffice@gmail.com

Weddings and Blessings: Jenny Neagle,
07769 599616,
hambletonvalleyoffice@gmail.com

Tea Club: St. Katharine's, Parmoor,
Tuesdays, 3 - 4.30pm
Wendy Duerden, 01491 638297,
wendy.duerden@techademic.net

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

Hambleton Valley Garden Club:
Meetings October-March on the first Tuesday
of the month, Frieth Village Hall.
Clair Honnor 07773 387195

Website:
www.hambleton-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

Hambleton (St Mary the Virgin)

Churchwarden:

Jill Steward 01491 571320
jillsteward@hambleton.com

Deputy Churchwarden:

Sharon Smith 01628 487458
sharonsmith0505@btinternet.com

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

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

Pilates: Mondays 11 – 12 Fran Presho,
07951 019594

Bridge Club: Fridays 1.30 – 4.30
Frances Cugnioni, 01491 576409

Hambleton Social and Sports Club: Open
daily from 8pm Pat Eldridge,
01491 576067

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

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

Medmenham (St Peter and St Paul)

Churchwarden:

Vacant.

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

Turville (St Mary the Virgin)

Church Warden:

Caroline Sants, 01491 638994
turvillechurchwardens@gmail.com

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

Sunday School: Sara Harman,
01491 639211

Artists' studios: Turville Studios open the
first Sunday of every month 11am-4pm.
Angela Fois turvillestudios@aol.com
www.turvillestudios.co.uk

Turville Northend

Village Hall Bookings:

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

Yoga: Tuesdays 7pm, Andrea 07496 281341

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
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