

# Hambleton VALLEY

## *Group Magazine*



*Hambleton  
with Frieth  
& Skirmett  
Fawley  
Findest  
Medmenham  
Turville*

**£2.00**  
Sept 2025



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



Cover: New planter, St John the Evangelist, Frieth - A warm welcome awaits all ... Photo Jolyon Marshall. This page: Holly Blue Butterfly on Oregano.

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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. (see pages 26 and 27)

All contributions are welcome, to the Editor, Penny McLeish

[hambledenvalleyeditor@gmail.com](mailto:hambledenvalleyeditor@gmail.com)

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

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### Group Letter



The sheaves had behaved themselves and remained upright in Hambleden Church, we had sung enthusiastically *We Plough the Fields and Scatter* and everyone was ready to step outside into the warm September sunshine for the harvest lunch at the Village Hall.

But once outside we stopped in amazement: during the Harvest Festival service it had snowed! We were confused. It was warm and sunny, yet the cottage roofs were white with fallen snow. We then realised that the village was a film set for the Christmas advertisement of a well-known department store. Things were

not as they seemed, but there again, things aren't always as they seem.

As we approach the beginning of our harvest services in the Hambleden Valley Churches throughout September and October, we know that we live in a world that is not always as it seems.

In Buckinghamshire, a seemingly affluent county, I discovered recently that one in eight children is living in poverty. In the beautiful countryside around us, our farmers – especially thinking of those in the Hambleden Valley - are met with all kinds of challenges, including weather-related, which affect their harvest, crops and animal feed.

But thankfully, harvest is also a time when we are able to make a difference. The Hambleden Valley already offers support to two foodbanks: Community Matters in Lane End and the One Can Trust in High Wycombe. However, following the summer holidays, stocks are always low or depleted as there have been no school meals available for the children.

At harvest time we have opportunities to replenish the stocks for those who find themselves needing to use the foodbanks. Goods can be brought to the harvest services - we have a wonderful variety of services on offer and would love to see you! Or perhaps come along to a special concert on 10th September (see inside for all details), raising funds for Community Matters, so that winter does not come early for families. And let's keep praying for our farmers, so that they are not left out in the cold.

**God bless  
Sue**

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## GROUP NOTES

### Peter Taylor CBE



What a lovely picture of Peter Taylor and Irene Barrett at Windsor Castle just after Peter had been invested as a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) by Anne, the Princess Royal. Congratulations, Peter.

In the era of 'fake' news it is so refreshing to have a dedicated, old school, real professional journalist recognised for a lifetime's work - reporting the 'facts'. Peter is renowned not only for his bravery in covering 'The Troubles' in Northern Ireland but for earning the trust of all sides in this decades long confrontation. His televised interviews with individuals who openly admitted murder, and who could easily have arranged his demise, will stay with many of us for years. He was a rare Englishman to be invited to Martin McGuinness's wake and one of the few English journalists invited to Ian Paisley's memorial service.

Peter makes a very modest Commander within our valley, deserving of the term 'veteran' after more than fifty years of reporting and analysing conflict in Northern Ireland and elsewhere as well as writing ten

books, including a landmark investigation into the tobacco industry.

Peter and Irene live above Hambleden at Parmoor and are regular consumers of Church Teas where they will be happy to share the experience of their special day at Windsor.

**Chris Howgego**

### Jeanne Keene Celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday



As many of you already know, Jeanne Keene, formerly of Colstrope Farm Hambleden, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Monday 14th July. She now resides at Chiltern Grange Care Home at Stokenchurch. Her first party, on her birthday, was celebrated at the care home with many local friends and delicious food! Her second party was held at Hambleden Village Hall for her family. Jeanne would like to thank friends and neighbours for their cards and kind wishes.

**Fran Keene**



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# Wild Church!

**Do join us for our next and future Wild Church in 2025!**



**Sunday 14th September 3pm:**

Making Wild Harvest Sheaves,  
Meet at Colstrop Farm



**Sunday 12th October 3pm:**

Wild Bread Making TBC  
Harvest in Frieth



**Sunday 9th November:**

Wild Church at Remembrance.

At Wild Church we meet outdoors at different venues on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. Everyone is warmly welcome!



**Wild Church Team:**

Rev Sue Morton 07808 517347 or  
[suemorton131@gmail.com](mailto:suemorton131@gmail.com)

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

Magdalena Dabrowska  
[somd10206@gmail.com](mailto:somd10206@gmail.com)

## Hambleden Valley Tea Club



The tea club had their last meeting before the summer break on 22nd July at Greenlands, Henley, on the banks of the Thames. We had an amazing tea of sandwiches and cake with a stroll in the gardens afterwards.



If you would like to join us the Tea Club is held every Tuesday afternoon 2.15 to 4.30pm, usually at St Katharine's, Parmoor, but sometimes in Frieth Village Hall. Activities vary – games, speakers, quizzes, films and occasional outings. There is no age limit or entrance exam! Just be prepared to meet new people and have some fun. Lifts can be arranged. Our first meeting of the new term is 16th September when we hope to hear about Hearing Dogs.



For more information contact:  
[wendyduerden@techademic.net](mailto:wendyduerden@techademic.net) or  
[brianbarnes346@gmail.com](mailto:brianbarnes346@gmail.com)

**Sue Dawkes**

## GROUP NOTES AND WILDLIFE

I am going to raise money  
for my local church building

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### Community Matters News

As the summer holidays are now upon us and the children have broken up from school, it is a time when some families find it harder to manage the extra demands on their income relating to feeding children and finding things for them to do which don't involve a lot of expense. On these occasions, we will respond in whatever way we can which may be an extra trip to the food bank or financial help with an essential item that has broken down.

Sadly, one or two families have a child who is receiving treatment for a serious illness; this for one family involves attending a hospital in London regularly to have tests and treatment. We are able to help with the cost of transport which can be very expensive either by car or public transport. We also give as much emotional support for the very worrying decisions that have to be made as well as the constant anxiety about the situation they and their child are dealing with.

We will never stop being grateful and thanking all of you for your kindness and generosity enabling us to help those who need it most. Please keep us in your prayers and our families too.

**Blessings  
Judy Taylor**

### Community Matters

#### Help at Harvest Time



#### Items needed please:

Washing Powder, Toothpaste,  
Toilet Rolls, Kitchen Rolls, Soap,  
Kitchen/Bathroom Cleaning Products,  
Pasta and Pasta Sauces, Tinned Meat/Tuna,  
Tea/Coffee, Sugar-free Squash,  
Baked Beans, Packets of Angel Delight,  
Smash (powdered potato), Nutella (or similar),  
Tins, Frankfurter Sausages  
Cereal (Weetabix or Shreddies),  
Tinned/Cartons of Tomatoes.

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### WILDLIFE

#### Frieth Natural History Society

Our September meeting is scheduled for Thursday 25th September at 7.30pm in Frieth Village Hall. George Raymond will give a talk on the subject of 'Bees and Bee Keeping'.

George has been keeping bees for eight years, the last three since retiring from a

Continued on page 11



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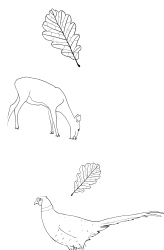
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career in software support. He focuses on treatment-free, low-intervention beekeeping; developing a hive design that mimics the conditions of natural tree-cavity nest sites while enabling sustainable harvests of hive products.

Anyone is welcome to join us and refreshments will be available. For non-members we make a small charge at the door. For further details, please contact; Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586 or [FNHS2023@gmail.com](mailto:FNHS2023@gmail.com).

**Mary Webb**

### **A Naturalist's Reminiscence No. 16**

Watching on television the Trooping the Colour on Horse Guards Parade. I felt very proud that this parade represented so well the long history of the British Army's traditions. Personally, I believe it is unequalled anywhere else in the world. I did notice the occasional London pigeon alighting on the parade ground but it was soon forced to beat a retreat.

Historically the flag was always the rallying point on the battle field. As you will know, I served in the Suffolk Regiment. Trooping the Colour was an annual celebration wherever the regiment was serving. On this flag (Colour) were listed all the battle honours earned dating back several hundred years in many parts of the world. The Suffolk Regiment known as 'The Twelfth of Foot' was one of the oldest county regiments. I was never known for the excellence of my drill so never featured in the regimental 'Trooping the Colour' party. Whatever our CO (Commanding Officer) thought about his role in the parade, he knew that it was the RSM (Regimental Sergeant Major) who organised it.

At Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School in Chester, RSM Lynch, Irish Guards,

was a giant of a man standing 6.4ft in his cotton socks, and terrified us officer cadets. I discovered he had a taste for the Duke of Westminster's pheasants so I kept him regularly supplied with a brace of pheasants. It came in useful when the Duke's agent complained about damage to the brass statue of Hugh Lupus on his horse so even though he knew the culprit, I was allowed to escape to the Himalayas to serve on attachment with the British Gurkhas in Nepal to discover the huge range of natural history from tigers to eagles!

**Alfred Waller**

### **HAMBLEDEN**

#### **West Wycombe Chamber Music Festival**



The wonderful (but non-commercial) West Wycombe Chamber Music Festival at Hambleden is now just two weeks away.

# HAMBLEDEN AND SKIRMETT

The programme of concerts has been finalised and will take us on a special journey 'Across Mountains and Valleys' in five concerts featuring music written by some of our most intrepid musical explorers. Music that looks back to its national roots as well as being inspired by travel and adventure.

The Festival was hailed by The Guardian newspaper in 2021 as "One of the top ten classical music events ...." Festival founder Lawrence Power was recently feted in the New York Times as "A Musician on a mission to make us pay attention to the viola.... redefining what the viola can do". Lawrence will be performing and has attracted his usual array of world class instrumentalists who will travel here to entertain us all.

The concerts are themed:

Concert 1 Thursday 18th September at 7.30pm *'FROM MY LIFE'*

Concert 2 Friday 19th September at 1pm *'REDISCOVERED PLACES'*

Concert 3 Friday 19th September at 7.30pm *'NIGHT MUSIC'*

Concert 4 Saturday 20th September at 11am *'GRAND BALLET'*

Concert 5 Saturday 20th September at 8pm *'CHAMBER LAB'*

Full details of all five concerts and the performers are on the Festival website <https://www.westwycombemusic.org.uk> Tickets are available from Carol Power 01494 528659 / 07948 897148 or via <https://westwycombemusic.org.uk/2024-tickets-contact/>

It is an extraordinary privilege to be able to host these wonderful musicians in Hambleden and to afford audiences the opportunity to experience such artistry at close quarters - and at a fraction of London ticket prices!

**Richard Morbey**

(Apologies, Richard, for the incorrect spelling of your name last month! Editor)

## Wheat Harvest



We have been preparing for the Harvest Service at Hambleden (11am Sunday 28th September with refreshments afterwards).

Isobel and Chris Connell saved this wheat for us.

**Jill Steward**

## SKIRMETT

### Skirmett Village Hall

Skirmett Village Hall has been undergoing an internal facelift. There is still more to be done. However, it has been redecorated, new lighting installed in keeping with the age of the property and baffles fitted to reduce the noise levels and so aid acoustics. We are most grateful to Hambleden Parish

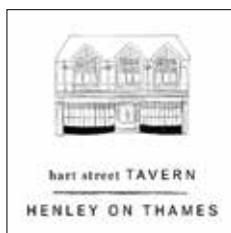
*Continued on page 17*





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# Church Services and Events

## From The Registers

### Holy Baptism

July 27      Wilfred Barnaby Peter Richmond      Hambleden

### Holy Matrimony

July 18      James Birkitt and Francesca Smith      Hambleden

Aug 9      Matthew Stacey and Violet Ward      Medmenham

### Renewal of Vows

July 26      Alistair Johnson and Jo Anna Read-Johnson      Hambleden



## 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](mailto:hambledenvalleyprayergroup@gmail.com)

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# CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

## Pattern of Worship September 2025

Please see below for Sunday services. There will also be Zoom services at 9:30am on Wednesdays with Churchyard Prayers at Fawley at 12noon on Fridays. The 10.15am midweek Holy Communion on Wednesdays is at Turville. 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.

## Sunday Services

	Fawley	Fingest	Frieth	Hambleden	Medmenham	Turville
31st August			8am BCP Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion	
7th September				11am Group Service (note change of time)		
14th September	11am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion 3pm Wild Church, Colstrop Farm		
21st September			9am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Worship	11am Village Service	
28th September	12.30pm Harvest and Village Lunch	6pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Harvest and Holy Communion		3pm Harvest and Village Tea
Saturday 4th October						3pm Animal Blessing
5th October		6pm Harvest Evensong	10am Group Service			





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Council, South West Chiltern Community Board and the Rectory Foundation for their generous donations to enable the work to go ahead. All these improvements require work and planning by the Committee, a small band of four. As always, we are looking for new members to join the Committee or help in any way they can offer, our focus being that the Hall stays open and well maintained by organising fundraising events, with a special mention for a new Treasurer (ours has been adding numbers for too long and would like a break). A sense of humour and ingenuity, perhaps, are the two attributes required! In these days of 'Teams' meetings and social media, time and travel to get together are much reduced. For those interested please contact Alison Miles [alisonjanemiles@yahoo.com](mailto:alisonjanemiles@yahoo.com)

*Dates for your Diary*

### **Friday 5th September 6 – 8pm**

Jim and Noel are back with their famous *Fish and Chip (and mushy peas) supper*. We have missed them through the Summer, so come and welcome them back. Eat in or take away. Drinks on sale.

Booking essential - go to Skirmett Village Hall website – bookings open from Monday 18th August and close noon on Wednesday 3rd September.

### **Saturday 22nd November 10am – 3pm**

*Skirmett Christmas Craft Fair*

Come and browse, looking for those Christmas gifts. There are a couple of tables available – please email Alison as above if you would like one. Mulled wine, mince pies, coffee, tea and cake.

### **Sunday 7th December 6pm**

*Skirmett Village Christmas Party*

More details to follow.

**Celia Warren**

## **FRIETH**

### **Summertime clean up ...**

Well, there is no time like the summer months to get into those nooks and crannies and have a general spring clean, and here at Frieth Village Hall that is exactly what the Committee Members have recently done.

After a thorough sort out there were item(s) from our store cupboard that were immediately dismantled and taken to the tip, other objects that could be donated to those who could still utilise them together with a fair amount of general waste which was disposed of / re-cycled as required.

However, one item remained strung high above the hot water cylinder - a rather large Marching Drum that no-one had any idea what it was or why it was so perched ...

So, what is going to happen to this latest Frieth Village Treasure, first our '*Thomas West Memorial Clock*' and now the restoration of our '*Frieth Institute Drum &*

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## FRIETH, FINGEST AND NORTHEND



*Fife Band Drum*. We are told by its future restorer that it's a beauty (*well was*) and it's at least one hundred years old possibly up to 140 years of age.

So, for the first time in its life, it has already left the Chiltern Hills and has rocked up at a renowned Vintage Drum Restoration Specialist near Glastonbury, Somerset. Here it's going to have a thorough clean up, new rope and at least one new leather clasp and of course two new heads so it's playable upon its autumnal return.

I'm sure once back home in Frieth Village Hall it will be displayed more prominently than was the case before and, hopefully, used once again. Who knows we might see a '*born again*' drummer possibly flanked by some newly recruited fife players – that's the hope anyway!

More news will follow once it is Hambleden Valley returned – we have also ordered two large fluffy beaters so its rhythmic pulse can be heard once again - when and where of course it is invited!

### Jolyon Marshall

The Official Clock Winder-Upper of Frieth  
and now self-appointed Frieth Village  
Drum Major!  
Frieth Village Hall Committee Member

## FINGEST



## NORTHEND

### Northend Concert

Following a trip to China earlier this year and a busy schedule of concerts in London and around the UK, the outstanding Neruda String Quartet visit Northend on 26th October to play quartets by Dvořák and Beethoven in the idyllic setting and superb acoustics of the Village Hall. Originally built as a Victorian school house, Northend Village Hall is an ideal venue for chamber music and several musicians

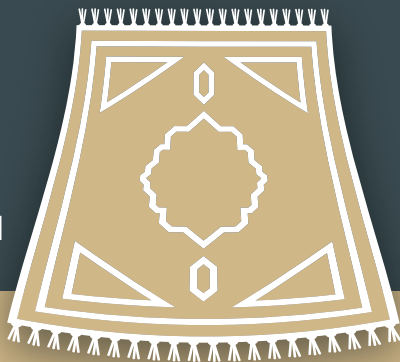
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Further information is available on our website: <https://northendconcerts.co.uk>

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### MEDMENHAM

#### **Brian Bond, Obituary**

Brian died on 2nd June 2025 aged 89. He had spent almost all of his long life in Medmenham. Sixty of those years were happily shared with his wife, Madeleine, who predeceased him by a couple of years.



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## MEDMENHAM



He was born in 1936, a mile west of Marlow and went to school there, becoming head boy at Borlase. But his mother grew up in Medmenham, where her mother, Mrs Sartin, had managed the

village stores and post office in 1898. The family moved to Medmenham in 1946, firstly at 3 Ferry Lane (Sharro Cottage) and then Olmeda.

After National Service in the Royal Artillery, Brian spent three years at Worcester College, Oxford reading History and representing the College at rugby, football and cricket. After university and a short time teaching in schools and the universities of Exeter and Liverpool, he was offered a lectureship in the newly-established department of War Studies at King's College, London, where he spent the rest of his career becoming Professor of Military History. He published widely and was particularly proud of supervising fifty successful PhD candidates.

In the years after he and Madeleine returned to Medmenham, they put a great deal of effort into village social activities running whist drives, helping at the fete, serving on the Parish and Amenities Councils and organising a series of winter talks in the Village Hall.

From his earliest days Brian had a deep

interest in birds and animals especially badgers and foxes, and spent many hours observing them in the woods above the village. He was sitting at the base of a beech tree one day when he heard loud snuffling nearby. Keeping very still a whole family of badgers, with cubs, passed almost over his feet in search of beech mast.

His mother was a devout Christian and Brian accompanied her to church and sang in the choir. He loved the church building itself, and felt a profound nostalgia for the generations of worshippers who have passed through the doors. He continued until recently to tend the family row of graves.

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### HAMBLEDEN VALLEY GROUP OF CHURCHES

**Rector:** The Revd. Andy Storch,  
07811 430898, [Revandystorch@gmail.com](mailto:Revandystorch@gmail.com)

**Associate Priest:** The Revd. Sue Morton,  
01491 639286, [suemorton131@gmail.com](mailto:suemorton131@gmail.com)

**Director of Music:** Jo Hutchins  
07909 608654 [johutchins27@gmail.com](mailto:johutchins27@gmail.com)

**Organist Emeritus:** Christine Wells BEM,  
01491 571588, [c@wells.vnworks.net](mailto:c@wells.vnworks.net)

**Group Treasurer:** Stephen Sidders, 01491  
639271 [stephensidders@sky.com](mailto:stephensidders@sky.com)

**Group Administrator:** Jenny Neagle, 07769  
599616, [hambledenvallyoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hambledenvallyoffice@gmail.com)

**Weddings and Blessings:** Jenny Neagle,  
07769 599616,  
[hambledenvallyoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hambledenvallyoffice@gmail.com)

**Tea Club:** St. Katharine's, Parmoor,  
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Wendy Duerden, 01491 638297,  
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**Barney's Toddler Group:** Frieth Village Hall,  
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**Hambleden Valley Garden Club:**  
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### FAWLEY (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

**Churchwarden:**  
Vacant

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

### FINGEST (ST BARTHOLOMEW)

**Churchwardens:**  
Brian Barnes, 01494 882613,  
[brianbarnes346@gmail.com](mailto:brianbarnes346@gmail.com)  
Jill Dean, 01491 638678,  
[jill@sundawn.uk.com](mailto:jill@sundawn.uk.com)

### FRIETH (ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST)

**Verger:** Judy Hunt, 01494 882227,  
[ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com](mailto: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:**  
Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586,  
[FNHS2023@gmail.com](mailto:FNHS2023@gmail.com)

**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.  
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[ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com](mailto:ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com)

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**Churchwarden:**  
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**Bell Ringing:** Fri 6.45pm practice, Helen or  
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**Village Hall Bookings:** Jamie Baker,  
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**Tennis Coaching:** Chris Marshall,  
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## **MEDMENHAM (ST PETER AND ST PAUL)**

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**Village Hall Bookings:** Emma Tentori,  
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### **Medmenham News:**

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### **Churchwarden:**

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[turvillechurchwardens@gmail.com](mailto:turvillechurchwardens@gmail.com)

### **Bell Ringing:** Wed practice,

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**Yoga:** Tuesdays 7pm, Andrea 07496 281341

## **Parish Council Contacts**

**Hambleden:** Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell  
01494 881483, [clerk@hambleden.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hambleden.org.uk),  
[www.hambleden.org.uk](http://www.hambleden.org.uk)

**Medmenham:** Parish Clerk Carole Burslem  
01494 449215, [mpc.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:mpc.clerk@gmail.com)

**Turville:** Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell,  
01494 881483, [turvilleparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:turvilleparishcouncil@gmail.com),  
[www.turvilleparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.turvilleparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Fawley:** Clerk to Fawley Parish Meeting Mr  
Ross McDonald, 07769 971252  
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