

Hambleton VALLEY

Group Magazine

*Hambleton
with Frieth
& Skirmett
Fawley
Findest
Medmenham
Turville*

£2.00
Nov 2025



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



Cover: Gilman's Wood in Autumn, Medmenham. This page: Beatrice Parsons at Wild Church, photo by Magdalena and Robert Dabrowska.

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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

3 Abbey Cottages, Ferry Lane,
Medmenham SL7 2HB
Telephone 01491 571288

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

Printed by Higgs and Co Printers Ltd.,
Henley-on-Thames.

Group Letter



I find the season of remembrance one of the most thought-provoking times of the year. It is a time when we have the privilege of hearing some of the stories of those who have gone before us; a time when we hear stories of courage and bravery of those who have served their country.

Our season of remembrance begins with the All Souls' Service, on Sunday 2nd November at Frieth, 3pm. At this special service we recall those whom we have loved and lost, as candles are lit in their memory.

Just a week later, on Remembrance Sunday, 9th November, we will be holding our usual annual services across the Hambleden Valley.

In Hambleden Church, at the traditional service beginning at 10.50am, this year there will be – both in the congregation and among those taking part in the service – a number of serving personnel and veterans. A wreath will be laid, the names of villagers lost in World War I and World War II from across the Valley will be read out and we will affirm together and before God: “We will remember them”.

That afternoon at Wild Church at Remembrance, at 2.30pm, we will return to the battlefields of World War I as we meet at the practice trenches in Pullingshill Wood in Medmenham, standing on the ground where so many young men were trained for battle, recalling those who left the Hambleden Valley and did not return.

Remembrance is so important: it reminds us of our identity; it reminds us to not forget our past and to look ahead to the future with hope. My favourite blessing, taken from a letter in the Bible written by the apostle Paul in the 1st century, contains wise words which are still relevant as we honour Remembrance Sunday, over 2000 years later:

*Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

May God bless you at this time of Remembrance.

Sue Morton

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GROUP NOTES



Wild Church!

Wild Church 12th October – Wild Bread and Jam Making

The dull October day suddenly brightened as the sun warmed the congregation gathering on the green outside Frieth Church for this month's Wild Church *Wild Harvest Bread and Jam Making*. Many were curious as to how bread and jam could be made within the hour-long service! Rev Sue Morton explained that the event was a celebration of Harvest, including giving thanks for the food collected for Community Matters, displayed alongside beautiful sheaves of wheat made at September's Wild Church at Coltrope Farm. As part of the harvest theme, local baker Al Tait and his wife Katie were to demonstrate how to make simple bread and jam, while sharing the moving story behind their daughter Kitty's charity, *Breaducation* <https://www.breaducatingbritain.com>

Al handed out breadmaking ingredients and young volunteers eagerly set to work, hands deep in dough. While it proved, the congregation, led by the Wild Church choir, sang a joyful rendition of *Give Me Joy*. Rev Sue then invited Al to speak, as he held up a brightly coloured packet of *Kitty's Kits*, and he told the remarkable story of *Breaducation*.

When Kitty was 14, she went through a dark and difficult period where she 'lost her smile' and had to leave school. Nothing seemed to help until Al asked her to bake bread with him, something she instantly loved. Her



enthusiasm grew, leading father and daughter to open a bakery in Watlington. Their success inspired Kitty to found *Breaducation*, a charity promoting wellbeing and community through baking. She now runs workshops in schools, workplaces, prisons, and communities across Europe, encouraging people to reconnect with food and one another, while distributing her *Kitty's Kits* to spread the joy of baking.

Returning to their cooking stations, the congregation made fruit compote and baked their bread with the help of Rev Philip Smith and his wife Lucy from Lane End, who had brought campervan stoves. Soon, everyone was enjoying freshly made bread and jam! The service concluded with a hearty rendition of *We Plough the Fields and Scatter*, followed by tea and cake – it was an inspiring and uplifting Wild Church! We look forward to gathering again on Remembrance Sunday in the trenches.

Mark Morton

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Wild Church!

Do join us for Winter Wild Church 2025!



Sunday 9th November 2.30pm:

Wild Church at Remembrance at the trenches, Pullingshill Wood, Medmenham



Sunday 14th December 2pm:

Wild Nativity
Northend Common with real animals!
Children (and adults if they wish!) are invited to dress as a character from the Nativity



Sunday 11th January 2026 3pm:

Wild Plough Sunday.
Venue TBC



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

Wild Church Team:

Rev Sue Morton 07808 517347 or
suemorton131@gmail.com

Mary Campbell
grandma.marycampbell@googlemail.com

Magdalena Dabrowska
somd10206@gmail.com

ALL SOULS' SERVICE

A special service to remember those whom we have loved and lost



**St John the Evangelist, Frieth
Sunday 2nd November 3pm**

This special annual service remembers those whom we love but see no longer; during the service there is music, readings and prayers along with the opportunity to light a candle in their memory.

Everyone is warmly welcome to join us
If you would like the name of your loved one read out during the service, please contact Jenny Neagle by Friday 31st October hambledenvallyoffice@gmail.com or 07769 599616

Community Matters

Sometimes it only takes one thing to throw everything that is carefully managed – out of the window. A family we support has a child who broke his arm; this turned out to be a complex break which needed several hospital visits. This meant that the mother could not work for a while but, thankfully, we were able to offer financial help with the cost of petrol for the hospital visits.

Another family have to pay £180 per month for transport to a special school for their autistic child and another child attending secondary school. As the father has lost his job, we are temporarily stepping in to help with this cost until father can resume work again.

Harvest Festival has certainly been celebrated

GROUP NOTES, WILDLIFE AND HAMBLEDEN

by Community Matters because of the abundance of food people have brought to the various services in Hambleden Valley and our benefice too. The generosity of so many people means that our October food bank will be full to overflowing for all the families who will come, so huge thanks to everyone who contributed in any way.

Finally, a very big thank you to Sylvia Crowther at Manor Farm in Fingest for organizing a wonderful concert of music in September with Richard and Janet Simpson. The concert raised a very generous donation for Community Matters, thank you to all the musicians and singers and to all who attended.

Our grateful thanks as always for all your support.

**Blessings,
Judy Taylor**

WILDLIFE

Frieth Natural History Society

Our final outing of 2025 is on Wednesday 26th November, meeting at 10.30am to visit a bird-watching reserve. We are hoping to see an interesting selection of winter migrants, but this is completely dependent on the weather. We will be travelling a little further than usual and so we are hoping to arrange car-sharing.

Anyone is welcome to join us, but for non-members we make a small charge. For full details and to arrange a lift share, please contact; Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586 or FNHS2023@gmail.com

Mary Webb

HAMBLEDEN

West Wycombe Chamber Music Festival

18th – 20th September 2025

For the third successive year St Mary the Virgin, Hambleden, played host to the West Wycombe Chamber Music Festival to the delight of many concertgoers.

The Festival, founded by internationally renowned viola player, Laurence Power, along with Annabelle Meare, violinist, comprised of five concerts and was performed by a group

of world class players. Unfortunately, the Norwegian violinist, Vilde Frang, was held up in Prague due to airport issues. The overall theme of the Festival was 'Across Rivers and Valleys'. Laurence Power introduced the music as looking back to homeland, nostalgia and roots composed by early maverick and later well-known composers – Matteis, Bartok and Brahms to name a few. Selecting pieces worthy of a mention was Rachmaninov's *Romance for piano* played with six hands (Laurence Power, Gabriel Power and Simon Crawford-Phillips) at the grand piano. This is a rarely performed early piece of Rachmaninov's work. During the final concert we were treated to Chamber Lab. This was a lucky dip of music put together by Laurence Power and played by some or all of the nine musicians including Sergio Bucheli on the lute and viola player, Tim Ridout. The nine different composers included Haydn with a final flourish composed by Bartok when all nine musicians were on stage.

It was difficult to pick a favourite piece among so many although I know that I had witnessed excellent music played by brilliant musicians in an inspiring local venue.

Finally grateful thanks must go to all the volunteers behind the scenes for all their hard work staging such a successful event. With a special mention to Carol Power who masterminded ticket sales amongst other many tasks. I look forward to September 2026.

Celia Warren

Traditional Harvest at Hambleden

A traditional Harvest Festival was held at Hambleden Church in September. The church was beautifully decorated with dahlias and Michaelmas daisies by a team of ladies. A large congregation attended, in spite of it being a very wet morning. *We plough the fields and scatter* was sung as the wheat sheaves from Chris and Bella Connells's farm were carried down the aisle and stacked in the chancel in front of the choir. The choir sang, beautifully, two anthems during the Communion. More

Continued on page 11



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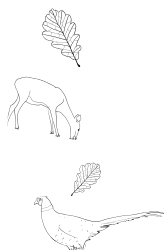


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harvest hymns, thankful intercessions and a sermon followed.

Special harvest refreshments, both savoury and sweet, with tea and coffee were served after the service. Many people stayed to enjoy this warm and sociable occasion.

Particular thanks to the Connell family for allowing us to cut and tie the wheat into sheaves which, together with the basket of bread and grapes on the Altar, are token symbols of the fruitfulness of God's earth, and human labour, for which we give thanks.

Jill Steward

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Order of Hambleden Community



If we were to establish a local gong for services rendered; an 'Order of Hambleden Community' - **OHC**; then Penny Hurtley would be our nomination for 2025.

Penny has been the mentor and leader for the Tea Teams for 10 years.

Every team needs to be cajoled, coached, motivated and praised. Woe betide those who fail to fill the urn in time for the next 5 tea bags worth, lest the large umbrella be applied or one be sentenced to climb the church tower thrice!

Thousands of cuppas have been poured; tons of homemade cakes baked, carried, cut and consumed to echoes of praise throughout the churchyard. Laughter peels amongst the chatter as bells record each hour's labour and the coffers slowly fill with ambitions of kitchens and conveniences for the future of our church and community hub.

"Thank you, Penny," for maintaining this invaluable tradition, loved by folks far and wide. As with noble award winners, we know you will be the first to acknowledge "Nowt would be possible without other people's efforts" and long may they last.

Congratulations from the Tea Teams.

Penny Hurtley is on the right in this photo.

Chris Howgego

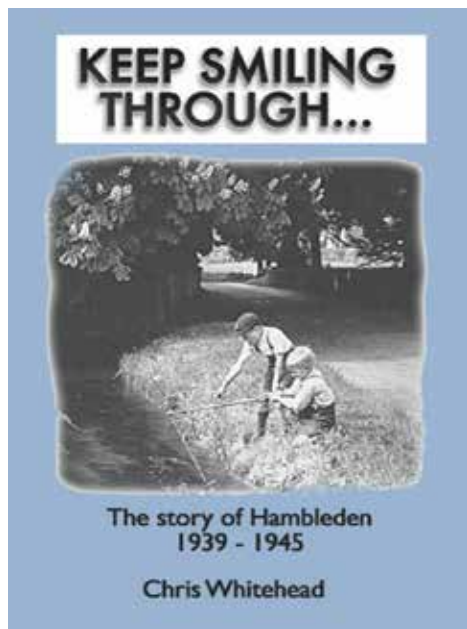
Keep Smiling Through

I will be giving a talk on how Hambleden fared during WW2 in the Village Hall on Friday 28th November at 7.30pm. It will be based on my recent book *Keep Smiling Through*.

Tickets are £5 each, from the Village Stores. They will be available from 1st November. The Cinema Club will be providing a bar.

Numbers will be strictly limited to 80, and there will be no 'walk-ins'.

HAMBLEDEN, SKIRMETT AND FRIETH



All proceeds are for the Village Hall Restoration Fund.

Chris Whitehead

Hambleden Cinema

Please join us on 15th November to watch *Notes on a Scandal*, rated 15, starring Judi Dench, Cate Blanchett and Bill Nighy. The film centres on a lonely veteran teacher who uncovers a fellow teacher's illicit affair with an undergraduate student.

The trailer; https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0465551/?ref_=fn_all_ttl_1

Doors open 7pm, programme begins 8pm. Tickets £8 each can be bought from <https://www.hambledencinema.co.uk> and from Hambleden Village Stores. There will be a bar selling soft drinks, wine, beer and tempting delicious cinema snacks! In aid of raising funds for Hambleden Village Hall Registered Charity 30027.

Hambleden Cinema Team



SKIRMETT

Skirmett Craft Fair
Saturday 22nd November
10am – 3pm

Come and enjoy our (early) Christmas Craft Fair in Skirmett Village Hall – newly decorated in keeping with the age of the building. Start your Christmas shopping in good time whilst enjoying teas, coffee, home-made cakes and the like. Stalls include pottery, Christmas Fare and soya candles. We look forward to seeing you.

Skirmett Village Hall Committee

FRIETH

Frieth School

We are now four weeks into the term, and what a super start it has been! The classrooms are buzzing with enthusiasm as our children settle confidently into their routines, embracing new challenges with determination

Continued on page 17



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Church Services and Events

From The Registers

Holy Matrimony

Sept 20 James Bailey and Catherine Knight

Hambleden

Rest in Peace

Sept 17 Sheila Muller

Funeral and Burial, Frieth



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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CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2025

Pattern of Worship November 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 for latest updates or contact our administrator Jenny Neagle on 07769 599616 – hambledenvalleyoffice@gmail.com with any query.

Sunday Services

	Fawley	Fingest	Frieth	Hambleden	Medmenham	Turville
2nd November			3pm All Souls Service to remember the departed			10am All Saints Group Service
9th November		9am Remembrance Prayers	10am Remembrance with talk	10.50am Remembrance Service	2.30am Wild Church Remembrance – Pullingshill Wood	
16th November			9am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Worship	11am Village Service	
23rd November	11am Holy Communion	6pm Compline	9am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
30th November			8am BCP Holy Communion	6pm Advent Candlelit Service	11am Holy Communion	
7th December	4pm Railway Nativity – Fawley Hill	10am Group Service				5pm Carols in the Churchyard



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and positivity. It has been a delight to watch our pupils let their light shine in so many different ways.

Year 5 Visit to Parmoor



Ospreys class had a wonderful day at the Lady Ryder Memorial Garden, where they immersed themselves in hands-on learning. Guided by the knowledgeable staff, the children explored a variety of plant growing techniques, including propagation, splitting, grafting, and other methods of reproduction.

Netball



Well done to our Year 5 netballers in their opening game of the season against Burford. Although it didn't go our way, with a 5-3 loss, it was a great learning experience. Congratulations to our Player of the Match, Olivia Ghost.

Royal South Bucks Ploughing Match and Show



Eagles were lucky enough to be invited to the annual Royal South Bucks Ploughing Match and Show at the Connells' farm and what a great morning they had! The children got to see various machines, both old and new, ploughing the fields and saw an array of traditional farming items being exhibited. The highlight was definitely meeting Sid and Sam - the ploughing shire horses. Thank you, Bella, and everyone at the event for taking the time to show us around and teaching us the significance of farming in our community.

Currie Cup!



Well done to James Sheppard for winning the prestigious chess championship (Currie Cup) against truly formidable opposition! Your determination, strategic brilliance, and calmness under pressure earned you a well-deserved victory.

Martin Gosling
Headteacher

TURVILLE

TURVILLE

Turville Animal Blessing Service



One of the best things about living in Turville is knowing who I'll meet on my walks. There's Benjy, Bonus, Bramble and Jessie, my fellow dogs, and a few cats, including Basil, who is in charge of the church. I never mess with Basil - he's the boss.

But once a year, everything changes. The village green fills with dogs of every size and shape, plus ponies, goats, and even a parrot. My dad tells me this is the Animal Blessing Service. On that day, we all gather on the village green and are expected to be on our best behaviour - no barking or growling allowed. Some dogs did not seem to have got that message, but I was a very good girl.

I give Lady GoGo the goat a wide berth - she looks very cuddly, but I've heard that she butts any dog who ventures too close. I met a family with two tiny chihuahuas who were just passing through and stopped to join in. There was also a whole pack of cavapoos who looked just like my

neighbour Benjy - I think they were his cousins - and then there were Peaches and Buttons the ponies... they seemed very big indeed.

We animals all stood in a big circle while Andy and Sue came round to bless us. Sue was very kind. She said a little prayer and gave me a pat, which made my tail wag. Florence had treats for me, my coat kept me warm in the cold wind, and, best of all, the rain stayed away.

It was a lovely afternoon. All of us animals felt very special, and I went home happy that I live in such a wonderful village. Woof!

Twiggy the Whippet

Harvest Festival at St Mary's Turville.



This year we celebrated Harvest Festival in a new way: with an afternoon service and tea party. As ever, the parish pulled together. The day began with some heavy lifting as the church was transformed into a welcoming café, with tables set up between the pews ready for everyone to gather. Delicious homemade cakes and sandwiches appeared, along with a spectacular harvest loaf, the village's treasured collection of vintage cups and saucers, activities

Continued on page 21

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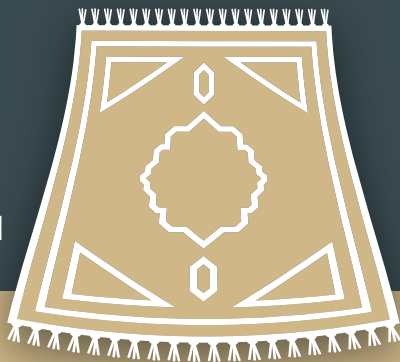
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TURVILLE AND MEDMENHAM



for the children, and, most importantly, a collection of goods for *Community Matters* at Lane End.

The children took centre stage, leading the service with beautifully delivered readings and joining Rev Sue Morton to re-enact the Parable of the Sower. Their presence filled the church with fun and energy, reminding us of what a blessing they are to our community.

We ended the afternoon with a rousing rendition

of *We Plough the Fields and Scatter*, voices raised in gratitude for God's goodness and provision. It was a memorable celebration of harvest and community, and we look forward to building on this new tradition in the years ahead.

Caroline Sants

CHRISTMAS ART AT TURVILLE STUDIOS

Under the windmill at Turville
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MEDMENHAM

**Music in Medmenham 20th
September 2025**

**An evening of Jazz with Anna
Shackleton, Jo Hutchins and Tim
Dawes**

The concert was held in the beautiful 12th Century St Peter and St Paul's Church, Medmenham. The candlelit church creating an intimate and inviting atmosphere together with the wonderful acoustics allowed the talented jazz trio to treat the audience to a perfect repertoire of well-known songs such as: *It's Only a Paper Moon* and *Killing Me Softly*.

Anna's beautiful voice sang out in the church, whilst Jo and Tim provided a sensitive and creative accompaniment on piano, flute and double bass with some captivating solos to entertain the audience with a very fitting ending

MEDMENHAM



with the song *You Are So Beautiful*.

Guests were able to enjoy a Chilli Con Carne supper and drinks in the village hall before

the concert. A truly enjoyable evening for all involved.

It was another fabulous event again bringing people in the community together and at the same time raising funds for SOS STAMP OUT SUICIDE stampoutsuicide.co.uk

We are delighted to say that after costs over **£2,100** was raised for the charity and a donation was given to the church. SOS also received further donations from the audience on the night amounting to some hundreds of pounds.

Music in Medmenham hope to run more music events for charity in 2026.

Diana Anderson



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CHURCH AND VILLAGE ACTIVITIES AND CONTACTS

HAMBLEDEN VALLEY GROUP OF CHURCHES

Rector: The Revd. Andy Storch,
07811 430898, Revandystorch@gmail.com

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

Director of Music: Jo Hutchins
07909 608654 johutchins27@gmail.com

Organist Emeritus: Christine Wells BEM,
01491 571588, c@wells.vnworks.net

Group Treasurer: Stephen Sidders, 01491
639271 stephensidders@sky.com

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

Weddings and Blessings: Jenny Neagle,
07769 599616,
hambledenvillageoffice@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

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

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

FAWLEY (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

Churchwarden:
Vacant

**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)

Verger: 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:
Vacant

Deputy Churchwarden:
Vacant

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
Frances Cugnoni, 01491 576409

Hambleden 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@danefieldscouts.org.uk

Medmenham News:
medmenhamnews@icloud.com

SKIRMETT

Village Hall Bookings:
Bookings via the website:
skirmettvillagehall.org
Other enquiries:
skirmettvillagehall@gmail.com

TURVILLE (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

Churchwarden:
Vacant

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

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

Hambleton: Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell
01494 881483, clerk@hambleton.org.uk,
www.hambleton.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;
Hambleton: Samantha Webb, 01491 414418;
Medmenham: Jim Tilbury, 01628 487135;
Mill End: Robert Spicer, 01491 577747;
Northend: Amanda Bucknill, 07718 860064;
Parmoor: Gillie Scott 01494 881408;
Pheasants Hill: Kate Hussey, 01491 576913;
Skirmett: Bessie Webb, 01491 638574;
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Turville: Anne Jones, 01491 639344;
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