

Hambleton VALLEY

Group Magazine



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Medmenham
Turville

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May 2026



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



Cover: Palm Sunday Procession at Medmenham. This page: Cowslips at Kenricks, Hambleden, photo Jill Steward.

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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)

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All contributions are welcome, to the
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Please keep articles within 350 words. Copy
 deadline is 15th of the month.

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Group Letter

I was recently at a chapter meeting. This historic regular tradition is when the local clergy get together. In times past they would read a chapter of the Bible. Nowadays we enjoy worship together, but also eat lunch and exchange with one another recent stories, which both encourage us and also allow us to share ideas. Many of the ministers there referred to their Easter services and how encouraged they were by larger numbers than usual. There was talk of this 'quiet revival' whereby churches seem slowly to be filling up again! Some of it seems to be led by children. One church not known for its children had 39 in an Easter service!

The story I cited was Palm Sunday. We had arranged for a horse, donning donkey ears, to lead the Palm Sunday procession to church at Medmenham. In the event, the horse had lost a shoe and couldn't come. We had quite a few children, hoping for a donkey/horse-led procession. One child, who had come with his two brothers and their

mother, volunteered to lead the procession and gamely wear the donkey ears. He was only about 7!

It strikes me that children's faith is so much simpler than many adults'. The wonder of creation around them makes it self-evident there is a God. And the more they hear about the character of Jesus, the more they know they can simply trust Him. And that's all you need! Belief and trust in God. Adults are so prone to over-complicate things with theological discussions. Of course there is a place for that. But at the end of the day Jesus simply said "Follow me" - and that is all we need to do.

The day after Palm Sunday we read of Jesus' overturning of the money-changers' tables in the Temple. Alongside is a further story. The Pharisees were telling off the children for shouting and singing and praising God in the temple. They wanted their children seen and not heard. But Jesus, as ever, celebrated the children's joy. He warns the Pharisees that they were missing the point.

This first Sunday of May (3rd), we have another 'Church Sandwich' family service at 3pm in Turville, when we can let our children bring us to the church, we can enjoy coffee and chat, and they can lead us in the service.

"Let the children come unto me".

Andy

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GROUP NOTES

Prayer for our new Associate Priest

Loving God.

Guide us as we prayerfully seek to discern the right person to serve as our Associate Priest. Be at the centre of all our conversations and decisions. Open our hearts to the leading of Your Holy Spirit.

Reveal to us the person whom You are calling. Help us to trust in Your Love and in Your provision for all that we need.

We lift these prayers to You in Jesus name.

Amen

Hambleton Valley Prayer Group



Community Matters

Because of a good response for our latest foodbank, we were able to supply our families with plenty of food over the Easter holiday. In particular we really wish to thank all of those people from the Hambleton Valley who so generously donated Easter eggs, and Diane Dobson

who made sure we received them and has been encouraging everyone to continue donating food/household items for our families. In these difficult times with food and household fuel prices rising not to mention petrol, it is understandable that donations may reduce somewhat. However, it is often doubly difficult for families on a very limited income, they have no extra reserves to draw from when things get harder so whatever you can give is so much appreciated.

Below are some of the 'Thank you' cards we have received over a period of time.

"If it were not for you and the generosity of the church, we would have spent the festive period sat in the cold. Thank you for keeping my family fed and warm when we could not."

"We want to say a massive thank you to the church and community who have contributed to help our family in the time of crisis. We hope in the future we too can help families like you have helped us."

"You are the angels that look over us here on earth...not just providing us with food but also supporting my children to pursue their dreams for the whole community."

Continued on page 7

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“When my 19-year-old child was diagnosed with cancer, I could not see a way out or ahead, but you were all there for us. And the biggest thing besides food and finance help is that you were always there to talk to. No words can thank you enough.”

Thank you all once again.

Judy Taylor



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For the Children of RWANDA
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Huw Wiggin *saxophone* |
 Oliver Wass *harp*

Tuesday 19th May 2026, 9.30pm,
 St Mary the Virgin Church, Hambleden.

Join us for this contemplative candlelit concert, featuring a selection of music from Huw and Oliver's new album, *Luminous Threads*, combined with poetry and

literature exploring the nighttime hours. Featuring meditative music by Ludovico Einaudi, Arvo Pärt, Gabriel Fauré and François Couperin, it is the perfect way to end your day.

Tickets £20, under 16s free, available at chilternarts.com/whats-on

This event is part of the Chiltern Arts Festival, with concerts, walks and literary events happening across the Chilterns from 15th–23rd May. Full programme details and tickets available at chilternarts.com

Naomi Taylor

Founder and Creative Director
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GROUP NOTES, WILDLIFE AND HAMBLEDEN



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Interesting Fungi



These unusual fungi suddenly appeared on the gravel driveway of a house in Medmenham. They are very distinctive and, after looking them up, I think they may be Black Morels, *Morchella*. Do let me know if you disagree or know more about them.

Black Morels appear on rich, well-drained soil under trees; often beneath hedges or on disturbed soil at the edge of a garden. Increasingly they are being found on conifer bark chippings used as mulch in parks and garden and are increasingly common in the south of England and the Midlands. If they come up one year, they don't necessarily reappear the next.

Never eat any fungi from the wild unless you are sure of their identification.

Penny McLeish

WILDLIFE

Frieth Natural History Society

Our May Event will be a guided walk on the morning of Saturday 16th May, visiting a local nature reserve.

In May we usually try to find orchids locally and this year is no exception. We have chosen the date in the hope of catching the flowers at their best, but this is not guaranteed. Peak flowering is occurring earlier each year as a result of climate change, but exact dates are becoming harder to predict. We will also hope to see a good variety of Spring wildflowers and maybe some early butterflies.

Anyone is welcome to join us, but for non-members we make a small charge. For further details of meeting place and timings, please contact; Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586 or FNHS2023@gmail.com

Mary Webb

HAMBLEDEN

Easter at Hambleden

There were two services in Hambleden in Holy Week. The first was the solemn and reflective service of the Last Hour at the Cross on Good Friday. The stark full size wooden cross standing on the chancel step was the focus, with no distractions of flowers, candles or colourful vestments. Rev Andy and his daughter Freya led the service most beautifully. There were six Bible readings following Jesus' suffering and death on that first Good Friday followed by reflections and prayers on the theme of each reading. Anthems

Continued on page 11



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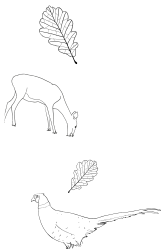


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and hymns were played and sung by Jo Hutchins with the choir and congregation. This service is a very moving and thought provoking experience and the congregation leave in silence.

Then there was the joy of the Easter Day service! A large congregation attended the church which had been decorated most beautifully with daffodils, tulips, pussy willow and spring greenery arranged by teams of ladies from the parish. The high spot was the arum lilies in the Sanctuary and at the entrance of the Lady Chapel.

Rev Andy began the service with the lighting of the Pascal Candle and the well-known Acclamations of "Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" In his sermon he explained that Christ's death on the Cross, and his rising from the dead on Easter Sunday means that though none of us escape a bodily death we do not have to fear a spiritual



death. Joyful Easter hymns were sung. Easter eggs were hunted in the churchyard and offered to all members of the congregation. Many people stayed afterwards to talk and enjoy tea, coffee and Easter biscuits. Thank you to the many people who contributed to making Eastertide a memorable time.

Jill Steward

It's Tea Time Again!

I am late with my annual plea for help, but here goes! After raising over £7,200 last year, we are anxious to have another successful summer. However, the first main concern is to get a team of 4 gentlemen to undertake one Sunday in four to place three or four signs around the village and to set up and fill the urn. There will be two semi-permanent signs, erected and made by the famous Chris Howgego. These will be placed on the approach roads to the village during summer. Without these actions taking place, it will be difficult to go ahead with the teas this year.

We would love to welcome some of the new incomers to the village to help us. It does not matter if you cannot bake cakes, though it does help! It is more important to have 'manpower' on the day. It would also be good to have some 'younger'



HAMBLEDEN

blood, which is desperately needed!

The teas will commence this year on Sunday 7th June through until 27th September. The musical entertainment last year was excellent and proved extremely popular. Unfortunately, the lovely violinists, who have entertained us for the past four years are unable to continue. So, if you can think of anyone who can give up 2 hours on a Sunday afternoon we would love to hear from you.

To those who kindly bake and donate cakes, the church freezer will be switched on towards the end of May.

Best wishes

Penny Wright 01491 571135

penny.hurtley@gmail.com

Roof work at St Mary's

Hambleden is having the tiles replaced on two elevations on the north side of the



roof. The tiles had become loose, fragile and porous. When the old felt, battens and tiles were removed the medieval 14th century rafters were exposed, all sound apart from a small section of one next to the tower. You will see in the photo how nimble the roofers are on the high and steep roof. The work is being done by Shire roofing and overseen by Paul Webb.

Jill Steward



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Church Services and Events

From The Registers

Rest in Peace

Mar 17	Peter Aldiss	Funeral and Burial, Hambleden
Mar 31	Michael Kenneth (Ken) Hyman	Thanksgiving, Hambleden
Mar 31	Leslie John Packer	Burial of Ashes, Frieth
April 1	Michael Kenneth (Ken) Hyman	Burial of Ashes, 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:

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SCAN ME

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2026

Pattern of Worship May 2026

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. Since we are short staffed while awaiting a new Associate Priest it may be that not all services will go ahead. 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
3rd May						10am Group Service 3pm Church Sandwich
10th May		9am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion		
17th May	11am Holy Communion		9am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Prayer	11am Village Service	
24th May	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am tbc		9.30am tbc
31st May			8am BCP Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion	
7th June	10am Group Service 3pm Church Sandwich					

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Frieth School

Football

Our girls' team played brilliantly against a strong Danesfield side, showing great effort and teamwork throughout the match. Although the score finished 3-0, they created lots of chances and should feel confident heading into their next game. The boys then took to the pitch and impressed early on, scoring twice to lead 2-1 at half time. Danesfield came back to win 3-2, but our players showed real determination and will remember a hard-fought match they can be proud of.



Netball

Our Year 5 girls' netball team travelled to Shiplake College to compete in their annual netball tournament, alongside 14 local schools. The girls showed fantastic determination throughout the group stages, winning their section and securing

a well-deserved place in the quarter finals. After another strong performance, they progressed to the semi-finals where they narrowly missed out on a place in the final. Excellent play from all the girls who took part - a fantastic achievement!



Whole School Visit to Connells' Farm

We were all lucky enough to visit the Connells' farm where we saw the lambs being born which was a truly special experience. The children learned all about how the lambs are cared for, what they need to stay healthy and the hard work that goes into looking after them. The highlight of the day was definitely getting to cuddle and feed the lambs. It was a wonderful hands-on learning experience that brought the classroom to life and



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FRIETH

gave everyone a new appreciation for life on the farm. A huge thank you to the farm team for making us feel so welcome!



World Book Day

The children had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day! We started the day with an assembly where selected children received a certificate for showing the Frieth value of 'Creativity' with their

outfits. The staff were blown away by how much thought, time and enjoyment had gone into making the costumes this year. We were lucky to be blessed with beautiful weather and classes spent time reading on the playground, playing active character games and Owls even had the delight of showing off their reading skills to Eagles class!



Martin Gosling
Headteacher



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However, even with careful maintenance, household vacuuming can only do so much.

Fine dust, grit & allergens gradually become compacted at the base of the pile, especially in busy areas such as hallways, lounges & dining rooms. Rugs in homes with pets, children or high foot traffic are particularly affected, even if they look clean on the surface.

For this reason, the Association of Rug Care Specialists guidelines recommend a thorough professional rug clean every two to three years, with more frequent cleaning for heavily used rugs. Professional cleaning begins with specialist dusting to release deeply embedded grit, followed by controlled washing that cleans the fibres from front to back. This process removes residues & pollutants that everyday cleaning cannot reach.

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Medmenham Palm Sunday



For the first time in many years the Hambleden Valley Palm Sunday service was held at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Medmenham.

We all gathered on Common Moor to process from there to the church. Rev Andy Storch led the procession accompanied by a young man wearing donkey ears (he loved them so much he kept them on throughout the service!). The processing choir and congregation

sang lustily *Give me joy in my heart keep me praising*. On entering the church, we were all given Palm Crosses and service books. The Palm Sunday service continued to celebrate our Lord's entry into Jerusalem, the Crosses were blessed and well known hymns were sung by the choir and congregation.

After the final blessing refreshments were served and much socialising took place. Over 60 people (including 8 children) attended the service and, for me, it was just wonderful to see the church so full.



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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.themithymull.co.uk for more information.

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Need your chimney sweeping or stove installed?

If so, then please contact Terry - a member of the National Association of Chimney Sweeps with over 30 years of experience working in the Hambleden Valley - on 01494 564321 or mobile 07850 196616.

Tip Top Dog Training.

Puppy School is held on Saturday mornings at Lane End Youth and Community Centre followed by Dog Club which is open to graduates of Puppy School or following 1:2:1 assessment.

www.tiptopdogtraining.co.uk

07711 807109

melanie@tiptopdogtraining.co.uk.

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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

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

Organist Emeritus: Christine Wells BEM,
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
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

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

Body Control Pilates Classes: Village
Hall, Wednesdays, 9:30am and 10:40am.
Lauren Owen www.pilat-ease.co.uk

HAMBLEDEN (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

Churchwarden:
Vacant

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

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

Bridge Club Barbara Pooley
hambledenbridge@gmail.com

Pilates: Mondays 11 – 12 Fran Presho,
07951 019594

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@danefeldscouts.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

Reformer and Matwork: Pilates Studio,
Private and semi-private sessions available,
weekdays.

Lauren Owen www.pilat-ease.co.uk

TURVILLE NORTHEM

Village Hall Bookings:

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

Yoga: Tuesdays 7pm, Andrea 07496 281341

Body Control Pilates Classes: Village
Hall, Mondays, 12noon. Lauren Owen
www.pilat-ease.co.uk

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
Ross McDonald, 07769 971252
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