

Hambleton VALLEY

Group Magazine



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July 2026



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



Cover: Fawley Christening 17th May 2026 photo Nigel Chapman. This page: Large Skipper Butterfly, Gillman's Wood.

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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 Editor, Penny McLeish

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Group Letter

One of my (many) favourite verses is *"I come that they may have life, and have it to the full"* (John 10.10). I really do think God wants us to live life to the full - He is not a kill-joy.

In last month's magazine I talked about the importance of music, enhancing our lives. I referenced music Sunday, which was mid-June. The passage that day focused on the restoration of the ark of the covenant to its site in the temple of Jerusalem. Huge celebrations were described. You may remember that that was when King David danced, much to the disgust of his first wife! God our Father does want us to celebrate, and one of my joys returning to live near Henley have been all the arts, crafts, drama, music and sport that go on around here. It is with enormous pleasure I realise that few people hole up in their houses and contribute nothing to their community - the vast majority of people take their hobbies, interests, passions and talents out into the local voluntary sector, creating, performing, and competing to astonishing levels.

The Henley Royal Regatta is a lovely annual example of the area coming together for fun, albeit those in the boats themselves will treat it seriously, as high-level sporting competition demands. I used to go to the Regatta from my early childhood in Peppard and rarely miss a year. Of course there are claims of elitism, but at the end of the day any members of the public can visit Henley and the course at any point in the regatta simply by walking along the public towpath, now part of the long-distance route called The Thames Path. HRR is followed in July by Henley Festival and there are countless other events going on in the month, many of which have free entry.

We are not supposed to be all work, no play, because that makes Jack a dull boy! Don't stay in your house alone all day if you can get out. And if you can't get out, for health or financial reasons, please don't be embarrassed to ask for help. Friendly neighbours and helpful charities exist fundamentally to provide fuller life for all.

July is a great time to celebrate, and live life to the full!



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

Hambleden Valley Prayer Group

Church Sandwich at Fawley on 7th June 2026 by Frances Dean (10) and Ralph Dean (6)



Frances wrote -

'Church Sandwich is a lovely get together for all ages. It has a play area for kids, a selection of tea, snacks and activities. It is held in churches around the Hambleden Valley and in June it was

at Fawley church. There are stories from the bible with deep meanings for our everyday lives. If you would like to try it the next one is at 3 o'clock on the 5th July at Medmenham. Please come!'

Ralph said -

"Church Sandwich is a fun and interactive session. I went with my sister, and we played a play of the Parable of the Lost Sheep and I

was the lost sheep! Afterwards we got delicious biscuits and sandwiches. My Grannie took us and I told her I would like to go again."

Lost Sheep



Dear all

We need help! We have lost a sheep... somewhere in the Fawley area. Hence this additional bulletin!

On June 7th our Family Service moved to Fawley (it follows the Group service rotation and is on the first Sunday of every month). The theme was the parable of the lost sheep and the initial activity was for the children to find a large number of lost sheep hidden around the church. These were in fact small toy sheep, not real ones!

Continued on page 7

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GROUP NOTES AND WILDLIFE

The children did an excellent job herding all sheep together to their field EXCEPT ONE! That sheep remains outstanding, somewhere in Fawley church, or perhaps by now, beyond. Any sightings would be gratefully received!

Our service was most enjoyable; the children made costumes/props and then dramatised the parable for us. It is a great Sunday afternoon activity (especially if it rains), includes coffee/tea/soft drinks/sandwiches and suchlike. Grandchildren-friendly! 1st Sunday of each month, 3pm. The next one is at Medmenham, 5th July, when we shall report back on the sheep hunt!

Andy



Community Matters

We use Central Aid In High Wycombe to purchase goods at a very reasonable price for our families. Central Aid was established in 1906 to assist the poor at that time and now it takes referrals from many professionals such as GP's, Social Workers, Housing Associations etc. A few years ago they received the (then)

Queen's Award for Voluntary Services. Recently we have been able to purchase some excellent pieces of furniture for our families one of which is a refugee family who had very little when they were housed. We are also very grateful to a member of Hambleden Valley churches for donating a beautiful settee and pouffe.

Our other outings have been helping with travelling costs for specialized medical appointments to places like Moorfields Hospital and others in central London. We have also replaced a tumble dryer and helped with the cost of MOT and car repairs; these are to enable the working parent of the family to get to his place of work and remain employed.

We are so fortunate to receive regular financial donations which enable us to support these families at times of crisis and we thank you all so much for your kindness and concern. Also, a huge thank you for the food donations which come to us just when we need it!

Blessing to you all,
Judy Taylor

WILDLIFE

Frieth Natural History Society

FNHS will be holding their annual moth session in a local garden on 10th/11th July. Traps will be placed on the Friday evening, and members are invited to help with counting and identification on the Saturday morning from 9am.

Moth traps use a light source to attract flying moths which are retained in the main body of the trap. Moths can then be identified and counted before being safely released. The range of moths seen will depend on the date, nearby habitats and weather conditions. The date and venue of this event vary each year in the hope of seeing a different selection of moths.

Anyone is welcome to join us, but for further details of the start time, where to park and to book your place, please make contact. Andy 01494 881586, Mary 01494 881501 or email FNHS2023@gmail.com

Mary Webb

HAMBLEDEN

HAMBLEDEN

Octogenarian Celebration



Masterminded as a 'fun' and 'charity' evening - a natural combination after 46 years of raising money for worthwhile causes - 40 folk were very generously treated to a 7-course meal celebrating Penny Wright's (née Hurtley's) 80th year. When were you last taken to and from a restaurant for dinner on a bus? It was amazing.

The 'Hymns and Pimm's' gathering in Hambleden Church porch was followed by - boarding a big 12 wheeler coach; music (of sorts); much happy bantering; singing (of sorts); dancing (of sorts) with mobile Quiz Master, Rev Sue Lepp, reminding us, amongst many other brain twisters, that Perry Como was top of the charts when Penny first appeared in Littleborough, Lancashire, not so long ago. Black pudding at a convent in Bury was a favourite. Life on stage beckoned with Prestwich Carnival Queen under her belt, and successful auditions for the George Mitchell Singers and the Black and White Minstrels - seems like only yesterday - where to next?

Veterinary and dental careers were considered and corporate city life was an experience, but the seeds for fund raising had been set when selling home-made toffees for the girl guides. Penny was in her element working for charities; 14 years with the NSPCC in the top performing region. The WWF and Wycombe Scannappeal also featured in her professional fund-raising career. Not always behind a desk. Nine single parachute jumps included. Amazing. Fund raising brought meetings with Royalty (Princess Margaret) and stars (Cilla Black) and our much-loved Lady Hambleden.

Penny's mum knew her little treasure, hidden in Hambleden, would find some nice fella - soon. And, at 101, she was delighted to eventually witness the on-line success story of Penny and Stuart. Hey Ho! Marriage should never be rushed and then, sadly, it was all too short.

On this birthday evening £1000 was raised for Pancreatic Cancer (in honour of Stuart) and Friends of Hambleden Church where Penny has spent over 11 years organising Church Teas. Thank you Penny - an invaluable character within our community. A great party and Happy 80th.

Chris Howgego



Coffee and Cakes Mornings



If ever there was an upside to Lockdown and Covid, then this was it: Coffee and Cakes in the village hall on the first Wednesday of each month - once the draconian restrictions were removed. Five years on from Covid, Charlie Lumley, aided by Fran Keene, Rose Langton and the village hall committee have now raised the updated total of £10,789.

Head Baker Charlie Lumley, has produced around 500 cakes and 1500 of her legendary cheese scones. There was a strict timetable

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to ensure maximum freshness at the point of delivery on selected Wednesday mornings. For Charlie that meant starting the previous week with a mega shop, followed by preparation over the weekend and baking on Monday and Tuesday before doors opened to hungry villagers on Wednesday morning.

But raising money for the upkeep and running of the village hall was not the object of Coffee and Cakes. The genesis of the idea was to help restore and reinvigorate the sense of community that had inevitably been lost during those long, difficult days of lockdown when we were all isolated, bereft of human contact, relying on the internet and telephone to keep in touch with each other.

The village hall, the hub of the community, was the appropriate place to begin restoring the sense of community. As word spread and numbers grew, the organisers hit social media and extended an invitation to various walking groups in the Valley and beyond to join us. Many obliged and became regular visitors, adding to the wider sense of community.

The final morning for Coffee and Cakes was held on Wednesday 3rd June when profuse thanks were given to Charlie, Fran, Rose, their team and volunteers. Sadly, we were told, it was to be the last Coffee and Cakes morning. All good things, however delicious, must come to an end. But there's a silver lining... Summer Sunday afternoon teas in the churchyard have now begun.

Peter Taylor

Concert by Chiltern Arts 'Turning Point'

A beautiful candlelit concert of classical Saxophone and Harp was held on 19th May in Hambleden church. This was part of a week-long programme arranged by Chiltern Arts. The international professional musicians were Huw Wiggan and Oliver Wass, both professors at the Royal College of Music. Huw grew up in Henley.

The concert was at 9.30pm following a guided twilight walk observing bats and other wildlife active at dusk. A wonderful atmosphere was created in the church lit only by dozens of



candles, with spot lights on the performers, enhancing the liquid and harmonic quality of the melodies, and the theme of the concert 'Turning Points' - the transition of day to night.

There were pieces by Béla Kovács, François Couperin, Arvo Pärt, Gabriel Fauré and others, many with familiar melodies. These were seamlessly interspersed with poetry recited most beautifully from memory by Naomi Taylor. All explored animals of the dusk and night time hours. These included *Tyger* by Blake, *The Owl* by Tennyson and *Red Fox* by Macfarlane.

The concert lasted just an hour and was a calming, rather wonderful, and magical experience. We left down the church path between the twinkling lights hung on the yew trees. It was an honour to host these talented and gifted musicians in such a setting.

Jill Steward

Hambleden Open Gardens and Summer Market 202



Despite a day of mixed weather - but mostly torrential rain - this year's Hambleden Open Gardens attracted almost 200 visitors.

Thank you to everyone who helped behind

HAMBLEDEN AND FAWLEY



Photos Jon Sloper

the scenes to organise the event, and to all those who showed up on the day - in whatever capacity - to lend a hand. A big shout out to our volunteers who ran the café which seemed to have a permanent queue, and to our talented stall holders who saw a steady flow of interest in their brilliant arts and crafts.

The biggest thank you must go to those in the village who opened up their gardens for us all to share and enjoy. We appreciate the hard work that goes into making them look stunning on the day - we couldn't do it without you.

The event raised £1,503 for the Village Hall funds. No mean feat given the wet weather! See you all again next year.

Sara Horner

FAWLEY

A Generational Celebration

A christening (baptism) is such a special experience for anyone lucky enough to attend what these days feels like a very occasional event in the Fawley church calendar. Sadly, services to celebrate welcoming the birth and growth of a child are now few and far between. Not so for Jeanne and Stephen Sidders who, on a sunny Sunday in the middle of May, decided to celebrate 50 years of marriage with no less than four simultaneous family christenings in St Mary the Virgin, Fawley - all witnessed



Photos Nigel Chapman

by over 50 godparents, family and friends. Who could not be moved by Jackson and Isla who together with their cousins Wilfred and Roly, took up the challenge in the Chancel to hold candles, child-friendly bibles and a little shell in readiness for the baptism ritual, all beautifully performed with the help and warmth of Rev Andy Storch.

The service started as it meant to go on with rousing hymns and meaningful passages. Looking around at the congregation, there were just-born babes-in-arms, children of all ages and excitement, beautifully suited and booted young fathers and beaming mothers, wives and girlfriends all glowing with pride. It was a sight for sore eyes. A surprise entertainment was the very debonair Delaval Knight (just

Continued on page 17



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Church Services and Events

From The Registers

Baptisms

May 17	Isla Grace Sidders	Fawley
May 17	Jackson Cyprian Sidders	Fawley
May 17	Wilfred Archie Sidders	Fawley
May 17	Roland Stanley Sidders	Fawley
May 17	Dhillon David Singh Evra	Medmenham

Holy Matrimony

May 23	Simon Lock and Elizabeth Crowdy	Hambleton
June 5	James Norfolk and Olivia Slatford	Turville
June 6	Ben Quirk and Isabelle Gillespie	Hambleton
June 12	Aaron Stevenson and Josephine Courtney	Hambleton
June 13	Connor Neary and Jessica Duff	Hambleton



Hambleton 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:

hambletonvalleyprayergroup@gmail.com

Hambleton Valley Tea Club

Tea Club is for anyone over 50 looking to make new friends whilst playing board games, watching a film, listening to a speaker or going on the occasional outing. We finish off with delicious tea and cakes.

The meetings are every Tuesday afternoon at St Katharine's, Parmoor or Frieth Village Hall and transport can be provided.

If you would like to join us please contact:

Wendy Deurden on 01494 638297 wendy.deurden@tachademic.net or
Sue Dawkes on 07787111993 susandawkes@icloud.co.uk



CALENDAR FOR JULY 2026

Pattern of Worship July 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
28th June	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
5th July					10am Group Service 3pm Church Sandwich	
12th July	11am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion		
19th July			9am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Prayer	11am Village Service	
26th July	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
2nd August		10am Group Service				



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one of a host of trusted godparents), who rose to the challenge quite literally addressing the congregation from the high pulpit, he gave an animated rendition of the story of the Prodigal Son from Luke, chapter 15 verses 11-32. It was a showstopper with a consensus that Delaval would be a wonderful regular addition to bible readings across the Chilterns and beyond! A future calling maybe?

The giving of the sign of peace between everyone as part of many words of reassurance and commitment, seemed to be so relevant on this special day of celebration. Rounding off the service a personalised version of *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* had the whole congregation young and old singing their hearts out and taking Andy's lead in acting out the words! Bells were rung and a barbecue lunch in the Fawley sunshine rounded off an unforgettable day.

As each of these beloved children matures and grows, we can rest assured they will make their own decisions on their beliefs and life structure; but the memories and photographs of a wonderful day spent celebrating family will no doubt craft meaningful futures for each of them. And, collectively, they will be part of a fine new generation with so much to admire.

Mary Forde

Fawley Cricket Match



The annual Fawley Cricket Match was played against the Stumblebums on Harpsden's lovely ground in mid-June.

This was for the Beck-Burridge Perpetual Cup set up in memory of Martin Beck-Burridge who died in 2012; one of the founder members of the Fawley Unisex Cricket Club revived in the late 90's. Unisex because Fawley was short of men so I and a



few others were co-opted at the outset.

The Stumblebums were founded originally as a medical team gathered by Paul Smith of Kimble Farm, a surgeon. Philip Maskell (Captain) now assembles a team which often includes offspring of former and current team members.

This year Fawley suffered a resounding defeat, unlike last year which was a nail-biting draw.

Hilary Beck-Burridge

FRIETH

Frieth School

Kites Trip to Lady Ryder Memorial Garden

Kites took flight and flew off to Parmoor for a wonderful day spent exploring their senses in beautiful walled gardens. Huge thanks to the team at Parmoor for their hospitality and to our volunteers.



Owls Trip to Bekonscot Model Village

Owls Class had a wonderful school trip to Bekonscot Model Village. They enjoyed looking at the models, riding on the train,

FRIETH

joining in with the 'Time Machine' workshop and playing in the playground!



House Music Competition

We're so proud of all the brilliant children who lit up the stage at the House Music competition. The talent was off the charts and it was no wonder the judges struggled! To cap it off the wholeschool Backstreet Boys singalong with pupils (and parents!) was pure magic!



Walking Bus

A huge thank you to everyone who joined the walking bus set off from Lane End for a sociable stroll through our beautiful woods and commons. The children (and the grown-ups!)

loved exploring the magic of the trees, spotting wildlife and enjoying the fresh morning air all while saving a bit of petrol. We even had Billy the Buzzard along for the adventure, happily getting back to nature after spending so much time in the classroom with Year 1.



Football

Our Frieth footballers took to the field for the Under-11s HWDPFA Cup Final. Cheered on by parents and staff, the team delivered a performance that made the whole school incredibly proud. The boys started strongly and created early chances, but the match remained goalless through both half-time and full-time. Their teamwork, determination and outstanding defending showed exactly why



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2. Vacuum Regularly—but Gently

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3. Avoid Harsh Cleaning Products

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FRIETH AND FINGEST

they had made it further than any Frieth team before. In extra time, Juniper Hill finally broke the deadlock and went on to win 3-0. This team proved that sporting success is about much more than winning. With or without a trophy, they are champions.

Great Big School Run

Well done to all our runners who took part in the Great Big School Run at Stonor Park. Every child gave a brilliant performance with plenty of podium finishes and a huge amount of Frieth School spirit on show! We're so proud of the positive running culture we've built through our fantastic Friday morning running club!



Netball

It was a brilliant afternoon out in the sunshine for Frieth's Years 4 and 5 netball squads taking on Burford and coming away with a double victory! The Year 4's showed huge promise winning their game 10-0 with a dominating performance while the Year 5's won their match 10-6 showing that even against a tough opponent they can come together under pressure to take the win. Fantastic play

could be seen by all across both courts! Bring on next season!



Martin Gosling
Headteacher

FINGEST

Fingest Great Barn Opera

We are delighted to welcome DIVA OPERA to perform in Fingest Great Barn at Manor Farm again in September. This year's productions will be LA BOHÈME by PUCCINI on Saturday September 5th at 6pm and LA CENERENTOLA by ROSSINI on Saturday September 12th at 5 pm.

The ticket prices of £100 or £115 include a seat in the BARN for the opera and a picnic place for the extended interval.

The operas are performed in the splendid Great Barn which has wonderful acoustics and provides a superb backdrop for Diva Opera's performances. Both operas will be performed in stunning period costume and sung in Italian with English subtitles.

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FRIETH AND NETTLEBED



surrounding buildings provide undercover picnic tables for the audience. Parking is in the paddock behind the Great Barn.

This will be the 21st season that Fingest Great Barn Opera will raise money for the charities Action Medical Research for Children, Child Bereavement UK and Médecins Sans Frontières. Last year we donated 36K to the charities.

Please see our website for further details www.fingestgreatbarnopera.co.uk. To contact us by email please use below address fingestgreatbarnopera@gmail.com

Sylvia Crowther

NETTLEBED



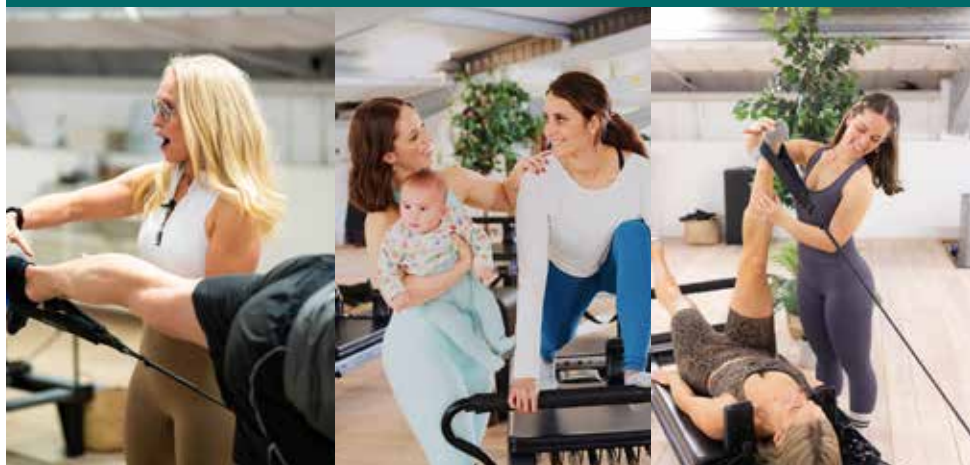
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www.tiptopdogtraining.co.uk

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

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

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 Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri from 4pm
(closed Thurs) Sat open from 7.45pm
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

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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
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