

Hambleton VALLEY

Group Magazine



*Hambleton
with Frieth
& Skirmett
Fawley
Fingest
Medmenham
Turville*

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Feb 2025



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



Cover: Casualty of Storm Darragh, there's a (very small) heron on the left, sitting on the broken stump!
This page: Cold snap window panes.

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Weekday Services

Wednesday - 9.30am, Zoom

Daily Prayer - 10.15am, Holy

Communion, Turville

Emergencies:

If you are unable to contact the Group
Priests, please get in touch with your
churchwarden.

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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

There are always two ways to look at life. Glass half full; glass half empty. There are likewise two ways to approach this second month of the year.

February can be seen as a month to be got through. Cold, short days, often miserable weather. Mud gets everywhere and the frosts and icy mornings make you yearn for a hotter clime. At least it is only 28 days long!

But many people love the Winter as a season. February can also herald those bright blue days with just enough warmth in them to show us Spring is coming. On a frosty morning you can be out early and feel you have beaten the whole human world to it, and witness beautiful dawns such as this one photographed, just at the top of Pheasants Hill.



Mid-way through the month, St Valentines Day can very much divide us. Those wishing they were in a relationship, but not, must hate it. Those missing a loved one must dread it. Those happy in their singleness might ignore it. Those happily and fortunately in a couple can enjoy it – unless expectations were set too high, which can lead to a disaster.

But the church calendar provides much more, to ground us in realism, and raise our spirits in hope. Candlemas is a time we look back at the Christmas season past and turn towards the Easter season ahead. Finest church will host a special candlelit service on 2nd February where we literally turn during the service. There are baptisms coming, reminding us of the new life coming amongst us; and this year Sue and I will conduct 16 weddings from Spring to Autumn (and a December one) which not only celebrate the love of those couples but often lead to joyous baptisms of their own in due course...

These pages are packed with reports of things done and events coming which can interest, stimulate, spark a new hobby, lead to a new group of friends. So, we have a choice. Sit tight and just get through the month; or go out there and seize the day, grateful for the life we have been given.

Andy Storch

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GROUP NOTES

An Honour most pleasing



Peter Taylor of this parish was granted a CBE in His Majesty's New Year Honours Roll. The citation says '*for services to journalism and public services broadcasting*'.

We all send our warmest congratulations to Peter who already holds an OBE.

He is an authoritative contemporary historian, a prolific writer sought by leading international publishing houses; and a senior (dare I say veteran) broadcaster at the BBC.

There could have been no better New Year fillip for our community than that this unassuming stalwart of Hambleden Tennis Club Senior's Branch should have been royally and nationally recognised for his expertise.

Alan Armstrong

Wycombe Homeless Connection's Big Sleepout returns on 15th February 2025!



Wycombe Homeless Connection's Big Sleepout is back! Will you sign up to sleep out so that others don't have to?

It's on Saturday 15th February 2025 and will be particularly meaningful as it is taking place while their winter night shelter is open.

It's an opportunity to show solidarity with people who are homeless and raise money for WHC's life saving work.

Choose to sleep out at Adams Park, home

of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, or at home in a place of your choosing. Get together with your friends, family home group or youth group to take part or join as an individual.

Find out more and register on their website:

<https://wyhoc.org.uk/bigsleepout2025>

Angela Dacre
Communications Officer



Wild Plough Sunday



Plough Sunday is a traditional English celebration of the beginning of the agricultural year. A growing number of churches celebrate Plough Sunday after the twelve days of Christmas, on the first Sunday after Epiphany.

Hambleden Valley Churches took this wonderful opportunity to incorporate Plough Sunday into 'Wild Church' and thus we had 'Wild Plough Sunday'! Christopher and Bella Connell kindly opened their doors of Parmoor Park Farm on Sunday 12th January and this became our 'church' for this amazing event.

Continued on page 7

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GROUP NOTES



The wintry snowy weather was kind to us and the service was held outdoors without having to use the back-up of the big barn.



The Wild Church Team led by Rev Sue Morton presided over a full agenda. There was plenty of farm machinery and old and new tractors making up the backdrop of this impromptu church. We started the service by remembering why we were all here - looking up at the sky and praying for God's blessing on the land that we rely on for our daily bread and remembering with thanksgiving all those who work the land for our livestock and crops.

We were lucky to have a few local farmers present who gave us their thoughts on what to be grateful for and what is a concern for them. Gideon Lacey talked about the beauty of the landscape around Lacey's Farm, and the sound of



the cows and birds early in the morning. His concern was around the bureaucracy which can seem to be inefficient. Bella talked about the appreciation of seeing the cows, sheep and crops being produced by her farm and then successfully going to market. Peter Langford from Northend mentioned the wonder of seeing his cattle growing on his smallholding and how grateful he is to be living where he is in the Chilterns. Maddie McTeague from Mill End Farm then gave us an appropriate Bible reading on farming.



The Wild Church choir took us through 'God, whose farm is all creation' and 'We plough the fields and scatter' and the congregation sang along in fine voice. There were many families present and with an assortment of glass jars, tea light candles, glue and dried leaves, decorated lights were made to place around the tractors and ploughs as traditional 'plough lights'. It all looked really amazing.

GROUP NOTES

To end the service, we were all treated to wonderful warm cake and (non-alcoholic) hot Polish toddy. What more could you wish for on a cold winter's day. The next Wild Church: Wild Spring Cleaning Community Action, will be in Hambleden on Sunday 9th February, 3pm. Wild Lambing will be at Hanger Farm, Fingest on Sunday 9th March, 3pm.

Gary Anderson



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

Sunday 9th February 3pm:

Wild Spring Cleaning -
Community Action in Hambleden.
Meet at Lychgate

Sunday 9th March 3pm:

Wild Lambing – Hanger Farm, Fingest

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

Mardi Wilkins WhatsApp: 07988 030519
Magdalena Dabrowska magda@rmb.london

One of the main needs has been heating during the winter months. We have also helped with topping up phone bills in emergencies, paying for school uniforms/shoes and petrol for hospital appointments when these are in Oxford or London, as well as occasionally taking people for their appointments. We have supplied bedding and underwear for children with special needs when the items supplied by NHS are limited. We have paid for school lunches when the youngest child does not qualify for free meals. We have given gift vouchers for Christmas and Easter as well as an occasional visit to the local cinema for a group of children who would never have been able to go.

These are just a few examples. There are of course many smaller, but nevertheless very important, things we do, but our main focus will always be the food bank where we hear of the families' needs and respond however we can.

This month, the Land End Players offered free seats for the CM children to see the dress rehearsal of their 2025 pantomime *Dick Whittington* which the children really enjoyed and our grateful thanks go to the Players.

We continue to appreciate, and give you all our grateful thanks for the interest and the generous donations of food and financial contributions; we could not continue to support our families as we do without your help.

Our very best wishes to you all for 2025.

**Blessings,
Judy (Community Matters)**

Community Matters

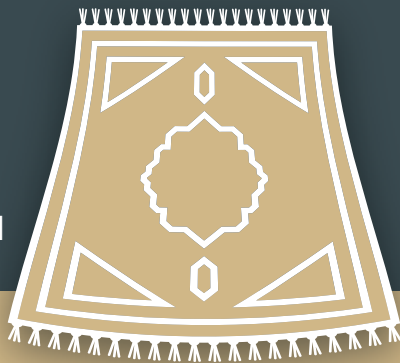
Looking back over 2024 it is amazing to see what Community Matters have done for the 25 families we currently support.

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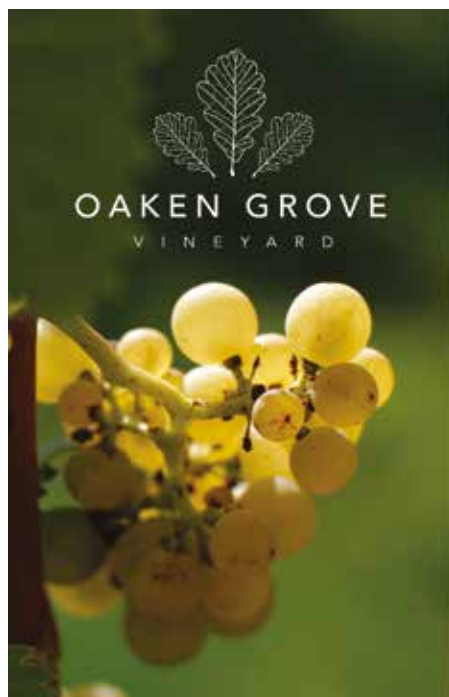
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Death of a Tree

A hundred winters you have seen,
Since that small seedling thrust
Its first frail shoot of palest green.
Up through the earthly mother crust.
How many tempests, storms and gales
Have tested well, your woody heart?
And ripped your tossing leafy sails,
Trying to tear your limbs apart.
I watched your tortured leaning trunk
Bend before the elements,
And totter like some helpless drunk,
Aimlessly, without defence.
Hold on old friend, I cried aloud -
Stand strong against the gusting gale.
Hold up your head so strong and proud -
I cannot bear to see you fail.
The storm's fierce fury not yet done
Gathered strength with every blast,
Your hawser roots snapped one by one,
While roofs and slates went flying past.
I watched you crash along the lane
Full eighty feet from root to crown
To wait the buzzing saw's sharp chain.
A soul, a friend, a tree is down.

John Eve
(from 'By Hook or by Crook')

WILDLIFE

Frieth Natural History Society

Our first meeting of 2025 will be held on Thursday 27th February, at 7.30pm in Frieth Village Hall. A brief AGM will be followed immediately by an illustrated talk. The title of John Mason's presentation is 'Creating a wildlife garden'.

A quick search around the subject suggests that a wildlife friendly garden

needs to provide water, food, shelter and habitats for a wide variety of creatures. Choosing a selection of plants, bushes and trees which flower and fruit at different times of the year and limiting the use of chemicals would be a good start. Join us to learn more!

Everyone is welcome to join us and refreshments will be available; but for non-members we make a small charge. For further details, please contact; Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586 or FNHS2023@gmail.com

Mary Webb

A Naturalist's Reminiscences No. 12

On my first day as Riots Officer in Nicosia I soon learnt why the British Army was in Cyprus. I was sitting parked in my Land Rover with my sergeant and driver waiting to see whether that morning it would be the Greeks on one side of Ledra Street attacking the Turks on the other side of the street or the Turks attacking the Greeks. It was neither.

When a Greek Cypriot schoolgirl aged about 16 walked down our street towards our parked Land Rover, we were not focused on what was about to happen. As she passed our Land Rover, she threw a grenade under where I was sitting. I knew we had only a few seconds to escape the blast so I shouted "Run". I don't think any of us ever ran so fast and we caught up the schoolgirl and arrested her. It was only at that moment we realised that the grenade had not exploded. We walked back gingerly to the Land Rover in case the grenade had a delayed action mechanism.

WILDLIFE AND HAMBLEDEN

Actually, there was no such grenade at that time or probably ever was, such was our ignorance!

When we reached it, there was the grenade lying there. They had never told her to take out the pin! She explained to us that a member of EOKA (Archbishop Makarios' armed wing) had threatened to harm her family if she did not throw the grenade under a British military vehicle. We felt very sorry for her and when we took her to the Central Police Station, I was able to persuade the station officer that she was the innocent party and she was released.

All these years later I still have an occasional nightmare about that grenade.

Alfred Waller

HAMBLEDEN

The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir

The service of 9 Lessons and Carols took place on the 4th Sunday in Advent leading us towards the festival of Christmas and the long-expected arrival of the Baby Jesus. The darkened church set the scene with the many candles being lit bringing light to us all. The choir processed through the church to the chancel where two children from Year 6 at Frieth Church of England Primary School sang the opening verses of 'Once in Royal David's City'. The whole service was a glorious combination of carols; old and new, upbeat and reflective, traditional and modern - all framed by the readings with their

poetry of the familiar Christmas story as it unfolded. Our Director of Music, Jo Hutchins, moved from the organ to conduct the choir during 'The Holly and the Ivy' while Nigel Page slid onto the organ bench to take over as organist!

Thank you to those who helped to make this such a magical service; those who read so beautifully; those who selected the carols so carefully; to the sweet singing of the choir and the playing of the merry organ; and to our Rector Andy Storch who clearly enjoyed moving to the carols!

Everyone was invited to the Stag and Huntsman where mince pies and mulled wine were provided after the service.

Thank you all.

Annie Hooton

Christingle at Hambleden on Christmas Eve

The Christingle Service at Hambleden church went at a pace, with 270 happy and excited families of children, parents, grandparents and friends all arriving within half an hour and being safely seated in every part of the church, including along the chancel step.

Poppy Amlot and Sam Boughton read a prayer response, followed by the Nativity story from St Luke's Gospel, both doing so very clearly and confidently so all could hear.

The Rev Andy Storch explained the meaning of the Christingle orange, with its sweets, candles and red ribbon.

The Christingles were given out and

Continued on page 17



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Church Services and Events

From The Registers

Rest in Peace

December 16 John Neiger

January 6 2025 Betty Ryan

Cremation, Frieth

Funeral, Medmenham
and burial, Pheasants Hill



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:

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CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2025

Pattern of Worship February 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.hamblenden-valley-churches.org.uk for latest updates or contact our administrator

Jenny Neagle on 07769 599616 – hamblendenvalleyoffice@gmail.com with any query.

Sunday Services

	Fawley	Fingest	Frieth	Hamblenden	Medmenham	Turville
2nd February		6pm Candlemas Evensong		10am Group Service		
9th February	11am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion 3pm Wild Spring Cleaning		
16th February			9am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Worship	11am Village Service	
23rd February	11am Holy Communion	6pm Compline	9am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
2nd March		10am Group Service				



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lit, and we sang 'Away in a Manger', with the lights lowered. The service ended with 'Shine Jesus Shine!' before the congregation poured out into the dark magic of Christmas Eve. Many children lingered at the crib as they left the church, and the congregation gave generously to the Children's Society.

This service needs a lot of helpers to make it go smoothly and safely. Many people volunteered, which made it a pleasure for the organisers. A special thank you to the Hamilton family who have generously hosted the making of the Christingles at the Hyde for several years, supplying all the oranges and sweets. Special mention for Charlie Lumley and her expertise with the drill making holes for the candles - see photo!



THANK YOU to so MANY people, especially the bellringing Doggarts, Boughtons, Karen and their families, the Hamiltons, Amlots and Caroline and Hugh Wilcock, who all took part, handing out Christingles, lighting them, clearing up afterwards, or putting away the many extra chairs. A wonderful joint effort which made it fun.

Jill Steward and Mardi Wilkins

Hambleden Cinema



Please join us on Saturday 15th February 2025, to watch this amazing real-life story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young broker from Maidenhead, who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued 669 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. He is commemorated in Maidenhead today with a statue on the railway station and a memorial garden.

The trailer; https://www.imdb.com/video/vi3881158425/?ref=tt_vi_i_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

HAMBLEDEN, SKIRMETT AND FRIETH

cinema snacks! In aid of raising funds for Hambleden Village Hall Registered Charity 30027.

Hambleden Cinema Team

An update from The Parish Council

Following our recent questionnaire on how the Parish Council should respond to the twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, the PC would like to warmly thank all those residents who took the time and effort to respond. Your ideas will help formulate our actions for the future.

In summary, of those who contributed, most were concerned about loss of natural habitats and least concerned about putting emergency planning in place. Comments on speed, traffic and the condition of the roads were also prevalent, as was concern about planning. Some residents raised the need for more joined up thinking, as these problems are all connected. A number of you were pleased that we are considering these issues and trying to find solutions within our small community.

If you would like to view some of the varied comments that the PC received, you can view them on our website.

We will discuss the points you have raised and actions we can take as a PC to resolve some of these. Please look out for future correspondence. We may well ask residents to volunteer in initiatives!

Hambleden Parish Council

SKIRMETT

Fish and Chip Evenings

The Fish and Chip evenings are back for 2025 in Skirmett Village Hall. Come and join us to eat in or for a Take Away. Enjoy a drink whilst waiting.

Friday 21st February 6 – 8pm. All booking details on Skirmett Village Hall website <https://skirmettvillagehall.simplybook.it/> Please book by midday Wednesday 19th February to ensure a serving.

All profits from the evening go towards the SVH refurbishment.

Celia Warren

FRIETH

Frieth School

I would like to start by saying how incredibly proud I am that Frieth has

Continued on page 21



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CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

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been named as the 3rd best performing primary school in the whole of Buckinghamshire! This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to all the hard work of our teachers and teaching assistants.

Halos sparkled, door knockers resounded, crooks curled and even the donkey's plod had extra bounce as Frieth's young stars lit up the stage in their retelling of The Nativity. Well done our fabulous Key Stage 1 team for leading such a wonderful performance!



Well done to Eagles for an amazing class assembly. You all performed with such confidence and Let Your Light Shine in different ways. Super job Mrs Lampard and the Year 6 team!



The children loved their visit from a very special person before Christmas. Big thank you to Father Christmas and his elf for taking time out of their busy schedule to come and visit Frieth!



**Martin Gosling
Headteacher**

FAWLEY **Fawley News**



Work has just been completed renewing the beautifully crafted post and riven chestnut rails, from Suffolk, round our village pond by the church. This was done by the Sargent Charitable Trust who was also responsible for the similar fence round the village green. These fences are lovely and traditional but need replacing every

FAWLEY AND TURVILLE

few decades, as do the wooden shingles on the well.

Earlier last year, a rather unusual problem occurred with the pond whose liner kept producing uprisings that looked, with a bit of imagination, like small hippos. It was probably due to methane bubbling up underneath them.



Ben Foster, late of the Old Bakehouse, used a lot of imagination and produced a wonderfully manipulated

photo to everyone's amusement - Aliens in Fawley!

Hilary Beck-Burridge

TURVILLE

Carols in the Churchyard



We had a brilliant 'Carols in the Churchyard' on 15th December, with 101 adults and 30 children. It really felt the church was properly open again.

Caroline Sants

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Need your chimney sweeping or stove installed?

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Tip Top Dog Training.

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and Community Centre followed by Dog Club which is open to graduates of Puppy School or following 1:2:1 assessment.

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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

New 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,
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: David Napier,
01491 574230,
david_napier@btoopenworld.com

Clerk to Fawley Parish Meeting and Village Hall booking:
David Burton - davidburtn83@hotmail.co.uk

FINGEST (ST BARTHOLOMEW)

Churchwardens:
Brian Barnes, 01494 882613,
brianbarnes346@gmail.com

Jill Dean, 01491 638678,
jill@sundawn.uk.com

FRIETH (ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST)

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:
Jill Steward 01491 571320
jillsteward@hambleden.com

Deputy Churchwarden:
Sharon Smith 01628 487458
sharonsmith0505@btinternet.com

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: Mandy Heller, 01491 638355 www.skirmettvillagehall.org

Tai Chi: Friday 9.30am - 10.30am.
Contact: junekingsburytaichi@gmail.com

TURVILLE (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

Churchwarden:
Caroline Sants, 01491 638994
turvillechurchwardens@gmail.com

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

Hambleden: Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell
01494 881483, clerk@hambleden.org.uk,
www.hambleden.org.uk

Medmenham: Parish Clerk Carole Burslem
01494 449215, mpc.clerk@gmail.com

Turville: Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell,
01494 881483, turvilleparishcouncil@gmail.com, www.turvilleparishcouncil.org.uk

Fawley: Clerk to Fawley Parish Meeting
Mr Ross McDonald, 07769 971252
r.mcdonald2007@yahoo.co.uk

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