

# **Hamblenden VALLEY** *Group Magazine*

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with Frieth  
& Skirmett  
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Findest  
Medmenham  
Turville*

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**Feb 2020**



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



Cover: Flooding at the bottom of Ferry Lane, Medmenham. This Page: Red kite feeding on flooded water meadow.

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## Weekday Services

### Holy Communion:

Turville: Wednesday 10.15 a.m., with  
Ministry of Healing on 4th Wednesday.  
Holy Days (except Weds), see Calendar.

### Emergencies:

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

All contributions are welcome, to the  
Editor, Penny McLeish  
[editor@hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk](mailto:editor@hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk)  
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Please keep articles within 350 words. Copy  
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### Valentine's Day



February 14th is Valentine's Day, as is well-known, the day on which we celebrate and explore love in all its many ideals. How a day for lovers came to be celebrated

during the middle of February is an interesting and ages old story. The story of Valentine's Day begins during the heyday of the Roman Empire, which held a festival every February. This pagan festival was held in honour of the God of Fertility and during the festivities young men would get to choose their mate. At that time marriage was a common occurrence, but when Claudius became Roman Emperor he changed all of that. Fearing that men would refuse their duty to fight because they would not want to leave their wives behind, he outlawed all marriages. Young couples still fell in love though and still wished to marry and they took these desires to Bishop Valentine who, understanding love, began to secretly marry couples. When Claudius found out, he had Valentine arrested and ordered him to be put to death. While waiting in jail, Valentine began exchanging letters with the jailor's daughter and soon had fallen in love with her. The day he was to be beheaded, he wrote her one last note and signed it: 'From Your Valentine'.

By 496 A.D. the Roman Empire had embraced Christianity and the then Pope, Pope Gelasius outlawed the pagan festival. Knowing its popularity however, he looked to replace it with something more 'appropriate' and so set aside a day in February to honour the martyr St. Valentine, and this it is still widely celebrated today.

Valentine's Day is perhaps best known for its cards. This is a custom whose origins could stem from any number of places. One belief is that the tradition began when St. Valentine himself passed notes to the jailor's daughter. Another story is that children used to pass notes to St. Valentine while he was in jail. He was so popular that even after his death the children still placed notes through the bars in his empty cell. Valentine's Day cards have been around in one form or another for hundreds of years. They became popular in the 1700's as handmade cards made with satin and ribbon and lace among other fineries. By the early 1800's, commercial valentines began to appear.

Like many holidays, Valentine's Day is a day of symbols. Walking around in the first few weeks of February, you can't turn a corner without seeing a red rose. The rose was sacred to Venus who is the Goddess of Love. Other popular symbols of the day are birds, particularly doves and lovebirds. These are two birds which mate for life and it was once believed that they choose their mate in the middle of February. Of course no Valentine's Day would be complete without a multitude of hearts. It was once believed that the heart was the centre of all emotion. People believed that when they gave a heart, they were truly giving all of the love and emotion that they possibly could give.

The Christian faith is centred on love as St Valentine knew, the love of God for the world and all of humanity. In St John's gospel St John wrote, 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life [John chapter 3 verse 16]

**Carol Kimberley**









**Opening Hours** Monday - Sunday

|            |             |            |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| Breakfast: | Lunch:      | Dinner:    |
| 8 - 10 am  | 12 - 2.30pm | 6 - 9.30pm |

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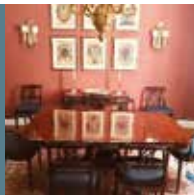
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## GROUP NOTES AND NEWS

### From our Rector, Stephen Southgate

Dear All,

I am writing to let everyone in the Valley know officially, that I have been appointed to the post of priest in charge of the Ripponden Benefice in West Yorkshire.

My induction will take place on Sunday the 10th of May.

Annie and I would like to thank all those who have given a warm welcome and support over our time here.

With best wishes,

**Stephen**

### Introducing our Interim Minister - Jonathan Chaffey



Dear Friends,

Some of you may already know that I have been appointed as an Interim Minister for the Hambleden Valley Group of Churches until Easter Sunday (12th April). I am delighted to work alongside the churchwardens in supporting the parishes during this time, whether through taking services, offering pastoral care or simply encouraging the life of the church in our communities.

My wife, Jane, and I have enjoyed our links with the parishes over several years, having officiated at services in several of the villages while I ministered within the Royal Air Force and during Jane's time as School Chaplain at Wycombe Abbey. We know the warmth of the welcome in the villages and are looking forward to sharing your life through the Epiphany and Lent into Easter.

To introduce ourselves I am attaching a

photo of ourselves standing above one of the extraordinary, 12th century rock-hewn churches of Lalibela in Ethiopia. King Lalibela, looking to create a 'New Jerusalem', arranged 11 churches to be constructed. The story goes that the churches were completed in such quick time that the hard work of the builders was surely complemented by the ministry of angels at night. The church in the photo is the Church of St George. It is as we see the Cross of Jesus at the centre of our lives that we can also discover his extraordinary grace at work.

With prayers and best wishes,

Jonathan

**Ven Jonathan Chaffey**

**hambledenvalleyminister@gmail.com**

### The Hambleden Valley Group of Churches Administrator

Dear readers, after 25 years as our Group Administrator, Penny McLeish will be stepping down at the end of April. Her services have been greatly appreciated by clergy, churchwardens and members of all our six churches throughout her time in this post. We shall be showing our gratitude at the appropriate time. Happily, Penny will continue as Editor of our monthly magazine and website and in this way we look forward to her continuing involvement with the Group.

We look to appoint a new Group Administrator over the coming weeks and if you, or someone you know, would be interested do please contact David Napier, Group Treasurer, for further details.

The Administrator's role involves an average of 40 to 50 hours a month, largely to fit within your own time. There are weekly and monthly meetings with the clergy members, monthly church service rotas and arranging organists attendance. There will be telephone enquiries, emails and some correspondence to respond to or forward onwards. Fees for weddings and funerals are received and paid into a nominated bank account and pending wedding and baptism lists kept up to date.

Penny will be on hand and very happy to guide her successor along as may be appropriate whilst settling into the role.

There is an hourly rate of remuneration which is paid at each month end.

Interested?... please contact: **David Napier, 01491 573609**

Continued on page 7



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## **Annette Jackson, Tea Club Founder Member**

Today, the 15th January, we sadly attended a memorial service for Annette Jackson, a beloved founder member of the Tea Club. She was always willing to pitch in and help out. We dubbed her the holder of the teapot, among other things. Willing to act in our pantos with gusto, in fact she stopped the show when she was the giant in 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and she jumped out with a snarl and tartan beret as a wild and woolly Scot and made us forget our lines! Yes, she was certainly game for a laugh and Mieke, who took the service today, also acted in that play. It was very apt indeed. Annette was a regular worshipper at our Wednesday services as well, always wearing a cheerful smile and always the first at the kettle there, too, pouring out the coffee. I'm sure she is still doing it in Heaven. They will never want for a helping hand. So, with loving memories of you to keep, we will remember you always.

**Pam Harper**

## **Poppy Collection 2019**

Thank you to everyone who helped with the poppy collection this year and to all those who have supported us and bought a poppy. We collected £8,899 in the Hambleden Valley with door to door collections and the Remembrance Day service.

We are still looking for someone to take over the organization of the collection. It is a very rewarding little job for someone who has some time to spare before Remembrance Day. If you would like to know more about it please do give me a ring.

**Sharon Howgego**

**01491 579051**

## **Hambleden Valley Garden Club**

At the January meeting, John Tyler, a naturalist and Fellow of the Entomological Society, took his audience on a journey through the seasons in the local countryside with fascinating and extremely interesting insights into the life of plants, fungi, amphibians and insects. John's superb close-up photographs showed the properties of the flowers and bees, butterflies and other insects who depend on each other. So much of the information in his talk was a real 'eye-opener'. John ended with an explanation of the "greenhouse effect" bringing about climate change and affecting the natural world.

Next month Brian Fisher will speak about Tulips, Daffodils, Snowdrops and other Useful Bulbs in the Garden. New members are most welcome. Please phone Celia Warren 01491 638691 for more information.

**Lizzie Arnott**

*Stephen has given permission to re-print the following article which was first published by the Henley Standard in 'Thought for the Week' 22nd November 2019:*

### **The D Word**

Late last month, a member of Parliament spoke openly about the on-line abuse he had received on account of a condition that was with him from birth.

Unusually, in this case, it was Dyslexia.

The MP was Peter Kyle, who has a PhD. from Sussex University, and has worked as a Cabinet Office Special Advisor; and yet he was branded 'thick' for making spelling mistakes, and told that 'someone with a brain' should take over.

So much for living in a more enlightened age.

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## WILDLIFE

When I was a teacher in the 1980s and '90s, little was really known about Dyslexia: it was seen as a matter for the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and the Educational Psychologist; but only if its effects were considered severe.

In recent years, there has been a great deal of research into the structure and function of the brain.

As signals pass between neurons, those that are grouped more closely give quick access to what we already know; while wider spacing creates alternative connections and gives rise to new ideas, and is associated with Dyslexia.

Albert Einstein had an I.Q. of 160, and was dyslexic.

He was told off at school for day-dreaming; and yet he went on to a highly responsible job in a Swiss patent office for seven years.

During that time, he began to re-invent physics, opening the way for GPS and Sat-Nav, mobile 'phones and lasers, and long-term weather-forecasting.

Some people with Dyslexia are exceptionally able at storytelling, some at verbal reasoning and spelling, others at maths and engineering. Many dyslexic people routinely draw in three dimensions, and visualise in 4D, or even 5D.

Perhaps, because of this, some have taken to saying that people with Dyslexia are 'wired differently'; but no two brains on earth have quite the same configuration: everyone is wired differently.

Officially designated as a disability, Dyslexia is very badly named, as many people who have it read perfectly well.

It would be more accurate to say that the 10 % of us who have the Dyslexic Difference are truly 'differently able'; for example: 40% of self-made millionaires, and 50% of NASA employees have it.

Dyslexia certainly can be a disadvantage.

Our formal education system leaves many dyslexic children feeling frustrated, and thinking they are failures, as can adults who have to deal with wordy documents or cumbersome bureaucracy; but some dyslexic people excel in simplifying the over-complicated, and most prefer to work with others, who have complementary skills.

Schools and organisations are only just beginning to understand that with a few, simple adjustments,

which would often make life easier for everyone, they can both learn and benefit from their more visionary and creative pupils and employees.

The Church that follows a storytelling carpenter, who spoke in pictures and overturned harsh rules, should surely be in the vanguard of inclusiveness and imagination.

I pray that we can all rise above the ignorance and prejudice shown to Peter Kyle, and learn to recognize our need of everybody's gifts, as we work toward the colourful, fruitful and hospitable world that God has in mind.

Best wishes,

**Rev. Stephen Southgate**

## WILDLIFE

### Dealing with eco-anxiety

These can be gloomy times for those of us keen on wildlife and the countryside. A whole series of scientific research projects and both international and national government reports have been highlighting the precarious state of nature and the looming threat of global climate change. To add to this, we are faced at local level with planning decisions and processes that seem to prioritise enormous infrastructure projects and abstract economic growth models over the special characteristics of the Buckinghamshire countryside we enjoy and hundreds of valued local wildlife sites.

Is it surprising that psychiatrists are reporting a marked increase in general anxiety specifically related to worries about the environment? Even people not directly involved in wildlife activities are feeling that the background and context for their lives has become unstable and uncertain and extreme weather events and disruption is feeding into this. For those of us more involved with nature, the lovely warm, sunny weather of last summer and even more so during this July, has brought mixed emotions. At times clouds of butterflies, bees and other insects have delighted us and it has felt as though the tide of insect declines might have reversed. Some of our meadows have had spectacular displays of flowers and there have been lots of fine days for exploring them. Just like the old days!

Then we remember that our desperately rare

Continued on page 11

The image features a vibrant, abstract background composed of large, overlapping geometric shapes in shades of orange, yellow, pink, purple, and green. In the upper center, the word "savills" is written in a lowercase, sans-serif font, with the letters in a dark red or maroon color. The background also includes a stylized illustration of a village with colorful houses at the bottom.

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chalk streams have dried up, there are new concerns about some of our familiar butterflies, our bumblebees and once-common farmland birds. At some sites our special Buckinghamshire flower Chiltern gentian seems not to have recovered from the drought in 2018 and hasn't reappeared this year. Latest reports on climate change and species loss paint a very bleak picture, leaving us feeling utterly powerless as individuals.

What is the solution? Get involved! Get active! Your local Wildlife Trust, BBOWT, is at the forefront of fighting for policy changes, including a new comprehensive Environment Bill that will protect and improve the UK's natural world. BBOWT is also a major player in land management, directly protecting the most important places for wildlife and managing sites to make them more resilient in the face of threats from climate change and the spread of diseases. The BBOWT Chilterns Group supports this work through publicity and information events, fundraising and campaigning ... and a new local BBOWT group specifically dedicated to nature's recovery in and around the Hambleden Valley is now about to form. Would you like to lend your support to this group?

Or, you could get active with physical conservation work or species recording on our nature reserves (your local examples of Homefield Wood, Warburg, Hog and Hollowhill Woods and Swains Wood are all rich in biodiversity and can be helped to become richer still). Getting outdoors and active with likeminded volunteers has been shown to give both physical and mental health benefits. And you would know that your work is directly benefiting wildlife.

So, don't just sit at home worrying about the news – come and join your local volunteer group.

Mick Jones MBE, Chairman BBOWT Chilterns Group

**If you would like to know more about the new group that is forming, Mick Jones will be giving an illustrated talk entitled 'Conservation in Action: A Year of Helping Wildlife in the Chilterns' in Hambleden Village Hall on Thursday, 26th March – 7 for 7.30pm (refreshments provided). Tickets (£5 each) are now available from Hambleden Village Stores.**

## HAMBLEDEN

### Carol Singing Christmas 2019

The Hambleden Valley Choir raised £1,550.62 for Medic Malawi and Riding for the Disabled. We would like to thank our hosts and hostesses for their hospitality and all guests for their generosity. A good time was had by all.

**Christine Wells**

### One Can Trust

My!... there are some really lovely kind souls in the Hambleden Valley... I'm amazed every time I visit the blue bin - it has filled with very generous supplies of groceries and toiletries! To me it really is the magic blue box!! It certainly keeps me on my feet to empty it and deliver it to the One Can Trust hub in Wycombe! I say THANK YOU and One Can Trust says THANK YOU!!

**Gwyneth Ashcroft**

### Hambleden WI January 2020

Sarah Williams, our new President, opened the first monthly meeting of 2020. Sarah warmly welcomed the 24 members who had braved the rather wet evening before moving on to the evening's business.

The 2020 programme was distributed and it was announced that going forward Jo Tilbury will be leading the Art Group. Jan Connolly referenced the January/February BFWI News highlighting the Centenary 2020 Annual Council Meeting, to be held on 12th May at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre; guest speakers will be Dame Esther Rantzen and Jay Blades. A potential visit to the BFWI Garden Party at Waddesdon Manor on 7th July was proposed and dependent on sufficient interest by members, a coach could be considered. Jan will obtain a price to enable further discussion at the next meeting. Reference was made to the positive feedback received regarding the Christmas party, held at The Stag & Huntsman in December and Nikki Mains kindly thanked the Committee for facilitating it. Members all voted on this year's NFWI Resolutions. The results will be announced at February's meeting. A big thank you for the delicious tea we enjoyed at the end of the evening, kindly provided by Jill Busby,

Continued on page 18

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## CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2020

- Sun 2      **Presentation.** *Valley First Sunday:*  
10am, Valley Choral Eucharist, Hambleden.  
6pm, Candlemas Evensong, Fingest.
- Tues 4      2.30-4pm, Hambleden Valley Churches Tea Club, Parmoor.
- Wed 5      10.15am, Eucharist, Turville.
- Fri 7      1.30pm, Barney's Toddler Group, Frieth Village Hall.
- Sun 9      **Third Sunday before Lent.** *Most normal services but:*  
No 9am at Fingest.  
10am, Breakfast Service, Fawley.
- Tues 11      2.30-4pm, Hambleden Valley Churches Tea Club, Parmoor.
- Wed 12      10.15am, Eucharist, Turville.  
7.30pm, Fingest PCC meeting, in the Church.
- Thurs 13      7.30pm, Hambleden WI, Hambleden Village Hall.
- Sun 16      **Second Sunday before Lent.** *Normal services including:*  
11am, Valentine Celebration, Hambleden.
- Tues 18      2.30-4pm, Hambleden Valley Churches Tea Club, Parmoor.
- Wed 19      10.15am, Eucharist, Turville.
- Sun 23      **Sunday next before Lent.** *Normal services including:*  
7pm, Compline, Fingest.
- Tues 25      2.30-4pm, Hambleden Valley Churches Tea Club, Parmoor.
- Wed 26      **Ash Wednesday**  
10.15am, Eucharist with prayers for healing and ashing, Turville.
- Thurs 27      8pm, Hambleden and Frieth PCC meeting, Hambleden Village Hall.

## CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2020

- Sun 1      **Lent 1.** *Valley First Sunday:*  
10am, Valley Choral Eucharist, Fingest.  
6pm, Oasis, Frieth not Fingest.
- Tues 3      2.30-4pm, Hambleden Valley Churches Tea Club, Parmoor.
- Wed 4      10.15am, Eucharist, Turville.
- Fri 6      1pm, Passion Prevails, Magnard Ensemble, Medmenham Church.  
Concert as part of Chiltern Arts Festival, See <https://chilternarts.com/festival>  
1.30pm, Barney's Toddler Group, Frieth Village Hall.  
7.30pm, Beethoven and the Loss of Vital Senses, Danny Driver, Hambleden Church.  
Concert as part of Chiltern Arts Festival. See <https://chilternarts.com/festival>
- Sat 7      12noon-2pm, Hambleden Lent Lunch, Village Hall.

# Sunday Services This Month

[www.hamblenden-valley-churches.org.uk](http://www.hamblenden-valley-churches.org.uk)

|                                                            | Hamblenden                                                                    | Medmenham              | Fawley                    | Fingest               | Frieth                     | Turville                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 2nd February<br>Presentation<br>of Christ in the<br>Temple | 10am, Valley Choral Eucharist, Hamblenden<br>6pm, Candlemas Evensong, Fingest |                        |                           |                       |                            |                                          |
| 9th February<br><br>3rd Sunday<br>before Lent              | 11am Holy<br>Communion                                                        |                        | 10am Breakfast<br>Service | No service today      | 8am, BCP Holy<br>Communion | 9.30am Holy<br>Communion                 |
| 16th February<br><br>2nd Sunday<br>before Lent             | 11am Valentine<br>Celebration                                                 | 11am Holy<br>Communion |                           | 9am Holy<br>Communion | 9am Holy<br>Communion      |                                          |
| 23rd February<br><br>Sunday next<br>before Lent            | 8am, BCP Holy<br>Communion                                                    | 11am Holy<br>Communion | 11am Holy<br>Communion    | 7pm Compline          | 9am Holy<br>Communion      | 9.30am Holy<br>Communion<br>Mice/Monkeys |
| 1st March<br>Lent 1                                        | 10am, Valley Choral Eucharist, Fingest<br>6pm, Oasis, Frieth not Fingest      |                        |                           |                       |                            |                                          |

## From The Registers

### Rest in Peace

|            |                  |                                                |
|------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| January 15 | Annette Jackson  | Cremation and Thanksgiving Service, Hamblenden |
| January 18 | Elizabeth Mackie | Cremation                                      |
| January 23 | Alan Griffiths   | Funeral at Hamblenden and Burial at Fawley     |

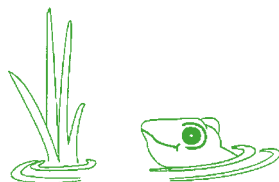
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|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



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## FAWLEY

Wendy Vye and Audrey Ambrose.

We were delighted to welcome our speaker for the evening, Simon Williams, who gave a highly entertaining, upbeat and interactive delivery of 'Is it Fun to be Fooled'? Humorous anecdotes supported the résumé of his lifelong interest/involvement with Magic. A great start to our 2020 programme.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 13th February 2020 at 7.30pm in Hambleden Village Hall. The speaker will be Warren Ford who will talk about "Tea, Britain's Favourite Drink".

We very much welcome new members to join Hambleden WI. For further information and to see our 2020 programme, please visit our website at [www.hambleden-wi.org](http://www.hambleden-wi.org). If you would like to consider joining, please feel free to come along as a visitor to any of our meetings, a warm welcome awaits you, together with a cup of tea!

**Sally-Ann Roberts**

### Church Teas

I am not starting this editorial appealing for help, that will come later! This is to thank all those people who regularly come on a Sunday afternoon between May and September to support our Church Teas. Without you all we would not be able to raise money which directly supports our church here in Hambleden. In 2019 we raised circa £5,000 which is a magnificent amount. Thank you.

Now for the appeal! Teas will start on Sunday 31st May through to Sunday 27th September, hopefully we will have Men's Day on Bank Holiday Monday 31st August. The rota will go up at the end of February in the church porch, but if any of you are keen to get your Sunday booked in please feel free to email me.

We are always short of help and it is only thanks to people undertaking two or three Sundays that we were able to cover the rota last year. If there are any people out there who do not feel able to take on a session but would like to bake some cakes we would love to hear from you. The freezer will be switched on again in March for people to store cakes, just mark what they are and whether they contain nuts etc. We are also always in need of gluten free cakes. If you are storing cakes for your own session please put the date on the cake, otherwise you might find it has been used (this happened to me last year). If you are interested

in helping but would like to find out more of what is involved, please feel free to contact me – I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

**Penny Wright** 01491 571135

[penny.hurtley@gmail.com](mailto:penny.hurtley@gmail.com)

## FAWLEY

### Fawley Carol Service

The church was packed, which right from the start was a Good Thing. David Napier conducted the service with great avuncular composure. Saxophonist Dave Ledingham, as ever, lent saucy thrills. This year we were privileged to have the masterful Lawrence Tubb at the keyboards.

First, Sally Scott read vividly from her family bible. After some guff on Robert Graves, we proceeded to a guitar instrumental of Twinkle, Twinkle, performed with royal style by Marley Hester. Jack Snow gave us his own spellbinding piano arrangement of Hedwig's Theme. Max Swinglehurst followed with a rocking Minnie Mouse Hits Town.

Ivy Evetts recited Christmas Legend with considerable authority; she was joined by her cousin Iona Fogle for an utterly charming Jingle Bells, with fabulous dancing. Poor Peter Holland had to follow this, but he did so admirably, with an amusing and heartfelt meditation on kindness.

Jack returned to keep Dave L. in order on the horn accompaniment to Wenceslas. Michael Temporal-Darell then stood and made us swoon with Some Enchanted Evening. This was followed by Ben Fogle, who beguiled us with a clever and strangely haunting appraisal of feasts fantasized in extremis, including his own, and Shackleton's.

Jane Maskell then spoke about her expedition to Zambia. This was for us all the emotional apex of the service, and we saluted her immense courage in speaking at all. In her address she reminded us of Sister Mariola's orphanage in Kasisi, which we help support.

(A word about Mariola. She is a short, tough, barrel-shaped nun of indeterminable age. When supplies of any kind are flown to her, she stands on the runway to greet the aircraft. Nobody dares move her. She makes sure that every single thing that belongs to her orphans is delivered directly to them. In Zambia, this is without precedent.)

Continued on page 21

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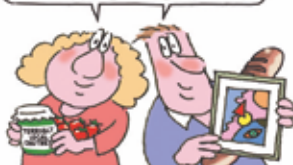
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By no coincidence at all, the hat went round immediately after Jane's talk. We raised £954, which has been split between Kasisi and the emergency fund to repair our own church.

Back at the service: Molly Swinglehurst came to the fore, bringing her heroic brother Max, and delighted us with Holly Jolly Christmas. Mark Turner then rose and gave a masterful account of Thus Saith The Lord. His daughter Tash proceeded to astonish us all with My Love, My Life.

It only remained for the makeshift band to fumble through Don't Wait Too Long. Andrewses Felix and Ivo were on good form, though Magnus was off-games and couldn't play, alas. We were privileged and very lucky to have Katie Moberly step in and sing for us, bewitchingly.

Lovely mulled wine and things from Sarah Ronan. And Judy McAlpine's magnificent party afterwards was a great reward for all. That's it. Until the next time. Bring a shooting stick, space might be tight.

### **Guy Andrews**

Without Guy Andrews the Fawley Carol service would be a dull event. He is brilliant!

### **Judy McAlpine**

## **FRIETH**

### **Frieth School in Frieth (and Hambleden) Church**

On Thursday 19th December, Jill Dean, Gill Sandeman and I went into Frieth CEC school to make christingles for Frieth church service with pupils from years 5 & 6. We discussed the symbolism of the christingles, with the candle in the top to represent Jesus, the light of the world. While we were assembling the christingles

the children were excited by a visit from Father Christmas with his sack full of sweets and chocolates.

A little later on the same day the school held their end of term service in the church, led as always by the year 6 children. The school choir, very ably trained by parent Juliette Cheung and villager Andrew Green, and conducted by Andrew, led the singing of the carols and also performed two solo items. The standard was extremely high, and was a particular achievement given that so many of the children (and staff) were absent from school in last few days of term due to illness.

The following evening the church was packed to capacity for our Christingle service, and we were very grateful to Judy Taylor from Lane End church for taking the service. A number of local children took part in the service, reading prayers and the story of the nativity and singing Away in a Manger by candlelight after the christingles had been distributed and lit. The church looked beautiful, lit by candles and nightlights, and the service was followed by refreshments including mulled wine and mince pies.

On the Sunday before Christmas there was the traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols at Hambleden church, and two of the girls from Frieth School sang the solo first verse of Once in Royal David's City, before joining the church choir for the remainder of the service.

On Mothering Sunday, March 22nd, there will be a service in Frieth Church at 3pm suitable for all ages. The youngest school children will make the posies in school on the Friday before, and there will be refreshments following the short service. Everyone is welcome to join us at this family-friendly occasion.

### **Merelina Tebbot, Chair of Governors of Frieth School**



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**FINGEST AND TURVILLE**

## FINGEST

## Fingest Past



Fingest Ecclesiastical Parish mid-1800s and the present Parish boundaries.

Note: Today's Manor Farm in Chequers Lane was then known as Fingest Farm.

Fingest Farms in the 1800s – In the mid-1800s the Fingest Ecclesiastical Parish covered a much larger area than the present parish. It included Cadmore End and Bolter End Commons, and Fining Wood out as far as Moor Common. Cadmore End, then in the Parish of Lewknor, Oxfordshire, was transferred to Buckinghamshire when changes were made to the county boundaries in 1896. Today's much smaller Parish of Fingest was established in 1976. Future articles will feature only those farms considered to be situated in the village of Fingest. We know of six farmers operating in Fingest from the middle to the end of the 19th century; William Nash, Thomas Hussey, David Hussey, Thomas Prince and his wife Sarah Frances and their youngest son Thomas.

## Don Boreham

**TURVILLE**

## Basil the Cat



Basil the cat had a busy Christmas in Turville. Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve provided him with a surprising opportunity, no doubt, for warmth and company at a time when the village is normally tucked up in bed. His determination to join in with the bell ringers meant he had to be put out a few times but he was soon back, entering with the next group of worshippers to open the door. He stayed for the service, led by the Bishop of Buckingham, which provided a wonderful start to Christmas Day for cat and humans alike. He was up again on Christmas morning, back in the Church in good time to get a comfortable pew for the all age service which featured an excellent orchestra of children (and supporting adults) from the village. The service was again well attended and greatly appreciated by villagers and visitors alike. We emerged into a gloriously sunny Turville - where better than the Hambleden valley to celebrate Christmas?

## Caroline Sants

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07340 117406  
hambletonvalleyminister@gmail.com

**Group Rector:** The Rev. Stephen Southgate,  
Currently on secondment.

**Associate Priest:** The Revd Sue Morton,  
Currently on secondment.

**Licensed Lay Minister:**  
John Kimberley, 01491 413155  
lordkimberley@gmail.com

**Director of Music and Choir:**  
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c@wells.vnworks.net

**Group Treasurer:** David Napier, 01491  
574230, david\_napier@btopenworld.com

**Group Administrator:** Penny McLeish,  
01491 571288, penny\_mcleish@hotmail.com

**Baptisms:** Penny McLeish, 01491 571288,  
penny\_mcleish@hotmail.com

**Weddings and Blessings:** Paul and Lynda  
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hambletonvalleyweddings@gmail.com

**Tea Club:** St. Katharine's, Parmoor,  
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Sue Brice, 01494 882084,  
sue.brice@btconnect.com or Gillian Loveridge,  
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Revd Sue Morton 01491 639286 or  
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**Website:**  
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### **Fawley (St Mary the Virgin)**

**Churchwarden:** David Napier,  
01491 574230,  
david\_napier@btopenworld.com

**Clerk to Fawley Parish Meeting and  
Village Hall booking:**  
Mr Ross McDonald, 07769 971252  
r.mcdonald2007@yahoo.co.uk

### **Fingest (St Bartholomew)**

**Churchwardens:**  
Brian Barnes, 01494 882613,  
brianbarnes346@gmail.com  
Jill Dean, 01491 638678, jill.dean50@sky.com

### **Frieth (St John the Evangelist)**

**Contact:** Judy Hunt, 01494 882227,  
ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com

**Village Hall Bookings:**  
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Brownies now meet on Mondays from 6pm  
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friethbrownies@hotmail.com, 07545549910

**Frieth Natural History Society:**  
Alan Gudge, 01494 881464

**Frieth Village Society:** Caroline Walker  
01494 882333

**Frieth Lunch Club:** meets on last  
Thursday of the month at the Yew Tree Pub.  
Judy Hunt, 01494 882227  
ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com

### **Hambleton (St Mary the Virgin)**

**Churchwarden:**  
Michael Tebbot, 01494 882261,  
m.tebbot@gmtw.co.uk

**Bell Ringing:** Fri 7.45pm practice, Helen or  
Karen, hambletonbells@mycomputer.email

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

**Women's Institute:**  
Sarah Williams, 07817 120339

**Pilates:** Mondays 11 - 12 Fran Presho,  
07951 019594

**Bridge Club:** Fridays 1.30 - 4.30  
Frances Cugnoni, 01491 576409

**Hambleton Social and Sports Club:**  
Open daily from 8 pm Pat Eldridge,  
01491 576067

**Tennis Club:** Heather Symons,  
01491 577344, heathersymons16@hotmail.com

**Tennis Coaching:** Chris Marshall,  
07801 999230, chrismarshall20@hotmail.com

**Royal British Legion:** Gillian Loveridge  
(Secretary), 01491 638895

**Yoga:** Monday 7pm-8.30pm  
Debbie Flavell, 01491 414403,  
debby@debbyflavell.com

**Indoor Market:** Hambleden, 2nd Saturday in  
Month (except January)

**Circle Dance** Thursday 7pm – 8.30pm  
Debbie Flavell 01491 414403  
debby@debbyflavell.com

### **Medmenham (St Peter and St Paul)**

**Churchwardens:** Dennis Harwood,  
01628 810143,  
dennis.harwood411@btinternet.com  
Angela Magee, 01628 484043,  
angela.magee@yahoo.co.uk

**Village Hall Bookings:** Emma Tentori,  
07759 014396

**Uniformed organisations:**  
**1st Danesfield Scouts, Cubs and  
Beavers:** leader Nick Currie,  
enquiries@danefieldscouts.org.uk

**Medmenham Matters:** Jo Baxter, 01491  
573901, medmenhammatters@yahoo.co.uk

### **Skirmett**

**Village Hall Bookings:** Missy Davies,  
01491 639 297 www.skirmettvillagehall.org

**Pilates:** Mon 11.15am – 12.15 pm  
Julia Farey, 07747 825 830

**Hambleden Valley Garden Club:** Meetings  
Oct-Mar on first Tuesday each month at Skirmett  
Village Hall 7.30. Contact Celia Warren, 01491  
638691.

### **Turville (St Mary the Virgin)**

#### **Church Wardens:**

Anne Jones, 01491 639344,  
annejones.tur@btopenworld.com  
Caroline Sants, 01491 638994  
cobstonesbarn@gmail.com

**Bell Ringing:** Mon 8pm practice,  
Ann Lazur, 01491 638039

**Sunday School:** Sara Harman,  
01491 639211

### **Turville Northend**

**Village Hall Bookings:**

Susie Phillips, 01491 639584  
www.thevillagehall.co.uk

**Pilates:** Tues 5.55pm - 6.55pm & 7pm - 8pm.  
www.pilat-ease.co.uk

**Yoga:** Mon 7.00 - 8.00pm  
Elizabeth Rowsell 07884 437277

### **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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**If you are thinking of selling your home, or would like some advice on the current market in the Hambleden Valley, please contact the Henley office.**

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