

Hambleton VALLEY

Group Magazine



Annual Subscription £18

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Sept 2024

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



Cover: Fledgling Barn Owl, Parmoor, photo Irene Barrett. This page: Harebells, Hambleden Churchyard.

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Weekday Services

Wednesday - 9.30am, Zoom
Daily Prayer - 10.15am, Holy
Communion, Fingest

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
hambledenvalleyeditor@gmail.com

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Medmenham SL7 2HB
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Please keep articles within 350 words. Copy
deadline is 15th of the month.

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Group Letter



September is a time we associate with new beginnings, as the academic year renews and Summer is defined as over. For Janice and me this September brings about the departure of our youngest child to University – the nest has emptied! But also – due in fact on the same day – the arrival of our first grandchild. So, a new season faces us, as it may well face you, too. Some will be starting school for the first time, others moving from small primaries to larger new schools, and others still may be ending secondary school and/or starting University or College.

And August was not too bad, weather-wise. We got bits of a Summer. We all know why the long school holiday is August, and not the warmer and brighter June or July. Blame it on the harvest, and the age-old need to conscript every able body over about 6 to bring in the harvest. Some may still remember bringing in

harvests as a child. But now the enormous combine harvester does the job for us and farmers miraculously govern their many acres with but a handful of farmhands.

Although today the harvest is no longer the obvious cause of our holiday season it is so important not to lose sight of it. This September (and October) we will be celebrating Harvest Festivals in each of our 6 churches. We are thanking God not just for His creation generally, but for this year's growth and abundance in particular. We are too quick to forget how our supermarket shelves are stacked, the miracle of growth from seeds to crop to foodstuffs for us all. We are in a land of plenty, and we need to recognise it and be grateful for it. Our God feeds us like a parent feeds its child, all we need is here on earth for us to bring in - to nurture, not exploit, to use, not abuse.

So let us remember this Autumn to thank God for the year's provision, for creating life and sustaining it, for giving us our very being and continuing to bring life to the next generation.

Rev Andy Storch

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GROUP NOTES

Fingest Group Service Prayers 4th August 2024

Thank you, Father, for the wonder, the beauty and complexity of Your creation. Renew our souls this week to celebrate Your creativity. Thank you, Jesus, for overcoming the dreariness of sin and making everything new. Renew us this week, I pray, to live almost as beautifully as You. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for inspiring dreams and visions, imagination and innovation. Give me a new mind this week to perceive fresh possibilities in ordinary things.

God of peace and mercy, we lament the terrible violence and suffering in our world. We remember those affected by the Southport stabbings and all whose lives are ripped apart by murder and violence. We remember those who live in fear every day of their lives, particularly in Ukraine and Gaza and for the ongoing trauma in Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, the DRC and Lebanon. We pray for all those serving others in these challenging environments that they may be kept safe and feel Your presence alongside them.

God of Justice, we pray for our world leaders, asking You will replace hearts of stone with hearts of flesh, You will replace fear with understanding, darkness with love. As our own new government struggles to govern well, help our prime minister and his cabinet react well to political unrest and extremism, and to financial insecurity and uncertainty. Keep Your servant King Charles and all the Royal Family in good health for body, mind and spirit, and we thank You for all they do.

God of compassion, we pray for all those who are struggling in life. We think particularly of those who have been critically injured after violence, those who have recently been bereaved, those who are suffering mental or physical illness themselves or within their families. We pray that all those who mourn, known or unknown to us, may feel the comforting light of Your presence and that You will renew their strength when they are most weary. We pray for those who have died, that they rest in Your loving arms knowing the peace only You can give. A moment of quiet to remember those we hold in our own hearts today...

Finally, we pray for ourselves, that You may show us the bread of life and feed us with it. Let us share both physical and spiritual bread with those around us, and be content with all You have given us. Thank You for our daily bread, may we never lose our appetite for You.

Rev Andy Storch

Tim Peers (March 1963 - July 2024)

Many of us in The Hambleden Valley Group of Churches are saddened by the news of the recent death of Tim Peers aged 62, who for 30 years headed the now eponymous local Estate Agency in Henley. Tim was diagnosed with glioblastoma in September last year and then underwent brain surgery followed by cancer treatment which he fought courageously until peace came in July.

It is testament to the character and personality of the man that over 400 attended his Thanksgiving Service at St

Continued on page 7

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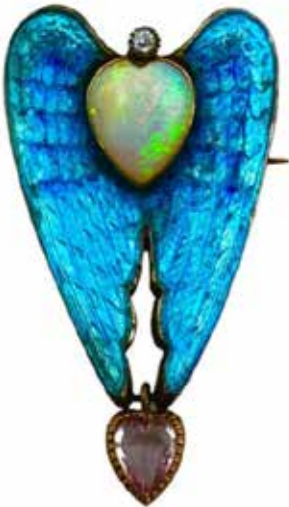
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Mary the Virgin Church, Hambleden yesterday - Tuesday 13th August. Almost half of the congregation sat or stood outside the church in bright hot sunshine - so very apt for the occasion. It was an emotional and beautiful service conducted by Rev Andy Storch with not one but two perfectly presented eulogies from Tim's best chums. These were supported by several thought-provoking readings and heart wrenching poems read by family members including his son Ben; his daughter Ellie; his sister Muffin and his brother Adam - all beautifully read. His wife Lindsay then spontaneously and bravely ended the service by sharing her thoughts of Tim with us all as a loving and caring husband and father who touched so many people in such a positive manner. It was certainly a service to remember if only for the huge personality that Tim was. As one of the

comments in the Book of Condolences in the Agency simply says: "Legend."

Tim Peers Estate Agents fortunately remains in safe hands and we sincerely hope his legacy of continuing to support our magazine also lives on too. He will be missed.

Stephen Sidders

Tea Club breaks up for the summer



What do you know about the chalk stream running through the Hambleden Valley, or rail journeys through Switzerland, or the history of Fingest, or Chile in South America? These are all subjects that a variety of speakers talked to the Tea Club about in the summer term between Easter and the end of July.

We have a varied programme of activities - whist, quiz afternoons, scrabble and sometimes a film show, with the occasional speaker as shown above, the

GROUP NOTES

favourite being memories of old times in the Valley.

We had planned to finish the summer Tea Club meetings with a garden party at St. Katharine's, but the weather had other ideas, and we had to settle for a tea party inside. Nevertheless, as can be seen from the attached photographs, it was a jolly affair and we enjoyed a delicious assortment of sandwiches, sausage rolls, strawberries with cream and cakes, and the weather didn't dampen our appetites or enjoyment!



We are currently having a summer break and the Tea Club will start again on 10th September at Parmoor at 2pm. We meet each Tuesday, mostly at Parmoor, but sometimes in Frieth Village Hall. If you aren't sure about whist or scrabble there is always someone on hand to assist and it's lovely to just get together for a chat – we always have a good laugh and enjoy tea and cakes.

If you would like to know more, please

contact Wendy Duerden or Judy Hunt. We are always looking for help with transport, please do be in touch we would love to hear from you. It is important for our community that the Tea Club flourishes.

Judy Hunt



Do join us for our next and future Wild Church!

Sunday 8th September 3pm:

Wild Church at Oaken Grove
Vineyard, Fawley

Sunday 13th October:

Wild Harvest venue TBC

Sunday 10th November:

Wild Church at Remembrance

Sunday 8th December 2pm:

Wild Nativity at Northend
Common, with real animals!

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@gmail.com

Mardi Wilkins WhatsApp: 07988 030519:

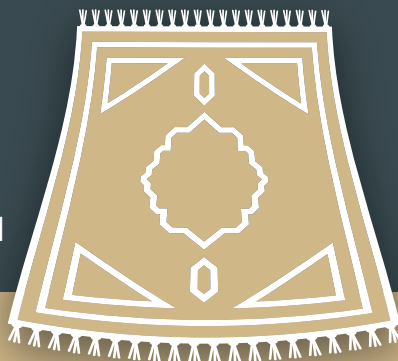
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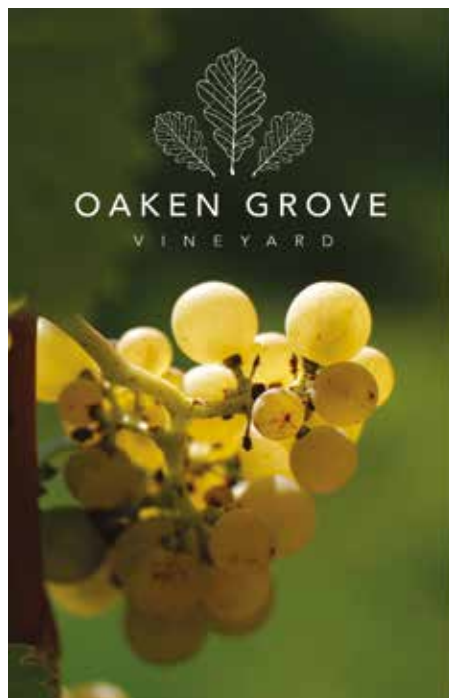


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Community Matters August 2024

About a year ago Red Kite, the Housing Association involved with the majority of social houses in Lane End, referred a gentleman to our food bank, he was recently widowed and was struggling financially. Eventually his finances improved and he no longer needed the food bank but, because we had helped him, he very much wanted to help us. So, we use him to do jobs that require his skills as a strong handyman which also includes help for our families when difficult tasks require his assistance. He tells us that being involved with Community Matters has changed his attitude in life about helping others and claims that his involvement has helped his mental health too.

This month we are concentrating on supporting our families financially to help with the purchase of new school uniforms and shoes ready for the Autumn term.

The donations of food, toiletries, dog/cat food from Hambleden Valley churches has been outstanding; our food bank owes so much to you all and we and our families thank you so much for continuing to support us. We have some lovely letters of thanks which are displayed inside on our church notice board, if you are passing, please take a look.

Blessings,

Judy, Barbara and Lucy

From the Garden of Eden to Paradise A Journey in Stained Glass



Visit St Mary the Virgin Church in Henley-on-Thames to discover more as Heritage Open Days celebrate the Routes, Networks and Connections to be found in our beautiful church windows 6th – 15th September 2024.

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

St Mary's Church in Hart Street near the river will be open every day of the festival from 10am to 4pm. There will be self-guided tours and talks for all. Children can have fun searching for all the animals



Classes are held at: **Lane End Youth and Community Centre, Edmonds Road, Lane End HP14 3EJ**

For further details of Puppy School and other dog training services, please go to the Tip Top Puppy and Dog Training website or contact Melanie direct.

Melanie Mathews
Member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (01569)

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GROUP NOTES

depicted in our windows. Bring binoculars if you have them – some of our windows are very detailed and very high up. The event is completely free, and there is no need to book.

You will be able to follow a trail around the church to find Adam and Eve, Noah and his animals entering the ark, the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, and the three wise men bringing their gifts to the baby Jesus. Children can search for Noah with the animals entering the ark, at least 2 dragons, a lion, and many other animals and birds.

Come and explore the windows, and we will take you on a tour from Adam and Eve to Mary, Queen of Heaven, and explain where you can find locally the start of a route to pick up the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain.

The church will be open every day of the festival, but please be aware that this is place of prayer and worship, and be considerate of all users. There is very limited disabled parking at the front of the church, but there is level access throughout, and there are toilets available, including a disabled toilet.

Merelina Tebbot

treasurerstmaryhenley@btinternet.com

The 2024 West Wycombe Chamber Music Festival

<https://westwycombemusic.org.uk/>



Regular readers will know that the 2024 West Wycombe Chamber Music Festival will return to the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Hambleden for five concerts, which will take place from Thursday 19th to Saturday 21st September.

Hailed by The Guardian newspaper in 2021 as “One of the top ten classical music events of the year” the Festival’s theme this year is ‘Enchanted’ which will explore music inspired by Fairy tales, Myths and Legends.

Thursday 19th September at 7.30pm ‘MYSTERIOUS BARRICADES’

Join us for an enchanting journey taking in Couperin’s enigmatic masterpiece as well as two cornerstones of the repertoire by Brahms and Mozart, both looking back through the mists of time for their inspiration.

Friday 20th September at 1pm ‘DOUBLE DOUBLE TOIL AND TROUBLE’

Three magical stories by Shakespeare, Zhukovsky and H C Anderson, each one inspiring works by Janacek, Beethoven and Stravinsky.

Actress Anna Madeley (All Creatures Great and Small) guides us through this enchanting afternoon.

Friday 20th September at 7.30pm ‘INNER VOICES’

Five deeply personal and contrasting works, each inspired by various aspects of introspection. From Hermann’s iconic film score for ‘Psycho’ to Schumann’s glittering Piano Quintet.

Saturday 21st September at 11.30am ‘GULLIVERS TRAVELS’

Join some of today’s most talented young musicians for this magical voyage around the world and beyond. Gulliver Suite and other magical works by Prokofiev, Ravel, Dvorak and Fauré.

Saturday 21st September at 8pm ‘FAIRYTALE DANCES’

This year’s ‘Enchanted’ festival finale concludes with

Continued on page 17



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CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS

From The Registers

Holy Baptism

July 28	Florence Charlotte Mary Liston	Hambleton
July 28	George Oliver Watson	Hambleton

Rest in Peace

July 16	Anthony Weedon	Funeral and Burial, Medmenham
July 17	Ron Bishop	Funeral and Cremation, Fawley
August 6	Tim Peers	Cremation
August 13	Tim Peers	Thanksgiving Service, 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:

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CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday Services

Pattern of Worship September 2024

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 has moved, temporarily, to Fingest, and there are no services at Turville for 2/3 months owing to ongoing conservation works. 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.

www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk

	Fawley	Fingest	Frieth	Hambleden	Medmenham	Turville
1st September				10am Induction of the Rev Andy Storch as Rector		
8th September	11am Holy Communion 3pm Wild Church, Oaken Grove Vineyard	9am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion		
15th September			9am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Worship	11am Village Service	
22nd September	11am Harvest Festival lunch	6pm Compline	9am, Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion		
29th September			8am BCP Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion	
Saturday 5th October						3pm Animal Blessing Village Green
6th October		6pm Harvest Evensong	10am Group Service			



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GROUP NOTES AND WILDLIFE

Dvorak's radiant Piano Quintet and also includes Thomas Ades own Fairytale Dances based on English Folksongs, Britten's heroic 'Young Apollo' and Mozart's masterful Piano Concerto K488.

Tickets:

Friday and Saturday daytime concerts £18

Thursday and Friday evening concerts £22

Saturday evening concert £25

Festival Pass for all five concerts £90

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(Under-18s: Free with a paying adult)

For full details of the concerts, performers and ticket bookings:

Carol Power, Telephone: 01494 528569 / 07948 897148

Please call to check availability and purchase your tickets by phone.

e-mail:

tickets@westwycombemusic.org.uk

Please email your requirements and you will be given payment options

Richard Morbey

Hands

There are hands with strength to lift and move stone,

hands that defy their delicate structure, the complex movements of muscle with bone;

hands that define our past and our future, holding our history in Hadrian's wall, in the spire of cathedral, its sculpture.

There are hands light in their touch as rainfall, hands that deftly decode for us Chopin, the keys of the oboe, notes that enthrall;

hands that give us the genius of Titian, subtle and skilled in their gift to portray,

enabling writers to reach us, enlighten.

There are hands of precision for crochet, that sew, fine threading a needle with art, that mend, blend together our broken clay;

hands that manipulate, accurate, smart, researching, flying us safely with flair, hands empowering invention, fresh start.

There are hands, above all, that give us care, that feed and keep clean the sick and the old, hands that heal, bringing us water and air.

Jane Mann

WILDLIFE

Frieth Natural History Society

Frieth Natural History Society have planned their next walk on Friday 20th September, meeting at 10am in the car park of a nearby nature reserve.

Our circular walk is just under 2 miles, fairly level and with no steep climbs. We will wander through chalk grassland where I hope there will still be some late flowers and butterflies to identify. Weather permitting, we should get some super views on our way. Finally, we return through a section of beech woodland with plenty of berries, nuts and autumnal leaves.

Anyone is welcome to join us, but for further details of where to park and to book your place, please make contact.

Andy 01494 881586, Mary 01494 881501 or email FNHS2023@gmail.com

Mary Webb

The Silver-Washed Fritillary butterfly and the Chalkhill Blue

Despite it apparently being a poor year for butterflies, in my work as a volunteer

WILDLIFE AND HAMBLEDEN

for the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust, I have been lucky enough to see several large, bright orange Silver-Washed Fritillary butterflies fluttering along the woodland rides at Warburg Nature Reserve near Henley, and they can also be seen in Homefield Wood. These magnificent butterflies are encouraged by the work carried out by volunteers to coppice hazel trees; this old woodland management practice lets sunshine into the woodland glades which allows clumps of dog violet to grow. The butterflies lay their eggs near the violets and when the caterpillars hatch, they feed on the plants. Adult butterflies swoop down to take nectar from bramble flowers.



Silver-Washed Fritillary

Photo Jonathan Brown



Male Chalkhill Blue

Photo Suzanne Birkett

The other really beautiful butterfly I saw for the first time this year was the Chalkhill Blue, again at Warburg Nature Reserve, but this time on grassland. The male butterfly is blue

with a black and white border to the wings, whereas the female is brown and less commonly seen. Caterpillars of this butterfly feed on horseshoe vetch. Suzanne and Leonard Phillips of Medmenham are great supporters of wildlife and have planted horseshoe vetch and created butterfly scrapes on their land to attract these increasingly rare butterflies, which only occur on southern chalk and limestone grasslands.

Suzanne Birkett



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HAMBLEDEN

Frieth School Choir sing at Hambleden Church Teas



I couldn't think of a better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than to sit with friends, new and old, eating cake and drinking tea whilst listening to the joyous voices of members of Frieth School Choir on Sunday 21st July. They'd readily given up their afternoon to sing to us during afternoon Teas, and with many smiles and lovely voices the rest of the world just disappeared in a melody of songs. Thank you to everyone who came along, listened or sang!

Karen Musgrave Hill

The Village of Denbrook

Hambleden undertook a name change during the month of July, where some of the filming of *Three Bags Full* (a sheep detective movie) took place which is a mystery, comedy, thriller. It was a large production, but not the longest, which I believe goes to *A Village Affair* in 1995 when they settled their base in the village for 6 weeks, using many locals as extras and a long time ago *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* in the 1960s.

A great deal of preparation and communication went into the filming



planning and the Location Manager and her team worked extremely hard to ensure we all knew what was happening. No easy task when the appalling weather kept affecting their schedule. The whole crew were extremely polite and friendly which made the slight inconveniences



HAMBLEDEN AND MEDMENHAM

much easier to bear.

Emma Thompson in her bright pink suit was in many of the scenes shot and was extremely friendly and personable. Despite rumours, Hugh Jackman was not in any of the scenes in the village! There was what appeared to be a dopey policeman and several sheep were spotted around the village and in the graveyard – cardboard and woolly, but not real!



Whilst we accept filming does cause upset, the benefits from this production have done a lot of good. The Sports & Social Club was rented out daily, the village hall for the whole month and I believe hundreds of jam doughnuts were ordered from the shop together with numerous toasties. The church has also benefited with scenes being shot in the graveyard and a scene in the belfry which might be hard to recognise in the actual film and was specifically chosen for the beautiful stained-glass window. Rumour has it that the lamb will actually have tears in the film.

The film is due to be released in January 2026.

Penny Wright

Hambleden Harvesting



Wheat being cut at Parmoor in anticipation of Hambleden's Harvest Service (11am Sunday 13th October) which will be followed by Harvest refreshments.

Many thanks to Isobel and Chris Connell.

Jill Steward

MEDMENHAM

A Life in Medmenham part 1

I was born in 1936 about half a mile on the Marlow side of the Medmenham parish boundary. But my grandmother, Mrs Sartin, had managed the village post office and shop at Gillman's Cottage since 1898 and my mother and I frequently visited her so I always felt at home there. I first sang in the church choir in 1943.

My father, whose family lived in nearby Frieth, returned to work as a gardener

at Medmenham Abbey in the autumn of 1946, where he had previously been employed in the 1920s, marrying my mother there in 1924. We lived at 3 Ferry Lane (now named Sharrow Cottage) and in 1947 suffered such severe flooding that I was rescued by punt and taken right up to the lower church gate. It was in those days a two up two down cottage with no indoor bath or toilet. Open fields faced us to the West. In eleven happy years there I attended primary and grammar schools in Marlow, did two years National Service (in the Royal Artillery), and completed my first year at Oxford 1956/7.

In the mid-1950's with the death of the last owner of the Abbey and its estates, Arthur Bendir, the village experienced a major social upheaval. There was no longer a significant employer in the village and a score of workers, including my father, lost their cottages. My mother managed to arrange a quarter mile move down the lane for us

to the Abbey's West Lodge, occupied before us by the dairymaid, and shortly to be renamed, rather selfishly by me, 'Olmeda' after a recent first visit to Spain. The cottage was indeed sheltered by elm trees but now they have all disappeared. We arrived here on the 17th of August 1957 and, with amazing good luck, it is still my home.

I completed my Oxford degree in 1959, followed by three chaotic years in which I did research and strove to obtain a university post in a new academic subject, War Studies, in which there was virtually nothing on offer. I took temporary teaching posts, including one at Reigate Grammar School, which transformed my life. I lodged with a Mrs Cromwell and met her niece, my future wife, Madeleine, who lived and worked at nearby Horley. Madeleine visited Olmeda a few times and was enchanted by the cottage and the village.

Brian Bond



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CHURCH AND VILLAGE ACTIVITIES AND CONTACTS

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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)

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Clerk to Fawley Parish Meeting and Village Hall booking:
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Frieth Village Society: Caroline Walker
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Frieth Cricket Club:
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Pilates: Mondays 11 – 12 Fran Prescho,
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,
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Tennis Coaching: Chris Marshall,
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MEDMENHAM (ST PETER AND ST PAUL)

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Uniformed organisations:
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Artists' studios: Turville Studios open the
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