

Hambleton VALLEY

Group Magazine



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Nov 2024

*Hambleton
with Frieth
& Skirmett
Fawley
Findest
Medmenham
Turville*



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



Cover: Northern Lights seen from Lacey's Farm over Frieth, photo Inga Shakaryan. This page: 150-year-old tortoise, Spencer, at the Animal Blessing.

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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
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Please keep articles within 350 words. Copy
deadline is 15th of the month.

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Group Letter



I last wrote here in September and mentioned how we were expecting both an empty nest – our youngest heading for University – and also a first grandchild. So here is the update: Grandson Maier born 25th September to Freya and Martin, living now too far away in Plymouth!

For us, then, we add to our family. For many, though, they have lost someone. November is often called the Remembrance month. We give thanks to God for those we have loved who we see no longer, and in the Hambleden Valley we have a special service just for this purpose: our All Souls service on 3rd November in Frieth (3pm). We light a candle for each such soul. Each of us grieve in different ways, and for some the pain seems as sharp this year as it did last year, and perhaps the year before, too. But as we support and comfort one

another in loss, let us not isolate the bereaved, even if we do not know what to say, sometimes silence is enough.

The following weekend of course sees Remembrance Sunday, when as a Nation we give thanks for those we never knew, but who have given their lives - or their health - in conflicts across the globe, across the years.

And so, the seasons turn, the dark of November comes also with celebrations such as bonfire night; and come December, the month with the shortest days, we have the brightest celebration of them all to finish the year.

Life is rarely a plateau: there will be steep hills to climb as well as gentle slopes to descend. Let us journey together in all the ups and down.

Andy Scorch

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GROUP NOTES

Animal Blessing, Turville Saturday 5th October 2024



It feels like *All Creatures Great and Small* meets the *Vicar of Dibley* as the spectacle of the annual Animal Blessing is held once again on the green in the village of Turville.

Dogs and cats, horses and ponies, goats and guinea pigs, rabbits and hens, a solitary hedgehog, Spencer the 150-year-old tortoise and of course Harry the talking parrot happily bring their owners along so that they (the animals!) can be blessed as a key part of the local community.

The service is led together by Rev Andy Storch - who is enjoying his first Animal Blessing experience as Rector of the Hambleden Valley - and Rev Sue Morton. The Churches' new Director of Music, Jo Hutchins, along with Graham Wheeler on guitar, plays well-known hymns on the keyboard, such as *All Things Bright and Beautiful* and *He's Got the Whole World in his Hands* that are sung heartily by the assembled congregation, along with a few barks and grunts from the furrier attendees.

And then Basil arrives. Basil, the much-loved Turville cat who, in past times has visited every house in Turville but has a special liking for being in the church, oblivious to the kind of service taking place. He quizzically surveys the assembled animals, but then quickly departs in the knowledge that once



Continued on page 7

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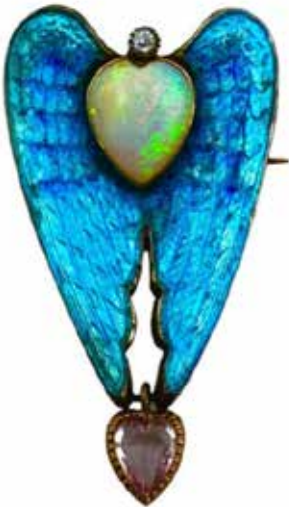
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they leave at the end of the service, he will once again resume his role as King of the Village. The service continues with a collection for the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals, with £110 being very gratefully received by this worthy charity.

Finally, the two clergy circulate to bless each and every animal, great and small, but all with the same result, a smiling and happy group of people who affirm that this traditional event is worthy of its place in the Church and Community calendar. We hope to see you and your animal friends next year!



Mark Morton



Carving Friendly Pumpkins at Wild Church



This Sunday, Wild Church held a fun event where we carved friendly pumpkins to celebrate harvest and God's light and love. Instead of spooky faces, we focused on cheerful designs that brought smiles to everyone.

We all gathered on the green in Frieth with our pumpkins, small knives, and cookie cutters. Everyone was excited to start carving!

Each person picked a design they liked. Some chose stars, others picked hearts or a cross and many went for big, happy faces. We used cookie cutters to press shapes into the pumpkin's skin. This made it super easy and quick!

With our small knives, we carefully cut around the shapes. We laughed and shared stories while scooping out the insides of the pumpkins. It was messy but so much fun!

Everyone left with a smile and a glowing pumpkin to take home following Frieth School's Vision 'Let your light shine!' We sang, said pumpkin prayers and collected Harvest



GROUP NOTES



food donations for Community Matters. We can't wait for next year's pumpkin carving event!

Magdalena Dabrowska

Community Matters November 2024

We are delighted to welcome a new volunteer, Anne, who has joined Community Matters and will be helping with the food bank from now on. With their permission, Anne, with Barbara, was able to visit some of our families in their homes in order to get a deeper understanding of their lives and more importantly their needs. It was an opportunity and a privilege also to understand better the difficulties and worries they face which they shared openly with Anne and Barbara.

Continued on page 11



Wild Church Coming Up!

**** Please note time changes for November and December****

**Sunday 10th November
2.30pm:**

Wild Church at Remembrance, Fawley Court RG9 3AA

Join Wild Church for an Outdoor Act of Remembrance in the grounds of Fawley Court where de-coders and Special Operations Executives were trained during World War Two. We will hear some of their stories, sing a couple of well-known hymns, along with a two-minute silence, Last Post and Reveille

Sunday 8th December 2pm:

Wild Nativity at Northend Common, with real animals!

Return with us to Northend Common, to sing carols and hear the Christmas story in the company of real animals from the stable. Children (and adults if they wish) are invited to dress up as a character from the Nativity.

Do join us!

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

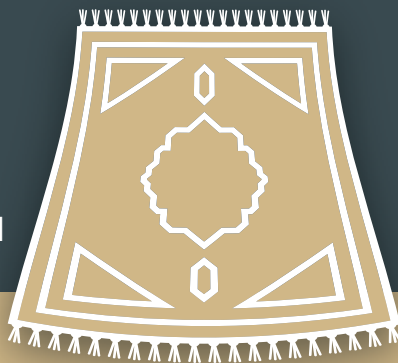
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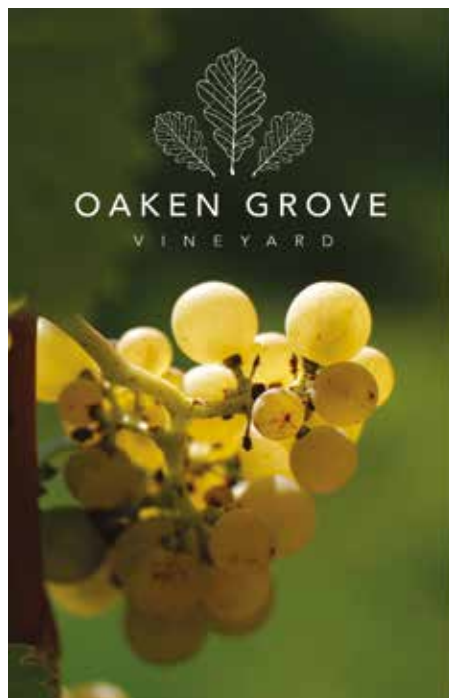


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GROUP NOTES AND WILDLIFE

We are so grateful for the wonderful contributions we have recently received: a huge amount of food etc from the Harvest Services across the churches of the Hambleden Valley, as well as Frieth School and Wild Church Harvests, plus the ongoing donations to our food bank you so kindly continue.

With many thanks and blessings,

Judy Taylor

Rage and Rancour

On Friday 31st January, Peter Taylor and I will give a talk in the Village Hall on the Civil War, and how it affected the great houses on the Thames between Hambleden and Henley.

Tickets are £5 each, from the Village Stores. They will be available from 1st December.

Last year, when I gave a talk on the ancient history of Hambleden, there were 100 people in the room – way above the health and safety limit of the Hall! So, for this talk, numbers will be strictly limited to 80, and there will be no ‘walk ins’.

All proceeds are for the Village Hall Restoration Fund.

Chris Whitehead

WILDLIFE

Frieth Natural History Society

The November meeting of FNHS will be our final event of 2024, taking place on the morning of Monday 4th November close to

Frieth. We are very fortunate that Professor Richard Fortey has agreed to lend his expertise and lead our Fungal Foray in a different area of woodland close to Frieth.

Professor Richard Fortey has just written a book about fungi with the title *Close Encounters of the Fungal Kind: In Pursuit of Remarkable Mushrooms*, which was published on the 12th of September and featured at the recent Henley Literary Festival. I'm sure this will be a very interesting and informative morning.

Everyone is welcome to join us, but for non-members we make a small charge.

For further details and to book your place, please contact; Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586 or FNHS2023@gmail.com.

Mary Webb

A Naturalist's Reminiscences No. 11

In my previous reminiscence I was walking up and down in the Himalayas thoroughly enjoying the mountain wildlife up there when I received orders to report to the Suffolk Regiment recently posted to Nicosia, Cyprus, to assist the British Governor, Hugh Foot, cope with outbreaks of violence by EOKA, Archbishop Makarios' armed wing which wanted Enosis, union with Greece. As Cyprus had been part of the Ottoman Empire for centuries before finally it became part of the British Empire, there was no love lost between the Greeks who formed three



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WILDLIFE AND HAMBLEMEN

quarters of the island population and the Turkish minority. Nicosia, the capital city, was divided roughly in two by Ledra Street. One side was Turkish and the other Greek. When the Turks were not attacking the Greeks, the Greeks were attacking the Turks.

When I arrived at Kykko Camp East after a somewhat circuitous route via Benghazi, Libya, where Movement Control (India) for some reason had sent my baggage, I found myself in yet another tent and began meeting all my fellow officers. Suddenly the camp fire alarms went off and we could see a tent ablaze in another part of the camp. When we went to pick up the water hydrants, we found them empty because the officers had recently enjoyed squirting each other. When we reach the blazing tent there was the CQMS (Company Quarter Master Sergeant) throwing all his surplus equipment onto the fire 'to square the books'. A few weeks after my arrival, I was summoned to my CO's (Commanding Officer) office to be shown a photograph of Colonel Grivas, the Greek commander of the EOKA, whom he believed was hiding in the Troodos Mountains. There had already been some research on Grivas by Martin Bell, the Intelligence Sergeant - later with the BBC in the droopy white suit - indicating that Colonel Grivas was a diabetic and no searches of the donkey convoys supplying the Greek villages in the Troodos had found any insulin. When I asked my CO when the photograph had been taken because we might be looking for a much older man, he responded "Don't be impertinent" and immediately gave me an extra week as Orderly Officer and appointed me Riots Officer in Nicosia!

Alfred Waller

Six Inches of Soil

"Six inches of soil feeds eight billion people".

A packed Hambleden Village Hall watched this inspiring film about three new farmers on the first year of their regenerative journey

to heal the soil and help transform the food system - Anna Jackson, a Lincolnshire arable and sheep farmer; Adrienne Gordon, a Cambridgeshire small-scale vegetable farmer; and Ben Thomas, who rears pasture-fed beef cattle in Cornwall. It was introduced by the Producer, Claire Mackenzie, who also chaired a Q & A session at the end with Tash Sommers of Pocket Wilding, James Porter of Colstrop Farm and George Bennett of Sandy Lane Organic Farm.

The principles of Regenerative Agriculture are encouraging biodiversity, rotating crops and livestock, minimizing the use of artificial chemicals, protecting the soil surface with minimal disturbance (ie shallow or no ploughing) and encouraging deep root growth to withstand the vagaries of our climate. When soil is healthy it produces better quality food, stores more carbon and prevents erosion. It also protects the vital web of fungal communities which has recently been shown to be so important.

It was a hugely inspiring evening, organised by Hambleden Cinema (www.hambledencinema.co.uk), on a topic which matters more and more to people. We care about where our food comes from, good animal welfare and the state of our world.

"Soil is the most valuable resource on the planet and we are degrading it without even realising".

Penny McLeish

HAMBLEMEN

Church Teas

We had a lovely surprise on the penultimate teas, when a delightful young man called Harry turned up with some beautifully decorated cakes which he had made for children. Thank you, Harry, perhaps we can put you down as a cake maker for next year's teas?

Continued on page 17



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CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS

From The Registers

Holy Matrimony

September 20	Peter Schmid and Melissa Phillips	Fawley
September 21	James Miller and Emma Jackson	Fingest
October 4	Neil Bird and Zoe Crawley	Hambleton

Rest in Peace

September 23	Carole-Anne Duncan	Graveside Burial, Medmenham
September 27	Michael Mackenzie	Ashes Burial, Fawley
September 30	Amber Rogers	Funeral and Burial, Medmenham



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 NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday Services

Pattern of Worship November 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. On Sunday 24th November is the opening service at Turville since the conservation works began and so the 10.15am midweek Holy Communion on Wednesdays is back at Turville from 27th November. 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
3rd November		10am Group Service	3pm All Souls Service			
10th November	3pm Wild Church Remembrance Fawley Court	9am Short Remembrance Service	10am Remembrance Service	10.50am Remembrance Service		
17th November			9am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Worship	11am Village Service	
24th November	11am Holy Communion	6pm Compline	9am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
1st December	10am Group Service			6pm Advent Candlelit Service		



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We started the year off with a mammoth struggle to fill all the Sundays and it was only thanks to people stepping up to do more than one day that we

were able to fill all the slots bar two.

An enormous 'thank you' to all those who not only give up their Sunday afternoons, but also who bake some lovely cakes. When you think that an average Sunday afternoon uses twelve cakes that is some undertaking. A special 'thank you' also to the ladies who have so kindly provided cakes for the freezer, which has been an absolute blessing this year. This meant the two new ladies who kindly joined us for the first time were not put off with the frightening thought of having to bake twelve cakes!

A very special 'thank you' must also go to Chris Howgego and his team who spend Sunday mornings putting up signs around the valley advertising the teas and then at the end of the day take them all down. Chris has been doing this for more than 20 years, I believe, and would very much like some gentlemen of the parish to step forward to help.

Unfortunately, we do not have a confirmed total income as we are waiting for confirmation of the card transactions. However, by our calculations we appear to have made circa £6,812.78, which is fantastic.

'Thank you, thank you, thank you'.

Penny Wright

West Wycombe Chamber Music Festival

From the 19th to 21st of September the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Hambleden had the honour, for the second year running, of being chosen by Lawrence Power as the perfect place to host the renowned music festival he founded in his home town many years ago.

The audience came from far and wide and were treated to five glorious concerts of the finest classical music performed by musicians of the highest calibre. The theme was 'Enchanted' and the audience certainly were by Brahms, Mozart, Beethoven and many other, some less well known, composers. One afternoon Anna Madeley read three magical stories set to the music they inspired and later that evening the theme from the film Psycho echoed through the Church to the delight of everyone attending including a girls' school sixth form who were studying it for their A levels!

Lawrence Power was an extremely engaging host and introduced two of the next generation of extremely talented young musicians who performed exceptionally well on violin and piano.

Three glorious days of world class music in the beautiful setting of the Hambleden Valley, who could ask for more.

Veronica Stuart

Quiz

Have you got your tickets yet for Friday 22nd November? There are still some available in Hambleden Stores, but they are disappearing quickly.

Same format as last year - £12 including light supper. Tables of 6.

You've got to be in it to win it!

Chris Whitehead

HAMBLEMEN

Hambleton Harvest



Four generations of Bowdens, farmers of Mill End and Parmoor

Hambleton celebrated our Harvest service on Sunday 13th October. The Church was decorated with wonderful floral arrangements with a platter of bread and grapes on the Altar. Our Rector, Andy Storch, led the choir and local farmers, Isobel Connell with Marion Bowden and Louise McTeague and their families, carried the sheaves of wheat to stack in front of the Altar. These had been grown on their land. This was followed by an uplifting thanksgiving service and sermon with Jo playing the organ and leading the choir in full voice. It was followed by coffee and



delicious refreshments after the service to share time together.

Mardi Wilkins

Hambleton Cinema



Continued on page 21



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Please join us on Saturday 16th November to watch the amusing film *Wicked Little Letters*, rated 15, starring Olivia Colman and Jessie Buckley. When residents begin to receive wicked letters full of hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose is charged with the crime. However, as the town's women investigate, they suspect that something is amiss, and that Rose may not be the culprit after all.

Trailer - https://www.imdb.com/video/vi2830485017/?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 cinema snacks! In aid of raising funds for Hambleden Village Hall Registered Charity 30027.

Hambleden Cinema Team

Parish Council



The Parish Council would like to hear your views on what we should be doing to conserve and improve biodiversity in our area. Please fill in the survey to let us know your thoughts:

<https://tinyurl.com/hpcquestionnaire> or scan the QR code. You can also email any further suggestions to clerk@hambleden.org.uk

Lorna Coldwell, Clerk

Calling all Facebook friends!

Hambleden Village Hall now has its own Facebook page and would really appreciate your likes and follows!

There's lots that goes on in this beautiful building - either on a regular basis or as a one off - and it's a great asset for our entire community. To keep up with our regular events, or to book the hall for your own special occasion, meeting, or class, you can



find us here: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61562855610750>

And, if Facebook isn't your thing, you can always get in touch via our website at: <https://hambledenvh.weebly.com/>

Sara Horner

SKIRMETT

Fish and Chip Fridays

Jim and Noelle, latterly of The Frog, are cooking and serving up their renowned Fish and Chips on the third Friday of the month in Skirmett Village Hall. Come and you will be assured of a wonderful evening.

Dates 15th November and 20th December, 6–8pm. £15 per person. Drinks available. Booking essential – skirmettvillagehall.org or contact Andrew Brown, via email, skirmettvillagehall@gmail.com for more details. Jim would like to know numbers 48 hours beforehand. We look forward to seeing you.

Celia Warren

SKIRMETT, FRIETH AND FAWLEY



Skirmett Village Hall

Jim & Noelle's famous ...

Fish & Chips

Third Friday of each month:
18th Oct, 15th Nov, 20th Dec 6-8pm

Booking Essential – pls indicate rough arrival time on
booking website
skirmettvillagehall.simplybook.it



£15 per serving

Registered Charity no. 25114

FRIETH

Frieth School

Mini Hilly

Big thanks to the Frieth Hilly committee for organising the first ever Mini Hilly and what a fantastic event it was! Great to see the children enjoying themselves so much and a massive well done to everyone for giving it their best!



Lady Ryder Memorial Garden

The Year 6 Eagles' children had a great

morning at the Lady Ryder Memorial Garden at Parmoor. The highlight was trying some of the produce, especially the edible flowers! They learnt about how different plants and flowers are fertilised and grown as well as planting their own strawberry cuttings. A fantastic morning in our local community!



Kites Class Trip

Kites Class had a brilliant trip travelling back in time to the Stone Age, at the Chiltern Open Air Museum. Their Stone Age guide gave the children a real taste of what life would have been like as hunter-gatherers, fire makers and tool makers. Thanks very much to our parent helpers and of course the children for making it such a fabulous day.



Martin Gosling
Headteacher

FAWLEY

Fawley Harvest Lunch

A wonderful lunch was enjoyed in our beautiful, newly renovated church. Delicious food was donated by many kind villagers



and wine provided by our local vineyard. A lot of organising and preparation by dedicated people resulted in a happy, joyous occasion. The tables were beautifully decorated too, with dried autumn leaves and small pottery vases filled with corn, berries and foliage to adorn the tables. Well done to all who worked so hard to make this harvest celebration happen. *Photos Jon Sloper*

Sarah Hanlon



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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,
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@btopenworld.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)

Churchwarden: 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:

skirmettvillagehall.org

Andrew Brown skirmettvillagehall@gmail.com

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
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