

Hamblenden VALLEY

Group Magazine



Annual Subscription £18

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Dec 2024



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

*Hamblenden
with Frieth
& Skirmett
Fawley
Findest
Medmenham
Turville*



Cover: Crib at St Mary's, Turville. This page: Fallow deer, Frieth

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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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Please keep articles within 350 words. Copy
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Group Letter



December can feel like chaos – full of social events, services, Christmas presents to buy, never-ending to-do lists and the pressure to create the perfect Christmas. But in the midst of this chaos, churches offer an opportunity to find peace.

Follow the Star: *Calm and Bright* is the Church of England's logo for this Christmas, continuing the 'Follow the Star' theme from former years. A bright star in the dark night

is what we need in the bleak cold and damp of these short December days, and this is exactly how Jesus was represented in the famous gospel of John: *a light shining in the darkness, a light for all people*. This year many of us saw – perhaps for the first time – the Northern Lights, visiting us all the way down here in Buckinghamshire! They came out best on camera – did you see in the November magazine the incredible photo of them taken in Frieth!

And if we can cling to that essential truth about Christmas – that Jesus came to bring us light, that there is a Saviour, there is hope, there is a way to God which can even take us through death – then it will help you this busy, busy season to find a calm and bright peace. We have scheduled many various services: for those who like to sing, many carol services; for those who like the candles on the oranges, several Christingles; for those who like outdoor services, we have a Wild Nativity in Northend; and for the special atmosphere of Christmas night, we have two midnight masses.

But you may prefer to step away from the bustle of December, into one of our churches, to find peace in a literal sense. Time to rest with God, share your thoughts and prayers, and pause. Perhaps, as you rush around in those last few days before Christmas, take a moment to look up, see the stars if you can, and remember that calm and bright light that came to the earth that first Christmas.

Andy Storch

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GROUP NOTES

Wreath Laying on the Grave of Major George Howson MC



Thursday 28th November
midday
Pheasants Hill, Hambleden

Each year a representative from the Poppy Factory lays a wreath on the grave of its founder: Major George Howson. This year Mr Mark Young will once again be with us. Along with the simple wreath laying, there will be some short prayers and a blessing.

Everyone is warmly welcome.



by Rev Sue Morton. The names of those loved ones that had passed away were read aloud and many candles were lit in their memory. The afternoon service was filled with tranquillity and reflection, and deeply appreciated by all who attended. Rector, Rev Andy Storch, gave the address as part of the service. Refreshments were served at the end, providing an opportunity to chat with fellow attendees.

Paul Marston-Weston

All Souls' Service at St John the Evangelist, Frieth



This year, the beautiful All Souls' Service for the Hambleden Valley was held at St John the Evangelist, Frieth, on Sunday 3rd November at 3pm, as its usual home, St Mary the Virgin, Turville, was still

undergoing extensive refurbishment and modernisation.

The service is a cherished time to remember and honour loved ones who have passed away. The ceremony includes prayers, hymns, readings from Scripture, and the lighting of candles.

Around 60 people from across the valley attended the service, which was conducted

We will remember THEM



There are precious few things we do when everyone comes away feeling Gooooood! That was lovely.

Sincere, heartfelt, executed locally but shared internationally; orchestrated perfectly; has endured for 106 years and all the more powerful for it. Sadly, we

Continued on page 7

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commemorated a sacrifice; to say 'thank you' to those we will never meet; those who made the ultimate sacrifice in a foreign field... for us; for our way of life, our freedom; our future.

For a military person: what better way to be remembered than to have your name read out in your native homestead in perpetuity. An honour never contemplated as one went into battle for one's country and mates. We were called; we went, with weapons recently acquired, into territories we'd never heard of; ours not to reason why. Such is war.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Hambleden Valley Group of Churches Service of Remembrance to mark the 11th hour of the 11th month 1918, and all those that have 'fallen' in combat. We promised to 'remember them' and we do, hoping and praying that such conflicts will never happen again.

Lest we forget: for every death remembered there are multiples of injured and existential damage done. Our congregations gladly gather in honour, but also sadly in horror, with a deep desire for enduring peaceful coexistence. For all who are or have been involved in maintaining our peace, we thank you.

Feel good events involve a team effort and what a great team we had on a bright autumnal Sunday. Sublimely orchestrated by Sue Morton whose invaluable helpers know their worth - from all of us - thank you. These pages permit few names hence only stars of the day here:

Trumpeter par excellence - Chris Preston

Exhortation by very smart Flt. Lt.

Jamie Noone

3 paratroopers from 3 PARA Adam Knights, Mark Browne, Brett Spence

Ellie Gowers who placed the British Legion wreath.

A lovely Remembrance Day service.

Footnote:

'Lads, You're Wanted' book about the men from Hambleden and the Great War by Chris Whitehead.

Chris Howgego



Wild Church Remembrance



At 2.30pm on Sunday November 10th, about fifty parishioners gathered in the glorious parkland of Fawley Court for the Wild Church Service. We were there to remember

those who had served at Fawley Court in World War II.

After an introduction and opening prayer, Rev Sue Morton explained why Fawley Court was so special during the Second World War. In 1940, the house was requisitioned for use by the Special Operations Executive (SOE). This new volunteer force was set up to wage a secret war. Its agents were mainly tasked with sabotage and subversion behind enemy lines. They had an influential supporter in Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who famously ordered them to "Set Europe ablaze!". Fawley Court was used as a wireless training centre for those who had volunteered to be agents working in Europe behind enemy lines, and those at home who would keep contact with them.

Its existence was so secret that neither the army high command nor the parents of

GROUP NOTES



those that trained there knew about it. And even today, although its work is no longer a secret, not many people know about it.

The personnel that underwent training at Fawley Court, then known

as Special Training School (STS) 54a, were mostly young women who had a mathematical background, an aptitude for crossword puzzles or could play the piano, with some fluency in French. It was felt that such women would have the right kind of brains for dealing with codes and cyphers. They were 'girls of good background, quiet tongues and quick brains'. Many were very young, often below 20.

Many of the women at Fawley Court were enlisted into the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) to disguise their secret work. FANY had been formed in 1907 as a first aid link between the field hospitals and the front lines during the Great War, and was given the 'Yeomanry' name as its members were originally mounted on horseback. By 1939 there was no need for horses, and the women were trained in one of four fields: motor transport, wireless telegraphy, codes or general. The telegraphy unit morphed into the SOE.

By the end of the War over 3,000 FANYs

had served with SOE - as trainers, coders, signallers, forgers, dispatchers, and, most famously, as agents. Of the 50 women sent by SOE into France 39 were members of the FANY. Of these 39 women, 12 were murdered by the Nazis and one member was killed in action.

The training course lasted for three to four months. The course was technically challenging. Apart from learning to send and receive morse code at a sufficient speed, 15 words per minute, recruits needed to understand radio wave propagation and the use of cyphers. Potential agents had to learn how to repair their wireless in the field. They also needed to prove their competence in the use of various security measures intended to make it difficult for German direction finders pin-pointing the safe houses agents were using whilst in contact with their handlers. Those who volunteered to operate behind enemy lines were the only women permitted a combat role during the Second World War.

When they were founded the FANY was unashamedly elitist. It was a 'Yeomanry', an organisation for the daughters of the land-owning classes who could ride horses. To a great extent it had preserved that ethos up to the beginning of World War II. Many of the young women had been 'debs', had been presented at court and 'done the season'; some even had titles. But the expansion of the work had required the influx of a large number of girls from very different backgrounds.

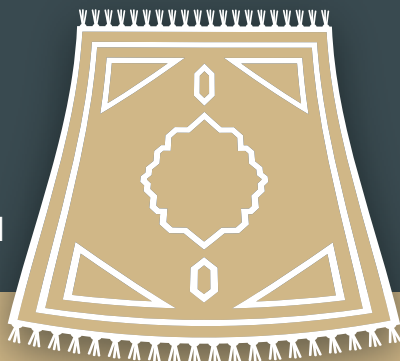
Members of FANY wore a military-style uniform, but were not part of the regular army or the army reserve. Their uniform was distinguished by a FANY lapel and cap badge, with the chinstrap of their hats over the crown. Nevertheless, as one trainee remembered, they all had to muck in, army style. Jane Buckland

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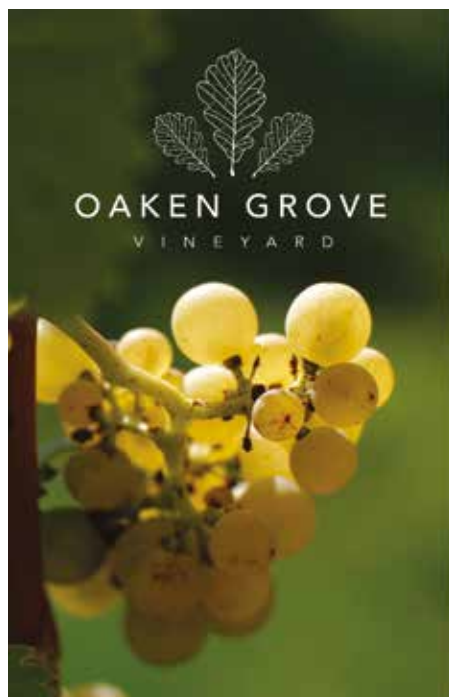


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remembered her days at Fawley Court: “We were all required to do our share of square-bashing, marching and washing up. We were real dogsbodies, absolutely; we were lower than low. All these aristocratic girls were now doing bashing and washing. We all were treated quite toughly”. They slept in spartan attics at Fawley Court which were freezing cold in winter and claustrophobic in summer.

Telegraphy training took place in a complex of huts in the grounds. The huts are now demolished, but parts of the wooden exteriors and floorboards were donated by Mrs Aida Hersham, the owner of Fawley Court, towards the restoration of Huts 3 and 6 at Bletchley Park in 2014. They had stood on the very ground on which the Wild Service took place. A poignant thought.

A reading was given by Katie Deakin: Micah 4:3-4, *‘they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks’*. Jo Hutchins played the Last Post on a flute which was followed by two minutes silence. Jo broke the silence with the Reveille, again on the flute. Quite beautiful – and especially so as, during the two minutes silence, the clouds parted and, glory be, after weeks of greyness, blue sky again appeared!

FANY member Elaine Gunston spoke a few words about the modern activities of the organisation. And then the choir led us in our final hymn - ‘Jerusalem’, sung

with all the gusto of which Twickenham would be proud!

Sue bade us farewell with a final Blessing, encouraging us to “Go forth into the world in peace”.

A truly memorable afternoon. Thank you, Sue.

Chris Whitehead



Wild Nativity, Sunday 8th December, 2pm
Northend Common RG9 6LF

Do join us for our outdoor Wild Nativity with carols and real animals. Children (and adults if they wish!) are invited to dress as one of your favourite people from the Nativity Story.



You are warmly welcome to join us! As always do **dress for the weather** – we will meet come rain or shine!

Seating: Please bring a fold up chair if you wish to be seated for the service

To find out more, please get in touch with one of the Wild Church Team:

Revd Sue Morton 07808 517347 suemorton131@gmail.com

Mary Campbell grandma.marycampbell@googlemail.com

Mardi Wilkins WhatsApp: 07988 030519

Magdalena Dabrowska magda@rmb.london

Next Wild Church: Sunday 12th January 2025 at 3pm



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
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GROUP NOTES AND WILDLIFE

Community Matters News

A few years ago, a mother and her adult son were referred to the food bank. Over time we got to know this lady, I'll call her Mary, and it was clear she had had a very disadvantaged life; she had left school unable to read or write which then impeded her social skills. Mary heard that Wycombe Library was running an adult literacy course which she was very keen to enrol in. Mary attended every single week over several terms, winter and summer, nothing would get in the way of her attending the class.

Because there were no buses running from Lane End to get her there in time, Mary and her son would walk all the way from Lane End to the Library in High Wycombe, quite a perilous walk with no paths on the roadside. Because of her commitment as well as her 100% attendance, her tutor entered Mary for a countywide award for adult learning. Her tutor never knew that Mary walked 5 miles every time to her class.

The wonderful result was that Mary won the award and was presented with a certificate at a ceremony in Aylesbury (she was able to catch a bus there!). Her delight was something to behold; we don't think she had ever won or received praise for any achievement in her whole life. Community Matters got the certificate framed and it hangs very proudly in her home.

Community Matters has also helped over time by replacing a broken television and, on another occasion, replaced a broken washing machine. Mary's son is now disabled and Community Matters has taken them for several medical appointments.

Judy Taylor

WILDLIFE

Frieth Natural History Society

There will be no events during December or January as FNHS are taking a short break. Wildlife doesn't go away for Christmas, so I hope everyone will continue to observe the natural world around the Hambleden Valley and let us know of any unusual sightings.

Our next scheduled meeting is on Thursday 27th February, 7.30pm in Frieth Village Hall. A brief AGM will be followed by an illustrated talk on a wildlife topic (subject to be confirmed). 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

HAMBLEDEN

Coffee Morning in aid of the Air Ambulance

The Coffee Morning on Saturday 9th November went very well. A huge THANK YOU to all who helped and supported it. We raised £600 for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

Pat Eldridge

Hambleden Cinema

We are really excited to have Sir Tim Rice in person, to introduce the musical *Evita*, rated PG, on 7th December at 4pm. Sir Tim wrote the lyrics to this film and the music was written by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The film concentrates on the life of Argentina's political leader Eva Perón, played by Madonna, the second wife of the president Juan Perón. The story

Continued on page 17



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CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS

From The Registers

Holy Baptism

October 27 James Michael Nicolle

Frieth

November 16 Georgia Helia Barrett

Hambleden

Holy Matrimony

November 16 Oliver Barrett and Laura Rollinger

Hambleden

Rest in Peace

October 25 (Charles) Hugh Cripps

Memorial Service and Burial of Ashes, Frieth

October 25 Pam Harper

Burial of Ashes, Turville and Fawley

November 13 Vanessa Campbell-Harris

Memorial Service, Hambleden



Hambleden 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 DECEMBER 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. The 10.15am midweek Holy Communion on Wednesdays is now back at Turville. 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.

	Fawley	Fingest	Frieth	Hambleden	Medmenham	Turville
1st December	10am Group Service			6pm Advent Candlelit Service		
8th December	4pm Railway Nativity – Fawley Hill	9am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion		2pm Wild Nativity – Northend Common
15th December	4pm Carol Service		9am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Prayer	6pm Carol Service	5pm Carols in the Churchyard
Friday 20th December			6pm Christingle Service		4pm Christingle Service	
22nd December		6pm Carol Service	10am Holy Communion	6pm Carol Service		
Tuesday 24th December				5pm Christingle Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass		3pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Wednesday 25th December	11am Family Communion	9am Family Communion	9am Family Communion	11am Family Communion		9.30am Family Celebration
29th December		10am Holy Communion				
5th January 2025					10am Group Service	



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SKIRMETT

Skirmett Christmas Carols

On Friday 20th December, in place of the popular monthly Fish and Chip evening,

there will be Christmas Carols in Skirmett Village Hall led by Rev Andy Storch, 7pm for 7.30pm. Mulled wine, mince pies and drinks will be available to purchase.

All welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

Celia Warren

FRIETH

Special 'Thank You' Service



On Sunday 22nd September, in the beautifully redecorated St. John the Evangelist Church, Frieth, the Rector, Rev Andy Storch, celebrated Holy Communion with the many people who have supported the church over the years.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Pauline Thomas, who collaborated with a group of Frieth School pupils to design, develop, and create the stunning welcoming banner now hanging in the church.



We also bid a belated farewell and expressed our gratitude to Michael and Merelina Tebbot, who have worshipped and been active members of the PCC and the Frieth community for many years. They were presented



with drawings of Frieth Church and Frieth School by local artist Keith Clarke.

A bequest from Merelina's mother, along with funds from the Wycombe Deanery, financed the beautiful cupboard at the back of the church. This cupboard provides storage for our chairs and has allowed us to create a welcoming area for visitors, showcasing prayer cards, an updated booklet about the church (thanks to Lynnette Beanland), and a beautiful flower display.

A huge thank you to Judy Hunt for coordinating the maintenance and redecoration of Frieth Church. Everything looks amazing, as always.

Paul and Lynda Marston-Weston

Great News from Parmoor



The volunteers of the Lady Ryder Memorial Garden have been awarded

'The King's Award for Voluntary Service' the highest honour awarded to voluntary groups.

The historic walled garden is in the grounds of the wonderful retreat house, St Katharine's Parmoor, between Rockwell End and Frieth.



Robert Rendel, chairman of the small guiding committee of volunteers, says that the award is the equivalent of an MBE. He is clearly tremendously proud of, and for, all his 24 regular helpers who enable SEND schools and 'Talkback' adults with disabilities, to participate in garden work. The fresh-air positive productivity yields huge benefits. The fresh produce available to local people to buy on Wednesdays in season covers running costs and means no charge needs to be made to the schools and adult groups.

This award is a huge achievement. The volunteers, well known for being a happy band, can feel very proud to receive this significant honour. We doff our caps to them.

Alan Armstrong

Our Frieth Clock returns Home ...

The Committee and Trustees of Frieth Village Hall are delighted to report that our Thomas West Memorial

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Turret Clock is once again re-installed high above the Village Hall front doors for all to enjoy.

It has been away from the village for longer than was anticipated and has

undergone a comprehensive overhaul. Our large turret clock movement has been completely re-built, new cable sourced and fitted and adjustments to the weight have been made to reduce future wear and tear. Additionally, there has been sympathetic cleaning and repainting of the clock plates and frame where necessary.

The re-installation was nine months to the day from when our clock was dismantled and taken to Chalfont Village and it took six hours to re-commission. During the time it was away, the Village Hall lobby has been completely re-decorated and some fantastic initiatives to open up our clock's magnificence for all to see have been installed ready for its return.

As of this moment its timekeeping is an accuracy revelation.

On behalf of the Frieth Village Hall – thank you to everyone who has shown their support to this long project of local heritage renewal. We are still welcoming donations as, from 2025, we are committed to regular annual servicing and of course fund building for a further overhaul in eight years' time!

Time waits for no one.

Jolyon Marshall 07802 483128
The 'Official' Clock Winder
Upper of Frieth

Frieth School

Just before half term, Frieth enjoyed a brilliant Science Week. We were lucky to welcome in Science Boffin John, who led some fantastic workshops with the children; the pupils also learnt all about space in the mobile Planetarium and there were lots of practical science experiments going on in the classroom.



The highlight of the week for me was the parachute challenge and a big 'well done' to all the children who let their light shine by coming up with some great designs! Also, a huge thank you to our super parents who

came in and delivered some fantastic workshops! Check out our Facebook page for lots of lovely pictures.



Netball

It's been a great start to the netball season. See below a write up of the first two games by Year 5 pupil Tabby Boyden:

'So far this year our netball team have played two netball matches. In our first match against Lowbrook we won by a whopping 15 points to 5! The following week a different Frieth team played

FRIETH

against Lowbook at their school. It was a really tough match and ended in a 10-9 win to Frieth. I would like to say a special 'well done' to our team captains, Summer Parrett and Phoebe Bowett, as well as the players of the match'.



Girls' Football

Well done to our girls' football team for their 4-0 win against Oakridge. All the team played fantastically well, but a special 'well done' should be given to Summer Parrett for her hat-trick and Alora Gibbins who knocked in the other goal. Onto the next!



Not be outdone, the boys also put a fair few past Oakridge in a decisive win. A great team performance and very encouraging considering we have such a young team. The future is looking bright!



Anglo Saxon Topic Day

Hawks had a great day, bringing their Anglo-Saxon topic to an end! They wrote using quills, designed coins, made and played draughts and fletched arrows! And those who chose to dress-up looked amazing in their costumes!



Great Fire of London Topic Day

Kestrels had an amazing end to their



FRIETH AND FAWLEY

Great Fire of London topic – a day full of baking, basket weaving, modelling and artwork! Thank you to all of our helpers and parent volunteers.

Martin Gosling
Headteacher

FAWLEY

Fawley Water Station

Fawley Water Station at the Church is probably the most eagerly awaited on the Henley 10k and Half Marathon route as

it comes after the long grind up Icehouse Lane. Most folk wouldn't notice it in a car but you certainly do running or biking. Only two Fawleyites helped at the water station despite being asked for volunteers, as over 1,000 runners were expected.

It was a rainy day but, fortunately, not too windy as the Great South Run at Portsmouth had just been cancelled a few hours earlier because Storm Ashley was imminent.

Hilary Beck-Burridge



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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)

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ajh.claypit1@btinternet.com

Village Hall Bookings:
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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

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jillsteward@hambleden.com

Deputy Churchwarden:
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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,
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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)

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Bell Ringing: Wed practice,

Rachel Wallace, 01494 883025

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07563 903678, davidfaragher@fastmail.fm

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Turville: Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell,

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