

Hambleton VALLEY

Group Magazine

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Medmenham
Turville*

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Apr 2025



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



Cover: Chilly sunrise, Medmenham. This page: Daisies and grape hyacinths, Mill End.

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Weekday Services

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

Emergencies:

If you are unable to contact the Group Priests, please get in touch with your churchwarden. (see pages 26 and 27)

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All contributions are welcome, to the Editor, Penny McLeish

hambledenvalleyeditor@gmail.com

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

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Group Letter



I have a special affection for the first of April. Not because I enjoy practical jokes, or consider myself an April fool, but simply because that was the day Janice and I chose to marry some years ago now! For us both 1st April marked the beginning of a complete change in the direction of our lives, and a new identity. It is an additional reason I love Spring, as it gets more unambiguously underway, bringing with it the hope of Summer. As an eternal optimist, Summer in the future is often far far better than Summer in the present!

But also, Spring proper brings with it, Easter. Occasionally in March, this year Easter falls on 20th April. It is the most poignant Christian season of them all. You note the moment when Christ sets his face towards Jerusalem and therefore the cross. You see his determination and his courage. You witness Palm Sunday with its extraordinary

celebratory atmosphere set against the awful backdrop of the following week. You share in the intimacy of the last supper and yet despair of the desertion of the disciples as Jesus is arrested. You are knocked to the ground by the emotion of Good Friday: what this divine man suffered for us.

And then there is a pause.

Easter Sunday brings a tremendous surprise of incredible joy, changing everything. Jesus' death has been turned on its head. An apparent complete victory by Satan becomes a defeat of death and the explosion of God's power into all the world forever, consigning the devil to ultimate powerlessness.

Spring is the right season for Easter. Eggs, bunnies, and the Lamb all symbolise new life. As we finish the dark and sober days of Lent, we lift our praises to the air on reaching Easter Day.

Andy Storch

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GROUP NOTES

Ukraine

A huge thank you to all from in and around the Valley who have contributed to our collection for Ukraine. We have been somewhat overwhelmed at such generosity with the result that our house now looks like a busy warehouse! Unfortunately, the Charity's van that was to do the collections has broken down, somewhat terminally we fear, but instead we have managed to hire two vans to (hopefully) collect everything from us on Monday 24th March. I have heard from the Charity that the next delivery to Ukraine is leaving their warehouse in Canterbury on Thursday 20th so our delivery will go a long way to filling the warehouse before the next lorry load drives out. Thank you all so much but, PLEASE, no more donations of goods although financial donations always welcome.

Sandy and Gay Doggart



Wild Lambing



On the 9th March, my family and I had the lovely opportunity to attend Wild Church held at Hanger Farm, Fingest. The Wild Church choir sang two hymns (*The Lord's my Shepherd* and *To God be the Glory*) which we all joined in with; even the sheep were singing.



After Rev Sue's talk, Helen Jackson told us about lambing at the farm in great detail, explaining the markings on the sheep and how, if there are too many lambs for the ewe, they move one of them to a ewe that has only had a single lamb. Helen also explained about the different breeds of sheep and all their qualities: good and bad. We got to see the new born lambs, which were very cute.

Overall, it was a lovely experience and I would also like to say thank you to Helen and James Jackson for letting us all enjoy visiting their farm.

Continued on page 7

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Once the service had finished, we were invited to enjoy cake! It was delicious, thank you bakers!

Lily Charlesworth
Age 11



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

Sunday 13th April, 3pm:

Wild Palm Sunday, Turville

Meet in the churchyard to join Buttons the 'donkey' for Palm Sunday palm-waving as we make our way to the Turville Studios for some special cross-making with Rachel Wallace.

Sunday 11th May, 3pm:

Venue TBC

Sunday 8th June, 3pm:

We return to St Katharine's, Parmoor for some more Wild Gardening!

At Wild Church we meet outdoors at different venues on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Everyone is warmly welcome!

Wild Church Team:

Rev Sue Morton 07808 517347 or

suemorton131@gmail.com

Mary Campbell

grandma.marycampbell@googlemail.com

Mardi Wilkins WhatsApp: 07988 030519

Magdalena Dabrowska

magda@rmb.london

Magdalena Dabrowska

magda@rmb.london

Art Exhibition at Oaken Grove Vineyard

Saturday 12th April 2025



I am holding a solo exhibition to launch and show for the first time the glass pieces I've been working on for almost 2½ years. None of the glass pieces have been exhibited before. At the same time, I will also be exhibiting some new and existing Botanical art and some new gilded letters that use my botanical art.

I have received awards for my botanical artwork and have exhibited with the Society of Botanical Artists, Royal Horticultural Society, UK Coloured Pencil Society, and when it existed, the Society of Floral Painters.

There will be lots to see, so if you can, do come along anytime between 10am and 5pm on the 12th April.



Karen Musgrave Hill

GROUP NOTES



MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER FRIETH VILLAGE HALL

Join us on Thursday 17th April 2025 at 7pm
to share a meal and listen to a re-enactment of what happened in
those last hours before Jesus was arrested.
Communion will be taken and we will leave in silence to reflect.

There will be a charge of £12 for supper and wine payable by cash on the night
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Henley Arts Trail

The Henley Arts Trail is a not-for-profit organisation set up to promote and support artists and crafts people in the area. Now in our 19th year we have 32 venues and 280 artists exhibiting over the early May Bank Holiday 3-5th May. Entrance is free apart from Greys Court.

Continued on page 11



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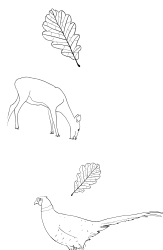
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GROUP NOTES AND WILDLIFE

Two of the biggest venues are in the Hambleden Valley:

1) *Pheasants at Mill End*. Sadly, Judith Fletcher died this January followed a few weeks later by her husband Dick. As a consequence we have had to cancel this venue and many of the artists are now exhibiting their work at other venues. The Fletchers will be greatly missed. Before he passed Dick donated funds to sponsor one of the Henley Arts Trail's ArtSpark prizes in Judith's name. This prize is awarded to the most gifted young artists in the area and provides both material and one to one tutoring by a professional artist to help develop their talents.

2) *Oaken Grove Vineyard*. This is a family-run, boutique vineyard. Over the early May Bank Holiday weekend, it will be home to a handpicked selection of 12 talented local

artists, artisans and sculptors. There's a sculpture trail through the vineyard and paintings, ceramics, linocut prints, textiles, hand poured candles and jewellery all on show. Stop to sample some delicious wine and have a spot of lunch.

Wendy Penrose 07732 165284
wendypenrose@henleyartstrail.com

WILDLIFE

Frieth Natural History Society

Our April walk will be held on Sunday 27th April, meeting at 4.30am near Frieth. I know that it will still be dark and possibly cold that early in the morning. Please wrap up warm and bring binoculars.

International Dawn Chorus Day takes place on the first Sunday in May, when people all around the world rise early to enjoy the sweet sound of birdsong, from rattling wrens in Rotherham to crooning cowbirds in the Caribbean. We are celebrating exactly a week early, so please join us for a short walk followed by bacon butties in a local garden on our return. How many different species will we hear?

Anyone is welcome to participate, but for non-members we make a small charge. For further details, please contact; Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586 or FNHS2023@gmail.com

Mary Webb



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A Butterfly Belt

Fewer butterflies graced our gardens than ever before last year and lepidopterologists are very anxious about what this year will bring; a further decline, will numbers stabilise or more hopefully, increase? I know I have asked before but I am pleading

WILDLIFE

now, if you are a seasoned mower, please join me in creating 'A Butterfly Belt' around the valley and beyond. I know many of us grew up with pristine mown tramlines on our parents' lawns and find it comforting to have similar. My father may well have said 'a tidy lawn is a tidy mind'; he certainly proffered the sentiment in relation to his desk and our teenage bedrooms. Recent research from hundreds of gardens taking part in a study proved that long grass increased butterfly numbers. Significantly more butterflies and a greater variety were recorded in gardens where lawns were unmown because several species use long grass as a breeding habitat. Additionally, 31% more Holly Blue butterflies were recorded in gardens with flowering ivy. It isn't easy to hand your lawn over to nature, I truly understand that and it isn't easy to mow it at the end of the summer either, I definitely sympathise there too, but if I can manage it, pretty much anyone can. If you care about butterflies, moths, bees and other insect life please take a leap of faith this year because it is do-able and it will make a difference. No butterflies find any use for uniformly short, verdant green, daisy etc free (and in effect life free), bowling green arrangements. If letting go completely is a step too far, get experimental and mow a crop circle for garden furniture and definitely mow paths to the aforementioned and towards greenhouses and sheds; this approach does give a feeling of structure and I like the overall effect. If you already have an unmown area, perhaps consider extending it and maybe ask children or grandchildren to design a sign with the slogan 'A Butterfly Belt' to get them involved and explain to visitors what you're doing. Thank you.

Sarah Ronan



Song Thrush feeding baby.

Photo Mardi Wilkins

A Naturalist's Reminiscence

No. 14

Most of my National Service in the army beyond Brighton Pier was spent living in a tent. Many were not rainproof. Firstly in Nepal and India with the British Gurkhas up in the Himalayas, my accommodation was a tent. Later when I arrived in Cyprus to rejoin the Suffolk regiment, I was asked to share a tent with another officer. At least it did not leak. He had all the furniture and carpets on his side and grudgingly he allowed me a decrepit bedside chest of drawers.

There was insect life in this tent which I could have done without. For instance, we had to check our boots for scorpions when we got up and there were bedbugs!

One morning I woke up and to my horror there was a crack from the top of my chest of drawers to the bottom. As I sprung out of bed the crack began to recede downwards and I realised it was a column of ants.

The previous day I had been on an operation in what was known in the

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Church Services and Events

From The Registers

Holy Baptism

February 23 Honey Wren Lovell Hambleden

Rest in Peace

February 28 Wendy Woodley Funeral and burial, Hambleden

March 14 Christopher Gregory Funeral, Turville

March 14 Graham Piercey Burial of Ashes, Turville



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:

hambledenvalleyprayergroup@gmail.com



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CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2025

Pattern of Worship April 2025

Please see below for Sunday services. There will also be Zoom services at 9:30am on Wednesdays (except 23rd April) with Churchyard Prayers at Fawley at 12noon on Fridays. The 10.15am midweek Holy Communion on Wednesdays is at Turville (except on 23rd April). 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.

Sunday and Holy Week Services

	Fawley	Fingest	Frieth	Hambleden	Medmenham	Turville
30th March Mothering Sunday	10am Breakfast Service		8am BCP Holy Communion 3pm Special Lay-Led service with Refreshments	10am Prayers with Posies	11am Holy Communion	
6th April			10am Group Service			
13th April Palm Sunday				11am Group Holy Communion		3pm Wild Palm Sunday
Monday 14th April	7.30pm Compline					
Tuesday 15th April		7.30pm Compline				
Wednesday 16th April			7.30pm Compline			
Thursday 17th April			7pm Maundy Thursday Supper			
Friday 18th April				2pm Last Hour at the Cross		
20th April Easter Sunday	11am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
27th April	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
4th May						10am Group Service



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army as the 'Pan Handle'. If you look at an atlas, Cyprus is shaped rather like a frying pan with the sea on either side of the handle. Since it was a hot day when I and my platoon had finished our task there, we all had a swim. I had found a starfish which I brought back and put in a saucer of salt water on my chest of drawers to study.

Ever since then I have had a great respect for ants and how well they are organised living comfortably together in an anthill, not a tent. The army could have learnt a lot if only it had studied ants and how they organise themselves!

Alfred Waller

HAMBLEDEN

Beautiful long stem Arum Lilies

Church-goers and non-churchgoers are invited to donate beautiful long stem lilies to make up the stunning display which adorns the sanctuary of Hambleden church at Easter.

Each is placed there in memory of somebody loved dearly and greatly missed. After flowerless Lent and austere Good Friday, amazingly attractive arrangements of lilies suddenly transform the church on Easter Day, also for all visitors in the following two weeks. Arum lilies love a cool church.

Add your name to the list in the porch or email elspetharmstrong@outlook.com, by Palm Sunday 13th April. Lilies are £4.50 each, once again. They will be bought in the market in Holy Week and massaged by flower arrangers to be in flower and in place for you on Easter Day. Each extra lily enhances this long tradition.

Alan Armstrong



Dick Fletcher



It is with huge sadness that we share the news of the passing of our much loved Chairman, Dick Fletcher. His drive and enthusiasm were infectious, and his energy and positive attitude brushed off on us all. Dick was passionate about Hambleden Village Hall, always looking at ways to best preserve the building and ensure its availability for everyone. He had a deep sense of community and fairness, and nobody was cannier when it came to getting value for money. We will miss his leadership greatly, but – more importantly – we will miss his friendship.

Sara Horner

HAMBLEDEN AND FRIETH

Hambleden Cinema



On the 12th April we are screening *Went the Day Well?* rated PG to start off commemorations marking the 80th anniversary of VE Day. An English village is occupied by disguised German paratroopers as an advance post for a planned invasion.

Many outdoor scenes were filmed in Turville and the Hambleden Valley. It will be a 1940's themed evening so please join us for an enjoyable time!

The trailer; https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0035429/?ref_=fn_all_ttl_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



*Three Gentlemen in Hambleden
Photo Angela Magee*

FRIETH

Frieth School

Speeding Posters

A massive well done to the winners of our speeding poster competition. As you can see, the children have done a fantastic job and their artwork will now be displayed around the Hambleden Valley. I would also like to offer a big thank you to Lynda Brown and Henry Peplow of Greener Frieth for all their hard work in creating this opportunity for the children and helping to keep our community safe.

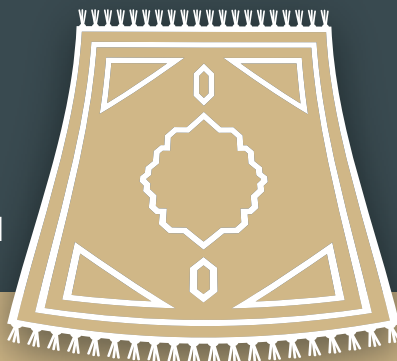
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Roald Dahl Museum

Kestrels had a great time at the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre. The children explored the hands-on exhibits in the museum, with Roald Dahl's writing hut being one of the highlights. The afternoon was spent exploring the village and identifying the places in which Dahl imagined his characters living and spending time.



Maidenhead Mosque

Eagles class had a fantastic trip to the Maidenhead Mosque. They enjoyed learning about the history and architecture of the mosque and the important role it plays within the Muslim community. They truly let their lights shine with their superb questions

for the Imam and by showing respect during the visit.



Connell's Farm

Kestrels had a brilliant time at Connell's farm. Their favourite part of the visit was getting up close and personal with the adorable lambs! A HUGE thank you to Bella for showing them around and to our volunteer helpers for accompanying us on the trip.



World Book Day

What a fantastic time the children had on World Book Day. Well done to all of



FRIETH

the children (and parents!) for their great efforts in dressing up as their favourite book character.

Netball

On 27th February our A and B teams played our away fixture against Stokenchurch. Both teams played well and an early lead allowed us to experiment with playing in our weaker positions in order to develop all rounds skills across attack, defence and centre court. Our A team won 12-0 and our B team were also victorious with an 11-0 win. The players of the matches were Michael and Alyvia.



Martin Gosling
Headteacher



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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

Director of Music: Jo Hutchins
07909 608654 johutchins27@gmail.com

Organist Emeritus: Christine Wells BEM,
01491 571588, c@wells.vnworks.net

Group Treasurer: Stephen Sidders,
01491 639271 stephensidders@sky.com

Group Administrator: Jenny Neagle,
07769 599616,
hambledenvalleyoffice@gmail.com

Weddings and Blessings: Jenny Neagle,
07769 599616,
hambledenvalleyoffice@gmail.com

Tea Club: St. Katharine's, Parmoor,
Tuesdays, 3 - 4.30pm
Wendy Duerden, 01491 638297,
wendy.duerden@techademic.net

Barney's Toddler Group: Frieth Village Hall,
Currently suspended

Hambleden Valley Garden Club:
Meetings October-March on the first Tuesday
of the month, Frieth Village Hall.
Clair Honnor 07773 387195

Website:
www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk

FAWLEY (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

Churchwarden: David Napier,
01491 574230,
david_napier@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)

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

Village Hall Bookings:
website www.friethvillagehall.org
email friethvillagehall@gmail.com
Tel 01494 880737

Frieth Natural History Society:
Mary 01494 881501, Andy 01494 881586,
FNHS2023@gmail.com

Frieth Village Society: Caroline Walker
01494 882333

Frieth Cricket Club:
Ben Smiley
friethcricket@btinternet.com

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

HAMBLEDEN (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

Churchwarden:
Jill Steward 01491 571320
jillsteward@hambleden.com

Deputy Churchwarden:
Sharon Smith
sharonsmith0505@btinternet.com

Bell Ringing: Fri 6.45pm practice, Helen or
Karen, hambledenbells@mycomputer.email

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

Pilates: Mondays 11 – 12 Fran Presho,
07951 019594

Bridge Club: Fridays 1.30 – 4.30
Frances Cugnoni, 01491 576409

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

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

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

MEDMENHAM (ST PETER AND ST PAUL)

Churchwarden:
Vacant.

Village Hall Bookings: Emma Tentori,
07759 014396

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

Medmenham News:
medmenhamnews@icloud.com

SKIRMETT

Village Hall Bookings: Mandy Heller,
01491 638355 www.skirmettvillagehall.org

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

TURVILLE (ST MARY THE VIRGIN)

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

Bell Ringing: Wed practice,
Rachel Wallace, 01494 883025
rachel@markjwallace.com

Artists' studios: Turville Studios open the first Sunday of every month 11am-4pm.
Angela Fois turvillestudios@aol.com
www.turvillestudios.co.uk

TURVILLE NORTHEM

Village Hall Bookings:
David & Susan Faragher 01491 638960 or
07563 903678, davidfaragher@fastmail.fm
smfaragher@fastmail.fm

Yoga: Tuesdays 7pm, Andrea 07496 281341

Parish Council Contacts

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

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

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

Fawley: Clerk to Fawley Parish Meeting
Mr Ross McDonald, 07769 971252
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