

Hambleton VALLEY

Group Magazine



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June 2025



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



Cover: Easter Lilies in St Mary's, Hambleden, photo Sharon Smith. This page: 'A Footpath View' of the Hambleden Bear, photo Chris Howgego.

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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)

All contributions are welcome, to the
Editor, Penny McLeish

hambledenvalleyeditor@gmail.com

3 Abbey Cottages, Ferry Lane,
Medmenham SL7 2HB
Telephone 01491 571288

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

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Group Letter

Did you know that in June there are 495 hours of daylight and only 225 hours of darkness? Of course, in December it is the other way round, 500 hours of night time with only 245 hours of light.

June is the month of the longest days, those lovely long lazy days of Summer which, since 1976, we have idolised! With such a super Spring as we have had, no doubt the majority of us hope for more sunny days for barbecues, cricket, tennis, and water-based fun.



Long hours of light can contribute such joy to our mood. Conversely, we understand better how difficult it must be to live in the darkness of winter for countries such as Iceland and Norway.

The world can seem very black and white, if looked at in these terms. Yet as we watch the news and read our newspapers, we see that much of the world is less clear cut and grey is the order of the day, never black and white. Winter can have clear blue skies; Summer can include days washed out by rain.

Our magazine is packed with some of those events that only the long days of Summer can host: the tractor run from Fingest, the “Trad” (Traditional Boat Festival), the Regatta of course, as well as the National highlights – sport at Wimbledon, Lords, Ascot, Silverstone.

Make the most of the long days, enjoy what Summer God may give us; but also, may I remind us all of the constant light of the gospel, shining come what may, in a world where darkness keeps returning, a gospel where Jesus conquered death, proving His love for us all, at such a cost, embracing every person as His unique child.

If the sun is shining in your midsummer, celebrate with our God whose blessings are poured upon us; and if your midsummer looks grey and cloudy, seek Jesus’ constant light of love, forgiveness and acceptance. Remember that even when the clouds gather and fill the sky, the sun still shines behind.

Andy Storch

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GROUP NOTES



VE Day Commemoration



On a gloriously sunny afternoon, about 45 men, women, children and dogs assembled on the Dene in Hambleden - where VE Day had been celebrated in 1945 - for the Wild Church's VE commemoration. We sang 'Praise my Soul the King of Heaven', sung on that first VE Day In Hambleden, and 'Jerusalem', our voices mingling with the gentle chatter of the cricketers, their supporters and the various birds flitting around.

After a reading from Micah 4, 1-4 about nations coming together under the peace of the Lord, we had a fascinating talk



from local historian, Chris Whitehead. We heard all about the Hambleden Valley VE Day celebrations and how the day wasn't necessarily a joyous day for all if they were unable to welcome loved ones home.

A lovely afternoon was rounded off by the exceptional cakes always on offer at Wild Church. A joyous celebratory day!

Claire Nicholson



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Sunday 8th June, 3pm

Join us for Even More Wild Gardening
at St Katharine's, Parmoor R69 6NN



Join us for a return visit to the Lady Ryder Memorial Garden for some more Wild Gardening, working alongside the volunteers who support and care for this beautiful walled garden.

****Please bring a trowel, hand fork and gardening gloves if you have them and a flask of tea/coffee/drinks; there will be cake!**** As always do dress for the weather.

We will meet in Vine House if the weather is poor. Parking available.



Wild Church in July: **Sunday 13th July, 3pm**
Be wild down by the river! Join us by the River Thames at Medmenham - parking will be signposted

Wild Church Team:

Rev Sue Morton 07808 517347 or suemorton131@gmail.com

Mary Campbell grandma.marycampbell@googlemail.com

Magdalena Dabrowska somd10206@gmail.com

Community Matters

Recently, several of our long-term families have had a change in circumstances, i.e. an increase in benefits or a better paid job which has meant that they no longer need the services of our food bank. However, whilst wishing them well, we always say that if things change we are always there if they need us.

A young boy in one of our families was having a birthday recently but because of the struggle with finances, mum had to say to him that she couldn't afford a birthday cake or a tea party. This family also have another child with very high dependency. While this child is away during the day at a special needs school, mum works. Father also works but is on a zero hours contract; meaning there is no

regularity to any income he may be able to earn. Barbara went with the young boy and mum to ASDA and asked him to choose a birthday cake and then she also bought some special tea treats so that his birthday could be celebrated properly!

It is because of the donations people so generously give that we are able to help in these ways and it meant everything to the family concerned, and so again we thank all of you who are able to support us either financially or by donations of food etc for the food bank.

As always, our most grateful thanks and blessings to you all.

Judy Taylor

WILDLIFE

Frieth Natural History Society

Wednesday 25th June is the date of our next planned walk and we will be meeting at 10.30am, a short car ride from Frieth. The total walk is about 3 miles but there are shorter options.

Our chosen reserve is a beautiful example of the traditional Chiltern landscape in south Buckinghamshire. A swathe of chalk grassland undamaged by ploughing, fertilisers and intensive grazing is packed with rare butterflies and wild flowers and is topped by a 'hanger' woodland of beech, yew and whitebeam trees on the edge of a steeply sided valley.

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

WILDLIFE

Two posters on Benhams Lane



Designed by Molly Min

In praise of bowls of water for hedgehogs

Please put out some shallow bowls with fresh water in your gardens for hedgehogs and keep replenishing them every day particularly during dry spells. Over a two-year period, I put wildlife cameras out to monitor hedgehogs here. Obviously, I was hoping to see footage of baby hoglets or courtship or even fighting when the less dominant creature curls into a ball and is pushed away by the aggressor rather like a croquet ball. I recorded none of the first two and only a few clips of the latter, night after night it was video after video of hedgehogs drinking fresh water. I am not a scientist but in time, along with lack of favoured

food such as beetles and caterpillars, their demise may well be proven to be linked to an increasingly drier climate. In my experience, hedgehogs clearly need a lot of fresh water and most particularly lactating females. Please keep these water bowls topped up all summer long.

Sarah Ronan

A Naturalist's Reminiscence No. 15

In a previous Reminiscence, I had just returned to our camp after searching Kykko Monastery. You will recall that the Chief Monk had assured me that my platoon had stolen nothing whereas the Adjutant had just told me that Archbishop Makarios' grandfather clock had gone missing and the police were about to search our camp. I immediately ran up to my platoon's lines where to my horror, the Dagenham boys were just assembling it. So, I had to instruct them to put the clock into the deep trench latrine (loo) at the bottom of their lines. The police arrived, searched the camp, found nothing and duly returned to the Central Police Station in Nicosia.

In 2013 I was back in Bury St Edmunds to celebrate a special reunion of all those who had served with the Suffolk Regiment in Cyprus. I was approached by somebody my age who asked whether I was 'Mr Waller'? It was one of the Dagenham lorry drivers who went to Kykko Monastery. Not only had he returned to Nicosia with another Dagenham driver a decade previously, found our camp then disused, hired a digger, recovered the clock which was still in a reasonable condition, and

Continued on page 11



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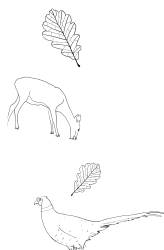


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sold it to a Greek Cypriot millionaire for a large sum of money. It seems that the clock was not the only item as at the same time they acquired a considerable quantity of clergy vestments also sold for a high price!

NB This Reminiscence has been written for those of our readership who might be interested in my National Service career in the army back in 1958. It is in no way a hint as to how our churchwardens and all our splendid volunteers who every day nobly lock up the treasures in each of our churches in the Hambleden Valley Group, could improve their service.

Alfred Waller

HAMBLEDEN

Easter Day in Hambleden



There was nothing demoralised about C of E members as a full church in Hambleden loudly proclaimed and boldly affirmed the Easter Day message. The Rector was celebrant and preacher. All his sermons might be called 'a plain man's guide to Christianity' as he explains clearly, confidently, seasonal biblical passages of the church's year. On Easter Day, taking St John's eyewitness narrative, he led us from the utter



despair of Jesus' followers on the day after the crucifixion (their Sabbath, our Easter eve) to the confusion and bewilderment of Mary and the disciples as they arrived at sunrise

to find the tomb empty. Then, as Jesus appeared to Mary, the beginning of the Resurrection started as did the growing confidence of hope.

'Jesus Christ is risen today – Alleluia', led by our outstandingly gifted organist, was sung full-throated by choir and congregation. Our glorious Easter hymns are thankfully not tarnished, as are carols, by six weeks of ghastly anticipatory over exposure. Another hymn only sung and heard on Easter Day, 'Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son', really rattled the rafters.

Our Parish church was beautifully decorated throughout. Fifty proudly tall arum lilies, each one being in memory of someone dear, adorned the sanctuary and the Lady Chapel entrance.

HAMBLEDEN

After the service, kids hunted hidden eggs as many others took refreshments and chatted in the sunshine. The Rector greeted his flock.

In all the highways and byways of Britain, this is the church, our church, spiritual and cultural. It is not the church of media news channels. Alleluia for that.

Alan Armstrong

SOS!

Church Teas are struggling this year with only 9 of the 19 slots having been filled. This is extremely worrying!

In addition to the violinists on 27th July, we now have Jo Hutchins, our organist, giving a recital on 20th July and entertaining us on the piano on 29th June, with hopefully at least one other musician.

A team of 3 is needed to run the teas and whilst approximately 12 cakes are consumed each Sunday, Jill Steward

and Charlie Lumley have guaranteed to make 2 cakes per week, which will be an enormous help. It would also be wonderful if anyone out there who is physically unable to run a tea session would like to bake some cakes. The freezer in church, situated by the side of the organ, will be switched on around 24th May. Cakes may be left in here after that date. Please mark the name of the cake and the ingredients (a health and safety necessity).

Please help us to keep this tradition going. It has been running for well in excess of 50 years and raises much needed funds which go directly to the church.

Yours hopefully,
Penny Wright 01491 571135
penny.hurtley@gmail.com

NB Funds raised this year will go towards the much needed and long-awaited church loos and kitchenette!



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Church Services and Events

From The Registers

Holy Matrimony

April 26	Cameron Gillies and Katherine Ashby	Fawley
April 26	William Rollings and Poppy Page	Hambleden
May 3	Guy Atkinson and Alexandra Scarfe	Hambleden

Rest in Peace

April 30	Philip Julian Edward Tyson-Woodcock	Burial, Hambleden
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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 JUNE 2025

Pattern of Worship June 2025

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 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.

Sunday Services

	Fawley	Fingest	Frieth	Hambleden	Medmenham	Turville
1st June	10am Group Service					
8th June	11am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion	3pm Wild Gardening, Parmoor	11am Holy Communion		
15th June			9am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Worship	11am Village Service	
22nd June	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
29th June			8am BCP Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion	
6th July					10am Group Service	



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HAMBLEDEN AND FRIETH

Community Lent Lunches

Thank you to the two teams who provided a super lunch in aid of 'Christian Aid' and 'Community Matters'. We made £710 to be divided between the two charities. We all enjoyed cooking and serving the very generous people who supported us this year.

Mardi Wilkins

Filming in Hambleden Parish

The villages in Hambleden Parish are frequently seen on the screen, both for films and TV. Our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is valued both as a place to live and a location for filming.

Cllr Sammy Webb acts as a point of contact when filming companies make their enquiries, referring them to the relevant peoples, as well as negotiating with companies for a donation to the Film Fund. Any money donated by film companies is held by the Parish Council, in a separate bank account for the benefit of the Parish.

Local organisations are invited to request aid from this fund for their various projects. We have donated to several Hambleden Celebrations, Frieth CEC School, Skirmett Village Hall, Hambleden Village Hall, Fingest Church, the Lady Ryder Memorial Garden at Parmoor, Frieth Brownies, Hambleden FC, the Howson Project and Frieth Village Society.

The Parish Council would like to remind parishioners that any suggestions for community groups requiring funding, should please contact us. Mention your request to one of the Parish Councillors

or email the clerk – Lorna Coldwell at clerk@hambleden.org.uk. The grant application form can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/4ctEV16>

Lorna Coldwell

FRIETH

Frieth School

Rugby

Massive congratulations to our rugby team for winning Berks and Bucks Cup! The team played with determination, skill and sportsmanship and should be extremely proud of their performance. It was a fantastic afternoon and most importantly great to see the children enjoy themselves so much and play with smiles on their faces!



Netball

Well done to our netballers for their super win against Danesfield. Please enjoy the write up below from Year 5 pupil, Tabby Boyden.

'Yesterday, we played Danesfield School, which is always really difficult, as they are one of the best teams in the league, but we did a great job and kept playing our best. Eventually, we won 8-6 and

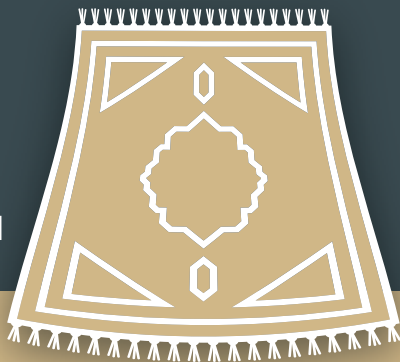
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the players of the match (who played brilliantly) were Summer and William.'



Football

Despite losing 4-0, our girls played brilliantly in their recent match against Chepping View. Never giving up, they showed true determination and, as they say, you learn more when you lose. Well done girls!



VE Day 80th Celebration

We marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day in school with an assembly, activities in class and a 2-minute silence at 12noon. The children dressed in red, white and blue and it was lovely to see some super VE day themed outfits.



Martin Gosling
Headteacher

FINGEST

80th Anniversary of VE Day



On the unseasonably cold evening of Bank Holiday Monday, May 5th 2025, the residents of Fingest got together to remember the 80th anniversary of the WWII Victory in Europe Day. The

FINGEST



venue was Chequers Lane, on the verge by the church.

Despite the horrible dip in temperature from the glorious week before, the Dunkirk spirit prevailed and approximately 50 people gathered to commemorate a day of triumph, courage, and unity 80 years ago. Most importantly, it was an opportunity to remember and honour with gratitude and pride the sacrifices of that very special generation.

Bunting, food, drinks and a selection of music from Glen Miller, Vera Lynn and the Andrews Sisters helped to make another memorable event for Fingest and

to give us an opportunity to get together with our neighbours, particularly one or two new ones of recent years.

Some lovely old photos of previous events were on display. It was wonderful to see some of the children in the photographs, now adults and here in Fingest with their children! Fingest is that sort of place.

The traditional Loyal Toast was made by James Jackson, the longest standing Fingest resident.

The small profit from ticket sales was divided between the church and the Royal British Legion.

Ann Lazur



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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@btpopenworld.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:
Vacant

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.hambledenvalleyhall.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
urvillechurchwardens@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 Mr
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