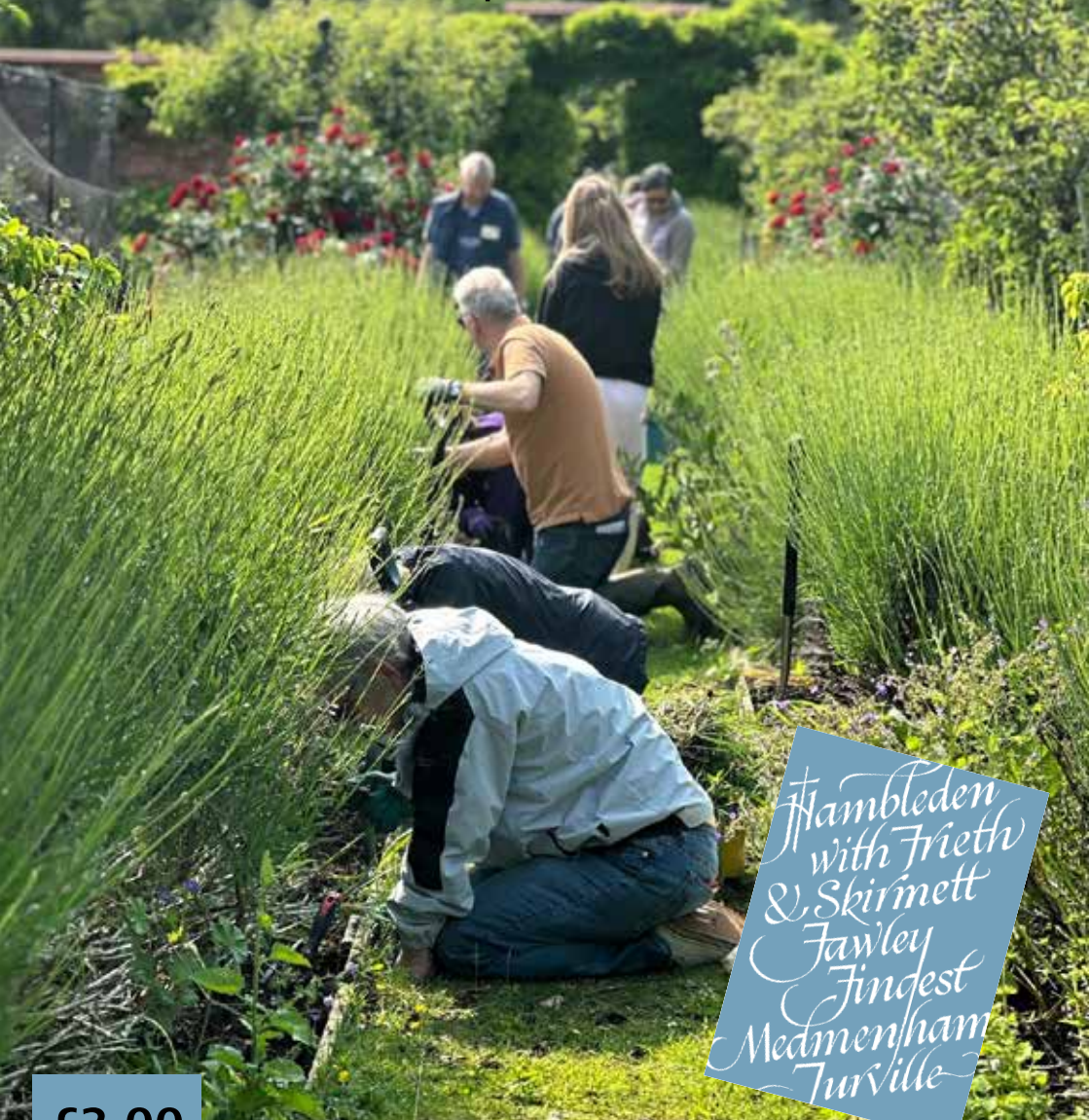


Hambleton VALLEY

Group Magazine



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with Frieth
& Skirmett
Fawley
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Medmenham
Turville*

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July 2025



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



Cover: Wild Gardening, Lady Ryder Memorial Garden, Parmoor, photo Magdalena Dabrowska. This page: Lovely Open Garden, Hambleden, photo Sara Homer.

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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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Henley-on-Thames.

Group Letter



Our kitchen table has served us well. It's one of those sturdy Ercol tables that must have made its way from its High Wycombe factory to my childhood Essex home many years ago; I can recall poring over books spread across it to do my homework. I have wondered in more recent years if the wood used to make the table came from beech trees growing here in Turville.

Since then, our trusty table has survived several RAF postings, 15 house moves, travelled abroad, been surrounded by four little girls who learnt to draw, paint, write and spoon Weetabix into hungry mouths, before finally ending up - much closer to its original roots - at Turville Vicarage. As our family grew, so did the table! Two drop leaves extended the table and increased the space; there was room for everyone.

I was reminded of our well-used, slightly battle-scarred kitchen table at a conference I attended recently as we sang a worship song called 'Bigger Table'. The lyrics reminded us that within God's love there is always room; his table is always bigger than we can imagine! There is always a place for the hungry, the thirsty, the broken, the people with whom we've fallen out, those who had fallen out with us - and that there is always a place for us too. There will always be an empty seat at this table of God's love, as if he is waiting for us and others, to join him at his ever-expanding table, with more drop-leaves than you can ever imagine and maybe even the odd blob of Weetabix.

One of the (many) things that always strikes me about the Hambleden Valley is our gift of hospitality: many churches offer teas during the summer, (do come to Hambleden 2-5pm each Sunday for tea, cake and often music) and frequently there are refreshments after services.

So let us - as we welcome visitors to our villages, to our churches - ensure that we keep our eyes on the bigger table of God's love, always keeping a spare seat and inviting others to join us. It is how strangers become friends and God's table is expanded.

**God bless,
Sue**

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GROUP NOTES



The King's Award for Voluntary Service

It's not every day the parish welcomes the Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff, the Deputy Lieutenant, the immediate past Chairman of Buckinghamshire Council and the Mayor of High Wycombe all at the same time. But there they all were on Thursday 29th May at the Lady Ryder Memorial Garden for the presentation to its volunteers of the King's Award for Voluntary Service. All 150 guests had a wonderful time as can be seen from these photos and the Lord Lieutenant was quite overcome at finding her long lost twin sister!

What have the volunteers won it for? All through the 15-year restoration project the key objective has been to work with the disadvantaged in our community, most recently with SEND schools and adults with similar issues, teaching gardening skills, providing work experience and helping the rebuilding of self-confidence and self-esteem. A 17-year-old boy from one of the SEND

schools (remember 17-year-old boys are not given to expressing their emotions) told a volunteer just last week "This place is just beautiful" and asked why he thought that he replied "Because of everything and everyone here". Who are the 25 volunteers who have been so honoured (it's the equivalent of an MBE)? Well, they are a very mixed bunch indeed and a very, very happy team enjoying the work, the teaching and confident in their contribution to the local community. As Robert Rendel, the Chairman, says "Our tea breaks are to die for". And they are always welcoming new members. No special skills, no experience needed – just join in and have a great time.

The parish can be proud of them and everything that the Lady Ryder Memorial Garden achieves.

Event photos by Rachel Wallace.

Robert Rendel
01494 881709



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Wild Church!

Wild Church – God’s Garden

Lest the title ‘Wild Church’ creates the wrong impression, it’s not about uninhibited gardeners running wild, wielding trowels, forks and secateurs. It’s just the opposite as the setting for June’s Wild Church on Pentecost Sunday was a secluded ancient and beautiful one-acre walled garden whose origins go back to the early 20th century.

After World War Two, when digging for victory was a vital necessity, the garden fell into grievous disrepair, overgrown, untended and unloved. It was only when a group of volunteers, backed by super-generous donors, were able to envisage and realise their dream: to restore what, in 2012, was to become the Lady Ryder Memorial Garden, a haven for all those seeking peace, calm and tranquillity and space to ponder and think amidst beds of fragrant roses, honeysuckle and fruit trees.

Wild Church on Pentecost Sunday attracted a record number of worshippers and friends, to be welcomed by the Reverend Sue Morton. “Let us pause for a moment,” she said. “Take time to look around, to perhaps feel the breeze on our faces, to listen, perhaps to smell the air and to admire the colours, the joys of God’s creation.” God’s garden.

The Wild Choir led us in singing the introductory hymn, *Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty*, followed by a welcome from Robert Rendel, surrounded by an army of heroic volunteers, all of whom have done so much together over the years to bring the garden to life and make its purpose a reality.



GROUP NOTES

“What people see today is very different indeed from the wreckage they would have seen 15 years ago,” Robert said and - after adding that new volunteers were always welcome - reminded everyone of the purpose of the Memorial Garden. “The volunteers’ key objective has always been to help people who have lost their way or who have mental or physical problems or, today particularly, children from schools whose pupils have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities as well as adults with autism and other similar issues.”

This is the reason why the volunteers have recently been honoured with the King’s Award for Voluntary Service, presented by His Majesty’s representative, the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Countess Howe. Many were present in the wonderful garden they had helped create, proudly wearing their dark blue sweaters adorned with the Royal Insignia.

Before tea and cakes, the congregation was invited to pick up forks, trowels and secateurs (all supplied) to weed, prune and dead-head the roses whilst children were shown how to make environmentally friendly, cost-free, bird feeders.

On Pentecost Sunday, Wild Church was alive, well and flourishing.

Peter Taylor

Wild Church!

Sunday 13th July, 3pm

Join us 'being wild' down by the river at
Medmenham!



Parking (signposted) will be in Tim's field,
near the bottom of Ferry Lane on the right.

Meeting place: After parking, turn right at the end of the lane
and we'll meet along the bank, past the ferry statue.

Please bring:

A fold up chair, a flask of tea or cold drinks,
We will meet come rain or shine and there will be cake!

August - Wild Church has a rest!

Sunday 14th September 3pm
Wild Harvesting at Colstrope



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

As well as food and financial donations, from time to time we also receive items of clothing, bedding all in very good condition, as well as household goods such as cutlery, crockery and, recently, a lovely set of four pots and pans in excellent condition. These were offered to a family who were in real need and

Continued on page 11

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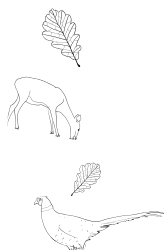


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GROUP NOTES, WILDLIFE AND HAMBLEDEN

who were delighted to receive them. The person who had donated them was told of the recipients' delight and that person was equally delighted that they had gone to a family who really needed them so happiness all round!

We regularly receive cat and dog food to give out and this really helps families hold on to their much-loved pet without the worry of the cost of feeding them.

One of our families has a very sick child who requires regular treatment in a hospital some distance away. Petrol for these trips eats into a budget with very little room for extra costs. We are able to offer some help by paying for this fuel.

Lastly, we would just like to say how much our involvement with our families is born out of our Christian love as Christ's witnesses in action. We share their happiness and joy when there is good news to report and we share in their day-to-day struggle doing what we can to alleviate these hardships. Your support for this to continue is so appreciated and, as you will know, very much needed.

Thank you all so much, every blessing.

Judy Taylor

WILDLIFE

Frieth Natural History Society

FNHS will be holding their annual moth session in a garden close to Frieth on 18th/19th July. Traps will be placed on the Friday evening and members are invited to help with counting and identification on the Saturday morning.

Moth traps use a light source to attract flying moths which are caught in the

main body of the trap. Moths can then be identified and counted before being safely released. The range of moths seen will depend on the date, nearby habitats and weather conditions. The date and venue of this event changes each year in order to see a different selection of moths.

Anyone is welcome to join us, but for further details of the start time, where to park and to book your bacon butty, please make contact.

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

Mary Webb

HAMBLEDEN

Hambleden Open Gardens



A huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported the Hambleden Open Gardens and Summer Market on Saturday 7th June.

HAMBLEDEN

Despite the rain, we raised almost £2000 for the Village Hall funds!

Thank you to our stallholders, everyone on the HVH committee, Charlie for running the pop-up cafe which sold out, and to everyone who helped organise the day in whatever capacity.

The biggest thank you - of course - goes to those who opened up their gardens and shared them with us. We couldn't do it without your hard work and generosity.

Until next year!

Sara Horner

The West Wycombe Chamber Music Festival at Hambleden

Each September the world-celebrated viola player, Lawrence Power, returns to the area to direct and perform in his three-day not-for-profit chamber music festival which offers audiences



five attractively programmed concerts. He is joined by top flight musicians to take part in this series of concerts which are returning to St Mary's, Hambleden for the third time. The festival will take place over the three days of Thursday to Saturday the 18th to 20th September.

Outlining this year's plans Lawrence writes: "This year will be a rather deep dive into music that is somehow defined

Continued on page 17



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Church Services and Events

From The Registers

Holy Matrimony

May 24	Harry Penrose and Zoë Curtis	Hambleton
June 14	Guy Lambert and Brooke Snowe	Hambleton

Rest in Peace

May 19	Nicollete (Nicky) Dawson	Funeral and burial, 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:

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CALENDAR FOR JULY 2025

Pattern of Worship July 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
29th June			8am BCP Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion	
6th July					10am Group Service	
13th July	11am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion	3pm Wild Church - Riverside	
20th July			9am Holy Communion	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am Lay-led Morning Worship	11am Village Service	
27th July	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong	9am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
3rd August		10am Group Service				



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by the notion of homeland, travel and nostalgia. Composers such as Biber, Boccherini, Dvorak, Grieg, Bartok, Rebecca Clarke, Vaughan Williams, Liszt, Janacek, Berlioz and many others were inextricably linked to the music of their homelands but were also intrepid musical voyagers who forged new paths through their extensive travels. Joining us on our journey in September will be some truly spectacular musicians who are familiar to us by now, such as Simon Crawford-Phillips, Sergio Bucheli, John Myerscough, Annabelle Meare and others, as well as a warm welcome back to the cellist Nicolas Altstaedt and violist Tim Ridout.”

Lawrence has set a deliberate policy of making the concerts accessible to all, with attractive ticket pricing. A Festival Pass for all 5 concerts costs £95. For details of the festival, to learn about the Friends Scheme or for ticket information, please visit <https://westwycombemusic.org.uk> Alternatively you can reach Carol Power on 01494 528659 / 07948 897148 or by e-mail tickets@westwycombemusic.org.uk

Richard Morbey

FAWLEY

Commemoration of VE Day



Fawley celebrated the commemoration of VE Day 80 years ago, by putting wild flowers on a wooden bench marked

1945-1995 which had been placed on the Green in 1995 to commemorate 50 years since VE Day.

Hilary Beck-Burridge

A Big ‘Thank You’ to David Napier



It gives me much pleasure to thank my friend, David Napier, for so many years of devoted service as churchwarden of St Mary’s, Fawley.

I have spent 52 happy years living in Fawley and I have always felt that St Mary’s was a very special church. You may know that it dates back to the 11th Century. If it had not been for Sally Scott and then David, our lovely church might well have closed long ago. The arrival of Julia Ogilvy and the formation of ‘The Friends of Fawley Church’ with all the splendid refurbishment, has assured the future of St Mary’s for many years.



FAWLEY AND FRIETH



I hope and pray that David is confident that he can now step down and relax. Do I really believe that? It will be up to us all to ensure that he does.

The preparation for any service in all the churches in the Hambleden Valley Group requires planning and much work beforehand. But that's not all. David has also looked after finance in the Valley and so has been required to attend meetings with contractors over the repair of church fabric and dealing with the bureaucracy of the Church of England to obtain faculties etc. That's no mean feat!

David, thank you so much for all you have done for us in the church community in Fawley and the Hambleden Valley over so many years.



Alfred Waller

FRIETH

Frieth School

Great School Run

We had an amazing turnout for The Great School Run at Stonor Park a few weeks back. Our students gave it their very best, and we were incredibly proud of all of them for running the challenging uphill course. We had three students step up onto the podium, with Olivia Nicholson coming first place in the Year 3 girls' race, Harry Bryant coming second place in the year 5 boys' race and Charlie Douglas coming third in the reception boys' race.



Netball

Our Year 5 team put in a great effort in their match against Holy Trinity. We didn't get the win this time, but the team showed lots of spirit, worked well together, and kept going right to the end. Well done to Harry Bryant, our Player of the Match, for a brilliant performance as Goal Defence. His interceptions and determination really stood out – he did a great job keeping the pressure on.

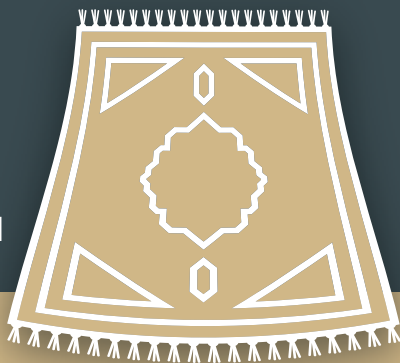
Continued on page 21

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Kites Trip

Kites had an incredible learning experience at the Connell's farm. They looked at the crops and discussed what foods they make and learnt about the machines that plant the seeds and harvest the crop. They also met some chicks, collected eggs then went to watch some sheep being sheared in Wheeler End. An action-packed couple of hours! A huge thanks to Bella for giving up her time and providing the children with such a wonderful and memorable opportunity.



Buzzards Trip

Linking to their science last term, Buzzards had a fabulous visit to the Lady Ryder Memorial Garden. While they were there, the children enjoyed planting sunflower seeds and learning about

everything that is needed to help plants grow. They also loved exploring the garden and of course testing some of the produce!



Martin Gosling, Headteacher

TURVILLE

Bells to Commemorate VE Day



Turville Band rang the bells to commemorate VE Day, at 6.30pm on May 8th along with other churches all across the country. We had a wee drink and some delicious chocolate brownies made by Ellie after a good half hour's ringing of rounds and call changes watched by a few who dropped into the church to see us in action.

Rachel Wallace

FINGEST AND NETTLEBED

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21 of these. Local craftspeople sold items including jewellery, stained glass items, mosaics, lamps, needlework, woodturning, cards and ceramics. We sold unframed paintings too. We divided our proceeds of £1800 between seven local charities.

Please come and visit this years' show which is being held on 2nd and 3rd August at Nettlebed School Community Hall. Open 11-6 on Saturday and 10-4.30 on Sunday with free entry.

If you are interested in exhibiting or would like a craft table, please email nettlebedas@gmail.com and ask for an entry form.

Harriet Archer

NETTLEBED

Nettlebed Art and Craft Show

The 2024 Nettlebed Art and Craft Show was again very successful.

We displayed 160 paintings, the work of 55 local artists, in a wide variety of media. We were very pleased to sell

Nettlebed Art & Craft Show 2025

will be held in Nettlebed
Community School Hall

on Saturday 2nd August 11am to 6pm
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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:
Vacant

**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:
Vacant

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:

Bookings via the website:

skirmettvillagehall.org

Other enquiries:

skirmettvillagehall@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
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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

Hambleton: Parish Clerk Lorna Coldwell
01494 881483, clerk@hambleton.org.uk,
www.hambleton.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
r.mcdonald2007@yahoo.co.uk

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