

Issue No. 274

# Hill & Valley

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF HURSTBOURNE PRIORS, LONGPARISH, ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT

50p

December 2023

January 2024



*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

Dear Friends,

What are you hoping for this Christmas? A nice present? Time with family and friends? Good food? World peace? At this time of year when the advent calendars are opening up each day there is a sense of anticipation, particularly among children! Remember back to your younger days when you knew Christmas was coming. For most of us we could hardly contain the excitement with the thought of new presents appearing soon. And not just presents, but the decorations, the Christmas tree, the food, the music, the parties, nativities, Christingle services, and everything else that happens in December!

As a child when I sat down for my Christmas dinner each year one of the things I particularly enjoyed was the Christmas cracker (not the sprouts!). Have you ever wondered why we have them? Apparently, they were first made in 1850 by a London sweet maker called Tom Smith. One night he was sitting in front of his fire watching it burn and listening to it crackle and he thought it would be fun if his sweets and toys could be opened with a crack when their wrappers were pulled in half. So, he turned this idea into reality.

And today's Christmas cracker has evolved from this and now includes three essential items: a hat, a joke, and a gift. Firstly, the hat isn't just a hat, it's a crown. Have you ever noticed that? The reason it's a crown is because at Christmas we remember and celebrate the birth of a king, Jesus. He is called Christ the King, and the King of kings.

Secondly, there's the joke. At one time crackers used to contain messages as well as jokes. They could be words of wisdom and advice (a bit like fortune cookies) and even Bible verses. Today though, crackers usually just have very bad jokes inside them. The truth is the real message of Christmas isn't a joke. It's a time when we also thank God for sending us his son to be our saviour.

And finally, there's the gift inside. Depending on how much we spend on crackers, it usually indicates the quality of the item in them (and sometimes the quality of the jokes!). They are usually cheap, made from plastic, and break after five minutes but give some amusement to children over the dinner table!

The real gift of Christmas, however, is greater than anything we can buy. The gift of Jesus and his promise of forgiveness, love, hope, and eternal life for those who believe in him is priceless. The Bible says:  
*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* John 3:16

So, why not celebrate the real reason for this season and enjoy some of the wonderful Christmas services coming up. Everyone is welcome.

*Russ* The Revd Russell Smart

We have lots of different services on offer over the festive period (please see the details on the opposite page).

You'll receive a very warm welcome and we would love to see you.

However you are celebrating we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Bright Waters Ministry Team*



## Services in the Parish Churches

### December 2023 & January 2024

All Zoom details are available from the Church wardens or Dodie Marsden.

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - Advent 1

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Morning Praise
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Morning Prayer
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Family Service
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Holy Communion



Home Zoom service at 10.30am

#### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
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#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December - Advent 2

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Christingle
St James', Woodcott	no service	



Home Zoom service at 10.30am

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Advent 3

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Carol Service
St Nicholas', Longparish	6.00pm	Carol Service
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	6.00pm	Carol Service
St James', Woodcott	4.00pm	Crib Service



Home Zoom service at 10.30am

#### Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	4.00pm	Crib Service
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#### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve

St Nicholas', Longparish	5.00pm	Crib Christingle - 11.00pm	Midnight Mass
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion - 11.30pm	Midnight Mass



Winchester Cathedral online

#### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	9.15am	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Holy Communion



Home Zoom service at 10.30am

#### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December - Christmas 1

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion - End of Year Service
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Home Zoom service at 10.30am

#### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January - Epiphany Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Morning Praise
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Family Service
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Holy Communion

Home Zoom service at 10.30am

#### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	Holy Communion
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#### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January - Baptism of The Lord

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong Taize
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	no service	

Home Zoom service at 10.30am

#### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January - Presentation of the Lord

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Family Praise
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
St James', Woodcott	No Service	

Winchester Cathedral online

#### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January - Epiphany 3

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Family Praise
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Matins

Zoom service at 10.30am

For all enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals in any of the parish churches, please contact the Church Office Administrator: ☎

01256 893573

[brightwatersbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:brightwatersbenefice@gmail.com)

Rev David Roche: ☎ 01256 892535  
[revd.davidroche@hotmail.com](mailto:revd.davidroche@hotmail.com)

Rev Canon Dodie Marsden:

☎ 01264 738211

[dodie.marsden@gmail.com](mailto:dodie.marsden@gmail.com)

- For details of **Roman Catholic Services** in Whitchurch or Andover: ☎ 01264 352829

- **Methodist Minister** for our parishes:

The Revd Rachel Borgars, 11 Lapwing Rise, Whitchurch, RG28 7SU ☎ 01256 895878 or [rachel.borgars@methodist.org.uk](mailto:rachel.borgars@methodist.org.uk)

#### From the Church Registers

##### Baptisms

"Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father."

We celebrate with their families and friends the baptisms of

Oscar William Peter Loveridge - St Peters - 5/11

Clementine Leonie Pritchard - St Peters - 12/11

Henrietta Matilda Lily Marsden - St Peters - 18/11

##### Weddings

"Marriage is a gift of God in creation ..."

Congratulations to

Kathryn Imogen Helen Aldridge and Alexander

Michael Travers Wilkins - St Andrews - 4/11

##### Funerals

"Into God's loving care we commit you ..."

We offer our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of

Alan Christopher Boxer - Charlton Park

Crematorium - 17/11

Christopher Taverner - Memorial service - St

Peters - 25/11

Robert and Margaret Mackenzie - interment of

ashes - 25/11

**LET US PRAY** - If you would like us to pray for you or someone else, please email

[stnbrightwaters@icloud.com](mailto:stnbrightwaters@icloud.com) giving the name (no surname required) and include a reason if you wish, or contact a member of the local ministry team.



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## WEATHER OCTOBER 23

Rainfall this month	154mm. =. 6.06 ins
Total for 2023	906mm. =. 35.60ins
Total for 2022.	502mm. =. 19.76ins
Max temperature	22c =. 72f (2nd)
Max night temp.	16c. =. 60f (2nd)
Min temperature.	4c. =. 39f (28th)

We have reached our average yearly rainfall with two months to go! Rain in early November has increased that much more!

### Ladies Coffee Morning

Susie Urquhart will be holding the December coffee morning on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at Copper Beech.

Clare Read will be hosting the coffee morning in the New Year on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January at Hurstbourne Priors House.

Everyone Welcome!

All ages welcome from 10.15 am until noon.

For more information or offers to hold a coffee morning, please contact Susie Sorby (tel 892665 or email: sbsorby@hotmail.com)

### The Hurstbourne Priors Gardening Club

The December Gardening Club for the May Fair plant stall will be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 at Hurstbourne Priors House.

The seeds which were so carefully planted at the Gardening Club in October are now coming through and need 'pricking out'. Some of the cuttings taken during the past few months are also ready to be potted on so we have quite a lot to do.

It has been lovely to have different people coming to our get togethers and we are so pleased that villagers who may not have considered themselves to have green fingers have offered their help.

During January we may need to meet more often as there are plenty more seeds to be 'pricked out' and sown so we may arrange to meet over coffee instead.

If you are interested in coming to the December meeting or are available in January for planting sessions during the day then please let one of us know.

Kat McCulloch (07748 598890) Rosie Kelton (07817 919268) or Clare (07711 917375)

### Christmas Bins and Recycling

Basingstoke & Dean Waste Services will be altering their collection days during the festive period. Please remember that wrapping paper cannot be recycled and should be put into your normal black waste bin. For the first collection after Christmas ONLY they will collect additional waste as long as it is securely tied in a black rubbish bag and placed next to your black bin. Large pieces of cardboard can be left next to your recycling bin but it must be dry....

#### Bin collection dates will alter as follows:

- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December will now be collected on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January will now be collected on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January
- For those with garden waste collections, please note that these will cease for two weeks over the Christmas period between 22<sup>nd</sup> December and 8<sup>th</sup> January.
- Christmas trees (as long as all the decorations have been removed) can be recycled in garden waste collections from 8<sup>th</sup> January, but 6' trees must be cut in half. Once again the tree collection point in Whitchurch Town Car Park will be running but only AFTER Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January and before 28<sup>th</sup> January.

The Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council



### Harvest Supper

Our numbers were too few for it to be worth using the Village Hall, but the Harvest Supper still went ahead, with all 14 of us able to fit round Ann and Crispin Orr's dining room table.

We had a most enjoyable evening, and we will be able to make our usual donation to the Mityana Projects Trust. For the last few years, the donations from the Hurstbourne Priors Harvest Supper have been used to support the Kindergarten which has over 135 pupils.

Thank you, Ann and Crispin, for your warm welcome and to our wonderful cooks for our traditional meal of sausages, mash and red cabbage, not to mention the brownies and the rhubarb and blackberry crumble!

# St. Andrew's Church

St. Andrew's Church has a number of items for sale which have been specially created from watercolour paintings and photographs representing different views of our church. All profits from the sale of these items are in aid of St. Andrew's Church.

If you are looking for an idea for a Christmas gift, you may like to consider some of these.

You can also dedicate one of our new church hymn books in memory of an event such as a wedding or christening, or in remembrance of a loved one. A donation of £9.75 will cover costs and your dedication will be inserted at the front of the book.

Items can be purchased by contacting:- [AnnJOrr@btinternet.com](mailto:AnnJOrr@btinternet.com)

**Bone China Mugs £9.99 ea.**

**Christmas Cards £5.00 pack of 5**



1 tea towel &  
1 mug  
£15.00



**Dedicate a Hymn Book £9.75 ea.**

**Tea Towels £7.50 ea.**



Items will be on display at all services





**Hurstbourne Priors  
Safari Supper  
2nd March 2024**

*Save The Date*

**Hurstbourne Priors is  
going on Safari.**

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lotion, check your insect  
repellent, dig out your jungle  
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place on the annual safari  
around the village.**

***Everyone Welcome***

**Look out for an email in  
December with further details or  
to register interest contact:**

**[SafariSupperHBP@gmail.com](mailto:SafariSupperHBP@gmail.com)**

## Whitchurch Silk Mill News

### Thinking about Christmas Presents?

In our shop we've a splendid range of seasonal gifts at a variety of prices, including silk tree decorations, beaded bookmarks, cotton throws produced on our looms, beautiful scarves, Whitchurch silk-dressed mice and our new range of Whitchurch silk-covered notebooks. OR why not buy your loved-one(s) an annual subscription, giving access to the Mill all year round? There are three levels of subscription:

- Individual – £18, giving unlimited entry to the Mill
- Joint – £30, unlimited entry to the Mill for two people
- Family – £35, unlimited entry to the Mill for two adults and up to three children (5–16 years old)

## Christmas Festival, 2 and 3 December, 10.30am–4pm

This year, as a change from our usual Christmas Fair, come to 'A Victorian Silk Mill Christmas' and experience the Mill decorated to recreate scenes from the 19th century up to the current day. On the ground floor the Mill's Victorian lanterns will be lit up, along with illuminated trees. The first floor Gallery will have a re-creation of Weaver's Cottage and a table laid with gingerbread figures and a figgy pudding mix which you can stir while making a wish. On the top floor you'll be able to see a lavish holiday feast provided by the Mill Manager for his weavers. In the Mill's grounds you can purchase a warming glass of mulled wine or a cup of hot chocolate and the café will be serving lite bites, cakes and hot and cold drinks. Day tickets £3 per person aged 3 years+ (under 3s free). Annual passes cannot be used for this event. The Mill's Play Town (see below) is included in the entrance fee.

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*Chutneys, Jams and Marmalades 2023*

Josephine and Denise have a selection of marmalades, chutneys and jams for sale and hope you will be tempted to purchase some of the following. All funds raised will go towards Hurstbourne Priors village amenities.

	<b>Chutneys</b> <b>£4.00</b>	
	Banana Chutney	
	Tame Bengal Chutney	
	Traditional Apple Chutney	
	Plum Chutney	
	Rhubarb & Gooseberry Relish	
	<b>Jams</b> <b>£4.00</b>	
	Apple Ginger Preserve	
	Apple Berry Jam	
	Apple & Walnut Jam	
	Blackberry Jam	
	Damson & Apple Jam (with stones)	
	Mirabelle Jam	
	Rhubarb & Apple Jam	
	Rhubarb & Ginger Jam	
	Rhubarb, Apple & Ginger Preserve	
	<b>Marmalades</b> <b>£4.00</b>	
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	Ginger Marmalade	
	Orange Marmalade	
	Whisky Marmalade	

To make your purchases, please email:- [PreservesHBP@gmail.com](mailto:PreservesHBP@gmail.com)

**The Andover Food Bank**

The Andover foodbank would like to thank anyone who has donated to us in the recent weeks. Demand is still incredibly high, and we are therefore most grateful for your generosity.

This week the Andover foodbank is in need of the following food and non-food items:-

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Tinned Vegetables    | Longlife Milk           |
| Chocolate bars       | Deodorant               |
| Pasta Sauce          | Laundry pods            |
| Tinned Meat          | Cleaning spray          |
| Longlife Fruit Juice | Dishcloths and scourers |
| Tinned Fruit         |                         |



**Making Sure Everyone Experiences Christmas Joy with Andover Food Bank!**

The Andover foodbank needs your help to support those in need this Christmas. You can help by donating a Christmas gift box or a Christmas hamper.

Gift boxes and hampers help to alleviate the many financial pressures and allow people to celebrate Christmas rather than exist through it. A mother said: *'It took the stress out of Christmas a bit. The kids loved their items'*, and another family said *'you have just lifted a huge weight off my shoulders'*.

**Christmas Hampers – last date for hamper food 26<sup>th</sup> November**

**Flower Helpers for St Andrew's Church**

Thank you very much to the super team of helpers who have provided lovely arrangements in St Andrews this year. We are always looking for extra hands to join the team so if you are interested please do contact me.

Flower arrangements can be as simple or formal as you wish and there is no set formula which has to be followed, though for environmental reasons I am trying to avoid oasis!

The rota works on a monthly basis and you are always in a pair to share the work. At Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas decorating the church is a team effort.

If you would like to help with Christmas decorating we are meeting at 2pm on Friday 15th December ahead of the Carol Service on Sunday 17th. I shall bring tea and biscuits. Please bring snippers or secateurs - all the greenery and flowers will be provided.

I would be grateful if you could let me know if you would like to come.

Clare (07711 917375)



**Mulled Wine Recipe for Christmas**

**Ingredients**

- 750ml bottle of red wine
- 1 sliced clementine
- 1 Cinnamon Stick
- 1 Star Anise
- 3 Dried figs
- 4 Cloves
- 3 Black Peppercorns
- 50ml Brandy



**Method**

- **STEP 1** Pour the red wine into a large saucepan. Add the clementine, cinnamon stick, star anise, dried figs, cloves and black peppercorns. Heat very gently until simmering, then turn off the heat.
- **STEP 2** Fish out the whole spices and peppercorns with a spoon, then stir in the brandy. Ladle into mugs, or heatproof glasses to serve. You could drop in a slice of clementine to each.



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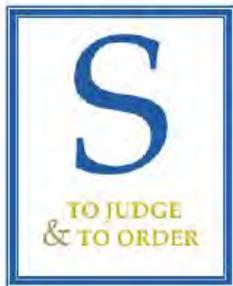
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**Coffee at The George Inn**

All ages are welcome, from all the villages,  
 to a social coffee morning at  
**The George Inn** St Mary Bourne on  
**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December and 9<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am**  
**£2.50 for coffee and biscuits - For more information**  
**contact Win Coventry - ☎ 01264 738 199.**

**The Boundary Community Shop & Café - 100 Club**

**November 2023 draw:**

**£50** - Dom Liversedge      **£20** - Gordon Pearce  
**£20** - Ian Sarson      **£10** - Kate Vernon

**The next 100 Club Draw & Christmas Draw:**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December** - January Draw: 13<sup>th</sup> January

**Application Forms to join the 2024 Village Shop**  
**100 Club are now available at the Shop.**

**Pay at the till. Payment by cash or debit card only**  
**please. £25 gives you 48 chances to win a monthly**  
**cash prize + an extra £50 draw at Christmas.**

*All proceeds in support of our Boundary Shop.*

**The Lunch**

Our next village lunch is on  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** at St  
 Mary Bourne Village Centre, starting to  
 serve at 12.30pm as usual. This will be our traditional  
 Christmas Lunch which includes carols from the school choir  
 and a superb raffle. Returning to the third Wednesday of the  
 month, our first lunch of the New Year will be on **Wednesday**  
**17<sup>th</sup> January 2024.** If a lift is needed, please phone Chris on  
 ☎ 01264 738110 by Noon on the Tuesday.

**Christmas wreath making** - Saturday

2<sup>nd</sup> December - 2.30pm - Village Centre Club Room



**Join me for a relaxed**  
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Numbers are limited and are on first come first served basis.

**Reserve your place by calling Rebecca Anning**  
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**Stoke Christmas**  
**Carol Singing**

**Thursday 21st December**  
**5:30 - 7.30pm**

Save the date!

Meet by the Stoke playground for Carol Singing  
 followed by refreshments



**A Family Christmas**

Promoted as a 'family time'—though of course it is for everyone—our Christmas festivities often follow inherited ritual patterns we have learned in our families. Church perhaps, Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, the opening of presents stacked under the Christmas tree, the King's broadcast, the post-lunch sleep...

A family time? And what could bring family members together more than a wedding or baptism on Christmas day—or even a funeral? Not that they were frequent Christmas events according to the early church registers, but they did take place. For instance, Earle Wedge, son of George (a farmer) and Hannah, was baptised on 25 Dec 1823 at St James', Woodcott. Peter Light and Mary Glover celebrated their marriage on 25 Dec 1694 at St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors. William Munday married Mary Tempel on 25 Dec 1742 at St Nicholas', Longparish. On 25 Dec 1689, Elizabeth Philpot, wife of 'Georgius', was buried in St Mary Bourne churchyard.

A baptism fits the Christmas theme well: the birth of Mary's baby in Bethlehem. In those centuries, the occasional service was very much a local and family affair: no relatives travelling across the country to attend, arriving breathlessly two minutes after the service started. The baptism was also the official naming of the child and registration of the birth before state records began in 1837. 'You are to name him Jesus,' according to St Matthew.

A marriage also echoes part of the Christmas story. We think of Joseph and Mary and their delicate social position as 'betrothed' parents. Our modern wedding expectations and sometimes vast expense make it hard for us to imagine the plain, undemonstrative church marriages of the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Perhaps the words and actions of the service then could speak more clearly.

But a burial on Christmas day seems unthinkable. It is completely out of tune with the way we celebrate the feast: facing death on the day we celebrate the birth. The vicar or curate came on from celebrating one of the three Communion services of the year to be with the grieving family. Pall-bearers manoeuvred the coffin; ringers tolled the bell; the village sexton filled in the grave: the funeral was very much the village looking after its own. Our Christmas is jolly - *Joy to the world!* - yet we know how heavily some among us are bearing the loss of one they love. Christmas can still have a serious edge.

MC

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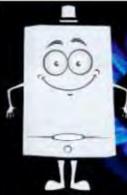
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## News and Views

### Parish Council Activities

#### Hedgerows



Not always the most spectacular of subjects, unless of course, you have a perfectly manicured streetside hedge? Unfortunately, there are hedges which are sprawling into the road.

This creates several issues, mainly it pushes traffic (and pedestrians) more towards the middle of the road and with oncoming traffic, causes delays and near-misses (hopefully not worse!)

If these issues are reported to Highways, there is a risk that THEY will instruct their contractors to cut back the hedge, especially where the risk is significantly high.

However, please don't think that they are doing you a favour – they will then bill the homeowner for the services provided. We guess that this may not be at a favourable rate either; against that which might be achieved with a local provider.

Sorry to moan – but overgrown roadside hedges are the responsibility of the landowner and contribute to road traffic issues around the parish. Please take accountability for your property and the impact on others.

#### Flooding

At this time of year, the Bourne rivulet is usually dry or very close to it. However, with the almost unprecedented weather over the last few months, it remains high and, in some parts, has started flowing again. See picture >>>.

The Flood Working Group are meeting and have plans in place – however if you notice anything or want more information then please email – [flood@stmarybourne.org](mailto:flood@stmarybourne.org) and Ed and the team will be more than happy to help.

#### Planning on Website

We had planned to list each planning application within this article; however, this isn't possible with formatting and available space. So, we will need to continue with just the printed details on the PC agenda and minutes from each meeting – which are posted on the notice board on the village hall, SMB and in Stoke.

The Planning page of the PC website will be updated to help guide those who wish to review applications (and more) on the BDBC portal page. If you have any issues with this, please contact Max on the details below.

#### BourneFest

A working group has been created to help deliver the activities for the weekend of the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024. If anyone would like to get involved and join the team, help out on the day, etc then please get in touch and we can forward details.

#### Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Last, but certainly not least – we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2024.

#### Contact emails:

<b>Finance</b> <a href="mailto:parishcouncil@stmarybourne.org">parishcouncil@stmarybourne.org</a>	<b>Highways</b> <a href="mailto:highways@stmarybourne.org">highways@stmarybourne.org</a>
<b>Flood and Emergency</b> <a href="mailto:flood@stmarybourne.org">flood@stmarybourne.org</a>	<b>Rec (Inc Stoke Play)</b> <a href="mailto:rec@stmarybourne.org">rec@stmarybourne.org</a>
<b>Planning</b> <a href="mailto:planning@stmarybourne.org">planning@stmarybourne.org</a>	<b>SMB Lake</b> <a href="mailto:lake@stmarybourne.org">lake@stmarybourne.org</a>

If you are interested and think you could help with anything or all things on the list, please get in touch with Maxine Owen, Parish Clerk, by emailing [clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk).

**Next parish council meetings: 12<sup>th</sup> December & 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - 19.30**

Village Centre Club Room - Public more than welcome

Copies of minutes are available on the parish council website and notice boards. Please email any questions or agenda points to Maxine Owen. See also our updates on facebook [www.facebook.com/SMB.PCpage](https://www.facebook.com/SMB.PCpage) - OM



The Bourne rivulet in full flow on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November



#### Dear Readers,

Thank you to all those who have come forward to volunteer and read with the children at St Mary Bourne, we had an incredible response and look forward to welcoming you soon.



#### ECO News

Sustainable Bourne Valley kindly came to help clear the pond area on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Mrs Rimmer, a school parent, organised this event and along with some other parents and volunteers from Sustainable Bourne Valley, have cleared the surrounding area and much of the pond water. We look forward to using the pond again in outdoor learning.

#### International School

As an International School we regularly take part in events to highlight international awareness and understanding in our school. We recently celebrated European Languages Day with a highlight on France. Some classes listened to French music while others made flags and learnt about key landmarks. We also have link schools for the children to write to penpals.



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**www.stmarybourneschool.co.uk**



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**Hello everyone!**

**Can you believe it's December already?!!**

If you haven't ordered your turkey yet, time is of the essence! We can take orders until the **8<sup>th</sup> December** so get your order form at the shop post haste!



While you're here you can browse our Christmas display of great stocking fillers for every age! We have Christmas decorations, Christmas liqueurs, Christmas cards, Christmas wrapping paper, Christmas – Everything. Please do come and see – it could just save you a trip into town or a lost parcel in the post!

See below for our **Christmas Opening Times**.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THANKS TO VICKY AND SANDRA WE WILL BE OPEN ON CHRISTMAS DAY!!**

For all those little things that you may have forgotten... we are here for **you!!**

<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9am - 1pm</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9 - 11.30am</b>
Boxing Day	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED
New Year's Eve	Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	9am - 1pm
New Year's Day	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	CLOSED
January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8 - 10am only due to stock take

The only thing that is left for 2023 is to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! With love from Vicky, Sandra, Gordon, Debbie, Jo, Mark and Oscar and all the rest of The Boundary Team!

# CHRISTMAS CONCERT

*Charpentier Messe de Minuit*  
*Corelli Christmas Concerto*  
*Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols*  
*Finzi In Terra Pax*

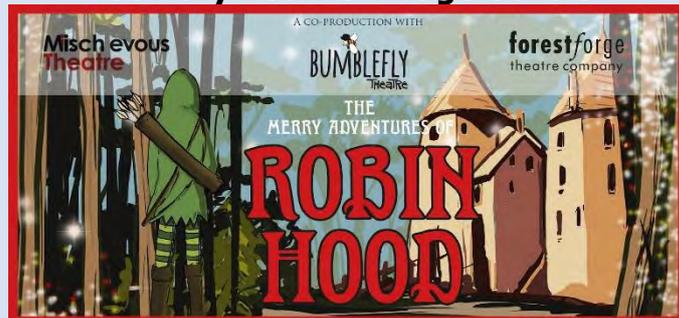
**Saturday 2 December 2023 7.30pm**  
**St Mary's Church Andover**

**ANDOVER CHORAL SOCIETY**

**Andover Choral Society** presents its annual Christmas concert in **St Mary's Church, Andover** on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7.30pm**. The choir will be accompanied by the **Westminster Chamber Orchestra** and professional soloists.

**Tickets £15**, available on the door or by email from **sue.woodley-47@gmail.com**. Pre-purchased tickets can be delivered to St Mary Bourne addresses by one of our members.

## 'Family Theatre' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre



**60 minutes - for children 4 to 104 years**  
**Bumblefly, Forestforge and Mischievous Theatre**

*Can Robin and his barmy band of brigands save the poor people of the Forest? Right a few wrongs with mischief and merriment? Who will he meet in the woods today?*

A spangly, new swashbuckling tale of derring do and ridiculousness fresh from the Traveling Players suitcase.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December - 6.30pm**

**Doors open 6pm**

All tickets: **£6** - children under 6: **£3**  
Please reserve all tickets in advance by email

[smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com](mailto:smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com)

Children must be accompanied by an adult

**Refreshments and Licensed Bar**



### Top Electricity Tips

**1.** For possible instant reduction in your electricity bills have a look at **Demand Flexibility Service**  
The DFS (Demand Flexibility Service) incentivises people to reduce their electricity use when the national electricity grid is under strain and in return receive rewards.

Many suppliers have signed up to the service and market it to their customers under different names with different rewards.

This winter the Demand Flexibility Service is going to be running from November 2023 to March 2024. Participants must have a smart meter and have electricity supplied by a participating provider. Have a look on the following link for a full explanation along with a tab giving details of Registered Providers

<https://www.nationalgrideso.com/industry-information/balancing-services/demand-flexibility-service-dfs>

**2.** For possible longer-term savings by installing solar panels look at **Solar Together**.

Solar Together has been set up to take advantage of lower solar panel installation costs through a group buying scheme. This is operated through local councils for residents. See the following for a full explanation.

<https://www.theecoexperts.co.uk/solar-panels/solar-together#:~:text=Solar%20Together%20is%20a%20fantastic, failure%20on%20the%20government's%20part>

See how Hampshire County Council has set up such a scheme [Group-buying for solar | Hampshire County Council \(solartogether.co.uk\)](http://Group-buying for solar | Hampshire County Council (solartogether.co.uk)) which runs through Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

The closing date for applications was at the end of October **but sign up here** [Group-buying for solar | Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council \(solartogether.co.uk\)](http://Group-buying for solar | Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (solartogether.co.uk)) to register your interest and be informed of the next scheme to be run.



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## Postcard from Binley

Some friends in Stoke have reared a pea hen from an egg in their kitchen. It's now fully grown, honking everyone awake at 5.00 am and pebble dashing the marble worktops. So they are now potty training it. That's British eccentricity for you. But they are not alone? All along this valley animal lovers are rearing orphaned lambs, ducks, chickens, foxes etc. under their roofs.

It is one of the charming aspects of country life and commendable. Charlie Corbett wrote about a black faced Tup (ram) named McTavish that his grandfather kept in the hall of his home which terrorised visitors. When I was first courting my wife, I arrived at the house at Dunley and wandered in to find her beloved goat, Daisy sat on the sofa watching "Tom Jones at the London Palladium". So, it's not unusual.

Sharing your home with animals has always been a part of country life. Which dog lovers amongst us haven't woken to the sight of a Jack Russell's backside staring you in the face? I know I have. On one occasion, bleary eyed from sleep and in the dim light I mistook it for the wife winking at me. I won't be making that mistake again. But if we look at the ancient old cottages dotted about this valley in many instances all manner of creatures would have been present under those leaky thatched roofs, lying on beds of straw on beaten mud floors. A cow for milking, a pig for eating and assorted fowl, and all providing a little warmth for the wretched human inhabitants. One only has to read Dr Stevens book on St Mary Bourne to realise how pretty ghastly life was for the labouring classes and nothing like the sanitised Victorian illustrations from artists like Myles Birket Foster of idyllic country life.

As I wander around the living room of my cottage, I can see great iron hooks and rings hammered into beams from previous centuries and one can only speculate as to their uses. If you travel regularly up the M40 as I do you will pass a field of around a hundred white geese on your left just after Warwick Services with the sign "**Geese Online**". As there are only two of us here for Christmas this year, no doubt mournfully tugging on a cracker that will fail to detonate (not a euphemism) I have ordered one. Risky, as the last goose I acquired wasn't as tender as the wellies I was wearing when I acquired it. But we shall see!

Today (November 15<sup>th</sup>) I have enjoyed one of the finest walks in a long while. All under an azure sky I have followed the Bourne, that glorious stripling feeder of the Test and now in full flow from Hurstbourne Tarrant to St Mary Bourne. Autumn is at its fiery best and despite the shocking state of this world I doubt I could have felt more content if I tried. That's how much this place affects me. The War Memorial is festooned in red poppies as I press on and upwards to "The Hanging" at its northern point and from here I looked down the grassy slopes of our valley where once great village elms would have stood sentinel. Now no more. But even so, that cannot detract from the beauty of this place, the sheer majesty of the hills, the old, thatched cottages nestling below, the sturdy red bricked farms, the flints in the Norman tower and the flag of St George fluttering above.

What a very apt time to mark Remembrance because it is for this, the wonderful life we share here that those people we commemorate gave the ultimate sacrifice, the gratitude we owe them is unbounded.

NA

## 'The Film' at St Mary Bourne Village Centre



15 • 1 h 53 m

Bernard Jordan escapes from his care home to attend the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day Landings in France.

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - 7.15pm**

**Hall and Licensed Bar open from 6.45pm**

Tickets **£5** in advance or **£6** at the door  
Please reserve tickets in advance by email

[smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com](mailto:smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com)

[www.stmarybourne.co.uk](http://www.stmarybourne.co.uk)

**Next Film in January 2024**



## Christingle

There will be a Christingle service in St Peter's Church at 4pm on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Christmas Drawing Competition

Draw a "Christmas in Stoke"  
Entries Close 20th December

- Picture on A4 page
- PRIZES for children AND adults
- Entry box in the Stoke postbox library

- Please put a name, age and contact number on your entry!





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## Village Centre Caretaker Position



St Mary Bourne Village Centre is looking for a reliable and practical individual to attend to general tasks including but not limited to:

- Security checks of windows and doors
- Procurement of consumables and replenishment
- Oversee minor repairs • General tidy of the amenities.

**6 hours per week, pay negotiable, timing flexible**

**To apply and discuss further please email**

**[melissa.cavell@btinternet.com](mailto:melissa.cavell@btinternet.com)**

St Mary Bourne Village Centre is a registered charitable trust set up for the benefit of the community. Trustees are responsible for controlling the management and administration of the Village Centre. The Management Committee consists of five Trustees and a number of co-opted members. Trustees are elected for a term of five years at the Annual General Meeting.

**The Village Centre is looking for new members on the management committee** which meets quarterly, and the trustees usually have a couple of additional meetings, so there is not a large time commitment. Joining the committee is a good opportunity to give something back to your community. The current members have been on the committee for many years and some of us feel it is time to hand on responsibility for this community asset.

## Village Centre Admin Manager position

We are looking for a volunteer with basic PC skills to support the bookings secretary • communicating with hirers • recording bookings • raising invoices • checking & banking payments • keeping general records

**To apply and discuss further please email**

**[smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com](mailto:smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com)**

It really is vital now that the next generation step up and get involved so that we have new candidates to join the committee and to become trustees before any of us is next up for re-election in 2025. To express an interest and for further information please write to **[smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com](mailto:smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com)** or contact the secretary Mike Case on 01264 **738 235**.

## Uganda, October 2023

### Tracey Christy

On Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>, I set off on what would turn out to be an adventure of a lifetime, one which I had been yearning to go on for a very long time. Having joined the teaching staff at St Mary Bourne School last year, I found myself with the opportunity to be part of a team from Whitchurch Deanery supported by Mityana Projects Trust, on their annual visit to Mityana. Amongst other duties, I was to spend two days at Makonzi School (linked with St Mary Bourne), teaching in classes and building relationships with staff.

Upon our arrival on the first day at Makonzi, I was greeted by Margret, the assistant head before heading over to meet Head Teacher Samuel waiting for us on the farm. Here, I was introduced to the goats and pigs, two of the many projects provided through our partnership with SMB. The pig project seeks to educate the children on how to care for the pigs. The school grows maize to feed the children and staff.

When the maize is harvested, the pigs eat the roughage. When a sow has a litter, children are invited to apply to be selected to receive a piglet to care for at home. When the piglet is mature, they can either breed or sell, sharing the income with the school.

After a tour of the school, the rest of the day was spent teaching. In P2, we read and acted out 'The Lion and The Mouse' with Margret interpreting - much to the amusement of all the children. Their enthusiasm and energy was contagious with quite a scramble from volunteers to be puppeteers!

During the lesson, Margret's baby daughter was carried in to her - preschool age children born to teachers come to the school each day; babies being cared for by older female students while they are in lessons and returned to mothers for feeding, and older children playing outside while lessons go on.

With the older children in P7, I shared leaflets that had been written to promote St Mary Bourne by children in Year 6 before generating examples of what could be written about Makonzi. With Teacher Ronald's help with interpretation (the children's English was very good but they struggled with my accent and pronunciation), we were soon involved in a good discussion that provided a bank of areas that the children could write about in their leaflet.

A second day at Makonzi was spent singing nursery rhymes in Pussycat Class, comparing UK animals with those in Uganda in P4 and a PE lesson outside with P6, using the tennis balls we had taken over for the school - great fun!

As is customary, we were treated to a big lunch of Matoke (steamed green bananas), rice, Irish (boiled potatoes), pumpkin, pork, avocado, banana and pineapple with all the staff. Ugandans like to offer their welcome by providing food and can feel insulted if you do not eat what is offered. The teaching staff received their gifts of soap, scarves, ties, toothbrushes, pens, matches and many more bits we had collected before leaving the UK with delight.

A full report of the visit can be found on St Mary Bourne School's website: <https://www.stmarybourneschool.co.uk>





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## Wintery Chalk Stream Walks



As the weather grows colder, it's easy to heed the call of the sofa cushions. But if you do venture out on a chilly day, our chalk streams are lovely places for a stroll. Even in the wintertime, these precious habitats are brimming with life and colour. For those places that have a winterbourne, regular rain could see their stream return

to the landscape after months of hiding below the ground.

Take a walk in the early morning for the chance to catch a veil of mist lifting from the stream's surface – a magical effect caused by water rising from the chalk aquifer and meeting the frigid air. This is the ideal time of day to see and hear birds like wrens, robins, goldcrests, and kingfishers. You might even glimpse bats darting by, heading home after a night of hunting insects.

Winter is also the perfect season to spot brown trout and Atlantic salmon engaging in their courtship rituals. If you're lucky, you could witness males getting into tiffs over potential partners. No fish in sight? Look for patches of paler gravel on the stream bed; these might be freshly made nests, or 'redds'. These nests are easily disturbed, so check the area if your dog is going for a paddle.

Along the water's edge, you may see clumps of watercress and water crowfoot. While they flower in the springtime, these plants give shelter to small fish during the colder months. Up on the stream banks, you might find the dry remains of umbellifers like hogweed and cow parsley. Though past their best for beauty, these plants have hollow stems that make great hibernation spaces for insects.

If the ground is wet or frosty, study it for signs of animals passing through. You might be surprised by what you find, from the cloven-hooved tracks of deer to the star-shaped prints of water voles. Get to know your local wildlife – the number of toes, length of stride, and pattern of movement are all key. Fox tracks, for instance, look like those of dogs but tend to be in a straighter line.

The Watercress and Winterbournes scheme stays busy over the winter months - our intrepid volunteers are out surveying fish redds and monitoring riverflies. For a good excuse to visit charming places at their most peaceful, become a volunteer by visiting [www.hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes). Our work is made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

### Free Online Talks

*'Chalk Stream Moths and Butterflies'*

**5<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm**

Ashley Whitlock from Butterfly Conservation details the amazing lives of the moths and butterflies that frequent chalk streams, and their immense value to those ecosystems.

*'Photography for Chalk Stream Conservation'*

**11<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm**

Award-winning photographer Paul Colley shares his chalk stream images, explains the techniques behind them, and explores how they are used in chalk stream conservation.

Book your tickets at [hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes](http://hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes).



## Go Star Gazing in December and January

**4 Dec - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation** - Best time to view Mercury at it is at highest point on horizon in evening sky. Look for planet low in western sky after sunset.

**12 Dec - New Moon** - best time to observe galaxies & star clusters, no moonlight to interfere.

**13-14 - Gemini's Meteor Shower - BEST SHOWER producing up to 120 MULTICOLOURED METEORS PER HOUR at its peak.**

Nearly new moon means dark skies for excellent show. Best view dark location after midnight. Meteors radiate from constellation of Gemini but may appear anywhere in the sky.

**21-22 Dec - Ursids Meteor Shower** - minor shower - 5-10 meteors per hour. Waxing moon will block out most of meteors.

**22 Dec - December Solstice** - The South Pole of Earth will be tilted towards the Sun, which will have reached its southernmost position in sky & will be over Tropic of Cancer. First day of Winter (winter solstice) in Northern Hemisphere & first day of Summer (summer solstice) in Southern Hemisphere.

**27 Dec - Full moon** will be located on opposite side of Earth as Sun & its face will be fully illuminated. Known as Cold Moon by Native American Indian tribes.

### January 2024

**2-4 Jan - Quadrantids Meteor Shower up to 40 meteors per hour at peak.** Waning Moon will block faintest. Best view after midnight. Meteors radiate from constellation Boot but can appear anywhere in sky.

**11 Jan - New moon** located on same side of the Earth as Sun & will not be visible in night sky. Best time to view galaxies & star clusters.

**12 Jan - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation** - Best time to view Mercury it will be at its highest point above the horizon in morning sky. Look for planet low in eastern sky just before sunrise.

**25 Jan - Full Moon** located on opposite side of Earth as Sun & its face will be fully illuminated. Known as Wolf Moon by early Native American tribes.

**Andover Astronomical Society - next meeting 18 January 7.30 pm Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre SP110AX**  
*"Lunar geology from the safety of your own home."*



**Christmas Concert with Middle Wallop & Andover Military Wives – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

**St. Mary's Church Andover from 7pm – 9pm**

**For more information & to book:**

[www.enhamtrust.org.uk/Event/christmas-concert](http://www.enhamtrust.org.uk/Event/christmas-concert)



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## LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Sally Lawman

[clerk@longparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@longparish.org.uk) or telephone 01264 738716

### REPORT FROM PC MEETING ON 13 NOVEMBER

#### PLANNING

The Parish Council had **NO OBJECTION** to:

- Internal alterations at **Smallwood Lodge, Longparish Road, Wherwell**

The PC raised an **OBJECTION** for retrospective change of use to open-air storage on land forming **Harewood Industrial Estate**.

#### VILLAGE CLEAN UP DAY

The Parish Council is very grateful to organisers and volunteers who participated in the Autumn Village Clean-Up Day on 5<sup>th</sup> November postponed from the previous day due to the weather. Among the tasks carried out were clearance of the stream, litter picking, seeding along the Spinal Path, and removal of leaves. Volunteers enjoyed refreshments at The Cricketers Inn courtesy of the Parish Council. Special thanks to Jo Clare, Paul Knipe, and Jon Hopkinson, and to Collards for the use of a skip.

#### RESILIENCE PLAN

Test Valley Borough Council have hosted a number of Resilience Forums with the aim of inspiring communities to create their own Resilience Plan to identify potential risks such as flooding, fire, and extreme weather conditions, and the community members who are most vulnerable in these circumstances. A number of councillors have attended these forums, and it was agreed that the PC should form a Working Party of councillors and community representatives to prepare this useful document, which will focus on prevention and preparation.

#### HIGHWAYS

##### Road Repairs

Councillors discussed the recent road repairs, and the disappointment voiced by some residents that the work undertaken was not as expected. The original road closure was postponed due to bad weather, and when Highways operatives did return, only two small areas were patched. The Parish Council has been advised that large scale works are on 'highways' list of planned works with a proposed date of mid-December, subject to weather conditions.

##### Bus Service

Unity is trying to determine the level of demand for a fully 'on demand transport service' for the community, using two 16-seat minibuses. Both minibuses would be fully wheelchair accessible. They are keen to hear the views of Test Valley residents and the link to their survey is: <https://forms.office.com/e/7KipJj5VyV>

Any feedback received will be used to inform a Motability grant application which if successful will enable Unity to provide services to the rural residents in Test Valley.

#### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 11 December**.

Parish Council Meetings are public, and parishioners are also welcome to speak on specific agenda items by prior arrangement with the Chairman, or on any matter as part of the Period for Public Speaking.

Chairman: Mr Peter Hull - email

[peter.hullpc@longparish.org.uk](mailto:peter.hullpc@longparish.org.uk)

Clerk: Miss Sally Lawman - Tel 01264 738716, or email [clerk@longparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@longparish.org.uk)

**Minutes of all previous meetings are available on the current or archived Longparish website**



## Longparish Speed Indicator Device

In case you are wondering why the SID sign has not been in use in the village these past two months, the Parish Council is still looking for volunteers to manage it once a week before we have to return it to Barton Stacey.

The Parish Council is very grateful to the volunteers who have managed the device to date. Full training and guidance will be given. If you are interested, please contact the clerk.

Email [sally.lawmanpc@longparish.org.uk](mailto:sally.lawmanpc@longparish.org.uk)

### LITTER FREE LONGPARISH one last clear for 2023!!



Christmas and New Year Clean Ups followed by free Coffee in the pubs.

Next Litter picks are on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. Meet behind the Village Hall at 9.15 am, the Parish Council will provide litter picking sticks, hoops, and bags.

For more information Tel Christian Dryden 720 398

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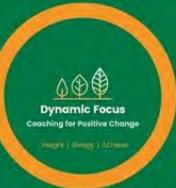
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## Boxing Day Entertainment

Meet at 11am on Boxing Day at the school for the **Great Longparish Santa Dash**. The Santas will dash to The Cricketers. There will be prizes for the winner and the best dressed Santas and dogs.

**Longparish Mummers** will be back on Boxing Day with two performances of their 20-minute traditional folk play. There are wonderful costumes and lots of action



with a great battle between King George and the Yorkish Knight.

The first show will be at the **Cricketers at 11.30**. The pub will be open from 11 am so you can get a drink before the play.

Please join in as the Mummers then parade down the main road to **The Plough**

for the second performance at **12.30**. Bring your own instruments and join the throng! Does anyone have a big bass drum?

There will be a collection in aid of Mityana and the Andover Food Bank at each venue. Please bring cash!

## LONGPARISH WILDLIFE AUTUMN WALK

Started from home as usual, down the back path, the usual bunch of noisy **House Sparrows** are on Arthur's feeders. Turning right at the shop, and a pair of **Collared Doves** are sitting on the wires. A small flock of **Starlings** are flying around. At the pony paddock are a lot of **Rooks** and **Jackdaws** and on the newly formed lake are some Mallards. Turning right into Mill Lane, a **Blackbird**, and a **Robin** on the side of the road looking for food.

On to Lower Mill bridge and I can see a **Heron** sitting on the little bridge going across to the island. Oh, and a **Cormorant** sat at the top of a tree with wings outstretched drying them properly after a good feed.



Turning left towards the ford and at the trout farm are **Greater Black-Backed Herring**, **Black Headed Gulls**, **Tufted Duck**, **Gadwall**, **Moorhen**, **Coot**, **Canadian Geese**, and a noisy **Carrion Crow**. Right onto the ford just a few more **Mallards**. Turn right into Nuns Walk and a **Red Kite** flies over and a **Hedge Sparrow** in the hedge. **Fieldfare!** That's the first of the winter for me and **Redwing** fly up from Owls Lodge side of the road.

On we go, great! a Tit flock; you never know what you may find in one of these, **Long-Tailed**, **Great**, **Blue** and a **Coal Tit**. I can also see a **Goldcrest**, Britain's smallest bird. Turning right into South Side Road and on the bridge, I can see a **Kingfisher** sat on a branch, now it's gone. Upriver is a **Little Egret** and five **Little Grebes**, that's the most I've seen here. On we go, turning right back into Mill Lane; a lot of **Woodpigeons** are flying around. We stop to have another look over the lake and I can see Pied **Wagtails** and a few **Meadow Pipits**. Carrying on a small flock of **Goldfinches** are feeding on what's left of the thistle seed. Back to the bridge a **Grey Wagtail** and a pair of **Swans** appear from behind the trees. I like to sit here for a while. It's a good place to see birds and bingo! A **Sparrowhawk** comes flashing by. Just before Tudor Cottage a few **Chaffinches** are eating the Beech mast on the ground. Turn right and I can see a **Kestrel** hovering in the field behind the pony paddock and a cock **Pheasant**. On we go and a **Buzzard** is circling up high, calling. I can see a bird coming towards me quite high. Wait a moment, it's a **Peregrine Falcon**, what a bird to finish our walk on. I hope you enjoyed our little walk. We saw **41 different birds**.

Chris Bowman

## Barton Stacey WI

As we near the Christmas Season, we are busy preparing the "**Date with a Book**" for the **Barton Stacey Church Fair**. All books will be **£2** but the mystery will be what is behind the paper cover? All books will be wrapped with just a hint of the Genre, please come and say hello if you are attending this event. We are also serving teas and cakes, so plenty of chance to find out what we have in store for the next year and who we are - we certainly aren't a secret society, and we are usually the ladies who laugh a lot and have fun at meetings and between meetings too.

If you are near the church, just before Christmas you might even hear us having an attempt to ring the hand bells for fun. It's just a change of venue for the **December meeting on Thursday 14th December at 7.30** when there will also be some mulled wine and seasonal snacks too.

You will be most welcome if you want to join in the fun. For further information please contact [bartonstaceypres@hampshirewi.org.uk](mailto:bartonstaceypres@hampshirewi.org.uk) or phone 07817 483936

## LONGPARISH FETE 2024

A new committee is needed to organise the fete in 2024. To give all those who are interested in an opportunity to share their ideas, please come to a meeting at the Village Hall at 7:00 pm on 30<sup>TH</sup> January. Doors open at 6:30pm There will be a cash bar.



Call us on 01264 720069 or book via the website  
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 Email: [info@ploughinn.org](mailto:info@ploughinn.org)

The Plough is a winner in this year's Good Food Awards 2023/24! Also known as *the Blue Ribbon for Delicious Dishes™*, based on customer feedback/votes and online reviews and chosen for food quality, service, and value. We are thrilled to bits and thank you for your kind votes and feedback. Well done to Chef Billy and all the staff!



## Christmas at The Plough Carols with the Choir

The fabulous Longparish Choir will be singing Christmas Carols on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm**. Mulled Wine and mince pies here we come!



### Breakfast with Santa!

Shhh....! Santa tells us that he's coming to breakfast on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 9am! Come and join us for a delicious Full English and special time with Santa for £15 per child (to include a gift) and £10 per adult. Not to be missed, booking essential



### Christmas Fayre Menu

**A Christmas Feast** available to pre-book from November 27<sup>th</sup> to December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3 gorgeous courses at £34.95 per head (or £29.95 per head for 2 courses,) for parties up to 24 people. See our website for menu details or ask in the pub

Wishing you great festive cheer!



**Tuesday Talks**  
 Our next talk of the season is on  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> of January**

We are delighted to welcome **Martin Coppen** to illuminate the history of Longparish and surrounding villages...  
 "Trouble in the Villages... and its Aftermath... 1830s"

**The talk will begin at 7 p.m.**  
**Village Hall doors open at 6.30 p.m.**  
 Admission is free but donations are welcome to offset the cost of hiring the Hall. There will be a cash bar

## Longparish Cricket Club



During the Winter, Longparish Cricket Club have 2 teams in the Indoor Cricket Leagues at the Dummer Cricket Centre. It is early in the season, and both teams are undefeated as we go to print! More updates in February.

The Club, meanwhile, is planning for a busy 2024:

At the ground, after receiving grants, donations and fund raising; there will be a working party to put up the Ball Stop Net to protect users of the Playpark from incoming cricket balls.

Fixtures are being finalised for the 3 Saturday adult teams; midweek 20/20 team; the Sunday friendlies; as well as the Junior Teams.

Junior Cricket will be expanded this year to include a new Under 9s team. The Junior section now has cricket from Year 1 (5 years old) to Year 11 (15 years old): All Stars; Under 9s; Under 11s; Under 13s and Under 15s.

To manage the expanded Junior section, we are looking for more help/volunteers on both the admin side and coaching to support the existing team. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact James Hillier ([jameshillier@hillier.co.uk](mailto:jameshillier@hillier.co.uk) or by phone **07831 329772**).

### Friday 2 February

For One Night Only  
 WADS on tour present

### MURDER IN PLAY by Simon Brett



Boris Smolensky's budget repertory production of "Murder at Priorswell Manor" is looking decidedly shaky.

The cast are more interested in their egos than the play and life imitate art when Boris's wife, Renee, is murdered on stage.

Fresh from their run in Whitchurch, WADS, featuring some of your favourite Longparish Players, will be performing at Longparish Village Hall. Please save the date for this not-to-be-missed performance. More details nearer the time.

More information from **Andy Smith 07879 410073**



## The Cricketers Inn

Monday - Thursday 11.30am – 3pm & 5.30pm – 10.30pm  
 Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11.30am – 11pm  
 Food served Daily 12 – 2.30pm & 6pm – 8.30pm (Sunday evenings, food served 6-7.30pm)

Hello all! As we have nosedived from summer and into the darker, colder, wetter Autumn months you have certainly been enjoying our warm cosy fires, Autumn menu and relaxed ambiance. Our pizza oven is now closed until Easter, but we are serving food 6-7.30pm on a Sunday evening instead.

As we turn our focus to Christmas, come and pick up a Christmas menu, that will run alongside our normal menu for December. We will be suitably decorated from the 1<sup>st</sup> of December and feeling festive!

We have the excellent Beatles duo band booked for our New Years Evening do – always free entry, always a brilliant evening and always a free hot buffet! Try to book a table if you can – we can't promise a seat otherwise (but please feel free to bring your own chair!)

Look out for publicity for our Christmas Quiz.

Once again, I would like to thank all our lovely customers for your continued support, from Matt and the team.  
 See you all soon!

### Friends of Longparish School



#### Christmas lunch

Our friends at Bere Mill Butchery in Whitchurch are supporting FoLS again this year, making a 5% donation every time a Longparish School supporter make a Christmas food order. Order at [www.beremillfarm.co.uk](http://www.beremillfarm.co.uk) and include 'Longparish School supporter' in the customer notes.

#### Christmas shopping online?

The easiest way to support FoLS, and it doesn't cost you a penny more! Easyfundraising partners with over 8,000 brands so we can get free donations from your online shopping. Stores include Argos, Tesco, Money Supermarket, M&S and Sports Direct. All you have to do is don't forget to click through from the website before doing your Christmas shopping! Visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsoflongparish](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsoflongparish)

#### Christmas Panto

For our annual school Christmas party, we have a theatre company putting on a Christmas panto. The children will be enjoying an afternoon of festive entertainment with a

performance of Aladdin. Thank you for your support this year, which has allowed us to fully fund this celebration.

#### The Longparish Lookout Appeal

Thank you to everyone that has donated to our fundraiser for a new outdoor classroom and trim trail. If you would like to support the project, you can donate online at our Go Fund Me page (visit [gofund.me/f74def35](https://gofund.me/f74def35)). Or do you work for a company that offers charity funding? Please put us in touch.

For more information about FoLS visit [www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/longparish) or follow us on Facebook at [fb.me/FriendsofLongparishSchool](https://fb.me/FriendsofLongparishSchool)

Jo Allam, Chair ([chairfols@gmail.com](mailto:chairfols@gmail.com))

### LCA - L2SOTM - The Longparish Second Sunday of the Month handicap race

It was a chilly and wet morning for the November run but that did not deter our hardy runners.

First home was Charlie Grant, our youngest runner who was more than a minute inside his handicap with a new personal record time. Second was Jo Clare who became our Most Improved Woman. And our Most Improved Man was our oldest runner, Mike Dukes, in 3rd place. One of the joys of a handicap race is that everyone has the same chance of winning.



Graham Capper, who is just home after walking (yes, walking) to Rome was 4th. He and Freddie Brown also achieved personal records. Well done all!

Thank you very much to Freddie's Mum and Dad, Matt and Danielle, and Charlie's Dad, James, for accompanying juniors, to Maggie Barber and her sister for marshalling, Andy Smith for doing the signs and to David Gould for processing the results. Thanks also to the Cricket Club for the lovely venue.

The next race is on **Sunday, 10 December** starting at **9am** at the Cricket Ground. It is our Christmas run and mulled wine and mice pies will be served afterwards, Santa hats are encouraged, and full seasonal outfits will be welcome. So please do come and join us. New runners are always welcome, and you don't have to be fast.

Or maybe your New Year Resolution will be to get leaner and fitter. If so, then how about starting with the **January** run which is on **Sunday the 14th**. Please do give me a call or drop me an email if you'd like to join us. For more information, please see <http://l2sotm.longparish.org.uk/index.php>  
 Jeremy Barber  
 01264 720459 [mrjeremybarber@gmail.com](mailto:mrjeremybarber@gmail.com)

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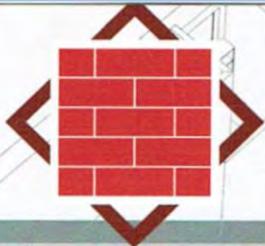
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**LCA Coffee Morning!**  
 December 8th, at The Cricketers Inn  
 10 am – Noon  
 Coffee and Biscuits £1 per person.

**BINGO NIGHT**  
 Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of December  
 7:30 pm  
 Longparish Village Hall

Doors open at 6:45pm for a prompt 7:30pm start, Refreshments available  
 If you have anything suitable for a raffle prize, please bring it along.  
 All profits go to Andover Food Bank  
 For more information, please contact, **Laura Harding on 01264 720298**

*Holiday Riddles*

*I'm a creature of ice, a legend of old,  
 In the winter night, my story is told. I  
 roam through the woods, silent and white, Bringing  
 a chill with the pale moonlight. What am I?*

*Jack Frost is a mythical character often associated with winter and cold weather. The character has various forms in folklore, literature, and popular culture, but the most common depiction is that of a mischievous sprite or spirit who is responsible for frosty and wintry weather, including the formation of frost on surfaces.*

*I'm a shadowy figure, not seen in the light, In the  
 folklore of Christmas, I cause quite a fright. With  
 chains that clank and a lesson to teach, I visit at  
 night, my presence to reach.  
 Who am I?*

Krampus is a mythical creature from Alpine folklore, often portrayed as a horned figure with chains who is said to accompany Saint Nicholas during the Christmas season. While Saint Nicholas rewards good children, Krampus is believed to punish or frighten the naughty ones.

*I'm made of straw, a festive disguise, With a  
 pointed hat and button-like eyes. Guardian of crops,  
 I now bring cheer, During the holidays, I'm  
 welcomed near.  
 What am I?*



The Yule Goat is a Scandinavian and Northern European Christmas symbol. Traditionally, it has been depicted as a creature made of straw and has connections to pre-Christian folklore and customs.

**FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB**

In the Village Hall



**Christmas Lunch**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 12 – 2.30pm**



Please let us know by 10<sup>th</sup> December if you would like to come, as numbers are limited. Priority to regular members. £5 per person

**19th January 2023 – New Year Friday Lunch Club**

To book for either date or for transport ring **Andrea 720 457**

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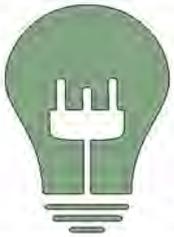
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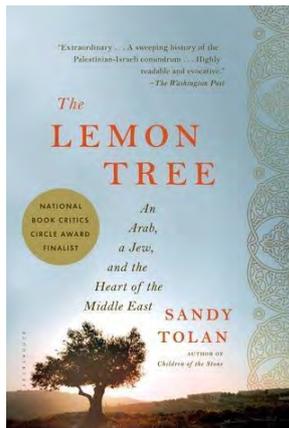
Image submitted by Joanne Clare – Misty November morning

**Book Review:**

The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East

Sandy Tolan

In 1967, Bashir Al-Khayri, a Palestinian twenty-five-year-old, journeyed to Israel, with the goal of seeing the beloved old stone house, with the lemon tree behind it, that he and his family had fled in 1948, nineteen years earlier. To his surprise, when he found the house, he was greeted by Dalia



Ashkenazi Landau, a nineteen-year-old Israeli college student, whose family fled Europe for Israel following the Holocaust. On the stoop of their shared home, Dalia and Bashir began a rare friendship, forged in the aftermath of war, and tested over the next thirty-five years in ways that neither could imagine on that summer day in 1967. Based on extensive research, Sandy Tolan brings the Israeli-Palestinian conflict down to its most human level, suggesting that even amid the bleakest political realities there exist stories of hope and reconciliation.

Editors comment: This very moving book is extremely relevant at the present time and shows reconciliation at a human level is possible and rewarding.

Review reproduced from Goodreads website

# CHRISTMAS QUIZ

IN AID OF THE  
WHITCHURCH COMMUNITY  
SWIMMING POOL

Whitchurch Sports and Social Club  
December 9th 2023 at 7.30pm  
To book a table please email:  
[info@wcsp.org.uk](mailto:info@wcsp.org.uk)  
Christmas fancy dress optional!

## Longparish Choir

There is plenty of opportunity to enjoy the delightful Longparish Village Choir.

**December 9th**– Longparish Fayre 3pm followed by carols at **The Plough** at 6pm

**December 17th**- Saint Nicholas Church 6pm “Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight”

**December 23rd**– Carols at The **Cricketers** 6pm

Have you noticed the Hidden Flamingo? It has been sneaking around the Longparish pages of the Hill & Valleys. The flamingo can be found hidden in pictures or text in every issue.

**HURSTBOURNE PRIORS**

- 12 Dec 7.30pm - Gardening Club - Hurstbourne Priors House  
 13 10.15am to 12 noon - Ladies' Coffee Morning - Copper Beach  
 15 2pm - Christmas Church Flower Decorating  
 17 10.30am - Carol Service - St Andrew's Church  
 23 4pm - Carols at the Pavilion - Recreation Ground  
 18 Jan 10.15am to 12 noon - Ladies' Coffee Morning - Hurstbourne Priors House



### Hurstbourne Priors community pages editor vacancy

Due to various commitment problems our current editor for the Hurstbourne Priors community pages sadly has come to a decision that she can no longer carry on editing the Hill & Valley pages.

If you would like to take this on, or would like to know more about what it entails, please contact  
Felicity Long

on ☎ **07851 764344** /  
[flisslong15@gmail.com](mailto:flisslong15@gmail.com) ,

or write to  
[hillandvalley@btinternet.com](mailto:hillandvalley@btinternet.com)

**ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT**

- 2 Dec 10am to 12 noon - Repair Café - The George Inn  
 2 2.30pm - Christmas wreath making - Village Centre Club Room  
 2 7.30pm - Andover Choral Society Christmas Concert - St Mary's, Andover  
 10 4pm - Christingle Service - St Peter's Church  
 12 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn  
 12 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre Club Room  
 13 12.30pm - 'The Lunch' - Village Centre Main Hall  
 15 6 for 6.30pm - *The Merry Adventures of ROBIN HOOD* - Village Centre  
 21 5.30 to 7.30pm - Stoke Christmas Carol Singing - Stoke Playground  
 6 Jan 10am to 12 noon - Repair Café - The George Inn  
 9 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn  
 9 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre Club Room  
 16 7.15pm - 'The Film' - *THE GREAT ESCAPER* - Village Centre Main Hall  
 17 12.30pm - 'The Lunch' - Village Centre Main Hall  
 18 7.30pm - Andover Astronomical Society - Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre

**LONGPARISH**

- 5 Dec 7.30pm - Christmas Bingo - Village Hall  
 8 9.15am - Village Litter Pick - Village Hall  
 9 2 to 4pm - Christmas Fayre - St. Nicholas Church  
 10 9am - L2SOTM race - Cricket Ground  
 11 7.30pm - Parish Council - Village Hall  
 15 12 noon to 2.30pm - Friday Lunch Club 'Christmas Lunch' - Village Hall  
 19 6pm - Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight - St Nicholas' Church  
 26 11am - Santa Dash - Longparish Primary School  
 26 11.30am - Mummers - The Cricketers  
 12 Jan 9.15am - Village Litter Pick - Village Hall  
 14 9am - L2SOTM race - Cricket Ground  
 16 7pm - Tuesday Talk - Village Hall  
 19 12 noon to 2.30pm - New Year Friday Lunch - Village Hall



Front cover photograph: Angie Curtis

**Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall:** Mrs Helen Ford, ☎ 07789 691018, e: [helenford62@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helenford62@hotmail.co.uk)

**Longparish Village Hall:** Mrs Maggie Barber, ☎ 01264 720459, e: [villagehall@longparish.org.uk](mailto:villagehall@longparish.org.uk)

**Longparish Community Hall:** During school open hours, Mrs Christine Leach ☎ 01264 720317

**St Mary Bourne Village Centre:** Miss Angela Cook, ☎ 01264 738158, e: [smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com](mailto:smbvillagecentre@btinternet.com)

**Copy date for the February 2024 Hill & Valley edition: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Your contributions - letters, pictures, comments or articles are always welcome. Contact your parish editor by the copy date.

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\* Hill & Valley pages on-line

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