

The Ampfield Messenger



***The Parish Magazine of
St. Mark Ampfield***

October 2023

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The Parish Church of St Mark, Ampfield

Our vision: To be channels of God's love in the world

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DEADLINE: The third Friday of each calendar month.

Contributions to this magazine are always welcome, however it may be necessary to edit or shorten articles. Note that the views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor or the Parochial Church Council. Advertisements in this publication do not carry the endorsement of the editor or the

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Harvest Time

This Sunday 1st October we will be celebrating Harvest during the services at St. Johns and St. Denys.

On Sunday 8th October Harvest will be celebrated at St. Mark, Ampfield and All Saints, North Baddesley.

If you would like to bring any donations to these services of tinned or packaged food they will be delivered to Romsey Food Bank from Chilworth and North Baddesley and The Beacon in Winchester from Ampfield .

Letter from Vanessa

Dear Friends

We are all noticing the increase in tractors on the roads at the moment, and I hope, giving thanks for all who work in agriculture. We are indeed so fortunate to live in a place where there is enough food to eat and where the beauty of creation surrounds us everywhere we look.

The Jewish and Christian Scriptures give eloquent expression to the creative power and wisdom of God. Ancient society lived close to the land and so there was a natural instinct for worshipping communities to develop patterns of worship and prayer around the agricultural year. Much of this is bound up with the need to provide food to sustain human life, and the accompanying sense of a proper humility before God as source of all things, gratitude for his goodness, and responsibility in stewarding the resources of the earth.

Lammas or 'Loaf-mass' (derived from the Anglo-Saxon Hlafmaesse) is an English feast in origin, held on 1 August as a thanksgiving for the first-fruits of the wheat harvest. Traditionally, a newly baked loaf from the wheat harvest was presented before God within the mass of that day. While the ceremony ceased at the Reformation, reference to Lammas Day continued in the Prayer Book calendar, and the practice has been revived in some places in more recent years. Harvest Thanksgiving is a more modern addition to the church calendar. Its origins are usually traced to the adaptation in 1843 of Lammas Day by the Revd R. S. Hawker, a parish priest in Cornwall. An annual church celebration of the harvest certainly established itself rapidly with great popularity and was first recognized officially in the Church of England in 1862.

Do come and join us on 8th October at St. Mark's for our Harvest Celebration!

Vanessa



Weekly service pattern

Sunday Services

	All Saints	St Mark	St Denys	St John
1st Sunday	11:00 Messy Church	09:30 Tidy Church	09:30 BCP Matins or Communion	11:00 Communion or Morning Prayer
2nd Sunday	11:00 Communion	09:30 Communion		
3rd Sunday	11:00 Communion	09:30 Communion or Morning prayer	09:30 BCP Matins or Communion	
4th Sunday	11:00 Communion	09:30 Communion		
5th Sunday	11:00 Communion	09:30 Communion		

Midweek Services

When	Where	What
Tuesday, 10:30	St Mark, Ampfield	Small group Communion in St Mark's room, followed by coffee
Wednesday, 19:00	All Saints, North Baddesley	Communion in a peaceful candle lit space in the midst of your busy week

We are pleased to add a new service at St Denys to the monthly pattern of services. On the Second Sunday of the month there will be an informal service of Morning Prayer at 9.30am at St. Denys Church, Chilworth.



Benefice News

Friends for Lunch - Next date Wednesday 18th October

We hope all our diners have enjoyed the summer break. We will be back in October if you would like to book a place, please telephone Kate: 07738467350



Ampfield Market - St. Mark's Stall: Sat 7th October

We will be back at the market in October, selling Christmas decorations and gifts. Thank you to everyone who has donated to our stall and made it such a great success.

Wine Tasting at St. Mark: Friday 6th October 7.30pm

Join us for a fun, informal wine tasting event exploring the delights of half a dozen familiar wines. No experience necessary, enjoy getting to know some of the wines you like to drink. See p.8 for details of how to book.



Ride and Stride - 9th September

A big thank you for sponsoring those of us who took part in this year's Ride & Stride. The diocese asked us to send pictures and words, which I did on the behalf of the benefice. Enjoy!



“A number of churches in our diocese took part in this year's Ride+Stride, whether that involved opening their doors to the riders and striders, or parishioners walking or cycling themselves! Read more here:”

<https://ow.ly/9cFa50PR8Ew>

Benefice News

Sunshine Saints

Is a toddler and baby group which meets every Friday in term time from **10:00am to 11:30am** in All Saints Church.

Welcome Café at All Saints Church now every Thursday

10am—12 noon -

Social Hub at All Saints Wednesdays 9.30 - 12pm

Social Hub is a place to chat, have a drink, do a jigsaw and meet the Memory Box Foundation. You can relax with a book that has been borrowed from the Community Library (also open on a Wednesday morning) or just sit and chat. There are free drinks and biscuits and sometimes other treats!

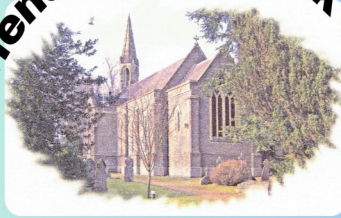
Doves carved from the Cedar of Lebanon tree

The doves are made from the Cedar of Lebanon tree which is growing by the East Window of St. Mark's Church. A storm in 2015 did a lot of damage to the area but fortunately did not hit the window, many branches fell and others had to be cut down.

The doves are selling for £8 (contact Parish Office) and all proceeds to the church. They are also available from St. Mark's stall at the Ampfield Market.



The Friends of St. Mark's Church



**Invite you to
A Fun Wine Tasting Evening
Plus a Wine Raffle**

**St. Mark's Church Room, SO51 9BU
on Friday 6th October 7.30pm**

Organised by



**Karen and
Steve**

Tickets £10.00 each in advance £12 on the door
(over 18 only) including nibbles
available on line bit.ly/44nRFug
(or call 07799 435715)



Website: acnb-church.org

The Ampfield Market



(Established in 2000, now in its 24th year !)

**will take place
on**

**Saturday 7th October
From 10am to 12noon
in Ampfield Village Hall
(SO51 9BJ)**

Our Market has a great reputation, we regularly sell fresh fruit and veg supplied by Hansards in Awbridge and delicious bread and cakes supplied by Matts Bakery. Honey, preserves, plants and fresh flowers. Cards, wrapping paper and books. Collectables, unusual crafts and jewellery. Clothes, toys and puzzles. Bric a brac, seasonal treats and much much more !

**We serve fresh coffee and a wonderful selection of
cakes throughout the morning.
Come along with friends and family to enjoy this special
monthly community event.**

Parking and admission are always FREE.

All proceeds support the Village Hall. Registered charity no.
1057353

Village News

Ampfield Primary School

“Hampshire County Council is consulting on the future of Ampfield Church of England Primary School. The Director of Children’s Services, in discussion with the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services, has approved a period of public consultation on the proposed closure of Ampfield CE Primary School from 31 August 2024. Where a Local Authority proposes to make significant changes to a school, including closure, it must follow Relevant guidelines as set out by the Department for Education.

This initial consultation will run from **Friday 29 September 2023 until Friday 3 November 2023**, including two public meetings. The meetings are to be held on:

09 October between 7-8.30pm at Ampfield Church of England Primary School

10 October between 7-8.30pm at John Keble Church of England Primary School”

You may be aware that Ampfield School are consulting for closure. If you have any questions please do follow the link to contact the local authority. Please pray for all staff and pupils of the Federation during this period of change.

[Public consultation on future of Ampfield Church of England Primary School, Romsey | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://hants.gov.uk/public-consultation-on-future-of-ampfield-church-of-england-primary-school-romsey)

Vanessa

Ampfield Bridge Club

Ampfield Bridge Club is a friendly club that plays duplicate Bridge every Tuesday evening in Ampfield Village Hall at 7.00 pm until 10.00 pm. New members are very welcome. If you are interested, please contact Janet on 07879915726 or email janetwallace1@hotmail.co.uk.



MORE AI



I've read some science fiction
where
Mundane work is done by
'droids'.
They cannot reason, they have to
be primed,
These robotic humanoids.

It seems there's a huge market
now
For robots just like those.
Every home will need one
So current research shows....

A humanoid robot needs to
Understand human demands,
And then have all the skills to
Carry out their commands.

That is just the starting point.
They have to navigate
The physical world, and under-
stand
How objects interrelate.

Dozens of firms are working
On robot designs, it appears.
Elon Musk says 'Optimus' will
Be available in a few years.

Sanctuary AI says 'Phoenix'
Is progressing well too.
In 10 years, it'll be able
To do laundry and clean your
loo...

Their training's incredibly
lengthy.
A team will film an event.
The task is digitised, making
A virtual environment.

Gravity's simulated
In these cunning designs,
Where millions of training
sessions
Are practiced thousands of times.

Unleashed into the real world,
The robot might meet the
unknown.
Unpredictable, dangerous actions
Might easily then be shown.

So there's still a lot of work to
do,
On the skills these robots lack,
Before they take the world over,
And we all just sit back...

On the positive side, when they're
doing
All jobs in workplace and home,
Us humans will have more time
for
Useful things, like writing a
pome!!!

Hopeful Poet

A Southdown Walk

By Nick

My grand daughter decided to walk the Southdown Way partly because she wanted to and to raise money for “distonia,” a condition which my son suffers from. I decided to accompany her for the first leg from Winchester to Exton.

Starting at King Alfred’s statue we headed east, then turned into Chesil Street and into Petersfield road, at the end of which a tarmac footpath leads to a footbridge over the motorway. Cars, lorries of every description were jammed below us, noise and fumes surrounded us but this soon gave way to large open fields of golden barley, over which we stopped to watch flocks of swallows and house martins swooping low to catch insects over the ripening corn.

We soon came to the village of Chilcomb, a delightful cluster of old farm buildings and cottages which seemed as though the modern world had passed by, it was then about 8.30 in the morning and only one car did we see. Climbing a hill out of the village and nearing a wood we left the road to start our long climb towards Cheeseford Head. The track was wide to start, boxed in by hedges, but this soon gave way to a grass track on the edge of cornfields, which passed a tumulus which we mounted, to see a great view of Winchester below. The track narrowed with yew trees either side and then ran in a straight line across a field of golden barley to cross the A272 about 100 yards below the car park.

The views from here are stunning towards the Isle of Wight and towards the north west, but a surprise was seen in the large bowl below us as they prepared for the Boom Town music festival, tractors, forklifts and lorries were busy preparing for the 60,000 visitors, that would come from all over to enjoy the party.

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This was soon obscured by magnificent beech trees echoing to the sound of wood pigeons, which opened up to more large cornfields and eventually to a remote cottage, here we were surprised again to discover a public water tap and an air pump to blow up bicycle tyres. (Water is heavy to carry on a long walk but The South Down way has a public water point every 5/6 miles)

The track is very well sign posted as we walked through high hedges dividing the corn fields, with a profusion of wild flowers and butterflies, small blues, peacock, small tortoise-shell and all sorts of white including the marbled



white surrounded us. We came to a field filled with sheep before crossing the A272 and at Holding Farm camping site stopped for refreshments, having covered 5 miles. Leaving the farm a good wide track was in front of us, but we did not know that the next 6 miles would be a gentle slope upwards, again hedges and fields surrounded us, but now we were treated to buzzards and red kites soaring over the fields.

This led us to the Milburys pub that sports a deep well but unfortunately was closed for refurbishment. For a short while we followed the road but a footpath soon appeared that gave wonderful views to our left, we were on high ground on what I think was a very ancient trail. Following the sign posts we crossed the road that soon led to a busy working farm, cows bellowed from the buildings and a digger and tractor were improving the stone track, here another water point was found.

The next couple of miles were delightful, wide open rolling fields of farmland, mostly cornfields with wild flower headlands that supported all sorts of butterflies.

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The only sound was from birds singing in the bright sunshine. Soon we came to the Beacon Hill car park set in a grove of large beech trees, the path skirted the wood and it was here that an astounding sight greeted us. Literally hundreds of Red Admiral butterflies, so many that we had to wave our arms in front of us.

The path end opened to give a panoramic at the top of Beacon Hill, we were able to see Fawley refinery and Southampton docks to the right, rolling hills to West Meon to the left and Old Winchester Hill in front of us. A very steep hill through grass fields led to a winding path through fields of beans and to the village of Exton. The time was about 2 pm and we had covered over 13 miles and seen only four other people, so we deserved a pint of ale at the Shoe Inn.

My grand daughter after some interruptions due to heavy rain, eventually walked the 100 miles to Eastbourne raising some £700 for distonia. I enjoyed the trip so much that two weeks later I persuaded my wife to drive me to Beacon Hill and I rode my bike back home.



Since writing this my Grand daughter has flown to Canada by herself to join up with a group she had never met, they all went to Vancouver Island to watch the whales, travelled north and hiked in the Rockies, walked on glaciers and leaving the group went to Calgary to meet up with my other son. Then she flew to Toronto and visited Niagara Falls before flying home. Up to a year ago my Grand daughter was shy and had little confidence in herself, but going to university in Winchester she was introduced by friends to St Cross Church congregation, she was baptised again, made lots of friends and the difference we have seen in her has been amazing.

Nick

Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

1. Which American State is the largest?
2. Which Queen was Julius Caesar involved with?
3. In which country was Adolph Hitler born?
4. Which warrior's weakness was their heel?
5. How many eyes does a bee have?
6. How many stripes does Adidas have?
7. What classic video game requires you to eat all the dots, throughout a maze?
8. If there are six apples and you take away four, how many do you have?
9. The Islamic calendar is based on which cycle?
10. What kind of cells are found in the brain?



Answers on p. 27

My journey as a GP through Covid

by Cathy

2.

Coming out of lockdown

The way out of lockdown has been slow and gradual and has not been uniform across all practices. I can only speak for my own practice near Cambridge. It was quite a while before we were issued with guidelines to resume routine tasks - minor operations, cervical smears and so on. But despite routine tasks being gradually reintroduced, life in the surgery is not the same now as before the pandemic. Technology is now used far more than before. Patients can use their NHS App to book appointments and order medication, and can now also contact the surgery electronically with their symptoms to get advice. Our practice uses telephone triage far more than before the pandemic, particularly for patients requesting urgent appointments. The chairs are back in the waiting room, but fewer than before. The waiting room is busier but still not back to pre-pandemic numbers. Surgeries tend now to be a mixture of telephone and face to face appointments. We still get pictures of rashes by email, and I still hate them!

The rapid introduction of technology was obviously enormously helpful when people were confined to home and normal life suddenly had to change. However, it can be very difficult and confusing for some people. It is hard enough even to park a car without an App so someone unwell, confused, frail or elderly may well be finding these changes hard to manage.

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We must be careful that some patients are not disadvantaged. I think a legacy of covid has been the accessibility of virtual consultations which can make some people feel left behind, while others find it liberating. These changes were already happening slowly, but the pandemic clearly caused a great acceleration - helpful for some people, less so for others.

As a GP, one difficulty now is coping with demand. At the height of the pandemic, during lockdown, most people were fully supportive. They accepted that we were living through unprecedented times. We have all heard about people who, sadly, were afraid to ask for help during that time. Now, we are still working through the backlog built up over that time but, not unreasonably, patients are increasingly frustrated at the delays they are experiencing. They are waiting longer than before for appointments in secondary care, but they are also having longer waits for GP appointments and so there is frustration all round. I can only feel sympathy when patients voice their concerns and difficulties.

My journey through covid was difficult, unsettling and unexpected. Like so many of us, I had to adapt and change working practices that I had relied on for many years. I needed to learn new skills, use technology that I had not needed before although often (video consultations) I was not successful in this! However, I was so privileged to continue working through the pandemic in the practice I loved, with the patients I had grown to know over so many years and who were so supportive of each other and of us who were trying our best to provide as good a service as we could through that time.



Cathy

Q&A with Bishop Philip Mountstephen

As Bishop Philip prepares to join the diocese as the next Bishop of Winchester, the Diocese Communications Team spoke to him about his background and experience, and his hopes and prayers for his future ministry with us...



How are you feeling about your new role?

Excited, in a word! But also conscious of the great responsibility that goes with a role such as this. However, whilst the weight of history should sit heavy on my shoulders, it's also such a rich heritage on which to draw as we look to the future together with our God.

We understand you lived in Southampton and went to University there - what are you looking forward to about coming back to Hampshire?

My time at Southampton was so formational for me. It shaped me spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually in incalculable ways. So I feel very much in Hampshire's debt, and look forward eagerly to giving back to a place that has given me so much.

Can you tell us a bit more about your story - where you grew up, what were your main influences, what did your calling to both ordained and episcopal ministry look like?

I was born in NE Hampshire, but had a fairly itinerant childhood, moving up and down the country, due to my father's work. That's given me a real appreciation of the variety and the particularity of 'place'. I think it also moulded us into a close, loving family unit and I'll be forever grateful to my parents for the unconditional love they showed me.

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My call to ordained ministry came through friends suggesting I should consider it! I went into it with some uncertainty, but I do remember the moment, after ordination when I realised that it was exactly what I should be doing with my life, and I'm very grateful to God for the confidence that has given me.

I've always felt I wanted to make the biggest difference for the Kingdom of God that I could, and in an episcopal Church that often comes through being a bishop. Central to my own sense of episcopal vocation is that I am called to be an agent of hope – both for the Church and for wider society. Please pray for me that I will exercise such a ministry in Winchester.

The Diocese of Winchester is large! Do you have plans to visit the different parishes or deaneries so people can meet you?

Yes! The service of ordination for bishops calls on us 'to love and pray for those committed to their charge, knowing their people and being known by them'. I can't do that without getting out and about and meeting people. So doing so will be a very high priority for me. It's certainly one of the things that Ruth and I have enjoyed most in our time in Truro.

Can you say any more about your vision and other plans for leading our diocese?

Discerning vision is something that we need to do together and will take time. But I can say that I am passionate about our calling as a Church to be the body of Christ, so that when people encounter his Church, they encounter the loving presence of Jesus himself, made real in word and deed. Above all else I want to lead us in being such a Church.



Cont. ...

We hear you worked for the Church Pastoral Aid Society with its focus on resourcing local churches – are there things you learned from your work with CPAS that you might bring to your work here in Hampshire?

A particular focus and passion from that time was a growing conviction that we really are called to be a church of all ages – not segregated into different age groups, but loving, worshipping, celebrating and serving together, as a vibrant expression of the Body of Christ. I'd love to see that become more of a reality in our churches



We know you worked in a multi-cultural church in Paris and for the Church Mission Society too. That must have helped when you were asked to review our Government's help for persecuted Christians worldwide. Tell us about your passion for this area. Are there issues from that review that you see are relevant to our churches too?

Yes, it did help having a broader global perspective, thanks to that rich experience. The call to lead a review for the Foreign Secretary came out of the blue but I've been immensely encouraged by the continuing impact that work continues to have and it remains an enduring passion and commitment of mine: something I believe God has laid on me to do.

As for our churches, I think it's vital that we see ourselves as part of a global family and pray and advocate for those who are marginalised or persecuted for their faith, whatever their faith background may be, remembering that our neighbours are not just like us and near us, but those who are distant and different from us too.

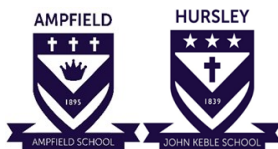
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There's been a lot of publicity about the reduced number of people attending churches and the financial pressures on the Church of England. Do you think these are the main issues facing our Diocese and the whole Church? What other challenges will you be focusing on?

Of course we can't ignore those factors, but I don't think they should be front and centre in our thinking either. The key, related, questions we have to ask in each and every context we find ourselves, I believe, are these: 'What is our God calling us to be and do here, where he has placed us?' And, 'How can we best express the loving presence of Jesus amongst those we are called to serve and love?' The answers to those questions might not come easily. They should involve careful and prayerful reflection and consultation. But living our life in the light of the answers can be truly liberating, and help us see the Kingdom come a little closer too. ☮

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS - 4 VACANCIES



In addition to being full members of the governing body, foundation governors have a particular role in ensuring that the school upholds its distinctive Christian ethos. These vacancies must be filled by community members who feel that they could work to develop the foundation ethos of our school.

The role of a school governing body is:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and direction of the school.
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

We would warmly invite anyone interested in finding out more about the role to contact the school to arrange an informal chat:

Amber Vidler (Headteacher) 01794 368219

adminoffice@ampfield.hants.sch.uk

Friends of Chapel Wood

September can be a tricky month in the woodland because it is still the holiday season, and you never quite know how many people will turn up or who they will be. This September, the Friends had a number of important jobs they wanted to get through, not least of which was to welcome our newly elected borough councillor who had very kindly offered to come along and lend a hand.

As soon as all the initial greetings were over, tasks were allocated. Some of these are routine, e.g. keeping the footpaths clear and inspecting them for public hazards, but others are identified from our annual work programme. The muckiest to be undertaken this morning was the annual clearing out of the pond. We have a dedicated pond clearing team, they are most excellent at standing knee deep in water, removing a summer's accumulations of weed and assorted bits of wood. Some of this wood arrives naturally, but a lot has been carefully placed, introduced by well-meaning visitors. A variation on the theme of 'pooh sticks' no doubt but, perhaps, made more complex by the lack of a current.



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Another critical job for the morning involved clearing out the fire pit. Over the years, the residue of various bonfires causes the pit to



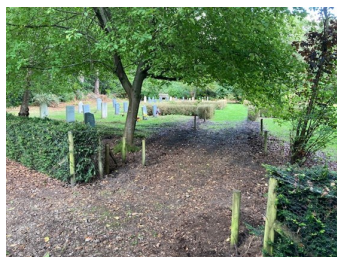
fill with burnt material. This needs to be dug out every so often in order that the firepit can be kept fit for purpose. This is a tedious and tough job but absolutely essential. We scatter the ashes in the rhododendron bushes, which seems apt since that is what we tend to burn in the fire.

The rest of the tasks for the morning involved working in and around the burial ground. Over the years, rhododendron had chosen to grow around the bases of a number of large oak and beech trees. These all need to be cleared away. We could not remove the roots on this occasion, a job for another day, but we could remove all of the top growth, using this to form the basis for a bonfire in December.

Whilst, working on this, we looked again at the poor box plants in the cruciform. It seemed quite clear that any chance of recovery of these was probably zero. We decided to start removing them. Once all the dead plants had gone, we could replant with yew.

The Friends of Chapel Wood is a group of keen volunteers who look after Chapel Wood, the Ampfield community wood that surrounds St. Mark's church. New recruits

are always welcomed, so if you fancy the idea of joining some like-minded neighbours for a few hours once a month, just turn up in the St. Mark's car park at 09:45 on the second Saturday of every month.



Graham Roads

Bats in the belfry

by Liz Hallett

Bats in the belfry-well perhaps: a bat in the south aisle - yes - certainly! Ever since as a child finding a pipistrelle hanging on to the trunk of an oak tree in our garden I have always been fascinated by bats and seem to have some sort of affinity to them. Twice while we lived in Beechwood Crescent I was asked to rescue terrified neighbours who found a bat had come into their homes (once by a small boy banging at our door saying “Liz, Liz, come quickly. It’s an EMERGENCY” only to discover a bat hanging upside-down in his bedroom doorway). Then when staying in Congo our bedroom was next to that of the Bishop of Quebec, who came out one evening in panic as a huge fruit bat was flying round and round in his room. I have to admit to you that I shut myself in his room with him in the dark and showed him how he just needed to open the window, whereupon the bat flew straight out because the night sky was slightly lighter than the dark bedroom!!



Crowcombe benchend
bat detail

In medieval times, bats were considered to be associated with the works of darkness, a similar belief being held of other night-time creatures such as owls, which fly by night and cats which can see in the dark. These were seen as servants of the devil-hence the expression ‘a bat out of hell’. Bats can be found carved in many old churches, usually as a warning to people that the devil was

ever-present. Crowcombe’s Church of the Holy Ghost (an unusual dedication), at the foot of the Quantock Hills in Somerset, has a delightful bat carved on one of its many splendid medieval bench ends, this one being in the south aisle.

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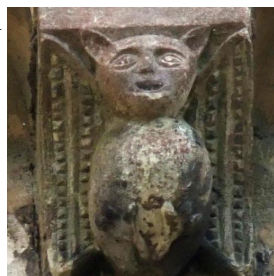


Dunblane misericord bat

The church is famous for the variety of amazing carving, including dragons, several green men and other exotic creatures. The guidebook tells us that the descendants of this bat still live in the church! There are bats to be found

elsewhere. One is on the lower part of the chancel screen at Croyland Abbey. This is

one of a number of different creatures used to fill the triangular spaces at the corners of the low-relief carved arches. Another place to look for these creatures is on the misericords in old choirstalls, and Christchurch in Dorset has two fine specimens. The misericord bat at Dunblane Cathedral in Scotland is another memorable example. Another carving, probably of a bat, can be seen on an internal corbel supporting a roof timber at Oakham church-this really is a nasty-looking specimen. Bats appear on the outside of churches too, and Romsey has a bat among the corbels high on the exterior wall of the north chancel.



Romsey north nave aisle from east

Another church with a bat among its corbels is Adderbury in Oxfordshire.



Selbourne roundel with hedgehog

All the bats mentioned so far do appear evil, to a greater or lesser extent - a reputation very unfair to these little creatures, but which still continues today among many people- though we may all worry about them as the possible cause of the covid pandemic, as yet unproven. St Mary's Church, Selborne, however, places a bat more

appropriately among all the other creatures of nature in a delightful window commemorating their vicar, the famous 18th century naturalist, Gilbert White.

Liz Hallett



A Prayer for Harvest



For the promise of harvest
contained within a seed,
we thank you.

For the oak tree
within an acorn.

The bread
within a grain.

The apple
within a pip.

The mystery of nature,
gift wrapped
for us to sow,
we thank you. *Amen*



Answers to Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. Alaska
2. Cleopatra
3. Austria
4. Achilles
5. Five
6. Three
7. Pac-Man
8. Four
9. Lunar
10. Neurons

We are very excited that All Saints Church is going to be hosting 'Arthur's Play Space'.

Running from the church hall, it is a new venture for two local women, Naomi and Alice, who are both former teachers. Naomi even remembers going to All Saints Preschool as a child! [Arthur's Play Space](#) is a place for children to bring their grown-ups. While the adults have coffee, or chat to friends, or do some work, the children can enjoy the different zones in the Play Space. And you don't even need to bring a child to buy a coffee! As a church, we are so pleased to be supporting this new venture. It is early days yet, but so much has been happening behind the scenes to get everything ready for the challenge of launching this adventure into space! We have managed to refurbish the hall toilets over the summer holidays with the help of Mark Harvey (of MCH Southern), a local builder. Naomi and Alice have put a huge amount of work into creating a welcoming space and the hall is looking amazing. When the Play Space isn't running, the hall will be available for use by the church and Naomi and Alice are keen to support the work we do as a church. Do ask if you have any questions, and do come and buy a coffee from the Play Space sometime.



Rotas for St. Mark's in October Trinity 17 - 21

Date	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Intercessions	Sides	Coffee	Music
1st. Oct 9.30	Tidy Church				Doreen	Mark & Abbie
8th. Oct 9.30 Harvest	Robyn Deut. 8: 7 - 18	Heather C. 2 Corinthians 9: 6 - 15	Ron	Ron Sally C	Chris & Cathy	Organist
15th Oct 9.30	Chris Isaiah 25: 1 - 9	Ron Phillipians 4: 1 - 9	Rob	Heather C Phil	Jennie E	Jean
22nd Oct	Jennie E Isaiah 25: 1 - 7	Doreen 1 Thesallo. 1: 1 - 10	Sally	Daryl Robyn	Heather C	Organist
29th Oct	Rob Nehemiah 8:1 - 4a, 8 - 12	Mark B Colossians 3: 12 - 17	Ann	Robyn Mark B		

Flowers: Jean

Coffee after Communion:

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