

The Ampfield Messenger



*Parish Magazine of
St. Mark Ampfield*

February 2025

**Vol 75 Issue 2
Special Issue**

www.acnb-church.org

The Parish Church of St Mark, Ampfield

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

Ministry Team: Parish Office Tel: 02380 737617: staffed 9 - 12 noon,

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Rev. Vanessa Lawrence, Vicar

Email: vicar@acnb-church.org

Rev. Ann Devereux, Curate

Mrs. Sally Kerson, Lay Minister and Office Administrator

Mr. Jonathan DeVile, Lay Minister (Tel: 02380 736522)

Beth Robertson, Children and Families Worker

For any enquiries about baptisms, weddings or churchyards please contact the parish office.

Email us at: office@acnb-church.org ;Website: www.acnb-church.org

Please let us know if you have any news of those who are sick, in trouble, leaving or about to arrive.

Sunday Services

1 st Sunday	09.30 Cafe Church A short informal service, starting with coffee, and cake. It's a chance to meet up and think about a Bible story and about God in an accessible and bite-sized way.
2 nd /3 rd /4 th /5 th Sundays	09.30 Communion All are welcome to join us.

Midweek Service

Tuesdays	10.30 A quiet, reflective service. Small group Communion in St. Mark's room
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All services are followed by coffee in St. Mark's room

Visit our website above for details of all services across the Benefice
Facebook: www.facebook.com/acnbchurch/

Letter from Vanessa

Dear Friends

Hello and welcome...

This special edition of the Ampfield Messenger is being delivered to every home in the parish. It's a compact version (usually 40 pages) to give you a flavour of who we are and, we hope, will encourage you to get in touch, and perhaps receive the Ampfield Messenger on a regular basis. It's primarily published online; if you would like to be notified when it's available, email us at joinin@acnb-church.org to be added to the mailing list.



The Ampfield Messenger is a parish magazine, edited by folk at St Mark's Church, but with contributions from across the village. We have community and church news, information and articles, and all are welcome to contribute! The current edition is always here: <https://www.acnb-church.org/LatestMessenger.pdf> and all editions are published on: <https://www.ampfield.org.uk/community/ampfield-parish-council-18484/20243/>

St. Mark's Church is friendly and welcoming, built by John Keble in 1841 and associated with Rev'd Audrey Vere of Thomas the Tank Engine fame! We host a growing number of community events such as coffee mornings, lunch clubs and concerts. Our summer fete is especially popular for its dog show and Pimm's tent (not necessarily in that order!).

St Mark's Church is a Church of England church, and part of the Benefice of Ampfield, Chilworth and North Baddesley. You can find more information about our benefice through our website: <https://www.acnb-church.org>. You can also sign up for our weekly newsletter, email: joinin@acnb-church.org

We are an Inclusive Church, we celebrate and affirm every person, without discrimination. You are all welcome all to our services every Sunday at 9.30am, which on the first Sunday of the month is an informal café style church. We also run Forest Church in which we use our beautiful woodland area to explore our spirituality through nature restarting in March. New for 2025 is our baby and toddler group, St Mark's Minnows! Come and join us on a Thursday morning in term time for fun and mess, starting on Feb 27th !

We think we have something for everyone at St Mark's, and we are working to promote this spiritual heart at the centre of the Ampfield community. Do feel free to be in touch if you would like more information about us or any of our events.

With our prayers

Vanessa and the team at St Mark's.

What's on at St. Mark's

St. Mark's Minnows: *Thursdays in term time from 9.30 - 11am*
(Coffee on from 9.15!) *starting 27th February*

Fun and friendly toddler group. No need to book.

Forest Church: *The Glade, Chapel Wood - Sundays*
16th March, 18th May, 13th July, 21st September, 19th October

Relaxed and informal, explore faith inspired by creation, all ages welcome.

Pilgrims: *Second Saturday of the month 10.00am - 11.30am*

Questions about faith? Come and join our friendly group as we explore together over coffee and cake.

Friends for Lunch: *3rd. Wednesday of the month 12.30*

Join us for a home-cooked lunch, companionship, a glass of wine, quiz and raffle.

Please contact Pam on 02380 411146. or email: treasurer.acnb@gmail.com

Lent Lunches: *Fridays 7 March, 28 March, 11th April*

Come anytime between 12 and 1.30 - No booking necessary

Delicious home made soup, bread and cheese during Lent. Donations go to The Romsey Foodbank and Winchester Beacon (Night Shelter).

St. Mark's Church Stall at Ampfield Market

Grab a bargain! Bric - a - brac, gifts and more. 1st Saturday of the month in the Ampfield Village hall from 10am - 12noon.

Friends of St Mark's

The Friends organise events to fundraise to help maintain the buildings at St. Mark's. See p.6 for upcoming events.

St. Mark's Fete and Dog Show Saturday 14th June 2025

The fete will include all the usual popular attractions - dog show, raffle, games and entertainment, BBQ, teas and cakes, beer tent and Pimm's stall, and the very popular plant stall.

ST MARK'S MINNOWS

FUN AND FRIENDLY
BABY AND TODDLER GROUP!

ST MARK'S CHURCH ROOM, AMPFIELD SO51 9BU



TERM TIME THURSDAYS

(FROM 27TH FEB)

9.30 – 11AM

COFFEE ON FROM 9.15!



ACNB CHURCH

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN AMPFIELD,
CHILWORTH AND NORTH BADDESLEY

St Mark's Church
A3090 Ampfield SO51 9BU
search online for @acnbchurch

Friends of St. Mark's

The Friends organise events to fundraise to help maintain the buildings at St. Mark's. We had a wonderful Christmas at St. Mark's! We did two evenings of Carol Singing at The White Horse and The Potter's Heron, customers joined in the carol singing and we raised over £500 for Crisis. We had a full church for our Community Carol service, followed by mince pies and mulled wine in our beautifully decorated and atmospheric building. We also hosted a very lively Christingle Crib service on Christmas Eve, with children dressing up as their favourite nativity character. Here's a pic of us carolling.



What's on in 2025?

Sat 19th April:	Coffee morning with Easter Egg Hunt, stalls and raffle
Fri 9th May:	Quiz Evening
Sat 5th July:	Summer Cream Tea with children's treasure hunt
Fri 10th October:	Wine Tasting
Dates TBA:	Live Band 'Beggar's Belief' and Beetle Drive

Friends of Chapel Wood



Chapel Wood is the area of natural woodland that surrounds St. Mark's Church. It was purchased in 1996 by the then parish council to provide a community woodland. The wood has a network of marked footpaths, a small stream, a pond with a dipping platform and open areas. The Friends of Chapel Wood is a brilliant team of volunteers that care for the wood.

They act as a sort of referee amongst the plant species. Without their help, the wood would eventually be taken over by a few dominant plant species, footpaths would become overgrown, and the wildlife would diminish.

The Friends also help to develop the wood's infrastructure. The next plan is to introduce smaller woodland trees and shrubs, such as blackthorn, hazel, crab apple and some wild roses. These will provide flowers for pollinating insects and fruit for birds. The slope also gets some sun and is an ideal spot to place a couple of benches to provide an area of contemplation. 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. The Friends are a good bunch. Tools are provided. It is a good way to have a bit of fun and help our community at the same time!

Graham Roads

What's on at the Ampfield Village Hall

The Ampfield Market: now in its 25th year!
1st Saturday of the Month 10am - 12 noon
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!

**Julie Trotter's Art Class takes place on
Thursday afternoons
from 2-4pm at the Village Hall**

SPRING QUIZ NIGHT
Fun Ampfield Village Hall Quiz Night with Raffle!
Friday 21 Mar. 2025 at 7.30pm
(Doors open at 7pm)

What's on at the village hall:
<https://ampfieldvillagehall.org.uk/ampfield-vilage-activities/>

A vicar comes into the pub and tells everyone about a Biblical tribe called the Samsonites.

'They were stranded in the desert with no food and no drink,' the vicar said, 'but some rather nice luggage.'
(Barry Cryer)



What's in the Messenger?

Our regular contributors write about local history, current topics, village events, poetry and more - everyone is encouraged to send us material for publication.

Ron and Stella's Quiz Night tests our general knowledge

'Castaway of the Month' introduces us to the lives of local people.

Julie Trotter's Art Gallery showcases the work of artists in her popular art group.

Articles from the archives - The Messenger goes back to 1951!

Graham Roads reports on the activities of the **Friends of Chapel Woods** and is planning a new community blog on growing vegetables and how to cook them.

Alan Edwards' articles include book reviews, travelogues and commentary.

Lyn Smith contributes poetry and short stories.

Liz Hallett is a regular, writing about churches and local history and

Nick, among other things, remembers life in rural Hampshire.

We also keep you up to date on events and news in Ampfield. If you would like to try your hand, please let us know by emailing the editors on cl.kerr@hotmail.com

Hiring St. Mark's Room

The room is 7.6m x 7.6m and includes toilet and kitchen facilities, gopak tables and chairs if needed. There is a small car park and the building is set within beautiful, wooded grounds. The cost is from £15 per hour and one - off or regular hires are available. We will shortly be offering a business - level hire with a large screen and bistro coffee.



Advertising in the Messenger

£30 for a half page and £50 for a full page for the year. This usually includes 10 editions, December/January and July/August are combined.

