

The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of
St. Mark Ampfield*

January 2022

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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 Parochial Church Council.

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Dear Readers

This month we decided to give (some of!) our contributors (and ourselves) a bit of a break, so you will find the Messenger somewhat shorter than usual.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who writes for and supports the magazine. We have been stunned by the interesting and varied articles we have received and the feedback from readers has confirmed this - so please keep it up! We are always looking for new ideas, so, if you haven't done so already, why not make it your New Year's resolution to put pen to paper and join our team?

May we take this opportunity to wish all our readers a most fulfilling and healthy 2022.

Thank you for reading the Messenger.

Chris and Rob

Letter from Sally

Dear Friends,

I am writing this just before the start of a New Year and it is never good to let the old year go without very serious thought to its passing. What account can each of us give of 2021? What talents and challenges did God commit to our care and how did we use them? As a church we also need to ask similar questions, how can we reach out to others when we have such limited resources? We did discover during 2021 that outdoor services and events were successful, examples being Easter morning, churchyard trails, Christmas carols; but of course, all these are dependent on the weather.

The church of England has its own review as each year it asks parishes to make an annual return known as 'Statistics for Mission'. This return asks for church attendance figures including the number of baptisms, weddings and funerals that have taken place, plus asking about initiatives that reach out to the wider community. The data provide vital information to analyse and should help dioceses to know what sort of help and support their parishes need in the future. What is already known is that up and down the country there has been a considerable fall in church attendance particularly since the start of the pandemic. This has meant that fewer people are involved in keeping our churches open and the buildings in good order, putting a strain on those left with the responsibility.

Looking forward to 2022 therefore sees us caught almost between two worlds, with two ways of thinking about the way forward in our secular and church life because of Covid. Some people cry a return to normal others cry caution going forward and talk about adapting to a 'new normal.' Yet there surely needs to be an awareness when having this debate that for many people and indeed entire nations, there is and will be nothing 'normal' about how they live for some time. We therefore step gently into 2022 with all its opportunities and challenges ahead.

(Numbers 6:24-26) I pray that this New Year will bring to you new blessings and new opportunities....

Sally



Services in the Benefice

Regular Service Pattern:

Sunday at 09:30

- 1st Sunday – Worship for All, online only
- 2nd Sunday – Communion at St Mark, Ampfield
- 3rd Sunday – Communion at All Saints, North Baddesley and streamed live online
- 4th Sunday – Communion at St Denys, Chilworth
- 5th Sunday (when there is one) – Communion at St John, North Baddesley

Sunday at 18:00: Evening Prayer using Book of Common Prayer (on Zoom)

Tuesday at 10:30: Morning prayer in St. Mark's Room



BENEFICE NEWS

The Benefice Profile

Vicoria left at the end of September. Since then the benefice has been in 'vacancy' and going through the process of finding a new vicar. How do we know we've got the right person? Well, one part of the process is for us to write a 'benefice profile'. The profile includes a description of the benefice as it is; our vision for the future; and what we are looking for in our new vicar. Representatives of all three parishes have put our heads together to write the profile, which is now being reviewed by the PCCs. We will get the profile agreed by Bishop Debbie in early January, so it can be used as the basis to interview candidates.

If you've not already had a chance to contribute and you've got ideas or opinions about the future direction of the benefice in general and St Mark's church in Ampfield in particular, then let us know. Even if it doesn't make it into the profile, your view will be helpful to the new vicar in charting this next stage in our church life.

Mark West

St. Mark's stall at the Ampfield Christmas Market

We raised £210.00 by selling stocking fillers along with the usual Fairtrade items at the Christmas market. Thank you for all your splendid donations and for supporting us. We hope to continue selling gifts, houseplants and garden ornaments at the market from our large stall by the door throughout 2022. Please keep those contributions coming—an ideal opportunity for 're-gifting' after Christmas?

Chris

Thank you

I would like to give a huge thankyou to all who support our church St Mark's. Its been another difficult year - no fundraising, services restarted but only monthly and our vicar has left. However - the bills have been paid, we have survived - we are stronger and so blessed.

This would not have been possible without the amazing generosity and backing of the congregation and everyone.

Adrienne, the gift aid secretary, with love

Claire Ludwell—tributes from her friends

Claire and St. Mark's Church

Claire had a strong faith and for many years just loved and cared for St. Mark's, and all those involved with the Church. She welcomed people to the church warmly and put them at ease. She loved chatting. At Services she would always sit in the same pew at the back of the Church so she could greet any late-comers.

For years Claire would decorate the pew ends with flowers for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. They were always much admired. She helped with Baptisms and following a Bereavement Course chatted to people at the All Saints café.

In the past we held concerts, slide shows and even enjoyed a theatre group in Church, and of course we would always serve refreshments! Claire would bake cakes and puddings, help to serve and of course be there until the end helping to clear up. Claire was so thorough and meticulous that she had a file in which she put a plan of how the Church Room looked for each event and kept it for reference for the next year. This included the placement of the tables, helpers, the stalls, how much milk was used, and the money raised.

Before the Messenger went on line, a few of us would gather monthly to collate and staple it ready for delivery - at Christmas this ran into hundreds - but we always had a laugh in the Church Room working together! Claire would be there, sometimes rush in late as she had been somewhere beforehand, and more recently would bring Fi, Andrew's beautiful dog who would wait patiently until the work was done. Claire would then go and deliver her batch of magazines.

In October 2015 we held Victoria's Institution in St. Mark's and refreshments were to be taken at All Saints. After the service, it was realised that the coach which had brought people from Whitchurch, where Victoria had been a Curate, had broken down. With no hesitation, Claire drove off to All Saints to collect some of the food and bring it back so those people did not miss out. We made teas and coffees and they enjoyed their refreshments in St. Mark's Room.

Claire was an amazing person and will be sadly missed by so many people. **Jennie Edwards**

Cont....

...Cont.

Claire and the Village Hall

Claire has been a very close and valued friend for many years. She eagerly offered help with the Ampfield Market in September 2000 and rarely missed a month. She was a great asset, her PR skills were amazing, her coffee and walnut cake and freshly baked rock buns regularly wowed the customers. In September 2015 I opened the Catch Up Cafe in the newly extended Village Hall, Claire was loyally at my side most weeks, giving encouragement and welcoming newcomers. We always seemed to be on the same wave length. I started the Market to provide an opportunity for village groups to come together, this was also one of Claire's dreams. The Market on December 4th fulfilled our shared dream and was especially successful. During the last couple of stressful years we helped each other to get through the lockdowns, regularly chatted on the phone or met for a walk around the recreation ground. During these last summer months it was always a delight to sit in Claire's garden, drink tea and chat, her welcome was second to none. I miss her in all these ways and more than I can possibly say. She was a truly special and remarkable friend.

Julie Trotter

Claire and the Romsey Show

I first met Claire about 40 years ago through the Romsey Show. She moved from West Wiltshire where she was brought up on a mixed farm with wonderful memories of riding most days and earning pocket money feeding, milking, mucking out, and driving a Ferguson tractor before a car! The Romsey Show was a natural next step and part of her new life. Initially, she was a volunteer with the Traffic and Gates team, the "unsung heroes", they worked from dawn until dusk whatever the weather. Claire progressed to Steward and finally Chairman of the T&G Committee and member of the Show Council. In 1918 Claire became President in recognition of her unstinting loyalty, richly deserved, and latterly the President's Steward, a position she excelled at, as I can testify! Claire will be sorely missed, not only her willing involvement in every aspect of the Show but also being a very special friend.

Simon North Former Romsey Show Council Chairman & President

Cont...

...Cont.

Claire and Swimming

Claire was a swimming teacher for 43 years. Qualifying in 1974, she taught generations of Hampshire families to swim. Claire taught at The Rapids in Romsey, Winchester's River Park and Romsey Life Saving Club. Claire received a Special Recognition Award at the 2014 Romsey and District Sports Awards and was a runner up in the Southern Water Best Teacher Award category. Claire particularly enjoyed teaching the mother and baby groups and toddlers.



Claire receiving her Special Recognition Award



Recognise any faces here ?!!



Claire visiting Radio Solent as Romsey Show President

Tributes to Claire and her varied and interesting life of service could fill this month's Messenger. Claire started her working life qualifying as nurse and worked at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Hospital in Oxford. I was an in-patient there for six months in the early sixties and Claire and I often wondered whether she had nursed me. From then on she touched and made a difference to so many people's lives.

Claire was a one-off.

Rob

For that post-Christmas downtime, we saved our cracker jokes ...

Why did the gingerbread man go to the doctor's?
Answer : because he felt crummy.

What did one snowman say to the other snowman?
Answer : do you smell carrots?

What do you get hanging from Father Christmas's roof?
Answer : tired arms.

What begins with T, ends with T and has tea in it?
Answer : Teapot.

What do you call a snowman in the summer?
Answer: Captain Nemo.

Why does Santa go down the chimney on Christmas Eve?
Answer: because it 'soots' him.

Why did the doughnut maker sell his shop?
Answer: he got fed up with the hole business.

What did Father Christmas do when he went speed dating?
Answer: he pulled a cracker.



NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

To be more patient with others as well as myself as I have a tendency to get frustrated when things do not go quite as planned! Sally

I am determined to get back to doing yoga regularly. (Down Dog is calling me!). Jennie

To try to live more in the now and not worry about what is to come and what has passed, enjoy each moment for what it is ... the good and the not so good moments! Lynda

To try to be a bit less busy and to better manage commitments and work/life balance. Abbie

To simplify my life, get rid of all the rubbish and focus on the things that really matter.

To expand my cooking skills! Alan

None of those I'm afraid, I know I wouldn't keep them!
Liz

To be happy.
Lou

I'm not great at resolutions, but I want to develop a better habit of prayerful reflection. Mark

Get fitter, do more exercise and be happy.
John

To go and actually see the people we still send Christmas cards to.
Kate

I would probably wish to affirm with vigour to be more understanding and of better humour. Paul

I will try to be less critical of others, especially my husband. Anon

Ron and Stella's New Year Quiz 2022

1. Who was the female tennis star from South London who won the US open in 2021?
2. A new £50 note entered circulation in June 2021. Which scientist is celebrated on the new note?
3. In April 2021 Prince Phillip died. What vehicle did he choose to carry his coffin at his funeral?
4. A campaign was launched in 2021 to save the life of an alpaca thought to be infected with TB. What was the name of the Alpaca?
5. In which European country is it a tradition to jump from a chair right before midnight and also smash plates against friend's doors?
6. Who was found hanged in Winson Green Prison, near Birmingham on New Year's Day 1995?
7. Which English author, born on New Year's Day 1879, wrote A Passage to India?
8. Is American Samoa, in the south Pacific Ocean, the first or last place to see in the new year?
9. On new years day 1993, which former country effectively split into two?
10. Who wrote the song, Auld Lang Syne?



The Ampfield Market

Will be back on

**Saturday 5th February
From 10am to 12noon**

in Ampfield Village Hall



The Market Christmas Raffle

Thank you to all our loyal customers for your support in the last few months. I am delighted to say that the raffle which took place during the Market on December 4th in memory of Martin Trotter and Liz Easterbrook raised an amazing £170. Thank you so much for your generosity, I will be sending a cheque to the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund in the next few days.

All being well, the next Market will take place on Saturday 5th February 2022 and I will look forward to welcoming you all back.

***The Market Team would like to wish you all a very
happy and healthy 2022 !***

Julie Trotter

Friends of Chapel Wood

Looking back at the report for the December 2020 working party, it was striking just how similar last year was to this. Again, we have the old bonfire pit that needs to be dug out, the piles of material collected for our annual bonfire

reduced to a shapeless wet splodge and the glade resembling a sea of soggy leaves out of which the mole hills had burst through like islands. It is a real blessing! There is nothing like a good challenge to work up an appetite for mince pies and gingerbread on a winter's morning.

This December, we are pleased to welcome a new 'Friend'. We always welcome new friends with great eagerness since they are invariably young and fit (all things are relative!) and, to them, stuff presents much less by way of a physical challenge.



Today provided a good example. There was one small tree that had fallen over in the storms and had blocked a path. Arming himself with a saw and some loppers, our new friend leapt into action and, joined by one of our more experienced woodsmen, had the path cleared in no time.

Cont....

...Cont.

Whilst this was going on, the rest of us set to trying to clear the remaining rhododendron from an area near to the fire pit. We then dug out the pit and started to try to get some air into the soggy mess that we, euphemistically, considered to be prime bonfire material. By the time we sat down for coffee, it was great to see yet more open woodland. We are hoping that 2022 will prove to be a bit of a watershed in that direction. We have submitted a planning application to Test Valley Borough Council requesting permission to remove rhododendron entirely from several woodland compartments and to control its growth in others. Should this be granted, we hope to enjoy real progress.

As many of you will know, there is great interest in planting native trees and understory plants to aid the rewilding programmes and, in the process, provide additional carbon storage. However, Rhododendron is very invasive and native trees will need room to grow. Therefore, unless we can clear the rhododendron, roots and all, our ability to plant additional native trees is curtailed, very considerably. We will keep our fingers crossed.

Increasingly, we believe rewilding projects will, one way or another, become a very important part of our daily lives. With the fantastic asset we have in Chapel Wood, we want to contribute to this concept as much as we can. We are actively looking at the various opportunities open to us and will report back as soon as possible. In the meantime, despite the aggravation of COVID, the Friends of Chapel Wood hope everyone enjoyed a good Christmas, and we wish you all a safe and successful 2022.



Graham Roads



Thought for the Month

My first thought for this month of January 2022 was, 'shall I look back at 2021'? I have decided not to as it had been a very difficult year for many people.

Hope is the word that springs to my mind, a feeling of expectation and desire for something good to happen. This is particularly relevant in our Benefice right now whilst we look for a new vicar for our four churches. Jeremiah 28:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you HOPE and a future."

This is exactly what we need at the beginning of a new year, a chance to look forward and make some new plans, even the odd New Year's resolution. I want to make time to see old friends that are very often only a Christmas Card catch up, especially when many of them are really not that far away. I hope we can restart the Friends For Lunch club which we have all missed so much, especially Ron's Bingo calling. These are the things that bring us joy and happiness and leave us fulfilled. Action not words, that's my 2022 resolution, I don't want this year to end with lots of 'if only' sentences, instead let's try to find the good in all and everyone around us, so take off those blinkers and welcome to the New Year.

With love, Kate





**Taking my bird for a walk round Hilliers Tree Nursery in Knapp
Rob**



*From the St. Mark's
Register*



The funeral of Gloria Moran took place in St. Marks church on 13th December 2021 followed by a burial in the churchyard.

A thanksgiving service for Claire Ludwell took place in St. Marks church on 21st December 2021.



Answers to Ron and Stella's New Year Quiz

1. Emma Raducanu
2. Alan Turing
3. One of his beloved Land Rovers
4. Geronimo
5. Denmark
6. Fred West
7. E. M. Forster
8. Last
9. Czechoslovakia
10. Robert Burns

Information

If you need any Zoom meeting links, would like to join in with readings or intercessions, would like prayers said for you or someone you know, or would just like to comment, please email joinin@acnb-church.org.

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Local Representatives

Member of Parliament: Caroline Nokes; Phone: 01794 521155

County Councillor: Alan Dowden; Phone 02380 266458

TVBC Councillor: Martin Hatley; Phone: 02380 254040

Ampfield Parish Council: Chair Bryan Nanson; Phone: 02380 267760

A Prayer for the Year Ahead

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making our path easy,
But by making us sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from us,
But by taking fear from our heart;
Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making our life always pleasant,
But by showing us when people and their causes need us most,
and by making us anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to us for the year ahead.

Author Unknown; Adapted by Debra Mooney

From JesuitResource.org





CONTRIBUTIONS and CONTENT

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