

Issue No. 291

# *Hill & Valley*

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

£1

September 2025





Dear Friends,

Trustworthiness is defined as: *deserving of trust, or able to be trusted.*

Fortunately there is one source of absolute trustworthiness that we have, and that is God. Proverbs 3 instructs *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."*

During services and in reading the Bible, we might not know the context of any written word, we might be merely repeating what has been written before; how do we know that what we read is in fact trustworthy in its meaning? Were we present for instance when the Bible was translated into English, do we know something of the character of those responsible? It is the narrator that gives the words authenticity.

The Bible has given us multiple examples of God's reliability in his promises, so I am able to fully accept and believe what I am told in biblical texts. This makes living my life so much less complicated, as I have the truth to follow and am guided by God.

We are reminded to have trust in our Lord as he is our rock, and who am I to doubt this. Poor old Thomas did not fare so well by doubting, and that is a salient lesson to remember.

I am reminded we should be regarded as: *"servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy."*

In order to practice being trustworthy and be regarded such, I think that demonstrating that I follow through on commitments, complete tasks to the best of my ability, keep confidences, tell the truth and anticipate the concern of others is a fairly good summary of the qualities needed in all walks of life and especially in ordained ministry.

Titus said:  
*"Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have*

*trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone"* (Titus 3:8).

In my former secular life, part of my job was to record witness testimonies after alleged safeguarding issues. I did not make decisions about the validity or likelihood of the situation but these interviews relied upon the 'reporter' accepting that I could be trusted with all details etc.

As ministers I fear we can be too accepting as it is the Christian ethos - to accept all / be inclusive and non-judgemental, without due concern for our own safety. Sadly in this day and age and culture this is not so easy, but if we become the judge and the jury how can our trustworthiness be guaranteed.

I often rely upon my own instincts as to whether someone is trustworthy and try to not be too quick to reject that person because they are very different to me, but the solution lies in the answer to the question 'do I believe them to be walking with God?' If the answer is yes, then I have no doubt and I hope the same will apply to me when I am under the microscope for trustworthiness.

Chris

The Revd Chris Theobald



"Doubting" Thomas and Jesus

## September 2025

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

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> - Trinity 12

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Family Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
All Hallows, Whitchurch	5.00pm	<i>Contemplative Prayer</i>
<b>Home Zoom Service at 10.30am</b>		

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

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
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### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> - Trinity 13

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	<i>Animal &amp; Pet Service</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott		<i>No Service</i>
<b>Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online</b>		

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> - Trinity 14

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Family Service</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Family Service</i>
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	<i>Matins</i>
<b>Home Zoom Service at 10.30am</b>		

### Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>

All Hallows, Whitchurch	9.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
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### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> - Trinity 15

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	<i>Benefice Evensong</i>
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
St James', Woodcott		<i>No service</i>
<b>Home Zoom Service at 10.30am</b>		



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)

Revd Russell Smart: ☎ 01962 760508  
[revrussellsmart@gmail.com](mailto:revrussellsmart@gmail.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."

**Imogen Jennifer Grunsell**

St Mary Bourne - 24/8/2025

**Stevie Quince Nicholl Pugh**

St Mary Bourne - 30/8/2025

#### • Weddings

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

**Catherine Geraldine Mary Oram and Gary Irfon Thomas Gibson**

St Mary Bourne - 9/8/2025

#### • Funerals

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

**Rozanne Phillips**

Charlton Park Crematorium - 14/7/2025

**Marlene Barton**

St Mary Bourne - 19/7/2025

**Bernard Frederick James Matthews**

St Mary Bourne - 1/8/2025

**Hannah Hunt**

Longparish - 14/8/2025

**Ian Ronald Burton-Pye**

St Mary Bourne - 20/8/2025

**Samantha Uzzell**

St Mary Bourne - 22/8/2025

**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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**The Community Library - Club Room**  
**Saturday mornings between 10.30 and 12.30**

**A Message from your library**

Following a summer break, the community library will re-open in the Village Centre Club Room on **6<sup>th</sup> September** and will be open at the usual time of 10.30am to 12.30pm every Saturday.

Please come and visit, whether to borrow a book or to chat about books you may have read, or authors you would like to explore. I would love to see you and exchange ideas or just to chat. You will find like-minded book worms happy to share their latest discoveries.

Remember!! This is the library with no rules. You can take as many books as you like - and keep them for as long as you like. Looking forward to seeing you.

*Lorna*



**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 9<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am**

£2.50 for coffee and biscuits - For more information contact Win Coventry - ☎ 01264 738 199.

**The Lunch**

Our next village lunch will be held on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September** at St Mary Bourne Village Centre, as usual

starting to serve at 12.30pm. All are welcome to come along and enjoy our monthly light social lunch. If a lift is needed, please phone Chris Smith on ☎ 01264-738110 by Noon on the Tuesday.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

10.30 to 11.30am  
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 Thank you

*Sue Bartram*



**ST MARY BOURNE PARISH COMMUNITY FUND (PCF)**

can support anyone living in the parish of St Mary Bourne (including Stoke, Binley, Egbury, Wadwick, Little London & The

Wykes) who is worried about essential living expenses, or unexpected extra costs due to illness, employment changes, family difficulties, medical conditions, or accidents.

**For more information** about the PCF for yourself or someone else, please contact Ruth Widen

☎ 01264 738 250 - [ruth.widen@btinternet.com](mailto:ruth.widen@btinternet.com)

All enquiries are treated in complete confidence.

**History of the Hill & Valley area in Ten Objects**

**7 - Longparish wooden bridge**



With its very many river channels and streams, and the happy waterside footpaths which make Longparish such an enjoyable place to walk, such a sight is not unusual. Indeed, it really must be one of the most bridged of parishes, with an estimated eight road bridges and 29 foot-bridges these days - even more than the 27 on the OS 1894 25" map, when more people were having to walk.

The construction of most foot-bridges is simple, even if not very durable, those on registered rights-of-way now dependant on the local authority for maintenance in this time of county austerity.

But they are not to be rushed over. Better by far to linger on the bridge a while, enjoying the creaking planks, the beauty of the rippling river flow, with its dancing light and shade, and try to spot a shy trout in the clear water, or perhaps, casting off the years, play Poohsticks.

*MC*

**RIDE+STRIDE**



In aid of Hampshire & the Islands Historic Churches Trust

For those who are **Riding and Striding** on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September** you are free to choose your own route and to visit as many of the churches as you wish, between 10am and 6pm. You may cycle, walk, run, ride or drive to raise money

for Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches and Chapels of all denominations.

The money you raise from your sponsors will be divided between this Trust and the church or the churches of your choice, or donate all your sponsorship monies to the Trust.

Contact Eve Lind-Smith on 01264 738681





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### What's on offer at the MOTea and Coffee Café, behind the Family Shopper in Hurstbourne Tarrant

For sure, our coffee is, in our opinion, just great and our

menu superb but what really makes the **MOTea and Coffee Café** special is the wonderfully eclectic mix of clubs that call our Café home.

*Book Club, Silent Book Club, Dungeons and Dragons, Warhammer Painting Group, Genealogy, Craft sessions, Tarot readings,* and now we are really pleased to announce that we are a collecting depot for the *Oakley Stitches*! The *Oakley Stitches* started during Covid making scrubs for the NHS and now make, free of charge, all manner of items from knitted clothes for premature babies to specialist clothing for all ages. So if you have any surplus wool, material, zips, buttons, needles, thread or any haberdashery items please donate them at our Café for collection. Or pick up some free wool and free patterns and make something to be given to charity – over a coffee with friends at the Café or in your own home.

We are also open on Thursday afternoons as a place where you can just drop in and always find someone to talk to – so if you fancy a chat or a change of scenery then please do call in and see us.

We started MOTea and Coffee with the idea that a Café should be more than just a place to grab a drink. It should be somewhere you can connect, explore, learn, support each other - and maybe roll a critical hit while you're at it. If you would like to know more about any of the clubs please drop in and see us!

MM

## The Repair Café



Here is a little snapshot of some of the items that **SBV** (Sustainable Bourne Valley) have repaired over the past few months at the SMB Repair Café. Thank you to our "fixers" Andy, Leigh, Nick, Adam and Maria. They come when they can and mend/repair, rewire, darn, and glue and take up every challenge put in front of them.

The list of things repaired is endless and too numerous to itemise, but a few examples are:

4 vacuum cleaners, 10 lamps, a lighter, a side table, many jumpers darned (the moths have been busy this year), 2 bicycles and amongst other things, a mini fridge, a tower fan, and quite a few glueing jobs were all given back mended.

Please come along with your broken items to the **next Repair Café on 6<sup>th</sup> September**. We are at The George Inn, St Mary Bourne from 10am to 12noon on the first Saturday of the month.



We are meeting in church but much of the service will be out and about in the churchyard.

The kids will be looking for bugs and beetle, leaves and flowers, nuts and seeds.

Everyone is welcome. The coffee is great and the biscuit decoration good fun.

## St Mary Bourne Village Centre news



After another year of falling numbers at many of our monthly film screenings, we have reluctantly concluded that our continued subsidising of these events is not financially viable.

The main problem has been

getting films that people want to see before they become available to view on streaming services. Thanks to everyone who has attended over the many years that *'The Film'* has been running; your support is much appreciated. We hope that you will continue to come to the **monthly social evenings** that will replace the film screenings.

The idea is that on the **third Tuesday** of each month we will have a community get together of some sort, all starting at 7.30pm. The intention is that these events should be free, as far as possible, and we will run a bar to provide refreshments. The main thing is to get people together and have an enjoyable evening making use of our community facility. To get things rolling we have planned the Autumn sessions as follows:

**September 16<sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm: Bingo**

**October 21<sup>st</sup> - 7.30pm: Halloween Quiz**

**November 18<sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm: Art & Craft**

Further details will appear in Hill & Valley and on the local Facebook pages as we approach each session. To help us with logistics it would be helpful to have an idea of how many might attend, so if you would like to come to the 16<sup>th</sup> September Bingo please let us know by emailing [villagecentre@stmarybourne.org](mailto:villagecentre@stmarybourne.org)

For future sessions we are looking for suggestions from you. Perhaps you have a skill, hobby or interest you would like to share, or an idea for a community class, or entertainment that you would like to try out? Let us know by emailing on the above address.

KC





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As is customary, the Parish Council has not held a monthly meeting in August but there were some noteworthy happenings during the month.

After a long and ultimately successful campaign to raise funds and submit plans for rearranging the **Play Area**, permission has now been granted by Basingstoke & Deane, and work can be expected to start shortly. Many thanks and congratulations are due to the small team of volunteers and their Parish Council supporters who have pursued this with such dedication.

A training session for use of the **defibrillator** machines now installed in St Mary Bourne, Stoke and Binley was well attended during the month and advice of another session in the autumn will be notified in due course.

There will be an Open **Lake Meeting** in the Village Centre on Monday **October 6<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm, and there will be a Volunteer day on the Lake on Saturday **October 11<sup>th</sup>**. A reminder of these dates will be included in next month's magazine.

### Next Parish Council meeting Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm

#### Planning Applications:

T/00404/25/TCA	Link Cottage, Lower Link SMB	Trees
T/00406/25/TCA	Ricket Way, Gangbridge Lane	Trees
25/01958/AGPD	Wakeswood SMB	Agricultural permitted div. enquiry
25/01841/HSE	Little Meadow, Upper Wyke Lane	Car port & new access
T/00391/TCA	Kemback, Stoke	Trees
T/00372/25/TCA	Green Lodge, Gangbridge Lane	Trees
25/01703/HSE	Wakeswood, SMB	Extensions & alterations & Partial demolition
T/00359/25/TCA	Garston, Stoke	Trees
25/01587/HSE	Betton House, SMB	Rear extension, bay window & dormers



## Flower Show 2025

After a record 77<sup>th</sup> Flower Show we had a hard act to follow this year, but so many people joined in to make it a great day. Thank you to everyone who helped set up, visited, donated, sponsored and ran a stall. The takings again were **over £10K**, and with more classes than last year in the veg categories the marquee was a great sight. We had so many stalls that the cricket pitch was more than surrounded, and the latecomers were ranged opposite the therapy goats. The range on offer was huge, including the village stalwarts – the bar, BBQ, Pimms tent, Dodie's tombola, vintage clothing, plants, plate smashing and coconut shy, plus books. And from outside we had several craft stalls, some delicious food and Test Valley Brass Band in our new tent. The classic car display was well-supported, and the dog show drew many entries. The raffle continued its run of higher results than previous years, with some great prizes attracting the punters.

## Competition highlights

The judges remarked that the extra classes saw very good entries, across the board, despite it being a dry and difficult growing year. There was a vast display of delicious cakes. On the children's side there were some lovely entries, with the school supporting these to great effect. Mike Thomas collected a decent haul of trophies but there was a good spread of prizes across the board. The fact that the auction saw a 60% higher result than in 2024 is testament to the quality, range and number of entries sold off at the end of the day.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Flower Show & Fête - it is very much appreciated. Without everyone's support and their entries the Flower Show wouldn't be the success it is.

As always, we would really welcome your thoughts and feedback for next year's show, and we will be having drinks at the Village Centre on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm** to thank you for your support - **all are welcome!**





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September already! Vicky and I have decided that working in the shop skews our brains – Why? You may well ask. Along with Harriet and Hannah we have completed one round of Christmas shopping for the shop, with another one planned! Dig deep in the stockroom and you will find lots of 'Christmassy' things. For Vicky it is a constant game of stockroom Jenga! She can often be found knee deep in boxes trying to make more room – she is awesome!

We have had a lovely summer, lots of customers old and new and we love that. The new tables and chairs along with the umbrellas have come into their own and look amazing. We both work hard to make it a lovely place to be and love welcoming you all. To us it is a real bonus when we ask for help and it is forthcoming; from mending the handle of the WC door to moving the coffee machine and making sure there are no leaks (and returning if there were). Countless other people who we have only to mention something to, and there they are, ready and willing. THANK YOU ALL! Just one thing – we still suffer from a wobbly table in the Café, so if anyone has any suggestions, they would be very welcome!

I think that is all for this month. *Sandra & Vicky*

### The Boundary Shop & Café - 1😊😊 Club

#### July 2025 draw:

£50 - A Shegog £20 - B & M Craddock  
£20 - M Maclay £10 - J Croser

#### August 2025 draw:

£50 - Caroline Kremer £20 - Sandra Grunsell  
£20 - Oliver Cumberlege £10 - Peter St Quintin

The next 1😊😊 Club Draw: **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

### Andover Astronomical Society

Bubbles, Strings and Waves

*Dr Andy Watson*

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September - 7.30pm**

Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre

September sees the start of **Andover Astronomical Society's** programme of talks for 2025/26. What is our Universe really made of? Modern cosmology has some of the answers, but much remains unknown. Dr Andy Watson will lift the lid on our Universe and explain that it's really made of waves & strings with a few bubbles added in to complete the mix. He will explain how everyday concepts help us understand the innermost workings of the cosmos. Working as a theoretical physicist, Andy researched black holes - now he is a strictly amateur astronomer.

Everyone is welcome to our talks & there's no charge for your first meeting. After the talk, if skies are clear, we will set up telescopes & look at the stars! For more information search online for "Andover Astronomical Society" or email [andoverastrosoc@gmail.com](mailto:andoverastrosoc@gmail.com).

## ST MARY BOURNE CRICKET CLUB CRICKET FESTIVAL



**SEPTEMBER 7**  
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**St Mary Bourne Cricket Club** are hosting teams from all around the Bourne Valley for a 6s tournament on **7<sup>th</sup> of September** (11.00am - 6.30pm). We will have a BBQ running with plenty of refreshments on sale, so please come down and support your local club!



### Exciting News – Play Space Works Are Starting Soon!

We're delighted to share that the long-awaited improvements to our Community Play Space are planned to begin toward the end of September, following the approval of the Planning Application this summer.

The works will take around eight weeks, starting with moving the fencing and clearing the shed, hut and planters. We'll then install the new play equipment and fencing, remove the old playground, and finally refresh the tennis court and car park.

We have taken care to ensure as many of the parking spaces remain open as possible so the community can access the Village Shop, Village Centre and Boundary Café as before. However, while the works are taking place, the MUGA overflow car park will be out of use. We'll make sure plenty of notices are put up around the area to let residents and visitors know.

We'll keep you updated all the way through the project, and we're really looking forward to unveiling a fantastic new space for everyone to enjoy! If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with the Parish Council.

Thank you for your patience and support — exciting times ahead for our community.

*The Project Team*

(Volunteers: Laura Davis, Amelda de Segundo; Parish Council Members: Dave Burlison, Ed Makgill and Maxine Owen)





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## Postcard from Binley

I've written Postcard mainly from quite ordinary places. The home, the garden, on a train, or occasionally the riverbank. But today I write from the A & E department at Winchester. It's a quite simple explanation really, my puppy (nine and a half stone) is suffering from what my father used to endearingly call the "Tom Tits". And in the middle of the night when you hear the guts rumbling, and you've got to get down the stairs and to the front door before she does, you really need to be on your game. Sadly I'm not as quick across three yards of shag pile as I used to be, and I found myself upended and clattering down the elm boards and feeling every one of them. Being a chap, I assumed every rib was broken; it certainly felt like it but it turns out to be just bruising, and I was pretty much told to stop making a fuss. The only other "patients" here are a chap who has found a wart on his thumb and a mother with a child who has simply fallen and grazed her knee; so perhaps I'm not being precious after all. At one point I got a bit macho and showed the nurses my midgie bites of which I am justifiably proud. I must have dozens of them and I've never known a Hampshire summer so plagued with them. "Skin so Soft" by Avon say many but that was the old product from the 90's. The modern one doesn't touch them. All suggestions gratefully received.

So the heatwave goes on. One interesting feature, and I have been talking to an old river keeper friend of mine who runs an estate on the Avon, is the amount of mature trees that have either given up altogether or drastically have started self-pollarding themselves. Great and ancient limbs are discarded like fallow antlers, I guess to enable the main trunk to get sustenance and I have witnessed a number of these here in Binley. The heatwave has been tough on our flora and fauna. Haymaking has been ghastly and chatting with the Batchelors, they reckon it's yielding around a third of its normal tonnage. Crops likewise, and it will all impact the economy. Glum times indeed. But it's surprising how simply one's soul can be lifted, because walking up the lane yesterday around 6.30 with said puppy we encountered a very young muntjac that had got itself entangled in some wire fencing. It was screaming the house down and took a bit of extricating but we managed it, and off it scarpered in the direction of its mother who was calling from the belt of trees at the top of the downs. Put a real spring in my step. But I am worried for my Pipistrelle bats. For as long as I have lived here I have sat out at dusk in the summer months with a

small whisky (three fingers) and watched my bats that live under the eaves on the west side of the house go out to hunt. This year not one have I seen, and perhaps that alone explains the midgie epidemic here at Yew Tree? But I will be gutted if they are gone. Tiny, excruciatingly ugly, yet delightful all at the same time. I hope they return.

NA



Scan with your phone  
camera to book

Two-part Webinar:  
Supporting our Chalk Streams though the  
Planning System



30th September 2025



7th October 2025



Two-part Webinar:  
**Supporting our  
Chalk Streams  
though the  
Planning System**

Chalk streams are globally rare, and we are lucky to have 85% of them in the south and east of England. Like most rivers in the UK, chalk streams are

under huge pressure from a range of threats including development.

In this two-part webinar, independent planning consultant Steve Lees will give an overview of the planning system regarding the environment, specifically chalk streams and what you can do if planning and developments are happening that you think will have a negative impact on your local chalk stream.

**Part 1 - Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 19.00 – 20.30**

BST Online

Covering *planning policies relating to chalk streams and current policy changes concerning the planning system.*

Book your ticket here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/supporting-our-chalk-streamsthrough-the-planning-system-part-12-tickets-1452618112879?aff=oddttdtcreator>

**Part 2 - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 19.00 – 20.30 BST**

Online

Covering *how you can respond to planning applications in relation to chalk streams.*

Book your ticket here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporting-our-chalk-streamsthrough-the-planning-system-part-22-tickets-1454397234279?aff=oddttdtcreator>

These events are part of Watercress and Winterbournes, a Landscape Partnership Scheme that is protecting, enhancing, and celebrating seven local chalk streams.



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## Remembering...

### Bernard Frederick James Matthews

16<sup>th</sup> March 1941 - 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025

Bernard Frederick James Matthews was born on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 1941 to Fred and Molly Matthews at no 7 The Pit, Woodhouse, Smannell. He grew up with his cousin Laurence who lived next door. The two boys shared many adventures together during their childhood and remained close throughout their lives.

Bernard went to the local primary school at Smannell and then on to the senior Boys School in Andover. After leaving school, he did a 5-year painting and decoration apprenticeship with Dunnings. During that time, he worked all around the country on a shop-fitting contract for International Stores. After completing his apprenticeship, he worked for B and B Decorators where he became a foreman; and then for Shepherds. Those were difficult financial times for small companies in the UK and in his position as foreman Bernard unfortunately had to make a lot of local people redundant. But he is remembered by many that he worked with as a good teacher who would always give encouragement and advice. The last firm he worked for was Kings Decorators. Bernard then decided to set up on his own.

His first self-employed job was for Robin and Margaret Mackenzie at Valley Farm and he then did some work for Mrs Crutchley in Stoke. The word spread and it went from there. Bernard worked up and down the valley until his retirement.



Bernard met his wife Catherine Kimber at The George, St Mary Bourne in 1966 when Cath had a summer job, helping in the kitchen. They started dating, got engaged and were married in St Peter's, St Mary Bourne on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1971.

They first lived in Vigo Road, then moved in with Bernard's parents in Smannell, and from there into 1, Stoke Hollow. The only time they moved was when the old house was pulled down. They went down to Stoke Gate for 10 months until the new house in Stoke Hollow was built. They have been living there for 52 years.

James was born on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1975. Bernard was a very proud father and loved James dearly. Cath and Bernard were devoted to each other and always supported each other, as well as other members of their family. They had many shared interests and enjoyments: family holidays in the Lake District, meals out, gardening, and supporting the Saints. They were delighted when James met Ness and moved to Southampton to make a home there together.

Bernard had many years of ill health. He was a real fighter and a determined man who would never complain. He always maintained an interest in his favourite sports – football, horse racing, darts and the Tour de France – and followed and watched all the competitions on television. The possibility of returning to

the beautiful Lake District for a holiday kept him going through many stays in hospital, but on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, surrounded by his family in the Countess of Brecknock hospice, Bernard passed on peacefully.

*Bernard will be extremely missed by Cath, James, Ness, all the family and everyone that knew him. R.I.P.*

## Hurstbourne Priors

### LADIES COFFEE MORNING

Our September coffee morning will be held by Caroline Glover from 10.15am to 12noon on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September** at Longthatch (No. 33). All ages welcome!

For more information please contact Susie Sorby ☎ 01256 892665.



### St Andrew's Reels

*In aid of St. Andrew's Church, Hurstbourne Priors*

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - 7pm**

*To be held in The Barn at Chapmansford Farm House*

Tickets are £45.00 including a 2 course meal, a glass of fizz or beer on arrival, wine with the meal and dancing.

Dress code is Black Tie, Tartan or Smart.

*Carriages at midnight*

*Dances will include Dashing White Sergeant, Strip the Willow, Eightsome, Duke of Perth and more*

Contact [St.AndrewsReels@gmail.com](mailto:St.AndrewsReels@gmail.com) for booking.

*Tickets are limited*



### Editor Vacancy

The position of editor for the Hurstbourne Priors parish pages is currently vacant.

If you would be able to help, or like to know more about what it entails, please contact

Michael Widén on ☎ **07880 808111** or write to [hillandvalley@btinternet.com](mailto:hillandvalley@btinternet.com)

**Sadly without more editorial help Hill & Valley cannot continue next year.**



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**LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

[www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council](http://www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council)

Council Chair: Emma Palmer

(emma.palmerpc@longparish.org.uk or 07881 923150)

Parish Clerk: Hayley Thomas (clerk@longparish.org.uk or 01256 396868)

**RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 25/01844/FULLN and 25/01845/LBWN Barn South Of Firgo Farm House, Testbourne Estate - change of use from agricultural barn to a 3-bedroom dwelling.
- 25/01846/TREEN The Barn House, Forton Lane – Tree works

Full details of planning applications can be viewed on the Test Valley Borough Council website view-applications.testvalley.gov.uk/online-applications/

**FORTIS IBA PRESENTATION**

At the July meeting, the Parish Council welcomed representatives from Fortis IBA who presented their proposal to replace and extend the existing IBA Processing Plant at the Raymond Brown A303 Enviropark. They reported that the new facilities would be enclosed within a building, reducing noise and ash pollution, while allowing greater quantities of material to be processed from across the South of England. The building will be taller than the current plant (14.5m compared to 11.5m) but additional bunding and planting are planned to reduce visual impact. Concerns raised by residents included increased traffic, road safety, and the effect on the nearby shooting school. The planning application is scheduled for submission this month and further details will be available on the Test Valley Borough Council website.

**THANK YOU TO COUNCILLOR DRYDEN**

The Parish Council would like to extend their sincerest thanks to Christian Dryden, who has stepped down after many years of dedicated service. Cllr Dryden has been a huge support in maintaining the village's open spaces as well as spearheading the Parish Council's resilience strategy. She has kindly offered to continue to run the regular litter picks plus a few other Parish Council projects which she has been pivotal in making happen. We thank her for all she has done for the village and her continued ongoing support.

**VACANCY – COULD YOU BE OUR NEXT PARISH COUNCILLOR?**

If you are community-minded and keen to make a difference in Longparish, we would love to hear from you. As a Councillor, you will have a voice in decisions that affect the village and help us keep Longparish a vibrant and thriving community. To find out more, please contact the Parish Clerk at [clerk@longparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@longparish.org.uk).

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday 8th September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB**

**TUESDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**At Longparish Village Hall, SP11 6PB  
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**Any queries please to Rosie Lowry  
01264720325  
or Marion Bell 01264720205**

**New Village Hall booking secretary & treasurer**

Thank you to everyone who has supported Jeremy and me over the years. We are finally retiring from Village Hall duties! Jeremy has been treasurer for more than 30 years!

Alice Evans is now the treasurer, and Charlie Parris has taken over responsibility for Village Hall bookings. She can be contacted via [VHbooking@longparish.org.uk](mailto:VHbooking@longparish.org.uk) or phone 01264 317 037.

**-Maggie and Jeremy Barber**



Walk and litter pick – another way to keep fit!

Thank you to the August Litter pickers, we picked 3

Bagsful up Southside Road and along the B3048 and a big thank you to all those who have adopted a road and keep Longparish looking lovely.

Next group litter pick is on **Friday 12th September 9.15am**, meet at the **Village Hall** with free coffee afterwards at the LCA coffee morning, this month at the Plough from 10.00am.

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## Friday Lunch Club Autumn Dates

**2025**

**Longparish Village Hall**

**12.00 - 2.00pm**

The Lunch Club is open to everyone in the community.

We do ask you to book so that we have an idea of numbers for catering.

We serve a light lunch, all homemade, of soup and roll followed by cake, tea and coffee for just £3.

After lunch there is sometimes a talk or quiz – ideas for speakers always welcome but equally take a break from your desk and come just for lunch at 12.00.

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November**

**Friday 19<sup>h</sup> December tbc**

To book a place Tel Andrea 720 457 or Christian 720398 Transport can be arranged

## Longparish Business Wins National Award for Wellbeing Excellence



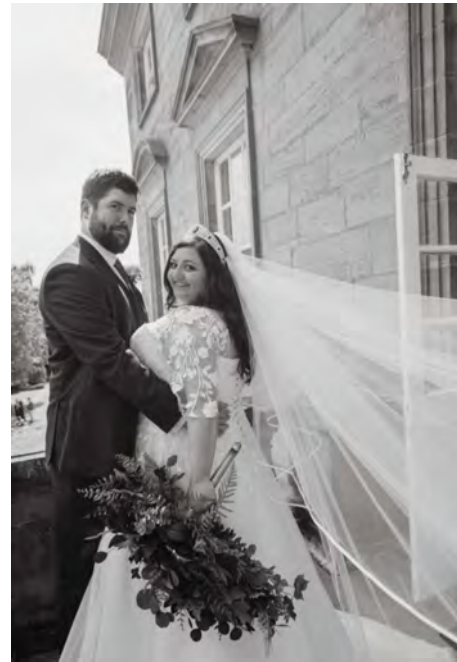
Longparish-based travel agency **Principal Business Travel** has won the **Wellbeing Award 2025** at the prestigious TTNG (Travel Trade Network Group) Gala in Bucharest's iconic Parliament Building. Founded in 1999 by local entrepreneur Ingrid Sanderson,

the firm was recognised for its pioneering work in traveller wellbeing—through initiatives like its wellness-focused rewards programme, wellbeing travel guides, and the UK's first Business Travel Wellbeing Week.

*"We may be a small local business, but our impact is global," said Ingrid. "For 25 years, we've championed a people-first ethos in business travel—and to have that recognised at this level means the world to us."*



## Wedding Celebration – Mr & Mrs Plumb



We are delighted to share the joyful news of the marriage of Mr and Mrs Plumb, who celebrated their special day on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of August at the beautiful Bourton Hall. Surrounded by close friends and family, the couple enjoyed a truly memorable day filled with love, laughter, and happiness. We wish them a lifetime of joy and adventure together.



## Longparish Cricket Club

At the time of reading, another summer season of cricket will be over. The season has been a successful one for the senior teams with promotion a strong possibility for both 1st and 2nd teams and the 3rds likely to finish mid-table. The Club will be holding its end of season Senior Presentation Evening at The Cricketers Pub in Longparish on 5th September 2025 to celebrate the teams' achievements. Junior cricket at Longparish CC has continued to expand this summer and we have successfully managed to put out teams at all age groups from U9 to U15 as well as run another enjoyable Allstars programme. A significant number of the U15s have also played senior cricket this summer which bodes well for the future.



We had a very successful Village Day raising over £1000 on the day for club funds but unfortunately had to cancel the Junior Presentation Day due to wet weather. Many thanks to all who attended the Village Day and to Jonathan Palmer who presented the Woodcock Cup to the winning team.

**Alison Allen**





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**22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - 10.00am–5.00pm**

Art lovers are invited to an exhibition and sale of Contemporary Art, Sculpture and Ceramics at the **Hampshire Medical Fund Art Show 2025** from **22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September (10.00am–5.00pm)** at the stunning **Pinglestone Barn** in Old Alresford.



This carefully curated show will feature work from a wide range of talented artists, all of whom are generously donating a percentage of their sales to the Hampshire Medical Fund. Light bites and refreshments will be served throughout the day (included in the ticket price).

Tickets cost from £20.

To book tickets

visit: [www.hampshiremedicalfund.org/events](http://www.hampshiremedicalfund.org/events)

**Location:** Pinglestone Barn, Old Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9TB

**More information:**

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**LONGPARISH WILDLIFE - HOUSE MARTINS**

House Martins are one of our many birds that are in decline, many years ago there must have been 50+ pairs nesting now there are only 12 pairs. Last year we had 2 pairs nesting on the house in front of ours. This year 3 birds appeared on the 24th of April and started visiting the old nests. But on the Sunday Mr House Sparrow appeared and decided he would like to



take over their nest. He sat on the roof feathers all puffed up chirping away hoping to attract a female there were a couple of females came and had a look but didn't

stay long. He sat up there all week chirping away and he would chase the House Martins off if they came anywhere near their nests. We went away on holiday for a week on the 1st May and thought no more House Martins. We arrived home on the 7th May and no Mr House Sparrow! The House Martins are back, but sadly still only three. Then mid-week the pair chased the single one away obviously he never found a mate, so at least we had one pair. I don't know when they laid their eggs, but they were busy feeding young on the 1st of June, they didn't fledge until the mid-July which is a long time as they usually fledge in 21-28 days. Now my theory is a lack of insects.



One of their foods are Aphids and I have not seen any this year. Still the good news is they fledge 3 young and they are sitting on eggs again.

Chris Bowman

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

July was much too hot; "nuff said. But conditions were excellent for the August race, fine and bright but not too hot, and more than half the field broke their handicaps. It's great to have Alice Evans back in the village and she brought four new runners plus Simeon in his first race for more than seven years. You are all very welcome. First home was new runner Freddie Tatton Brown but you can't get the trophy off an estimated handicap, so Our Most Improved Man was Simeon Evans in second place. He has clearly been practicing during his seven-year absence as he beat his handicap by nearly four minutes. In third place was Alfie Brunwin who broke his own junior course record by more than two minutes to become our Rising Star. Jo Clare was Most Improved Woman in her best time this year. Tom Rogers, Megan Brunwin and Mark Curtis set personal bests. Well done all!



Afterwards many of the runners enjoyed coffee and bacon rolls and/or cake at The Plough. Thank you very much to Maggie Barber and Elspeth Robertson for

marshalling, Andy Smith for doing the signs, the adults who accompanied juniors and to David Gould for processing the results.

The next race is on Sunday 14 September, starting at 9am at The Plough. New runners are always welcome, and you don't have to be fast. It's a handicap race so everyone, whatever their pace, has a chance of winning. Please do give us a call or send 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)

**St Nicholas Church 100 Club****Results of the June and July 2025 Draws**

The membership currently stands at 61, and the prizes below are therefore based on

that number. We would like to get up to a minimum of 100 numbers/members, and we would be extremely grateful if you would consider becoming a member of the club and supporting your parish church in this way.

Prizes are allocated on a percentage basis. First prize is 25% of the total income for the month, second prize 15% and third prize 5%.

**June Results**

<b>First prize:</b>	<b>No. 57</b>	<b>£76.00</b>
<b>Second prize:</b>	<b>No. 19</b>	<b>£46.00</b>
<b>Third Prize:</b>	<b>No. 10</b>	<b>£15.00</b>

**July Results**

<b>First prize:</b>	<b>No. 47</b>	<b>£76.00</b>
<b>Second prize:</b>	<b>No. 18</b>	<b>£46.00</b>
<b>Third Prize:</b>	<b>No. 51</b>	<b>£15.00</b>

You can join at any time during the year, and it works like this - Membership is set at £5.00 per number per month. There is no limit to the numbers you can purchase. If you would like to join, please let me know, and I will let you have the relevant forms. Or, if you have any other queries about church finances or how the church is administered, for example, please contact me:-

John Young, Churchwarden & PCC Stewardship Officer, St. Nicholas 100 Club

Tel: 01264 720233

Mob: 07860 630489 or

Email: [jayoung1322@gmail.com](mailto:jayoung1322@gmail.com)

N.B. Again, just a reminder that the church is open each day from 9.30am to 5pm. It is beautiful, and don't forget, it belongs to you! I strongly believe we have an obligation to look after it for future generations.



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## St Nicholas Church-stained glass repair project

Over the years, sadly the Church windows have received damage and are in need of repair. The PCC have decided to raise the necessary money to restore these beautiful windows for everyone's pleasure and enjoyment. We have asked Dan Humphries from Glastonbury, Somerset who is a recognised ICON attributed specialist to restore the windows.

We are pleased to announce that a generous family have come forward in Longparish to pay for the beautiful Hawker window.

The window although not damaged is very dirty inside and needs professional cleaning. This window by the artist Francis W Skeat is a tribute to the recipient of the Victoria Cross Major Lanoe George Hawker.



The Miracle of the fishes and the loaves by Hardman & Co. of Birmingham has taken a severe impact hole to the damask robe in the lower central light.

The window in the belfry of Christ raising Lazarus by Lavers and Barraud is suffering the deterioration known as Green Glass Disease.



Five windows in the organ vestry and clergy vestry need repair. Although these windows are not in the main body of the church, they have their own beauty and are of merit to be repaired.

Joanna, David, Humphrey Roebuck, and Patrick with Peter Hull are involved in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Cycle Ride to raise the money needed for this project. You are most welcome to donate for this or directly to the Church, please consider Gift Aid.



The project will cost around £11,000 to complete. We have also applied for Grant Funding, our application will be reviewed in November.

We hope you consider supporting our appeal for this project to maintaining these stunning windows for today and future generations. St Nicholas Church is open daily for viewing and prayer and welcomes everyone.

### Robert Charlton

8<sup>th</sup> March 1942 – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025



Robert was born in Bristol, having two elder sisters and a brother. The family lived in Clifton, and Robert's father owned several fruit and vegetable shops, and when Robert was old enough, he helped, but he never wanted to make it his career. Robert's childhood was great fun having two special friends, Nick Stanley

and Robert Harris who to this day, are still friends. 77 years and they all went to All Saints School in Clifton. After leaving school, Robert went to Leicester University and then moved to Basingstoke working for Eli Lilly. After a few years he decided to start his own business recruiting for medical representatives. A few years before retiring, Robert moved to Longparish with Rita, his wife. Robert has a son, Andrew from a prior marriage who lives with his wife Helen in Houston U.S.A. Many people in the village would recognise Robert by his golden retriever, Sam.

Robert passed away peacefully in the Countess of Brecknock Hospice with the family by his side.

Rita would like to say thank you for all the letters, cards and kindness she has received. Robert will be sadly missed by us all.





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We rarely have the opportunity to hear harpsichord duets, and these two excellent players will be treating us to a programme of baroque favourites including pieces by J S Bach and Vivaldi.

We do hope you can join us for an excellent evening of baroque favourites. Tickets are now on sale at <https://www.stockbridgemusic.uk/event/david-hill-david-ponsford/>

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**Hurstbourne Priors parish pages editor vacancy**

The position of editor for the Hurstbourne Priors parish pages is currently vacant.  
If you would be able to help, or like to know more about what it entails, please contact  
Michael Widén on ☎ **07880 808111** or write to [hillandvalley@btinternet.com](mailto:hillandvalley@btinternet.com).

**Sadly without more editorial help Hill & Valley cannot continue next year.**

**ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT**

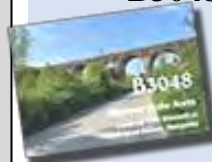
- 6 10am to 12 Noon - Repair Café - The George Inn  
 6 7pm - Open *Lake Meeting* (parish council) - Village Centre  
 7 11am to 6.30pm - **Cricket Festival** - Recreation Ground  
 9 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn  
 9 7.00pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre  
 13 10am to 6pm - **Ride + Stride** - Historic Churches Trust  
 16 7.30pm - *Monthly Social* - Bingo - Village Centre  
 17 12.30pm - 'The Lunch' - Village Centre  
 18 7.30pm - Andover Astronomical Soc - HBT Community Centre  
 21 10.30am - *Family Service* - St Peter's Church  
 25 10.30 to 11.30am - *Macmillan Coffee Morning* - 3 Blacksmiths  
**Saturday mornings** - 10.30am to 12.30pm -  
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**LONGPARISH**

- 6 12noon to 4pm - **Church & Village Fête** - Cricket Pitch  
 8 7.30pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall  
 12 9.15am - Litter Picking - Village Hall  
 12 10 to 11.45am - LCA Coffee Morning - The Plough  
 14 9am - LCA L2SOTM Race - The Plough  
 23 7pm - Longparish Gardening Club - Village Hall  
 26 12noon to 2pm - *LCA Lunch Club* - Village Hall  
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**Longparish Community Hall:** During school open hours, Mrs Christine Leach ☎ 01264 720317

**St Mary Bourne Village Centre:** Miss Angela Cook, ☎ 01264 738158, e: [villagecentre@stmarybourne.org](mailto:villagecentre@stmarybourne.org)

**Copy date for the October 2025 edition of Hill & Valley is Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**

Your contributions - letters, pictures, comments or articles are always welcome. Contact your parish editor by the copy date.  
Please provide editorial copy electronically as a text in Word (doc.) with any accompanying images in JPEG format.

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

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