

Issue No. 298

Hill & Valley

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

£1

May 2026

*Hurstbourne Priors May Fair
Monday 4th May - 12 noon to 4pm*

All are very welcome...

Scanning the bookshelves this morning, my eye fell on a book called 'Why Go to Church?' by a former Master of the Dominican Order, Timothy Radcliffe. In the introduction, Radcliffe shares this story:

'One Sunday, a mother shook her son awake, telling him it was time to go to church. No effect. Ten minutes later, she was back; "Get out of bed immediately and go to church." "Mother, I don't want to. It's so boring. Why should I bother?" "For two reasons: You know you must go to church on a Sunday, and secondly, you are the Bishop of the diocese"

Radcliffe points out that it is not only bishops who sometimes don't want to go to church. He cites surveys showing that many people in the West who believe in God do not feel that 'institutional' religion is for them, preferring a form of private spirituality. In other words, many people who believe in God do not attend church, sometimes because they are put off by the liturgy (the words). This is hardly surprising. Centuries of Christian theology and biblical texts are woven into the words we use, making liturgy quite baffling for those unfamiliar with it. As Radcliffe notes, the Bible, 'comes from a culture so different from our own, (...) sometimes it is hard to see what is happening, like trying to catch a joke in another language'.

One thing we perhaps do not emphasise enough is that our parish churches are for everyone in our community - for those of faith, those unsure about what they believe, and those of no faith. The parish system means that everyone is a parishioner, living in a parish with a church ready to welcome them. This is why parish churches hold a special role - to pray for everyone. All parishioners are welcome in church - and not just your local church, of course - whether you attend regularly, occasionally, or simply wish to have a look around. Our churches are both holy spaces and visible signs of God's love *for all*. Their doors are open every day, allowing people to stop by for a moment of peace and quiet, say a prayer, or simply sit and reflect.

Faith is a journey; we take one step at a time. For some, it begins with a search for something that this life alone cannot satisfy. That 'something' is God. We are created by God, and we are all destined to return to Him. We can speak to Him anytime, anywhere, yet many still find it easier to do so in holy spaces, where others have done so for centuries. *All are very welcome.*

Georgi

The Revd Georgi Leask



Services in the Parish Churches

May 2026

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

Sunday 3rd - Easter 5

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Mary's, Tufton		No service
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Holy Communion

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Wednesday 6th

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 10th - Easter 6

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong
St Mary's, Tufton	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
St James', Woodcott		No service

Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online

Sunday 17th - Ascension Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Mary's, Tufton		No service
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Family Service
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Family Service
St James', Woodcott	9.00am	Matins

Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Wednesday 20th

All Hallows, Whitchurch	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Sunday 24th - Pentecost

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors	10.30am	Holy Communion
St Mary's, Tufton	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Morning Prayer
St Peter's, St Mary Bourne	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Benefice Evensong

St James', Woodcott		No service
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Home Zoom Service at 10.30am

Sunday 31st - Trinity Sunday

St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors		No service
St Mary's, Tufton		No service
St Nicholas', Longparish	10.30am	Holy Communion Benefice Service

St Peter's, St Mary Bourne		No service
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St James', Woodcott		No service
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Winchester Cathedral Zoom Service Online

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

☎ 01256 893573

brightwatersbenefice@gmail.com

Revd Russell Smart: ☎ 01962 760508
revrussellsmart@gmail.com

Rev Canon Dodie Marsden:
☎ 01264 738211

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

From the Church Registers

• Baptisms

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

Frederick Leo David Waller

St Mary Bourne - 18/4/26

James Ernest Fabian Waller

St Mary Bourne - 18/4/26

James Arthur Wylie

Hurstbourne Priors - 25/4/26

Logan Thomas Wylie

Hurstbourne Priors - 25/4/26

• Thanksgiving for birth of a child

Marley Jude Corr

St Mary Bourne - 19/4/26

• Weddings

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

Iona Clare Dryden and Alexander Stuart

Donald Walker

Longparish - 18/4/26

• Funerals

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

Daphne Grace

St Mary Bourne - 2/4/26

Avril Williams

St Mary Bourne - 8/4/26

Jo Griffith

St Mary Bourne - 10/4/26 (burial of ashes)

LET US PRAY - If you would like us to pray for

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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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FULL STEAM AHEAD...

Spring has arrived and some of our readers were lucky enough to capture a steam locomotive crossing the Hurstbourne Viaduct in April.

The locomotive was **34028 Eddystone (SR 21C128)** and it has a long and chequered history.

Originally constructed in 1946 and then went straight into service from Ramsgate where it took up regular duties on the Kent Coast services to Victoria and Cannon Street.



Its career appeared to end in 1964 when it was sent to Woodham’s scrapyards at Barry where it awaited its fate for the next 22 years. It was eventually purchased by the Southern Pacific Rescue group and in April 1986 it was moved to a base at Sellindge near Ashford where there followed several restoration projects over many years.



It returned to main line operating in September 2025 and today it is owned and operated by Southern Locomotives Ltd, home base Swanage Railway.

COCKER SPANIEL WANDERINGS...

Hurstbourne Priors to Longparish. The next instalment of my increasingly questionable navigation skills brings us to **Longparish**, a place I have conclusively determined is, in fact, quite long. The clue, as they say, is in the name.

There are several routes around this gloriously scenic Hampshire village, but today I’m taking you on my personal favourite: a loop that offers mud, wildlife, mild peril, and at least two opportunities to “accidentally” end up at a pub.

We begin in **Hurstbourne Priors**, where I abandon the car at the first bend as you enter the parish that keeps on going. From there, it’s over a charming little footbridge

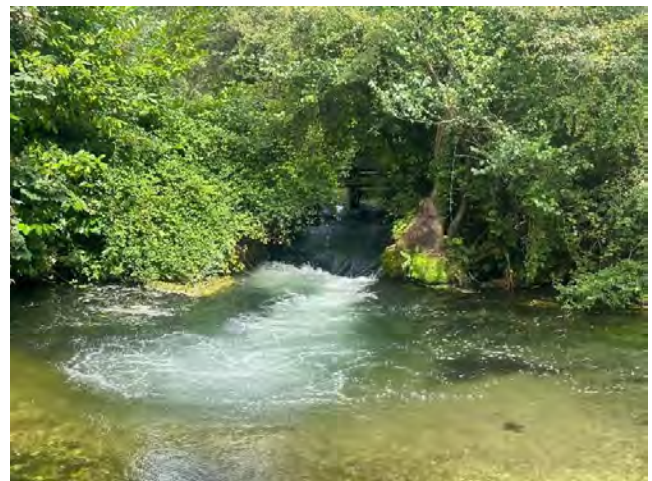
spanning one of the many stretches of the River Test and straight into a water meadow.



Now, “water meadow” sounds idyllic, and it is, but in winter it doubles as nature’s answer to a mud wrestling arena. Even in summer it can cling stubbornly to its soggy identity. In fact, during that memorable summer of 2024, memorable for all the wrong reasons, it didn’t dry out at all. Bring appropriate footwear, or a sense of humour.

Once you’ve squelched your way through, the reward is immediate. You’ll find yourself walking alongside crystal-clear water, serenaded by chiffchaffs, nuthatches, and, if you’re lucky, the high-pitched flash of a kingfisher streaking past like a tiny, feathered firework.

Next comes another bridge, and what a show-off it is. Views to the left, views to the right, it’s the sort of spot that makes you pause, pretend you’re contemplating life, and actually, just take photos...



A right turn then leads you along a quiet lane towards the mill. You might encounter a car, so if you’ve brought a dog, a lead is wise. If you haven’t brought a dog, feel free to look responsibly cautious anyway.

Soon enough, you’ll reach yet another bridge and an inviting pool fed by a small waterfall. On one memorable occasion I witnessed a young man swimming there. As he



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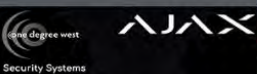
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emerged, glistening like some sort of chiselled river deity, I found myself deeply grateful to be a middle-aged man rather than a Victorian lady, as I may well have fainted clean into the Test.

Composure regained, it's over another bridge with views across to the mill house, then onward along a path that hugs the river before it cheekily disappears into the private grounds of Longparish House. We respect boundaries here, even if the river doesn't.



The landscape opens up beautifully at this point, wide plains, ancient trees, the occasional cow giving you a look that suggests you're the one trespassing. Eventually, you'll arrive at, you guessed it, another footbridge, offering more postcard-worthy views upstream and down.

Cross over and you're back into farmland and more magnificent old trees. At this stage, decisions must be made. You can turn right towards a village shop and The Cricketers pub, or you can press on heroically towards The Plough. Not that I'm obsessed with pubs. This is purely coincidental route planning.



For the return leg, you can follow country lanes and cut through the grounds of Longparish House. Some stretches are a touch dodgy traffic-wise, but nothing too dramatic, just enough to keep your reflexes sharp.



There are also optional detours past fishery lakes, though these tend to involve road walking and, frankly, are slightly beyond my ability to explain without interpretive dance. Consider them a bonus level for the adventurous.

All told, the various walks around this parish that refuses to be short are utterly fantastic. Beautiful scenery, abundant wildlife, and, entirely by chance, two excellent pubs along the way.

What more could you possibly want? Not that I'm obsessed with pubs...

Bob Lethaby



PS: When I'm out with the dog, I occasionally get stopped by people thinking about getting a pet asking what it's like to have a Cocker Spaniel. Are they good pets?

Short answer: Yes. Long answer: also Yes, but you will never sit down again! People are drawn to them because they are warm spirited, friendly little things. What they might not realise is that they are powered by something science has yet to identify and they may only slow down when they cross the rainbow bridge...

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Our Village Clean Up - Many thanks to all the lovely villagers who turned out on Saturday 21st March in gorgeous Spring sunshine to litter pick in the village, dust & clean the church, cut back the hedge on the Recreation Ground and spring clean the Pavilion.



It was lovely to see many of you, and your children, in action and to know that you care what our village looks like. This year 9 bags of litter were picked up throughout the village, the beverage of choice for the local litter bug is Coke - a change from 2025's Monster (and other caffeine drinks). Though the person who used to lob empty

bottles of Coke with several cigarette ends in seems to have either moved or changed their lifestyle! Crisps were the snack option but it was pleasing to see much less fast food packaging in our hedgerows.



Special thanks must go to the chaps who worked so hard to get the hedge along the edge of the play area back under control, no mean feat given how high and wide it had got. Jim Vyse did a terrific job of burning the hedge offcuts which took him several days. Our thanks to Hurstbourne Park for letting us access the burning site via their field.

*Thank you everyone.
Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council*

Parish Council Meetings

The dates for the remaining Parish Council meetings in 2026 are as follows:

- Thursday 4th June*
- Thursday 30th July
- Thursday 24th September
- Thursday 26th November

**Note that due to events beyond our control our May meeting date has been moved to the 4th June.*

Any resident of the Parish can attend and there is no need to alert the Council if you are coming. However, if there is a matter which you might feel the members might want to look into before you attend, please do let me know: 01264 772460 or email: richard.waterman150@btinternet.com.

LADIES COFFEE MORNING

Our **May Coffee Morning** is being held by Fiona Obert on Thursday, 21st from 10.15am at Bourne Cottage (no55/56). All ages are welcome, hope to see you there!

For more information or offers to host a coffee morning, please contact Susie Sorby
Tel 01256 892665



ANDOVER FOODBANK

Andover Foodbank is committed to addressing hunger in Andover and its surrounding areas by offering emergency food supplies and practical assistance to individuals facing financial hardship.

They accept donations of both food items and monetary contributions. A general shopping list for welcome donations would include Tinned Fish/Meat, Tinned Fruit/Veg, Tinned/Instant Potatoes, Pasta Sauce, Rice (500g or sachets) Pot Noodles, Long Life Milk, Tinned Rice Pudding/Custard, Washing Up Liquid and Shampoo.

For the most up to date requirements and news please check their social media pages – Facebook or Instagram – or look on our website www.andoverfoodbank.org.uk

All donations can be made at our office/warehouse in Alexandra Road, Andover SP10 3AD and our opening hours are Monday to Friday 09.30 at 12.30. Alternatively, there are collection boxes at The Boundary in St Mary Bourne or at all the larger local supermarkets.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

The Cowslip (*Primula veris*) is one of the UK's most cherished spring flowers. From April to June, its clusters of soft yellow, bell-shaped flowers brighten up meadows, grasslands, and woodland edges.

A single cowslip plant has now appeared in **St Andrew's** churchyard on the north side. It is a native plant from the same family as the primrose. The cowslip has many folk names including 'key of heaven', 'paigles', 'bunch of keys' and 'herb Peter'. The name cowslip actually means 'cow-slop' (i.e. cowpat), in reference to its choice of meadow habitat. The flowers were traditionally picked on May Day for garlands and were also strewn on church paths for weddings.



Cowslips thrive on dry, chalky soil and its bright yellow flowers are an early source of nectar for insects and butterflies. Once widespread across the British countryside, this native perennial has declined due to changing land use, but it remains a much-loved sight in traditional wildflower habitats.

WHITCHURCH SILK MILL - MAY NEWS AND EVENTS



Flower Festival at the Mill: Call for Displays

Building on the success of our Open Gardens events, Whitchurch Silk Mill is delighted to announce its first Flower Festival, running 19–21 June 2026, 10.30am–5pm daily. The Festival will celebrate creativity, nature and our local community, and we invite gardeners, garden groups, makers and creative individuals to take part.

We're looking for floral installations or flower-inspired arrangements for display inside the Mill or in the grounds. These can be fresh, crafted, stitched, recycled, sculpted, anything imaginative and floral. Alongside the displays, there will be demonstrations and family activities throughout the weekend. To get involved, please contact Jess or Sue at info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk.

Rotations Charity Shop – Volunteers Needed

Whitchurch Silk Mill will be resident at Rotations Charity Shop from 21 May to 4 June. We'd be very grateful for volunteers to cover morning (9.30 am–1 pm) or afternoon (1–4.30 pm) shifts, and we hope to open on Sundays as well. If you can spare a few hours, every shift makes a real difference. Please note that donations should be taken directly to Rotations during opening hours, as the Mill has limited storage.

Heritage Craft Workshops

Discover the joy of learning a heritage skill with our hands-on craft workshops, led by talented makers and ideal for beginners or as a memorable gift.

Weave a Wall Hanging – 13 May, 10am–1pm or 2–5pm

Learn weaving techniques on Louet table-top looms and create your own wall hanging to take home. Suitable for beginners. £60.



Paper Pots and Paper Flowers – 28 May, 10.30am–12.30pm

A half-term family workshop inspired by the Flower Festival, using simple, sustainable materials. Children aged 5+ welcome (with adult help). £7.50 per person.



Special Events

Whitchurch Folk Festival – 9 May, 10.30am–5pm

The Mill joins this lively town-wide celebration with folk music, workshops, crafts and family-friendly activities.

Tickets for the Folk Festival can be purchased at the Folk Festival Website – Google: Whitchurch Folk Festival.



Silk Production Tour – 23 May, 11am–12 noon

An exclusive guided tour with our weaving team, exploring silk production in a Victorian setting. Booking essential. £25.

May Issue photographs courtesy of Bob Lethaby, Angus Grant, Clare Read & Whitchurch Silk Mill.

See you at the May Fair!





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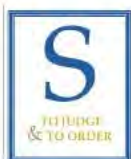
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Coffee at The George Inn

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The George Inn St Mary Bourne on **Tuesday 12th May 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 20th May** 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.



PLANT SWOP

Saturday 30th May
 10am - 12pm

Next to The Boundary, SMB



Art Exhibition in the Church

Over the Bourne-Fest weekend. Everyone is invited to enter something, so have a go... paint, draw, create, decorate a page.

The theme is 'Somewhere in the Parish'. This includes Stoke, Binley, Egbury, Wadwick, the Wykes, Dunley and SMB.

Entries need to be with us by 4pm on Friday 12th June. Contact Dodie on 01264 738211.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of **Peter Teare** will be held in **St. Peter's Church** on **Saturday 6th June** at **12 noon**.

All who knew Peter are welcome to attend.



Weight: A Message from Your GP

When I sat across from my own consultant five years ago, he asked me a question I'll never forget: "Emily, why are you fat?" It was blunt, but it forced me to look at the "why" behind my weight. Since then, I've lost five stone through bariatric surgery, so I know exactly how heavy this journey feels—both physically and emotionally. In our clinic, we see obesity as a chronic condition, not a lack of willpower. If "eating less and moving more" hasn't worked, please don't feel ashamed.

There are options. What Can You Access?

- **Free Support:** You can self-refer to Gloji Hampshire for 12 weeks of Slimming World or gym sessions. For the men, MAN V FAT Football is a brilliant way to get active without judgment.

- **New Medications:** You've likely heard of Mounjaro. Currently, the NHS only allows us to prescribe this for patients with a BMI over 40 and four specific health issues. It's a frustrating limit, and if you feel it should be wider, I encourage you to contact your MP.

If you are navigating this privately, remember; prioritize protein, drink 3 litres of water daily, and be aware that these meds can interfere with the pill—switch to patches or a coil to stay safe.

We're in this together. Self-refer today:

hampshire.gloji.org.uk. (For a longer version of this article please see our website and Facebook group)

Dr Emily Donovan Two Rivers Medical Partnership

What's in a name?

Some names of the area

Coldharbour Farm is less than a mile north-east of central St Mary Bourne, off the Egbury Road. (*Coldharbour* = dilapidated building, which might be used as a shelter for wayfarers—apologies to present owners). Nearby are three fields, all named in the 1840 Tithe survey as *Punny Gree*, and another, *Punny Gear*. Playful! Not for the first time, *The New Dictionary of English Field-Names* fail to list them, suggesting that these names are very unusual, possibly unique. Other than having a snappy sound, do they have any meaning? Dialect words, perhaps? 'ampshire was a variant of West Country English. This would point towards *Punny* being a play on 'pound', an enclosure for animals, and *Gree* a form of 'grey', meaning 'morning twilight, early dawn'. *Gear* might also be a measure of time passing, a Middle English and dialect form of 'year'. Or were the names just coined by the farm labourers for a joke? Perhaps a reader with local knowledge can help us move up a GEAR and aGREE on the meaning? *M.C.*

Film Night at Vernham Dean Millennium Hall - SP11 0JY



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I cannot believe as I'm writing this, we are in May... Hopefully warmer weather will be here to stay... Our Shop, Café and Post Office have been the heart of the community.

Our great coffee you know and love, freshly brewed and perfect alongside one of our lovely cakes or a sausage/bacon bap, there is always something delicious waiting on the counter (*Hannah's doughnuts, school cake, the dairy free Viennese whirls, our popular almond slice and other favourites*). Take a moment to sit, relax and soak in our lovely views. If you're lucky enough you may even catch a spot of cricket being played just outside.

We are also delighted to introduce our **new slushy machine**, bringing a refreshing splash of fun for all ages... So, pop in from your walk or treat the kids, it's the perfect way to cool down and enjoy something different.

We also have some lovely bedding plants, flowers adding colour and charm... Inside we are stocked with everyday essentials - from fresh bread, milk, gluten free and a range of groceries making it easy to pick what you need... Also, some beautiful cards & gifts for that special occasion while enjoying friendly chat... Even if you're here for just a quick visit to the post office, we are here to help you.

We would also like to say a big thankyou to Andrew Shegog for putting some stones around the front of the shop; I would like to say I think it looks lovely and tidy.

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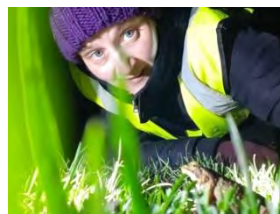
Art with Rebecca

Tuesday 19th May - 7.30pm

Back by popular demand after last November's excellent watercolour painting lesson, local artist **Rebecca Anning** will be leading a further art session at the **Village Centre**. No experience or artistic ability is necessary.

This event is free to the local community, and everyone is welcome. There will be a licensed bar for refreshments.

You can just turn up on the day, but numbers will be limited, so to avoid disappointment please book a place by emailing villagecentre@stmarybourne.org



The Village Toads 2026

This season 16 patrollers valiantly carried on rescuing the occasional amphibian over 20 nights volunteering a final total of 55 hours for a result of 191 toads, 9 frogs and 17 newts, with the

majority arriving on one evening after all that! I am sure the numbers arriving were much higher this year, as the one night was exceptionally wet and warm most of the time, and they would have just kept coming on a quiet road. A Tufton patroller saw plenty still arriving on his predawn run! It looked like a holiday camp in the lake with toads swimming, floating and sitting on the bottom.

Happily, there was no obvious disruption from rats or otters this year, possibly the toads took them by surprise as well. Fewer arrive from the village itself these days, probably due to the many noisy flashing vehicles, though they still manage to fall into the road drains necessitating deployment of our special hooks and net. Oddly we have had virtually none arriving down the path from the churchyard the last two years which used to be one of our busiest routes, I have no idea why.

Do consider joining us next year for a fun time wandering around watching nature in the dark! *CH*



Let It Grow This May

This May, why not give your lawn a little break?

"No Mow May," led by *Plantlife*, encourages us to pause mowing and let wildflowers grow. Even a small patch of longer grass can provide

vital food for bees and other pollinators, with flowers like dandelions and clover offering an early boost after winter.



It doesn't have to be all or nothing—try leaving a corner, a strip, or simply mowing less often. You might be surprised at what appears when you let nature take the lead.

- **Start small** – leave a corner or edge unmown.
- **Create a path** – mow a winding route through longer grass.
- **Spot the change** – count how many flowers or insects you see.
- **Join in with children** – turn it into a mini nature hunt.

At Sustainable Bourne Valley, we love simple actions like this that help wildlife right on our doorstep.



St Peter's Church

There is a **Choral Evensong** on the **28th of June**. If there are any male voices out there who would like to sing in the choir, please contact **Harriet or Nigel** on **01264 738206**.



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The Parish Council held its monthly meeting on Tuesday 14th April. This was the last meeting for the current council at the end of its four-year term. Councillors **David Peart, Glenda Mew and Phil Jeffery** have decided not to stand for re-election.

No new candidates have sought nomination, so while there will be elections for both Borough and County Council seats, there will be **no Parish Council election on May 7th**. The new council will have only 6 members which is **insufficient to run the council effectively** so a request for candidates to consider standing for co-option will be made after the new council takes office in June.

The Annual Parish Assembly, previously planned for May 5th, will now take place **on Friday May 29th**. This is an opportunity for parishioners to meet and hear reports from representatives of organisations within the community. It will be advertised through the usual channels nearer the time.

The Flood and Emergency Group have arranged a Public Meeting open to all parishioners with Southern Water representatives to be held in the **Village Centre on Tuesday 26th May at 6.30pm** (*see right*). Further reminders of this will be circulated nearer the date but it will be a good opportunity to question key staff and hear their plans for trying to better manage the sewer in this valley in the future.

Repainting of the surface of the MUGA has been hampered by unsettled weather but **official opening** and a celebration of the Play Area will take place as planned from 11.30 on **Sunday 26th April**.

**Date of next Parish Council meeting:
Tuesday 12th May at 7.30pm.**

Another fantastic turnout for the **Stoke litter pick and Spring clean**. Thank you to all who gave their time to help keep our community clean and tidy.



Information evening in St Mary Bourne

We're holding an information evening about how we're managing the sewer levels in St Mary Bourne. You can come along and hear more information at **St Mary Bourne Village Centre on 26th May 2026 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm.**

What you can expect

The evening is a chance to hear directly from us and ask questions. We'll explain:

- What work we've been doing in the area this season
- How we're managing the high sewer levels now
- Our long-term plans to improve the sewer network

We'll start with a short presentation at **7.00pm**. After that, you'll also be able to speak to our team, ask questions, and find out what our work means for you and your community.

If you're unable to come, you can get in touch using the details below.

Email: **Joe Oxford**, Customer Engagement Lead, Southern Water, capitalcomms@southernwater.co.uk, 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Phone: Call Southern Water on 0330 3030 368. Just say PRN 870496, so we can help you more quickly.

Online: southernwater.co.uk/contact-us

We look forward to seeing you there!

A special thank you to Lee and Kristen Henderson for once again hosting and for the delicious bacon baps!

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Meanwhile preparations continue for this year's Flower Show on **Saturday 26th July**. We would be very grateful for any volunteers to help set up on the day, run stalls or dismantle the Showground.

Please contact smbflowershowandfete@gmail.com if you can spare a few hours to help. We would also be keen to hear from anyone interested in joining the committee. We meet monthly and are a friendly bunch, so please get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Please remember us when clearing out your wardrobe, spring cleaning or dividing up your plants. The **Vintage Clothing, Bric A Brac, Plate smashing, Book and Plant stalls** are a much-loved part of the Flower Show and would all welcome your donations.

Last year proceeds from these stalls alone raised over **£2,000 - all of which goes to village charities**.

Finally, we would be very keen to hear from anyone interested in taking a stall at the show. Please contact **Mark** on **07968 721998** or **Ashley** on **07859 073873**



St Mary Bourne Primary School

The sun has started to shine and everyone has been working so hard in school. The daffodils, that were planted during Ground Force Day in the Autumn, are now blooming and the Gardening Club are working hard in the school grounds.



We are proud to announce that we have been awarded the **MyHappyMind Bronze Accreditation**. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the award and a special thank you to Mrs Taylor and our wellbeing ambassadors.

Our World Book Day Celebrations were a great success, the children thoroughly enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters and completing a book hunt around school.

We recently raised money for Comic Relief, with children designing their own Red Noses and wearing something red. We then fundraised for Stepping Stones Downs Syndrome where everyone could come into school with different socks.



A fantastic time was also had by all at the Rural School's Cross-Country event. St Mary Bourne came second overall, which was a brilliant achievement, and all the children showed excellence and great enthusiasm.



Job Vacancy: Breakfast Club Supervisor

(Weekdays, Term Time Only)

We are looking for a reliable and friendly **Breakfast Club Supervisor** to join our team on weekday mornings during term time. This role is ideal for a local person who is passionate about supporting children, families, and the community. Please e-mail adminoffice@st-marybourne.hants.sch.uk for more details.

A Recipe for Spring-Wild garlic pesto



With the abundance of wild garlic in various areas of woodland, what better time could there be to make some pesto. If you have a magi mix or equivalent, it takes only a couple of minutes. You can serve it over smashed new potatoes or stir into pasta. **It is delicious!**

70 grams approx. wild garlic leaves (washed and dried) - 100 grams cashew nuts - 1 teaspoon sea salt - approx. 100 ml olive oil - Pulse the nuts until very fine.

Add the wild garlic in stages and salt and some black pepper. Pulse again until the wild garlic is chopped finely and a ball is formed on the blade. It should be a beautiful green colour. Add the oil with machine running until you have a smooth pesto. You might need more oil or less depending on how thick you want it. Taste for seasoning and put into sealed jars.

Keeps in fridge for a couple of weeks. Can be frozen. *HD*

Quiz Night Success

The club's first fundraiser of the year was a resounding success, with over 100 people attending a lively quiz night at the Village Centre. Teams competed for a £200 voucher for The George Inn, with Jamie

King's team, *Chris Hoy's Thunder Thighs*, taking top spot, narrowly ahead of Paul Barry Walsh's *Older but Wiser*.

Thanks to a popular raffle and auction, and a full house we raised just under **£3,000** towards our **new pavilion**. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and contributed.

We are especially grateful to our hardworking volunteers who ran the raffle and auction, led by Elaine White and Sandra Grunsell, and to our quiz master, Paul Gaffney. With five tables in close contention, it was an exciting and competitive evening.

We would also like to thank all those who donated raffle and auction prizes, and our event sponsor, Wild Rose Floral Design, Whitchurch.

Upcoming Events

Saturday 2nd May – The Hampshire Cricket League begins, with our 1st XI away to Whitchurch and our 2nd XI hosting East Anton. Supporters are very welcome.

Club Day – Sunday 24th May

Join us for our annual Club Day, featuring an inter-club match, BBQ and bar. Everyone in the local area is welcome. If you would like to play, please get in touch via Facebook or Instagram, or email Jamie at fixtures@smbcc.co.uk.

For full fixtures and results visit:

<https://stmarybourne.play-cricket.com/Matches>

Home matches are also live streamed In the George Inn.

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Postcard from Binley

My big dog has had an operation and as such is confined to barracks. I have been put in charge and am enforcing the rules. No walks, no visits to the garden unless on a lead, no going upstairs. So a creature with boundless energy and enthusiasm is being looked after by a creature with dwindling supplies of either. What I can do is indulge her in her favourite pastime which is sitting by the gate and watching the world of Binland pass by. So we sit and wait. After what feels like several hours but in reality is just a few minutes you start to tune in to what is happening. Beneath the cackling of rooks above you start to pick up other sounds, a distant woodpecker, the bark of a deer, the soft wave of birdsong that is all around you, pigeons scratching moss from the barn roof. A thrush bashes a snail on the lane in front of us, picking it up and throwing it down and the dog and I sit transfixed as we watch the unfolding murder take place before our eyes. But it is disturbed and flies off. We wait. What could have spooked it? In to view comes the most cautious of cock pheasants, goose-stepping up the centre of the lane. He moves very slowly, each step exaggerated and painfully slow. Spotting us he freezes before performing a perfect pirouette and retreating back from whence he came. They look magnificent this time of year and know it too! And why not, they've survived the season and good luck to them.

Suddenly Ronnie and his mule are chugging down past the Hurdlers carrying with them a ewe and her newborn lambs because right now it is lambing time here in Binley. The downs are gradually filling up with new life, the blossom is on the blackthorn and if you want to see what a quintessential English spring looks like then wander up here. We have it all in spades.

There is usually a bit of a palaver surrounding the annual toad migration down in St Mary Bourne. And rightly so as warning posters are put up, wardens employed and night time volunteers ensure safe passage for the migrating toads to make it back to stream and lake. But what is little recognised is the annual Binley frog migration which is just about to start. This is when frogs from all over the world migrate to Otto's pond in the garden at Hawk Hatch. I say from all over the world, I made that bit up. They probably come from the mud on the bed of the river Bin, but come they do and you find them in the most odd places. The dog's bowl for instance, a watering can, your wellies, the mower's grass box. To think I used to eat the things back in the 70's when they were all the rage until I saw a documentary on how they were farming them in Bangladesh. So if you do find a frog in the road over the next few weeks, do try and give assistance, in memory of all those legless frogs in Bangladesh. Your reward will be in heaven.

The St Mary Bourne History page on Facebook is a great page for anyone interested in the social history of this area. And it was while browsing through the other day I saw Andrew Hughes had posted a lovely picture of dear Freddie Wedge. He was at the edge of a field (probably Trinley) leaning on a stick, his much loved Landrover in the background and his even more loved

Labrador, Lucy by his side. I first met Freddie forty years ago when I was sat outside the Old Pottery in Baptist Hill enjoying a nourishing G&T. A little blue Volvo pulled up and a hairy hand clutching a bunch of asparagus appeared through the window. That was the start of a great and cherished friendship and an introduction to country life here in this valley and in particular the Hurdlers Arms here in Binley. Freddie only drank halves but lots of them and bits of his car hung from every hedgerow between Baptist Hill and Binley. No round ordered at the bar was complete without the immortal words "*and a half for Freddie*", and I recall an occasion when we had been to the Craddock's toga party up here at Binley Down, he must have been in his 70's then and I cycled home at 2.00 am with Freddie sat on the crossbar, both of us p****d and wrapped in our "toga" bed sheets and laughing like drains as we went straight through the hedge at Binley Bottom. Wonderful times.

NA



Free Family History Event

The Andover branch of the Hampshire Genealogical Society (HGS) is holding a free open evening event in May. The aim is to promote family history research and to help people find answers to questions like;

- Who were your ancestors?
- What were their lives like?
- Where did they live?

All are welcome - from beginners to experienced researchers. There is free entry and refreshments & free parking.

The event will be held at the **Picket Piece Community Hall**, Andover, SP11 6LY at 19.30pm on **Thursday 14th May 2026**.

We are able to offer tips on finding records and hidden connections; guidance on using archives and online tools and local resources. *Your ancestors do not have to be from Hampshire!*

It will be a chance to ask questions and share discoveries. We meet every second Thursday in the month but have Zoom presentations in the winter months.

For more information about this event or the society in general, contact us at andover@hgs-online.org.uk or visit our website at www.hgs-familyhistory.com

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Remembering...

Daphne Grace

25th May 1941 - 6th March 2026

Daphne was born on the 25th May 1941 in Tunbridge Wells. Her parents were Dorothy and Mark Stacey, and she had one older sister, Corinne. During her childhood, the family lived in Greenwich, South East London.

After leaving school, Daphne trained to become a court dressmaker. She worked for the couture house Lachasse in London making bespoke gowns and dresses for many famous clients. Daphne always enjoyed dancing. She met Frank Grace at a dance and they married in September 1962 in St Alfege's Church in Greenwich.

Because the waiting list for a council house in London was so long, the couple were offered the choice of moving to one in Milton Keynes or Basingstoke. They chose Basingstoke which became their new home. Their daughter Sarah was born in 1971 and the family moved from Basingstoke to Oakley in 1974. Daphne joined the Girl Guide organisation and ran 2nd Oakley Brownies there until 1984 when they moved to St Mary Bourne, joined by Daphne's mother Dorothy from London.

Daphne then became the new Brown Owl for SMB Brownies, which she thoroughly enjoyed. She also worked as a Special Needs Co-Ordinator at Shepherd Springs School and taught craft classes at Enham for a number of years.



In 1990 Daphne and Brigadier Philip Winchcombe began organising the annual StMB Half Marathon event to raise funds for local charities. Daphne ran the fête side (stalls, catering & entertainments), whilst Philip's team organised the race side. The last Marathon event was held in 1999. During its ten-year existence, the

event raised £100,000 for charities, which included £40,000 towards building the New Village Centre in St Mary Bourne. Daphne and Frank were also founder members of *The Lunch* team which organised and cooked the monthly communal meal in the new main hall.

Daphne loved the village and her generous hospitality was memorable. Frank and Daphne were delighted with the arrival of their grandchildren (Kayleigh in 1992 and Mark in 1997) and the children spent many happy holidays with them. After Frank's death in 2011, Daphne continued to contribute to village life. She did the church flowers for many years and baked hundreds of scones for the village picnic to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday on the Recreation Ground.

Unfortunately during the Covid period in 2020, her health started to deteriorate. Following some long stays in hospital, she required live-in care so Sarah and her family moved back to St Mary Bourne to look after her. Daphne died peacefully at home on 6th March in the village which she loved and where she had contributed so much to the community.

She is remembered with gratitude and is sadly missed by her family and many friends.

R.I.P.

Avril Williams

7th April 1931 – 16th December 2025

Friends and family members from all over the world gathered in St Peter's on 8th April to give thanks for the life of Avril Williams. Avril and her husband Freddie moved to St Mary Bourne in the late 1970s after living abroad and bringing up their four sons Andrew, Tom, George and Jim on army postings for many years. They both enthusiastically settled into Ricket Way, Gangbridge Lane where Avril created a beautiful garden. Both Avril and Freddie loved to walk their various dogs on the hills above St Mary Bourne. After Freddie's death, Avril moved to Winchester where she always provided a warm loving welcome for family, friends and visitors, and she again created a peaceful garden, full of nature and wild life.

Avril is remembered for her love and tenderness, her sensitivity to Nature and beauty, her creativity and spirituality which enabled her to overcome personal difficulties in order to help others, her profound love of Freddie and all her family, her sense of fun, and her beautiful smile.

Her ashes were laid to rest in St Peter's churchyard, reunited with her beloved Freddie. R.I.P.



Bourne Valley Joggers

We started this running group in 2025, initially as a focus for the **Bourne Fest Fun Run**, and we now have a core of runners who go out each week in the St Mary Bourne area. It is a social running group, but we have some serious runners too;

three having completed the Andover half marathon last year, plus the Hurstbourne 5, and one who did an ultra-running challenge in Tanzania. We appeal to all abilities and include some who are very new to running, who like the often-slow pace. On a Sunday morning there is usually banter with a walking group who set off at a similar time, I'm sure we'll tempt one or two of them to join us sometime, to get their heart rate up!

A typical session, most setting off from behind The Boundary shop in St Mary Bourne, will cover about 5km. Up Gangbridge Lane to Stoke is a favourite route and in the Spring/Summer we go off road. Longer runs feature with the group sometimes split according to pace. Some take part in the L2SOTM in Longparish, on the second Sunday of the month, of course. We have just started to support some individuals in their quest to complete the couch to 5km challenge.

We welcome anyone who wants to come out with us. It's very informal with no membership registration, as such, and no fees.

We generally communicate via WhatsApp before each session; these are normally **6.30pm on Tuesdays** and **9.00am on Sundays**, perfect before Sunday Worship, (less so if you like a lie in). Running is good for your health, both physically and mentally.

Please get in touch on **07914 642354** or by email to clive.j.bugeja@hotmail.com

An important date for your diary is **Saturday 13th June** for the **Bourne Fest Fun Run**, starting at 10am.

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What's in a name?

Some names of the area

³
Nuns (Nuns'?) Walk, presumably once used by the nuns of Wherwell Abbey to access their estate at Tufton, takes the traveller up from Southside Farm past Britwell Priors, edging a steep drop down to the river. From here onwards on the east, to the crossroads with the lane down to Paper Mill Farm, is **The Cleeves** and **Cleeves Piece**, fields totalling almost fifty acres, according to the 1840 Tithe survey.

'Land on a slope or bank', says the dictionary of field names entry for *Cleeves*, derived from the Old English *clif*—i.e. cliff—usually 'land with a slope of 45° or steeper'. Certainly, there would be that 'cliff feeling' looking down over the river to your left, were the slope not so wooded. M.C.

John Woodcock Memorial plaque

Fundraising is progressing but there is still some way to go. Over £4,500 has so far been donated. Thank you. The project is being driven by admirers who hope to unveil the plaque in early August, marking his 100th birthday.

That means we must place the order with the head mason at Salisbury Cathedral by the first week in May as carving will take a number of weeks. The target is £8,000 to include a blue plaque on The Old Curacy
If you would like to contribute a sum, large or small, please go to www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/john-woodcock-memorial Cheque or Cash donations also to the Longparish shop.

For convenience the PCC of St. Nicholas Church has agreed to host BACS and Cheque donations: PCC of St Nicholas Longparish, Sort code 40-52-40 A/C No. 00036700 adding ref. JW/F on reverse of a cheque or as a reference for BACS payment.

For more information Brian Sanders 07920 513931.
Henry Yelf 07846 107900. Alix Bremridge 07808 137305

LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

www.longparish.org.uk/parish-council

Council Chair: Peter Hull

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

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday 11th May 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 26/00645/FULLN and 26/00646/LBWN
RIVERSIDE COTTAGE, 10 FORTON LANE

Removal and replacement of existing chimney pot on south side of cottage

Parish Council's comments: No objection

- 26/00662/TREEN KINGFISHER COTTAGE,
FORTON LANE

Yew tree adjacent to and overhanging the drive of the property – crown lift and prune branches to height of 3.5m

Parish Council's comments: No objection

- 26/00680/OUTN HAREWOOD FARM, ANDOVER
DOWN

Erection of 226 dwellings, including 40% affordable housing, public open space, allotments, attenuation areas and landscaping (all matters reserved except for means of access)

Parish Council's comments: No objection however the Parish Council has raised concerns around the water supply.

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

THANK YOU TO CLLR EMMA PALMER

The Parish Council would like to extend its sincerest thanks to Chairman, Emma Palmer who has recently stepped down from the council. Emma has been a tremendous support to the Parish Council offering sound guidance and leadership throughout and often going the extra mile in her role as Chair. She has been the driving force in making sure that Parish Council owned areas in the village are kept in tip-top condition and ensuring that every penny of the council's budget is spent wisely. We thank her for all her time and dedication to support the village and wish her every success on her next adventure.

LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB

TUESDAY, 26TH MAY



Evening Visit to Redenham Park,
Redenham Park, Andover, SP11 9AQ

Any queries please to Rosie Lowry 01264720325 or
Marion Bell 01264720205



Join us for a fun evening of **Bingo** at
The Cricketers Inn.
Thurs, May 7th



Ticket Sales from 7pm, Eyes down at 7:30pm
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FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB

Friday 29th May

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For booking and/or transport call Andrea Harris 720 457
Christian Dryden 720 398

LONGPARISH CRICKET CLUB



Sunday 28 June 2026 is a date for your diary! This is the date for the annual John Woodcock Cup cricket match between Longparish Village and Longparish CC. Last year's winners, the Village team, will be keen to keep the

trophy for another year so come along and join in the game or support your team. A variety of food and drink will be available to purchase from various stalls including a BBQ and Pimm's tent. The Cup match starts at lunchtime but there will also be Junior games in the morning to watch showcasing LCC's up and coming talent. All monies raised will go to LCC funds.



The LCC ground is a hive of activity during the summer months. Junior training takes place on Monday and Wednesday evenings with junior matches played on Friday evenings (U15) and Sunday mornings (U9, U11 and U13). Adult matches are played on Tuesday evenings (T20), Saturday afternoon (League) and Sunday afternoon (Friendly). Do come along to watch and support your thriving local cricket club. We have both playing and non-playing memberships available for those who are interested. Please contact via the LCC website for more information

- <https://longparishcc.secure-club.com/default.aspx>



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

Conditions were excellent for the April race. Twelve runners broke their handicaps and six recorded their best ever times for the route. Well done María-Belén Rivas, Susanna and Liz Benedetto, Jeremy Barber, Hamish Martin and Tom Rogers.

We welcomed our webmaster, David Gould, for his first run in over three years. David is recovering from injury and his target is the Clarendon Marathon in October. We wish him luck.

María was Most Improved Woman, Jeremy was Most Improved Man and Megan Brunwin was our Rising Star.



Afterwards we enjoyed a warm welcome, bacon rolls and coffee at The Plough.

Thank you very much to Maggie Barber and Millie Martin for marshalling, to Maggie, Mark Curtis and Alice Evans for doing the signs and to David Gould for processing the results.

The next race is on Sunday 10 May, 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



LITTER FREE LONGPARISH for 2026!!

In April, there was a big clean-up of the layby at the top of Southside Road just on the slip road. 5 bags full were picked!

Thank you so much to those volunteers, it has made the entrance to Longparish much prettier. No Second Friday Litter Pick this month as there will be a Village Spring Tidy on Saturday **16th May, 9.30 – 12.30pm** followed by lunch at The Cricketers.

Everyone welcome.

Contact: joanne.lca@longparish.org.uk

Longparish C of E Primary School



Looking back over our April at Longparish, we had a wonderful Easter Service at our Church. It was great to see it filled with parents and people from our community. The children shared their reflections on

the Easter Story and thank you to Reverend Russ who recreated the story in a fun way.

The children could recall the events confidently and we even had a rap from Chaffinch class, before ending on our favourite song, 'Spring Chicken!'



We have been enjoying our beautiful grounds, where children are being creative when creating dens, pretend shops and constructing many things. It has been

great to see children respecting our environment and understanding the importance of our world. The children, staff and community have been eager to help plant trees, bushes, bulbs and seeds to provide produce for the entire school.



We look forward to the warmer weather so this can all continue to grow and share with the community too!



Sarah Jordan
Headteacher



You may remember just recently we have been fundraising to repair our church windows. I am pleased to say that work begins very shortly and

we will keep you all updated on the work.

Unfortunately, the church clock has decided after many years to start having a fault. The clock which has been in place since 1859 has had to have a temporary fix on its chiming system. This was brought to our attention by our neighbours who noticed that, instead of the clock chiming three times for three o'clock, it in fact chimed forty-eight times!

Thankfully, the company that services our clock managed to put in a temporary fix to keep it working properly. So this looks like the next repair project. If you're interested in clocks, it was made in 1859 by John Moore & Sons of Clerkenwell. The clock was brought down on the newly opened railway line and came to Longparish on a dogcart. The clock was installed in the tower by an Andover clockmaker; it bears the plate on the front of the clock. Originally, the clock used to be wound up twice a week by somebody quite strong, fortunately since 2010 it has an automatic self-winding mechanism. The clock is a lovely piece of Victorian machinery and has served many generations of Longparish families.

Peter Hull

Spring Tidy

Meet at the Playground
Saturday 16th May
9.30am - 12.30pm

Join the team of volunteers for litter-picking, weeding, cutting back, leaf gathering and general cleaning and tidying etc
Some equipment provided inc Hi-Vis jackets.
Wear wellies for the stream.
Everyone welcome!

Keeping Longparish looking beautiful
then to "The Cricketers" for a drink & light lunch

Just let me know if you plan to come along
RSVP : joanne.lca@longparish.org.uk or FB PM me.

Longparish Little School



At Longparish Little School, spring has brought with it a wonderful sense of curiosity, discovery, and connection to the world around us. A key part of our curriculum is our

“Window to our World,” where children are encouraged to explore nature and learn about the special celebrations and traditions that are meaningful to our families and community.

Over the past few weeks, the children have immersed themselves in a variety of cultural celebrations. We marked Chinese New Year with a delicious cooking activity, preparing vegetable noodles which everyone enjoyed tasting together. The celebrations continued with a lively dragon dance in the school hall, followed by the children creating their own imaginative version using the parachute. For St David’s Day, we turned our attention to Welsh traditions, baking and sharing homemade Welsh cakes—an activity that was as rewarding as it was tasty.

Spring has also been a perfect time to explore the wonders of life cycles. One of the highlights has been watching chick eggs hatch right before our eyes. The children have taken great care in looking after our ten fluffy chicks, showing real



responsibility and enthusiasm. Alongside this, we have been eagerly observing some frogspawn we collected, waiting in anticipation to see how it develops in the coming weeks.

Our connection to the wider community has also been strengthened through special visits. A local PCSO joined us to talk about their role in keeping our community safe, sparking lots of thoughtful questions and interest from the children. We also visited our local church to hear the Easter story. The children were fully engaged throughout and took part in a range of hands-on activities that helped bring the story to life in a meaningful and memorable way.

Back at Little School, nature continues to inspire us daily. We were delighted to discover a pair of birds nesting in our camera bird box. The children have loved watching them gather materials and carefully

build their nest, and we are all excited to see what might happen next. We have also been busy observing the many birds visiting our garden and those spotted along the nearby river, encouraging a growing appreciation of local wildlife.

These shared experiences not only enrich the children’s learning but also help them develop a deeper understanding of the world around them. If you have a child who would like to join Little School, we are currently accepting applications for September 2026. To arrange a viewing, please call 01264 720455.

St Nicholas Church

100 Club

Heritage Fund



Results of the March 2026 Draw

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%.

March Results:

First prize:	No. 35	£85.00
Second prize:	No. 18	£51.00
Third Prize:	No. 13	£17.00

Our membership now stands at 68 numbers. The objective is to reach a membership of 100, so if you are not a member, please consider joining and supporting your church in this way. You can join at any time during the year. 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 feel free to contact me:

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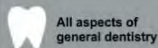


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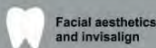
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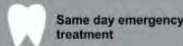
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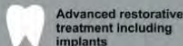
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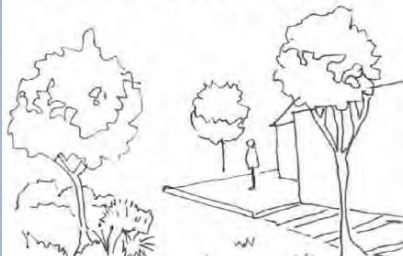


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LONGPARISH WILDLIFE

The big garden bird count results are out

1 House Sparrow	1,275,378	-2,411
2 Blue Tit	1,114,620	-167,922
3 Starling	796,002	-11,260
4 Woodpigeon	787,190	+72,590
5 Blackbird	598,783	-133,689
6 Great Tit	562,690	+78,048
7 Robin	534,032	-15,720
8 Goldfinch	492,721	-26,955
9 Magpie	469,419	-19,785
10 Long-Tailed Tit	424,715	-45,430

The first column is the total birds of each species seen and the second one is the difference from those seen last year. As you can see most have gone down except two, this trend has been going down for many years.



The RSPB has issued new guide lines for feeding birds during the summer.

Do not feed seeds or peanuts, do not use bird tables anymore and bird baths should be emptied and cleaned every day. This is to try and reduce the number of birds dying from Trichomoniasis which I have told you all about before it's also been on my Facebook page Longparish Wildlife.

Well, the summer migrants have started to arrive Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler are 2 weeks early. A Cuckoo was heard in the New Forest the last week in February. Many birds are nesting early - a young Robin in the middle of March, Blackbird carrying worms mid-March, Swans are sitting very early as well.

Chris Bowman

The decline of wildlife is no longer surprising, but that doesn't make it inevitable. Small, practical actions, especially in our own gardens, can help slow the loss and rebuild local ecosystems.

Encouraging biodiversity at home is one of the most effective steps you can take. Whether you have a couple of pots on a balcony or a large garden, every space can provide food and shelter. The key is to think less about neatness and more about life: a mix of native plants, varied structure, and a willingness to let nature take the lead.



May is a particularly important month. As spring reaches its peak, wildflowers and flowering plants become essential sources of nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Supporting these insects has a direct impact on birds and other wildlife further up the food chain.

One simple way to help is by taking part in **No Mow May**. By leaving your lawn uncut, even temporarily, you allow grasses, clover, and small flowering plants to bloom, creating a rich feeding ground for pollinators.

In smaller spaces, you can create miniature "oases" by planting native, nectar-rich flowers in containers or borders. Even a single pot can make a difference if it provides the right resources at the right time. Water is just as important as food. A shallow dish with stones, or a small pond, gives birds and insects a safe place to drink and cool down.

Providing shelter is another often overlooked step. Leaving a corner of your garden a little untidy, adding a log pile, or installing a simple bug hotel can offer refuge for insects, which in turn support birds and other animals. These small habitats act as stepping stones, linking together green spaces across neighbourhoods.

Individually, these actions may seem modest. Together, they form a network of habitats that wildlife can depend on. By making a few thoughtful changes, your garden, no matter its size, can become part of the solution.

Angie Curtis



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MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC

SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday 6 June 2026 7.30pm All Hallows Church,
Whitchurch**

Featuring locally-based musicians

- World-renowned classical guitarist Vincent Lindsey-Clark
- Revd Nicky Smallwood's flute ensemble
- Jazz duo Lynda and Martin Frith
- Longparish Choir performing an exciting programme of choral classics including Zadok the Priest

Tickets available on the door or via Eventbrite. £15, £10 for concessions.

Proceeds from the concert will support Nicky's Himalayan trek to raise £8,000 for the children's hospice Naomi House and Jack's Place. Nicky says:

'I am taking part in the Himalayan Adventure to raise money for Naomi House and Jack's Place hospices, where I've been the hospice chaplain for just over 4 years. Through my role, I continue to meet and come alongside the most wonderful and inspiring children, young adults and families. And it's every one of these awesome people who are motivating me to embrace this challenge and to aim high with my fundraising target.'

For more information go

to: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/nicky-smallwood-1>

The Plough

Longparish • Since 1721

Celebrate the May Bank Holidays at The Plough Inn with a BBQ feast!



**Early May BBQ – Monday 4th May
Spring May BBQ – Monday 25th May**

We're excited to say that we're bringing out our **Big Green Egg BBQ** on the bank holidays! Join us in the beer garden for a global feast packed with bold flavours from across the world, accompanied by live music from local artists

Bring friends and family for an afternoon of mouthwatering food and children's games

No cooking, no washing up, just enjoy

Welcoming everyone – including well-behaved dogs on leads!

**Plough Quiz Night – always great fun!
Next Quiz - Sunday 10th May at 6pm
then every second Sunday of the month**

Get your teams ready and join us for a fun-packed evening. Start time 6pm, teams of up to 6, £2 per person entry fee, all fees go to a charity chosen by the winning team

**NEW Games Night
Sunday 24th May, from 5.30pm–9pm**

Join us for our monthly Games Night!

Gather friends and family for a relaxed, laughter-filled evening of board games, card classics and friendly competition. Snack bowls and sweet treats will be available to buy from the bar. Funds from the sale of snack bowls & sweets will be donated to Naomi House & Jack's Place.

Make it your new monthly tradition

Call us on 01264 720069 or book via the website

www.ploughinn.org | reservations@ploughinn.org

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS

- 4 12 noon to 4pm - Hurstbourne Priors May Fair
- 9 Whitchurch Folk Festival
- 21 from 10.15am - Ladies Coffee Morning - Bourne Cottage (No 55/56)

ST MARY BOURNE & WOODCOTT

- 2 10am to 12 Noon - Repair Café - Village Centre
- 9 7.30pm - Andover Choral - Andover Community Church
- 12 10.30am - Coffee at The George Inn
- 12 7.30pm - Parish Council meeting - Village Centre
- 19 7.30pm - Art with Rebecca - Village Centre
- 20 12.30pm - 'The Lunch' - Village Centre
- 24 Annual Cricket Club Day - Recreation Ground
- 26 7 to 8pm - Southern Water information meeting - Village Centre
- 30 10am to 12 noon - Plant Swop - Next to the Boundary
- Saturday mornings** - 10.30am to 12.30pm - *The Community Library* - Village Centre Club Room

LONGPARISH

- 7 7pm - Bingo - The Cricketers
- 8 10 to 11.45am - LCA Coffee Morning - The Cricketers
- 9 6pm - Family Quiz Night - Village Hall
- 11 7pm - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall
- 16 9.30 to 12.30pm - Village Spring Tidy - Playground
- 26 Longparish Gardening Club - Redenham Park - details inside
- 29 12 noon to 2pm - LCA Friday Lunch Club - Village Hall

STOCKBRIDGE MUSIC

Friday, 22nd May 2026 at 7.30pm

Doors open at 6.45pm

St Peter's Church, Stockbridge



**Andrew Lumsden
Organ Recital**

including music by Bach, Vierne, Walton and Elgar
played on a large three manual electronic organ
Tickets £25 (U18s £5) from stockbridgemusic.uk
or on the door, if still available

Front cover photograph: Anna Thomson

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Longparish Village Hall: Charlie Parris, ☎ 01264 317037, e: vhbooking@longparish.org.uk

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

St Mary Bourne Village Centre: Miss Angela Cook, ☎ 01264 738158, e: villagecentre@stmarybourne.org

Copy date for the **June 2026 edition** of Hill & Valley is **Wednesday 20th May 2026**.

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 and any images in JPEG format if possible.

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