



The Parish Magazine for

£1

# STOCKBRIDGE LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD

July 2023



# The Parishes of Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford in the Mid-Test Benefice

**Rector:** The Rev'd Philip Bowden

**Phone no.** 01264 810810

rector@midtest.org.uk

**Website:** <http://www.2day.ws/stockbridge>

**All Enquiries, including enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:**

Please contact our Rector (see details above)

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<b>Longstock Parish Council</b>	Guy Boney (Lord of the Manor) 810614	or phone 513299
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# From the Clergy

## In the power of the Spirit

Spirituality is a topic that seems to come up more and more in newspaper articles and on TV. We used to live near Glastonbury which draws crowds of people who are interested in engaging with spiritual practices of all kinds. Yet, if the Holy Spirit of God is introduced into conversations on such topics, it may not be readily welcomed. The idea of a power that is available to every human being might seem to be an odd concept. Yet such a power is available to each one of us. It was the power behind everything Jesus did and everything he said - that whoever believed in him would have access to it too.

When we celebrate Pentecost we remember the disciples of Jesus received the Holy Spirit. Up to that point they had been rudderless and scared. Rudderless because they'd lost their leader and scared because they thought the Jewish 'thought police' would be coming for them next. But the coming of the Holy Spirit changed all that. They became emboldened and went out into the street and told everyone who would listen the Good News that Jesus had brought. From then on, they spent time in prayer and seeking the power of the Holy Spirit to enable them to carry on the work that Jesus started - against all kinds of odds - including persecution and imprisonment. The result was that, within fifty years of Jesus' death, the Christian message had been preached throughout the Roman Empire - and within 300 years the Roman Empire had adopted Christianity!

Some see the church as outdated and irrelevant. This is reflected in falling church attendance and the difficulty that churches have to find sufficient people to hold offices. But it doesn't have to be this way. God doesn't want any church to fail and he will send his Spirit to help anyone who earnestly prays to him and is open to aligning what they are doing with his will. Up and down our land there are churches which are bursting at the seams. Their worship is vibrant because they make the Holy Spirit central to all they are doing. Also, their people give sacrificially and so their finances are strong. They cannot be dismissed as 'Happy Clappy' because many of them belong to the mainstream denominations. But their common denominator is that they believe in the power of prayer and the Holy Spirit - and the result is there for all to see. Jesus' disciples were ordinary guys like us and, left to doing things in their own strength, they would probably have ended up going back to their day job, feeling very disillusioned. Yet with the Power of the Holy Spirit behind everything they did, they achieved the great things that are recorded in the Acts of the Apostles.

**The Rev'd John Rennie**

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*Cover Photo: The Generous Gardener NGS Anniversary Rose - Trout Cottage (photo: Paul Kidd)*

*International Day of Friendship on 30<sup>th</sup> July is just one day of recognition.  
Our footers reflect on the constancy of friendship.*

## From the Editorial Team

*'Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.'*

*This quotation from Marcel Proust's 'Les Plaisirs et les Jours', his first collection of prose poems and short stories, neatly brings together the two themes which run through this month's magazine - friendship and gardening.*

*The International Day of Friendship on 30 July has prompted us to consider the importance of friends in our lives - how friends bring us joy by sharing our happiest moments and support us when we are low. Our footers feature a number of quotations and we have included some examples of unexpected friendships through the magazine.*

*Proust likens friends to those who carefully encourage their gardens to thrive, bringing out the very best in them. June and July are certainly the months for enjoying our gardens and open spaces. We look forward to spending long evenings outside, and this year it has certainly been possible! We enjoy our own outdoor spaces and sharing them with friends, and visiting and exploring other people's gardens. And fortunately many visitors enjoy coming to our villages and our Open Garden events provide exactly the ambience for friends to meet up, explore a little and in doing so make a generous contribution to the various charities we support, as reported in this issue.*

*We look forward to meeting you out and about!*

*Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor*



## Houghton WI Garden Meeting at Hilliers Arboretum 17 July 2023

Meet at 10.30am in the courtyard.

Further information from  
Jane Anderton 01264 810928



## Stockbridge Community Cinema



## Tár Friday 7 July 7.30pm (2hrs 38min)

Lydia Tár (Cate Blanchett) is the groundbreaking conductor of a major German Orchestra, at the height of her career, as she's preparing both a book launch and a much-anticipated live performance of Mahler's 5th Symphony. Over the ensuing weeks her life begins to unravel in a singularly modern way.

## The Fabelmans Wednesday 12 July 4.15pm & 7.30pm (2hrs 31min)

Loosely based on Spielberg's childhood, growing up in Arizona in post-World War II from age 7 to 18, a young man named Sammy Fabelman discovers a shattering family secret and explores how the power of movies help us see the truth about each other and ourselves.

**Tickets £6.00** (£5.50 + £0.50 booking fee)  
available online via our website  
**stockbridgcinema.org.uk** or via the  
Ticketsource telephone booking service  
**0333 666 3366** (additional £1.80 fee per booking)

## Wherwell History Group



**No meeting in July or August**  
Next meeting **September 15:**  
**History of 238 Squadron by Tom England**  
at 8pm Chilbolton Village Hall

Please check our website at  
<https://www.wherwellhistory.com>  
for further details

## Copy for Magazine

Copy date for the August Magazine:  
**15 July 2023**

Please send emails to:

[editorsstockmag@gmail.com](mailto:editorsstockmag@gmail.com)

or phone Frances Candler on 01264 811776

Jennifer Kidd on 811179 or Thea Taylor on 811101

# Music for a Summer's Evening

St Peter's Church, Stockbridge, SO20 6HF  
 Saturday, July 8th 7.30pm  
 Conductor: Jamal Sutton

Including  
 Little Jazz Madrigals, Bob Chilcott  
 Songs and Sonnets from Shakespeare, George Shearing  
 Three Elizabethan Part Songs, Vaughan Williams



Tickets: £16 (Concessions £1 for age 18 and under)  
 Online at [ticketsource.co.uk/southern-voices](http://ticketsource.co.uk/southern-voices) (booking fee applies)  
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See page 12 for further details

## MUSIC ON THE TEST 23



Come and join us at  
**HOUGHTON LODGE**  
 for an afternoon of music with  
**TEST VALLEY BRASS**  
 And  
 Liza Marshall singing, followed by  
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 Marie Ponting Singing  
**3rd September 2023**  
 2pm until 5pm.

**CELEBRATE THE 230TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOUGHTON LODGE**



Merquee available in case of rain- Bring your own chairs, tables, gazebo etc.

Tickets £15 Children under 14 FREE

Tickets available from Chris Lynn- 01264 396511 Christopher.lynn36@gmail.com

Tea and Lunch in a box available- PRICE on APPLICATION.

A wonderful afternoon on the River Test with music from 12.30pm until 5pm, ending with a Test Valley Brass concert. All money raised will be given to LOCAL charities. All charities can get tickets, printed with their logo etc, and, with tickets at £15 per head, they get £10 back for their own charities.. Of course, everybody can come along even if not associated with a charity.

BRING YOUR OWN FOOD, TABLES AND CHAIRS

# Art Show

## Stockbridge Town Hall

24th and 25th July  
 [1030-1730 each day.]

Paintings by Hugh Dumas and other local artists

In aid of Ukraine Refugees



For further details, please see page 11



## Stockbridge Community Market

Every Thursday morning  
 9.30 - 11.45am  
 in Stockbridge Town Hall

Selling the very best local and home-made produce

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## Stockbridge Town Hall Events



### Weekly

Mon am	Pilates with Paula
Mon am	Pilates Unlimited with Clare
Tues am	Michelle Buhl-Nielsen Art Class
Weds am	Yoga with Dionne
Thurs am	Iyengar Yoga with Melissa
Thurs am	Stockbridge Community Market
Thurs am	Su Joy Art Class
Thurs pm	Joga
Fri am	Moo Music

### This Month

Jul 1	Antique Fair
Jul 2-5	Wild Bazaar
Jul 4	Slimming World
Jul 7	Stockbridge Primary School
Jul 7	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Jul 8-9	Hawkmoor Books
Jul 8-9	Antiques and Curios
Jul 8	Wine Utopia
July 10-12	Wild Bazaar
Jul 10-14	Stockbridge Primary School
Jul 11	Stockbridge Drama Society
Jul 12	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Jul 15	South Central Makers
Jul 16	Stockbridge Drama Society
Jul 18	Stockbridge Town Hall
Jul 19	Jules At No.43
Jul 20	Stockbridge Parish Council
Jul 23-25	Art Show
Jul 25	Longstock and Leckford WI
Jul 29-30	Hawkmoor Books
Jul 29-30	Antiques and Curios
Jul 31	SOS

## Longstock Garden Club



The Garden Club is for both experienced and inexperienced gardeners. At each meeting, there is a guest speaker, a chance to socialise with other gardeners over tea or coffee and topical advice from experienced members.

Our next meeting in Longstock Village Hall will be on October 10<sup>th</sup> when Lynda Warren will give a talk entitled:

### A Spoonful of Herbs

[www.longstockgardenclub.com](http://www.longstockgardenclub.com)

Peter Moore 07881573493

## Test Villages u3a

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm  
Chilbolton Village Hall

### 'Tales of a Roving Reporter'

Alan Jones has enjoyed a variety of careers each bringing their own unique experiences and events. A trained nurse, hypnotherapist, BBC journalist and more, they now all provide a wealth of anecdotes to fill his talks with fun, information and discovery. Alan recalls weird, wonderful and downright crazy stories he experienced over his twenty years as a radio reporter.

Anything can happen and go wrong when there is a live microphone!

Test Villages u3a meets on the first Thursday of every month in Chilbolton Village Hall. Doors open at 1.40pm, and the presentation is followed by refreshments.

New members are very welcome, and we look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings.

u3a is a UK-wide network of groups that provides the opportunity to socialise and learn for fun. Find out more at [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk) or see the latest on our Test Villages group at [u3asites.org.uk/test-villages](http://u3asites.org.uk/test-villages)



## The Royal British Legion Houghton and District Branch

Contact David Williams (Chairman)  
01264 811072

Social evenings are held on the first Thursday of most months in the Grosvenor Hotel



## LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD WI

Meetings are held in Stockbridge Town Hall  
6.45pm for 7pm start

Tuesday 25 July  
Jo at Colour with Confidence

Guests always welcome  
Please contact Sue Hill on 811779 for further details



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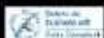
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**Will and Estate Planning Adviser**  
[edward.moodie@secureinheritance.co.uk](mailto:edward.moodie@secureinheritance.co.uk)



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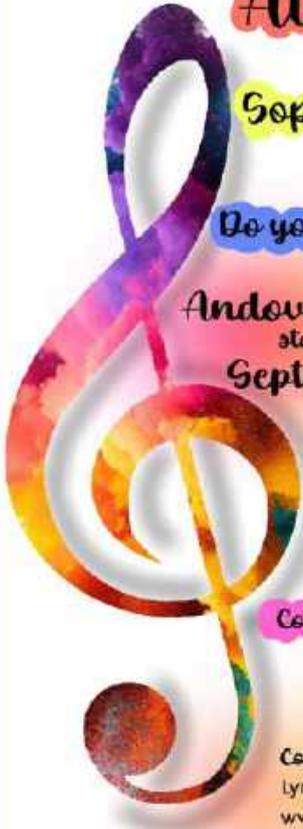
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## Art Exhibition and Sale

**Stockbridge Town Hall**  
**24th and 25th July**  
**(10.30am - 17.30pm both days)**

Hugh Dumas, a local artist, has decided the time has come for local artists to show what they have been creating in 'Lockdown'. He has organised an Exhibition and Sale of the work of Test Valley artists in Stockbridge Town Hall on the 24th and 25th July. He will be showing an interesting and varied collection of art works, painted by himself and the many other artists in the Stockbridge area.



Hampshire has been at the forefront of looking after Ukrainian Refugees who, only a year ago, were living a normal life in Ukraine! In the Stockbridge area in particular, several families have opened their hearts and their homes to look after these wonderful people. Hugh is planning to donate 20% from the net sales to assist

Ukrainian refugees as they go forward with their lives in this country.



**Patron: Professor David Owen Norris MA (Oxon) ESA, FRAM, FRCD**

**Saturday 15 July, 7.30pm**  
**St Peters Church, Stockbridge**

**The Bohemia to Broadway Opera Quintet**



**Dream with me...**

Opera quintet *From Bohemia to Broadway* makes a welcome return to Stockbridge. Please join us as these superb young musicians take us on a musical voyage into a world of dreams, nightmares, lullabies and rude awakenings.

Tickets £20 (U18s £5) from [stockbridgemusic.uk](http://stockbridgemusic.uk) or on the door

The Steinway Grand Piano has been made available by  
 The Dorset Musical Instruments Trust

He is most grateful to Alix Baker, Julia Cassels, Caroline Harvey-Bathurst, Christina Meade, Sally Milligan and Lisa Steinke who have, he says "taught him all he knows about painting", and who have kindly painted for, or donated to, this Exhibition.



He would also like to thank other artists and helpers who have given freely of their time; and the many sponsors whose contributions will undoubtedly help to ensure the success of this fund-raising Art exhibition and sale.

For further information please contact Hugh Dumas at:

Tel: 01794 388275

email: [hpedumas@gmail.com](mailto:hpedumas@gmail.com)



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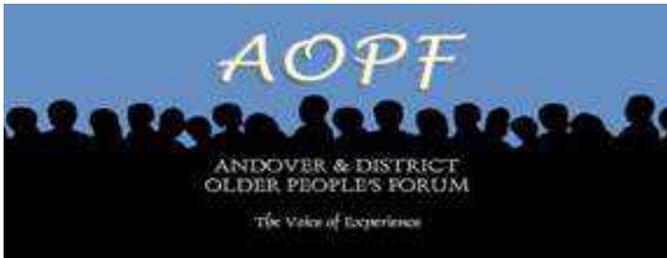
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At the end of April the Andover & District Older People's Forum held their AGM. Open to everyone, there were many new faces as well as old friends and Jenny, our Chairperson, was able to tell us about all the visiting Speakers we had over the year. We also heard how the Forum had been involved in local affairs and the decisions on issues taken on our behalf.

We had made our voices heard on other fronts that affect older people such as Health, Care Provision and Transport and supported the call for a Commissioner for Older People and Ageing.

Our special 'Full of Life' event of the year for 2022 centred on Intergenerational Togetherness and, since then, we have been involved in many initiatives bringing the generations together.

After celebrating the meeting with refreshments which, as it was the AGM, included Jenny's fantastic cakes, and with AGM business concluded, we were joined by Alison Wood of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers in Hampshire. Alison told us all about the Trust and it is amazing the amount they do to support some of the very many Carers in our community.

**Our next meeting** will be at our usual venue - the Baptist Church, Charlton Road, Andover. The date is **Thursday 27 July starting at 2.15pm**. On this occasion we are really looking forward to having Ann Orr join us. Ann's subject is entitled, 'Are you legally prepared?' We will hear all about Wills, Lasting Power of Attorney and other legal matters particularly affecting older people and Ann is happy to answer questions too.

The Agenda is looking exciting so why not come along. There will be refreshments and a Raffle and lots to talk about.

Put the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you.

*Wendy Rayner*

Forum contact: Email [adopfwr@gmail.com](mailto:adopfwr@gmail.com)

### On Friendship

Of all possessions, a friend is the most precious  
*Herodotus*

A friend is the gift you give yourself  
*R L Stevenson*

A man's friendships are the best measure of his worth  
*Charles Darwin*

### Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society

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for

### Dying For It 6979 by Moira Buffini

All are happily welcome (but especially under 30s)

**Reading of the play:** Tuesday 11th July at 7.30pm

**Auditions:** Sunday 16th July at 2.00pm

**Performances:** Wed 22nd to Fri 24th November

All the above take place in Stockbridge Town Hall

If you are interested in auditioning but can't make the above dates, please email [stockbridgeamdrams@gmail.com](mailto:stockbridgeamdrams@gmail.com) or leave a message on 01264 513676 and we'll get back to you.

### Unexpected Friends

#### J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis



They were fellow professors, both interested in writing, science fiction, fantasy and Norse mythology.



Lewis was the first to see Tolkien's sketches and short stories about what would later become Middle-earth and encouraged his friend to continue. Later, Tolkien helped Lewis survive a faith crisis and find inspiration again.

The two first met in 1926 at Merton College but didn't really become friends until the 1930s when they were both in a literary discussion group at Oxford University known as 'The Inklings'. The members held many different religious beliefs; some were atheists, some were Christians, some were more interested in philosophy than religion.

Tolkien was raised Catholic and remained so his whole life. Lewis, on the other hand, had a more complicated relationship with religion. He was raised Irish Protestant, then became agnostic; while in 'The Inklings', he was working his way back toward religion. In 1931, he and Tolkien went on a long walk conversing about myth and God. Tolkien verbalised how ancient stories were able to describe higher truths and, within two weeks, Lewis was a Christian once again.

That conversation didn't just inspire Lewis's return to Christianity, it also inspired him and Tolkien to write 'The Chronicles of Narnia' and 'The Lord of the Rings', respectively. The writers had a falling out while working on the books, but they continued to praise and support each other in public over the years.

## SOUTHERN VOICES

Music for a Summer's Evening

on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30pm

in St Peter's Church, Stockbridge SO20 6HF.



Winchester based, Southern Voices are coming to Stockbridge with a fabulous, light summer concert including madrigals, English folksongs and toe-tapping Jazz ! We have two very special musicians accompanying us : Nick Salwey (Head of Keyboard, Winchester College) and Alastair Hume (founder member of the King's Singers). Our brilliant conductor Jamal Sutton will be in charge.

Please come and join us – tickets are now on sale at [www.southernvoices.co.uk](http://www.southernvoices.co.uk) or on the door.

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[www.walkthetestway.org.uk/register](http://www.walkthetestway.org.uk/register) .  
All the information you need is there.

# Out and About with Ryan Bundy : at Home and Abroad

## Silage Season

One of the most important times of the year for farmers of livestock.



### First cut silage

The cutting of the grass is the first operation carried out in the preparation of silage, ready



for feeding livestock throughout winter. These pictures were taken at Leckford and show a tractor using a front and rear mower



This picture shows Mr Burnfield and his team working to get the all-important first cut silage lifted from the ground and taken to the silage clamp.

## A Grassland Demonstration



This was held by a local company, TH Whites, an agricultural dealership. The demo was being held on David Burnfield's land.'



## In Norway

Jessica and I have just returned from a cruise of the Norwegian fjords, where we saw some spectacular scenery and interesting farming methods.



A splendid sunset as we headed towards Norway.

We awoke to find ourselves in one of Norway's fantastic fjords.



As we make our way down the fjord it's clear to see that the farms in this area are very small in comparison to the UK.

We finally reach the end of the Fjord and dock in Hellesylt where we saw this remarkable waterfall.



We sailed on the 'Iona' and from its decks I was able to make out a tractor and forage harvester working in the distance

So, after a short walk I found this tractor and forage harvester working. Unlike in the UK, once the trailer is full with grass the farmer removes the forage harvester and transports the grass back to his farm before returning to continue cutting the silage.



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## Sunlight and the Eyes

Though we depend on sunlight for many things, ultraviolet light has its dangers. Too much on the skin can cause melanomas. It can also harm the eyes which we should all think about as we age. Ultraviolet light can damage all parts of the eye but the macula is especially at risk. The macula? If you don't know about the macula, I will try to explain:

When you look at, say, a page in a book, your eye is showing you two things – the words you are reading are sharp while the text around, the table under the book, the furniture in the room – all these are recognisable but not sharp. It feels as if the other things are sharp because as soon as your eye moves to look at something else, that becomes sharp. It is a little like a pencil beam torch playing on a scene. This is how our vision works – sharp in the middle and not sharp around but seeming sharp because the image is sharp where you are looking. The part of the eye that gives the sharp image is the macula which is just over 5mm in diameter and has a high concentration of photoreceptor cells.

Now take a book and a teaspoon. Put the spoon where you want to read and look only at the spoon. You can't read the words but you can 'see' the book. This is the kind of change that happens in age-related macular degeneration (AMD) one of the leading causes of blindness in the Western world. It is real blindness if it affects both eyes because you cannot read, drive a car or watch TV. But you can still walk about the house without bumping into furniture or walk down a familiar street.

The busy Macular Clinic in the Eye Outpatients at Southampton Hospital is thronged with mainly elderly people who have macular degeneration, before or after treatment by injections into the eye. With summer here, how do you avoid joining them as you get older?

1. Don't smoke. Have a good mixed diet with plenty of vegetables.
2. More questionably, you may take 'MacuShield' pills. These contain three pigments found in the macula together with copper and zinc. They are widely used but have not been scientifically proven to affect AMD.
3. Have brown eyes – the brown pigment offers some protection against UV light.
4. When in sunlight, wear good-quality sunglasses (e.g. marked UV400). Check that they are safe (not too dark) for driving.
5. Or if you wear glasses, ask the optometrist to use UV protective glass in the lenses. This costs about £30 a lens and also gives you protection against glare in night driving.
6. Wear a hat.

The charity for macular degeneration is in Andover - [macularsociety.org](http://macularsociety.org) 'Beating Macular Disease'.

Hugh Saxton

Hugh alerts us to this debilitating condition but self-diagnosis is never recommended. Early stages of macular degeneration can be symptomless and professional attention is critical.

Disease progression can lead to:

- Wavy or blurred vision
  - Visual distortion
  - Loss of central vision, with dark or blurry spots in the middle of vision
  - Change in the perception of colour
  - Need for brighter light to see
  - Trouble recognising faces
- so regular professional eye examinations are vital.

## Unexpected Friends

### Groucho Marx and T.S. Eliot



One was a poet and Nobel Laureate known for melancholic verse like



'The Waste Land';

the other a cigar-chomping comedian famous for his bawdy humour. Nevertheless, they formed a peculiar friendship during a three-year stint as pen pals when Eliot wrote to Marx asking for a signed fan photograph. Marx obliged, requesting a picture of Eliot. Their unlikely friendship lasted until Eliot's death in 1964.

The two men bonded over their mutual respect and shared love of literature but their letters highlighted contrasting personalities. Eliot was conservative and respectful. Marx, on the other hand, appeared to delight in trying to offend his bashful correspondent, once writing 'I would be interested in reading your views on sex, so don't hesitate. Confide in me, Tom.' The men finally met in person in 1964, Marx would later write that he and Eliot shared three things in common: (1) an affection for good cigars and (2) cats; and (3) a weakness for making puns.'

## Stock-U

Insert the numbers 1-9 in each row and column using each number only once.

5	8				7	4
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Answer on page 25

## I was a Stockbridge Firefighter 50 years ago - Part 2

A few months ago, Geoff Merritt shared his memories of his introduction to the role of of Stockbridge firefighter over 50 years ago. We are delighted to pick up his story once again as he moves from initial training into the role of fully fledged firefighter.



One eye-opener for me was how to climb up a ladder. In training I was taught to always use the rungs (or rounds as they were known) as I climbed and not the sides, because, if I slipped, I would still be holding onto a rung. Had I been holding the sides, I would have fallen. If I was carrying anything, I had to remember 'one hand

for the fire brigade and one hand for you'.

Following two more Sunday training sessions and after a lot of running out of hoses, raising and lowering ladders and climbing up and down them, I was ready for the completion of my training. This was the very last lesson and it involved the 'Carry Down'; I had to carry a fellow fireman over my shoulder from a second storey window, down the ladder; then he was to carry me down on his shoulder . . . and this was done straight after I had eaten a fish and chip dinner!

My ankles were to hurt for several days after this daunting experience because the fireman I carried down was two stone heavier than me. The man that I carried down I was to meet again frequently throughout my firefighting days, as he joined up as a full-timer and became a high-ranking fire officer. The one thing that I did learn was that every fire officer had risen through the ranks; no one came in as an officer.

The 'Carry Down' was practised four times a year with a fellow fireman throughout my years of service, but it was later stopped for Health & Safety reasons when a heavy dummy replaced the person instead.

So began my learning at the fire station. I had to remember where every tool onboard the machine was stowed - and there were a lot of them, from the small Keats tool for cutting car seatbelts without harming the trapped passenger, to the light portable pump which needed two to carry. I also had to know that there were two ladders kept on the roof, a 30 foot / 9.144 metres and a three-part short extension, the sizes of the two different hoses used, the length of the hose reel and the different fire extinguishers and what fires to use them on. I also had to learn several knots and lines.

The machine had to be washed off on the return to station after all drills and 'shouts' and all the hoses that had been used were scrubbed clean and hung from the drill tower to dry. Thankfully, before I left

the canvas hoses were all replaced with plastic-coated ones that dried very soon after washing and could be stowed immediately.

To top off all this, halfway through my service they decided to alter everything from Imperial to Metric so my early learning went out the window and I had to start again.

On October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1971, we were all issued with Personal Alerters ('Bleepers') which could be carried on our belts or in a pocket with the top sticking out. Overnight it was placed in an electric charger by the bed and an amber light was on all the time which was enough to see to get dressed by. Every night I was prepared, with a woolly jumper, a pair of trousers with a pair of socks in the pocket and car keys ready in my slippers. After a quick cheerio to my wife, who had by now run downstairs putting on all the lights and holding the front door open for me, I would dash out to my car (which was always parked facing the fire station).



The only drawback to this new piece of technology was that from that day onward the siren was disabled and the public were now unaware when a fireman was being summoned to the fire station. Before the Alerter was introduced, the public, on hearing the siren, would always think of firemen responding to its loud wail and would even assist the incoming firemen by making sure that any vehicles parked across the entrance to the fire station were moved away in time. The whole town was made aware that there was an emergency but now we were arriving in silence.

There were seven riders to all 'shouts' when I first rode on the fire engine, except for chimney fires, when there were five.

I recall that there was not a lot of room in the back of the appliance, with five fellow firemen with flailing elbows all trying to change into their fire kits.

We were known as 'smoke eaters' in those days; no health and safety rules were in place back then. Hooked roofing ladders were frequently in use for chimney fires as back then we fought the fire from the roof. I remember a house fire in Longstock, crawling on my hands and knees to avoid the room

full of smoke to fetch a very smouldering TV set out of the house. My first turnout by the siren was to a chimney fire at Payne's Road, Over Wallop. I also remember my first call out with the bleeper. It was to a house fire at the married quarters in Middle Wallop. Three children were using matches to light a toy steam engine but they did it far too close to the wooden slats on the side of the building; these suddenly caught fire, spreading straight up to the roof which was well alight on our arrival.

In the early 1970's, the IRA bomb threats were a menace. We were told to proceed to the call and to stand by in case we were needed. We were not allowed to use the two-tone horns or our blue flashing lights.

Malicious false alarms were also a nuisance, sometimes by children from phone boxes.

*Geoff Merritt*

*Next time Geoff tells us about some of the sad, dangerous and often bizarre 'shouts' that he attended during his long service.*

## Test Valley appoints new Mayor

Following Test Valley's Annual Full Council meeting on Wednesday 24 May, Councillor Phil Lashbrook was elected as the new Mayor for Test Valley.



Councillor Lashbrook, who represents the Bellinger ward on Test Valley Borough Council, will be supported by the Mayoress, Councillor Linda

Lashbrook who represents Charlton and the Pentons.

The new Mayor has spent the last year deputising for the outgoing Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Alan Dowden and Councillor Celia Dowden. At the same meeting, at Crosfield Hall in Romsey, Councillor Gordon Bailey was appointed as Deputy Mayor.

The new Mayor said 'I'm delighted and honoured to have been appointed the new Mayor of this great borough. After a year of supporting Councillor Dowden as his deputy, I'm excited to see what the next 12 months brings and what events and activities are in store for me. I would like to thank all of my councillor colleagues for giving me this honour and I'm looking forward to working closely with Councillor Bailey over the coming year. I would also like to thank my wife, Mayoress Linda Lashbrook, for her unwavering support.'

During his civic year, Councillor Lashbrook announced that his Mayoral Appeal will be raising funds for a number of charities and groups including The Countess of Brecknock Hospice, Enham Trust and Romsey District Scouts.

## Unexpected Friends

### Samuel Clemens (a.k.a Mark Twain) and Helen Keller



When they met, Twain was in his late fifties and



Keller was just 14 -the same age as Twain's youngest daughter. In the late 1890's, writer Laurence Hutton arranged a dinner, hosting Keller, still a student at the Wrist-Humason School for the Deaf, to which Mark Twain was invited. Keller described the experience in a letter to her mother afterwards, writing 'The two authors were very gentle and kind ... Mr. Clemens told us many entertaining stories'. Twain felt the same way about her; in 1901, he described Keller as the 'eighth wonder of the world.' Keller had been deaf and blind from infancy.

Despite their age difference, they remained friends for about 15 years, exchanging many letters and always speaking highly of each other. In 1903, Twain sent Keller a letter, praising her autobiography 'The Story of My Life' and signing off with 'Every lovingly your friend [sic], Mark.'



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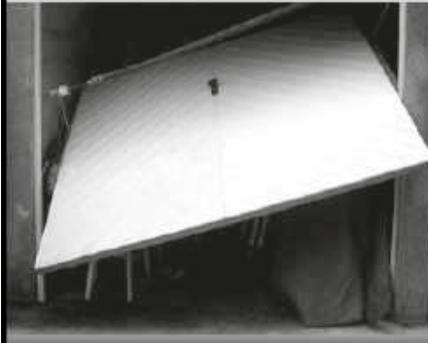
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**Routine GP appointments**

Patients often ring up asking to see a specific GP. Sometimes there are no available appointments for that particular GP.

We are currently trialling a system where we put patients on a waiting list for the next available routine appointment for their preferred GP. The surgery contacts you when an appointment is available.

**Cancelling appointments**

In April 2023, 89 patients did not attend a booked appointment. Appointments can be cancelled via the text reminder message you are sent or on the NHS App. You can also telephone the surgery to let us know. Please help us to offer more appointments by cancelling if you are unable to attend. This is a particular problem with blood test appointments.

**GP Recruitment and Retention**

Wessex Local Medical Committee has put together some interesting information about GP recruitment and retention. The slides are available on the news section of our website along with information on the impact of the current situation on Stockbridge Practice.

**Website**

We have made some changes to our website following feedback from our Patient Participation Group. Please see the 'Do I need to see a GP?' section for information on how you can access help for particular health conditions. There is also a search function on the website which you may find helpful – it's at the top right of the screen.

**Holidays & Medication**

If you are going away on holiday and need to order more of your medication, please make this clear when you request your medication. It is very important that you put in your request a full week before you need it.

**Feedback from patients**

We had 331 responses to our text survey in April. Of these, 76% rated the surgery 'very good' and a further 18% rated the surgery 'good'. Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback. We continue to receive feedback regarding calls not being received or text reminders received after the appointment time. This is due to poor signal in some of our practice area. Please consider coming for a face-to-face appointment if you know your area doesn't have a good signal.

*Ann Spooner  
Practice Manager*



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**Unexpected Friends**

**Ella Fitzgerald and Marilyn Monroe**




Perhaps it's not so unlikely that two women who rose to fame in the 1950's would have much in common. What is surprising is that Monroe was a major driving force behind Ella Fitzgerald's fame.

Fitzgerald's career took off after she performed at the Mocambo nightclub in Hollywood but she wouldn't have been there except for Monroe's intervention. The owner of the nightclub didn't want to book Fitzgerald at first due to her skin colour. However, his mind changed when Monroe called him and said that, if Fitzgerald performed, she would attend and sit in the front row. Monroe's promise secured the booking and drew Fitzgerald's talent to the attention of all the press.

Fitzgerald said she owed Monroe a huge debt - after the Mocambo, she 'never had to play a small jazz club again.'

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## NGS Open Gardens

A small sample of the displays on show this year which helped to raise £3,367 for the NGS charities which include Macmillan Cancer Support, Hospice UK and locally

Horatio's Gardens and Maggie's, among many more, and £1,200 for St Peter's Church from the sale of teas.

More gardens opened over the weekend of 24/25 June for St Peter's 'Gardens Open' - there will be an illustrated report next month



NGS 75th Anniversary Rose -  
The Generous Gardener  
Trout Cottage (Sally Milligan)



Climbing Rose (Seagull) at The Old Rectory  
(Robin Colenso and Chrissie Quayle)



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## Resources for Caring for Creation

I had a fascinating week last week, sharing my lunch times with the Churches Count for Nature. They hosted a series of webinars that covered topics as diverse as practical tips to manage your churchyard for nature, showing what is being done for nature on church land across the United Kingdom, to giving you a solid base of information about what's happening in the twin crises the world is facing of climate change and biodiversity reduction (a bit depressing in places but some hope too!). My particular favourite was the Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, sharing his love of nature through the lens of Gilbert White, an 18<sup>th</sup> century cleric who wrote *The Natural History of Selborne* – a book many of you no doubt know.

I wanted to share this link with you so that you could dip into the webinars as well.  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-land-and-nature-churches-count-nature#na>  
 It's quite long to type in so in you could just search in the Church of England website for the webinars!

But what is the Churches Count for Nature? (I hopefully hear some of you ask! It was new to me anyway.) It was a week to record all the range of nature we already host in our church grounds – from yew trees to beetles – to help churches understand the glory of creation they have on their doorstep and to help feed into national information held on biodiversity in the UK. The next event will be in June '24. If anyone's interested in taking part in the count next year, I'd be very happy to hear from you.

*Lisa Traylor (at lisalamberti@hotmail.co.uk)*

## Stockbridge Explorers Jamboree

The Quiz Night in March was the final fundraiser bringing the total to just under £13,000 raised. Thank you to all who have supported the team on this journey. The money has been raised through quiz nights, bingo nights, baby-sitting, gardening, paper deliveries, drinks serving, car boot sales and very kind donations.

The team members are doing their final preparations for the trips - vaccinations, passport checks and finding the most economical way to spend money abroad. They have their final pre-camps experience early in July. Project 23 team deploy to Europe on 22 July and Luca will leave for South Korea and the World Scout Jamboree on 29 July. All are very excited.

Thank you you again for all your support over the last 16 months.

*The Jamboree Fundraising Team*

*We hope the Jamboree Explorers have a memorable adventure and look forward to reporting on their experiences in due course.*

*Editors*

## Maple and Mustard Chicken

My Aunt sent me this recipe a number of years ago when she lived in America. The original recipe is weighed in cups, but I have provided a similar measure if you do not use this method. Tender chicken with a sweet marinade is ready for the BBQ, or just as easily grilled or oven-cooked if the weather suddenly takes a turn for the worse. *Serves 6-8*

### Ingredients

1kg boned and skinned chicken thighs cut into three or four pieces

Approx 125ml or ½ cup pure maple syrup

63ml or ¼ cup olive oil

4 tbsp or ¼ cup Dijon mustard

2 tbsp wholegrain mustard

½ tsp salt

½ tsp ground allspice

Bamboo Skewers

Optional: Large pieces of red and green pepper and pineapple

### Preparation

Whisk together the maple syrup, oil, all mustard, salt and allspice in a bowl. Put approximately 6 tablespoons of the mixture into a sealed jar or container and store in the fridge. (This will be used later as a dressing).

Place the chicken in the main bowl of marinade, ensuring every piece is well covered. Seal the bowl with clingfilm and place in the fridge for at least an hour or up to 24 hours. Remove the chicken from the marinade, discarding the marinade completely.

Soak your skewers in hot water for a few minutes. Slide the chicken pieces onto the skewers along with the pieces of pepper and pineapple if wanted.

### To Cook

**BBQ** - Cook slowly in foil trays to ensure the chicken is evenly cooked, turn regularly.

**Oven-Cooked** -This is also great cooked in the oven for approx. 25 minutes on 200°C fan, turning regularly.

**To Griddle** – Spray the griddle with olive oil and cook the skewers on the griddle, checking they are cooked through and hot.

Serve with a crisp salad, new potatoes and the remaining stored marinade as a dressing.

### Tips

This is an excellent simple marinade for meat and a delicious dressing for vegetables too. It works just as well added to whole thighs with skin, which can be grilled or cooked as above.

*Linda Hotchen*

# Potting Shed Cuttings for July

'Yellow Book' gardens open this month

Terstan, Longstock; Tanglefoot, Crawley; Ashbrook, Hungerford; Little Court, Crawley; Paige Cottage, Crawley; 15, Rothschild Close, Southampton; 8, Birdwood Grove, Fareham.



After a dry and sunny June we are all hoping for rain to help our parched borders and lawns and give our vegetable plots a much-needed boost of rainwater. The RHS tells us that rainwater's lower pH helps us in hard water areas, where minerals in tap water can raise the pH level and affect the supply of soil nutrients. At the time of writing, two areas of southern England already have hosepipe bans in place, with more to follow; so saving tap water and collecting as much rainwater as possible is vital. Sensible watering of only essential plants is a necessity and for me, redesigning my flower borders with resilient plants requiring less water, but tolerating wetter and harsher winters is an ongoing project.

## General Maintenance and Preparation

With holidays booked, make sure plans are in place for friends and relatives to take over essential watering and feeding in your gardens. Don't forget flowers, fruit and vegetables either – someone to pick spare crops while you are away and to cut flowers to ensure they continue flowering will extend the growing season. Greenhouse shading should be up by now; keep them well ventilated and increase humidity by spraying the floor.

## The Flower Garden

Irises will have finished flowering by now; lift and divide congested clumps with a sharp knife; save younger pieces and replant, trimming the leaves to about 10-15cm. Water them in and ensure the rhizomes are exposed to the sun and not buried. Feed late-flowering perennials with a general purpose fertilizer; this will give them a boost before they move into their main flowering period. Cut back earlier-flowering lupins, delphinium and geraniums; they may well produce more flowers later in the year. Oriental poppies, brunnera and pulmonaria won't flower again, but by cutting them back, fresh new leaves will improve the look of the plants in the border. Dead head annuals regularly to maintain continuous flowering and make sure feeding and watering them is high on your agenda.

## The Vegetable Garden

Regular watering should also be a normal feature of your vegetable gardening; this will prevent plants bolting through stress. It is time to harvest potatoes, globe artichokes, shallots and onions, as well as carrots, beetroots and later planted broad beans. Continue sowing for your autumn harvest; peas, lettuces, beetroots and carrots can all be sown when space becomes available. Add fresh compost to the soil before sowing. Brassicas

intended for winter use, sown earlier in the year, can be planted out now. Put collars around the plants to deter cabbage root fly. Take out the tips of outdoor tomato and climbing beans; feed tomatoes with high potash feed to encourage large, succulent fruits.

## The Fruit Garden

Blackcurrants can be harvested by cutting out the fruiting branch and removing the currants indoors. Bushes should be pruned back by about 1/3 each year; this will encourage new shoots. Cut back old fruited canes from summer raspberries and tie in the new shoots. Continue pinning down strawberry runners and pot up runners which have developed a good root system.

## The Lawn

Much will depend on the weather; with little rain, growth will slow down but if you need to cut the lawn, raise the mower blades. Unless you really need to water a newly-laid lawn, avoid watering established lawns as they should recover.

Micki Nadal

## Unexpected Friends

### John F Kennedy and Frank Sinatra



Lots of what we know about the 35th US President's friendship with Ol' Blue Eyes comes courtesy of the



FBI. When the Bureau was investigating Sinatra's connections to the mafia, it discovered that, in 1960, Kennedy spent a weekend in Palm Springs at Sinatra's house and that they had travelled to Las Vegas and New York together.

It is suggested that the Kennedy family and Sinatra were connected to a Chicago mafia boss named Sam Giancana. The story was that Joseph Kennedy asked Giancana to help his son get elected in exchange for Kennedy 'turning a blind eye' to mafia crime once in the White House. Sinatra's daughter, Tina, maintained that her father was nothing more than a middleman between the mafia and the political family.

When the Kennedy administration reneged on the deal and began anti-mafia enforcement, links between Sinatra and JFK broke although, when Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 (some say a mafia revenge killing), Sinatra wept.



# Stockbridge Parish Council News

Stockbridge Parish Council met at the Town Hall in May for the Annual Council meeting. It is at this meeting that by law the Council has to vote for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council. A number of Councillors had indicated their intention to step down at the May election and in the event only 6 stood for election. Cllr Halle was elected as Chair of the Council and Cllr Porter as the Deputy. The Council was also able to co-opt two further Councillors - Derek Smith and Alan Marshall, who were welcomed to the Council. The Council would like to thank the Councillors who choose not to continue – Alex Lawrence, Guy Boney, Iain Bell and James Leslie. Their contributions to the many projects the Council has undertaken in the last four years has been much appreciated, as has been their commitment to the people of Stockbridge. There are still two Councillor places available. If you would like to put yourself forward for Co-Option please let the Clerk know.

## Parking

Stockbridge Parish Council recognises that the recent parking survey undertaken by HCC has not reached every corner of the Parish and many residents were unable to receive or complete it. The Council feels that every resident's views should be taken into consideration in any decision that HCC makes and has written to HCC expressing disquiet about these and a number of other issues concerning the survey. The Council has invited HCC to a meeting in order to work out a constructive way forward.

## Lancaster House Site

Stockbridge Parish Council hopes that the transfer of the Lancaster House site will soon be completed. The Council is considering how best to manage the site in order to protect it for the community for the future. The Council sees the site first and foremost as one for community. The Council may consider setting up a charitable trust in order to help with future grant applications. The Council would like to hear from any volunteers who would like to be involved in clearing, maintaining or just enjoying the site.

## Finance

HCC is consulting on the financial strategy for managing its budget over the next two years. Local Authorities are required by law to deliver a balanced budget which means that they cannot spend more than is available. Since 2008, the County Council has delivered annual financial savings totalling £640 million. However, growing demand for local services, particularly social care

for vulnerable children and adults, rising costs and continued underfunding from the Government mean that Hampshire County Council continues to face a total budget shortfall over the next two years. This shortfall is forecast to reach £132m by April 2025. HCC would like to hear your views on several proposed high-level options that could contribute towards balancing the County Council's revenue budget. Please visit *Hampshire County Council Budget Consultation 2023 | About the Council | Hampshire County Council* ([hants.gov.uk](https://hants.gov.uk)) to give your views. The consultation period is 1st June to 23rd July 2023.

## Fly-tipping

TVBC has successfully prosecuted a man for fly-tipping. He has been ordered to pay nearly £2,000 after failing to help with an investigation into a large fly-tip found in woodlands known as Lords Wood. The fly-tip included a number of plastic bags containing household waste, a mattress, plastic garden plant pots, household furniture, wood, carpet, and other household items.

## Energy Efficiency

TVBC offers lots of advice on how to make your home more energy efficient. Saving energy is not just good for your pocket; it is also good for the environment. Reducing your energy usage reduces carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions which is one of the main gases responsible for global warming so it has never been so important to reduce our energy use. Visit <https://testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/housing/private-sector-housing/energyefficiency/householders> for information on how Test Valley BC can help.

Stockbridge Parish Council will meet next at the Town Hall on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

*Belinda Baker*  
Clerk to Stockbridge Parish Council  
[clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk)

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From page15

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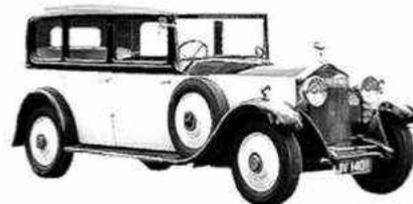
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## Romsey Deanery Overseas Mission Partnership Kasese, South Rwenzori, Uganda - An Update

The Romsey Deanery, of which we are a part, has a linked history of over 50 years with the Diocese of South Rwenzori in Uganda. The link has been one of prayer, friendship and sometimes financial support and has been quite active in many of our benefices and parishes.

Chris Lloyd, from Broughton, has just returned from Uganda and has reported back on life in Kasese. Bishop Nason has now been in post for two years. He has a strong Diocesan team working with him and is striving to improve life for his people.

The local Kagando hospital is on the verge of gaining university status. The old St. Paul's Cathedral has been utilised as a medical centre. Despite this positive news, mortality rates are very high.

In S. Rwenzori Diocese, 55% of the population are under 17 years and 22% are between 18-30. Mortality amongst women during pregnancy and childbirth is very high. Many deaths could be prevented if women received the right medical care through their pregnancies and during birth. Bishop Nason has suggested members of the Mothers Union pair up with pregnant women to 'care' and advise, but a much greater input of education and teaching resources is required to improve this situation for the long term. The Romsey link is working towards sending a team of medics to Kasese District, to teach maternity care.



Musoke Barbara and Mumbere Praise, two of the pupils supported by our donations at Bulembia Primary

As there are so many impoverished families in Kasese District, funding for education is difficult. The link committee supports 113 pupils, and photographed are some of the lucky pupils, some in borrowed uniforms. The cost of a uniform is 85,000 Ugandan shillings (about £18).

Bulembia School was completely washed away when the River Nyamwamba flooded two years

ago. Luckily, no one was hurt, but they had to move into temporary tents provided by UNICEF.

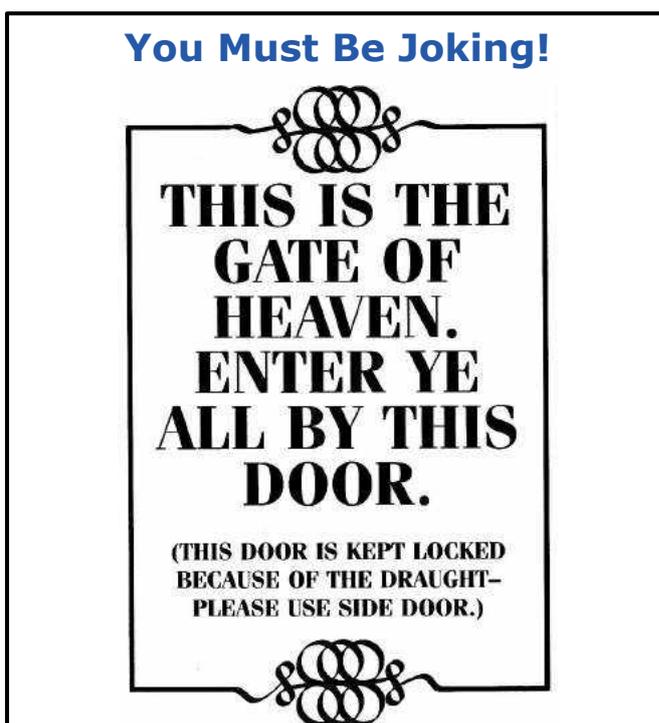
As a result of poor education, Kasese District faces high unemployment amongst young people. The national rate in Uganda is 3.5%, but Kasese stands at 32%.



A recycled tent/classroom at Bulembia

Unemployed adolescents drift into antisocial behavior such as alcoholism, drug abuse, theft and early pregnancies. Bishop Nason has put his mind to these increasing problems and has a vision to tackle them. The link is hoping to help him train 120 vulnerable young people in agricultural skills, basic managerial skills and business knowledge. Vocational skills will also be taught such as cookery, hairdressing and motor mechanics. Watch this space to learn how you could play a part in achieving this vision

*Marilyn James*



# Church News

## St Mary's Longstock



Glorious June has provided almost non-stop sunshine, which makes the church a cool and wonderful space to visit in order to pray and feel refreshed.

The Sunday services have been the usual pattern and with the first Sunday being Trinity and All Age, we had an instructive time thinking about the spirit and how we need this and about a 'Triune' God. The congregation was asked to identify three things they could do to show they were 'disciples'. To be kind was the most popular response, but one ambitious soul thought becoming the Archbishop of Canterbury would be good, whilst another intriguing response was to 'perform backflips!' Please ponder.

Not necessarily church, but in May, Longstock Garden Club organised a wonderful



outing to Yeo Valley Organic Garden – a wonderful place overlooking Blagden Lake, in Somerset.

The pictures speak for themselves. In the afternoon, we travelled to Heale House, in the Woodford Valley. Another picturesque

and delightful garden steeped in history. Truly spectacular gardens and a real example of the beauty of God's creation.

On 23 June at 6.00pm, all the many volunteers at the church were invited to a 'thank you' evening in the church. When added, the total of people to be invited came to 56 – a very large number who help care for the church in many and varied ways. The weather was kind so the gathering also enjoyed the churchyard. A number of those invited were away, so we may even have a repeat in September.

The Pet Service will take place on Sunday 2 July at St Mary – 9.30am in the churchyard. Please come along and bring your pet – dogs, cats, mice, hamsters – whatever you have. A fun service in the fresh air and as a bonus, Philip is able to be with us and he and I will jointly lead the worship – with a little help from the animals!



Another reminder about the 'Tea Party' on 16 July. 3.00pm – 5.30pm courtesy of Josie and John Eastwood. They have kindly agreed to open up their garden for this occasion. There will be an assortment of sandwiches and nibbles, cakes, tea and coffee. We will also have a raffle. A small entrance fee of £5.00 per person (£1.00 for children 14 and under) – all in aid of St Mary's Church. Please make a note of this date in your diary.

Selina Musters and I are still providing 'Soup and Sandwiches' on the last Thursday of the month – if anyone would like to help by making sandwiches or cakes, (ingredients supplied), please contact me (810284). If you would like to come and join us for good food and a chat, the next event is Thursday 27 July. 12.30pm. This is for anyone who would like company, make new friends, catch up on what is going on.

We are still working on 'eco' matters, hoping to raise our award to 'Silver'. Please read the article by Lisa Traylor on page 23 and, for the enquiring, more information can be gained using her links.

Services for July at St Mary, Longstock.

2 July	9.30am	Pet Service
9 July	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
16 July	9.30am	Morning Worship
23 July	No Service	
30 July	10.00am	Benefice Service at St Andrews, Mottisfont.

If you wish to be added to the rector's email list, please contact Philip on 810810 or email [rector@midtest.org.uk](mailto:rector@midtest.org.uk)

Maddie Hedley

## Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Services are held on Sundays at 9.00am

## Church News

### St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



On the first Sunday in June, we celebrated Trinity Sunday when we remember that we were baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Our Rector Phill gave us a simple but comprehensible description of the meaning of Trinity in his sermon.

The National Garden Scheme Open Days fell on Thursday 8th June and Sunday 11th. Four households, Frances and Kim Candler in Shepherds House, Chrissie Quayle with Robin Colenso in the Old Rectory, Sally Milligan in Trout Cottage and Mary Matthews in Little Wick all offered their beautiful gardens for the event, thereby raising a lot of money for various charities. For the many visitors who come to Stockbridge for this event, and for our local population, teas and cakes were served on the Church lawn. A group of volunteers put up tents for the occasion. June had started out with days of cloudless skies and the shade was welcome on the Thursday. There was some apprehension on the Sunday as it was hot and humid with thunderstorms forecast across the region. In the event, the afternoon was fine and the rain started falling just as the volunteers were packing away at 5.30, but the forecasts and the heat may have made some people decide to stay home.

As well as the volunteers putting up tents and arranging tables and chairs outside, Angela McMeekin had organised a valiant team of helpers to prepare and serve tea and a delicious range of cakes to the visitors. Bob and Sylvia Shepherd collected the payments on Thursday, and Mary Coleman on Sunday, taking either cash or cards. The money raised on these occasions all goes into the Church funds which for me, at least, made the devouring of a large slice of lemon cake less of a guilt trip!

The occasion was just one of our summer fund-raising events for the church, and our thanks go to each and every one of the many volunteers who set up the tents and tables, bake the cakes, serve at the tables, make the tea, supervise the cake-serving, and then clear up everything afterwards. The Rector, the PCC and all who work to make our churches financially viable are extremely grateful

for the effort that goes into these annual summer fund-raising events.

Another such event, Open Gardens, was held over the weekend of 24th and 25th June when tickets to the gardens at the east end of the village which were opened by willing residents, as well as more tea and cakes on the church lawn, all contributed to the funds. Although this goes to press before the event, it's sure that the atmosphere will have been enhanced on both days: on Saturday by the Amesbury Brass Band, playing tirelessly as always, in the corner of the lawn, and by the guitarist Paul, playing 60's and 70's music on the Sunday.

This last weekend in June fell just before our Patronal Festival of St Peter (29th June) and a service was held in Old St Peter's on that day. It also coincided with our Parish Gift Day. Residents of Stockbridge will have received a letter from the Rector thanking all those who give so generously to support our two churches and asking for this extra summer gift. As the Church Warden pointed out at the APCM, our financial collections have to cover the annual sum that we pay to the diocese to support the clergy and also the many commitments we have including insurance and maintenance of both the valuable buildings of St Peter's and Old St Peter's. At this time of year, the generosity of so many is always astounding and much appreciated. There are also special thanks for gifts from a number of residents who may not be regular church-goers but who recognise the value of having two such special churches at the heart of the community.

Patrick Melville is now a regular leader of services in St Peter's and his skills at presenting concepts of Christianity in a strong and clear manner are helping to bring many children and young people into our church. The All Age service that he led on June 11th was a joyful and inspiring example and was enjoyed by the whole congregation. He is a great asset to our worship.

Looking ahead: Teas in the Church on July 2nd at 3pm for those who live alone.

*Janet Williams*



### Archdeacons' Visitations

Each year the elected Churchwardens of all parishes are required to attend one of many services provided across the Diocese.



I and other wardens from this Benefice attended Romsey Abbey on Thursday evening, 15 June. The Abbey was full of churchwardens and their supporters. The Abbey was a wonderful venue. The Assistant Archdeacon, Rev'd Gary Philbrick welcomed everyone. The Registrar explained the rôle and help provided by the Registry. The churchwardens are asked to stand and say the oath that they will carry out their duties to the best of their ability and with the help of God.

Hymns were sung, the choir sang a beautiful version of Psalm 23 and the service was a wonderful way of being 'sworn in'. Rev'd Philip was there in support of his wardens.

*Maddie Hedley*

### Lay Ministry

As you may recall, in the Winchester Diocese many of the volunteers at the church attend an event and receive the Bishops Commission for Mission – Pastoral, Lay Worship, Prayer, Care for Creation are but a few of the vocations people follow. On Saturday 10 June, I joined around 100 people attending a Celebration of Lay Ministry. Many areas of mission were present – Lay Licenced Ministers, Bishops Permission to Preach and many Commission for Mission folk. All keen and passionate about their calling. Our scripture for the day was *Ezekiel 47 1-12. The Valley of Desolation* – full of dry bones.

A key speaker was H. Miller from CCX – The Gregory Centre for Church Multiplication. His view was that thriving churches was not just about geography, but about need. Statistics show the need for hope and action – generally speaking, churches are not reaching out to 92% of the population. We are facing a steady decline. However, he then explained the 'Stockdale Paradox'

Stockdale was a prisoner of war in Vietnam for seven-and-a-half years. Stockdale's grim memoirs

contain details which are hard to bear, despite the knowledge that Stockdale's later life was happy.

The question is, How on earth did he survive when he was actually there and did not know the end of the story?

That question was put to Admiral Stockdale, who answered: 'I never lost faith in the end of the story. I never doubted not only that I would get out, but also that I would prevail in the end and turn the experience into the defining event of my life, which, in retrospect, I would not trade.'

He was asked about the personal characteristics of prisoners who did not make it out of the camps. 'The optimists', he replied. 'Oh, they were the ones who said, 'We're going to be out by Christmas.' And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go. Then they'd say, 'We're going to be out by Easter.' And Easter would come, and Easter would go. And then Thanksgiving, and then it would be Christmas again. And they died of a broken heart ... This is a very important lesson. You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end—which you can never afford to lose—with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be.'

This formulation became known as the Stockdale Paradox. Have faith, but confront reality.

We need to be really honest about our situations, but never lose heart or faith, that working with God, we can thrive. Put another way; we must maintain unwavering faith that we can and will prevail in the end, regardless of the difficulties, and at the same time, have the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of our current reality, whatever they might be.

Group discussions led us to the belief that we needed to be intentional about our activities. To pray, to be radically generous and to recruit many local leaders.

It was a good and positive day – seeing so many lay ministries, all keen and eager. We were left with the view that God knows the resources out there, but we are not good enough to do stuff on our own. He chooses to use us and invites us to respond. Isaiah put it this way: 'I will go Lord, if you lead me'

Ezekiel was able to restore the dry bones and he breathed on them and they had life. We need the faith to know that we can thrive, especially if we are honest about the obstacles we may have to overcome.

*Maddie Hedley*

# Church News



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Woven through the pages of the New Testament are constant exhortations to generosity. Rooted in the character of Jesus, the one who gave up everything for us, generosity is encouraged as a Christian virtue - as we seek to live out the double command to 'love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind', and 'to love your neighbour as yourself'.

We often find our hearts deeply moved by other people's acts of generosity, whether it is the gift of time, attention, thoughtfulness, hospitality, or indeed a material or financial gift. During the pandemic, there was an unprecedented offering of voluntary time, whether to help at vaccination centres or delivering food and medicine to neighbours. I'm also very grateful that, in our own churches in this diocese, so many found their needs met, often as the result of increased giving from church members. At a time of economic hardship, this is counter-intuitive and hugely encouraging.

Last month, our Generous June campaign provided two sermons and five reflections on generosity. The Rev'd Marianne Foster, Curate at St Luke's with St Mark's, and I each recorded a sermon for use in public acts of worship or as part of private devotions. In engaging with these, can I encourage you to respond to all that God places on your heart!

I am encouraged every day by the stories of new life in our churches, new areas of service, new people exploring ordination, and many people discovering gifts they can use generously in the Church and the community.

Every blessing,  
Yours in Christ

*Bishop David*

## The Column for June

### Baptisms

25 June at 2.00pm. Betsy Louise Joan Warren was baptised at St Mary's Church, Longstock

### Weddings

There were no weddings in June

### Funerals

RIP. Ann Watt late of Leckford died on 2 June 2023 on her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The funeral service will take place on 4 July at 11.00am at Andover Charlton Cemetery.

## July Services for Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford

### 2nd July Trinity 4

08.00 **Leckford** Holy Communion BCP

09.30 **Longstock** All Age Worship Pet Service

11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

### 9th July Trinity 5

08.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

09.30 **Longstock** Parish Eucharist

11.00 **Stockbridge** All Age Service

### 16th July Trinity 6

09.30 **Longstock** Morning Worship

11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

18.00 **Leckford** Evensong

### 19th July (Wednesday)

10.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

### 23rd July Trinity 7

11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship

### 30th July Trinity 8

10.00 **Mottisfont** United Benefice Eucharist

## Prayer for July

We pray for rain Lord, for the gardens and for the farmers;  
Sunshine and warm weather brightens the day,  
but now we do need rain.

Summer a time of celebration – the exams are done and school is out;  
time for families to get together, the beach is popular;  
yet whilst we enjoy times of recreation, help us to remember this is your creation  
and we need to keep it clean.

Lord we pray for times of good fellowship,  
for encouragement in our faith.  
As Jesus sent out his 12 disciples to learn, to heal, and to have faith,  
help us to do likewise.  
To trust in your word, to have faith, love and hope.

Hope that wars will come to an end and that bombing and fighting will be no more.  
We pray that love for our enemies  
will surprise and overcome them so much that they seek peace. Amen



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