

BENEFICE DIARY - JANUARY 2015

4 Jan	(Sun)	<u>The Second Sunday of Christmas - The Epiphany</u> - all services p 2 9.30am Live Wires at All Saints 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
5 Jan	(Mon)	Clatford and Abbots Ann Schools start the Spring Term
7 Jan	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club (Partnership Meeting) in GCVC
8 Jan	(Thurs)	6.30pm Abbots Ann Parish Council , AAWMH
10 Jan	(Sat)	7.30pm Mayor & James , English Sketches, back by popular demand Upper Clatford Memorial Hall. Ring 336808 for more information.
11 Jan	(Sun)	<u>The Baptism of Christ - The First Sunday of Epiphany</u> - all services p2 12.00noon AA Conservatives New Year Drinks Party - page 11 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann Final date for receipt of hard copy (handwritten or typed) for the February 2015 Abbots Ann Magazine
12 Jan	(Mon)	8.00pm All Saints Winter Lecture, The Centenary Talk - The Christmas Truce by Lt. Col Tony Coutts-Britton, Upper Clatford Memorial Hall - Tickets from 01264 352530
13 Jan	(Tues)	12.30pm Meadow Room Lunch at All Saints Final date for receipt of hard copy (handwritten or typed) for the February 2015 Clatfords Magazine
14 Jan	(Wed)	6.30pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
15 Jan	(Thurs)	<u>12.00noon Deadline for receipt of copy by email for the February 2015 Abbots Ann Magazine. editor@abbottsannmagazine.co.uk</u> 12.00noon Deadline for receipt of copy by email for the February 2015 Clatfords Magazine. marydunn21@hotmail.com
17 Jan	(Sat)	7.30pm All Saints Annual Quiz UC Memorial Hall - page 16
19 Jan	(Mon)	7.30pm Films in Upper Clatford - page 19
23 Jan	(Fri)	7.30pm Burns Night , AAWMH - page17
28 Jan	(Wed)	7.45pm Clatford Valley Garden Club, UC Memorial Hall - page 8
29 Jan	(Thurs)	7.30pm Abbots Ann WI in AA War Memorial Hall - page 18

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ALERT

Royal Mail & The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number). If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call. If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655.

For more information, see the Crime Stoppers website:

<http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/crime-prevention/helping-prevent-crime/scams/postal-delivery-scam>

Please be aware that the premium rate number may change but nevertheless please do not call any number stated on a card from PDS.

St Mary's Church, Abbots Ann

Rector

The Revd. David Broad
The Rectory, Upper Clatford 352906
dna.broad@virgin.net
(HIS DAY OFF IS SATURDAY)

Churchwardens

Gordon Howard, 710830
Swaledale, 4 St Mary's Meadow, Little Ann

Sally Dashwood 710640
1 The Bakery, Dunkirt Lane

Details of church officers and activities can
also be found on the village website at:
<http://www.little-ann.co.uk/church>

Choir Practice

THURSDAYS 7.45PM, ST PETER'S, GOODWORTH CLATFORD

Bell-Ringing Practice

THURSDAYS 7.30-9.00PM, ST MARY'S, ABBOTTS ANN
Tower Captain: Dudley Alaway 710646

Parochial Church Council

Secretary

Mrs Jo Brookes 07967
3 Slessor Close, Monxton Road 484581

Treasurer (Temporary)

Sally Dashwood, 1 The Bakery 710640

Parish Magazine - www.abbottsannmagazine.co.uk

Editor - editor@abbottsannmagazine.co.uk	Andrea Jackson 5 Timothy's Field, Abbots Ann	710630
Advertising - ads@abbottsannmagazine.co.uk	Rollo Wilson Jubilee Oak Cottage	710899

For magazine deadlines please refer to the Benefice Diary.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have your magazine delivered free of charge (Abbots Ann only). A yearly subscription is £6.00. For deliveries outside Abbots Ann, we offer a postal subscription service if 12 SAE's are provided. If you would like to take out a subscription, please contact Pam Lytle on 01264 710468, email: plytle2@tiscali.co.uk or write to Pam at The White House, Abbots Ann.

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN JANUARY 2015

Please note change of services and times at all churches.

Date: **St Mary's Duties:**

Sunday 28th December	First Sunday of Christmas: Feast of the Holy Family.	
8.00 Holy Communion	St Mary's	Miss W Casson
10.00 Benefice Eucharist	St Peter's	
6.00 Night Prayer for the New year	All Saints'	
Sunday 4th January	Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord	
8.00 Holy Communion	St Peter's	
10.00 Benefice Family Eucharist	All Saints'	
4.00 Evensong	St Mary's	Mrs S Dashwood
Sunday 11th January	Feast of the Baptism	
8.00 Holy Communion	All Saints'	
9.30 Benefice Eucharist	St Mary's	Mr/Mrs G Howard
11.15 Benefice Matins	St Peter's	
4.00 Evensong	St Mary's [Lay led]	Mrs S Dashwood
Sunday 18th January	The Second Sunday of the year	
8.00 Holy Communion	St Mary's	Mrs N Keene
10.00 Benefice Eucharist	St Peter's	
10.00 Parish Morning Service	Abbotts Ann VH	Mrs S George
4.00 Evensong	All Saints'	
Sunday 25th January	The Third Sunday of the year	
8.00 Holy Communion	St Mary's	Miss W Casson
10.00 Benefice Eucharist	All Saints'	
4.00 Evensong	St Peter's	

Anyone unable to carry out their duty and who cannot exchange with another sidesman please contact Kate Bennett or Wendy Casson on 712028. Please note that services are provisional as changes can sometimes be made at short notice. Please check the Sunday Link Sheet.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

All articles printed in the Abbotts Ann Magazine are printed in good faith and are not necessarily the views of the Editor. All contributions must be accompanied by a full name and email address which may be withheld at the Editor's discretion. The Editor reserves the right to amend all contributions. Please support our advertisers; they support the magazine.

100 CLUB



NOVEMBER DRAW WINNERS

First Prize £50 : Ms S Shaw-Porter
Second Prize £30 : Mrs S Bleeker
Third Prize £20 : Mrs D Easterbrook

DECEMBER DRAW WINNERS

First Prize £100 : Mr G Plaitford
Second Prize £50 : Mrs R Lawrence-Bristol
Third Prize £25 : Mrs S Oldacre, Mrs P White,
Fourth Prize £10 : Mrs L Laurence,
Mrs M Lennon, Mrs J Benson

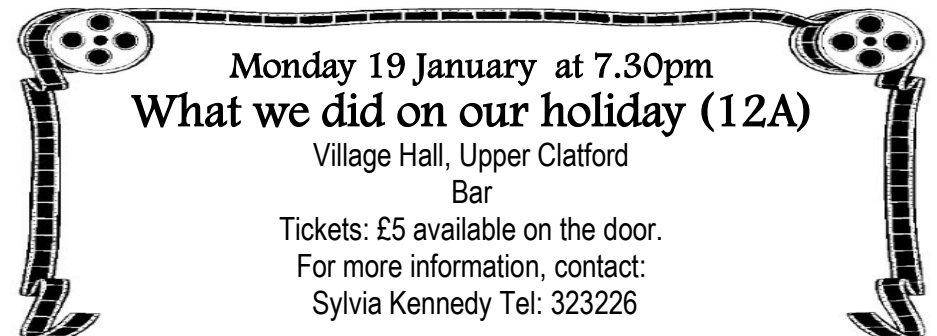
Please note, the December draw is a Special Christmas Draw with £100 being the first prize. So when our renewals letters and notices in the Parish Magazine come around in Spring 2015, remember, you need to be in it to win it!

Lucy Urquhart

ANDOVER FOODBANK

The village shop is now collecting for Andover Food Bank, which supplies emergency rations to people struggling to put food on the table. Non-perishable food is required and also toiletries and cleaning materials. The collection point is just inside the shop door, together with a list of suggested items to donate. If those who can afford it could buy a small item in the shop from time to time to put in the collection, we could make a real difference to local people in need, whilst supporting the shop at the same time.

Julie Moon, shop volunteer



Monday 19 January at 7.30pm
What we did on our holiday (12A)

Village Hall, Upper Clatford
 Bar

Tickets: £5 available on the door.

For more information, contact:
 Sylvia Kennedy Tel: 323226

There was an element of jeopardy for this month's meeting; would our replacement speaker turn up or not? All concerns were immediately dispelled when Andy Rhind-Tutt, not only arrived on time, with his wife, but also turned out to be one of our best speakers ever. Andy is a very busy man and is passionate about the history of his beloved country and home town of Amesbury.

Andy had always wondered why Stonehenge was located where it was, no-one had really been able to answer this, but it was during his term of office as Mayor of Amesbury in 2011/2012 that answers started appearing. Acting upon a hunch, David Jacques extended his excavations in the area and dug some new trenches in the grounds of Amesbury Abbey on the site of the Blick Mead spring. This is a spring that keeps on giving as a record number of flints, tools and animal bones (including frogs legs!) dating back, in some instances, to more than 7000 years BC have been found. Andy was kind enough to bring along several exhibits and our members were fortunate to have the opportunity to literally touch history - including a slice of the bluestone used at Stonehenge. It really was amazing.

Andy is a natural speaker and could have entertained us all evening; he told an amusing story as to how he eventually met the Queen in 2012 - after writing several letters to Buckingham Palace detailing the progress being made and the incredible finds being uncovered. Amesbury Abbey was also, incidentally, the final home of Eleanor of Provence, the 20 times Great Grandmother of HM the Queen - but this is a completely different story in itself!

Unfortunately, the weather put paid to our plans to walk this month, but instead our eager walkers (or should it be talkers?) held an impromptu coffee morning, followed by lunch at the Garden Centre. The Supper Club turned Italian and went to The Woodfire at Stockbridge. It was pizzas all round - probably because they came on that evening with a free glass of delicious house wine. Heather Girvan kindly hosted the official coffee morning, but no lunch club this month.

Our speaker at this month's meeting - 7.30 pm 29th January in the Village Hall - is our very own Secretary, Lynne Lucas - "Your Image".

Sharon King



The Bluish Light

I like the parts in films where nothing is happening. The action stops, no one is talking and you are shown a landscape or a journey, a face perhaps, speaking for itself. It's often the same with books. For example, 'The thing I enjoyed most about those Wednesdays,' Assaf Gavron wrote in a story about bus bombings in Israel, 'was the journey home. An intercity bus ride at night has a charm all of its own. It's uninterrupted thinking time for me. The whole day seems to sink through you and dissolve in the blood. People talk, but not so much and not so loudly out of deference to the darkness, perhaps; the steady hum of the engine and the rhythm of the passing lights, the lights of the villages off in the night, the bluish light of the bus's interior. On my night rides I laid my forehead against the window and let myself breathe deeply and relax. It was on the bus, quietly, that I really examined myself. That was where the memories returned. It was on the night buses that carried me back from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv that I began to accept myself as I was, and began thinking about who I was going to be.' When before Christmas the Kehilat Yaakov Synagogue in Jerusalem was attacked during morning prayer - the photograph in the newspaper of a knife and a prayer book covered and surrounded by blood still in my memory - one of the reasons reported was the death, three days before, of a Palestinian bus-driver found hanging in his bus. How it happened is not clear but I found myself wondering about his despair or, the despair-filled-revenge of those who did this to him, and his family.

This does not seem perhaps a very cheerful subject at the beginning of a new year when we wish the best to each other. Yet I think in the community of the Church we are 'wishing the best' with eyes open to the fearful world in which we find ourselves and in recognition of the reality of our hearts. The wish, in other words, is serious and real. So we may have ourselves recently sunk down on the seat of a bus or a train returning from the sales, or a trip, or work and finally found a space in which to breath and relax. We may also have found a seat somewhere in a church too, a place of peace and reflection - which made the attack on the Synagogue so shocking - our foreheads leaning against the window of our lives, looking out at what is passing and where we are going. It is places such as these which enable us to make sense of our vulnerability.

I think for example, of the seven Trappist monks of the monastery of Our Lady of Atlas, Algeria, who on May 21 1996 were abducted and killed. I often speak about them. Their lives have been poured over by the Church;

documents and journals are still being published. They have even been the subjects of a famous film, 'Of Gods and Men'. The political state of Algeria was extremely precarious at the time and on December 14th 1993 twelve (out of nineteen) Croatian engineers at Tamesguida, just nine miles from the monastery, were attacked and had their throats slit. They knew the monastery well coming to them for the Mass. The monks seriously considered closing the monastery but courageously decided to remain in solidarity with the local people even when they themselves one Christmas were overrun and threatened. In one of the brother's journals, Fr. Christophe recorded in January 1994: 'The massacre of the Croats has left us traumatized, for we are not armour-plated by our enclosure. It defines a space of welcome and has the form of an open heart: wounded by the suffering of this world, it offers a resolution of crucified Love in the face of the enemy.' A monastic enclosure is the part of a monastery where only the monks may go. And each of us has our own version of 'enclosure', like Gavron's bus journey, spaces we find to sit and let our day, as he says, 'dissolve' in us; places where we learn to accept ourselves. May we all find such spaces in the year ahead.

© David Broad. Rector. January 2015.

ST MARY'S CHURCH FLOWERS - AND HOLY DUSTING ROTA

We are so grateful to you all for giving up your time to the Church. Here is the rota. If the dates are inconvenient and you are unable to change with someone else, please ring Sylvia Burson (710852) for flowers and Jill Tayler (710201) for dusting.



Dates:

19 Dec - 1 Jan

2 Jan - 15 Jan

16 Jan - 29 Jan

30 Jan - 12 Feb

13 Feb - 26 Feb

27 Feb - 12 Mar

13 Mar - 26 Mar

27 Mar - 12 Apr

Flowers:

Christmas

Sylvia Burson

Pat Keene

Lent

Lent

Lent

Easter

Dusting:

Jill Tayler

Elizabeth Palmer

Polly Whyte

Sheila Robinson

Pat Balam

Margaret Brooks


Audrey Cresswell

Jill Tayler

ST MARY'S CHURCH

I would like to thank the ladies who helped to decorate St Mary's Church for the Christmas Services. My thanks also to those who so generously gave donations towards the flowers.

Sylvia Burson





Pogles Wood
excellent live
celidh band

Burns Night

Friday
23rd January 2015

7:30pm
In the War Memorial Hall

cock-a-leekie & crowdie
bar
address to the haggis
whisky tots

Selkirk Grace
bagpipes
highland dancing

£20

Tickets on sale **now** in Abbotts Ann village shop

hailing the Heaven-born Prince of Peace. So come let us adore Him.”

“W-What on earth are you talking about?” spluttered Matthias.

“A shepherd dug him in the ribs and said, “Calm down, mate. It’s tidings of comfort and joy. You’ll see,” and nodded towards the manger.

There was the Baby, all neatly wrapt in swathing bands. As the innkeeper tucked the blanket around the child, his scowl vanished. When Mary smiled her thanks, he suddenly felt very small. He went and knelt behind the kneeling donkey, in the dark, at the back of the shed.

That is why you never see him in the Nativity pictures.

Hadrianus Rusticus

YET MORE SPARKLE WITH RIVERSTRINGS

On Friday 21st November, The Riverstrings Quartet with Pianist Nao Dickson, entertained us once again in the School Hall with a concert of classical music. They played a quartet by the 16 year old Mozart, in love, followed by 5 Novellettes by Glazunov. These were lively and varied quartets in differing styles. They surprised and delighted the audience.

Finally Riverstrings with Nao Dickson played the glorious piano quintet Op. 81. The performers play with discipline, charm and delight, catching their audience up with them. It really was a lovely evening of music. It was complemented by Cottonworth’s delicious sparkling wine and a table groaning with canapés! I hope that everybody enjoyed the concert as much as I did. It raised £1,717 - for the Church.

AL/04/12/14

You are invited to:

ALL SAINTS’ ANNUAL QUIZ

SATURDAY 17 JANUARY

VILLAGE HALL, UPPER CLATFORD

7.30pm

Tickets £10 (including light refreshments) from:
Jane Kennedy (Tel:323804) , Sylvia Kennedy (323226)
Betty Armstrong, Emily Fabricius, and Margaret Prior.

All proceeds in aid of All Saints’ Church Funds.

LONDON

The London to which we came back in the early 1970s was almost as grim as the London I had left nearly 20 years before! There were endless strikes (“Who rules Britain?”) a three day week, black-outs, and even corruption. If one wanted a telephone line, one paid a bit over the odds and got it! Otherwise one waited and waited. However there were compensations. We found a delightful ‘garden’ flat in the basement of a large 1930s block in Sloane Street (Sloane Rangers!). There were cinemas, theatres, opera and ballet and good restaurants too. Dilapidated Britain was still quite an agreeable place to live!

The children, now teenagers, became delightfully ‘Hippy’, with long hair, distressed and slashed jeans and Oxfam overcoats! They played deplorable music, very loud, no doubt smoked cannabis, hung pictures of Che Guevara in their bedrooms, spoke an incomprehensible glottal stop language to their friends, and expressed wild anarchic views; and were rather charming to boot! Jill was wonderful with teenagers – she really liked them, they made her laugh! Nevertheless it was a shock, coming back to England, down to earth, ‘starting over’.

I had to find a job. My experience as an African Banker was unhelpful. Africa had become ‘bad news’. I might as well have had Ebola! But my experience as a ‘Consortium’ banker had a certain relevance. London had created a new banking market, the Eurodollar Market –(who says you can’t use someone else’s currency!). The market came into existence because the United States authorities levied a tax on transactions within the U.S., so London bankers offered deposit facilities for dollars outside the U.S. – Euro Dollars. This attracted an enormous volume of deposits from oil producing countries (Petro dollars) and from the reserves of international companies and institutions. And having obtained Euro dollar deposits, as is the way with banks, they lent them – Euro loans. There was great demand for loans for international development projects electricity generating plants, motorways, railways, oil refineries, all long term projects. But the deposits were all short term, day to day, one, two or three or six months periods. So clever young London bankers, who had not seen a ‘crash’ before, invented the ‘roll-over’ loan. Theoretically the loan was repayable every six months, but could be ‘rolled over’ and so short term deposits could be turned into long term development loans. Magic! So long as the market for Euro dollars remained liquid which, of course it always would – where else could all that lovely money go? The loans were of such a large magnitude that they were shared (syndicated) between many banks. In order for foreign banks to get into ‘the action’ the fashion was to form a London ‘consortium’ bank to share in the risks and rich rewards of the Euro market.

I found a job with a small London merchant bank and my role was to form a ‘virtual’ consortium. We recruited a syndicate of three regional U.S. banks

and one Canadian bank which wanted to participate in the Euro market but which did not have the size and gravitas to participate on their own or to join a London Consortium. We provided the services of a London Office for them, offered them participations in Euro loans, which they booked in 'virtual' branches in offshore locations such as the Caymen Islands. Oh how clever we were, we young dynamic bankers! I was no longer young and you may wonder why I did not object that they were breaking the rules of sound banking – but if you didn't play the game you didn't have a job; and I needed a salary! I suppose that I was also overawed by the bright young merchant bankers! After all I was only an old fashioned 'bush' banker!

The key to making money as a merchant bank was 'placing power'. If you could place large amounts of participations in Euro loans you could earn large commissions. With our syndicate of four banks, our little merchant bank was able to place significant amounts of Euro loans; and so we flourished - for a bit!

Of course the magic spell broke! There was a banking crisis. Banks became afraid of lending to each other (we know about that don't we!) and the Euro dollar market dried up! Loans could not be renewed and a state of panic prevailed. It was a painful period, laboriously sorting out the loans and refinancing them, an unhappy four years of my life.

There was a positive aspect to these Euro loans. They did provide large amounts of money to development projects that would not otherwise have been financed. And they absorbed large amounts of potentially destabilizing dollar surpluses clocked up by the oil producing countries and other beneficiaries of the huge U.S. deficit in those years.

It was during this time that our children began to fly the nest. Our eldest went to Brazil for a year to check out the 'country of the future' – but he was thirty years too early. He came back and went to London University to study Estate Management, a career which he has pursued with success ever since! Our daughter transformed herself from a 'Hippy' into a beautiful and smart young woman with a strong sense of style and design. She went to work for an interior decorator in Walton Street. Our youngest in due course also went to London University. Jill and I found ourselves alone, together again and found that we were still in love! We enjoyed each other's company and that is the ground of happiness!

I was then recruited by an American bank to go and start up a bank for them in Hong Kong! I was back to my original occupation of starting up banks again. This time in a new and exciting part of the world. And that's my next story!

AL. 2/11/14

blankets round to the shed. He had just snuggled down when a tremendous burst of singing filled the room. Cursing noisy neighbours, he tried to make out where it came from. It seemed to be up in the sky, and it was all about Peace on Earth. "Fat lot of peace here!" he muttered, feeling very little goodwill towards anyone. Eventually the music faded and he dozed off.

It felt like only a minute later when the doorbell rang again. He shot downstairs. A shabby collection of shepherds stood outside. "We be looking for..." they started.

"No lost sheep here," Matthias growled.

"That's as may be. There we were, watching our flocks by night, all seated on the ground, when – you'd never believe this..."

"Get on with it! What are you looking for?"

"Oh, ah," they answered. A lowly cattle shed."

"Well, I've got a shed down the yard, but it's got people in it."

"We know. That's why we're here. You see, we bring glad tidings of great..."

Matthias had had enough. "Look in the shed then," he shouted and slammed the door.

Back in bed he tried counting sheep, thinking at last that all was calm, when suddenly all was bright. There was a whoosh, and his room was filled with light. Dashing to the window, he looked up and saw a star, just moving round the corner to the back yard. He was still looking out when he saw some camels approaching.

"This really is the limit!" he fumed. "It must be past three o'clock." He stamped downstairs, flung open the door and bellowed, "Do you know what time it is?"

"Well," said a voice. "According to our calculations, we rather think it's the dawn of a new era."

"Wise guys, eh?" said Matthias through gritted teeth.

"You could say that," said another. But actually we three Kings of Orient are, bearing gifts..."

"Well, you can't park your camels there."

"Where then?" said a third voice.

"The shed!" he croaked.

Just then, Joseph re-appeared through the snow, which was now deep and crisp and even. "Er, could I have another blanket, please? The ox and ass are doing their best, but it's still pretty cold for the baby."

"Baby?" gasped Matthias. "That's all I need!"

"You're right there," said Joseph, with a weary smile.

Sore affrayed and grievously bewildered, Matthias fetched another blanket and stumped round to the shed, shouting "Here's your blanket..." but he was stopped in his tracks by a dozen pairs of eyes staring at him. Everyone was clustered round, full reverently on bended knee.

"Hark!" whispered a herald angel. "This is the first Nowell, and we're

COUNTRYMAN'S CORNER

A SHED IN BETHLEHEM

Matthias the innkeeper had had a rotten day. The little town of Bethlehem was crammed with visitors; his best rooms were commandeered by Roman officials who demanded room service and bossed everyone around; the grand Sadducees who had booked them first were blaming him and bossing everyone else around. A group of Pharisees wanted constant hot and cold running water in case they bumped into anyone from the mixed collection of travellers, especially those who were just passing through. There were Medes and Arabians, Cretans and Elamites, and even an odd party of tin-merchants from some northern island muttering through droopy moustaches about holly and ivy, whatever that was.

Lots of others were boasting about being descended from King David, or grumbling that Royal David's City was nothing like the pictures in the brochures. To cap it all, Caesar Augustus had decreed that the whole world should be taxed, bang in the bleak mid-winter. Snow had fallen, snow on snow, and people were tramping the stuff all over his nice clean floors.

At last he had closed the bar, and seen the last customers off, saying, with as much grace as he could muster, "God rest ye merry gentlemen..." He climbed upstairs, and with a short but fervent prayer for a silent night, tumbled into bed.

Hardly had he fallen into a deep and dreamless sleep when, ding dong merrily, the doorbell rang. Down he went, to find a bedraggled couple with an exhausted little donkey.

"Sorry, no room," he snapped. The man looked so downcast that Matthias did not immediately slam the door in their faces. He caught the kind brown eye of the donkey and seemed to detect a jerk of its head towards the back of the inn. "Oh, all right," he said. "You can use the shed in the back yard. You'd better sign the register. Name?"

"Joseph."

"Occupation?"

"Carpenter."

"You one of those born of David's line then?"

"Oh yes," answered Joseph. "David begat Solomon, and Solomon begat Rehoboam, and Rehoboam begat Abijah, and Abijah begat Jehoshaphat, and..."

"Never mind all that, interrupted Matthias. "I'd better get you a couple of blankets. The earth's as hard as iron out there, and water's like a stone."

"You mean we must spend the night where oxen feed on hay?" asked Mary.

"Don't worry, said Joseph. "At least it'll be quiet away in a manger." So the innkeeper settled back into bed while they took the donkey and the

LIFE WITH THE TRIBE - OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2014

It's the beginning of October and what's happened to Autumn? The weather is unseasonably warm and I make the most of it with the Littlest. As we walk along the footpaths around Abbots Ann we find rosehips in the hedgerows - oval, hard and red. The blue bloom of the blackthorn sloes is in striking contrast to the fruit of the dog rose and they too are plentiful. Blackberries are less in number, but there are enough to keep a small person fed on a walk. We find an array of wild flowers that I'm sure should no longer be around - the tiny scarlet flowers of the scarlet pimpernel, vibrant purple flowers of self heal, buttercups, lady's bedstraw, knapweed, daisies - the list goes on. Some of these should really have stopped growing midsummer.

During the month we see (and hear) flocks of Canadian geese in impressive v-formations overhead. Their honking sounds rather melancholy and it definitely feels like there is an end to the warmer weather.

But how wrong I am. On Halloween, whilst the Tribe are on half term, we decide to head to the beach where we spend a glorious 'buckets and spades' balmy day under a perfect blue sky. The mercury is in the low 20s and yes, we are in the UK! As the sun sets over the mirror-like sea, it feels more like a late summer's evening than an evening when the Tribe will soon be getting ready for Trick or Treating.

November is definitely more autumnal but still ridiculously mild - where is all that frost and snow? The Tribe are quite desperate for Abbots Ann to be covered in a blanket of snow - truth be known, so am I. I wonder if it will happen.

November trundles on, but what we all notice more than anything else is how many leaves are still on the trees and hedgerows. The colours are glorious - golds, greens, purples, yellows and reds. Quite spectacular. Usually by now, we can see everyone walking along Cattle Lane and they can probably see exactly what is going on in our kitchen too - but not this year! We have our privacy for a little bit longer.

These last two months really have been glorious.

Mother of the Tribe - www.lifewiththetribe.com

ABBOTTS ANN FETE 2015

It was agreed at the recent AGM that next year's fete would be held on Saturday 5th September 2015. Put the date in your diary and we hope to see you there next year!

Anne Emerson - Fete Secretary



Enquiries 01256-892019 or www.andovercats.org.uk
Stories of rescued cats adrianne.major@hotmail.co.uk
Fund-raising/volunteers adrianne.major@hotmail.co.uk
Items for resale 01256-892773

Are you interested in cats and cat care? Why not consider becoming a fosterer for the Andover branch of Cats Protection. You will need to have either a spare room in your house or space to erect a pen in the garden. It will not take up a lot of your time and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping a needy cat. Our volunteers are a friendly bunch who are always keen to welcome new faces.

Aska, last month's cat, has gone to our rehoming centre in Ferndown. There she will be seen by far more people and will hopefully find a home quickly.



My name is Fern, I am two years old, and lived in a house with four other cats. I had one litter a few months ago. I am very friendly, lively and affectionate. In fact, I like everybody. Here's a picture of where I live now, but I would really like to find a happy, permanent home.

Martin Bevan

CLATFORD VALLEY GARDENING CLUB

Over fifty members of the gardening club enjoyed a delicious Christmas Dinner in Upper Clatford Village Hall provided by caterers from Southampton. All were greeted at the door with a welcome drink (and a stray dog), and after the usual social chat sat down to a five-course meal followed by coffee and mince pies. At two points during the evening entertainment was provided by a local drama company, Chester House Duo. A raffle was also held in aid of the Andover Food Bank, which raised over £120. (The stray dog's home was found).

The programme starts again in the New Year on the 28th January with a talk by Mike Reed entitled "At Home with the Robin." Meetings are held at 7.45 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month in Upper Clatford Village Hall. New members are always very welcome.

Jenny Llewellyn

Abbotts Ann Conservatives invite you to meet the
NEW PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE
KIT MALTHOUSE at our

New Year's Drinks Party

Sunday 11th January 2015

from 12.00 noon

at

War Memorial Hall

£5.00 to include all drinks and nibbles

Children free

Tickets at the door

Guests: Sir George and Lady Young

YOU ARE INVITED....

Abbotts Ann Green Action

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 18th March 2015 at 7.30

War Memorial Hall

A CHANCE TO...

Hear the latest on our Community Energy Project

**Watch a short and informative film about another
village's success with community energy**

Elect officers and committee for the coming year

Share drinks, nibbles, and conversation

**PLEASE BOOK THE DATE AND COME
AND JOIN US....**

Worldwide express48 is the cheapest option, even though it gives you **inclusive** Included in the price you are already paying. compensation of up to £100, online end-to-end tracking and **guaranteed delivery** Parcelforce Worldwide guarantee: A refund of the whole or a proportionate part of the consignment charges in the event of late delivery in line with our UK or International Conditions of Carriage for Retail Services. Delivery time begins from date of collection. within two working days.

2015 Special Stamp Calendar

Royal Mail has issued details of its 2015 special stamp programme which includes anniversary issues relating to the Penny Black, Magna Carta and the Battle of Waterloo.

The special stamps for 2015 will 'showcase the **best of British**' through stamps relating both to key historic anniversaries and cultural events. The year begins with **Alice in Wonderland stamps**, released on 6 January to mark the 150th anniversary of the publication of one of the most well-loved children's books of all time, written by Lewis Carroll.

Maureen Flood

From The Registers

Holy Baptism

Eleanor Grace Strachan whose Baptism took place at St Peter's on November 16th.

Kelsey Erin Powell whose Baptism took place at All Saints' on November 23rd.

Gwendolen Tamar Shercliff whose Baptism took place at All Saints' on November 23rd.

Milly Agnese Caruth Sangiorgio whose Baptism took place at All Saints' on November 23rd.

*If you do not wish to have information from The Registers published,
please contact Gill Palmer on 710446*

FORTHCOMING ROADWORKS IN 2015

Commencing 26th January for a period of 12 months or until works are completed there will be roadworks on the A343 between Poplar Farm Inn and the Middle Wallop Air Base. It is expected the road will be closed on dates to be signed on site between the hours of 9.30am and 4.00pm. If you have any queries regarding the works and diversion please contact Hampshire County Council, Highways, telephone 0845 603 5633 or email, roads@hants.gov.uk. For all other enquiries relating to the temporary road closure, please contact Mr Mayur Patel, telephone 01264 368727 on behalf of the Head of Planning Policy & Transport Service. (NB Bus routes will obviously be affected)

UPDATE ON ST MARY'S CHURCH

You probably know that St Mary's church is in a bad way. The roof and parts of the masonry have decayed so much over the last three hundred years that our Grade 1 listed building has been placed on the English Heritage 'At Risk' register. Walkers on Church Path may have seen blue tarpaulins keeping the rain out. Thanks to a wonderful 'Evening with Alan Titchmarsh', hosted by Julian and Jane Benson last summer, and with generous support from St Mary's Church Building Trust, the PCC has been able to have carried out temporary repairs to keep the building weatherproof over the winter and a detailed assessment of the repair and restoration required for the long term. We have just been awarded a 'development grant' by the Heritage Lottery Fund to help us draw up a detailed plan for implementing the work. We can then ask the HLF to fund most of the actual repairs. The Trust has underwritten what we must contribute. This is wonderful news and we can now make permanent improvements to keep the building secure for many years to come.

In return for the HLF grant the PCC has undertaken to make St Mary's more accessible to the general public. As the builders restore the roof, set the stonework and repair the drains we will be making more information available on the history of the church and its graveyard. Keep an eye on the church page of the superb new village website for details. More practically, we plan to install a WC – but here's a problem: the HLF is very much in favour of a loo because it would benefit the public, but because it's not feasible to put one inside the main building the HLF would not include it in their grant! So the PCC, St Mary's Church Building Trust and the Parish Council are exploring other means of funding. We may need to disturb some old graves. Churches have procedures for doing this and the work will be done sensitively and with the involvement of families where possible.

Our heating boiler has passed its 'sell-by date' but thanks to the generosity of villagers D J Harris is installing a new one for us and worshippers should feel the benefit before too long. We will keep you informed of progress on all our activities through the web site and the parish magazine, and St Mary's Trust and the PCC will hold an open day in the spring. Thank you for your support.

Tim Tayler, Abbots Ann PCC, 710201

Graham Platford, St Mary's Abbots Ann Church Building Trust, 711164

AQUAFIT AT FARLEIGH SCHOOL

Mondays & Wednesdays 9.00 - 9.45 am

Starting 12th January cost £5.50

Tuesdays 7.15 - 8.00 pm

Starting 6th January cost £5.50

Further details email roslynswim@hotmail.co.uk



ABBOTTS ANN VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE

Shop Manager: Georgina Garner
Deputy Shop Manager: Carol Murphy
Sub Post Mistress: Maureen Flood

Welcome to 2015

A reminder of our Shop opening hours

Normal Hours up to and including 23rd December.

Wednesday 24th December – 0800 to 1300.

Christmas Day – Closed.

Boxing Day – Closed.

Saturday 27th December – 0830 to 1230.

Sunday 28th December – 0900 to 1200.

Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th December – 0830 to 1730.

New Year's Eve – 0830 to 1600.

New Year's Day – Closed.

Friday 2nd January 2015 – 0830 to 1900.

then back to normal opening hours which are:-

Monday to Thursday – 0830 to 1730

Friday - 0830 to 1900

Saturday - 0830 to 1230

Sunday - 0900 to 12 noon.

Friday – Late Opening

As shown above, in the New Year the Shop will continue to stay open until 7 pm on Friday evenings.

For Your New Year Drinks

In case you have not noticed, we have a new selection of reasonably priced wines. Also, don't forget to get some of our delicious Abbots Ann apple juice.

Gluten Free

We now stock a small selection of gluten free goods – Cakes, Biscuits and even Christmas puddings.

Books

We still have our 'book shelf' and hopefully there will be some new books appearing after the festive season. - Hard backs £1 and Paper backs 50p.

Abbots Ann Village Shop Association Secretary

We are delighted to announce that Beth Deacon has taken over as Secretary of the Association. Welcome Beth.

A huge thank you to Pam Lytle who has retired from the post after ten years.

We wish you well Pam and are most grateful for all you have done.

**Get the Abbots Ann shopping habit.
Happy New Year everyone.**

Elizabeth Howard - Shop Volunteer & Committee Member

ABBOTTS ANN POST OFFICE

Reduce your UK Postage costs

Following the recent changes to parcel price and services, we know it's as important as ever to minimise your postage costs. Here are some tips to get the most out of your postage when sending parcels with Royal Mail or Parcelforce Worldwide at the Post Office:

Pack smart

Now the majority of prices for UK parcels depend on the size as well as weight, packing your items in the right way, can make all the difference to your postage costs.

When using 1st, 2nd Class or Royal Mail Signed For®, sending your item as a Small Parcel will be cheaper than sending it as a Medium Parcel. So make sure soft, compactable items up to a maximum of 2kg are packed down as much as possible to fit into the Small Parcel size of: Length 45cm, Width 35cm, Height 16cm

Don't forget the item and its packaging needs to fall within these limits

Check the prices, weight and size limits at home using postoffice.co.uk/price-finder or pick up the Royal Mail 'Our Prices' leaflet in branch, so you can package up your items at home to fit the size and weight limits for the most cost-effective service. If you're sending an item using Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed® by 9am or 1pm, you can save money on your packaging, as we provide free plastic envelopes in a range of sizes for customers using this service. Just ask at the counter.

Rolled or cylinder shaped items (tubes) which are longer than the Medium Parcel length (61cm) can be sent as a Medium parcel provided the length is no more than 90cm and the length plus twice the diameter is no more than 104cm.

Send multiple items to the same address as a consignment

If you're sending more than one item to the same address using a Parcelforce Worldwide service, you can send up to 15 items as a consignment and receive a discount.

Don't discount Guaranteed services as always being more expensive

Fully tracked, one day and two day services are not always the most expensive option. For items over 2kg being sent within the UK, Parcelforce