

2 Mar	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club (Partnership Meeting) in GCVC
3 Mar	(Thurs)	10.30am Goodworth Clatford WI Coffee Morning
3 Mar	(Thurs)	7.00pm Abbotts Ann Parish Council meets in AA Memorial Hall.
		7.00pm Hand Bell Ringing Session at St Mary's Church.
		7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
6 Mar	(Sun)	(The Fourth Sunday of Lent) – Mothering Sunday
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
7 Mar	(Mon)	12.30pm Way Inn Lunch at St Peter's
8 Mar	(Tues)	12.30pm Meadow Room Lunch at All Saints'.
9 Mar	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
		7.30pm Upper Clatford Parish Council meets in UC Memorial Hall
10 Mar	(Thurs)	10.30am Children's Society Coffee Morning and Box Opening - page 8
		7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's
		7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
12 Mar	(Sat)	7.30pm Harmonium Singers Concert - page 22
13 Mar	(Sun)	(The Fifth Sunday of Lent) – Passiontide begins 13 Mar
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
15 Mar	(Tues)	12.00noon deadline for receipt of copy for the April 2016 Abbotts Ann Magazine editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk
		7.30pm Goodworth Clatford WI, meets in GCVC
16 Mar	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
		7.30pm Upper Clatford WI meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall.
17 Mar	(Thurs)	7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's
		7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
18 Mar	(Fri)	10.00am Goodworth Clatford WI Walking Group
20 Mar	(Sun)	(Palm Sunday)
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
21 Mar	(Mon)	(Monday of Holy Week)
22 Mar	(Tues)	(Tuesday of Holy Week)
23 Mar	(Wed)	(Wednesday of Holy Week)
		7.30pm Upper Clatford WI meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall.
		7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
		7.45pm Clatford Valley Garden Club meets in UC Memorial Hall.
24 Mar	(Thurs)	(Maundy Thursday)
25 Mar	(Fri)	(Good Friday) 6.00pm Family Fish Pie Contest - page 9
26 Mar	(Sat)	(Easter Eve)
27 Mar	(Sun)	(Easter Day)
29 Mar	(Tues)	7.30pm Film Night at Goodworth Clatford Village Club
30 Mar	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
31 Mar	(Thurs)	7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's
		7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
		7.30pm Abbotts Ann WI meets in Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall.

St Mary's Church, Abbotts Ann

Rector	Vacant	
Ministry Team (During the Vacancy)	Revd. Nicky Judd clive@judd47.plus.com Tim Tayler tim.tayler@talk21.com Peter Eastwood peter@eastwood.me.uk	729075 710201 353320
Churchwardens		
St Mary's	Gordon Howard 4 St Mary's Meadow, Abbotts Ann gweo_howard@btinternet.com Sally Dashwood 1 The Bakery, Dunkirk Lane, Abbotts Ann	710830 710640
St Peter's	Jane Eastwood John Milne	353320 361206
All Saints'	Eleanor Jakeman Bill Mitford	362502 357675
Details of church officers and activities can also be found on the village website - http://www.abbottsanmagazine.co.uk/amenities/church/		
Choir Practice	Thursdays 7.45pm, St Peter's, Goodworth Clatford	
Bell Ringing practice	Thursdays 7.30-9.00pm, St Mary's, Abbotts Ann Handbells 7.00pm 1st Thursday each month Tower Captain: Dudley Alleyway	710646
Parochial Church Council		
Secretary	Mrs Jo Brookes 3 Slessor Close, Monxton Road	07967 484581
Treasurer (Temporary)	Sally Dashwood 1 The Bakery	710640
Abbotts Ann Magazine		
Editor	Andrea Jackson 5 Timothy's Field, Abbotts Ann editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk	710630
Advertising Manager	Vacant	

For Abbotts Ann Magazine and Diary, email: editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN FEBRUARY 2016

Please note change of services and times at all churches.

Date:

St Mary's Duties:

Sunday 31st January

10.00 Sung Benefice Eucharist

Candlemas

St Mary's (NJ/TT/PE) Mr/Mrs G Howard

Sunday 7th February

08.00 Said Holy Communion

10.00 Sung Eucharist

10.00 Family Service

18.00 Evensong

Sunday next before Lent

St Peter's (NJ)

All Saints' (NJ)

St Peter's (TT)

St Mary's (PE)

Wednesday 10th February

20.00 Benefice Sung Eucharist

Ash Wednesday

St Mary's (NJ/TT/PE)

Sunday 14th February

08.00 Said Holy Communion

09.30 Sung Eucharist

11.15 Matins

18.00 Evensong

First Sunday of Lent

All Saints' (NJ)

St Mary's (NJ)

Mr/Mrs G Howard

St Peter's (TT)

St Mary's (Peggy Ellis)

Sunday 21st February

08.00 Said Holy Communion

10.00 Sung Eucharist

10.00 Family Service

16.00 Evensong

Second Sunday of Lent

St Mary's (NJ) Mrs N Keene

St Peter's (NJ)

St Mary's (lay led) St Mary's Team

All Saints (PE)

Third Sunday of Lent

St Mary's (NJ) Miss W Casson

All Saints' (NJ)

St Peter's (NJ)

St Peter's (PE)

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.

*Revd Nicky Judd (NJ) Tim Tayler (TT) Peter Eastwood (PE) Choir (CH)

BENEFICE DIARY - FEBRUARY 2016

1 Feb	(Mon)	12.30pm Way Inn Lunch at St Peter's
3 Feb	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club (Partnership Meeting) in GCVC
4 Feb	(Thurs)	10.30am Goodworth Clatford WI Coffee Morning
		7.00pm Abbotts Ann Parish Council meets in AA Memorial Hall.
		7.00pm Hand Bell Ringing Session at St Mary's Church.
7 Feb	(Sun)	7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's (<u>The Sunday Next Before Lent</u>) – full service details – page 2
9 Feb	(Tues)	8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann (Shrove Tuesday) 10.30am Pancake Day at Abbotts Ann Village Shop.
10 Feb	(Wed)	12.30pm Meadow Room Lunch at All Saints'. (<u>Ash Wednesday</u>)
11 Feb	(Thurs)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
12 Feb	(Fri)	7.30pm Upper Clatford Parish Council meets in UC Memorial Hall
14 Feb	(Sun)	8.00pm Benefice Sung Eucharist at St Mary's Church
		7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's
15 Feb	(Mon)	7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's (<u>The First Sunday of Lent</u>) – full service details – page 2
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
		<u>12.00noon deadline for receipt of copy for the March 2016 Abbotts Ann Magazine editor@abbottsanmagazine.co.uk</u>
16 Feb	(Tues)	7.30pm Films in Upper Clatford "Suffragette" – page 17
17 Feb	(Wed)	7.30pm Goodworth Clatford WI, meets in GCVC
		7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
18 Feb	(Thurs)	7.30pm Upper Clatford WI meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall.
		7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's
19 Feb	(Fri)	7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
21 Feb	(Sun)	10.00am Goodworth Clatford WI Walking Group (<u>The Second Sunday of Lent</u>) – full service details – page 2
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
22 Feb	(Mon)	7.00pm for 8.00pm All Saints' Winter Lectures – Rt. Hon. Lord Mark Malloch-Brown KCMG. Upper Clatford Memorial Hall. - page 16
23 Feb	(Tues)	7.30pm Film Night at Goodworth Clatford Village Club
24 Feb	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
		7.45pm Clatford Valley Garden Club meets in UC Memorial Hall.
25 Feb	(Thurs)	7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's
		7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
27 Feb	(Sat)	7.30pm Abbotts Ann WI meets in Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall. P8
28 Feb	(Sun)	7.00pm for 7.30pm Strictly Dinner & Dance at GCVC (<u>The Third Sunday of Lent</u>) – full service details – page 2
		8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbotts Ann
1 Mar	(Tues)	<u>MARCH 2016</u>
		7.00pm Goodworth Clatford Parish Council meets in GCVC

England by the Hospital Ship Stad Antwerpen on 5 April 1918. The next day, he was taken on strength of the Depot Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) and admitted to the 2nd (Southern) General Hospital at Dudley Road, Birmingham.

On 1 July 1918 he was discharged from hospital and granted 10 days leave. He rejoined the Regimental Depot at Halifax on 10 July. On 2 August, Private Belbin was posted to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion which was based in North Shields and was given the medical category A3 (Returned BEF men who would be A1 once hardened). On 9 November he was posted to the Base Depot BEF, arriving at Le Havre on 11 November 1918. From the Base Depot he was posted to B Infantry Base Depot in Le Havre and thence on 1 December to the 10th Battalion in Italy. On 29 March 1919, he proceeded from Italy to UK via Le Havre with the cadre of the Battalion for release on 4 April 1919.

Private Belbin's Medical History card, completed on 25 February 1919, whilst he was still with the 10th Battalion, shows that he made no claim for the injuries/wounds that he received whilst serving in the Army. He was discharged on 7 April 1919 and he returned to civilian life at Little Park, Andover.

His service to his country is commemorated on the memorial panel inside the War Memorial Hall, Abbotts Ann.

Private Reginald Wallace Belbin was entitled to the British War and Allied Victory Medals.

Michael Cooper

NEWS FROM THE HARMONIUM SINGERS

Our December concert 'On Christmas Night' attracted our largest ever audience - over 200 people including a good number in the under 14 age group. In addition we also sang at the Countess of Brecknock Hospice, the Heart Support Group, Lion Oak Court and Tesco, River Way. As a result we have been able to send a donation of £1350 to Andover Crisis and Support Centre and £225 to the Andover Food Bank.

St Michael & All Angels, Colebrook Way, West Andover is the venue for another thoughtful sequence of music and readings for Passiontide on Saturday 12th March starting at 7.30pm.

Veronica Bacon

A REMINDER

**Benefice Sung Eucharist 8.00pm at St Mary's Church Abbotts Ann
on Ash Wednesday, 10th February 2016**

CANDLEMAS

On February 2nd we celebrate the feast of Candlemas. For centuries Candlemas was the day for blessing the candles that were to be used in church during the coming year. Often these would have been donated by parishioners and the service provided an opportunity for saying thank you.

Candlemas occurs mid-way between the winter solstice and spring equinox so the occasion can remind us that the days are drawing out, we are halfway between winter and spring. For generations of country people, whose lives were bound up within the church calendar and the seasons of the year, it is natural that Candlemas should have become linked to folk lore. It is said to be the day when badgers test the climate to see if it's time to come out of hibernation. Snowdrops, the earliest flowers to bloom, are also known as Candlemas Bells and:

*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright
Winter will have another fight.
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,
Winter won't come again.*

Candles remain important to us today. Normally we only appreciate their practical value during a power cut but candles fascinate. They are subtly coloured and move in the breeze so that they seem alive; some are scented. Anyone who has enjoyed the cosy ambience of a candle-lit dinner knows how atmospheric candles can be. They shine through the darkness, reflecting light off any bright surface and obscuring details to show us in a kindly light.

Today at Candlemas churches remember the Purification of the Virgin Mary and Christ's Presentation at the temple in Jerusalem when the elderly Simeon and Anna recognised the baby as the Messiah who would save Israel - 'a light to lighten the gentiles' (Luke 2:32). In his gospel John describes Jesus as the Light of the World (John 8:12) who overcomes darkness.

From childhood we associate darkness with fear of the unknown and with ignorance - we are sometimes 'kept in the dark'. To Christians that light is the knowledge that God loves every one of us, good and bad, faithful or not, and that through Christ we can attain everlasting life so that death is not the end but a new beginning. Candles can represent that light.

Christians and others find candles a useful way to represent our feelings. We see them at vigils to symbolise our memories of people who have died. They can be a beacon of hope for those waiting for people who are missing or far away. We put them on birthday cakes to show our love for others.

Perhaps, this Candlemas, on the 2nd of February, for your own personal reason, you will light a candle?

Best wishes,

Tim

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.



<u>Dates:</u>	<u>Flowers:</u>	<u>Dusting:</u>
29 Jan - 11 Feb		Sheila Robinson
12 Feb - 25 Feb	Lent	Audrey Cresswell
26 Feb - 10 Mar	Lent	Sally Flint
11 Mar - 24 Mar	Lent	Beth Deacon
25 Mar - 7 Apr	Easter	Jill Tayler

From The Registers

Rest in Peace

Anita Diane Dunne on 22nd December at Basingstoke Crematorium
John Patrick French on 6th January at Basingstoke Crematorium
Peter Albert Aylin-White on 11th January at Basingstoke Crematorium
Margaret Grattan Gale on 24th December at All Saints'

Burial of Ashes

Patrick Michael Sale on 22nd December at All Saints'
Miss Elizabeth Anne McInnes on 23rd December at All Saints'

If you do not wish to have the information from the registers published, would you please contact Rev. Nicky Judd on 01264 729075.

'QUIET DAY AT HILFIELD

Brother Sam and Hilfield Friary have kindly agreed to host a Quiet Day for our Benefice on Friday 8th April. We are invited to share a day of discussion, prayer and quiet reflection at this very peaceful, rural spot. We will also join the brothers in a communion service. There will be space for a total of 12 from the Benefice. Geoff Scard is co-ordinating the visit and will provide more information nearer the time on the weekly pew sheets. If you are interested in joining the group, this notice gives you chance to make a note in your diary.'

Geoff Scard

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have your magazine delivered free of charge (Abbotts Ann only). A yearly subscription is £6.00. For deliveries outside Abbotts 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

25578 PRIVATE REGINALD WALLACE BELBIN DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT (WEST RIDING)

Reginald Wallace Belbin was born in 1895 at Somerley, near Ringwood, Hampshire, the son of Sidney and Annie Belbin. In the 1911 Census he is shown as being a nurseryman and was living at Upper Clatford, near Andover, Hampshire. He had two older brothers, William and Ralph, an older sister Edith, a younger sister Freda and two younger brothers Harry and Edward.

Reginald Wallace Belbin attested for the Territorial Force at Andover on 10 November 1914 aged 19 and signed the Imperial Service obligation to serve outside the United Kingdom on the same day. He subsequently joined HQ Company of the 1st Wessex Divisional Train, Army Service Corps (ASC), Territorial Force, as T606 Driver Reginald Wallace Belbin. He remained in the United Kingdom until 31 July 1916, being transferred into the Regular Army on 29 July 1916.

Driver Belbin embarked for France from Southampton on the strength of 11 Auxiliary Heavy Transport Coy ASC on 1 August 1916 and disembarked at Rouen the next day. On 10 November 1916 he was awarded a 1st Good Conduct Badge. 7 months later he was posted to the HQ Base Depot ASC for employment in the Resources Park.

On 24 September 1917 he was compulsory transferred to the 8th Battalion the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) as 25578 Private Belbin but retaining ASC rates of pay. According to his service record he was then posted to the 9th Battalion in 52 Infantry Brigade, 17 (Northern) Division, V Corps in 3rd Army on 9 February 1918. At the time, 17 Division was in the Flesquieres salient area.

On 21 March 1918, 76 fresh German divisions attacked the weakened 26 infantry divisions of 3rd and 5th Armies under cover of gas and a hurricane of artillery fire. Very quickly, the British infantry redoubts in the forward defence zone gave way and heavy fighting commenced in the battle zone as the German infantry tried to work their way around these garrisons and move forward. By 22 March, the flanking divisions to 17 Division had been driven back in the confused fighting and at 1.00 am the Battalion was ordered to conform to the 17 Divisional plan and withdrew to Havrincourt. At 10.00 am the enemy made repeated attacks on the Battalion, which were repulsed. At 4.00 pm, units of 50 Infantry Brigade on the Battalion's left flank withdrew, leaving this flank unsupported, and the Battalion had to move rearwards, which was the story for the remainder of the day's action.

At some point during the 9th Battalion's withdrawal action on 22 March, Private Belbin suffered a gunshot wound to his left shoulder. He was evacuated to 49 Casualty Clearing Station at Conteville on 25 March 1918 and then rearwards to 4 General Hospital at Camiers on 26 March 1918, where his wound was re-diagnosed as a serious chest wound. He was evacuated to

Andover Scrap Box



The community of Andover can you help?

Are you having a clear out? Do you have a garage full of bits and bobs? Could you help us collect the following items? Your waste is our treasure! The Andover Scrap Box is seeking:

Pillow cases	Egg boxes	Wallpaper
Wrapping paper	Zips	Tiles
Corks	Ribbon	Vinyl
Cardboard tubes	Fabric	Wire
Yogurt pots	Buttons	Tubing
Containers	Shoe boxes	Plastics gardening pots
Stationery	Bubble Wrap	And much more!!
	Stamps	

RCS Services are working with local Businesses to recycle. Collecting their waste helps us to provide local early year settings, schools, after school clubs and community groups a range of creative resources to use for projects.

If you could help we accept donations Monday to Friday 9.00 am till 3.30 pm. If you have other items that you think may be suitable please contact:

**RCS Ltd, Longmeadow Centre, Cricketers Way,
Andover, SP10 5DD Tel: 01264 359222
Email:enquiries.rcs123@gmail.com**

LENT

Christians traditionally use the season of Lent as a time to study and reflect on their faith, echoing Christ's 40 days in the wilderness. This year the Diocese of Winchester has published a course *I Witness – Living the Mission of Jesus*. In five 90 minutes sessions people taking part will learn how to articulate the Gospel and explain it to others; understand how speaking about the Gospel helps us to know it better and recognise how the good news of Christ Jesus is rooted in the Gospels and the book of Acts.

We will run the course in the Benefice on consecutive weeks as shown below. Anyone is welcome to take part at any venue:

All Saints', Upper Clatford: Monday afternoons 3-4.30pm from Monday 15th February - offer of venue would be appreciated (please contact Nicky).

St Mary's, Abbotts Ann: April Cottage, Tuesday evenings 7.30-9pm from Tuesday 16th February.

St Peter's, Goodworth Clatford: Wednesday evenings 7.30-9pm from Wednesday 17th February (more details to follow)

Contact Nicky Judd (729075), Peter Eastwood (353320) or Tim Tayler (710201) or visit the Diocesan website at www.winchesterlent.org for more details.

For people who would like to undertake further study or cannot join a group then there is material suitable for adults and children that can be used at home by individuals and families.

Tim Tayler

CAROL SINGING ROUND THE VILLAGE

Carol singing at Christmas raised £489.97 for St Mary's church. The PCC is grateful to everyone who turned out to sing or seek donations and to Julian and Jane Benson, Chris Davis and Margaret Hind for their delicious hospitality over two evenings and to all those who contributed so generously. Thank you all, very much.

Tim Tayler (tel: 710201)

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.

PARISH COUNCIL – JANUARY 2016

The Parish Council's decision last month to obtain quotes to remove the railings dividing the burial ground appears to have caused some consternation. The eastern part of the burial ground is currently used as a wildflower meadow and several residents have taken a keen interest in nurturing it. St Mary's Fun Club has visited regularly to show children how nature changes with the seasons and to encourage small protected areas for wildlife. However, all agree that permission to use this consecrated ground as a natural wild area would only apply until it was needed for new graves.

As already reported, there are only five unreserved plots in the western half of the burial ground and thus arrangements need to be made fairly soon. The Parish Council decided at their meeting on 7th January to obtain wider views and Cllr Andrew Hayter was asked to liaise with other interested groups and individuals and report back to the Council. Ultimately, the area is designated for graves, but it would be desirable if the changeover could be managed in a gradual and sympathetic fashion, hopefully satisfying all parties. The burial ground regulations will also be reviewed at the same time: it is evident from visiting graves that not all the current regulations are being adhered to and it is to be hoped the Council will treat this with great sensitivity and pragmatism if they decide to update the rules.

Cllr Graham Stallard, our Test Valley Borough Councillor, attended the last Parish Council meeting and announced that the Borough Local Plan should be adopted by TVBC on 27th January. This should give greater certainty as to how our village will be allowed, or required, to adapt over the coming years. Another piece of good news – TVBC have allocated money for a “scoping study” of St John's Cross, which will look at accident data and traffic movements. This will indicate to them if further action is needed at that junction. Local anecdotal experience already suggests this, but, as always, impartial figures are needed to justify any proposed expenditure of public funds.

Cllr Stallard also reported the not-so-good news, that the Borough Council is looking at reducing the opening hours of the Waste and Recycling Centre (aka “The Tip”). This is a proposed cost-cutting measure and there will be a public consultation starting at the end of January for six weeks or so, to which people are asked to respond. Unfortunately, as indicated by the fly-tipped piles of rubbish witnessed by your correspondent only last night near Farley Mount, if it isn't easy for people to behave in a socially responsible way, they will often take the lazy option.

Cllr Stallard mentioned this possible consequence himself, and as a further note on the subject, raised his concerns about the “significant number” of bottles and cans that had been found in the grounds of the War Memorial Hall on New Year's Day. This land was given to the village as a recreation area for children, so quite apart from causing work for volunteers who have to clear up

Flower festival in church. Theme: ‘Through the Centuries’ and a history exhibition.

Events at the Old Rectory over the weekend, including a Picnic and Show on the Saturday evening.

‘Songs of praise’ church service.

Celebrating St Mary's Church people - Sunday 4th September

A Service of celebration.

Gordon Howard & Sally Dashwood - Churchwardens

THREADGILL CUP ORGANISER NEEDED

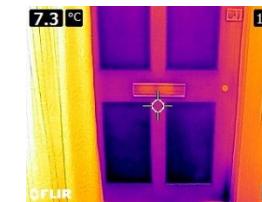
Would you be interested in running the Threadgill Cup this year? It's the village gardening competition. The date and judge are booked, we just need an organised person to handle the applications and escort the judge on the day. If you are interested or want further information please contact Stephanie Wheeler on 01264 352693.

Thank you.

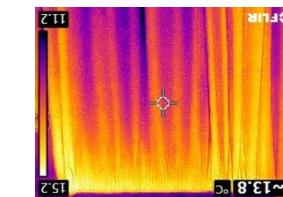
Stephanie Wheeler



THERMAL IMAGING *Do you have high heating bills? Are you wasting energy?*



before



after

Abbotts Ann Green Action will arrange a thermal imaging survey of your house at the cost of £10 to help you find where you are losing heat without realising it, and where you could save energy.

If you wish, AAGA can then offer advice on how to save energy.

Contact: Ann Hopwood tel: 710090

Email: jann.hopwood@gmail.com

ST MARY'S ABBOTTS ANN

Thank you all for supporting your church over the Christmas period. Over Christmas Eve and Christmas day some two hundred and eighty of us celebrated the birth of Christ in St Mary's. It is good to know that Christianity is alive and well in Abbotts Ann. You would be most welcome to join us at our regular services. To that end, if there are aspects of worship which you think could be improved please speak to Sally or Gordon at any time. With the possibility of a new priest coming to lead us later in the year services will be being reviewed and it would help if we knew what parishioners want.

The Benefice profile (where we are, what sort of Christian values are important to us as parishes and how we work together as a Benefice) and a Role Description (what we would like from a new incumbent) has been agreed with the Archdeacon and two members of the PCC appointed to be part of the Benefice interview panel for the selection of our Priest in Charge. We will keep you informed on progress.

We are in urgent need of a PCC Treasurer. The account is not a large one and the task not very onerous, but in the absence of a Treasurer the account has been managed by a churchwarden. At a time when both of us are steering our interregnum (a time without a priest), Sally is planning our centenary celebrations and Gordon managing our major restoration project, it is proving to be quite a burden for Sally. Please can you help? To find out more contact Sally or Gordon.

St Mary's Church Abbotts Ann Tercentenary Celebrations 2016 St Mary's was built in 1716 and, as you know, it is being restored in 2016. To celebrate both there will be a series of events over the next few months. Please put them in your diary. Help us to make this year a memorable one for St Mary's and for the Parish of Abbotts Ann.

Those events will include:-

An Orchestral Concert - at Abbotts Ann School in March (date tbc).

Celebrating St Mary's Church building – Sunday 17th April

Thanksgiving service for the completion of the restoration project).

Talk by PCC's architect Duncan Wilson on the restoration work and history of the church.

Peal attempt by local bell-ringers.

'Chapter & Verse' Concert - Friday 17th June - An evening of readings in the WMH by the popular acting group Chapter and Verse making a return visit to Abbotts Ann.

Celebrating St Mary's Church in the wider community, Saturday 23rd - Sunday 24th July

Peal attempt by Ancient Society of College Youths (seriously good bell ringers).

the unsightly and hazardous mess on a bank holiday, the abuse of the facility is disappointing

Another area needing some "tidying-up" is the footpaths. The Parish Council has been given the opportunity to select six paths for priority attention by Hampshire County Council this year. It was conceded that this could not cover all the clearance necessary and that the Parish Council would have to rely on its own resources for much of the work. There is still a vacancy for a Footpaths Officer and anyone interested in this voluntary role should contact Mrs Clare Cotterell, the Clerk to the Parish Council, on abbottsanpparishcouncil@gmail.com. The post involves walking the footpaths on a reasonably regular basis to keep an eye on their condition and reporting any necessary maintenance requirements to the Clerk. It would suit someone interested in keeping fit and enjoying the countryside, whilst at the same time performing a very useful service for the parish. If walking all the paths seems too demanding for one individual, perhaps the job could be split – the Council has had a "deputy" Footpaths Officer in the past.

The Council has been hoping for some time to install a second defibrillator in the parish. The first is, of course, in an unlocked cabinet at the back of The Eagle Inn, and is designed to be usable by an untrained operator as it gives audible instructions. Cllr Susie Bleeker has been making strenuous efforts to obtain a device for The Poplar Farm Inn, a site which will also be easy to remember and locate. Whilst the Council has funds set aside for such a purchase, it has been possible to obtain a government grant towards the cost. The bureaucracy has proved more protracted than would have been wished, but apparently the suppliers have now asked for a delivery address, which is encouraging!

At an open meeting in the War Memorial Hall on 14th January, Mr Graham Smith, from Test Valley Borough Council planning policy department, gave a very interesting presentation on the advantages and disadvantages of Neighbourhood Plans. These are designed to give communities greater control over their future. The Parish Council would have to initiate the potentially lengthy process, drawing in help from willing volunteers in Abbotts Ann. The first step would be to establish the aims – such as protecting green spaces, or the location of any new houses, for example. What area should be included in the "Neighbourhood" - the whole parish, or just the village? There would be close consultation with residents of the designated area, who would have to approve the Plan in a referendum. After adoption, it would carry the same legal weight as the Borough Local Plan.

Despite the possible benefits, the long-term commitment and effort required from individuals to create a Neighbourhood Plan mean that it is certainly not a project to be "entered unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly". The debate continues.

Rosemary Groves

ABBOTTS ANN WI - DECEMBER 2015

December is such a busy month, so much to be done and all by the 25th, but several of our members still managed to fit in a visit to the cinema to see *Lady in the Van*, which I believe they enjoyed, and the reading group met to discuss their latest literary selection. The walking group had a ramble around Charlton village and Anton Lakes working up an appetite for their lunch at the local hostelry, The Royal Oak.

Our monthly meeting was held on the second Thursday of the month to avoid Christmas week and was a relaxed evening of festive readings - some amusing, some invoking Christmas memories of our childhood perhaps and others more serious. Each member had brought along some delicious food, so there was a lovely buffet to enjoy afterwards and plenty of time to chat.

Later in the month, three of us attended the Anton & Danebury Group Carol Concert at Weyhill Church - also followed by refreshments in the nearby Fairground Hall.

This month's meeting is on 25th February at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, our speaker Susan Howe will be "Cantering through a Funny Life." Our members have been asked to pen a limerick for the occasion - watch this space!

Sharon King

A date for your diary:



**Annual Children's Society
Coffee Morning and Box Opening**
Thursday 10th March 2016 at 10.30 am

**2, Catherine's Walk,
Abbotts Ann**

**Coffee, cake, boxes and lots more.
Call: Kate 712028 for more information**



Homing Enquiries 0345 2601501 or
www.andovercats.org.uk
Fund-raising/volunteers 07969 708992 or
julie72.julie72@gmail.com
Items for resale 01256-892773

Presumably because of the warm weather, we are already taking in kittens which will require homes. Some of them, born to stray or abandoned cats in people's gardens, are not used to human contact and require a lot of socialisation. If a kitten is not handled before it is about six weeks old it may never become tame and will have to be placed in a stable or on a farm to do rodent control. We are spending about £10,000 a year on neutering but still the problem persists.

Our next event will be for Valentine's Day at the Andover Garden Centre on the 13th and 14th of this month. We will have an information stall and in addition hope to collect donations for our work. Gifts of food will also be gratefully accepted. Unwanted cat food can always be left at Pets at Home in Andover where we have a bin.



Taz, our New Year cat now lives in Salisbury.

Wellington, shown here visiting the vet for his vaccination, is about two years old. He was found straying at Wellington Academy in Tidworth, hence his name. He is very friendly and always very hungry, presumably because he had spent time foraging for his food..

Martin Bevan



TICKETS ON SALE

The 2016 All Saints Winter Lectures,
Upper Clatford.

Monday 22nd February 2016



**Rt. Hon Lord Mark
Malloch-Brown
KCMG**

**Big Problems, Small World: how to
manage global issues as conflicts
multiply.**

In both business and politics 2016 has many forecasters predicting disruption and setback, yet there are many important long term issues that cannot be neglected from climate change, to poverty and migrations as well as global security. So how do we think and act long term without being distracted by short term crises.

Lord Mark Malloch-Brown is a former number two in the United Nations as well as having served in the British Cabinet and Foreign Office. He now sits in the House of Lords and is active both in business and in the non-profit world. He also remains deeply involved in international affairs.

Price : The cost is £12.00 per person. Please make cheques in favour of "All Saints Church".

Tickets : Tickets can be bought at *Clatford Village Store & Post Office*, *The Abbotts Ann Village Shop* and *The Crook and Shears*. You can also contact Nicki Crosthwaite Eyre (01264 35 25 30 or e-mail: Nicki.eyre@talktalk.net) and send her a stamped addressed envelope to The Old Malthouse, Upper Clatford, Andover, SP11 7QL, stating the number of tickets for each talk.

Time & Venue : Doors open at 7pm and the lectures start at 8pm at the **King Edward VII Memorial Hall, Upper Clatford, SP11 7QL**. Parking is available behind the hall.

Funds raised will be shared between All Saints PCC and Médecins Sans Frontières

GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY FISH PIE CONTEST

It's back, and this time it just got fishier?



FAMILY FISHY FRIDAY FUN

25th MARCH 6PM

at the Abbotts Ann War MEMORIAL HALL

We have challenged Abbotts Ann to see who can make the best fish pie and we need you to come and eat it to see who will be the 2016 pie master!

2015 winner – Stephen Godman

Fishy quiz, Fish Pie Contest and Raffle Prizes

If you think you have what it takes why not join in the fun and battle it out with local cooks and see if your pie can be crowned Abbotts Ann Fish Pie of 2016!

Or just buy a ticket and help us celebrate the winning pie.

Tickets: £10 per adult - £4 per child. Paying bar.

Tickets for sale in the Village Shop & Post Office

VERY LIMITED TICKETS DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

If you wish to enter a pie please call or email:

Neil 711108 wheelyp@gmail.com

REPORT FROM ABBOTTS ANN ACTION

Test Valley Revised Local Plan

Test Valley Borough Council has announced that the examination by a government inspector has found the Borough's Revised Local Plan ("RLP") to be "sound". It is expected to be adopted by the Council on 27th January. It covers the period 2011 to 2029.

The RLP says that the Borough will require at least 10,584 homes between now and 2029. It identifies locations for housing, employment and other land uses. It will guide the Borough Council's decisions on planning applications. You can find the document on the Council's website.

How will it affect us in Abbotts Ann?

In the Andover area, major housing development to help meet the housing requirement will be in Picket Piece and Picket Twenty – on the east side of Andover.

Development in villages such as Abbotts Ann should be to meet the needs of the village so, for example, a large-scale housing development which would bring in people from outside the village should not be permitted.

Development in the countryside (i.e. outside the boundaries of settlements) will be permitted only if it is appropriate in the countryside or it is essential for it to be there. The settlement boundary of Abbotts Ann follows largely the existing built-up area.

A 'Local Gap' between Abbotts Ann and Andover is maintained covering the area of Little Park bounded by the Pillhill Brook, Red Post Lane, the railway line, the A303 and the A343. The purpose of Local Gaps is to maintain a sense of place for individual communities.

Many residents of Abbotts Ann as well as the Parish Council made representations about the RLP, especially supporting the Local Gap, and the Inspector will have taken these into account.

In our opinion, the new RLP is very satisfactory from Abbotts Ann's point of view.

But we need to remain vigilant!

In our opinion, the number of houses which the RLP aims to see built is ambitious and if they are not built TVBC could be under pressure to identify additional sites for further building. We are also watching with concern the proposal to devolve more responsibilities to Hampshire and IoW Councils because this is being "sold" to the government with the promise of big increases in housing development. We do need to remain vigilant!

Richborough Estates planning application

TVBC has turned down Richborough's planning application to build 70 dwellings at "Bulbery Field". The reasons can be seen on TVBC's website at

ABBOTTS ANN POST OFFICE

Post Office Limited has relaunched the Growth Bond and a Fixed Rate ISA and introduced new rates for the Savings range. The new issues give savers a competitive return for their money and reflect the current market on savings rates.

Growth Bond Issue 28 - 1 year: 1.67% gross*/AER** Fixed
2 year: 1.80% gross*/AER** Fixed
3 year: 2.01% gross*/AER** Fixed

Fixed Rate ISA Issue 17- 1 year: 1.40% tax free^/AER** Fixed
2 year: 1.55% tax free^/AER** Fixed
3 year: 1.75% tax free^/AER** Fixed

Instant Saver Issue 7- 1.20% gross*/AER** Variable

Reward Saver Issue 11- 1.25% gross*/AER** Variable

Premier Cash ISA Issue 11- 1.40% tax free^/AER**Variable

Please note:

Instant Saver includes a 1.10% gross*fixed 12 month bonus from account opening, after which the rate reverts to 0.10% gross*AER**Variable Reward Saver includes a 0.60% gross*fixed 12 month bonus from account opening, after which the rate reverts to 0.65% gross*/AER**Variable Premier Cash ISA includes a 0/75% tax free^ fixed 18 month bonus from account opening, after which the rate reverts to 0.65% tax free^/AER** Variable *Gross rates do not take into deduction of income tax. ^Tax free means the interest paid will be free from UK Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax. **AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and shows what the interest would be if interest was paid and compounded once each year.

Royal Mail Issue 500 Stamp Issue - 17 February 2016

In 2016, Royal Mail celebrates 500 years of operating a regular organised postal service and will mark this historic landmark for the business by telling the story of how a formal postal network was established and expanded to ensure efficient movement of communications. The "The King's Post" - the first national postal service was set up by King Henry VIII in 1516.

Lastly do not leave it too late to send your Valentine's Day card!

Maureen Flood - Sub Post Mistress



ABBOTTS ANN VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE

Shop Manager: Tim Abram
Deputy Shop Manager: Carol Murphy
Sub Post Mistress: Maureen Flood

February 2016

Pizza Night

Tim's Pizza nights have gone down very well and the plan at the moment is to hold them monthly. If you have not tried one yet you are really missing something special. Made completely by hand and with three varieties to choose from (Abbotts Ann Sausage, Pepperoni or Vegetarian), at £12.94 for a 12" pizza made especially for you at a time of your choice they are excellent value.

Friday 12th February is your next Pizza night.

Order in advance, with your choice of collection time between 5pm and 7pm.

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) - 9th February

Come along to the shop on Pancake Day (remember to bring your frying pan) for what has become our annual pancake race. During the race the pancake has to be tossed at least three times! There will also be a "toddlers" race (without frying pans!). Put the date in your diary or on the kitchen calendar – **Tuesday 9th February at 10.30 am**. Remember, you can recover in the shop from your efforts with a cup of coffee or chocolate.

Valentines Day - 14th February

Pop into the shop and view our selection of cards for this special day; together with a box of chocolates, a card would make a lovely surprise for that special someone.

Gardener

Can you spare a couple of hours, roughly once a month, just to tidy up the shop garden? Please bring your own tools as we do not have any at the shop. If you are interested, please tell Tim or Carol in the shop.

Volunteers

As a community owned and run village shop we rely completely on our volunteers. We are always on the lookout for new members to join the team, especially for Friday evenings or Sunday mornings. The work is fun and interesting. It is a brilliant way of meeting people. Have a word with Tim or Carol. They would both make you very welcome.

*Elizabeth Howard
Shop Volunteer & Committee Member*

View Planning Applications Online. They include:
that the development would be in the countryside;
that people who came to live there would be over-reliant on motor cars
for access to services etc.
the development would have a detrimental effect on the landscape.

Again, a large number of representations were made to TVBC by residents of Abbotts Ann as well as by the Parish Council and we are sure that this will have helped to achieve an outcome which we believe most residents will welcome.

The adoption of the Revised Local Plan (see above), in our opinion makes any appeal by Richborough against the refusal much less likely to succeed.

Abbotts Ann Action
Tel: 710037
raylucas1984@gmail.com

CONTEMPLATIVE DAYS

From Sight to Insight – Journeying with Christ in Modern Art

The Revd Jenny Ellis (who was joint leader of the Growing Bridgebuilders course) is leading a series of Contemplative Days at her home, Batts Row Cottage, Laverstoke Lane, Nr Whitchurch, RG28 7PA. Each day can stand alone and will include simple worship at the beginning and the end, a way in to meditation, exploration of one or more images of Christ in modern art and relevant Scriptures, time for personal reflection, creativity or walking and an opportunity for sharing a little with others.

Each session begins at 9.30 am for 10.00 am and ends at 4.00 pm.
The cost is £12 per session, including refreshments, light lunch and materials.
The sessions and themes are as follows:-

February – Stories of Jesus healing and teaching

Thursday February 11th, repeated Saturday February 20th

March – The Passion

Tuesday March 15th

April – The Resurrection

Saturday April 16th, repeated Monday April 18th

May – the coming of the Spirit

Wednesday May 25th

June – Living Well

Begun Saturday June 11th and completed Saturday June 18th

If this is of interest to you, please book with Jenny at jenny.battsrow@gmail.com or on 01256 892 895

Rev. Nicky Judd

LIFE WITH THE TRIBE - DECEMBER 2015

Our Christmas tree arrives unannounced and early and in our inimitable family style, chaos ensues. Despite ordering it to arrive in the first week of December, it bizarrely arrives in the evening on the last Sunday of November. We have my parents staying and we are in the middle of getting school bags packed, uniform out and generally ushering the Tribe into bed. A commotion begins along Cattle Lane as a pick up truck weighed down with freshly cut fir trees, blocks the road and our Christmas tree is lugged in by two people. I ordered a 12' tree. A 17' tree arrives. It is late, dark, cold and a 'school night'. The tree gets left outside the front door.

The following weekend we bring the tree in. It is ridiculously big but between Father of the Tribe and me we manage to drag, push and pull the tree into the hallway, with the Boy shouting instructions down from the balcony. It is vast - in reality far too big - but the Tribe are utterly delighted; even the Eldest! And the smell! It is just Christmas as soon as you walk through the front door or in the morning when we come out of our bedrooms. The Eldest describes the scent as a snow covered pine forest. The Boy says it's as if you've just stepped through the wardrobe and arrived in Narnia. Well, whatever it is, the magic of Christmas is very much alive in our hallway and it brings smiles over the next few weeks. One late afternoon, before the tree is decorated, the Eldest and the Boy have just arrived home from school and suddenly exclaim 'the cat!' Which one I wonder?? Turning, I see Holly almost at the top of the tree having nimbly climbed up its trunk. She turns and looks at me with utter disdain as if to say 'And your problem is...?' She looks like Mog, Judith Kerr's famous feline children's character that has been reincarnated this year by Sainsbury's for their Christmas advert. If you haven't seen the mini drama 'Mog's Christmas Calamity' it is worth a look. It is very, very funny and we have now nicknamed Holly, 'Mog'.

The origins of the Christmas tree is in Germany. In 1800 Queen Charlotte had the first Christmas tree in the UK, but it was Prince Albert who sent decorated trees to schools in Windsor and to local barracks and soon everyone wanted a Christmas tree in their homes.

The weather has been ridiculously mild - the warmest December since records began and when we are in Windsor we see swathes of daffodils in bloom already! This year has also seen the largest Brussels sprouts due to the mild weather and a lot of melting ice rinks - not so good. However, the mild weather has led to an increase in rain and the north west is particularly badly hit with flooding.

Post Christmas we escape for a week to Ypres in Belgium. It seems to be impossible for us to spend proper family time at home. There is always something that needs doing. When we are away we can leave all that behind us and play games and just be. I'd like to think that 2016 will be full of more

'idle' moments - just watching the clouds float by on a fresh spring day or watching raindrops chase each other down a window pane. I can but hope.

Ypres is a revelation. It is a beautiful, walkable city with a desperate history from WWI that has been poignantly and sensitively remembered in the excellent In Flanders Field Museum. The city is decorated elegantly and we are fortunate to have clear blue skies, so we explore the alley ways and ramparts. The city was almost totally destroyed as the Germans attempted to advance, but it was never taken and after the end of the war, totally rebuilt. It was around the city that trenches were first constructed and the desperate trench warfare began. We all learn a huge amount; I find it almost impossible to imagine the terror of the soldiers along the Western Front, but I certainly understand much more about the bravery than I ever did before. We are staying 5 minutes walk from the Menin Gate and we attend the Last Post ceremony almost every evening. Each evening is different, but each is humbling and moving. As we walk back along the ramparts on the first night, the Tribe start to run and chase each other, laughing in the dark. I am about to tell them to stop, but realise that this is exactly what they should be doing, this is the freedom that these brave men fought for.

Mother of the Tribe

BURDOCK VALLEY PLAYERS

People have been very appreciative of our pre-Christmas panto, 'The Snow Queen' – hopefully you got to see it? Thank you for your support - we had a lot of fun playing 7 performances to good audiences!

Alan Johns from The Southern Daily Echo Curtain Call provided the following independent review:

A MATINEE in rural Upper Clatford is always a treat and this year's pantomime lived up to expectations. Director Andy Poore ensured the cast, bursting with personality, maintained the high standard, with the emphasis on comedy and audience participation. In Lee Poore, (as Kai) the company has a very talented leading man with a lovely singing voice and he carried the show, which featured his quest to find true love with Gerda (the tuneful Millie Southway). In panto-land this is never an easy task and the evil Snow Queen (Anna Dowsett, also credited as musical director and choreographer) kidnapped her. Humour was plentiful and well-delivered, in the shape of Dame Dotty (Richard Moffitt) and the madcap pair Molotov and Smirnoff (Ruth Gillott and Karen Lindley). Jon Slingsby and Jayne Arthurs played the robber pair for laughs and Ian Powell was the storyteller. The set was colourful, the sound clear and the sing-alongs loud and tuneful.

Next Production – **June 3/4/5 - 'Cash on Delivery'**, an hilarious farce, written by Michael Cooney. Put it in your diaries now – we've been in stitches just reading the script!

Jon Slingsby