

31 Jan (Sun) (The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany) Candlemas – full service details p2
8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann

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 Abbots 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
 7 Feb (Sun) (The Sunday Next Before Lent) – full service details – page 2
8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
 9 Feb (Tues) **12.30pm** Meadow Room Lunch at All Saints'.
 10 Feb (Wed) Ash Wednesday Service details page 2
7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
7.30pm Upper Clatford Parish Council meets in UC Memorial Hall
 11 Feb (Thurs) **7.30pm** Bellringing practice, St Mary's
7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
 14 Feb (Sun) (The First Sunday of Lent) - full service details next month
8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
15 Feb (Mon) 12.00noon Deadline for receipt of copy for the March 2016 Abbots Ann Magazine editor@abbottsannmagazine.co.uk
 16 Feb (Tues) **7.30pm** Goodworth Clatford WI, meets in GCVC
 17 Feb (Wed) **7.00pm** The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
7.30pm Upper Clatford WI meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall.
 18 Feb (Thurs) **7.30pm** Bellringing practice, St Mary's
7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
 19 Feb (Fri) **10.00am** Goodworth Clatford WI Walking Group
 21 Feb (Sun) (The Second Sunday of Lent) – full service details next month
8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
 22 Feb (Mon) **7.00 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
7.30pm Abbots Ann WI meets in Abbots Ann War Memorial Hall.
 27 Feb (Sat) **7.00 for 7.30pm** Strictly Dinner & Dance at GCVC
 28 Feb (Sun) (The Third Sunday of Lent) – full service details next month
8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann

For Abbots Ann Magazine and Diary, email: editor@abbottsannmagazine.co.uk

St Mary's Church, Abbots Ann

Rector Vacant
Ministry Team Revd. Nicky Judd 729075
(During the Vacancy) clive@judd47.plus.com
 Tim Tayler 710201
tim.tayler@talk21.com
 Peter Eastwood 353320
peter@eastwood.me.uk

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St Mary's Gordon Howard 710830
 4 St Mary's Meadow, Abbots Ann
gw_eo_howard@btinternet.com
 Sally Dashwood 710640
 1 The Bakery, Dunkirt Lane, Abbots Ann
St Peter's Jane Eastwood 353320
 John Milne 361206

All Saints' Eleanor Jakeman 362502
 Bill Mitford 357675

Details of church officers and activities can also be found
 on the village website - <http://www.abbottsann.com/amenitiesservices/church/>

Choir Practice Thursdays 7.45pm, St Peter's,
 Goodworth Clatford
Bell Ringing practice Thursdays 7.30-9.00pm, St Mary's,
 Abbots Ann
 Handbells 7.00pm 1st Thursday each month
 Tower Captain: Dudley Alleway 710646

Parochial Church Council

Secretary Mrs Jo Brookes 07967
 3 Slessor Close, Monxton Road 484581
Treasurer (Temporary) Sally Dashwood 710640
 1 The Bakery

Abbots Ann Magazine

Editor Andrea Jackson 710630
 5 Timothy's Field, Abbots Ann
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Advertising Manager Vacant

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE IN JANUARY 2016

Please note change of services and times at all churches.

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

Sunday 27th December	First Sunday of Christmas
08.00 Said Holy Communion	St Mary's (NJ)
10.00 Sung Family Eucharist	All Saints' (NJ)
16.00 Evensong	St Peter's (PE)
Sunday 3rd January	2nd Sunday of Christmas Epiphany
08.00 Said Holy Communion	St Peter's (NJ)
10.00 Sung Eucharist	All Saints' (NJ)
10.00 Family Service	St Peter's (PE)
18.00 Evensong	St Mary's (TT)
Sunday 10th January	The Baptism of Christ
08.00 Said Holy Communion	All Saints' (NJ)
09.30 Sung Eucharist	St Mary's (NJ)
11.15 Matins	St Peter's (PE)
18.00 Evensong	St Mary's (Peggy Ellis)
Sunday 17th January	Second Sunday of Epiphany
08.00 Said Holy Communion	St Mary's (NJ)
10.00 Sung Eucharist	St Peter's (NJ)
10.00 Family Service	St Mary's (Lay led)
16.00 Evensong	All Saints' (TT)
Sunday 24th January	Third Sunday of Epiphany
08.00 Said Holy Communion	St Mary's (NJ)
10.00 Sung Family Eucharist	All Saints' (NJ)
16.00 Evensong	St Peter's (PE)
Sunday 31st January	Candlemas
10.00 Sung Benefice Eucharist	St Mary's (NJ + TT + PE)
Sunday 7th February	Sunday next before Lent
08.00 Said Holy Communion	St Peter's (NJ)
10.00 Sung Eucharist	All Saints' (NJ)
10.00 Family Service	St Peter's (TT)
18.00 Evensong	St Mary's (PE)
Wednesday 10th February	Ash Wednesday
11.00 Benefice Holy Communion	St Peter's? (NJ)
20.00 Benefice Sung Eucharist	St Mary's (NJ)

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 - JANUARY 2016

3 Jan	(Sun)	(The Second Sunday of Christmas) Epiphany – full service details p2 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
4 Jan	(Mon)	NO Way Inn Lunch at St. Peter's.
5 Jan	(Tues)	7.00pm Goodworth Clatford Parish Council meets in GCVC
6 Jan	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club (Partnership Meeting) in GCVC
7 Jan	(Thurs)	10.30am Goodworth Clatford WI Coffee Morning 7.00pm Abbots 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
9 Jan	(Sat)	"Shoe Kangaroo and the Big Bad Foot" – GCVC
10 Jan	(Sun)	(The First Sunday of Epiphany) The Baptism of Christ – full service details page 2 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
11 Jan	(Mon)	12.30pm Way Inn Lunch at St Peter's 7.00 for 8.00pm , All Saints' Winter Lectures – General Sir Richard Shirreff. Upper Clatford Memorial Hall. Page 16
12 Jan	(Tues)	12.30pm Meadow Room Lunch at All Saints'.
13 Jan	(Wed)	7.30pm Upper Clatford Parish Council meets in UC Memorial Hall 7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC
14 Jan	(Thurs)	7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's 7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
15 Jan	(Fri)	12.00noon Deadline for receipt of copy for the February 2016 Abbots Ann Magazine editor@abbottsannmagazine.co.uk 10.00am Goodworth Clatford WI Walking Group
16 Jan	(Sat)	7.30pm All Saints' Annual Quiz, Upper Clatford Memorial Hall.
17 Jan	(Sun)	(The Second Sunday of Epiphany) – full service details page 2 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
18 Jan	(Mon)	7.30pm Film Night at Upper Clatford, X+Y see page 20
19 Jan	(Tues)	7.30pm Goodworth Clatford WI, Members Annual Dinner in GCVC
20 Jan	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC 7.30pm Upper Clatford WI meets in Upper Clatford Memorial Hall.
21 Jan	(Thurs)	7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's 7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
22 Jan	(Fri)	7.30pm Burns Night, in Abbots Ann War Memorial Hall – page 13
24 Jan	(Sun)	(The Third Sunday of Epiphany) – full service details page 2 8.00pm Eagle Pub Quiz, Abbots Ann
26 Jan	(Tues)	7.30pm Film Night at Goodworth Clatford Village Club
27 Jan	(Wed)	7.00pm The Wednesday Bridge Club meets in GCVC 7.45pm Clatford Valley Garden Club meets in UC Memorial Hall.
28 Jan	(Thurs)	7.30pm Bellringing practice, St Mary's 7.30pm Abbots Ann WI NY Dinner in Abbots Ann War Memorial Hall. 7.45pm Benefice Choir Practice, St Peter's
30 Jan	(Sat)	7.30pm "Gypsy Dreamers" at Upper Clatford Memorial Hall.

THE JANE AUSTEN SINGERS

Advent Carol Service – Church of St Peter and St Paul, King's Somborne Sunday 29th November 2015

A blustery November evening did not deter an enthusiastic congregation from packing the church at King's Somborne for this Advent service of choral music, hymns and associated Bible readings.

The Revd Jonathan Watkins began with the Bidding Prayer which was followed by the Introit, O Radiant Dawn, by the Scottish composer James Macmillan sung from the west end. This contemporary piece has been adopted and marked as ideally suited for the eager Advent anticipation of the birth of Jesus.

The evening's music was in the safe hands of the Jane Austen Singers under their director Tim Lowden who sang a variety of works by composers from the 17th through to the 20th century. Acoustics are a strange phenomenon and difficult to understand. Two churches of the same size and interior can sound entirely different, one resonant, the other dry. The latter applies to King's Somborne.

However, even in this environment, the Jane Austen Singers were comfortable with both the intimate – for example The Apple Tree by Elizabeth Poston, Es est ein Ros' by Michael Praetorius and Adam Lay y Bounden by Boris Ord – and music written for cathedrals or abbeys – O Thou the Central Orb by Charles Wood, Bach's Wie soll ich dich, and especially the Ave Maria by Victoria, a performance that stood out and evoked the sounds of the great Spanish and Italian buildings where it was first sung.

Much of the music would have been unfamiliar to the congregation because the traditional carols don't arrive until after Advent. However when the service had drawn to a close with Rutter's much loved The Lord Bless You and Keep You, the applause was heartfelt in appreciation. As a bonus, many then repaired to the Village Hall for a delicious supper prepared by the ladies of the Parish Action team.

Fine music, moving readings and delicious food. This was a perfect way to raise the curtain on Christmas and warmed the soul.

James Montgomery

DON'T FORGET!

Winchester Ice Rink is open until Sunday 3rd January 9.45am-7.45pm
Tickets £10.50 Adults, £8.50 Concessions, £6 Children aged 4-7
Book now online or call 01962 857 276

MINISTRY TEAM CHURCH MAGAZINE ARTICLE FOR JANUARY 2016

A couple of months ago I wrote about how time was relentlessly moving on, and so inevitably here we are at the start of yet another new year. When some of my children were growing up they used to have a toy called Etch-a-Sketch which was in effect a magic slate. You wrote or drew on it and then, just by turning it upside down and shaking it, everything you did magically disappeared and you could start again with a blank screen. Maybe everyone feels a bit like that on New Year's Eve. We would like to magically wipe out some of the things we did in 2015 and start again with a clean slate. The New Year stands before us, like a new chapter in a book, with a blank page and a story waiting to be written.

We can help write that story by setting goals or resolutions. We can look at the mistakes we have made in the past and discover what we would like to have happen in our lives this year. Goals give us direction for how we want to live our life. What would you like to have happen in your life this year? What would you like to do, to accomplish? What good would you like to attract into your life? What character defects would you like to have removed? Where would you like to go? What would you like to have happen in friendship and love? What would you like to have happen in your family life? What problems in the world would you like to see solved? What decisions would you like to make? What would you like to happen in your career? So many questions!

But in fact I want to suggest to you that the blank page before you isn't actually blank at all! Because there is a plan that is already written for you by God. Jeremiah 29:11 says "*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*" He knows what is in his plan for us but we certainly don't. At the end of 2014 Jane and I had planned to visit cousins in Australia in September 2015 and go on to see New Zealand as well, and that plan did happen. What we had no idea would happen when we booked our holiday was that as we landed at Heathrow our granddaughter Abigail would be born sharing her name with the first winter storm of the year!

But other things were also part of God's plan and I could never have imagined what they might have been last January. I am equally sure that my fellow team members Nicky and Tim would also say that they had absolutely no idea what God had in store for us in 2015. What has happened to us as a team charged with ministering in our benefice has been challenging, strenuous, stressful, but also very exciting. God's plans usually are!

At the Open Deanery meeting last November Bishop Tim outlined what had been achieved in the first four years of his ministry and what might be achieved

in the next ten years. He reminded us that part of the pMAP was that we should all strive to follow Jesus and live more like him. He suggested that life is quite simple really – all we need to do is find out what God wants us to do and then live it with all our heart. I am glad our Bishop thinks life is simple – it doesn't always seem that way! However let's all try and do what he suggests together and find God's plan, and may I also wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Peter

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:

1 Jan - 14 Jan
15 Jan - 28 Jan
29 Jan - 11 Feb

12 Feb - 25 Feb
 26 Feb - 10 Mar
 11 Mar - 24 Mar
 25 Mar - 7 Apr

Flowers:

Sylvia Burson

Lent
 Lent
 Lent
 Easter

Dusting:

Margaret Brooks
Penny Scriven
Sheila Robinson

Audrey Cresswell
 Sally Flint
 Beth Deacon
 Jill Tayler

From The Registers

Rest in Peace

5th December, the funeral of Margaret Doreena Patterson at St Mary's.
 7th December, the funeral of Patrick Valentine at St Peter's.

Burial of Ashes

20th November, the funeral of Lilian Mary Hounslow at Salisbury Crematorium followed by the burial of ashes at All Saints' on 23rd November.

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

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I hold regular surgeries for all constituents in North West Hampshire

What a subject for the artists! We three boffins from the Orient traversing moor and mountain in pursuit of a star! But we're determined to be there when it completes its mission. Aware that we may have language problems we'll take suitably symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, tokens of this planet's wealth, spiritual insight and mortality. We hope these offerings will be appropriate if, as Balthasar thinks, the star signals the arrival of a VIP from beyond our galaxy, or even our universe, even if, as Melchior puts it, we find it to be a neonatal specimen of homo sapiens – in other words, a baby.

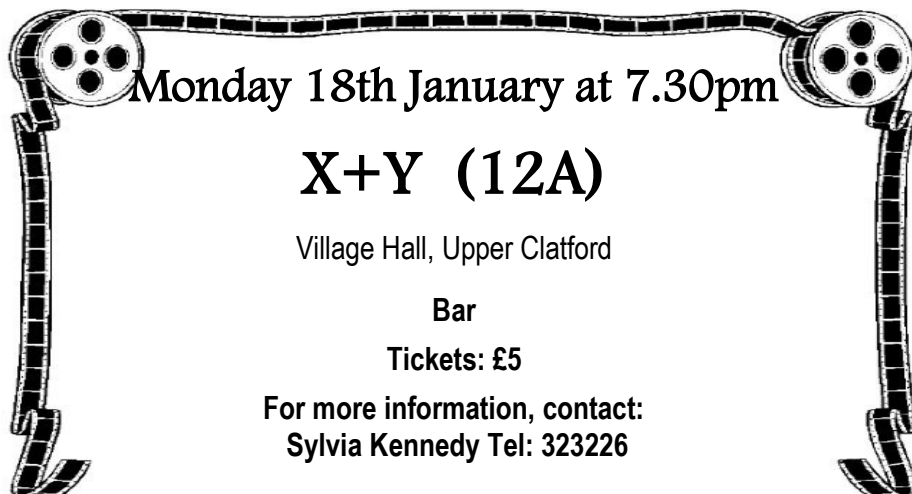
The gold and myrrh I can easily go along with, but I'm not so sure about the frankincense. I've always had a problem reconciling science and religion. But God knows – if there is a God – that our logical minds can be so busy concentrating on the *What* and *How* that we ignore the *Why*. Why shouldn't whoever put the stars there in the first place decide to use a star to convey the earth-shattering news of a new era? And doesn't a baby represent Love? Perhaps I'm just beginning to get the message...

Anyway, I can't wait to get started. Must rush – my camel's at the door.

Yours sincerely,
D. Caspar, Ph.D. M.Sc

Edited by Hadrianus Rusticus

**MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE AT THE END OF JANUARY.
THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION REMAINS UNCHANGED AT £6 FOR
TWELVE ISSUES. PLEASE HELP YOUR COLLECTOR BY HAVING THE
CORRECT MONEY AVAILABLE WHEN THEY CALL**



ST MARY'S ABBOTTS ANN

Our temporary roof survived the gales in early December and the restoration work is well under way. Although the church is shrouded in scaffolding all our regular Sunday Services will take place as usual, as advertised elsewhere in this magazine, on the village website and as on the notice boards on the church path. All we need now is for more of us to come and worship in our nice warm church.

**There is a full range of Services in the church
plus a family service in the War Memorial Hall
on the 3rd Sunday of each month.**

Please join us.

Gordon is a member of a small team from the parishes in our Benefice working to produce a Benefice Profile (where we are, what sort of Christian values are important to us as parishes and how we work together as a Benefice) plus a Role Description (what we would like from a new incumbent). It is a long drawn out process, but it is hoped that your Parochial Church Council and then the Diocese will approve the document early in the new year so that we can advertise the vacancy with a view to interviewing candidates for the position of our Priest in Charge by March. We will keep you informed on progress.

Gordon Howard & Sally Dashwood

'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

ST MARY'S CHURCH

May I thank the Flower Arrangers who helped to decorate the Church for the Christmas Festival; the candles and flowers created a seasonal atmosphere in the church despite the scaffolding outside. I am very grateful for the kind donations towards the flowers.

For a New Year's resolution please consider joining our Flower Rota for 2 weeks a year to boost our dwindling numbers. We are not looking for expert arrangements just simple flowers at the altar.

Sylvia Burson 710852

ABBOTTS ANN PARISH COUNCIL - DECEMBER

Parish councillors had a very productive and encouraging meeting with residents of Burghclere Down at their Community Centre in November. They were glad of the opportunity to discuss in detail specific issues that concern the residents, in an informal atmosphere. Lighting, traffic, and dog bins are being progressed by the appropriate bodies – not everything comes under the Parish Council’s responsibility, but it can act as a “GP” and direct enquiries to the proper “consultant”! Cllr Graham Stallard, one of our Test Valley Borough ward councillors, also reported that TVBC are to refurbish the three play areas it manages in Burghclere Down, starting at the beginning of January. The normal formal Parish Council meeting of 3rd March will be held at Burghclere Down Community Centre, in the hope that it will be easier for residents there to attend.

Councillors were very pleased with the result of the Bulbery Field development hearing at Test Valley Borough Council offices in Beech Hurst in November. The chairman, Bernard Griffiths, had informed the Parish Council that he would be away and thus unable to present the Parish Council’s case in person as he usually does at these occasions. Cllr Beth Deacon stood in, and gave an eloquent report to the planning meeting, expressing concisely yet fully in the three minutes allowed to each speaker why the proposal for seventy new houses opposite Abbots Ann primary school should not be approved. The Borough Council unanimously rejected the promoter’s application.

The Parish Councillors were delighted with this result, and thanked Ray Lucas and the other members of Abbots Ann Action for all their help in preparing the wording for the presentation to the Borough Council. It is very easy in three minutes to find that “time” is called before one has hardly got beyond “good evening” and speakers are not allowed to exceed their allocated slot. It takes much practice to hone ideas into a pithy, factual, yet rousing and persuasive speech: the classical art of oratory combined with modern soundbites.

It may not yet be the end of the story of Bulbery Field, as there are other steps the promoter can take, but it is at least the end of the first chapter.

One of the Parish Council’s responsibilities is the burial ground, which adjoins the churchyard. Indeed, some time ago it also took over the management of the churchyard itself. There is no obvious division between these two areas, although the remnant of the original fence can still be seen by the burial ground noticeboard along Church Path. The churchyard has long since been full, and now the burial ground area is running out of unreserved spaces – at the time of writing, five are left. It has always been planned that the fence separating it from the present wildflower meadow will have to be removed so that new plots can be allocated. The wildflower meadow is already consecrated, and its current use has only been temporary. Quotes are now being obtained for the removal of the fence.

Revelation. Meanwhile, please, not a word to the media, least of all the Daily Star or Sky News.

It would be very unscientific to speculate about what we expect to find. Balthasar isn’t saying, but I’m sure he has a theory about some sort of space vehicle bringing a VIP from another world. For my part, as a practical man, I would like to think that the object of the exercise is to re-establish a communication system that got off to a bad start in Eden Garden City four thousand and four years ago. It’s been suffering from intermittent faults ever since, despite the efforts of experts like Amos and Isaiah to restore the service. As for Melchior, he clouds the issue in a fog of terminology. He bumbles on about an eventuality which transcends the parameters of current astronomical speculation and hypothecates an asteroid which has circumvented its gravitational regularity and must be regarded as a natural phenomenon with supernatural implications. In plain Babylonian my companions are both convinced that a Royal Person is coming our way from somewhere out on the edge of the universe.

Melchior claims to have extrapolated an outline comprehension of the methodology, but acknowledges the necessity of further aetiological investigation while opining that the eschatology will attain further clarification within the next couple of millennia. Balthasar did his best to look interested, but I heard him mutter something in demotic Egyptian which could be generously translated as “Oh, go and jump into the Euphrates, you old gaseous nebula.”

But both agree that a King is coming, not just to rule over Israel, (though from what we hear of Herod it’s high time for a regime change there), but to rule the whole world. I hesitate to use the title King of Kings as claimed by the emperors of the Medes and Persians; look what happened to their emperor Darius, who was sent packing by a handful of Greek democrats when he tried to take over Europe. I doubt if we Levantines will ever get our heads round the idea of democracy. Strange how those Europeans are still commemorating the Battle of Marathon after nearly 500 years. But I digress; most Kings and Emperors had to wade through blood to secure their thrones, just like the sleazy Caesars of today. We may be seeking someone with star quality, but we wouldn’t be so foolish as to go trekking off to look for a head crowned with blood-stained gold or laurel.

This must sound strange, coming from a sceptical senior scientist, but it’s a strange star. For one thing, its velocity is sub-sonic, and that’s scientifically impossible. It arrived at the speed of light and then became virtually motionless. When it does move, it goes at about the same speed as our people-carrying camels, so it stays just ahead of us. Only its track remains constant and, so far, predictable. We’re off after it any minute now, with no more than that to go on. At least, I suppose, we may be able to cash in as pioneers of satellite navigation.

COUNTRYMAN'S CORNER

Star Trek – a letter from Babylon

The archives of the ancient University of Babylon have never been fully investigated, but from time to time documents come to light in the form of clay tablets. Many of these can be dated to about 2,000 years ago. The cuneiform writing on these is fiendishly difficult to decipher, so the translators have to be allowed a certain imaginative freedom...

There are many letters – yes, they dusted their baked tablets with fine sand and wrapped them in a clay envelope. You needed a hammer to open your correspondence. This one is from Dr Caspar of the Department of Astronomy, Babylon University, to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ur.

Dear Vice-Chancellor,

I'm most grateful to you for inviting me to give the Cyrus Memorial Lecture on January 5th. But I'm afraid I'm not your man. Either of my colleagues, Dr Melchior and Professor Balthasar, would be an excellent choice; Melchior is probably Number One in the field of astro-physics, and Balthasar is an international expert on meteorites, comets, UFOs and the like. I'm really just a celestial map-maker, but they asked me to join them as an insurance against getting lost. But I'm afraid the date is impossible for all three of us.

You see, we're on the track of a new astronomical phenomenon. Melchior thinks it's a new kind of star and goes around humming about a star of wonder, star of light. It's certainly very bright and not a bit like a comet. Balthasar thinks it's more like a vehicle. In fact he's so fascinated that he's dropped all his plans to investigate the amazing stone solar observatories that our distant colleagues the Druids are so excited about. So we'll have to wait to see if he can explain why someone took so much trouble to build them in a rainy place where the sun hardly ever shines. I'm more inclined to see it as much more than one of the omens that even our hard-headed Roman rulers believe in, as if you could foretell the future by looking at the flight of birds, poking at an animal's liver or seeing something terrifying about eclipses, which we Chaldeans have long ago proved to be perfectly normal. I reckon it must be conveying a message, and one of such significance that it can break the laws of physics.

The object is travelling in an east-west orbit, so we certainly won't fetch up in a chariot-jam at Stonehenge; anyway, knowing the Druids' fondness for human sacrifice and their attitude to immigrants, I'm not sure that there would be any use for a return ticket. Jerusalem or thereabouts seems a more likely destination if we've got our sums right; I've always wanted to go to Palestine – such a peaceful place. It would be nice to get there by December 25th, but we'll have to make a long detour to avoid Syria and the weathermen are forecasting a bleak midwinter with snow on snow. So we probably won't arrive until around the time of your lecture on January 5th; that will be the day when we hope to see what the Greeks call an Epiphany – their word for a

Another alteration to the burial ground will be the erection of two memorial stones in the Garden of Remembrance. These were bought at the same time as those already in place, so that the colour of the stone would match. They are presently in safe storage. As cremation plots are now being selected near to the stones' eventual location, the parish council has decided it is time to install them. Quotes are being sought from memorial masons for this.

A considerable amount of maintenance needs to be undertaken in the churchyard, particularly the renovation of paths and tree-works. The projected costs have been included in the Parish Council's Budget for 2016/17, which was discussed in detail at the meeting. Last year, the precept was raised to take account of maintenance projects, such as The Green, and it looks as though it will have to go up again this year to cover these specific, urgent items. The increase will be 18.5%, which, at a very rough estimate (by me) equates to an increase of around £2.50 on the council tax.

Cllr Stallard gave a very interesting glimpse of Borough Council procedure. When asked about the progress of a particular planning application, he explained that planning officers can in some cases deal with an application under "delegated powers" (i.e., without taking the matter to a planning committee). However, a Borough Councillor for the relevant ward can ask that an application be "called to committee" for decision. This uses up council time and resources. An objection submitted by the Parish Council is not, of itself, sufficient reason for the Borough Council to oppose an application. There is effectively a limit on the number of times a Borough Councillor can ask for a planning application to be discussed in committee, as it uses up their "political capital", and they must be selective in using this right.

Cllr Andrew Gibson, who represents this parish on Hampshire County Council, was also present at the Parish Council meeting. A continuing concern within his remit is the danger from traffic, particularly along Duck Street and by the school. Twenty mile an hour speed limits are being trialled in other villages: unfortunately, it had not been possible to include Abbots Ann in this. Within the last few days, a speeding car hit a parked car while a child was being settled in it and the police are investigating. Cllr Deacon was concerned that any safety action taken near the school should not simply defer trouble further down Duck Street, where pedestrians could be affected by cars accelerating on leaving a limited twenty mile an hour zone.

Cllr Gibson and Cllr Stallard commented on the cutbacks on grass-cutting and weed-control by the Borough and County Councils. If it is a question of public safety, the County Council will respond to requests for action, but otherwise, it seems as though villages will have to take care of themselves...

The Great British spirit of self-sufficiency lives on!

The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday, 7th January, and everyone is welcome!

Rosemary Groves

LIFE WITH THE TRIBE - NOVEMBER 2015

November has been another exceptionally mild month - where on earth are the freezing conditions that were written about a few months ago? On 1st November a new high record of 22.3 C was reached in Trawscoed, Wales. The previous record was 21.7 C on 4th November 1946, again in Wales - better temperatures than Hampshire in August I fear!

However, we have had our fair share of wind caused by a powerful jet stream bringing the wild and wet weather. Despite the battering of wind and rain that we've had, much of the hedgerow in front of our house is still in leaf. Over the last 40 years leaf fall has been occurring 1 or 2 days later every decade; the reason for this is due to the higher amount of carbon dioxide in the air which keeps leaves greener for longer, rather than the higher temperatures. The lack of frosts has also helped, although it also means that the glossy sloes that are in abundance in the hedgerows, need to be put in the freezer, to replicate a sharp frost, before using to make sloe gin in time for Christmas.

One late afternoon as dusk approaches, the Tribe and I notice that the room has suddenly become bathed in a glorious pinky glow. Looking outside the sky has turned the most stunning vermillion and is reflected on the white clouds that remain in the sky and back into our home. It is unusual and beautiful.

Life at home has become a little more busy with the arrival of three kittens. Why three? Well, with the loss of Max at the end of the summer, we had promised the Boy a new kitten; one of the Littlest's godmothers had always wanted to buy her a kitten, so now was a good time; and finally when we arrived at the seller's home, we discovered that it was a litter of three - so how could we possibly not take all three? Madness! They are moggies with a little bit of Persian in them; two are predominantly black with white socks and the third is all black (hence the name 'Kiwi' and in homage to New Zealand's recent success!). They are all very similar to our two remaining 'big' cats. When I first collected them, they were really tiny, easily sitting in the palm of my hand and despite the added dimension of chaos that they have brought to family life, they are a delight. The Littlest utterly adores 'Tiger' and is constantly cuddling her - 'the best present ever!' 'Hero' could never replace Max, but the Boy is delighted to have a kitten again. The big cats aren't over the moon about the new arrivals, but they have all settled into an almost mutual acceptance of space.

As the kittens need to be kept inside for the next few months, they have begun to watch the birdlife outside. This is tremendous entertainment as they run along the window ledge the length of the kitchen and jump up against the glass in the hope of 'playing' with one of the feathered newcomers outside. A couple of blackbirds watch the kittens with their clear, intelligent yellow eyes, as they go about stripping a bush of succulent black berries. For now the birds are safe, but I think that they will have bell collars on them when they do



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

We have homed more than a hundred cats this year but the social media is making things more difficult. We ask for an adoption fee of £60 but the cat will be fully vaccinated, microchipped, neutered if necessary and any health problems sorted out. We also like to make sure that it has a suitable temperament for the new owner's requirements. Unfortunately one is now able to go online and get a cat for free and some poor animals are being passed from hand to hand. There are also people breeding kittens for profit.



If you are looking for a cat or kitten please try us first. The cats that come into care through no fault of their own deserve happy, forever homes.

Our stall on Andover market in December was very successful and we raised almost two hundred pounds. We will be at Tesco, River Way on 16th January with our collection tins and a trolley for donated food.

Please come and see us. On the 13th and 14th of February we have a new venue, The Andover Garden Centre, for Valentine's Day.

Taz and his sister Mya are just a year old and very similar in looks. They are friendly cats who would be happy to become part of a family either separately or together.

Martin Bevan

100 CLUB

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS DRAW WINNERS

First Prize £100: AA Women's Institute

Second Prize £50: Mrs MJ Ellis

Third Prize £25: Mr D Carter

Third Prize £25: Mr G Stallard

Fourth Prize £10: Mrs J Livingstone

Fourth Prize £10: Mrs C Murphy



Lucy Urquhart

ALL SAINTS' WINTER LECTURES 2016

General Sir Richard Shirreff **Monday 11th January 2016**

Europe's security paradigm has been shattered by Russia's invasion of Crimea and Ukraine; Russia is now effectively a strategic adversary. What does this mean for Britain and NATO?

In his 37-year career, General Sir Richard Shirreff commanded soldiers on operations at every level. This has included combat in the Gulf War of 1991 and again in Iraq, together with operations in Northern Ireland, Kosovo and Bosnia. He commanded NATO's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps and his final post before withdrawing from the Army, he was NATO's 4 Star Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

Rt. Hon Lord Mark Malloch-Brown KCMG **Monday 22nd February 2016**

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

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.

Tickets are £12.00 each and can be bought at Clatford Village Store & Post Office, The Abbotts Ann Village Store and The Crook and Shears. You can also buy tickets Nicki Crosthwaite Eyre (01264 35 25 30 or e-mail: Nicki.eyre@talktalk.net). Send her a stamped addressed envelope to The Old Malthouse, Upper Clatford, Andover, SP11 7QL, stating the number of tickets for each talk. Please book early to avoid disappointment and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year. Doors open at 7.00pm and the lectures start at 8pm at the King Edward VII Memorial Hall, Upper Clatford SP11 7QL. Parking is available behind the Hall.

finally venture outside.

As November ends we notice how much mistletoe there is in the trees around the village; perfect for next month's Christmas celebrations.

Mother of the Tribe www.lifewiththetribes.com

ABBOTTS ANN BURIAL GROUND

At a recent meeting of the Parish Council it was reported that the Burial Ground needs to be extended. It was agreed to remove the railing between the Burial Ground and wildflower meadow, this ground is already consecrated.

Mrs Clare Cotterell
Clerk to Abbotts Ann Parish Council

POPPY APPEAL RESULTS 2015

The Poppy Appeal money raised in Abbotts Ann this year was a staggering £3454.47. This figure was supported generously by cheques from The Benefice Curry Lunch £543, PCC Abbotts Ann £246.70 and Farleigh School £66.00 (on top of their collection pots).

'Door to Door' is getting harder. With Poppy Boxes all over the place these days people have often already bought them from town, shops, work or children's schools. Our team of volunteers are keen to continue as many of you wait for them to call on you so you will be seeing them again next year. The village shop took a much larger contribution this year, which may have been from advertising the fact we would not call more than once.

All in all an amazing achievement. Thank you to everyone for the support you have shown to the British Legion over the years, it is greatly appreciated. And a special thanks to those who went collecting 'Door to Door.'

I will continue to advertise for someone to take over from me, in the hope that someone would be prepared to shadow me for next year, which will be my last.

Many thanks once again

Jackie Stanton - 01264 710933

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.



ABBOTTS ANN WI - NOVEMBER 2015

Unfortunately, the rather wet weather put paid to the walking group's plans this month, but the reading group gathered to discuss their latest selection, Carol Taylor hosted the coffee morning and the supper club met at The White Horse Inn in Thruxton. It was a lively group and everyone was delighted with their main course selections and the desserts were delicious. We thoroughly enjoyed our second visit to this hostelry.

The Cinema Club went to see the latest James Bond film - Spectre which was a complete contrast to last month's choice which had been Suffragette. Apparently, the film has some harrowing scenes, but what came as a shock to our members was a list at the end of the film detailing the years that women, in different parts of the world, finally got the vote. I dare you to look it up. It is quite astounding.

One woman who certainly makes her own decisions is Penny Aikenhead who was our guest speaker this month. Back in 1990 Penny spotted an advertisement seeking young people to join in an expedition to Outer Mongolia, and what started as a possible challenge for her teenage son, turned into a life changing decision for her. Once she had passed the exhaustive selection process, she then embarked on two years of hard work including fund raising and learning new skills including speaking the language. Although once she left the main City in the East, this was of no use to her at all.

Penny had various roles, but principally she was in charge of transport for the expedition and whilst this involved horsepower, it was of the four legged variety. This expedition was located in the western hinterland where there are no roads.

The expedition also had various objectives, but two of them involved medical programmes. In a Country where the snow starts falling in August and doesn't melt until April, it is not surprising that the glare from the whiteness causes a great deal of sight problems and childhood inoculation against diphtheria and other diseases had ceased at this time.

Annually, a group of eye surgeons offered their services to carry out cataract operations, but to enable this process to work efficiently, those needing surgery are found and prepared ahead of their arrival. Penny, an experienced horsewoman, along with other medically trained volunteers, travelled many hundreds of miles on horseback over wild and rough terrain seeking out those in need of eye surgery and vaccination amongst the scattered inhabitants.

Penny shared with us various memorabilia and images from her time in the Country and our members were in admiration of Penny's courage and

ABBOTTS ANN POST OFFICE

With over 11,500 branches nationwide, more than the big four high street banks combined, you're never far from your nearest Post Office. There are a number of services that you can only do in-branch.

Banking Services

Get quick, simple, safe and free access to your bank account

We offer a range of services in branch for your personal bank account, including withdrawals, deposits and cash collection. Get quick, simple, safe and free access to your bank account

Post Office Card Account

Making it easy for you to receive pensions, benefits and tax credit without needing a bank account.

Bill Payments

Pay your bills for home utilities, top up your gas card or electricity key at your local Post Office.

Postal Orders

The safe and secure way of sending money and making payments, without the need for a bank account.

Budget Card

The simple, hassle-free way of keeping up with your finances and saving money for bills and life's other essentials.

One4all Gift Card

One4all Gift Card is a quick and easy way to mark an occasion, say 'thank you' or just give that last minute gift.

From the introduction of the Penny Black in 1840, to the special edition stamps of the modern day, postage stamps have helped us keep connected across the UK and overseas. Whether you are sending greetings cards, business documents or parcels – don't forget your stamps.

Literary and historical anniversaries to dominate 2016 Special Stamp issues Jan 7 - Shackleton & The Endurance Expedition will recall the heroic failure of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914–17.

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

January 2016

It is only the 6th of December (The Feast of St Nicholas) as I write this. We have not even started yet on the round of Christmas parties and here I am thinking about January (not all the cards are written, or presents bought, and worse still the cake is not made, but all will be well by the day!).

Enough – I hope it all went well for you and your family.

Did you order a Pizza from the shop on the 11th or 18th of December? If not, do not worry. Our next trial date is the 8th of January. Order early so that you can choose when to collect your choice of pizza, piping hot and freshly baked. Please support Tim our manager on this project.

Buy your Pizza(s) here.

On

Friday 8th January 2016

5pm To 7pm

£12.99 for a 12" one (that is huge!)

(Three varieties – Abbots Ann Sausage, Pepperoni and Vegetarian)

Volunteers – How about offering to volunteer in the shop. Make it one of your New Year's resolutions. We are especially in need of volunteers for Friday evenings and Sunday mornings. If you are new to the village then you will find it an excellent way to meet people.

A Happy New Year to you all.

*Elizabeth Howard
Shop Volunteer & Committee Member*

commitment, and although over 20 years since she visited the Country, it has made a lasting impression on her and changed her attitude to life.

Next month will be equally magical as our first meeting of 2016 on January 28th will be our post-Christmas dinner with local magician Michael King making an appearance.

Sharon King

CAN YOU HELP?

I have had the following letter from Jackie Bench

“My father grew up in Abbots Ann. Born 1919. Lived at 35 Abbots Ann (now called Duck Street), went to the local school, served in the second world war and when he returned he met my Mum and lived in Andover, where I myself grew up and now live.

I am currently doing a family history course at the Andover Library and as part of my research want to find out as much as I can about Abbots Ann in the 1920s, 30s, 40s; perhaps locate families living there that had ancestors who went to school with my Dad or anyone still living who would remember either him or my Grandmother (Ellen Jane Harrison) who is buried in Abbots Ann Church yard. Photo's of this era would also be wonderful to find as with today's technology it's so easy to scan and print your own copies.”

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT FREECYCLE?

Freecycle is a recycling website for gifting or requesting redundant items which would otherwise go to landfill. Anything can be requested or gifted from left over DIY items, half tins of paint, craft items, furniture, toys, books, nursery items, magazines, left over tins of dogfood, moving boxes, stationery items, garden tools - the list is endless. No money changes hands and the onus is on the recipient to collect the item from you. Personal details, address etc. are only given to the person you choose to have your item. Communication is through a fictitious username and area eg Winniethepooh, Abbots Ann.

If you are interested, Google Freecycle + Andover for the local branch.

ABBOTTS ANN PARISH COUNCIL

Two honorary official posts, of **TREE WARDEN** and **FOOTPATHS OFFICER** for the Parish Council, are currently vacant.

The Tree Warden helps to advise the Parish Council on applications for tree works in the village – for tree pruning, felling, lopping, topping, etc. It is an important role in this rural setting, and ideally, the Warden should have some experience and knowledge of forestry or of trees generally.

The Footpaths Officer reports to the Parish Council on the condition of the parish's footpaths, rights of way, tracks, etc. He or she will be someone who enjoys walking the extensive paths on a regular basis, and can be proactive in reporting problems, or in dealing with minor clearance personally. Ideally, he or she should have some knowledge of rights of way law and related matters.

If you are interested in either of these posts, would you please contact the chairman, Bernard Griffiths, at cllrbrgriffiths@gmail.com

DEFIBRILLATOR

The Village Defibrillator is in a white, illuminated cabinet marked "Defibrillator" outside the rear entrance of the Eagle Inn, on the wall of the covered decking area by the car park. It is immediately accessible at all times.

You are invited to:

ALL SAINTS' ANNUAL QUIZ

SATURDAY 16th JANUARY at 7.30pm

VILLAGE HALL, UPPER CLATFORD

Tickets £12.50 (including hot supper) from:
Jane Kennedy (Tel:323804) , Sylvia Kennedy (323226) Betty
Armstrong, Emily Fabricius, and Margaret Prior.

All proceeds in aid of All Saints' Church Funds.

**Pogles Wood
excellent live
celidh band**



Burns Night

Friday 22nd January 2016

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 Abbots Ann village shop