

The Parish Magazine for

£1

STOCKBRIDGE LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD

August 2022



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

Rector: The Rev'd Philip Bowden Phone no. 01264 810810 rector@midtest.org.uk

Website: http://www.2day.ws/stockbridge

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

Please contact our Rector (see details above)

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St Mary's Longstock

Churchwarden

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Clerk: Mark Flewitt	810752	Diana Tym (Bailiff)	810363	Mr A. Page (Head) 8	10555
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St Peter's Stockbridge

Churchwarden

From the Rector

Weddings

We are at the height of the summer and the height of the wedding season. The local churches have managed to get back into the swing of weddings now after a couple of years of Covid disruptions. It seems that, thankfully, we are no longer helping couples who are nursing disappointments or desperate to have the huge event they were previously denied and, instead, are simply helping people get married in the way they wish to, without any baggage left over from what they had hoped for previously.

Of course, not everyone marries and not every relationship is on a trajectory that will lead the couple to make that commitment. Similarly, sadly, not every couple that marries will remain so. It is not for me to have views on which couples ought to get married or think that some newlyweds have made a mistake. However, my role does mean that I am often invited to oversee couples making these commitments to each other which is a great privilege.

However, my role also involves supporting individuals for whom the dream of a happy-ever-after is not their reality. Sometime relationships fail, others are widowed, and some are living in a relationship that brings continual sadness or even fear and abuse. This is the full breadth of the reality of relationships that arise from our human condition.

Different Christians often see two different aspects of Jesus' humanity. One is as an example of human perfection; the other is an example of sharing in human brokenness and accompanying others in their failings. As a consequence, church life similarly struggles with the duality of reaching for perfection and yet also providing a harbour for our failings. We can see this tension in the Church's approach to human relationships: both wanting to hold up an ideal, and also acknowledging that is not the reality for all.

Whatever the reality of human relationships in your life, I hope the Church can speak into your experience in a way that is loving, supportive and helpful.

The Rev'd Phillip Bowden

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From the Editorial Team

This month's magazine is packed with wonderful photographs portraying the diversity of summertime activity in our community. From the uplifting floral displays at St Peter's Flower Festival held at the end of June, through the illustrations in regular informative bulletins on seasonal farming operations, to the heartwarming photos of our Ukrainian visitors enjoying some social normality and fun – not to mention the images of cultural and outdoors activity - we are able to share experiences even when we cannot always attend in person. We believe that is an important function of this magazine and thank goodness for the mobile phone camera!

The summer continues with a busy and varied programme of events, many of which are, as ever, held in aid of charitable causes. We kickstart this month with a triumphant return of the 'Trout 'n About' Food and Craft Festival on August 7th (and, in recognition, have brought a trout theme into the magazine). We hope for fine weather and offer best wishes to all those involved for a successful day. Our community is blessed with good people who give generously of their ideas, energy, time and resources to bring us pleasure and interest all the while raising considerable funds for worthwhile causes. We celebrate and thank them all.

Aside from high-profile events and activities, there is much that goes on behind the scenes by modest people who carry out their work month after month without seeking fame or public thanks – you know who you are and we salute you.

Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor

Copy for Magazine

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15 August 2022

Please send emails to:

editorsstockmag@gmail.com or phone Frances on 01264 811776 Jennifer on 01264 811179 or Thea on 07730 964481



THE PHANTOM OF THE OPEN (12A) Wednesday 31 August 5.00pm & 7.30pm (1hr 46min)

The true story of Maurice Flitcroft, an optimistic dreamer who, with the support of his family and friends, managed to gain entry to the 1976 British Open qualifying. Despite never playing a round of golf before, and drawing the ire of the golfing elite, he becomes a British folk hero in the process.

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

Autumn Season

Future film dates for your diary:-

Fri Sept 16 Drive My Car

Weds Sept 21 Downton Abbey - A New Era

Fri Oct 14 The Magic Flute (ROH 2017)

Weds Oct 19 Operation Mincemeat

Fri Nov 11 Good Luck To You, Leo Grande

Wed Nov 16 Benediction

Weds Dec 7 Elvis

Tickets will be on sale from the 1st of each month

For more details and screening times please visit our website or sign up for the mailing list to be kept informed.

www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk



Test Villages U3A

Next meeting 1st September

For further information please see u3asites.org.uk/test-villages/home

To join Test Villages U3A please email tvu3amembership@gmail.com

Stockbridge Town Hall Events

Weekly

Pilates with Paula Mon am

Thurs am Stockbridge Community Market

This Month

Aug 6 Antique Fair Aug 7 Trout N About

Aug 13 South Central Makers

Aug 19-24 QuARTet

Aug 24 Stockbridge and Longstock

Ukraine Support

Hawkmoor Books Aug 27-28 Aug 27-28 **Antiques & Curios**

Stockbridge Community Cinema Aug 31

There are fewer bookings than usual in August due to redecoration of the downstairs rooms



LONGSTOCK & **LECKFORD WI**

'Bring and Share' Garden Meeting (for Members only)

Please contact Sue Hill on 811779 for details.

Wherwell **History Group**



No Meeting in August

For future programme, please check our website at https://www.wherwellhistory.com



Stockbridge Community Market

Every Thursday morning 9.30 - 11.45am

in Stockbridge Town Hall Selling the very best local and home-made produce

Pies, cakes, breads, soups, eggs and vegetables. Handmade crafts, toys, books, plants & bric-a-brac.

Please come along and browse

Free drop-in IT Help Desk and Wi-Fi access





2.00 till 5.00

Teas

LONGSTOCK

Band Jams Village Fête Books Trout &

Cakes Produce Dog Show **Bouncy Castle** Kid's games **Bottle Tombola** Coconut Shy

Adventure Tunnel Golf Challenge

Separate BBQ 6.30



In aid of St. Mary's Longstock & village organisations Sponsors: Leckford Estate, Haydown Kitchens, Grosvenor Consultancy & Hildon Water

The Royal British Legion **Houghton and District Branch**

Contact David Williams (Chairman) 01264 811072 or Iain Bell (Secretary) 01264 811636

Social evenings are held on the first Tuesday of most months in The Greyhound.



Houghton WI

No meeting in August

For further information, please contact Jane Anderton 01264 810928



Longstock Garden Club

Our Autumn programmes of talks in Longstock Hall begins on Oct 11 when Philippa Bensley will give us a talk on 'Climbers - everything you need to know'.

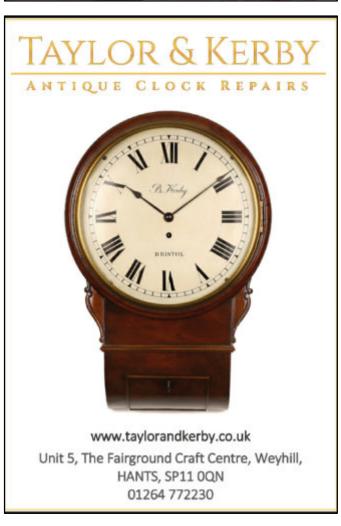
To see the benefits of membership, please go to www.longstockgardenclub.com

Peter Moore









Trout 'n About - Sunday 7 August 2022

You will have all seen from the posters that have gone up around town that Trout 'n About is back this year and in good working order. For the last two years we have been virtual on-line in deference to the pandemic, but that is now behind us.

This year we are back on the High Street on the first Sunday in August, from 10.00am until 4.00pm. We expect to have about 80 stalls on the High St, about 30 dedicated to food and drink, and the other 50 selling crafts, arts, plants and miscellaneous wares. There will be something for everyone.

We also have live music and entertainment. The live music outside the Town hall will feature singers and musicians including Slav on Sax, Marvin Naylor, Muriele from Joie de Vivre and Albert from the Brothers. They will also be performing on the recreation ground alongside the Family & Kids Zone.

This is where most of the entertainment will be. For the budding campanologists there is the bell ringing, described in the next column. Most of the entertainment, however, is aimed mainly at those under the (mental) age of 12, and includes

- Bouncy Castle
- Magic Show by Juggling Jake
- Face Painting
- Craft tent
- Vintage tractors (on the High St)

The magic and crafts are free. You have to pay to bounce or have your face painted. Food and drink will be served by the Football Club, making it a great place to re-group halfway through the day.

So we hope to see you there. Many thanks to all who have volunteered to help, and to those on the High St who have to accommodate the disruption to their lives (and cars) on the day. You will be aware that all money raised goes to local good causes in postcode SO20 as determined and voted on by the volunteers. To date we have raised £43,000. Here's hoping for good weather and another great year.

Kim Candler

Charmborough Ring at Trout N About

At Trout 'n About on 7 August this year the Stockbridge bell ringers are delighted that the Charmborough Ring will be in the family area.

This portable belfry, designed and built by master bell engineer Matthew Higby, is hung with 6 bells for 'full circle ringing' exactly like traditional church bells. The bells are very light compared with church bells;



the tenor, or heaviest bell, weighs ¾ cwt* (42.6 kgs) and the treble, or lightest bell, weighs just over 1 qtr (17.7 kgs). To put this into perspective, at our own St Peter's Church, the tenor weighs in at 7cwt 20 lbs or 365 kgs and at Liverpool Cathedral, the tenor is a magnificent 82 cwt 11lbs or 4100 kgs. The Charmborough Ring is ideal for everyone to try out bell ringing safely and we hope mums, dads, grannies, grandads and all the children and grandchildren will come and have a go – there will be helpers and supervisors to make sure everyone is safe. We will also bring along our Stockbridge handbells for visitors to try out. So come along to the recreation ground area to try your hand at ringing – it may be your next best interest!

*For the confused younger reader, although bells can be described in kilograms, they are still traditionally described in Hundredweights (cwt), quarters (qtr) and pounds (lb) . . .

Micki Nadal Stockbridge Bell Ringers

Calling all volunteers. We have already had a great response to our request for Trout 'n About volunteers. Thank you. We are still looking for a few more volunteers for the welcome/information tents at either end of the village or one of the two parking areas. The duties are to meet and greet visitors, sell raffle tickets and hand out free event programmes.

If you feel you could give 1-2 hours at some point during the day, please contact Emma Montgomery on 07592 132149 or 01264 810803; we would love to hear from you.

We are delighted to announce that Kudos have kindly offered refreshments to volunteers on the day.



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Patient News



GP Update

Dr Bridget Pemberton will be on sabbatical leave from July 2022. She will return in January 2023.

Dr Lyn Phillips has sadly decided to leave us. We wish her well for the future.

We are pleased to be welcoming two new GPs to the practice, Dr Elena King and Dr Nico Rosser. They are both starting in July 2022.

Broughton Update

Trina France-Sargeant who has worked for the surgery for over 26 years is retiring at the end of July 2022. We wish her a very happy retirement.

Preventing Cardio-vasular disease

Over the coming months you may receive a request to provide us with a blood pressure reading. You can use the blood pressure machine in one of the waiting rooms or use your own machine if you have one at home. Some machines also provide information on your pulse rate. If you notice your pulse is irregular, below 50 or above 110 please let us know.

Diabetes

We are hoping to encourage more diabetic patients to attend an education programme to help improve their quality of life. If you are a diabetic patient who is interested in attending a programme, please contact the surgery. If you have already attended

and would be willing to share your experience of the programme with other patients we would love to hear from you.



Medication wastage

Our dispensary team is

regularly receiving returned medication, for example, when a patient has sadly died or moved home. It appears that medication has been ordered every month even though it is not being used. Recently, medication worth over $\pounds 600$, the majority of it unopened, was returned to us. This medication cannot be given out to other patients.

Please only order medication which you are currently using. If you're unsure about whether to take medication or to stop it, please book a routine appointment with the doctor to discuss.

As of 1 July 2022 we have been advised that masks should be worn in the surgery by patients and staff as COVID rates are rising locally.

Anne Spooner

Longstock Village Fête

will be on Saturday 3rd September at Longstock Recreation Ground, from 2 to 5 pm, in aid of St Mary's and Longstock organisations.

The usual stalls and popular attractions will be there, including arena games, children's corner, bouncy castle and adventure tunnel, teas, brass band, dog show, produce tent, coconut shy, pitch-and-putt golf, tug-of-war, bottle tombola and bar. There will also be a featured event in the arena, but at the time of going to press this has to be confirmed.

The Grand Draw returns this year and tickets are now being sold for £1. Prizes include a meal for two at the Peat Spade, a day's clay pigeon shoot, a family ticket to the Museum of Army Flying, a tour and tasting for two at a local winery, £100 cash, a food hamper and more.

The entrance fee will be £2, and free for children under 12. For £5, children can buy a wrist band on entry that will allow them unlimited access to the bouncy castle and adventure tunnel all afternoon.

We will have card readers at the entrance and on some stalls as last year, so please bring a card and plenty of cash!

We will once again be selling trout, kindly given by the Houghton Fishing Club, so why not plan to take one for an easy home-cooked meal? You can order in advance to be sure of getting one by ringing Selina on 810459; we shall keep it in a cool box at the fête until you're ready to take it home or it can be delivered on Friday.

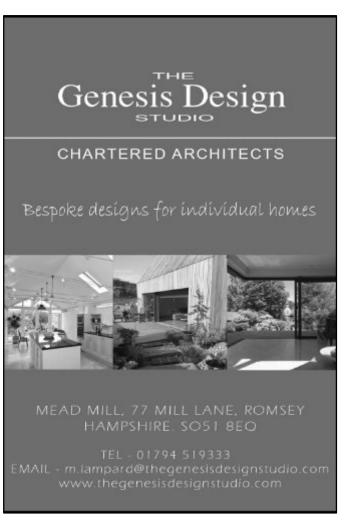
The fête ends at 5pm, then there will be an interlude while the BBQ sets up. The BBQ, which was such a roaring success last year, starts at 6.30pm with tickets being sold in advance. BBQ, bar and live music from Nick Ferretti. Adult £9, Child £7 if purchased before 30th August (or £11 and £9 from 30th August onwards).

More details from Lois 07900 927913.

John Musters

Trout Facts

- Brown trout can reach the ripe old age of 20 years. Trout scales have growth rings, as new hard tissue is added around the edges as they grow. They can be read just like growth rings in a tree.
- Many so-called 'resident' brown trout do undertake migrations. They move up and down river and sometimes in and out of lakes at various times during their lives, for spawning, feeding and shelter.







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Raise funds for your chosen charity and Walk the Test Way!



We are so excited to be launching our 19th Annual fundraiser "Walk the Test Way" which will take place on the 25th September 2022.

The Test Way is constantly rated one of the top 10 best walks in this area. Each year this event draws interest from many groups from families to Schools and Scout packs to Charities and businesses all raising funds for their chosen charity, whilst walking the beautiful Test Way.

Many return year after year, choosing walking distances from 5 miles to 25.5 miles. Walkers are bussed from Romsey to their starting location and will end the walk in Romsey's Memorial Park. Walkers under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. We love dogs but prefer that they be kept on a lead, please. The route is not recommended for buggies or pushchairs.

This sponsored Walk is managed by The Rotary Club of Romsey Test. Last year in 2021, 304 walkers walked the Test Way and we raised a whopping £46,000 for 71 charities. Since we began in 2004 we have raised just over £1m!

So what are you waiting for?! It's really simple to register and you can do so using the following link www.walkthetestway.org.uk/register

If you are a business and wish to sponsor our event, please get in touch via email to rotaryinromsey@gmail.com

Kerry Daley

The Swifts are Saying Goodbye

In August our amazing swifts will be off again to warmer climes – travelling huge distances to Africa. I hope you have all seen them over the summer at either end of the High Street flying for joy and screeching to attract our attention.

Sadly our swiftboxes have not attracted any pairs although there were a number nesting under roofs

of houses in the High Street. My contact from Hampshire Swifts has been to look at our swiftboxes and has suggested that next year he will install a call player (which I believe is a recording of swifts) which it is thought will attract them. So don't give up hope yet!

I have just been introduced (by Jane Lambert) to a book called *The Lost Spells* by Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Morris, which includes wonderful pictures of swifts



and rhymes about them. So I include an extract to show how we are not alone in enjoying our swifts.

'Whirl, birds, whirl! You havoc-wreakers, thrill seekers,

you gung-ho joy-bringers, spring harbingers, you drifting, gliding sleep-on-the-wingers, so -

Spin, world spin, and send Swifts back and back and back to us again!'

Jean Boney

But the swans are still here!



Last month several readers sent us photos of the swan family on the River Test at Stockbridge Marsh. We couldn't squeeze them into the July issues, but here is one now, taken by Nigel Rugman. The cygnets will be much larger now! But please keep the photographs coming - we love to include them in the magazine when we can. Editors

St Peter's Flower Festival

This year's Flower Festival took place from 24-26th June and once again we were treated to some excellent displays with the theme of "Happy and Glorious" on the occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As usual, the event enabled the creators to demonstrate their skill and inventiveness and sadly we do not have room to include them all but here is a taster of some of the arrangements on display.





















12



















Angela McMeekin

For 25 years now, Angela
McMeekin has been
instrumental in
organising the
Flower Festival
and also the
Poppy Collection
for the Royal
British Legion.

Well done and

thanks from us all for this magnificent achievement (Editors)

Over the Hedge: Harvest

August is a very busy time in the farming calendar and harvest is already under way. It will have started back in June when combines were harvesting turnip seed and also oilseed rape in some parts of the country.

A very simple description of a combine harvester and what it does:

The cut crops move toward the centre via spinning augers and travel up a conveyor. The threshing segment of the combine beats the cut crops to break and shake the grains away from their stalks. The separated grains travel by conveyor into a grain tank.

In the first picture you can see the very front of the header. This is where the crop is slightly lifted and then cut before being directed to the centre of the header to an



elevator where it is then transported to the

threshing section of the combine. This is where the crop is separated from the stem.

The second picture gives you an overview of the complete machine

As you can see from the picture this combine has been supplied on tracks. This can help increase the stability of the combine and also help in

reducing soil compaction.



Once the crop has been separated the grain is elevated to the combine's grain tank. When the grain tank is full the grain is unloaded into a waiting grain trailer before being

transported to the farm for storage or collection.

Once the crop has been separated from the straw, the combine can either chop the traw or allow the straw to be left in rows behind the combine.



If the straw is chopped, the chopped straw is worked into the ground. If the straw is left in rows it will be baled using a baler. The picture shows a tractor and baler in the



process of bailing the crop ready for collection from the field.

Once the bales have been formed by the baler they can be collected by a machine like the one in the picture. This is called a Transtacker.



The machine picks up the bales and stacks them on the trailer. Once the trailer is full the tractor operator will take the bales to a pick up point either in the field or at the farm. The bales are unloaded in stacks that are then collected and delivered to either the farmer or sold.

Harvest time is a very busy time of the year. Over the years tractors and machinery have become much much larger than they were. Unfortunately the roads in the countryside have remained the same width. The point I am trying to make is that it is very likely that while driving on the roads during harvest you will encounter a tractor and trailer; you might get stuck behind it or you might meet it.



Please take care and try and remember that the drivers of these machines are just doing their job.

Should you meet a van or car that has a wide load sign on the front of it, with flashing lights going and the driver waving their arm out of the window, please pull over and wait as it will be highly likely that a large machine is just a short way behind them, the person in the escort vehicle is just trying to warn you.

Ryan Bundy

Geoff Merritt Remembers:

Teachers at Stockbridge School in the Fifties

Here are some of the school teachers that taught me. I wonder how many readers remember them?

Please bear in mind that my comments are only how I remembered them. I'm sure others will have different memories of them.

Mr. Harvey was our woodwork teacher and when he first taught us, he asked us to meet 'Rodney' a great friend of his, he then opened a nearby cupboard and showed us his cane!

Mr. Thomas of Form Three, when thinking a boy needed punishing for a misdemeanour in his class, would, after first smacking him across the back of his head, make him stand on his desk seat and then proceed to smack him across the back of his short-trousered bare legs. Thankfully he left the school when our class was due to move up into his the next term.

Mr. Gubbins was our Form Four teacher, a mild form of teacher. When I fell ill in the classroom once he took me home in his car.

Mrs. Harding was our fill-in teacher for Form Three, she was very helpful during my favourite drama lessons. I liked her the most as she seemed to understand us.

Miss Cole taught us history; she was fine but the history books were awful.

Mr. Chilcott took us for geography and practical mechanics; a horrid man, the worst teacher of them all.

Mr. Russell-Smith was a mild form of teacher. He loved telling us about the Morse code and his work during the war years as a radio operator.

Miss Balchin although doing a lot for the Cubs, was not my favourite teacher. She was known as 'Shouty'.

Mr. Simmons was our Rural Science teacher, a pleasant mild man. He was great, especially as the sports master.

Mr. Brewerton made a magnificent headmaster. I was to play Billiards against him a few times much later in life.

Geoff Merritt

Editors:

Thank goodness times have moved on and attitudes towards corporal punishment have completely changed. We can only admire Geoff and his school friends' resilience!



Stockbridge Music made its first foray into opera and musical theatre last month with a debut that delighted its audience in St Peter's Church. A troupe of talented rising stars combined classical pieces with broadway musical favourites to explore the gamut of what we call 'love' and delivered a magical performance.

The event was sponsored by a generous local resident and we look forward to enjoying forthcoming productions from Stockbridge Music.

(With thanks to Nigel Rugman for the photograph)

SUMMER QUIZ Lovely Ice

After the recent hot weather we have been having here is a quiz to cool you down!

The answer to each clue is a word ending in ice e.g. Pleasant Ice (4 letters) Answer: nice

The answers are on page 31

- 1. Gamblers' ice (4)
- 2. Guardian ice (6)
- 3. Double ice (5)
- 4. Truce ice (9)
- 5. Dutiful ice (7)
- 6. Luring ice (6)
- 7. Helpful ice (6)
- 8. Volcanic ice (6)
- 9. Legal ice (7)
- 10. Fishy ice (6)
- 11. Sleepy ice (7)
- 12. Refuge ice (7)
- 13. Oral ice (5)
- 14. Trainee ice (10)
- 15. Covetous ice (7)
- 16. Vertical ice (9)
- 17. Fruity ice (5)



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Potting Shed Cuttings for August

Gardening Events for August

RHS Garden Rosemoor Flower Show.

'Behind the Scenes' - Iford Manor Gardens, Bradford-on-Avon.

James Basson 'Hot Gardening' - Sissinghurst Castle Garden.

Family Summer End - Sir Harold Hillier Gardens. Festival Weekend - Exbury Gardens.

Figures in the Garden - Waterperry Gardens, Oxford



After the dry, hot days of July, regular watering and feeding remains vital to keep borders healthy and full of colour. Water butts will probably be empty by now so use grey water on plants if this is at all possible; do not, however, use on edible plants due to the risk of pathogens in the water. 'Grey water' refers to bath, shower and washing-machine rinse cycle and kitchen water. Apply with a watering can within 24 hours and do not use long term as the salts in the water may be detrimental to plant growth. Keep greenhouse shading in place, doors and windows open and water greenhouse floors to keep temperatures down. Containers and baskets will need water at least once a day; in addition, even if slow release feed was added when planted up, this will need replenishing with a solution of tomato feed every couple of weeks. Keep weeds under control on patios and drives; try pouring boiling water onto emerging weeds; shoots should wilt and die.

The Flower Garden

Borders will benefit from a high summer feed; a general purpose fertiliser is ideal to invigorate plants for the remainder of the season. If watering is a problem consider automatic drip-feed watering systems which are efficient and can save up to 70% of the water you would use with a hosepipe. Dead-head dahlias and other perennials regularly to lengthen the flowering period, and prune spent flower spikes from lavender plants. The buds on camellias and rhododendrons will be developing now so water them well to prevent bud fall. Additional protection by adding mulch around the plant will also be beneficial. Rambling and climbing roses can also be pruned by about a third; tie in remaining shoots securely. This month is ideal for collecting seeds from favourite plants and taking cuttings from lavenders, fuchsias, penstemons and pelargoniums. Once plants have self-seeded in wild flower meadows they can be mown. Plant autumn flowering bulbs such as nerines and colchicum now and sow hardy annuals to provide early colour in the borders next year.



The Fruit Garden

Hard prune blackcurrants which have fruited and summer-prune trained and free-standing apple trees. Protect autumn raspberries and blackberries with netting and cut back vine leaves to expose the developing grapes to the sun. If you do not need additional strawberry plants, cut them back hard; otherwise pot up runners.

The Vegetable Garden

Check tomatoes and potatoes for blight if conditions become warm and humid; to help prevent blight in tomato plants, avoid wetting the plant leaves which can encourage blight. If it appears on potato plants, cut off all the top growth to avoid it spreading to tubers. Wait for a couple of weeks and then lift the potatoes and store carefully, discarding any showing signs of blight. In any case, most potatoes can be lifted by the end of the month. Pinch out the tips of tomato plants to prevent any more fruit setting and remove lower leaves to allow sunlight to reach developing fruit. Lift onions, garlics and shallots and allow them to dry out. With large quantities of onions, a simple 36" x 36" square frame of wood covered with chicken wire and resting on a few bricks in the open sunlight will soon dry the crops for storage. When squashes are well established, allow 3 or 4 fruit per plant and keep well-fed and watered. Sweetcorn, cucumbers, peppers and aubergines will also benefit from regular feeding with a tomato feed and watering to produce healthy, succulent crops.

The Lawn

If the dry weather continues, raise the blades in mowers and leave cuttings as mulch. Lawns are resilient and should recover under autumn rains.

Christmas is coming!

Don't forget planting for the Christmas season – certain varieties of potatoes can be planted in tubs now for Christmas; try Maris Peer, Charlotte or Nicola. Since the soil will already be warmed up, there is no need to chit the tubers first. Now is also the time to plant up Paper White narcissi for Christmas flowering.

Micki Nadal

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The Bookmark recently celebrated Independent Bookshop Week and we are delighted to say this marks our fourth year running. One of the joys of being an 'indie' is our ability to curate the crème de la crème of titles across many genres. At The Bookmark, we may not have the space of a large chain bookstore but this doesn't curb our enthusiasm to stock unusual, interesting, good writing! Often, the curious reader can find titles and authors highlighted on our shelves not carried elsewhere! We like to recommend fiction to our customers which features great story-telling and character, and non-fiction which covers subjects both on and off the beaten path. Outstanding new novels include Jennifer Egan's The Candy House and Booker Award-winning Douglas Stuart's Young Mungo.



We love crafted imaginary worlds but equally we enjoy a rigorous analysis of politics and current affairs. A glance amongst our current titles showcases a re-telling of a Greek myth (*Elektra* by Jennifer Saint) sitting next to a witty treatise on the dilemma of social media use (*The Echo Chamber* by John Boyne).



Alongside a study of the attempts of East Germany's secret police to infiltrate the country's literary underbelly (Philip Oltermann's *The Stasi Poetry Circle*), is a fictional thriller of pure, pacey, gripping entertainment (local author Tom Bradby's *Yesterday's Spy*).

Our crime and thrillers section is especially popular, with as much interest in the new generation of writers – Mick Heron, Frank Gardner, Jane Harper, and the above-mentioned Tom Bradby – as there is for the old school masters like Patricia Highsmith, John le Carre and P.D. James.

Not to mention how much we love choosing our impressive range of children's books, cookery titles,

countryside commentary and nature writing!

On July 10, Tom Bradby joined us in conversation about his work to a sold-out audience at Stockbridge Town Hall. He was passionate,



entertaining and articulate as he covered a range of subjects from his TV reporting and journalism to his work as author of nine best-selling spy thrillers.

It was great to have him fielding questions of all kinds from the audience and The Bookmark was delighted to have organised this event!

Hopefully, there will be other activities to come – so stay in touch with us and drop by to say hello.

Elaine Sperber of The Bookmark



Hampshire History Trust seeks Trust Secretary

Hampshire History Trust, the charity which runs Winchester's Heritage Open Days, is

searching for a Trust Secretary to join their supportive and welcoming board.

The role of Secretary is to support the Chair by ensuring the board functions smoothly. The secretary may carry out their duties directly or delegate to volunteers or staff, ensuring that tasks are completed. Key skills include relevant experience, knowledge of the Charities Commission Trustee Duties and Responsibilities, good IT skills, analytical skills, ability to communicate.

Trustees serve in a voluntary capacity but with the satisfaction of supporting a distinctive and highly-regarded heritage organisation. The activities championed by the Trust have gone from strength to strength in recent years, and are at the heart of a thriving heritage movement in Hampshire. Beginning informally in 2016 with a Heritage Open Days programme of 40 events, by 2019, the offering had reached over 140 attractions ranging from chocolate-tastings to live theatre, leading to the formal foundation of Hampshire History Trust – and the launch of a brilliant new podcast, 'Hampshire Histbites' in 2020.

HHT Chair Nicky Gottlieb said:

The Trust Secretary is at the heart of our team and will make a real difference to our work to bring Hampshire's history alive. If you are as excited as we are about promoting the rich and diverse stories that make us who we are today, this is a brilliant opportunity to come onboard. Let us know!

Closing date for applications: End of August 2022 Interviews: *September* 2022

To find out more visit https:// hampshirehistorytrust.com/ or email Trustees trustees@hampshirehistorytrust.com

Welcoming our Ukrainian Guests - and our guests hosting their hosts!

30 May 2022 Victoria and Nicholas Muers-Raby held a tea party for the children







4 June 2022Supper party given by Rimma, Victoria and Lydia



Lydia (seated, 3rd from left; seated next to her, Rimma, and Victoria, second from right



Georg, toasting the assembled company

5 June 2022 Jubilee Lunch at St Peter's Church



Left, Victoria and Sally, and right, Rimma, Lydia, Georg and Ilya toast the Queen's health

Significant dates:

Tuesday 23 August National Flag Day



Wednesday, 24 August,

Independence Day of Ukraine

in commemoration of the Declaration of Independence of 1991

Prior to 1991, Ukraine was a constituent republic of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) On August 24, 1991, Ukraine declared its independence, which, following a referendum in which about 90% of Ukrainians voted for their country's independence, was confirmed on 1 December 1991.

• 24 August will not be a public holiday in Ukraine this year.

13 June 2022

The Group supper in Town Hall, thanks to Mark Frank, attended by about 30. Food all provided by Ukrainian ladies.



Tidying up afterwards

Kira (5) from Ukraine left and Èvie Wright (5) battle for the vacuum cleaner after the traditional Ukrainian supper, with Evie's parents Laura and Will Wright (Kira's Hosts) and Mark Frank



18 July 2022 Expression of solidarity



More Trout Facts

- Trout have elliptical eyes which allow them to focus on food and approaching predators at the same time.
- Trout select mates to prevent in-breeding and to give offspring desirable traits like disease resistance. They do this via olfactory and visual clues.
- Trout don't have scales for the first month of their life.



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Thu 23 February, 7:30pm **Ensemble Mirage** Clarinet, Violin & Piano

Thu 27 April, 7:30pm Concert + AGM





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Thu 26 January, 7:30pm

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Join Jane – to make sense of art for children!



A new initiative at The Wykeham Gallery began at the beginning of July – a drop-in session for families with primary age children to 'Make Sense of Art'. Every Sunday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm families are invited to pop into the gallery and, whilst the parents are looking around the gallery, Jane Young (a qualified primary school teacher with over 25 years' experience) will select a few



pieces of art work to talk about with the children. The idea is to take away the idea that art galleries are only for adults. At the Wykeham Gallery we want to encourage a love of art from an early age. We want to gently help children to stop and look and then to be able to express how they feel about a painting or sculpture, to learn how it has been created, what the story behind it may be. We all know children for whom self-expression isn't a problem but for others art can be a great prompt – an inspiration to aid social and cognitive development as well as to inspire their own creativity.

If you are a parent or grandparent in Stockbridge on a Sunday afternoon, tear your children away from their screens and bring them in to The Wykeham Gallery. With about 8 exhibitions a year, plus the sculpture garden, there is always something new to see.

Jane Young www.wykehamgallery.co.uk enquiries@wykehamgallery.co.uk 01264 810364



Lindy Lou's Kitchen Recipes & Crafty Corner



It's the time of year where seasonal eating becomes the norm as allotments and vegetable plots become abundant with amazing vegetables. There is nothing better than freshly dug potatoes. I am also so aware of the need to manage home budgets as everything is costing more. So, I've stepped back in time to my first Home Economics classes and updated a simple French classic. Homely and fresh food straight from the garden.

Potato Galette - Serves 4

Ingredients

11/2 lbs peeled potatoes (weigh once peeled)

Pinch of salt

2 oz unsalted butter

2 tablespoons milk (preferably full-fat, but semiskimmed will do)

6 oz mature cheddar cheese, grated

8 oz onions, finely chopped

1 egg, beaten

Salt and Pepper

2 large tomatoes, sliced

4 oz streaky bacon, chopped or chopped pancetta

Method

Preheat the oven to 200°C, gas mark 6, 180°C fan.

Lightly grease a 9-inch ovenproof shallow round dish

Boil the potatoes in boiling salted water until soft, for approximately 15 to 20 minutes.

Drain well and then mash the potatoes adding the butter and the milk.

Beat in 4oz of the cheddar cheese, the onions, the beaten egg and season well with a little salt and pepper.

Place the mixture into the dish and press down evenly to create a sort of pizza-like base.

Top the potato mixture with the slices of tomatoes and sprinkle the bacon over the top.

Finally, top with the remaining cheese.

Bake for 20-30 minutes, until the base is firm, and the cheese melted.

Serve hot with a lovely green salad.

Tips:

- You could create your own toppings such as salami or peppers or haloumi cheese.
- My school notes inform me that a Galette is a large pancake usually served in France.

Linda Hotchen



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Stockbridge Parish Council News

New Councillor

At the June meeting, Stockbridge Parish Council was pleased to be able to Co-Opt Mr Michael Porter as a new Councillor. Mr Porter explained that he has lived in Stockbridge for over 33 years and has held various community positions such as Chair of the Primary School Governors. He was looking forward to working with the Parish Council and volunteered, at the meeting, to look into the response from the Council to HCC's Flood and Water Management Consultation.

Unlicensed chairs and tables on Stockbridge High Street

Stockbridge Parish Council has written to HCC expressing concern that the width of the pavement is being reduced by traders placing unlicensed tables and chairs outside their establishments. Although HCC has visited the High Street, on the day they did so there seems to have been no infringements. The SPC has therefore written to HCC to say that SPC has made HCC, as Highway Authority, aware of the problem and therefore SPC accepts no liability should an accident occur.

Lillie's Path

HCC has agreed to scalp the rough area of ground next to the tarmac and untarmaced part of the path that runs from the High Street to the water meadows commonly referred to as Lillie's Path. The intention is to make the rough area the same level as the main path. The number of people using the path has been increasing resulting in considerable wear and a difference in the levels of the two parts to the path. This difference in levels can result in a trip hazard and falls. It is hoped the work will improve the surface and the smoothness of the path.

Test Valley Borough Council's Corporate Plan

Have your say on the future of this plan, which is the central document that shapes what Test Valley Borough Council does for the next four years. TVBC would like your views on what is important. Go to www.testvalley.gov.uk/corporateplan2023

Recycling Services in Test Valley

Households across Test Valley are now set to benefit from the total transformation of local recycling services, with the introduction of brandnew weekly food waste collections, as well as kerbside glass and thin plastic collections. New blue bins and food waste caddies will be provided free of charge for all properties which will now enable households to recycle leftover food, glass, pots, tubs and trays at the kerbside for the very first time, starting in 2024. Glass, plastics, pots, tubs and trays and other items will go into the new blue bin, leaving paper and cardboard recyclables in the brown bin. It is not possible to have all the recyclables in one bin due to how the recyclables

are managed at the recycling plant. A brand-new facility is being built by Hampshire County Council to process these materials, which is why TVBC will be able to bring these new measures in. One week, your new blue bin will be collected, with the brown bin the following week, and any other non-recyclable waste in your black bin, to be collected on the third week. Your food waste, however, will be collected every week, which means TVBC will be collecting two bins (a coloured bin plus a new food caddy) each week. TVBC will be working with communities over the coming months to iron out any issues that any household may have.

Bid for Levelling Up funding for Andover

TVBC has put in a bid for £20m of Levelling Up funding to be used to towards accelerating delivery of the Andover masterplan (agreed in 2019) and improving the lives of those who live in and around the town centre as a result. The money would be used to deliver a stunning riverside park along Western Avenue, transform the riverside footpath south of Bridge Street, demolish the former magistrates' court building, and create a spectacular new cultural hub in the town centre which would include the relocation of The Lights theatre.

Stockbridge Parish Council does not meet in August and the next meeting of the Council will be 15^{th} September 2022.

Belinda Baker Clerk to the Parish Council

Stock-U

Insert the numbers 1-9 in each row and column using each number only once. Answer on page 29

Ι	5	4			9	2	7	
			6	5	2			
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		7		2		8		
9	8							
	6				3			
			2	8	7			
	7	3	4			9		2

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About Trout

Trout show remarkable variety and adaptability but their presence is always an indicator of the good health of a river or lake, and where they thrive, other wildlife will thrive too.

It was originally thought that what we know today in the UK as the native brown trout, *Salmo trutta*, was 50 different species because trout vary so much in appearance, size and habit. However, genetic analysis has shown that there is actually only one species (ie. all trout can interbreed with all other trout) but with huge genetic variability even within the same river. The River Dart in Devon, for example, supports at least twenty-two genetically-distinct breeding populations.

It is this enormous genetic diversity that makes trout so adaptable to available habitat niches. As our climate changes and rivers and lakes are affected by human interventions such as nutrient enrichment and abstraction, this opportunistic adaptability will help trout to survive and could assist our understanding of how other species might adapt to a changing environment.



Brown trout have been domesticated by fish farmers both to provide food and for supplemental stocking for angling. The domesticated fish have been selected to grow quickly, spawn early and cope with the (for them) highly unnatural situation of being surrounded by other trout. They are different in appearance and behaviour from wild trout but can interbreed with them, although their progeny is not as fit for life in the wild as truly wild trout.



Rainbow trout, Oncorhynchus mykiss, are not native to the UK but have been imported from America both for angling and food. Prior to 1989, rainbow trout were included in the same Salmo genus as brown trout but further detailed studies determined a distinctly different genus.

Rainbow trout and brown trout can be interbred in a fish farm environment, resulting in 'brownbows'; interbreeding is very unlikely to happen in the wild.

Trout can actually change colour rapidly, getting darker when aggressive, lighter when being submissive or in response to changing background colour. However, the colours of their spots help distinguish between rainbow and brown trout - rainbow trout only have black spots whereas brown trout have black, red and orange spots.

Trout need water that is relatively cold and clean with gravelly areas for spawning so the legendary 'gin clear' chalkstream waters of our River Test are perfect. The fish feed primarily on invertebrates that live in the river or lake, or drop on to the water from trees and plants on the banks. The annual feeding frenzy during the short period when members of the mayfly family, *Ephemeroptera*, hatch from larvae into swarms of flies, die and fall into the water is one of nature's great spectacles.



The adult mayfly ...





Large brown trout will sometimes feed on small terrestrial animals that fall into the water, such as baby birds falling from overhanging nests, or even swimming mice or voles!

Trout have body language. When competing for a 'lie' out of the main current, they will posture and 'gape' by opening their mouths wide and flaring the gills whilst advancing on their opponent. Submissive fish close their mouths, contract their fins, go pallid and drop towards the stream bed.

Trout 'hold' with their noses pointing upstream, watching for food drifting past, and we are lucky to be able to see them at close quarters in the carriers passing through Stockbridge High Street, delighting locals and visitors alike.

We celebrate this noble fish and its valuable place in the wider environment and our own Test Valley at the Trout 'n About Festival on August 7th.

(Many more fascinating facts about trout can be found at https://www.wildtrout.org)

The Editors

The Book of Acts

A group of eager learners came together in January and started learning about the Book of Acts – written, it is generally believed, by Luke, who also wrote the Gospel in his name. We met for 12 sessions, usually every other week, ending on 30 June.

This is a book of adventure, surprise events and many travels. It starts with the Ascension of Jesus, with the disciples returning to the 'upper room' to see what would occur next – would they be imprisoned, would they have the energy to carry out Jesus' last instructions?

We then have the excitement of Pentecost – the coming of the Holy Spirit in sounds like wind and sights like flames – suddenly the ability to speak with passion, in different languages and with courage to go out and preach and convert thousands. A breathtaking start.



The next couple of chapters are about how Peter and the disciples are willing to go out and preach in the Temple and to stand up to the Chief Priest, who is none too pleased that Jesus is being spoken about and that his name is used to heal.

The early followers of 'the way' learn to share with each other and food and money are distributed to each according to their need.

The persecution of the followers of 'the way' starts and we have the account of the death of the first martyr, Stephen, and the first mention of Saul, standing watching and guarding coats.

Saul sets off to Damascus with the plan for more persecutions – but on the way, he encounters Jesus, who comes to him in light. Saul cannot see and is led to Damascus and waits and prays for three days, eating and drinking nothing. A man called Ananias is told in a vision to go and visit Paul. He is anxious as Saul's reputation has gone before him. God re-assures Ananias and tells him that Saul is God's chosen person to spread the Gospel. Ananias goes to Paul, lays his hands on him and Saul can see again. Saul is baptised and joins the community of believers – although they had their doubts.

The next story returns to Jerusalem and the work of Peter, who is challenged by the High Priest, but then travels to a place called Lydda. He is called to a woman named Tabitha (Dorcas in Greek) who did many good works, but who had died. He raises her from death and then, after a vision from God,

travels to a man called Cornelius and his household. They are Gentiles, but Peter knows he must baptise them and realises that he and the disciples must spread the word to Jew and Gentile alike.

Peter is imprisoned when he returns to Jerusalem – but God sends his Angel to set him free. The High Priest and other elders are unhappy at this. Persecution starts and the disciples scatter. Saul (Paul) is sent back to Tarsus to study and learn. Our studies took us as far as Chapter 12. The rest of the Book of Acts contains the work of the disciples, especially Paul and his travels, and involves shipwrecks, establishing churches and many adventures. Paul eventually reaches Rome. A good read. During each study session, we discussed and debated the meaning for the Christians at the time of Acts, but then considered the meaning for us in our lives today. Some of the debates were wide and varied!

Our next study starting in September is likely to be from a study guide called *The Armour of God* and will help prepare us for Christmas.

If you would like more information and to say what day and time suits you best, please contact Maddie (mjh723@btinternet.com) or phone 810284. Or contact Philip (rector@midtest.org.uk) or phone 810810.

Maddie Hedley



Church News

St Mary's Longstock





The Pet Service on 3 July was great fun. This was held in the churchyard with a good turnout of people and pets. We had five dogs, two stick insects and plenty of memories of past pets/animals. The weather was kind and everyone was well behaved. A risk assessment produced a concern about biting, but no animals or people bit each other!

The other services in the month were a Parish Communion and Morning Worship – with a new preacher on the block – Nick Sibley.

A Benefice Service took place on 31 July – a good opportunity for people from all the parishes to meet up and chat after the service.

The first PCC meeting after the Annual Meeting was held on 12 July. The following appointments were made:

Vice Chairman Maddie Hedley
Secretary Richard Robinson
Treasurer Maddie Hedley
Electoral Roll Officer Beth Oliver
Safeguarding Officer Dane Oliver

The Safeguarding Policy was approved and the PCC noted that we have achieved Level One on the safeguarding dashboard.

The finances to the end of June were received, noting that income from collections was down.

We also approved a quote for repairing the many windows which are cracked.

In August the work on painting the gutters and downpipes will continue.

Dates for the diary:

Saturday 3 September

Longstock Fête at the Recreation Ground, Longstock. The fête will start at 2.00pm, with a break at 5.00pm so that the Evening Barbecue can be set up. That will start around 6.30pm.

Saturday 10 September

Ride and Stride – the time when the fit get riding or walking, with sponsorship, to raise money for their church and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Historic Churches Trust. It's never too late to sign up.

Sunday 11 September

The Patronal Service for St Mary, Longstock. The service will start at 9.30am and this year the theme will be Creation and the Environment. St Mary's PCC hope that we will start working on our Environmental Bronze Award and we will be working through the questionnaire to see what actions we need to take. Volunteers to help with this project are warmly welcomed. The bronze level will, among other things, look at heating, insulation, fair-trade and the churchyard.

If you have any questions on 'the news' please contact me on 810284 or email *mjh723@btinternet.com*

Maddie Hedley

Church Services at St Mary, Longstock for August 2022

7 August 9.30am All Age
14 August 9.30am Parish Communion
21 August 9.30am Morning Worship
28 August No Service

Stock-U Solution

From page 25

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8	1	5	4	6	თ	2	7
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Church News

St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge





July has been a scorchingly hot month and some of you may have sought refuge from the heat within the stone walls of the parish church, always comfortingly cool in the summer months (and perhaps a little too cool in the winter!). Churches have long been a place of sanctuary—from heat, from violence, from persecution—for those who have sought out places of safety. The church in Stockbridge is open every day for quiet prayer, respite from the heat, and a browse of our second hand books – feel free to pop in when you're next out in the village.

The summer season of cake and fundraising has continued throughout July. The Stockbridge Open Gardens takes place on the 30th and 31st of July (too late in the month to report in this magazine) and we're expecting copious amounts of tea and cake to be consumed on the church lawn over those two days. Many thanks to all those who erect gazebos, make cakes and help to serve refreshments to our many visitors. We would also like to thank all the people who kindly responded to St Peter's Gift Day, we do thank you and appreciate your most generous gifts. All proceeds raised will be used in support of the church.

A key way in which the church supports the work of the local community is in terms of foodbank donations. The donation box for the Andover Foodbank can always be found in the church porch. The Foodbank is still preparing summer food bags to support families over the summer holidays. Items such as tinned hot dogs, cake mixes, individually wrapped chocolate biscuits, multipack crisps, jelly, and baked beans, along with activity or colouring books for children aged 3-11 are particularly appreciated for these summer food bags. Donations left in the church porch are taken regularly up to Andover Foodbank. Thank you to all those who regularly donate items to this project.

This is my final column for the parish magazine and the end of my year in Stockbridge. I joined St Peter's congregation not long after I moved here and was quickly enveloped into the community. Joining the church was a brilliant way of feeling

part of the village and getting to know people and I have so enjoyed the opportunity to live, work, and worship in such a beautiful, welcoming place. The rural parish church can be a lifeline and vital hub for a small community such as ours and the vibrancy and significance of the church has been clear to me over the last year. A huge thank you to all those kind people who made me feel so welcome and gave me a sense of belonging that can be hard to come by when you move around for work a lot. Thank you!

Karen O'Donnell

We too would like to thank Karen for all the contribution she has made to St Peter's in so many different ways and in such a short time, all so very much appreciated. We will miss you but wish you all the very best for your new life in Cambridge, they are so fortunate to have you. God bless and keep you and James.

Pauline, on behalf of all your friends at St Peter's

Prayer for August

Lord, thank you for the sunshine, but the level of 'scorchio' makes it hard to think;

If possible, Lord, please send rain, for the gardens, the roads and most of all for the fields of wheat and barley.

We pray for the places where there is still war and conflict and ask that peace can be negotiated; enter the hearts of those determined to bully and conquer and turn their minds to the way of peace.

For those starting their holiday, we pray for relaxation and fun,

safe travel and a time to replenish the mind and body.

For visitors, we pray for a warm welcome and interesting times,

finding new places to explore.

For the Churches, we pray they can be beacons of light and welcome

for visitors and for the regulars alike.

Jesus needed time to pray and converse with You each day.

May we follow His example and spend some of our summer time

in Your company, sharing our thoughts and getting to know You better.

Amen.

Church News

The Column

Baptisms

There were no baptisms in July

Weddings

The Blessing of the Wedding between Patrick Donegan and Rose Eastwood took place at 4.00pm at St Mary's Church, Longstock on 30 July 2022. The marriage ceremony took place at Farleigh on 29 July.

Funerals

The funeral of Roger Macey took place at 12 noon at Chesil House, Winchester on 26th April 2022.

Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Stockbridge Services - Sundays at 9.00am

From the Area Dean

August is usually a month for holidays – it will be a little different for many this year, when compared to the last two. My planned holidays for 2020 and 2021 were overtaken by Covid. I am hoping to take time off - we all need rest and refreshment and, for many, that has been hard to find.

Enjoy the Summer!

Your Area Dean, James

Revd James Pitkin - romseyareadean@gmail.com

August Services for

Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford

7th August

08.00 Leckford Holy Communion BCP

09.30 Longstock All Age Service

11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

14th August

08.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

09.30 Longstock Parish Eucharist

11.00 Stockbridge All Age Service

21st August

09.30 **Longstock** Morning Worship

11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

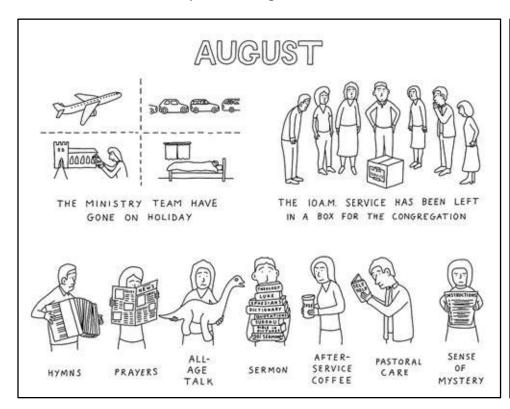
18.00 Leckford Evensong

24th August (Wednesday)

10.00 Old St Peter Holy Communion

28th August

11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship



Lovely Ice Quiz (p15) Answers

- 1. Dice
- Police
- Twice
- 4. Armistice
- 5. Service
- 6. Entice
- 7. Advice
- 8. Pumice
- 9. Justice
- 10. Plaice
- 11. Dormice
- 12. Hospice
- 13. Voice
- 14. Apprentice
- 15. Avarice
- 16. Precipice
- 17. Juice



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