St Andrew's Hagbourne

PARISH MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2025



Jazz Concert at St Andrew's Sunday 23rd February Lent Lunches start at St Andrew's on 8th March Jhamboree, Fun Run, Safari Supper – book your places!

News, Views and Information for everyone in the Hagbournes and Coscote

Thank you very much to the East and West Hagbourne Parish Councils for giving the Parish Magazine a home on their websites.

www.easthagbourne.net

www.westhagbourne.org

CHURCH CALENDAR AND DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2025

The Prayer Intentions this month are for all who live in Blewbury.

Prayer Focus:

1 Saturday

2 + Sunday CANDLEMAS/PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

8am Holy Communion: St Michael's B 9am Parish Eucharist: All Saints' AU 9.15am Lay-led Service: St Mary's U 10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Andrew's H 10.30am All Age Service: St Michael's B 10.30am Parish Eucharist: All Saints' NM 10.30am Online Benefice Service 5pm Organ Recital: St Andrew's H 6pm Service of the Word: St Andrew's H Churchwardens, fabric and churchyards.
Church cleaners.

3 Monday	8pm online Compline
4 Tuesday	8pm online Compline
5 Wednesday 10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H	8pm online Compline
6 Thursday	8pm online Compline
7 Friday	8pm online Compline
8 Saturday	

9 + Sunday 4th SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

9.15am Parish Eucharist: St Mary's U 10.30am Taizé Service: St Michael's B 10.30am Online Benefice Service

10.30am Parish Eucharist: St John the Baptist SM

4pm Service of the Word: All Saints' NM 6pm Service of the Word: St Andrew's H

10 Monday
11 Tuesday
12 Weds
13 Thursday
14 Friday
10 Monday
8pm online Compline

16 +Sunday 3rd SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

9am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's AT 10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's B 10.30am All Age Service: St Andrew's H 10.30am Online Benefice Service

12noon Baptism: St John the Baptist SM

4pm Service of the Word: All Saints' NM 6pm Service of the Word: St Andrew's H



Clergy and all who preach or lead.

PCC's, all in

leadership

and our

Benefice

operations

manager.

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15 Saturday

The Churn Benefice's Churches are:

St Andrew's Hagbourne (H), St Mary's Upton (U), St Michael's Blewbury (B), All Saints' Aston Upthorpe (AU), St Michael's Aston Tirrold (AT), St John the Baptist South Moreton (SM), All Saints' North Moreton (NM)

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, HAGBOURNE

The United Benefice of Blewbury, East and West Hagbourne and Upton together with Aston Tirrold, Aston Upthorpe, North Moreton and South Moreton.



Rector's Reflections Who was St Valentine?

I wonder if you have been curious about the origin of Valentine's Day? Why is it observed on 14th February? Who was Valentine?

The short answer is that in the early days of the Christian Church, back in the Second and Third Centuries AD, there were several times when Christians were persecuted for their faith. How were Christians to respond to these times of persecution? Some simply kept their heads down, waiting for the persecution to go away. Others were determined to make a stand for their beliefs, even if this meant they would be imprisoned or even executed. The names of the Christian martyrs were often treasured by their local communities, and several are still remembered today.

Among them was an Italian Christian who lived back in the 3rd century AD, by the name of Valentine. We know very little about his life, beyond the fact that he was martyred for his Christian faith, and that the Church remembered his martyrdom every year on 14th February. Hence the 14th February is known as St Valentine's Day.

And why is it connected with cards and flowers, and all the "Be My Valentine" stuff? No one quite knows. It might be connected with a Mediaeval belief that birds were supposed to find their mates on this day. It might also be connected with a pre-Christian religious festival from Roman times, known as Lupercalia.

For whatever reason, the observance of St Valentine's Day clearly serves a need in our society. Perhaps it is because it reminds us of the importance of love. As human beings, we all need to feel loved. Valentine's Day is an opportunity for us to express our appreciation of those who show us love.

Of course human love has its imperfections and its failings, and we are not always particularly loving towards one another, even within families. For Christians, perfect love is found in God, and it is revealed through the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. Therefore, love plays a central role in Christian teaching. In the words of an early Christian called John, "let us love one another, because love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God". So St Valentine's Day can remind us that love is truly at the heart of our existence, because God Himself is love. Fr Jason.



Free Organ recitals St Andrew's Church

Every first Sunday of the month at 5pm for thirty minutes



Next Recital: Sunday 2nd February at 5pm "Music from the Six Nations" played by Charles Kingston

Vierne, Elgar, Ireland and more!

Please do join us to hear our lovely organ played by our organ playing friends and stay for refreshments and following that the Service of the Word at 6pm. Flyers in Church for more detail.

Home Communion is available to anyone who is unable to get to Church through sickness or frailty, either for a short time or on a long term basis. If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive Holy Communion at home, over Christmas or at other times, please contact the office 01235 850267 and Elaine will arrange it for you.

Church Calendar and Diary for February 2025 continued . . .

Prayer Focus:

Treasurers

and Church

finances.

17 Monday
18 Tuesday
19 Weds
10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H
20 Thursday
10am MU Holy Communion: St Michael's B
21 Friday
22 Saturday
8pm online Compline
8pm online Compline
8pm online Compline
8pm online Compline

23 +Sunday 2nd SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

No morning Service at St Mary's U 10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's B

10.30am Online Benefice Service

3pm Service of Thanksgiving for Jessie West, Derek Whitmell

and Simon Powell: St Mary's Upton 3pm – 5pm Jazz Concert: St Andrew's H 4pm Service of the Word: All Saints' NM 6pm Service of the Word: St Andrew's H

24 Monday 8pm online Compline
25 Tuesday 8pm online Compline
26 Weds 10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H 8pm online Compline
27 Thursday 8pm online Compline
28 Friday 8pm online Compline

How to contact the Churn Benefice:

BENEFICE OFFICE - 01235 850267 Churn Website: www.churnchurches.co.uk

The Benefice Operations Manager, Elaine de Ridder, is available from 9.00 am - 2.30pm Monday to Friday, contact on 01235 850267 or 07434 686044 during office hours.

Bookings for Weddings, Baptisms etc. may be made by contacting the office via telephone or email: office@churnchurches.co.uk

Father Jason St John Nicolle - 01235 850267 - office@churnchurches.co.uk

Revd Louise Butler - 07837 009730 - revlouiseb@aol.com

Revd John Clarke – 01235 510073 – jphclarke@gmail.com

Revd Dr Mark Rhodes-Smith - 01235 850267 - mark.rhodes-smith@churnchurches.co.uk

Benefice Online Church Service . . . Please help spread the word about our

regular online Church Service! The technology is easy to master but Elaine is happy to assist with setting it up. If you haven't joined us recently, please note that your "GoToMeeting" software will need an update. The process is very straight forward but will take a little bit of extra time. **Every Sunday at 10.30 using this link:**

 $\textbf{Computer, tablet, smartphone} \ \underline{\text{https://meet.goto.com/ChurnBenefice/sundayservice}}$

New user https://meet.goto.com/install

Weekday evening **Compline** at 8.00pm for 10 minutes. Access via https://meet.goto.com/312446493
If you would like to be added to our weekly mailing list to receive the **Churn newsletter**, please contact Elaine or you can sign up here https://eepurl.com/iEcD8A.

You can also sign up for the "Rector's Reflections" which are sent out most weekdays.

The Rector's Reflections sign up link is http://eepurl.com/iEix4A

Midweek Communion Everyone welcome to the Midweek Communion at **St Andrew's, Hagbourne, every Wednesday at 10am**. This is a said Communion Service without hymns and the opportunity to stay for a coffee afterwards and a chat.

This is a popular Service - all welcome.



Tower Talk We rang the bells at St Andrew's on 31st December at 11:30pm and rang in the New Year at Midnight. There were eight ringers in the tower and there was one visitor. The tenor was tolled at midnight and then we were able to 'Fire' the bells which means the bells are all struck at the same time!

There was no ringing practice on the first Tuesday in January, but we are now back to our normal practices and Sunday ringing.

On Saturday 25th January a few Hagbourne ringers joined the Churn Ringing Outing that was organised by Rob Nickless from North Moreton. We had a really good day's ringing with a lovely soup lunch at North Moreton Village Hall, thanks to Rob's wife Jo. The group enjoyed tea and cake at St Michael's, Blewbury in the afternoon. The bells were rung at St Andrew's tower late afternoon. Some of the group also met up in the evening at Kolkata in Didcot, for a meal. A really nice day out but the weather was cold! Shirley Goss

Birthdays – 8th February – George Kersey

Dates for the diary - Tuesday 25th February - Tower AGM

St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival We are very pleased to announce that the Christmas Tree Festival made the amazing amount of £5,600 to share between our 2024 causes, **The First Steps Baby Bank**, **The Didcot Emergency Food Bank and St Andrew's Church. Thank you once again to everyone who contributed in any way to make the Festival so successful**. The Christmas Tree Festival Committee.

Churchwardens chatter So, February is here already. The snowdrops are already in bloom. What a fantastic sight. The second organ recital was once again a resounding success. I am very much looking forward to the next one on 2nd February by a "new to me" young organist. Please try to come and listen to our lovely organ being played so well on the first Sunday of the month from 5pm to 5.30pm. It's a real treat.

We were sad to hear of the death of Tony Fox, a regular Wednesday morning member or the congregation. His Funeral was at South Moreton on Tuesday 28th January. Graham Goy is now officially the oldest member of St Andrew's Church – unless you know different!

Hopefully you will have noticed the rebuilding work going on to the boundary wall of the Church. What an excellent job he is doing! And soon the remedial stonework on the exterior of the Church will be started. I am hoping that this will help to maintain our lovely Church in a good condition for the foreseeable future.

It will soon be time for our famous **Lent Lunches** to start. As usual we rely on our great core of volunteers to help us out. Please let us know if you would like to join us and continue to support the ongoing daily contributions that so many volunteers do to keep our Church thriving.

We are planning a big **SPRING CLEAN** on the last Saturday of February. You are all welcome to help in any way at all, and for any amount of time that you can spare.

Jane and Jill



Spring Clean at St Andrew's

We hope to hold a big Spring Clean at Church on **Saturday**, **22nd February** starting at about 10am. Everyone welcome to come and help in any way and for any amount of time you can spare. Hope to see you there.

Baptism in the Benefice

12th January **Rosie Alice Farrell** was baptised at St John the Baptist, South Moreton.

May God's blessing of peace and joy be with her and protect her all of her days.

Funerals in the Benefice

23rd January at St Michael's, Blewbury **Angela Repard** aged 87 28th January at St John the Baptist, South Moreton **Tony Fox** aged 95



Upcoming Funerals

The Funeral of the late **Jessie West** from Upton will be held at **St Michael's Blewbury**, on **Thursday**, **6th February** at 12 noon followed by a burial at St Mary's Upton.

The Funeral of the late **Derek Whitmell** from Upton will be held at **St Michael's Blewbury**, on **Monday**, **10th February** at 2.30pm.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

With Sympathy We send our heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Tony Fox who died recently at the age of 95. Tony's Funeral Service took place at St John the Baptist Church, South Moreton on 28th January.



Looking for something different? Blewbury's Taizé Service: every second Sunday of the month at 10.30am at St Michael's

This is a quiet, reflective Service with Bible readings, prayer, silence and singing as well as the opportunity to light candles. It is easy to learn Taizé chants as they are repeated again and again, just using a few words.

These chants become a way of speaking to and listening to God. Our service shares the ethos of the Taizé Community which is located in the village of Taizé in Burgundy. We welcome people from all denominations and cultures – those who have a Christian faith and those who struggle to believe. We sing in different languages to reflect this but English translations of what we are singing are also provided. Please do join us and bring your friends.

The Churn Mothers' Union AGM You are invited to attend this meeting along with our branch members on **Sunday 2nd February, 3pm in Blewbury Church**. Worship, short business meeting and discussion about plans for the coming year. Come and find out about this global Christian organisation and our local involvement. **Tea afterwards in Louise's home, Penridge**, Church Road. We look forward to seeing you.

ROTAS FOR FEBRUARY	2nd February CANDLEMAS	16th February 4th Sunday before Lent	2nd March 6th Sunday before Lent	General Notes Church cleaning should be	
Readers	Malachi 3 vv1-5 Jenny Smith	Jeremiah 17 vv 5-10 Jeff Powell	Exodus 34 vv 29-end Colin Windsor	done on the Friday afternoon or Saturday before your name is on the	
	Hebrews 2 vv14-end Margaret Antcliff	1 Corinthians 15 vv12-20 Justine Shepperson	2 Corinthians 3 vv 12-4 v 2 Mo Windsor	Rota. Thank you.	
Intercessions	Jenny Smith	Celebrant	Celebrant	If unable to do the duty, please let your organiser	
Sidesmen	Richard Powell Marian Powell	Chris Price Wendy Price	Robin Harries Jane Blond	know or find a suitable replacement. We are planning a Spring	
Coffee	Shirley Goss Helen Clayson	Justine Shepperson Jeff Powell	Marian Powell Richard Powell		
Church Cleaning	Helen Clayson Rachel Williams	The Drewe Family	Cordelia and Barbara	Clean in Church on Saturday, 22nd February in the morning. Any help	
Flowers Lady Chapel	Alison Davis	Marian Powell	Marian Powell	would be appreciated.	
Flowers High Altar	Gillian Harries	Helen Clayson	Helen Clayson		

Please save the date: Monday 5th May 2025



Run ... Walk ... Support ... Eat Cake!

Whether or not you relish covering 4½ miles of glorious South Oxfordshire countryside by foot on your bank holiday, please do join us for one of the biggest events in our village calendar and help us raise money for good causes.

Stop press: This year we are looking to reintroduce a prize for the best fancy dress and to welcome under 5s who would like to tackle a "mighty minis" course. We hope that everyone will join us to help make this the best Fun Run ever!



Lent Lunches at St Andrew's Church

There will be hot soup lunches served at St Andrew's Church on Saturdays between 12:30 – 2:00pm during Lent from the 8th March – 12th April (inclusive).

The lunch will consist of homemade soup, fresh bread and cheese, fruit and/or cake plus a cup of tea or coffee. If there is anyone who would like to run one or more of the Lent Lunches there will be a sign-up sheet in church or you can contact me, Shirley Goss, on 01235 815605 or e-mail shirley.goss@btinternet.com You are welcome to run a lunch in aid of a charity of your choice but we would ask for a small donation to the Church. I can provide an information sheet re running the lunch. These are popular especially in the cold weather so please come and support us. Please note that the last of the Lent Lunches, **Saturday 12th April**, will be in aid of **Sobell House**. (See separate notice next month for further information). P.S. If we do not get people to sign up to run a lunch then it will not happen, but I will keep you informed. **Shirley Goss**

Coffee Mornings at St Andrew's All welcome to pop into St Andrew's on Wednesday mornings each week, after the midweek Communion, about 10.45, for a coffee and a chat.

Church Fete Date for the St Andrew's Fete this year is scheduled for **Saturday, 21st June**.

Joseph William Corderoy 24th April 1936 - 25th September 2025

Dad always liked to say he was born in Berkshire and moved county to Oxfordshire without moving house. This was how he was – an immovable constant in a changing world. As a boy, he attended Abingdon School, with his childhood friend John White. Dad and school did not get along brilliantly, but he did win the wood-working prize, a passion that stayed with him for the rest of his life. Many years later, Mum bought him a woodturning course as a birthday gift. A lathe soon followed. Wooden bowls began to breed and multiply along bookshelves, joined by nutcrackers, baby's rattles and porridge spurtles.

He met our mother, Janet at an Oxford Farming Club night back in the late 1950s and they were married on September 24th I960. They began married life in a caravan, whilst they built Mill Lodge and became parents, first to Ruth, then to me. For several years they co-farmed Hagbourne Mill Farm with our grandparents, Maud and William. After our grandparents retired, we moved up the lane to the farmhouse and Mum and Dad set about turning around the fortunes of a modest-sized farm. It was hard work with a lot of make do and mend – fence posts fashioned from timber cut on the farm, a thousand and one uses for old bailer twine. They even built a barn with their bare hands. A dairy herd, grain crops, beef cattle, soft fruit, rhubarb, Christmas trees all followed... Many of you have spoken to us of your memories of coming to the farm to pick strawberries or choose a tree for Christmas. It has been lovely to hear these stories and be reminded of how much a part of community life our parents and the farm have been.

Dad was not someone given to expressing his feelings in words. But he did - always - show up, often armed with a chain saw and a tractor and trailer. He was churchwarden at St Andrew's for many years, active with the church fete, embarked on sponsored cycle rides around historic churches. He surprised everyone, including himself, by performing in the Village Pageant to mark the new Millennium. Of a summer's evening, he would often walk or cycle up to Hagbourne Bowls Club, to enjoy a few ends and a few pints.

Being part of a farming family is a rare privilege – as children we had the freedom of a whole farm to play in, straw bale dens, sticklebacks to fish from the stream, sticks to whittle. Always in our back pockets was the perfect excuse for being late to school "the Cattle got out". With our uncle, Toby Harrison, and family friend, John Findlay, Dad repaired the mill shaft in the watermill and got the ancient mechanism working again. The rumble of the wheels and cogs in motion, rolling corn for the cattle, caused the surrounding ground to tremble like a low-level earthquake – a machine from a different age.

Having long dreamed of visiting Australia, Mum and Dad finally took their first epic trip down under in 1983 – helped by neighbouring farmers and friends who dealt with the farm in their absence. They spent 6 weeks in Australia and New Zealand and returned via Los Angeles. Dad came home with shining eyes recounting stories of life in somewhere called Wagga-Wagga and eating ice creams as big as his head.

Dad loved being a part of Didcot Rotary - shaking money tins for the Santa Float, marshalling at bonfire night. He enjoyed learning new things at the diverse talks, the dinners and the friendships and was so proud the year he was made Rotary President.

I never tired of telling friends that my Dad went to a rock festival every year – Hard at work in the doughnut van at Truck – again raising money for Rotary charities. It was one fateful Rotary dinner that Dad offered to host two Rotary scholars, Julie Rosengren and Anne Popkin. Julie and Anne entered our parents' lives and hearts like two extra daughters. Mum and Dad were guests of honour at Julie and Andrew's wedding in Australia. They celebrated Thanksgiving with Anne Popkin and her family in Cape Cod.

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Joseph William Corderoy continued from page 8

Then, one Spring Day in 2007, Dad phoned me out of the blue. He did not really do phone calls. My immediate thought - who had died? Instead, his opening gambit was... "You know I've always had a thing about polar bears?" It was actually the first I had heard of it. Inspired by an article in the local paper, he had volunteered for a conservation project in the far north of Canada – in remote Churchill, assessing the impact of climate change on permafrost. He volunteered three times for Earthwatch, and on his second trip to the Arctic finally got to see his beloved polar bears.

In his later years, Dad cultivated a vegetable patch. He and I engaged in competitive runner bean growing, vying to see whose would germinate first, which ones were the better croppers... but I could never compete with his pumpkins. Every year he would provide a whopper for Rosie to carve at Halloween. It felt as though he always would. Until one Spring, when he refused to plant anything. It was an early sign that something was amiss... Our grandmother had suffered from Dementia so it should have been some kind of preparation. Yet I don't think anything can prepare you for the way Alzheimer's ravages by stealth – at first, tiny fragments stolen here and there, leaving you with the nagging sense that something is missing but you cannot quite place what.

Dad hated getting weaker and needing assistance. "Don't fuss," he would protest. Yet he also bore it with a quiet stoicism and flashes of humour too. I will always be grateful that we were able give Dad his wish to live out his days in the house he grew up in and which he shared with Mum for so much of their lives.

We owe a huge debt to everyone who helped make this possible. Thank you to everyone at Good Oaks Live-in Care, The Caring Company, Dr Miles and the entire medical and reception team at Woodlands Medical Centre and of course, the incredible, overstretched, under-resourced NHS as a whole. Thanks too, to the incredible community around our parents – fellow farmers, The Drewes, The Allens, The Powells, The Gales, The Binnings, The Nappers... Our Aunt Mary and our cousins, the community of the Church and the village. Friends old and new. And the frequent and unexpected kindness of strangers.

He died peacefully, at home, in the early hours of 25th September, ensuring he completed 64 full years of marriage to Mum – their wedding anniversary was 24th September.

It is impossible to grasp that he is no longer here. Grief bushwhacks – a sudden realisation that I won't see him carve another roast pheasant; I can't bake him another a fruit cake. I won't hear him go on and on about steam trains. I miss his sporadic - and always unexpected - invitations to unlikely places – a rain forest in Hampstead Norreys, an expedition to find the source of the river Thames. Gone with our Dad is his terrible recipe for raspberry wine, the correct way to cut toast into cuckoo houses, and his secret source of mistletoe.

He got to do many of the things he dreamed of doing, with his beloved wife, Janet, nearly always by his side. He was, as I said at the start, an immovable constant in a changing world. He was our Dad. We were lucky to have him for as long as we did.

Gillian Corderoy.

Hagbourne Barn Dance Club — an evening of Traditional English Dance is held on the third Friday of the month at the Hagbourne Village Hall at 8pm to 11pm. Please bring your own mug and plate (saves washing up). **Next session: 21st February.**



Sunday Club In the Parish Room at St Andrew's, Hagbourne on the first Sunday of the month at 10.30am, joining parents in the Church Service later. Bible stories, circle time, drawing, colouring, painting, crafts and more. Ages 4 - 11. Encourages children to interact with each other and adults, make friends, be creative. A gentle introduction to Christian values. **Next date: Sunday 2nd February. ALL WELCOME.**



East Hagbourne Community Shop

For 20 years, East Hagbourne Community Shop has been proudly run entirely by volunteers. We are seeking new committee members and volunteers to help keep it going and growing! To learn how you can help for 1 or 2 hours a month: email Alice at alice.w.smith@gmail.com or easthagbourneshop@gmail.com or pop in & chat with a Volunteer on duty.

Visit us on FB or on the village website at: easthagbourne.net/our-village/shop-post-office

"How can I help support the Community Shop and PO?"

We get asked this often – not everyone has the time to volunteer in the Shop, or to organize the weekly bakery orders or staff events. But you can also help by visiting the Shop to source some of your gifts, groceries or essentials. **Every purchase helps** to pay the lease and utility expenses to keep our local Post Office in business – the very reason the Community Shop was founded over twenty years ago.

What to buy?

Try our local free-range eggs, home-made cakes, Heritage Bakery goods, local honey, Calnan's award-winning sausages, burgers and mince, high-quality freshly-frozen fish, local artists' cards and books, compost bin liners: all contribute to raising funds to support our local PO.

If we don't offer any goods that you <u>would</u> be willing to purchase from the Shop, please do ask the Volunteer on duty to make a note for the buyers. *Thank you for your support!*









FEBRUARY OPERATING HOURS

<u>Post Office:</u> As well as the usual postal operations - conduct personal or business banking, pay bills, top up prepaid cards/keys/mobiles

Open: Mornings Mon + Wed to Sat, 9–12:30pm, **CLOSED Tues & afternoons SHOP: Hot drinks available for takeaway** plus crisps, snacks or pick n' mix sweets.

Don't forget to pick up a locally designed card or chocolate treats for your Valentine!

Open: Mon & Thu 9-4:30pm; Tue/Wed/Fri 9-4pm; Sat 9-12:30pm

Heritage Bakery available each Saturday Pre-order artisanal breads, savouries and pastries by 4pm Wednesday for collection the following Saturday! Order in Shop or by email to easthagbourneshop@gmail.com. See available products and allergen details in Shop or at easthagbourne.net. Pre-order to avoid disappointment, those bacon rolls go fast!

Thursday Cake Day! Mid-week pick-me-up or a weekend treat, stop in for one of our scrumptious homemade cakes every Thursday. Selections change weekly and come by early - they don't last long!



Tickets for Jhamboree should be available by mid- February

What's Happening at Hagbourne Village Hall?

Our plans for the roof and wall insulation have taken a new turn. To hear more about this and how we are streamlining our operations, please come along to our **Open Committee Meeting on Monday 3rd February, 7:30pm in the Small Hall.**

Or contact hagbournevh@gmail.com for more information

HUGS - Hagbournes and Upton Group for Sustainability

Early spring Spring is moving forward. Birds nest, wildflowers bloom and frogs spawn somewhere between a month to six weeks earlier than they did in the 1980s. Scientists attribute this to our warming world. And it's happening around the globe, not just in the UK. In recent years, we've had some very warm periods in Spring and with varying rainfall. Locally, the last couple of Springs have had much higher-than-average rainfall.

For birds, we might still think that their nesting season starts in March, but for many species they will already have had their first brood of eggs by the end of March. Around the Hagbournes, that means long-tailed tits, blackbirds and tawny owls and more will already be nesting in February.



Most birds prefer lots of cover plus height for their nests. Ivy and bramble make ideal nesting sites for many species. You can help out birds with wilder areas of your garden; providing safe areas such as trees, thick, high hedges, shrubs or brambles to nest it. Wilder areas also provide nest building materials such as leaves, sticks, grasses, lichen, bark, moss and mud for birds to collect. Blackbirds are often the easiest to spot nest building. Females will work through flower beds and meadows where flower stems have been left to overwinter. They will select and take away their preferred upright stems to weave into their nests. Long-tailed tits use spider silk in their nest building (to bind the structure), so again wilder areas that are full of insect life, provide better home building options for our birds.

The HUGS website has more info about wildlife gardening

https://www.hugsustainability.org/wildlifegardening
and the RSPB provide lots of information about supporting birds in your garden
https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/helping-birds-and-wildlife

TABLE TENNIS at the Pavilion: Join our friendly table-tennis group at the Pavilion for exercise and fun on Tuesday mornings. We play from 10am to 12noon, £2 per session. All ages, skills, welcome; bats available. More info from Julian 01235 813599 jgallop@freeuk.com

Anthony 01235 511920 aannanjones@qmail.com

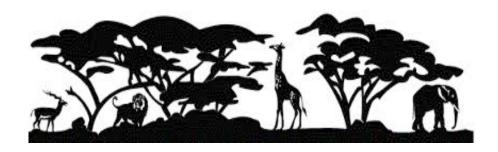
FOOTBALL in East Hagbourne: Hagbourne United FC plays regularly at East Hagbourne and welcomes new men and youth players.

Contacts: John Symonds 07831 714076 jesymonds29@gmail.com or Keith Davies 07810 504155 keith_davies4@hotmail.co.uk

HAGBOURNE BOWLS CLUB We have an active and growing membership and in particular, our lady players have been making great progress in local leagues and friendlies, however, more players of any level are always needed. Whatever your bowls experience you'll find a warm welcome and many new friends at Hagbourne Bowls Club. For more info please contact our Ladies Captain: Sandy Budd on 07477 814801 or sandybudd@sky.com



Hagbourne Garden Club will be meeting on **Thursday**, **27th February** at the Pavilion. Doors will open for refreshments at 7pm. The talk will start at 7.30pm. The speaker this month is **Andrew Mikolajski** and his topic will be: **Gardening in the 2020's**. Adapting to a changing climate and the movement away from the use of pesticides, fungicides and weed killers. Visitors most welcome at £5 per person. Plenty of parking at the Pavilion. For information call Sally on 01235 352275



The 6th East Hagbourne Safari Supper Saturday, 10th May 2025

After the success of five previous Safari Suppers, the Hagbourne Action Group are organising another one in aid of *Friends of St Andrew's*, which raises funds towards the upkeep of the fabric of Hagbourne Church and *Medecins Sans Frontieres, UK*, who are part of an international humanitarian organisation providing vital medicine and care for the people who need it the most in more than 70 countries.

We hope that up to 100 villagers will enjoy a 3-course dinner by starting at St Andrew's Church for canapes and cocktails, then walking to different houses for the main course, followed by another venue for the dessert course. We will gather together at the end of the evening for coffee and mints at the Fleur de Lys.

The price of the 3-course Safari Supper including the pre-dinner drinks and coffee and mints is £30 per person with reductions in price for those people who are willing to provide canapes in the Church or host a main or dessert course in their homes for 6, 8, 10 or more !

More information will appear in next month's Parish Magazine, but in the meantime can you please give consideration as to whether you would be willing to:

- provide canapes for about 15 people or
- host a main course for 6, 8, 10 or more people or
- host a dessert course for 6, 8, 10 or more people or
- simply come along and safari around the village

We will be asking you to let us know your decision by 22nd April.

Please advertise this village event to all your neighbours as it is a great way to meet new people while enjoying an excellent Safari Supper!

THE HAGBOURNE ACTION GROUP



Didcot and District U3a

Come along to the monthly meetings held on the **third Tuesday of every month at the Didcot Civic Hall starting at 2:30pm**. The next meeting is on **Tuesday, 18th February** with a talk by David Taylor from the Didcot & District Archaeology & History Society on:

Jazz Jam Sessions at the

Another wonderful Jam session was

February

regular event.

Fleur – next one is on 12th

held at The Fleur on 22nd January, and

this will be followed by another one on

February 12th. We are lucky to have

such brilliant musicians turning up for the Jam, and I hope this will become a

We are also organising a fund raiser for the Friends of St Andrews, and are looking for as much support as possible in the village. See poster opposite.

The History of Didcot.

For additional information

For additional information go to membership@didcotu3a.org

Tickets from:

www.WeGotTickets.com/events/646900

(subject to booking fee)

Or from Peter Hands at the Fleur Jazz Jams
Or via Peter.hands3@btinternet.com

Hagbourne Bridge Club

If you can play bridge but haven't done so for a while – give us a go! If you have never learnt to play bridge but would like to give it a try, why not come and see us? We meet every Thursday in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. We have a break around 8.30pm for light refreshments and usually finish playing cards by 10pm. It will cost you £3.

We look forward to seeing you. We are: Jill Garlick – 07873431144 hjgarlick@gmail.com and Shirley Goss – 815605 shirley.goss@btinternet.com



OXFORDSHIRE YOUNG FARMERS COUNTY SHOW AND RALLY AT SHEENCROFT FARM BLEWBURY OX11 9ED SATURDAY 17TH MAY 2025

Oxfordshire Young Farmers County Show and Rally — 17th May 2025

This is the annual Oxfordshire Federation of Young Farmers Club County Show and Rally, where Abingdon, Bicester, Enstone, Farringdon, Henley and Witney come together to showcase to the public the kinds of activities the young people are involved in.

The day provides entertainment in the main ring, meet Kaleb Cooper from Clarkson's Farm, mini ring for YFC activities, Dog Show, 200 trade stands and stalls, Craft stalls, food area, exhibitions, farming demonstrations, animals, tractors both modern and vintage, Bouncy castle, Go karts and many kids activities throughout the day! A great day out with lots to do and see. Hosted by Abingdon Young Farmers. **Tickets available soon.**



NEWSLETTER No.270 - February 2025

CONTACT DETAILS:

Parish Clerk, Laura Lloyd Telephone: 07891 551 851

Email: easthagbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com

PUBLIC ART PROJECT UPDATE



The Public Art Steering Group has met three times to explore ideas and practical plans for art projects in the parish, using the s106 funds from the Deanfield development. The group includes South and Vale's Arts Development Officer Abigail Brown, a SOHA representative, parish councillors, and local residents.

We're now working on creating briefs for local artists and would love to involve a couple more residents in the process - particularly anyone from St Andrews Crescent, which is one of the shortlisted locations for a potential art installation.

If you're interested in being part of this exciting project and shaping the artistic future of our parish, please contact the group coordinator: iain.duff@easthagbourne.net - our next meeting is on 10th February. We'd be delighted to hear from you!

CHAIRMAN'S SURGERY – FRIDAY 21st FEBRUARY



lain Duff will be at the Fleur de Lys on Friday 21st February from 5.00 to 6.30pm to welcome any residents with concerns or queries relating to matters in the parish.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE:



East Hagbourne

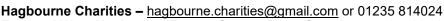
l Coronavirus

Community

Support Group

SOFEA Didcot Community Larder is open on Thursdays see here for information Didcot Emergency Foodbank is open at Didcot Baptist Church on Tuesdays & Fridays, see here First Steps Baby Bank at Didcot Baptist Church on Tuesdays and Fridays, see here for information

Cost Of Living Crisis An SODC page with a range of advice and support can be found here The Community Hub can assist with isolation and financial help. Details can be found here Warm Welcome Space at Didcot Library, see further info here for opening times & other venues.



East and West Hagbourne Fund - Contact David Stainthorp on 07711 802887 or email hagbournevillagefund@gmail.com

East Hagbourne (Coronavirus) Community Support Group -

easthagbournecovid19@gmail.com or 07568 395228

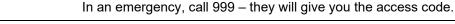


DEFIBRILLATORS: The village defibrillators are available 24/7 at the following locations:

Outside the Village Shop at 114 New Road

Hagbourne Village Hall (next to the main entrance)

Hagbourne Bowls Club on The Croft (defibrillator is wall mounted outside the gate)



USEFUL INFORMATION LINKS:



FixMyStreet







https://www.fixmystreet.com/ for reporting a wide variety of issues from potholes to fly tipping. https://publicrightsofway.oxfordshire.gov.uk/standardmap.aspx can be used to report an issue with a countryside path or public right of way.

https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste for information on waste services and reporting missed bin collections.

Get the Binzone app on your mobile to receive notifications of bin services in East Hagbourne https://one.network/ for checking roadworks in the area

Planning applications received since the last newsletter:

P24/S3787/FUL and P24/S3788/LB Lime Tree Farm, Main Road, East Hagbourne - Change of use from existing 5 bed dwelling to create two dwellings, one with 3 bedrooms and one with 2 bedrooms, via erection of dividing partitions

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 13th February 2025 at The Pavilion

All Council meetings are open to the public and we welcome your participation. Agendas and Minutes of previous meetings are published at www.easthagbourne.net

Comments from the East Hagbourne Parish Council Chairman

Who Owns What? There seems to be some confusion about who owns and who manages what in the village, and the following is an attempt to clarify this.

East Hagbourne Parish Council (EHPC) owns:

- The Pavilion and Recreation Ground, including the children's playground. While EHPC owns these, the East Hagbourne Sports and Recreation Committee (EHS&RC) leases and manages the facility. Fees collected by EHS&RC cover running costs and minor repairs, while EHPC is responsible for major repairs. This Committee is not a Parish Council Committee and is independent of the Council comprising some parish councillors but also mostly non-council villagers including representatives of clubs who use the facility.
- The nine-acre field between Blewbury Road and footpath 17 (continuing from Great Mead), which is rented to a local farmer.
- The car park by the Village Hall. The Village Hall itself is owned by a charity, managed by its trustees. EHPC also manages Butts Piece and the allotments, though these are leased from Hagbourne Parochial Charities who own the land.

Other Ownership:

SOHA Housing owns green spaces in Windsor Crescent, Wilcher Close and Rymans Crescent off New Road

South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) owns green areas in Bishops Orchard and alongside the footpath at the top of Harwood Road.

Didcot Town Council owns and manages the Millennium Wood, located within our parish. **The Deanfield housing estate** opposite the school will be run by a management company whose members include residents and the two Housing Associations.

Footpaths and Roads The footpaths and most roads and footways are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council, but identifying which are in our Parish requires a good knowledge of parish boundaries. For example:

- The footpath from the Church to West Hagbourne crosses into West Hagbourne after the stream.
- The long footpath 1 (from Great Western Park in Didcot to West Hagbourne going past the vineyard) is in East Hagbourne.
- Only the first section of the path from Lake Road to Park Road (the part under the railway embankment) is in East Hagbourne; all the rest including the bridge into Mowbray Fields is in Didcot Parish.
- Most of the Sustrans route on the railway embankment is in Upton, West Hagbourne, or Didcot, with only a small part, either side of the Main Road crossing, in East Hagbourne.

Action List When we post or circulate the agenda or minutes for a Parish Council meeting we always include an appendix entitled Action List. It must be stressed that this is not part of the agenda and is not discussed at all in the Parish Council meetings. It serves as a record of ongoing topics to ensure nothing is forgotten. Councillors are always at liberty to suggest that any item in this list can be discussed but then it would appear on the agenda either as an item for decision (perhaps involving expenditure), an item for discussion (which might precede a decision at a future council meeting) or as a report which is there to inform councillors and, through the minutes, members of the public.

The Action List is updated on a regular basis and is included in the agenda and minutes to promote transparency by giving everybody the chance to see items of current interest or concern. This may often include comments or advice from third parties and is not council policy and may well never be actioned or proposed at a council meeting. I am very impressed that some parishioners have been studying this appendix, and I do not discourage them from doing so, but it really is important not to conflate these with the actual agenda. I should add that if you don't see something that you feel very excited about in either the Agenda or Action List then feel free to discuss it with any councillor, the clerk, or bring it with you to a parish surgery.

Continued on page 17 . . .

Comments from the East Hagbourne Parish Council Chairman continued . . .

Parish Surgeries The next parish surgery will be in the Fleur de Lys on Friday 21st February from 5.00 to 6.30 pm. As always, feel free to contact me (iain.duff@easthagbourne.net), the clerk or any other councillor should you have urgent concerns.

Parish Council meetings The next meeting of East Hagbourne Parish Council will be held in the Community Room of the Pavilion in the Recreation Ground starting at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th February. Members of the public are welcome to join the meeting and the agenda is posted on village notice boards and the village web pages at least three clear days before the meeting.

Although I often ask the clerk or a council member to review parts of this page, and I am grateful for any improvements, this is not a formal or even approved article from the Parish Council. I accept full responsibility for any errors or omissions and do please alert me to any you find!

Iain Duff

Didcot Emergency Foodbank The Didcot Emergency Foodbank is at The Didcot Baptist Church, 43 Wantage Road, Didcot. OX11 OBS Telephone 01235 813187.

Email: office@didcotbaptist.org.uk An Emergency Foodbank is a practical, community-based project aimed at providing short term relief by giving food to people in crisis in our local area. The Didcot Emergency Foodbank serves Didcot and the immediate surrounding villages.

There is very high demand on the Foodbank at the moment. You can leave items in the supermarkets in Didcot, at Blewbury Post Office or make a money donation via the Foodbank.

Contact details if you need to use the Foodbank or you would like to make a donation: You can leave a message on the Baptist Church Office answering machine on 01235 813 187 or you can email the Foodbank: foodbank@didcotbaptist.org.uk or use the contact form on the website.

All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

First Steps Baby Bank First Steps Baby Bank is a non-profit organisation, providing essential baby items, free of charge to families in need in Didcot and the surrounding villages, including East and West Hagbourne. The Baby Bank relies solely on funding and donations from the local community in order to provide support. Donations can be in the form of new and pre loved items alongside financial contributions.

The Baby Bank was started by Gemma and Leanne, both mums themselves, who had heard of other baby banks across the country and discovered how much of a positive impact one would be for families in our area.

In order for families to access the Baby Bank, they require a referral from a professional person working alongside them, a list of these can be found on the website. They accept one off referrals as well as ongoing support. There are many reasons for referral and families from all backgrounds are helped regardless of their situation. The Baby Bank currently supports children up to the age of 2 years old, including expectant mums. To find out how to donate, to refer a family in need or to access support please visit their website **http://www.firststepsbabybank.co.uk**

Bus service to the Churchill, Nuffield and Warneford Hospitals
The bus to catch for any of these hospitals from the centre of Oxford is number 15
which is every 1/4 hour during the day, taking 10-12 minutes, longer at busy times. You
can catch it near the entrance to the Covered Market or near Queen's Lane. Those stops work
whether you're connecting from Didcot with the Thames Travel X32 or, quicker but more walking,
using the train from Didcot. The set down points are announced on the bus; for the Warneford,
Warneford Road; for the Churchill, Roosevelt Drive; for the Nuffield, the stop is further on, called
Lime Walk, and is actually in Old Road near the Old Road entrance to the hospital. The website
for the 15 is https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/services/OXBC/15, where you can also find a useful bus
map and even live information. When using the X32 to Oxford, it's also possible to connect with the
15 near the Police Station, generally fewer people trying to get on at once.

New Activity at East Hagbourne Pavilion Slimming World meets every Monday evening and holds two sessions. Please see their advertisement at the back of the magazine for more information on how to join. Information on hiring the Pavilion can be found on the East Hagbourne website: www.easthagbourne.net

Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue is a local charity dedicated to saving injured, sick and orphaned UK wildlife. They have been given notice to leave their current rented premises. So, they need to raise funds to buy land and build Oxfordshire's first wildlife hospital. **They help 1000s** of patients each year within Oxfordshire and Berkshire, so finding a new home for the charity is vital for local wildlife.



They have been fundraising desperately since November 2023 and still have a long way to go, here is a link to their fundraiser if you would like to take a

look: https://www.gofundme.com/f/urgent-appeal-save-oxfordshire-wildlife-

rescue?qid=0ff7edeccafd8cd7188d0302e22e10a2 **24 Hr Wildlife Helpline. 07549 322464 Email. oxfordshirewildliferescue@gmail.com**

Wednesday Sewing Class Places available in The Wednesday Sewing Class for complete beginners through to the more experienced sewer. The class is from 12:30 to 3:30 in the Hagbourne Village Hall. Places available for the Spring term. Please contact sue.somani@sky.com 07748 771188

Ladies Thirsty Thursday (LTT) The Ladies Thirsty Thursday meets on the third Thursday of each month in The Fleur from 7.30pm for a friendly drink (or two) and an opportunity to meet other ladies in the village. Everyone is welcome, so come and join us, and spread the word. and we look forward to seeing you at the next gathering which will be on **Thursday 20th February.**

British Science Week – 7th to 16th March

As you may be aware, the Churn Benefice has a commitment to supporting and encouraging science and we celebrate the connection between science and religion. We will be marking British Science week which this year falls between 7th and 16th March. More details to follow. 2025 is also the **International Year of Quantum Science and Technology** and we will be celebrating this too – in two places simultaneously! See https://quantum2025.org/

Half Term Children's Activities at the Earth Trust at Little Wittenham

Little Acorns: Winter Birds - Nature-based play for little adventurers Our Little Acorns sessions run every school holiday and feature a variety of seasonal activities for children to explore, discover and connect with the natural world. In these child-led experiences, our trained tutors will support and guide children but not direct them, allowing each child to lead their own learning while developing their curiosity for nature.

Half term holiday fun For the first Little Acorns of 2025, we will be celebrating British garden birds with themed activities in our beautiful Earth Lab gardens where we'll be connecting with nature through crafts, stories and more. Your little ones will be able to help our feathery friends get through the winter hunger gap by creating bird feeders they can take home. There will be bird crafts as well as outdoor activities to explore, including a mud kitchen and water play. We will end the session with a game of 'guess the bird song' and a story.

Dates: Monday 17th, Tuesday 18th February **Time**: 10-11.30am **Location**: <u>Earth Lab, Earth</u>

<u>Trust Centre, Little Wittenham</u> **Suitability:** Ages 2 – 6 years

Price: £10 per child (+booking fee) plus 1 free adult

For full details and to book: www.earthtrust.org.uk

Local Bus Service 94 and 94A between Didcot, East and West Hagbourne, Upton via Blewbury, Aston Upthorpe and South and North Moreton.



To look up timetables for all bus services please visit: www.oxfordbus.co.uk
There are some printed timetables in the Community Shop.

Thames Travel bus service to Oxford and the JR Hospital from Didcot – X32

The X32 service starts at Cockcroft Road, Didcot, which might be a convenient point for some people to catch it - still every half hour. It then goes to GWP South and down Wantage Road, past Didcot Hospital, to the Orchard Centre, Station, and on to Oxford and the JR. Please see page 17 for useful details on how to get to the various Oxford Hospitals via public transport.



MARCH 2025 PARISH MAGAZINE

Please let us have copy for the February 2025 parish magazine by **Monday 17th February to magtemp5@gmail.com**Thank you, the magazine committee.

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FRENCH BEANIES, East Hagbourne French Beanies is a language learning After School Club for primary school children based in East Hagbourne. Have lots of fun, meet new friends, enjoy games, chat, singing, role play, arts, crafts, French foodie treats and much more. All in small groups of max 6 children. Established 10+ years. *First lesson is free* – come and join the French fun! Contact Sarah Wright for more info: sarah@frenchbeanies.co.uk www.frenchbeanies.co.uk

Music - Brass Band

BLEWBURY BRASS BAND Available for bookings for local fetes & events.

Band Room available for Hire £8 per hour (min 2hrs). Large practice room. Toilet, but no kitchen or storage facilities. Suitable for pop groups, theatrical rehearsals, group meetings etc. **New band members of all ages and abilities welcome.** Instruments available. Learner Band Rehearsals: Monday 5.45 to 6.30pm Main Band Rehearsals: Wednesdays 7.30 to 9.30pm **Band Hut, Bohams Rd, Blewbury OX11 9HF**

Enquiries: secretary@blewburybrassband.org

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Public Houses

THE FLEUR DE LYS East Hagbourne – A warm welcome awaits you.

We are open: Tuesday 3pm – 11pm. Wednesday & Thursday 11.30am – 2.30pm and 6pm – 9pm, Friday & Saturday 11.30pm – 11pm, Sunday 12noon – 10pm. Monday closed. **Food served:** Tuesday 6pm – 9pm, Wednesday – Saturday 12noon to 2pm & 6pm – 9pm Sunday 12noon – 3pm. Your hosts Darren, Ruth & Floyd. Pub of the Year 2017, 2019 & 2021

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Slimming

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