PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER, HAMBLEDON

Rector  The Rev Simon Taylor  01483 421267
Pastoral matters and services  The Rev Margot Spencer  01483 416333
Reader  Mr D. Jenkins
  6 Quartermile Road
  Godalming  01483 416084
Churchwarden  Mr Nigel Pollock
  Brackenwood, Brook Road
  Wormley GU8 5UA  01428 682116
Assistant Church Warden  Mr David Chadwick, Little Beeches,
  14 Springhill, Elstead,
  Godalming, GU8 6EL  01252 702268
Church Treasurer & Gift Aid  Dr Alison Martin
  Tillies
  Munstead Heath Road
  Godalming  01483 893619
Children and young people  Youth and Children’s Worker
  Jessi Poulsom  07882 186359
Sunday groups  Crèche, Pre-School: Georgina Aylward
  School Years 1-6: Jessi Poulsom
  01428 682591  07882 186359

Sunday Services

Full details of these and any other services are set out in the Church Calendar for the month, which is shown on page 5

Home Groups meet regularly on Monday afternoons and Wednesday evenings at various locations. Details from Roger Mathews  Tel: 01483 420464

Alpha details and information from
David and Liz Jenkins Tel No: 01483 416084

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals contact Busbridge and Hambledon Church Office
Tel No: 01483 421267 (Mon – Friday, 9.30am – 12.30pm)

Where there is sickness or where a visit would be valued, contact the Church Wardens

The Rector is normally off duty on Fridays

The nearest Roman Catholic churches are St Teresa of Avila, Chiddingfold (Fr 01428 643877); St Edmund, Croft Rd, Godalming and St Joseph’s, Milford (Fr Michael 01483 416880)

TO SUBSCRIBE AND HAVE THE MAGAZINE DELIVERED, PLEASE CONTACT
PAT WILLIAMS  01428 682455

Copy deadlines for the March magazine

The deadline is Thursday, February 17
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Hydestile, Godalming, GU8 4DH
Email: jjhindley@gmail.com
Tel: 01483 860219

Advertisers, please contact
Tony Parker
Email: the.parkers@virgin.net
Tel: 01428 683577

Hambledon Parish Magazine, February 2011, Page 3
Very month I am sent a little reminder by John Hindley that my front page contribution to the magazine is eagerly awaited. John is probably being kind in his choice of words.

The other day John sent me the information that Parish Pump, the organisation which gives us some items for the mag has this opener: “As 2011 gets underway, be encouraged - you CAN make a real difference to your community! Your magazine can inform, entertain, console and encourage people. You will never know the extent to which your work is appreciated. But be assured – it is!”

This made me think. How often do we do something without realising that we have made a difference? If you are like me, it is likely you are thinking ‘but I don’t really do much’. The truth is that just by doing something we have either a positive or negative impact. Sometimes our presence somewhere is just enough to make a difference even though we’ll never know it.

As some know, until recently I was a vicar in Crawley in Sussex. One afternoon under a cold but clear sky I had popped to the shops. I had one of my children with me. As we approached the shop around a corner it became uncomfortably obvious that an elderly gentleman sitting on a low wall was not enjoying the attention of about ten teenagers and younger children. The man was being harassed and jostled. He looked desperate as he shook a gnarled fist at one lad. I was close enough to catch the lad shout and spit ‘You just assaulted me you old...’. What do you do in that moment? He was all alone. I felt alone with a young child.

Without thinking I pointed to a post box and with no words shared somehow my son knew to stand behind it. I marched into them towards what looked like the tallest person there. I’m not tall. They all looked tall. I’m not brave. I can honestly say I wasn’t thinking!

What I had not noticed as I focused on the impending disaster was that I was not alone. Another man, far larger than I, had come out of the shop, seen as I had seen and simultaneously was striding straight towards the same lad as I was facing. Three men in their 20s had also turned another corner and purposefully approached this group from behind. A driver in a what I strangely noted was like a Lexus RX 330 - it is amazing what you see in such moments - screeched to a halt in the car park while other cars had simply driven by.

There was a look of shock on the faces of the teenage gang. They were surrounded. No words were exchanged. The lads sauntered away. The old man picked up his stick and sat on the wall. Each of us who had tried to make a small difference glanced at one another and, as men often do, gave a short nod and simply went on our way. When I got home I remember quite clearly being reprimanded by my wife. ‘What about our son?' She was of course right.

There are moments though when something within us says that we have to take a stand and, simply by being there, make a difference. It is what forms and builds communities. It is what takes us out of our own existence. It is what makes Hambledon what it is. For me, it is integral to what a Christian church is to be. It is what makes Hambledon church so special as in recent days we have gathered to say farewell and Godspeed in Heaven to Lucy Parker and show solidarity with the family. We are called by God to be a place, community and people that make a difference because Christ made the difference for you and I. I suspect this the sort of church, nursery school, village shop, pub and community that all would long to be part of and proud to say ‘I belong’ and by belonging, we support one another for the good of all.

Yours in Christ,

Simon Taylor,
Rector,
Hambledon and Busbridge

Pastoral Letter – February

Simon Taylor,
Rector,
Hambledon and Busbridge
**CHURCH CALENDAR**  
**February 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>8.00 am</td>
<td>Holy Communion (BCP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th Sunday before Lent</td>
<td>11.00 am</td>
<td>All Age Worship with baptism</td>
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<td>13th</td>
<td>9.30 am</td>
<td>Holy Communion (CW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Sunday before Lent</td>
<td>11.00 am</td>
<td>Holy Communion (with Children’s Groups)</td>
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<td>Saturday 19th February</td>
<td>9.00 am to 10.00 am - Church Rooms</td>
<td>A time to meet together for prayer: all are welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th</td>
<td>9.30 am</td>
<td>Holy Communion (BCP)</td>
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<td>3rd Sunday before Lent</td>
<td>11.00 am</td>
<td>Morning Worship (with Children’s Groups)</td>
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<td>27th</td>
<td>9.30 am</td>
<td>Morning Prayer (BCP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Sunday before Lent</td>
<td>11.00 am</td>
<td>Morning Worship (with Children’s Groups)</td>
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<td>And in March</td>
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<td>6th</td>
<td>8.00 am</td>
<td>Holy Communion (BCP)</td>
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<td>Sunday next before Lent</td>
<td>11.00 am</td>
<td>All Age Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th March</td>
<td>8.00 pm</td>
<td>Holy Communion at Busbridge</td>
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<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 March</td>
<td>9.30 am</td>
<td>The Bishop of Guildford, the Rt. Rev’d. Christopher Hill</td>
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**Services at St. John’s, Busbridge this month**

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (2nd Sunday in the month BCP)
- 10.00 am Classic service in Church; Contemporary service in Busbridge Junior School; Groups for children of all ages in various locations – turn up and ask!

**NB:** Morning services in church on 20th and 27th

6.30pm Evening Worship (1st Sunday in the month, Holy Communion)

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**It is not enough to love – you need to be loved**

Sometimes we can be inclined to give and give and give to others – without asking anything in return. We may think that this is a sign of generosity – of great strength. But it can also be one of pride – we want to be seen as the one who does not need help. Or it can be a sign of very low self-esteem – we do not think we are worth receiving anything from others.

Whatever the reason, when we keep giving, without also receiving, we put ourselves in danger – we will burn out quickly. It is as important to know when we need to TAKE attention and care, as when we need to give it to others. If you do not pay careful attention to your own needs – whether physical, emotional, mental or spiritual – you will not last the distance. If you want to remain a joyful giver for years to come, you need also to be a joyful taker – and accept God’s love - given to you through other people.
We are delighted to be able to welcome two new babies into village families this month. To Robert and Liz Campbell, a daughter Beatrice (Bea), a sister to Evie and Kitty and a granddaughter for Ion and Muriel. To Matthew and Elizabeth Thornton, a daughter Charlotte Carol Jane, a sister for Oscar and a granddaughter for Michael and Carol Ann Bailey of Court Farm.

Last month’s deadline meant we could not thank the many village folk who contributed so much to the enjoyment of the Christmas celebrations here in Hambledon. Also, this edition enables us to thank villagers who kindly came to the rescue of those who needed some help during the snowy and icy conditions that we grappled with both before and after Christmas.

The village has been saddened by the death of Paul Hill and Lucy Parker. Paul Hill’s funeral was held in Hambledon Church on Friday 7 January and we extend to his widow, Pamela, and daughters, Amanda and Clare, the loving sympathy of Hambledon friends and neighbours. The family have lived at Nightingales in Vann Lane for nearly 50 years. (See the box below)

Lucy Parker had been ill with cancer for six months until her death on January 8. A much loved daughter to Hampden and Mary and a sister to Jim, Tim and Sam, Lucy’s funeral was held at Hambledon Church on Monday 17 January. It was a dismal and wet start to the week, but a ray of sunshine arrived just at the right moment to revive the spirits of the many who met to give thanks for Lucy’s life. The loving sympathy of us all is extended to this much-loved family, who have displayed such a brave approach to the sudden end of Lucy’s young life.

We reported in the January magazine the death of Michael Gaskin, whose funeral took place at Guildford Crematorium on 16 December. Michael’s family have kindly let us publish this tribute to him, which was given at his funeral service.

“Michael’s early life was spent in Guildford before moving to Hambledon aged 12. One week after his 16th birthday he joined the Queen’s battalion as band boy playing the French horn, sailing to Malaya just four months later and staying for three years. He spent a further two years in Germany and one year in Singapore. In his words he had “the time of his life”.

He married Doreen in 1966, a marriage that lasted very happily for 43 years. Michael enjoyed life, spending time at parties and barbecues. In his spare time he enjoyed playing golf, snooker, darts and was a keen fisherman. He also loved his line dancing, as well as spending time making models and jigsaws. He was an active member in village life, helping in the shop and at fetes. He was always ready to help friends and neighbours.

He worked at Redlands for 12 years, before joining the Post Office as a post man for 16 years, taking an early retirement aged 58 due to a knee injury. After losing his beloved wife a year ago, Michael suffered in silence. Being told he also had cancer, he never complained and he always denied pain. He stayed cheerful, he was truly our brave soldier. He fought his last battle with great dignity and courage and we are very proud of you, Michael.

A tribute from mum
Michael my son,
You mean the world to me.
You’re all I hoped you’d be.
My son, my pride and joy,
My own, my precious boy.
It broke my heart to lose you,
But you didn’t go alone
For part of me went with you
The day our Lord took you home.
God bless you
Always your ever-loving mother.”
‘Yes’ to social housing

Enthusiasm for another social-housing scheme in Hambledon – albeit a small one – is strong among villagers, as the Parish Council discovered at its latest meeting.

At its meeting on 11 January, Parish Councillors were joined by Mona Johansson from Surrey Community Action, the author of Hambledon’s Housing Needs Survey report.

A shortfall in affordable housing stock throughout Waverley triggered the Parish Council’s decision to commission the survey, which was carried out during September-October last year.

All households in the Parish received a questionnaire. Of these, 35 per cent were returned and 72 per cent of respondents favoured further affordable housing projects. Both figures are considerably higher than an average response, indicating a good level of support for another housing scheme to complement the development that was completed in 2001 at Duncombe Cottages.

Part 1 of the questionnaire, as well as asking whether respondents supported an affordable housing scheme or not, invited individual comments – and a good number were made.

Some pointed out the difficulties faced by those wishing to live in Hambledon, be they first-time buyers or those in need of more space for additional children; that families benefited from being able to live near each other and the need for the village to retain a good social mix.

Careful site selection

Several stressed the importance of favouring Hambledon residents or those with strong village connections (which would be essential criteria if a second scheme did go ahead). Comments about the lack of infrastructure to support more housing, particularly transport and schools were complemented by those pointing up the need for careful site selection. Most commentators who favoured another affordable housing scheme felt that it should be small. Only two comments rejected the idea outright.

The questionnaire invited those who felt they were in housing need to complete Part 2. This was done by seven households, ranging from families with children to single households and with an age range of 18 to 69. All live or work in Hambledon and some also have family in the village. Some might prefer shared ownership (with a housing association that owned the scheme); others would probably find renting more suitable.

Combining all the information provided by those who completed Part 2 indicates a need for five one- or two-bed rented units and two two-bed shared ownership homes. However, it must be remembered that these are to-day’s figures. Until such time as units become available some needs will have been met elsewhere and not everyone may still be in need. The Parish Council has adopted the report, which is reproduced in full in the Minutes section of the Parish Council pages on the village web site.

Mona Johansson will be getting in touch with households that completed Part 2 to remind them that, if they have not already done so, they should register their housing needs with Waverley Borough Council (essential for anyone who requires any form of affordable housing).

At its next meeting the Parish Council will consider possible sites. Some were suggested by respondents to the questionnaire, but, if anyone else has any ideas, please let the Clerk know (see page 29 for details).

Mona Johansson will remain involved with the scheme and, depending on progress made with site identification, Waverley and social housing providers will also become involved in the discussions.

The budget for 2011-12 has been agreed and submitted to Waverley council. Increases have been kept to a minimum (or for some items there have been no increases at all), but the need to include a sum for Parish Council election expenses means that the precept has had to be marginally increased over last year’s amount.

Whether or not these expenses are incurred will depend on whether more than seven people put their names forward. The elections are expected to be held on 5 May, with nominations being requested during March.

Grants to village organisations were approved and paid in line with this year’s budget; and it was agreed to pay them at the same rate next year.

The Nutbourne Brickworks planning application has yet to be considered by Waverley borough council, which is still awaiting responses from some of the statutory consultees. In the meantime, the Parish Council is in correspondence with Boodle Hatfield, the solicitors whom it has appointed to advise it on the restrictive covenant that Millgate Homes has agreed to put in place should the planning application be approved.
There for the gritting

Stewart Payne reports on the readying of fresh ammunition to counter the next ice and snow

Hambledon Parish Council has purchased an additional grit bin and installed it at the top of Woodlands Road for use on the village’s roads and footpaths.

The location, on privately-owned land, was chosen for its central location.

The 400-litre lockable bin and a one tonne bulk bag of rock salt and grit was purchased for £357. Surrey Council Council quoted £2,500 to provide and maintain a similar bin.

The decision to install an additional bin was taken by the parish council in response to concerns by villagers following the heavy snow falls experienced this winter and in the two previous winters, when roads became impassable to most vehicles.

The county council, which maintains the two other grit bins in the village – in Church Lane and Roundals Lane – has assured the council that Hambledon Road along its full length from Busbridge to Lane End is on the priority 1 gritting network in the event of severe frosts and snow, but it cannot undertake to visit other roads in the village.

The new grit bin is available for all to use when necessary, but only on public areas. The council has been advised that only a light sprinkling, evenly distributed, is all that is needed to be effective and it is wasteful to use large amounts in a small area.

It is intended that the bin will be locked, but keys to padlocks will be available from local villagers. The council will ensure that it will be unlocked when severe winter weather is forecast.

The council has a second filling of grit at its disposal, stored locally, and has identified a regular supplier for when further refills are required.

The recent snowfall has led to the council-owned bins being emptied. The parish council is asking for SCC to replenish them, although it only undertakes one refill in a season.

Hambledon Heritage Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, VILLAGE HALL
7:30PM for 8:00PM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23 2011

How many times have you passed our VILLAGE SCHOOL and wondered about how it started, who taught there, who attended and what happened to the pupils past and present?
Here is an opportunity to learn more about this wonderful village asset, while listening to and enjoying school memories directly from Hambledonians who were either taught or were educated there!!
The Hambledon Heritage Society Annual General Meeting is one of the key village annual events and is noted for its interesting topics, speakers and audience interaction.
The 2011 AGM will offer every opportunity for members of the audience to share their memories and add to our Heritage Society Archives for current and future generations' interest and research.
Should you like to know more about the Heritage Society or wish to join the Heritage Committee, contact Julie Steele on 01428 682853.
YOUR VILLAGE HERITAGE NEEDS YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT – ALL ARE WELCOME
Make or break in 2011

The manager of the village shop, Philip Underwood, reckons that this will be a make-or-break year

We are very pleased to report that the trading figures before Christmas, and during the time of the snow, were very good. Well done everyone, especially those who ventured to the shop for the first time. We hope the latter group may come in again very soon – we would certainly encourage them to do so.

And what happened after Christmas? The same old story – sales fell rather substantially, but not as much as in previous times. So that's another good sign.

We do need a higher sales figure to keep going. Looking at the village shops around us, as far as I can tell, they are doing markedly better than our shop. What keeps us afloat is our low overheads. But we still need to sell in higher volumes.

Vegetables and volumes
An example is our vegetables. We have made a great effort to improve their quantity and quality. Yet this will only be successful if we keep selling what we buy in and can replace with fresh vegetables all the time.

This depends on sales volumes. So I implore you, for the sake of your stomachs as well as for the shop, please come in and buy our vegetables.

I fear this year will be make or break. We shall either do great things or just keep falling by the wayside. It is the same for me. I will not be able to stand another year of depressed sales and may well decide that enough is enough.

There are projects in the pipeline that might help. However, at the moment this pipeline is rather blocked! But that’s a matter for the folk who are ultimately responsible for the shop. Perhaps this message might prod them a little.

Anyway, let our New Year’s resolution be to use the shop as much as possible and come up to the standard of other village shops.

Christian news

The Church of England Pensions Board has opened a new dementia care ward, The Allan Bridgewater Wing, at its Manormead Care Home in Hindhead, Surrey. This extension to the home’s existing facilities provides a seven-bed dementia care unit, the first at any of the Board’s homes. A main purpose is to make it easier for couples to remain together after the onset of dementia. For more details go to www.cofe.anglican.org/about/cepb/housing.

Marriage Week UK this year runs from 7th to 14th February, with the aim of celebrating marriage as the basis for family life in the UK. Marriage is still very popular – more than 90 per cent of young people in the UK hope to be married at some point in the future, and the large majority will achieve this. Two out of every three first marriages will last until one partner dies, and one in two second or subsequent marriages will also last a lifetime. Visit www.marriage-week.org.

Would you welcome just 15 minutes of expert biblical teaching? If so, you may want to visit a recently established website called www.thesermon.co.uk where you can view an on-going programme of short professionally-filmed biblical sermons, contributed by a team of international preachers. To date, over 150 have been filmed, with more to come. The aim has been to “help raise the appetite for Bible preaching among viewers and churches world-wide, and strengthen confidence in the power of Christ-centred proclamation”.

Today's hymns are based on last week's trend in petrol prices...
Such a happy ending

David Jenkins, the lay reader at St. Peter’s, brings us the final sermon in a series on the Old Testament book of Ruth, covering the last chapter. He was due to give it on 19 December, but the service had to be called off due to snow and ice.

During November and December in the sermon series we have looked at the Old Testament book of Ruth, and in the final sermon covering the last chapter, so much becomes clear. Owing to the service cancellation, here it is, so that the issues arising in that chapter may be covered.

The story of the book of Ruth so far
Elimelech and his wife Naomi have travelled to the land of Moab to escape a famine in Bethlehem. The couple have two sons who marry two Moabite wives, Orpah and Ruth. Elimelech dies, as do both sons, and Naomi is left alone with the two daughters-in-law. Naomi decides to go back to Bethlehem as the famine is now over and she can see no future for herself in a foreign land. So she sends her two daughters in law away to find new husbands for themselves. Both refuse to leave her but eventually Orpah agrees to go. Ruth however insists on staying and returns to Bethlehem with Naomi. Now in Bethlehem both women are vulnerable and have to try to make a living for themselves. Ruth is sent by Naomi to glean in a field of one of Naomis’ relations, Boaz, who rather likes the look of her and decides to marry her if he can.

Book of Ruth ch 4
So we reach the last chapter of this lovely book. I say lovely book because we all love a love story with a happy ending. Yet there is a danger here, we might rush to the bit where they get married and live happily ever after and in the process miss the main message of the whole book. Let’s take a closer look. Boaz is smitten with Ruth and Ruth has pledged her love to Boaz. They both want to be married but there is a mysterious relation who has a prior claim on Ruth. It would seem that in those days they had a tradition that the nearest relation to the person who had died had the first option to purchase their land but if they did so they would also have to accept responsibility for their widow and family.

Notice that this relation is not given a name. That seems strange because this chapter is full of names. But, despite all these names, we have one of the main players in the story completely unnamed! It seems particularly strange to me!

Now Boaz has a strategy. He plans to go to the city gate where all the elders gathered. These elders were the older men of the city who had retired and were recognised as having acquired, over the years, the accumulated wisdom of the people. Each day they gathered at the Gate of the city to pass the time, watch the world go by, play dominos or whatever they did in those days but most importantly they acted as a sort of unofficial council or magistrate’s bench. The people would go to these elders to seal a deal or to ask them to act as judges if they had some matter of dispute.

So Boaz goes to the gate and almost straight away the mysterious kinsman comes by. Boaz asks him to sit down and invites ten of the elders to join them as witnesses. Then he invites the kinsman to redeem the land which belonged to Elimelech, Naomi’s husband.

There are only three possibilities here: either...
One: the kinsman redeems the land, or
Two: Boaz redeems the land, or
Three: Ruth and Naomi are left destitute.

The kinsman agrees to purchase the land only to find that Ruth comes with it and so he quickly back peddles and declines the offer.

It’s interesting to note here what he says:
‘I cannot redeem it for myself without damaging my own inheritance.’

So what’s the problem? Well Ruth is of course. It’s as though Ruth carries with her some sort of curse which would infect the kinsman’s lineage.

Well, having established that the kinsman is unable to redeem the land and Ruth, Boaz now plays his ace card which secretly he has been waiting to play all the time. He declares that he will redeem the land and Ruth and, in doing so, he also declares his love for her. The deal is settled quickly by the kinsman who takes of his shoe and gives it to Boaz.

So this story which began with famine, death and destitution in chapters one and two has turned into a love story in chapter three. Now in chapter four it becomes a story of marriage and with the birth of a son we might be tempted say, ‘and they all lived happily ever after’.

Is that really all and, if so, then nice as it is, why is it in the Bible at all if it has nothing to teach us?

Let’s go back to the beginning. Ruth is in a predicament. She needs a redeemer and without one she would probably die an old destitute, shivered up woman, without a family, living in a foreign land and despised by the people who live around her. She would have to work hard to keep herself and would have no children to take care of her if she became physically infirm in her old age. But who would redeem her? It seems that it must be either the mysteri-
uous relation who has a legal claim on her or Boaz who obviously loved her very dearly. I (and the theologians) believe that this is a picture of our spiritual situation. We, too, are in need of a spiritual redeemer and with out one we will become old with shrivelled up spirits and have to face death and eternity without God.  

There are only two ways that you or I can be redeemed. We either live in total obedience to the law of God not breaking one commandment for the whole of our lives, or we believe in the saving work of the Lord Jesus Christ who paid the price of redeeming us by dying on the cross. Now if Boaz redeeming Ruth is a picture of Jesus redeeming us, as I suggest, then the mysterious “relation” becomes The Law and the ten witnesses are the Ten Commandments.

Now do things start to fall into place? These ten witnesses, witnessed two things: First that the mysterious relation, The Law, could not redeem Ruth without contradicting itself; and second that Boaz (as a forerunner of Jesus) could do so, by paying the price he did willingly, because of the deep love he had for her. But what about the shoe? To walk over a property in shoes was quite symbolic: it meant that one had the right to possess the land literally walk over it. By taking off his shoe and giving it to Boaz the kinsman was symbolically indicating that he had relinquished his rights thus handing them over to Boaz. In the same way when Jesus becomes our redeemer the law or, for that matter Satan, has no right to walk over us or condemn us because we belong to Jesus.

Now we need to hold on to this because we all slip up time and time again and Satan wants to put us back under law and condemnation. He says to us ‘look at what you have done how can God love you when you break his laws and commit sins like this’!

While there are lots of cross references with the New Testament I could give you, there is one which I believe is very important to us and this is it: Romans ch 8: 1-2 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

When you become a Christian the Law no longer has any grip on you no matter what Satan may say to you.

More than this Jesus’ redemption is on going. This does not mean we can just go on sinning and doing just as we like but it does mean that when we fail we can come to communion and, if we genuinely repent, God grants redemption again because Jesus, like Boaz, has paid the price for redeeming us. Now the blessings begin to flow. Remember how Ruth had been married for ten years and had not had any children. Now God gives her a child and every one rejoices.

Just listen to what the woman of the town say to Naomi in ch4 v14-15:

Then the women said to Naomi ‘Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.’

Can’t you just feel the joy boiling over? Ruth is redeemed. God makes her fruitful and the blessings flow over to the family and the town.

We are all redeemed in the same way and God wants to make us full of fruitfulness and what’s more he wants that fruitfulness to flow over to all our families and the village of Hambledon. I think we saw a bit of that on Thursday night in the Harriers! And we will see it again to night at the carol service. (Remember this was written for the 19 December)

Christmas is a time when we get together with our families. I think this year we have twelve people coming to us for Christmas dinner, all stopping the night and five of them will be children! We plan to have a great celebration and I hope it is the same for you, fruitfulness flowing over to all the family.

But a word of caution. For some Christmas is a time when there is a gap at the table, a time when some look back on happier days. The church is a family and we have several people in the congregation and village who may be feeling just like this. If we are not one of these, it’s up to us always to be looking out for them and including them in our celebrations. That person may be you and if it is I hope and trust that you will be sharing Christmas with your wider family.

More than that I want you to know that God has a very special place for you in his heart. He wants to be close to you and hold you in his arms at this Christmas time. And there you might be forgiven for thinking that’s the end of the story but there is more to come.

Remember the mysterious relation (the law) who rejected Ruth because she might compromise his lineage. Ruth was redeemed by love. Now look at her lineage it includes King David and ultimately Jesus, but of course Ruth would never know.

When we act in love we never know the ‘full time results of our actions.’ They may come tomorrow or in many generations yet to come, but be sure of one thing: they will come, because like Ruth’s life they are all part of God’s great plan.

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Legend of the first Valentine

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage. A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but could not. So secretly he married as many couples as he could – until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison waiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine’s prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed ‘From your Valentine.’ So the first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.
The Ashes? Just crackers

What do Christmas crackers and The Ashes have in common? Ross has been extracting toe-curling humour from both of them

The days are just starting to draw out and I hear from “NC”, a keen gardener in Witley, that green shoots are starting to poke through the leaf litter. So what does this mean? It means it’s time to dust off the good old hip flask and get ready for those spring picnics, that’s what.

The latest gossip I hear about the forthcoming resident of the palatial pile that will be built on the site of the old brickworks – Alan Sugar or Richard Branson. Well, if it’s the former, I might have to consider moving.

And now, the moment you’ve been waiting for – the worst jokes from this year’s Christmas crackers.

What kind of sandals do frogs wear?
Open toad ones (groan).

Where do sick gnomes go?
To the elf centre, of course (help)

Which are the cleverest sweets?
Smarties (No more, please)

Okay, just one more:
How did the human cannonball lose his job?
He got fired.
I’m sure they get worse every year.

I hear the New Year’s Day (ish) football match was a close-run thing. Hambledon’s veterans only lost by six goals. Bad luck, chaps. (See page 19)

Ashes to Ashes
Now, most of us like Australians, even if not all of us like Neighbours. And, God bless them, they’ve been rubbing our noses in it for years while England’s cricketers failed to bring home – or retain – the Ashes. So, now it’s pay-back time. Here we go.

What do you call a world class Aussie cricketer? Retired
What do you call an Aussie cricketer with a 100 to his name? A bowler.
What do you call an Aussie with a bottle of champagne in his hand? A waiter.
What do you get if you cross the Australian cricket team with an OXO cube? A laughing stock.
The Australian bobsleigh team have asked the Aussie cricket team for a meeting. They want to ask their advice about going downhill so fast.

What’s the difference between Ricky Ponting and a funeral director? A funeral director doesn’t keep losing the ashes.
What’s the difference between Ricky Ponting and a phoenix? At the end of the ashes, the phoenix still has a future.
What’s the difference between an Aussie batsman and a Formula 1 car? Nothing! If you blink you’ll miss them both.
Who has the easiest job in the Australian squad? The guy who removes the red ball marks from the bats.
What do Aussie batsmen and drug addicts have in common? Both spend most of their time wondering where their next score will come from.
What do you call a cricket field full of Australians? A vacant lot.
What does an Australian batsman who is playing in The Ashes have in common with Michael Jackson? They both wore gloves for no apparent reason.
And, lastly, my favourite: what do you call an Aussie with a bat? A vet. Many thanks to PM from Alfold for help on this one.

Wassail – and we hope you all enjoyed the panto. If you say “What panto?”, shame on you. (Read more about this particular panto – and Ross’s contribution to it – on page 18.)

Ross’s icons of England
Newquay, Cornwall
The Church of St Peter

Hambledon Heritage Society presents the fourth in our series comparing well known village views – as they once were, and are recorded in The Village Scrapbook, and as we know them now

Then: The present Church of St. Peter was built by the Rev. Edward Bullock in 1846, substantially replacing an earlier church believed to date from c1100.

The bell turret was replaced by the present shingle turret designed by Alban Caroe in 1951.

There is one bell dated 1705 it was recast in 1951. The picture opposite is possibly early 1900s

From The Village Scrapbook

Now
St. Peter’s Church
January 2011

Photograph by Peter Gardner

Some thoughts to be getting on with

Jesus is the bread of life, not the cake for special occasions. Anon
I have lived to thank God that all my prayers have not been answered. Jean Ingelow
Temptations are everywhere, and so is the grace of God. Anon
What we worship determines what we become. Harvey F Ammerman
We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. Duane Hulse
Winter is not yet passed, muses Earthworm from inside his now enormous compost heap, full of leaves and weeds, all roting beautifully and providing wonderful warmth. It has been quite a winter to date, he reflects.

The January 2010 snow would have been quite sufficient for a hard winter to be remembered. But the second heavy snow-fall at the other end of the year was really one too many. Such inconvenience! Icy roads on top of which lay the snow making them doubly treacherous and of course we are now used to no grit from the council. If it were not for the high price of petrol or diesel, we would all be rushing out to buy a 4 x 4! They were almost the only vehicles that could get through.

Earthworm remembers the snow chains of his youth. One strapped them on with buckles, and they occasionally broke. Then there would be fearful rattling noises from the affected wheel. But they got us up the steepest of hills. The alternative would be snow tyres. These are very effective but also very expensive, and a bore to get fitted. In some European countries they are obligatory. They certainly would be an expensive investment for our relatively few days of winter snow even if they would “save the day”, thinks Earthworm.

He of course does not mind at all being “holed-up” in the warmth of his heap. He can find plenty to do, so long as there is electricity, and this time round, there were no break-downs. It must have been “the right sort of snow” for the electricity board!

But when he did dare to wiggle out to survey the scene (and beautiful it was with sheets of white unbroken landscape), he shrank back, with the thermometer registering just on Minus 11.

The cold really did nip one’s toes and nose. Is there a breath of Spring in the air, Earthworm asks? The days are getting noticeably longer – 10 minutes a day they say! There is not much sign of the snowdrops in our churchyard yet. They do make a wonderful display. Earthworm always wonders who planted them. Perhaps one of his readers might know?

They are succeeded by the “wild” daffodils, so much prettier than the horrid big and bright hybrids that appear so early in the shops. To him, even the “January and February Gold” up at the Winkworth Arboretum are too large, though they do make an impressive display. Nearer our doorstep is the dramatic carpet of daffodils one can see from the road at Bryony Hill. They are surely in a sun-trap as they flower very early. We can be sure that Spring is coming when they appear. On Woodside Road, too, there is always a bank of snowdrops below Furze Hill. Later, there will be the bluebells, blue and white, on the common land opposite. How lucky we are, thinks Earthworm to have all these lovely “free” displays on our doorstep!

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**Handel’s Messiah**

**Conductor:** Michael Veazey  **with:** soloists and a baroque orchestra

**Tickets** £13 (students £8)

from choir members, e-mail: gcs-tickets@talktalk.net
tel: 01483 425257, Record Corner, Pound Lane, Godalming or at the door.

For more details  www.godalmingchoral.org.uk  Registered Charity No. 254800

NOTE: if you bought tickets for the cancelled 18 Dec 2010 Concert they are refundable. Please call 01483 425257 for an application form
So, off we go, gently sliding into another decade. And, believe you me, I’ve seen quite a few decades, as have plenty of you in our lovely patch. As I read in the papers about the floods, earthquakes, wars, bombs and terrorism around the world, I give thanks for our little corner of England. A trifle anachronistic perhaps? Maybe, but it suits me to a T.

Let’s pass on from the soon-to-be-formed Hambledon Appreciation Society. An article by Raymond Briggs – he of The Snowman fame – made me think that we should all make sure that no one around us should be alone at Christmas. Here it is:

“Families, such wonderful things, aren’t they? Everyone loves the idea of The Family and yet everyone takes it for granted. It is often forgotten that many people have no family at all.

By the time you are in your seventies, the entire generation above you —father, mother, aunts, uncles, grandparents — is long gone. Then, if you are an only child, you have no brothers or sisters, so you cannot become an aunt or an uncle. Also, if you have not had children yourself, you cannot become a grandparent or even an in-law. You have no family whatsoever. Occasionally, there may be the odd cousin somewhere, whom you have not seen for decades and hear from only by Christmas cards.

Ah, Christmas! Such a happy family time. The merry throng gathered round the tree and the turkey, all together in love and Christmas joy.

A friend of mine has three daughters, all in their forties, so he has three sons-in-law and seven grandchildren. This Christmas, his sister and her husband came, so there were 17 people staying over Christmas. Not my idea of joy, but marginally better than being alone, perhaps.

My dear cousin
These thoughts were prompted by the recent death of my dear cousin, who was almost a sister to me, possibly because she, too, was an only child. She was 80 years old.

There is another, even older cousin, whom I have not seen for over half a century. Her Christmas card is the only proof that she still exists.

So that’s my “family”, folks – one cousin! Season of great joy! I might have a big family get-together, if she can come. Hire a hall, or something... Fortunately for me, my partner, Liz, has a lovely family (18 people in all) who made us welcome and gave us a wonderful Christmas day. Still, in moments of seasonal piety, try to spare a thought for the thousands of old people who are not so lucky and have no one. Not a soul. Here endeth my sermon."

Back to other matters: does anyone else dislike duvets? I can’t stand them. I get into bed. Fall asleep. Get too cold. Wake up. Shrug off the duvet. Get cold. Wake up. Pull up the duvet. And so it continues. And what on earth is a “tog” rating? “Too ‘Ot Guv” perhaps.

These things arrived here in the late 1960s from really cold countries, such as Norway and Sweden, but what was wrong with the animal skins and blankets that we used in this country for hundreds of years? The trouble is, I am doomed – the other half likes them and that’s an end to the matter. Roll on summer.
Calling Mums, babies & toddlers

Jo and Julia tell all about the lively Hambledon baby and toddler group right here in the village

The baby and toddler group meets most Wednesdays in Hambledon Village Hall from 10am to 11.30am. There are toys, dressing up, ride-ons and a baby area as well as weekly activities. We also serve tea and coffee and end the session with music-time.

Come and try it! All are most welcome
The dates for February 2011 are:
Weds 2nd Feb, Weds 9th Feb not other Wednesdays (half term)
The cost is £1 for under 1 year olds and £2 for over 1 year olds. For more info: please call Julia on 01483 415 764

Coffee Morning
15 February, at 11am in the Church Room
and the third Tuesday each month
All welcome - do come!
More information from Jacqui Rook 01428-684390

Hambledon Youth Groups

SPANGLES YOUTH GROUP
for School Years 3-6 runs every Thursday evening during term time from 5:30-6:30. Join us at Hambledon Church rooms for an exciting term of faith, fun, friendship, food, arts and crafts, games and competitions! Don't miss out!

HAMBLEDON YOUTH GROUP for School Years 7-10 runs every Thursday during term time from 6:45-8pm. Come and join us at Hambledon Church rooms to meet new and old friends in the village, and to share in God, Games and Grub! All are welcome!

Other Youth News...
After such an encouraging 2010 Confirmation group, we hope to run another Confirmation Course in 2011 for any other young people who want to take this step in their faith journey. This would either take place at Hambledon Church rooms again or as part of an ecumenical group in one of the churches in Godalming. Please e-mail Jessi Poulson via the address shown below if you are or have a teenager who would be interested in finding out more about this opportunity.

For further information regarding Hambledon Youth Groups and Events, please contact Jessi Poulson at: jessitrinitytrustteam@hotmail.co.uk (Youth Worker for St Peter’s Church Hambledon and Trinity Trust Team)
Hambledon Christmas Party  Saturday 11 December

Pip and Mary would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Party in the Hall. A good time was had by all, with plenty of dancing and a little beer (one barrel was donated by the Harriers, thank you!). It was good to be able to leave the decorations up until the New Year, and we hope they were enjoyed. An indicator of the average temperature in the Hall – the tree had hardly dropped any needles and the ivy was still good! We have taken £500 to Phyllis Tuckwell and £530 to CHASE (plus a donation from Hall users towards decorations) - a brilliant result. The official receipts will be on the notice board in the Merry Harriers.

Hambledon Village Hall Management Committee AGM

2011 Annual General Meeting on Thursday February 10th 2011
at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall
Members of the public are most welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- Minutes of the AGM held on February 11th 2010 to be approved and signed.
- Annual reports by the Chairman and Treasurer.
- Election of Management Committee, Representatives and Co-opted Members.
- Nomination and election of new members.
- Any other business.

Paul Vacher, Hon. Secretary

WAGs Wednesday Afternoon Group

Our New Year lunch is to be held in the Village Hall
Wednesday 16th February - 12.30 start
Tickets £6 no later than the 31st January
from Jan 01483 423637, Joyce 01428 687851 or Julie 01428 684519
Jan Kilsby Joyce Dougans Julie Atkin

Hambledon Village Hall management committee presents:
‘The Marvellous and Unlikely Fete of Little Upper Downing’
Wednesday 23rd February 2011 at 7:30pm, The Village Hall

A play suitable for 8yrs and upwards
Adults £10 (Children under 12 £6 )
Tickets will be available from the Village Shop

The village is pulling out all the stops, and the fete has not even started yet!
Join Little Bulb Theatre for a theatrical feast celebrating the unique charms of village life and the people who live there. Expect live music, innovative puppetry, vibrant visuals and an array of unforgettable characters as they prepare for the big day that's getting increasingly out of control...

Hambledon Christmas Party
Saturday 11 December
The fat-loss formula

Ingredient number one is accountability. Whether it’s in the form of a coach, a group training class or a friend, having someone else training alongside you will help you stay motivated when the going gets tough. Remember that not all group exercise classes are born equal, or involve Lycra. Look around for a programme that is progressive as well as enjoyable, as this will stop your results plateauing once your body adjusts to the routine.

Ingredient number two is nutrition. Remember you cannot out train a bad diet. Five good rules to remember are:

■ Eat at least five times a day to keep your blood sugar levels stable and your metabolic fire burning.
■ Include a portion of lean protein with each meal.
■ Include healthy fats into your diet every day.
■ For fat loss, restrict carbohydrates (other than fruit and vegetables) to straight after your workout.
■ Include vegetables with every feeding opportunity.

You should be aiming for 10 fruit/vegetable servings per day, supplementing with a ‘greens’ drink if you find this difficult. This will ensure your body receives all the nutrients it requires to look and function at its best on a daily basis.

For more information about training with Charlotte and her team at Phoenix Pro Fitness, please call 01483 801150 or email info@phoenixprofitness.com.

Cinderella story for footie club

Mic Coleman reports: “On 15 and 16 January, the football club received the proceeds of a pantomime, Daniela, a play on the Cinderella theme, put on by The Merry Harriers. There was a house full to overflowing on both occasions. Production was by a local theatrical professional, Jo Kirkland. Customers played the parts and worked the props and scenery. The proceeds will go towards building new changing rooms at the club’s Badger Park ground, and everyone connected with the club would like to thank all those involved very much.”

Our theatre correspondent adds that the star of the show was almost certainly Paul Denney with his take on one of the ugly sisters. And Ross Kilsby’s Morris dancing in the interval was much appreciated.
The President’s Cup was played at Badger Park on 2 January – the first time in five years that this trophy, which is in memory of George Luxford, who was the heart and soul of Hambledon FC for many years after the 2nd World War, has been competed for. A Hambledon team made up of first and second team players lined up against a President’s XI made up of veterans and former players.

The game started very competitively with some strong tackles going in from both sides and a keenly contested game was in store for the watching faithful. A young Hambledon team found themselves two up with goals from Suarez and Wicks. The President’s XI pulled a goal back before the break. With JC causing all sorts of problems in the penalty area, the ball fell kindly to Mark Pateman, who made no mistake, smashing the ball past a helpless Ryan. The young Dons team looked to take the game to the ageing President’s side down the hill in the second half. And they soon got their rewards, quickly going 4-1 up, with goals from Gartland and Ollie Cavaliero. The President’s XI were given a lifeline. When Cummings snr went down like a swan after minimal contact from Stu Parker. And he looked on in disbelief as his father pointed to the spot. And Mark Pateman made no mistake from the spot – 4-2 and game on. However, the comeback never materialised and the Dons team, with their younger legs, ran out 8-2 victors. The pick of goals was from Chris Grove – lovely build up play and a superb volley to finish.

Meanwhile, the first team kept up its unbeaten run, now stretching back to October, by beating a very young and lively Ockley team to move into the 4th round of the County Cup with goals from Chris Grove and Paul Wicks.

Next up was their first league game since 20th November against a free-scoring Millmead team. A fantastic display from the Dons’ back four shut out a team who had been averaging five goals a game. And the Dons ran out 1-0 winners after a fine finish from Paul Wicks.

This result keeps the Dons in touch with the leaders in a very competitive league, with up to six teams still in the running for the title. The Dons have an impressive 100 per cent away record and will be looking to extend this against New Haw, followed by a trip to top-of-the-table Knaphill.

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<td>President’s Cup</td>
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Young Dons top veterans

Come what may, the Dons have won some silverware this year – the President’s Cup. More importantly, they’re still going great guns in the league and the County Cup, as Matt Kiley reports.
The club’s Annual General Meeting for 2011 will be held on Tuesday 22 February at the Cricket Pavilion on the Village Green at 8pm. This meeting is important as it is for the election of Club Captains, Club Officers, Welfare Officer, Colts Organisers and other officers for the 2011 season and to discuss the club’s finances and plans. Anyone wishing to become a new or a non-playing member is welcome to attend and take part at the meeting and add to the discussions.

**General items**

**Senior sides for 2011**
We will run a 1st. XI League and & Friendly sides this year. Please contact us if you wish to play or would like to help in running club matches. ie. scoring, umpiring, making teas, or helping in other ways.

**Colts section 2011**
We will run Colts sides in 2011 for under 9s, under 11s and under 13s. All age groups will be entered into the Berkley Sports League for their relevant age group and we are expecting between 8-10 league games for each age group. More details on training and fixtures later.

We need your help with coaching and team managers and volunteers for all groups. If you are a colts Dad or Mum, we need your help. Please call Simon Rhodes (01428 682401), Caroline Tristem (01428 685455) or Bob Cunningham (01428 683970) or email bob.cunningham@gom.co.uk.

The season runs from mid April through to early July and generally involves a training session each Saturday morning or a weekday evening, and there will be matches at the weekend either on a Friday night or Sunday morning. Training for helpers will be given via the Club Coaches/Managers under Surrey CC guidance.

**Fund raising**
Pavilion The Cricket Club still has to raise funds to pay off the £20,000.00 loan that we have with Surrey County Playing Fields Association when we built the new pavilion in 2004. This loan repayment is over 10 years and we will still have £6,000 outstanding to pay off after this year’s 2011 payment.

We aim to run the “The 200 Club” again in 2011, and we hope all those who took part in last year’s, four monthly draws will choose to participate again. Please contact Martin Johnson 01483 452811 if you are interested, or require further information.

Should you require any information about the club, please call the captains, Martin Johnson (01483 452811), Mark Burton (0781 370 8896), or our President, Mic Coleman, (01428 682977).

Don’t forget that Hambledon Cricket Club has its own web site where many items of news, history, and the results for 2009 and 2010 are held. If you are computer proficient and use the internet, you can find us on www.hambledon.play-cricket.com

You can also see details of the Village League results online at www.village-cricket-league.co.uk.

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**God in the Arts**

Just an abridged God in the Arts column this month, which is based on a longer piece by the Rev Michael Burgess. Our picture shows a 15th century enamel of Mary and Jesus, which is now exhibited in New York’s Metropolitan Museum. Its inclusion is topical since the enamel shows the celebration of Candlemas, which takes place in February. It is the when Mary and Joseph go to the Temple. Simeon, the old man, takes the babe, Jesus, into his arms, proclaiming him to be the light for all people. If one word could sum up the feast of Candlemas, it would be ‘offering’. At Candlemas, we celebrate the offering of Jesus in the Temple; an offering that foreshadows his own offering on the cross. The Temple is the place of offering and sacrifice, and it is the place where God’s glory is revealed. Here in this Limoges enamel, we see that glory in the love of mother and child, and we see the sacrifice as the babe, paradoxically, given what will happen to him, grasps that sign of offering.
Torrential rain during the night left no doubt in our minds that the going would be very muddy, but, in spite of this, 14 of us drove down to Ebernoe, encouraged by the forecast of a dry day and the promise of a pub lunch at The Stag Inn at Balls Cross.

Surprisingly, everybody found the car park, where we were to start. It is by the church in Ebernoe, and is along a narrow track, which can easily be missed. John Adams was our leader for the day and he told us, much to the surprise of some of our members, that the walk would be about eight miles and lunch would be just over halfway round.

The start wasn’t too propitious since it took two or three tries to determine the correct path at a fork in the track. In our defence it should be reported that the sign that should have indicated the correct path had fallen down. Having successfully found the correct way, we continued only to be met with a total impasse, the river had broken its bank and the bridge across the river was now several yards away and we would have needed a pontoon to cross the intervening torrent of water.

New route to The Stag
Nothing for it then but to return to the car park and decide on the best course of action. Maps were consulted and John and Jenny between them worked out a new route to The Stag Inn.

The way led us over Ebernoe Common and, although it was very wet in places, we arrived at the pub in good time for lunch which, of course, included some liquid refreshment.

There is going to be a change of management in the next two or three weeks, but we were all well satisfied with what the current tenants had to offer. Chips with bacon and cheese, garlic mushrooms and a splendid beef baguette prepared us for the return to Ebernoe and it should be recorded that Jenny’s satnav, although considered a cheat by some, enabled a safe and rapid return to Ebernoe. Safe that is except for three of our members who found themselves sitting in the mud. No damage done other than bruised dignity!

Riddle of the plaque
The photo above is of a memorial plaque outside the church, which listed the Ebernoe men who fell in the wars of 1914-18 and 1935-45. Does anybody know if the school itself was bombed?
February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate: and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present him to God. Jesus’ whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through his death for us on the cross, and his resurrection, his love can now transform anyone’s life. Romances can die, but God’s love for us is always there. But it won’t do us much good – unless we accept it!
With winter aconites and the early daffodils not far behind, things are really starting to spring into life; however there is still the threat of snowfall and heavy frosts this month, so keep a watchful eye on plants that are prone to damage – especially evergreen plants whose branches can be damaged under the weight of the snow.

Shrubs and trees

Deciduous shrubs and trees are still dormant enough to transplant this month; once the buds have begun to swell, it will be too late.

Trees which weren’t fed last Autumn should be deep fed by punching a series of 1-2 inch holes two feet apart around the drip line and filled with an appropriate food. A mulch of well composted manure is also an excellent treat for your tree.

Mid to late-February is the time to fertilize shrubs and evergreens. Use an ericaceous fertilizer to feed evergreens, conifers, rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias.

Use an all-purpose fertilizer to feed roses and other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use dry type fertilizers, be sure to water them in thoroughly.

Prune your summer flowering shrubs now but be aware that spring bloomers have already produced their buds last Autumn, and pruning them now will result in the loss of flowers. Forsythia, quince, spirea and other early spring flowering shrubs should be pruned a little later, after they have finished flowering.

Pruning to improve the shape of the plant, as well as to open up the centre of the plant to good air circulation and sun exposure. Always start your pruning by removing all dead, decayed or broken branches.

It’s a good time to stroll around and trim back any branches that were damaged by the ravages of winter.

Apply dormant fruit spray, if not yet done.

Perennials, annuals, and bulbs

Plant lilies this month.

Plants which may have been pushed out of the ground by frost should be pressed firmly back in place.

Deciduous vines such as honeysuckle should be pruned and shaped.

Most perennials may be divided and moved up until they begin to show new growth.

Check your stored plants such as Fuchsias and geraniums, and if they are shrivelled water them lightly.

Summer flowering bulbs may try to start into growth if they are subjected to heat. They should be kept very dry, and stored at 45 degrees F. If they are shrivelling, put them into slightly damp peat moss, but keep them cool!

If you plan to grow lobelia, ageratum, verbena, petunia, vinca, or other slow growing plants from scratch, the seeds should be started indoors in the later part of the month. For more information see growing plants from seeds.

Climbing roses should be thinned out to get rid of last years tangled growth.

Fruit and vegetables

Strawberries, rhubarb, horseradish, asparagus and artichokes can be planted this month.

Prune grapevines and kiwis by Valentine’s day to prevent sap ‘bleeding’.

Summer cane fruits (raspberries and blackberries) should have all the canes which produced fruit last year removed, and autumn raspberries to ground.

If you grow currants, remove all stems which are over three years old; for blackcurrants, cut one third of the oldest branches at ground level.

Prepare seedbeds for vegetables.

Sow some small quantities of lettuce, summer cabbages and cauliflowers, radishes, carrots, spinach, salad onions, turnips, peas and broad beans. You can start with all these on the windowsill, then grow them on in good light or under cold frame.

Odds and ends

Continue feeding birds: you’ll want them to help in insect control when the weather warms up again.

It’s time to turn the compost pile!

February belongs to Winter, but when it grants us mild sunny days, and we feel the life stirring in the garden around us, and the first flowers begin to bloom, our thoughts turn to the delights of Spring, looking forward with happy anticipation to the wonderful succession of beauty which the year is to bring us in our gardens. Margaret Waterfield, Garden Colour, 1905
A basket case

Here’s a great supper dish to prepare in advance, then just heat it through before serving. It’s especially good served with some lovely granary bread that can be warmed in the oven at the same time.

Cauliflower basket

Medium-sized cauliflower 2 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
1 oz butter 1 tablespoon chopped gherkins
1 oz flour 1 teaspoon capers
Quarter pint of milk 1 tablespoon chopped parsley
6 oz Cheddar cheese 1 tablespoon chopped chives

Trim the cauliflower, but keep it whole. Cook in boiling water for 10 minutes; drain and keep the water. Melt the butter in a pan. Add the flour and cook for 1 minute. Gradually stir in the milk and 1/4 pint of the water from cooking the cauliflower. Bring to the boil, stirring all the time. Remove from the heat and stir in almost all the cheese, the eggs chopped up, the gherkins, capers, parsley, chives and add some seasoning. Scoop out the centre of the cauliflower, chop this coarsely and add to the sauce mix. Stand the cauliflower in a casserole dish, pile the cheese sauce mixture in the centre and top up with the remainder of the cheese. Cook, uncovered, in a moderately hot oven—200ºC, gas mark 6 for 30 minutes until golden brown on top. Serves 4.
A PILGRIM’S PROGRESS

On 18th February 1678, one of the most famous Christian books was published for the first time. It was ‘The Pilgrim’s Progress’ by John Bunyan. The book tells the story of a character called Christian who travels towards the heavenly city, encountering many difficulties and getting led astray, but finally succeeding.

John Bunyan suffered many difficulties in his own life. He was put in prison twice because he refused to stop preaching God’s word. His strength of purpose and the story of a pilgrim’s journey through the troubles of life have been a source of strength to many people in the years since the book was published.

BIBLE WORDS

Can you find all the answers to this Bible Quiz? All the words begin with the letter P. Answers at the bottom of this page.

1. Andrew’s brother, one of the disciples.
2. Another name for a king of Egypt.
3. A tribe who fought Saul and David (2 Samuel).
4. The first place in Europe where Paul established a church (Acts 16).
5. The island where St John had his revelations.
6. She travelled with St Paul and was married to Aquila (Acts 18).
7. The Italian port where Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28).
8. The Roman Governor who set Barabbas free (Matthew 27).

NEWSFLASH:

Two prisoners escaped from custody today. One is 7 feet tall, the other is 4 feet 3 inches. The Police are looking high and low for them.

1 Peter 2 Pharaoh 3 Philistines 4 Philippi 5 Patmos 6 Priscilla 7 Puteoli 8 Pontius Pilate
WHAT IS LOVE?
Cross out every second letter and find the bible verse:

OHNMETJ SOAHYF,
CAHQAXPZTDEKR
WFOHU KR, LVAECRLSWE
CTMER
NQ

HOW DOES GOD SHOW HE LOVES US?
Look at this page in the mirror
God showed his love for us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him.
1 John 4:4

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning"
Lamentations 3:22-23

GOD'S LOVE
Change each letter to the letter before it in the alphabet:
"Hpe mpwfe uif xpsmfe tp nvdi
uibufihbwfijt pomztpo tp uibu
fwfszpo xip cmfjwft jo ijn nbz
opu ejf cvu ibwf fufobm mjgf"
kpio 3:16

HOW LONG IS GOD'S LOVE?
Cross out all the xxx to find out.

"Oxgxivvxxextxhxaxnxkxsxtxoxt
xxhxexLxoxrdx,fxoxrxhxexi
sxgxoxodx,xhixxsxtxexa
dfxaxxsxtLxoxvxxexexn
dxuxrxexssxfxoxrx
exvxexrxx."pxxsaxlxm
136:1
Send off that arrow prayer!

Chaos. Walls and gates smashed. The man wept and prayed. He confessed the bad ways of the people and prayed he could speak to the king. Four months later the king asked him why he looked so sad. This was the moment! The man prayed so quickly it was like an arrow to God. The king said he could go and rebuild the walls. His prayer was answered. Try it yourself – send off that arrow prayer and be amazed!

Read more in Nehemiah 1&2.
Useful Information and Telephone Numbers

GP SURGERIES AND HEALTH CENTRES

Witley – The Surgery, Wheeler Lane, Witley GU8 5QR
Tel: Doctors 01428 682218
Community Nurses 01428 685249
Health Visitors 01428 685249

Milford – Hurst Farm Surgery, Chapel Lane, Milford GU8 4EG
Tel: Doctors 01483 415885
Crossroads Surgery, Church Road, Milford GU8 5JQ
Tel: Doctors 01483 414461
Health Visitors & Community Nurses 01483 415564

Chiddingfold – Ridgeley Road, GU8 4QP
Tel: Doctors 01428 683174
Community Nurses 01428 683735

HOSPITALS

Royal Surrey County Hospital 01483 571122
Milford Hospital 01483 782000

Equipment for short term use
Some items only required for a short time (usually 3 months) may be borrowed. Type of equipment available includes bed blocks, bed cradles, back rests, commodes, wheelchairs, bed pans, urinals.
Contact: British Red Cross, Equipment Loan Centre,
Wey Court, off Meadrow, Godalming, GU7 3JE. Tel: 01483 429253
Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm

POLICE

Neighbourhood Specialist Officer: PC Tracey Taylor
PCSO Dave Boxall 01483 630086
Email address wswaverleysnt2@surrey.pnn.police.uk
Urgent calls 999
Non-urgent and crime reporting 0845 125 2222

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATORS

Area 1 Mr R. Kilsby Hydestile 01483 423637
Area 2 Mr A.G. Blackman Church Lane 01428 683871
Area 3 Miss J. Woolley Woodlands Road 01428 684213
Area 4 Mrs C. Pitt Malthouse Lane 01428 682940
Area 5 Mr A. Hammond Cricket Green 01428 683625
Area 6 Mr J. Tidmarsh Lane End 01428 682067
Area 7 Mr I. Campbell Feathercombe Lane 01483 860264
Area 8 Ms L Roberts Hambledon Park 01428 685075
Parish Council Representative Mr R. Vickery 01428 682036

UTILITIES

Thames Water (Customer Enquiries) 0845 9200800
Southern Water (Customer Enquiries) 0845 2780845
Southern Electric (Emergency) 24 Hours 0845 7708090
Gas (Emergency) 24 hours 0800 111 999
HAMBLEDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman  John Anderson  01428 682666  
Vice-Chairman  Philip Underwood  01428 682742  
Councillors  Jane Caie  01428 685258  
Derek Miller  01428 684362  
Stewart Payne  01483 425250  
Paul Pattinson  01428 682000  
Ron Vickery  01428 682036  
Clerk  Jane Woolley  01428 684213  

Surrey County Councillor  Dr Andrew Povey,  01483 267443  
Waverley Borough Councillors  
Liz Cable  01428 682640  
Adam Taylor-Smith  01483 555573  

GENERAL  
Borough Hall  01483 523333  
Cinema Borough Hall (Tickets & Information)  01483 523004  
Library  01483 422743  
Hambledon Village Shop is able to arrange deliveries  01428 682176  
Hambledon Village Hall – for terms and bookings  01428 683588  

Train Information  
Times and fares for all national services  0845 7484950  

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME  
Lifts to medical appointments, collecting prescriptions for Hambledon residents without transport, ring 01428 682959. If no response within 24 hours please call 01428 682702  

VETERINARY SURGEONS  
North Downs Veterinary Group  
37, New Road, Milford  01483 414747  
Rivendell  
24, St Johns Street, Farncombe  01483 421833  

In an emergency, ring either number  

Hambledon Village Shop & Post Office  
Opening Times  

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February 2011 at The Merry Harriers

“Oh, if it be to choose and call thee mine, love, thou art every day my Valentine!”
~ Thomas Hood

“February is wet and even windier, so we are clearing off to India” – The Merry Landlord

The credit card bills come rolling in and winter seems to be dragging on forever but here are a few things to tempt you out:

Saturday 12th: Special Valentine’s Day menu. Treat your loved one to a special evening with our delicious Valentines menu from Head Chef Sam. 4 courses and a glass of Champagne £29.50. Booking essential.

Tuesday 15th: steak night – 2 rumps with chips or salad and a bottle of house wine for £25 per couple. THE VERY LAST TIME AT THIS PRICE. Booking essential.

Tuesday 22nd: Our 50’s-90’s quiz with Special Guest Quizmasters! Starts 8pm, £20 first prize.

Saturday 26th: Live music with the fabulous Hipshinky, doing something slightly different tonight with their material.

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Panto update

Thanks to everyone who took part and who came along to see our first Pantomime. It was a great success and super fun to do. Watch out for more from the Merry Players in the summer.

£400 was raised for Hambledon Football Club Pavilion Fund.

Looking forward to the next 3 months:

March: Shrove Tuesday so come along for Pancakes on the 8th; return of Wine Club; Gourmet Evening

April: Mother’s Day on the 3rd; another brewery tour and a 70’s dinner dance

April 29 – May 2: Four days of festivities for the Royal Wedding / May Day / Cider Festival extravaganza. Morris Men, Full English Breakfasts, Live Music, Kings and Queens Fancy Dress, Tea Parties.......we haven’t planned it properly yet but we will!

May: Wine tasting and a tapas night.

The Merry Harriers, Hambledon Road, Hambledon GU8 4DR
Tel: 01428 682883  Email: merryharriers@btconnect.com
Crossword

ACROSS:
8 Irish 9 Rule out
10 Bulldog 11 Ratio
12 Remembers 15 Sit
14 Cog 16 Castor oil
19 Nokia 21 Ricotta
23 America 24 Ounce

DOWN:
1 Timber 2 Diplomat
3 Thud 4 Brogue
5 Alfresco 6 Boot
7 Strong 13 Moccasin
14 Croutons 15 Sandal
17 Streak 18 Loafer
20 Keen 22 Clog

Word Search

Valentine  boyfriend
Rose  fiancé
Romance  worship
Love  repentance
Present  angels
Restaurant  baby
Kiss  temple
Hearts  Mary
hug  Candlesmas
girlfriend  presentation

Sudoku

Easy

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