

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Magazine



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Welcome to the Spring issue of the magazine and it really does feel like Spring with the sun shining and trees and hedgerows bursting into life. My apologies for the date on the front cover of the Winter issue which should of course have read Winter 2022 not Winter 2021 as was printed!

The past couple of months have been very tough for some of our villagers – Jennifer Nutt losing her beautiful daughter very suddenly and others who are suffering with prolonged and terminal illnesses. Too often I find myself not knowing some people well enough to know what I can offer to do to help – as one person going through a very tough time said “kind words and thoughts are all very well but I need practical help!” Time is usually what people need in the way of help but those with busy lives struggle to be able to give this and it is not always appropriate if you do not know the individuals well. Community support is failing many and if you are not fortunate enough to have the support of family around you – then life can be very, very hard indeed. I wish I had the answer . . .

Thank you to Gillian Alderton for the front cover photograph.

Jenny Cope, Editor

jenny@candcsystems.co.uk Telephone: 0774 777 5900

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME
1 April	Village Walk – Meet at Village Hall	9.30am
1 April	Coffee Morning – Village Hall	11.00am
6 April	Annual Parish Assembly – Tidmarsh Village Hall	7.30pm
9 April	Pangbourne & District Bowls Club – Open Day	2.00-5.00pm
13 April	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm
28 April	Village Hall AGM	8.00pm
6 May	Village Walk – Meet at Village Hall	9.30am
6 May	Coffee Morning – Village Hall	11.00am
14 May	Quiz Night – Village Hall	8.00pm
20 May	“The Beekeepers Year” – Talk at St Laurence Church	7.30pm
3 June	Village Walk – Meet at Village Hall	9.30am
3 June	Coffee Morning – Village Hall	11.00am
19 June	Open Garden – Walnut Tree Cottage, Sulham	7.30pm

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

We are happy to announce that the Village Hall AGM will be held on 28 April at 8pm at the village hall. Social distancing will be maintained to ensure maximum safety.

Also the date, for the Spring Quiz run in conjunction with Expert Quizzers John and Annette Chiswick, will be Saturday 14th May. Please see advert in this magazine. Prior booking will be greatly appreciated. 8pm start. As usual participants are asked to bring their own drink and glasses. A cold buffet will be provided. Hope to see you there.

If you need to book or enquire about the Village Hall please contact our Booking Secretary Hilary Innes by telephoning 0118 984 2561 or emailing tidmarshvillagehall@hotmail.com.

We also have a facebook page, please visit and like us.

HELPING ADULTS LEARN TO READ

2% of the UK population cannot read to a useful functional level. We believe in West Berks that equates to in excess of 5000 people.

Read Easy is a charity that has been set up to address this problem. We provide free one-to-one teaching delivered in a flexible relaxed manner.

The local read easy group is being set up now. To do so, we need volunteers to work on the management team, volunteer reading coaches (training is given), some funding (the read easy model enables us to teach an adult to read for about £148 per person per year) and some venues where reading lessons can be held that are safe and public.

Any help that could be offered would be most warmly received.

For more information please contact Mark Ingvorsen on 07748 276959 or at swbpioneer@readeasy.org.uk

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

Regular 3rd Sunday family services continue in St Nicholas church at 11.15 and are followed by coffee and cake.

On February 20th St Nicholas church hosted Spring Flower Sunday from 2-4.30. Despite wind and rain visitors came to see the churchyard in bloom and enjoyed tea and cake in the warmth of the church. Many thanks to all those who attended and those who provided delicious cakes. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously, the afternoon raised £320.

VILLAGE WALKS

Village Walks will continue on the first Friday of every month, meeting at Tidmarsh Village Hall at 9.30. Walks last approx. 1.5 hours and are gentle paced.

The Village Hall will be open for coffee after the walks at 11 am. Everyone is welcome.

PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

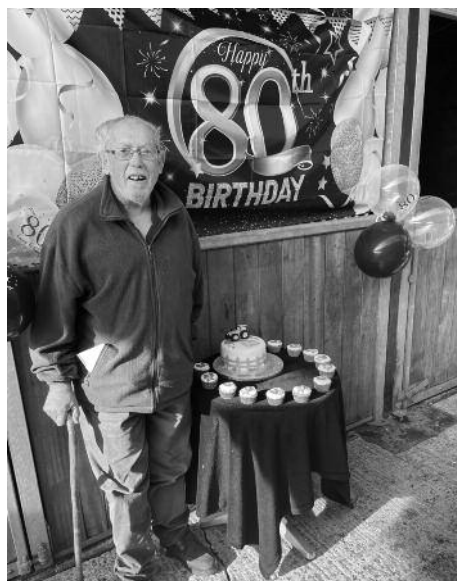
The bowls club based on the recreation ground off Thames Avenue are holding an Open Day on Saturday 9th April between 2.00-5.00pm.

Equipment is provided – just come along and give it a go! Please wear flat footwear. Refreshments available.

For more information contact Alan Copeland on 01491 681471 or visit their website www.pangbournebowls.co.uk

TONY CHICK TURNS 80!

One of Sulham and Tidmarsh's most recognisable residents celebrated his 80th birthday at Mill Corner Farm on Sunday 6th February with a mega-breakfast – just prior to his actual birthday on the 9th February.



THE FRIENDS OF ST. LAURENCE

invite you to join them for a talk by

Serena Watts

of the British Beekeepers Association

"The Beekeepers Year"



FRIDAY 20th MAY

At 7.30pm

ST LAURENCE CHURCH, TIDMARSH

REFRESHMENTS & NIBBLES

A Collection will be made on behalf of The Friends of St Laurence.

Parking is behind the Old Forge or at the rear of the Village Hall.

THERE IS NO PARKING AT THE CHURCH

SERENA WATTS

Serena will be giving a talk ‘The Beekeepers Year’ at St Laurence on the 20th May – here is a little more about her . . .

I started keeping bees in 2002.

In 2009 I took my Basic Assessment examination with the British Beekeepers’ Association and the following year, 2010, took my General Certificate of Beekeeping Husbandry Assessment.

In 2019, with the support of my headteacher, I set up ‘Bee Club’ in Englefield C of E Primary School encouraging the beekeeping hobby for the next generation. This is set to continue as I return to run the club each summer term.

2020 I decided to leave the classroom to support and assist those who wish to keep bees but lack time, and sometimes knowledge, to do so consistently.

I run around twelve hives personally but in the region of fifty hives in total in and around Berkshire.

ANNE BOLAM

Anne used to be church warden and organist at St Nicholas. At her family's request, Anne Bolam (née Peterkin), wrote a synopsis of her time as a nurse.

Since writing the book Don't Drop it, Nurse, Anne suffered a second stroke, but was determined to finish book two, despite difficulty with her eyesight.

Anne continues to be as active as she can. She enjoys going to church, playing the piano, and spending time with family and friends. Anne also loves being in the company of dogs.

Anne's motto continues to be:

“Do the things you are able to do, and forget what you were able to do in the past.”

Anne's second book (and the first) is available on Amazon (both paperback and kindle) and in bookshops.



A.B.

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Tidmarsh Village Hall

Spring Quiz Night

Saturday May 14th

7.30 for prompt 8.00pm

Light Ploughmans provided

Bring your own drinks and glasses

Come as a team or join one on the night

£7.50 per person

Contact alanmaskell56@gmail.com or

phone 0118 984 5326 to book a table

by 30th April

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General
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OPEN GARDEN

WALNUT TREE COTTAGE SULHAM

RG8 8EA

Sunday June 19th 2022

2-5pm

Tea and cake

Pimms bar

Entry to garden £5

(children free of charge)

1 mile walk from Pangbourne or Tidmarsh.

Parking available.



CHURCH SERVICES

St James | St Laurence | St Nicholas

For up-to-date details of all worship visit our website: www.pangbournechurches.org/services

MARCH

Sunday 6th

10 am	Holy Communion	St James
11.15am	Holy Communion	St Laurence

Sunday 13th

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James
10am	All Together Worship	St Laurence

Sunday 20th

10am	Holy Communion	St James
11.15am	Family Worship	St Nicholas

Mothering Sunday 27th

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James
10am	Holy Communion	St James

APRIL

Sunday 3rd

10 am	Holy Communion	St James
11.15am	Holy Communion	St Laurence

Palm Sunday 10th

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James
10am	All Together Worship	St Nicholas

See details of Holy Week and Easter services overleaf

Easter Sunday 17th

5.30am	Daybreak Service	Rectory Garden
10am	Easter Celebration	St James
11.15am	Easter Celebration	St Laurence
11.15am	Family Worship	St Nicholas

Sunday 24th

7.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James
10am	Holy Communion	St James

Midweek Holy Communion

10am every Wednesday morning in St James followed by coffee and chat. All welcome



Letter from Revd Mark Hopkins, Priest-in-Charge

Dear Friends,

This year Easter is comparatively late (17th April) which means we have a very early rise for the Easter Dawn service. But before that is Lent, with Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) on 1st March and Ash Wednesday on 2nd March. Lent is a time of "sober reflection" when we think about faults and mistakes in our lives, what we want to change about ourselves, and what we want to change or give up (something longer lasting than just 40 days of chocolate!). March this year will be especially sombre as we think, 2 years on from the start of the pandemic and hopefully near to its end, of all the losses we have suffered, the sacrifices which have been made, and the impact of the effects of covid on our mental health and livelihoods.

For me as a Christian, Easter is a time of death and resurrection. In the death of Christ on the cross, it seemed all was lost, but his victory over death we celebrate just three days later on Easter Sunday. It is a reminder that there is always hope to be found in the bleakest of circumstances.

This Lent and Easter the church will be open for lent lunches on Wednesdays and a special exhibition towards the end of March, in addition to our regular events such as Noah's Ark on Fridays and our Sunday services.

Best wishes

Rev Mark

The Parish of Pangbourne with Tidmarsh and Sulham

LENT 2022



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday Service
10 am on 2nd March
St James the Less

Lent Lunches

Come and enjoy a light lunch
on Wednesdays in Lent, starting on 2nd March.
12 noon – 1.30pm in St James in Pangbourne

Donations in aid of Christian Aid



Living in Love and Faith Course during Lent

During Lent as a Parish we will be running the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith course.

The course sets out to inspire people to think more deeply both about what it means to be human, and to live in love and faith with one another. It tackles the tough questions and the divisions among Christians about what it means to be holy in a society in which understandings and practices of gender, sexuality and marriage continue to change. Many churches in the Diocese of Oxford ran this course during 2021.

See the church website or contact Rev Mark for details of this course.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

St James | St Laurence | St Nicholas

Monday to Wednesday 11th to 13th April

Compline 9pm St James

Maundy Thursday 14th April

Holy Communion 8pm St James

Compline 9pm St James

Good Friday 15th April

Family Worship 10am St James

Meditation 2pm St James

Easter Sunday 17th April

Daybreak Service 5:30am Meet in the Rectory Garden
with Holy Communion
in St James followed by
breakfast in the Village Hall

Family Communion 10am St James

Family Communion 11.15am St Laurence

Family Worship 11.15am St Nicholas

Easter Egg hunt for children at each service



Annual Parochial Church Meetings on Sunday 3rd April 2022

10am Worship in St James the Less, Pangbourne will be followed by:

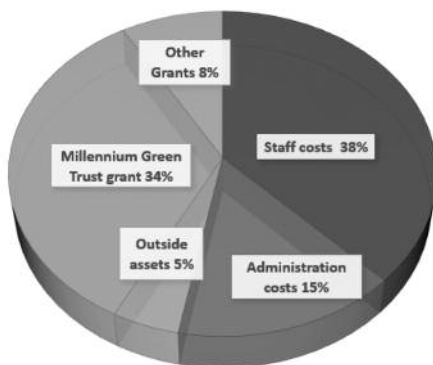
1. The meeting to Elect Churchwardens by Parishioners (3 vacancies)
2. The meeting of Electoral Roll members to receive the Annual Report and elect Parochial Church Council Members (4 vacancies) and Deanery Synod members (1 vacancy)

BUDGET SET FOR 2022-23 WITH A 5% INCREASE IN THE PRECEPT

Councillors have agreed to set the Parish's part of households' Council Tax bills (the precept) at £9,100 for the forthcoming financial year. This is an increase of £448 in total, which will be an average of £29.74 per year for a Band D property, a rise of £1.05 from the previous year.

There was also a 5% increase in 2021-22 and previously the precept had remained at £8,240 for 3 years. The budgeted expenditure for this year is £11,816 with the shortfall coming from the Council's general reserves. The full budget is published on the Council's website www.tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council
2022-23 Expenditure Budget



The budgeted expenditure is significantly higher than the income. The Council has decided to have a deficit budget due to the high level of unrestricted reserves that it holds, in addition to developers' contributions that the Council retains from the IKEA development and more recent minor developments.

Tidmarsh Millennium Green Trust (the Council is corporate trustee)

The Parish Council has scheduled a series of important maintenance tasks for the Green over the next few months, including tree works following a professional survey to ascertain the health and stability of the trees. Unfortunately, an apple tree near the lychgate will have to be removed, along with a small group of elms near the vehicle entrance. The traditional laid hedge on the western boundary will be trimmed in the late summer after the bird nesting season.

It has been agreed to use developer's contributions (from the construction of the IKEA store) to fund the replacement of the wooden fence which runs along the

northern boundary of the Green. The new fencing and vehicle gate will match the existing estate fence. Part of the planned works includes additional security measures to discourage any attempts to force entry onto the Green.

Whilst a number of new contractors will be used for various jobs on the Green, the Council is pleased to be able to continue to have Brian Murby as the grass cutting contractor.

Small grants

The Parish Council is able to offer small grants to local not for profit and/or charitable organisations that provide services to residents in Tidmarsh and/or Sulham. The Council can award the grant via Greenham Trust's grant platform www.thegoodexchange.com or direct to the organisation. Please contact the Parish Clerk for further details.

Annual Parish Assembly Wednesday 6th April 2022

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Wednesday 6th April 2022 at 7.30pm in Tidmarsh Village Hall. The meeting is hosted by the Parish Council and will include presentations from local representatives including our District Councillor, Gareth Hurley, and Kay Lacey from the Pang Valley Flood Forum. It is an opportunity for all residents to ask questions and make suggestions on how to improve our community.

Monthly meetings

The next Full Council meetings will be held on 9th March and 13th April 2022 in Tidmarsh Village Hall. The Council meets monthly, throughout 2022 these will be held on the second Wednesday of the month.

The public are always welcome to attend Council meetings. Please contact the Parish Clerk or visit www.tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk/pc.htm for the agenda for the meeting.

Contacting the Parish Council

Residents are welcome to contact the Parish Clerk (details below) or to directly approach a Councillor.

Steve Webb (chairman): chairman@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Jonathan Pearson (vice chairman): j.pearson@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Solvej Biddle: s.biddle@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Jon Chishick: j.chishick@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Sima Elliot: s.elliott@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Andrew Madden: a.madden@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk

Parish Clerk, Jennie Currie, clerk@tidmarshwithsulham.co.uk, 01635 580190

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GARDENING BY ALAN MASKELL

It is always good to see spring flowers appear in February, a profusion of yellow with white and pink tree blossoms thrown in; a welcome break from dreary winter. Hopefully not too much damage was done to your plants during the storm in February.



April will hopefully see the weather drier and give a chance to start cutting lawns, by now very lush. Hopefully water will have drained away and the ground firmer because it is not good to mow lawns when it is too soft as it leaves ridges in the lawn. However, the grass length may be too much to bear especially on sunny days. If you can't wait remember to leave blades on higher settings for the first few cuts.

Winter flowering shrubs such as Forsythia and Viburnums can be cut back now the flowers have faded. Get weeding as soon as possible before they go mad in May. Put tender plants out on warm days to harden them off.

Alan looks after gardens in the RG8 postcode area

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The society has a website available via www.purleyonthames.org.uk/PHS/ where there is more information about the society and also about the planned competition as part of Purley's Platinum Jubilee events.

Wednesday 16th March 2022	The Subtle Art & Exact Science of Pruning by Timothy Walker – 7:30 for 8:00pm
Saturday 3rd September 2022	Late Summer Show (2:30 – 4:00pm)
Thursday 20th October 2022	Britain in Bloom by Jim Buttress – 7:30 for 8:00pm
Wednesday 16th November 2022	The Kennet & Avon Canal by Graham Horn – 7:30 for 8:00pm
Wednesday 21st December 2022	Christmas Social – 7:30pm



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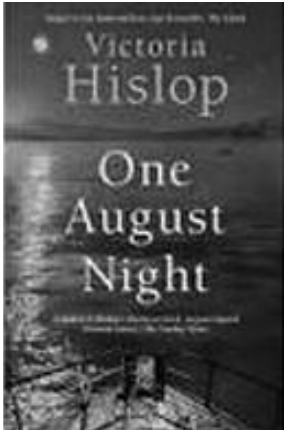
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REVIEW – ONE AUGUST NIGHT BY VICTORIA HISLOP



This book was chosen thinking it would continue the story from a previous book club favourite ‘The Island’ by the same author, but that wasn’t really the case. This book is based on the weeks leading up to the evacuation of the leprosy island of Spinalonga and beyond. Characters from the previous book are there but all reference to life after leprosy and the stigma suffered was absent. The story focuses instead on events that divide two families.

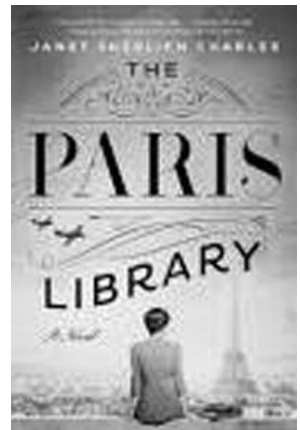
Although most readers enjoyed the book all felt the the plot lacked depth and felt the story ended rather abruptly.

REVIEW – THE PARIS LIBRARY BY JANET SKESLIEN CHARLES

Based on the true World War II story of the heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris.

The story is set in Paris, 1939 and Montana 1983. A young woman Odile Souchet gets her dream job at the American Library in Paris. When the Nazis march into Paris, she joins the Resistance with the best weapons she has: books. Lily is a lonely teenager looking for adventure in small-town Montana. She befriends her elderly neighbour and finds that a dark secret from the past connects them.

This book was enjoyed by most readers, the story of the two women was cleverly woven into factual account to keep interest throughout the story.



Next read:

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger

THE NEW MEDITERRANEAN WAY OF DINING: LA'DE

Successful North- London restaurant La'De has opened its doors in Pangbourne.

La'De is the new Mediterranean inspired restaurant with a selection of dishes from Turkish, Greek, and Italian cuisine. The family-owned restaurant has been offering its Anatolian roots with warm hospitality to its customer's pre-Covid and the team still pride itself on high-quality takeaway service.

La'De has a wide range of dishes on its menu, all representing the nutritional balance of Mediterranean cuisine, including a selection of well-known Turkish delicacies such as kebabs and lahmacun but also offers oven-baked Italian pizzas to upgrade your dinner experience.

The warm welcome of La'De awaits you with complimentary deals and free delivery on their website www.ladekitchen.com from their Pangbourne, Muswell Hill, Woodley and soon from Newbury and Camberley restaurants.

You can place your order via the website www.ladekitchen.com or by calling 0118 327 9143.



SOWING THE SEEDS FOR A FLOURISHING FUTURE



Yesterday saw our first joint break time for all our pupils. This may seem like a small thing but after two years of bubbles and separation, it was fantastic to see our pupils enjoying each other's company, with the older ones playing with and caring for the younger children. We have also just enjoyed our first whole school assembly which again felt truly wonderful, especially hearing everyone singing again.

Covid had a big effect on our school either side of Christmas with many pupils and some staff having to stay away as they had tested positive. These absences had a huge impact on our small school, in terms of covering the different roles, pupils missing their friends and staff trying to provide them with learning to do at home so they didn't miss out. Our values have certainly come to the fore and 'Love of Others' was the theme of many of our class discussions. Yet again our parent body was fantastic in following all the rules and supporting us in our efforts to keep the school healthy.

Nearly the whole school is currently studying topics based around the Arctic or Antarctic. Display boards are full of penguins and polar bears, pictures of Shackleton's ship, 'Endurance', and images featuring ice and snow.



We are currently enjoying our annual Book Week. We have three competitions: 'Book in a Box', find and identify the book character, and poetry performance. The children will be dressing up in costumes based on a favourite book and we will all be enjoying drama workshops based on either Stickman or Matilda.

Now that school is feeling more normal, we look forward to being involved in more sports competitions as well as creating opportunities for parents to come in and be part of school life once more.

ROSEMARY NUTT (JULY 7TH 1963 – JANUARY 24TH 2022)



Many of you may have seen Rosemary over the past couple of years walking her mother, Jennifer's dog – a beautiful black Labrador called Ulysses around the villages. Lockdown meant Rosemary, who lived in London, could spend more time here with her mother and she loved to walk.

Rosemary was a valued member of the Southwark community having worshipped both at St Peter's, Clapham and latterly at Southwark Cathedral where she trained as a Guide and was often on duty as a Welcomer.

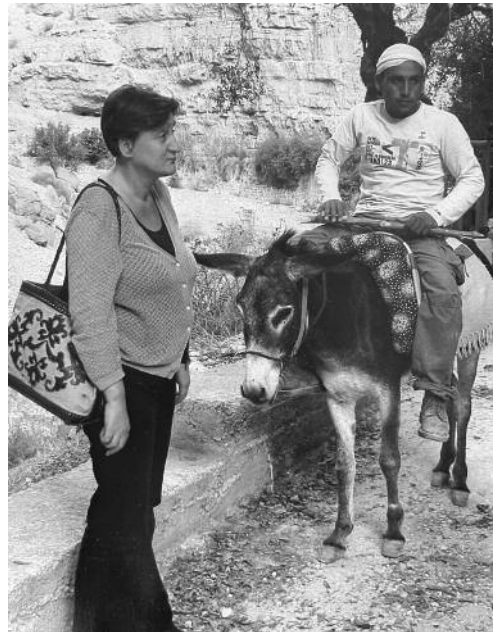
She was a part of that bigger story of pilgrimage, at heart a pilgrim who helped thousands of others from UK and beyond, Anglicans, Roman Catholics, and people from every tradition, even those for whom traditional pilgrim sites held their challenges, to identify themselves as a pilgrim. Her sudden and unexpected death came as a shock to her family and all who knew her.

Rosemary began working for McCabe Pilgrimages in 1987 – it was to become her life's work. Her knowledge and friendships were much more than simply those in the Holy Land. She introduced pilgrimage groups to diverse places, latterly off the usual beaten track in Eastern Europe, where the riches of the early church in Armenia, Georgia and Romania among other places, are to be found. In response to the problems of international travel during the pandemic, she also enabled groups to travel to the Celtic fringes of these islands, to Cornwall as well as Northumberland.

It was in the Holy Land however, that Rosemary seemed to be at her most comfortable. The staff in hotels both in Jerusalem and Tiberius knew that what

Rosemary liked after a tiring day on the pilgrimage trail was a nice chilled glass of wine, and pilgrims quickly gathered round her to be entertained with her cheeky and dry sense of humour. Working with the Israeli Arab and Palestinian communities, as well as with Jewish hoteliers, Rosemary made sure that all her pilgrims were looked after, whatever their needs, whatever the crisis.

Rosemary was born here in Berkshire, one of three of Jennifer's children – she was a gifted musician and at school, gained four Grade 8's in French Horn, piano, singing and theory. Her lifelong love of donkeys, witnessed by many pilgrims, began when she was seven when she was given a donkey called Tabitha.



Rosemary Nutt has left a legacy of pilgrimage spirituality in churches and communities in this country. Uncertain as we are about “the day when death shall fall on us” we are confident in the love of God, as was Rosemary.

A service, to celebrate her life, was held at St Laurence Church, Tidmarsh on 4th March 2022.



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References Available

TIDMARSH WITH SULHAM VILLAGE HALL

CONTINUING THE HISTORY OF THE TIDMARSH WITH SULHAM VILLAGE HALL – PART 3

Fundraising continues, with entertainment activities as well.

One of the first village activities to be established was the Table Tennis Club, starting off by having a club night on Wednesdays, then later entering a couple of teams in the Reading and District League, one of which was a ladies team. The village hall committee agreed to purchase their first table for 17 guineas but as there was insufficient money available one of the committee members offered to finance this expenditure until such time as he could be re-imbursed. The Club would however have to be responsible for their bats and balls and would pay 5/- per club night in the summer when heat and light would not be needed. Obviously winter would cost more but by how much is not clear. It was very popular and had in the early 50's around 55 members some coming from Pangbourne and Upper Basildon as there were not many clubs at that time in rural areas.

The old tortoise stove caused a few problems for the Table Tennis players in those early days because as soon as someone opened the door to stoke it up the ball would more often than not land in the middle of the fire and melt, or disappear underneath. Most of the game was spent searching for the ball or supplying a new one, so it soon became well known in Table Tennis circles that visiting teams needed to take along some spares, but it was always treated with good humour. Also too it often belched thick black smoke into the room when the wind was in the wrong direction making it seem as if they were playing in a fog.

Soon however they had seven teams in the Reading League and have been using the hall since its opening apart from one short break in the early sixties when players became thin on the ground. They used the hall four nights a week from September to March.

The cleaning of the hall was done by the ladies of the committee on a voluntary basis which they took in turns.

Also in the first year of the hall's life insurance was another necessity and some of the members of the committee were generous with donations to cover this.

Soon other forms of entertainment began to take place, whist drives were still very popular and were held on a regular basis every Monday fortnight.

The two villages had a flourishing cricket team in the fifties and sixties and were able to use a field adjoining the hall (belonging to the lady who had made the land available on where the hall now stood) so cricket teas for home matches were laid on in the hall, served by the players wives. This was usually followed by a visit to the Greyhound pub afterwards, either to drown their sorrows or to celebrate a victory.

The W.I. held their monthly meetings there too, also the Tuesday Club. This club was started by the then Rector's wife for all the young mums in the area, taking place during the evening as many with small children could not go to the W.I. as their meetings were held in the afternoon. This proved very popular for several years increasing from once a month to fortnightly. It was similar to the W.I. with talks, demonstrations, and outings to the theatre and seaside. But gradually numbers dwindled as members moved from the area and so it eventually had to close.

By now it was the early sixties and it was felt it was time for further improvement, so the first item on the agenda had to be the toilets and the committee decided it was high time they should be changed to the flush type.

Once again it was back to more fund raising

The first big event to take place in this decade was an "Old time Music Hall" written and produced by a resident of Tidmarsh who worked at the B.B.C. He persuaded villagers to take part and though many were reluctant at first, most had never participated in acting before, he soon won them over and a large cast was formed.

The programme contained sketches, monologues, music hall turns as well as a chorus of about a dozen people. A stage was erected from old railway sleepers covered in carpet, complete with footlights, one villager supplied the music on the piano accordion, and there was a Master of Ceremonies resplendent in evening dress.

A Victorian London street scene was painted as a back ground to the stage. All the

TIDMARSH WITH SULHAM VILLAGE HALL

costumes of the cast were made by those taking part as well as selling tickets for the show at three shillings and sixpence (15p). As it was near Christmas many budding actresses were cajoled into making sausage rolls and mince pies for the refreshments at half time, to be enjoyed with a glass of ale or other tippie supplied by the local inn.

Rehearsals began many weeks before, in fact they lasted about thirteen weeks as this young man made sure everyone was as word perfect as possible. And so at last the great day arrived, great excitement but nervous as well.

The hall was full, every seat taken and so the show began. Once everyone got over the first few moments the actors began to relax more and enjoyed their debut on stage (a first for most of the cast) and everything went off very well. It proved so successful that another show was planned for the summer and this time it took the form of a River Boat Show, based on the Black & White Minstrels popular at that time, although the men were not asked to black their faces. This raised the grand total of £23.00, which at that time seemed a great achievement. The same cast took part with a few new comers and again was well attended. In addition to this, other activities to raise money went on as well and soon we were able to replace the old toilets, but they were still either end of the draughty passage.

Also around this time the old tortoise stove was removed and new electric heaters were installed in the ceiling so things began to be more comfortable. But these too could cause problems as whilst one's head was warm (and sometimes this could get a bit too hot) one's feet were often stone cold. They were also set at off peak times i.e 1pm to 3.30pm and 7pm onwards so it was hard luck if you were using the hall outside those times

These heaters were fed by 6d and 1/- meters so it was always important to make sure you had a good supply of these before your evenings entertainment began. One amusing incident recorded was that on one occasion the insurance company with whom the hall was insured was over paid by 6d. This was pointed out to them and the 6d duly returned. At their next committee meeting there appears much discussion on what to do with this windfall and it was finally decided to put it in the 6d meter and enjoy the benefit of extra warmth.

Other functions that were popular around that time were the American Suppers where villagers got together and made up tables of six or eight couples. The idea was that the first couple provided the first course, followed by another pair doing the main course and ending with the final couple supplying the desert, and perhaps finishing with another pair making the coffee. It was all good fun as everybody was most interested to see what was being produced on the table near by, and some of the menu's were quite interesting. The table decorations too were quite imaginative, on one occasion a magnificent silver candelabra graced one table

Unfortunately the records from 1960/1/2 appear to have been lost but by 1963 the old elsan toilets were changed to the flush type, but again they were still either end of the draughty old passage.

The Tuesday Club were keen to have a children's play area at the rear of the hall with swings and climbing frames etc. This was looked into but the plan abandoned due to safety regulations and cost which neither the hall or the club could afford.

Another suggestion at this time was to obtain a licence for singing and dancing so that it could be used when the hall was let for weddings and parties. Once again this idea was not taken up as it was felt it would necessitate considerable alterations to fulfil requirements by local authorities. So then functions held by the hall were by invitation only to get around this situation.

The future plans at that time were that in the not too distant future it hoped to replace the kitchen, cloakroom facilities and add accommodation for extra storage and once more there would be an appeal to the residents of the two villages for their support both with help and financial.

The next year 1964 saw the exterior of the hall painted by committee members and several plumbing problems sorted out. The insulation of the ceiling was also carried out at a cost of £47.00

There was a proposed suggestion that to try and solve the problem of the sweating on the Marley Tiled floor would be to insert air bricks and lay a raised wooden floor but all this would cost £270.00. The general feeling of the committee was, that this was not desirable at that moment in time and the money they hoped to raise

TIDMARSH WITH SULHAM VILLAGE HALL

would be better spent on adding an entrance hall, (hopefully to stop the mud from the car park treading into the hall), and a store room for the table tennis table and trestles

The hall was by now being well used by the Table Tennis, W.I. Tuesday Club and others. It was also very popular for weddings and birthday parties. A Gardening Group was organised with meetings and outings to various well known gardens.

In January 1966 it was decided to increase the hire charges to help swell the income of the hall in order to carry out future plans. So a rather long drawn out scale of charges was devised as follows and it gives some idea of how these compare with costs and conditions of hire today:

	Scale	A	B	C
Morning	9am to 1pm	15/-	15/-	5/-
Afternoon	1pm to 6pm	£1.7.6	£1.7.6	7/6
Evening	6pm to Midnight	£2.00	£2.00	10/-

The scales were as follows:

Scale A Outside bookings, Public Meetings, Receptions & Clinics etc.

Scale B Tidmarsh/Sulham residents money making activities

Scale C Tidmarsh/Sulham residents non money making activities & Village Meetings

Scale D Tidmarsh/Sulham children's activities, special charge by arrangement

Special permission to be obtained from Management for extension after midnight and for serving liqueur.

All these charges to include electric heater in kitchen, water boiler, electric kettle, kitchen power point, crockery, chairs, tables and benches.

Chairs and trestle tables could be hired for charitable purposes in Tidmarsh & Sulham only at the inclusive rate £2.10.0.

Chairs for hire outside hall in Tidmarsh/Sulham and regular users of the hall at 6d per chair, minimum rate 5/-.

China loaned only to Parochial Church Council and W.I on a replacement basis but hirer responsible for checking them in and out and breakage's to be made good by hirer.

All hirers of the hall to be caretaker during the time of hire and to be responsible for preparation, clearing away and cleaning after use.

Today by comparison the scale of charges have been simplified and some of the hall's regulations such as letting the hall after midnight and the hiring of equipment etc. are no longer allowed.

However in spite of increasing the hiring charges and the hall being used more for many functions the future plans to improve the hall had to be put on hold due to a credit squeeze.

Jean Harland



Tidmarsh with Sulham Village Hall.

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West Berkshire Citizens Advice Bureau

Bartholomew St, Newbury 01635 516 605

Pangbourne and District Volunteer Centre

Mon-Fri (ex Tue) 9:30-11:30 am 0118 984 4586

Ecclesiastical

The Church of England Parish of Pangbourne with Tidmarsh and Sulham (PTS)

Priest in Charge of Pangbourne with Tidmarsh and Sulham

Rev Mark Hopkins

The Rectory, St James Close, Pangbourne

0118 984 2928

rector.ptschurches@gmail.com

Church Administrator

Vanessa Saunders

Church office open Tuesday and Friday

12.00-3.00pm

office.ptschurches@gmail.com

Church Wardens for St James, Pangbourne;

St Laurence, Tidmarsh; St Nicholas, Sulham

Jill Palfrey 0118 984 2698

Julia Sheppard 0118 956 1820

PCC Treasurer

Stephen Billyeald 0118 981 3368

PCC Secretary

Helen Hopwood 07733 106020

Friends of St Laurence

Chairman

John Chishick 0118 984 3666

Treasurer/Secretary

John Butler 0118 984 2621

Emergencies 999

All non-emergencies 101

Floodline 0345 988 1188

Medical

The Boathouse Surgery

Whitchurch Rd, Pangbourne 0118 984 2234

NHS Direct

111

Berkshire West Primary Care Trust

Reading office 0118 950 3094

West Berkshire office (Newbury) 01635 42400

Government

MP for Reading West

Alok Sharma (Conservative) 0118 945 4881

Councillor for the Pangbourne Ward

Gareth Hurley (Conservative) 07891 508906

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Public Transport

Rail Travel

First Great Western	08457 000 125
National Rail Enquiries	08457 48 49 50
TrainTracker (train times/fares)	0871 200 49 50

Bus Travel

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Reading Buses	0118 959 4000
Newbury Buses	01635 567500
Thames Travel	01491 837988

Traveline

National/local bus, train, coach, ferry and underground info	0871 200 22 33
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1st Purley & Pangbourne Scout Group	
Registration Secretary	regsec@1stPandPorg.uk
Girl Guides	0800 169 5901
	www.girlguiding.org.uk

Village Hall Committee

Alan Maskell	0118 984 5326
Hall Bookings (Hilary Innes)	0118 984 2561
Emergency Contact	07954 140048
Email:	tidmarshvillagehall@hotmail.com

West Berkshire District Council

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