

THE GAUNTLET

THE LOCAL MAGAZINE FOR THE SOMBORNES AND ASHLEY

SEPTEMBER 2026



PUBLISHED BY THE CHURCH IN THE SERVICE OF THE PARISH

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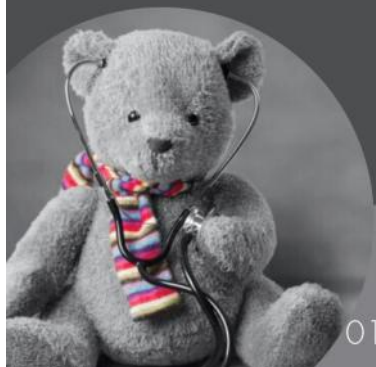
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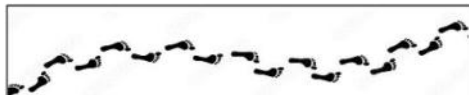
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Useful names and numbers

Parish Church

Associate Priest
Rev Ann Devereux 01794 368335
revadev316@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Ministers:

Howard Rowe 01794 388400
Sabine Kirby 01794 765273

Wardens:

Joan Appleyard 01794 388224
joanappleyard@aol.co.uk
Janet Ingleson 01794 388618
janetoingleson@gmail.com

PCC Secretary:

David Pye 01794 388405

Treasurer & Gift Aid Sec:

Carol Kent 07919 825152
carolkent-treasure-kings-
somborne@outlook.com

Flowers: Pollyann Monk 01794 388482
pollyann@afmonk.co.uk

Methodist Church

Minister: Revd Peter Rayson 02381 780560
Stewards: Marilyn Bolton 01794 389356
Marion Downing 01794 388121

Roman Catholic Churches

Hampshire Downs parish 01962 852804
St Swithun Wells parish 02380 273882

Village Hall

Bookings: Sarah Pennington 01794 389354
(tel. after 7.30pm please) or email
bookings@ksvillagehall.uk

Epworth Hall

Bookings: Marion Downing 01794388121
marion.downing@yahoo.co.uk

Doctors

Stockbridge surgery 01264 810524
www.stockbridgesurgery.co.uk
Broughton surgery 01794 301210

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Stockbridge Pharmacy 01264 810624

Schools

Somborne Pre-School 07530 893773
King's Somborne School 01794 388381
Danebury School 01264 810555

Police

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www.hampshire.police.uk
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Parish Council

Jordan Matthews
clerk@kingssomborne-pc.gov.uk

Borough Councillors

Stewart MacDonald 07803 594872
Ian Jeffrey 01794 388872
Alison Johnston 01794 500610

County Councillor

David Drew 01264 357024

Member of Parliament

Caroline Nokes MP 020 7219 1468
caroline.nokes.mp@parliament.uk

Local Authority

Test Valley B C 01264 368000

Village Website

www.thesombornes.org.uk

The Gauntlet

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Please deliver articles for *The Gauntlet*
to **thegauntletmag@hotmail.com**

See our colour online edition
at the village website (see above)

Village Directory

Allotments

Contact: Susie Upfield 01794 388198

Badminton Club

Monday evenings in the Village Hall

Contact: Sue Jackson 07891930684

Bellringing

Every Monday 7.30pm - 9.00pm.

Contact: Clare Thomson 01794 388268

Catherine Edwards Trust

Provides grants to village students

Contact: David Bevan 07769 682696

Computer Café

First and third Tuesday every month 10.00am - 12.00noon at the Village Hall. Hands-on support and advice for all ages and experience on using internet, email etc.

Contact: Roger Stephens 07483 211834

Cricket Club

Contact: Rachel King 07809 289861

Christians Together Home Group

Bible study group. Usually third Friday of the month at 10.30am. All welcome.

Contact: Barbara Heffer 01794 389126

Dial-a-Ride

Trips to Romsey every Wednesday, for senior citizens and disabled people, at 2.00pm. Fare £3.75.

Contact: 01264 356808

Drop In Coffee Morning

Coffee morning at the Epworth Hall. Every Tuesday (except the second in the month) at 10.30am.

Contact: Marion Downing 01794 388121

Epworth Lunch

Lunch for over 50s at the Epworth Hall. On the second Tuesday in the month at 12.30pm.

Contact: Marilyn Bolton 01794 389356

Friends of King's Somborne Church

Contact: Sandie Pepperell 01794 388021

Football Club

Contact: Andy Gannaway 01794 388733

Garden waste scheme

Garden waste will be collected in w/c 3rd 17th and 31st August 2026.

Household waste

Non-recyclable household waste (black bins) will be collected in w/c 31st August, 14th September and 28th September 2026.

Recyclable household waste (brown bins) will be collected in w/c 7th September and 14th September 2026.

Julian Contemplative Prayer Group

Meetings for people from any denomination who are seeking a place for silent prayer and contemplation

Contact: Jane Duncan 01794 388059
janeduncan329@gmail.com

Messy Church

Meets 3rd Wednesday of each month in term time, 3.30pm - 5.30pm at the Methodist Church.

Contact: Sam Barnes 07742 077114
sambarnesyouthworker@gmail.com

Neighbourcare

Transport to essential appointments.

Contacts: Sue Jackson 07470022396

Parent, Baby & Toddler Group

Informal friendly get-together for babies, pre-school children, parents and carers. Every Wednesday 9.30am - 11.15am in the Village Hall.

Contacts: Kate Johnson 07831 123893
ksparentandtoddlergroup@gmail.com

School Association (PTA)

Social and fund-raising events to benefit the school and its pupils.

Contact: Alex Hodge 07904 005570
kssa.contact@gmail.com

Scouts

Beavers Mondays 6.00pm

Contact: 11th Romsey Scouts @gmail.com

Village Directory (continued)

Services for the over 50's

Contacts: Sue Jackson 07891930684
suejackson884@icloud.com
Gill Butler 01794 388831
gill_butler@outlook.com

Short Mat Bowls Club

Meet alternate Tuesday afternoons in the Village Hall.

Chair: Julia Bowen 07765 106854
Julia.Bowen@landsker.net

Somborne Café

Every Tuesday 10.00am—1.00pm in the Village Hall

Contact: Alistair Dodds 07831727271
sombornecafe@gmail.com

Somborne Community Cinema

Second Thursday of each month

Contact: Roger Stephens 07483 211834
hello@sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk

Somborne & District Society

Meetings held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm, usually in the Village Hall.

Contact: Linda Aucock 01794 388542

Somborne Garden Club

Meets as advertised for talks and visits, for all garden lovers.

Secretary: Nickey Buckley 01794 388694
nm.buckley@yahoo.co.uk

Somborne Needleworkers

Meet each Thursday at 2pm at the Parish Church.

Contact: Eileen Humphries 01794 388427

Somborne Players

Amateur Dramatics Society. For both children and adults.

Contact: Rebecca Rickard 07748 189864
rebeccarickard65@gmail.com

Sombornes Pre-School

Early Years education for children aged from 2 to school age.

Contact: Rebecca Lane 07530 893773

Somborne Sessions

Details: www.sombornesessions.co.uk

Contact: Trevor Ryan 01794 388743
info@sombornesessions.co.uk

Somborne Singers

Weekly meetings to sing ballads, songs from shows etc. every Tuesday at 7.45pm in the Parish Church.

Contact: Howard Rowe 01794 388400

Somborne Sisterhood W I

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Contact: Kathryn Lee
sombornesisterhood@gmail.com

Somborne Solo's Group

Meet 3rd Wednesday of the month for lunch at a local pub. For people who are on their own.

Contact: Sue Fundrey 07720746516
sue.fundrey@btinternet.com

Somborne Speedwatch

Contact: Nicola Pye 01794 388405
nicola@yewbank.net

Village Hall

Ian Newnham

Contact: chair@ksvillagehall.uk

Wednesday Wanderers

Walk on the third Wednesday morning of each month

Contact: Margaret Heffer 01794 389126
heffers@btinternet.com

Women's Fellowship

Meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm in the Epworth Hall.

Contacts: Marion Downing 01794 388121
Marilyn Bolton 01794 389356

Women's Institute

Meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Contact: Linda Aucock 01794 388542

Working Men's Club

Various entertainments.

Contacts: Rob Draper 07960 995 280
Heidi Barnes 07943 818 019

‘The Gauntlet’ August issue

‘The Gauntlet’ team would like to apologise for some blank pages in some editions that appeared in the August issue.

The team are having some problems with our parish printer at the moment despite the hard work of our voluntary printing and collating teams, we were unable to correct those issues which were delivered with blank pages. Efforts are being made to get an engineer out to repair the copier, but we may experience some problems again in the September issue. Hopefully this will be resolved shortly

We do hope you will understand and bear with us in the meantime.

Marquee Magic Raises £1,500 and Counting

Summer has arrived in King’s Somborne and the Marquee Markets already here for two great weeks .. Visitors from Winchester, and even one from Czechia....!

What an amazing talent in the village and I won’t catch all the names, apologies in advance !... but we had Josie’s lovely soaps, beautifully made and full of aroma, Sophie’s beautiful pendants and bracelets which must have taken loads of time, but so worth it.

Bargain books from Carolyn and Phil, Steve and Christine. I was able to get two for £1 as an extravagant birthday present for my wife...and what about the table for the children, with Howard and Alwena.. Last week any budding Davids could take a pot shot at Goliath with one of his five round stones (?); this week they were making a sea scene with Jonah going down with the whale.



Next door was the genuine King's Somborne honey from Adam at Old Palace farmhouse , which went fast. Talking of fast, the cakes were so good that three from Linda, Jane, and others were sold before the market opened ! . This week fresh delicious bread from Judy which was still warm.

Fresh vegetables despite the drought thanks to Tina and Norman, loads of "nearly new" (or so they said) from Rob and Jude, and there were more tables for them than for anyone else as there's so much, lovely plant pots, jewellery, glasses.

What an amazing village team. I apologise to the many names I will have missed, and what an amazing and worthwhile effort.

It has raised so far the wonderful sum of £1534.47... for just these two weeks, with three more to go...see you all next year !

Peter Bacon



And valuable old magazines about the school and the church, and lovely cards and of course tea towels. We mustn't forget the raffle with Joan and Eileen with super prizes like late bottled Graham's Port, and more.

And of course inside the church a place to sit and enjoy coffees, teas and even more delicious cakes with Marge and Barb and their wonderfully welcoming gang, to take a break there, have a chat, and go back shopping again.



How Recycling Your Old Clothes Could Help Save Lives

Did you know that recycling your unwanted clothes here in the village can help support lifesaving work across Hampshire? We have two clothes recycling bins located at the recreation ground (adjacent to the scout hut) that raise funds for Hampshire Search and Rescue, known as HANTSAR. Donations are collected and sorted by an external company, and HANTSAR receives a contribution based on the amount collected.

Who are Hampshire Search and Rescue?

Someone is reported missing every 90 seconds in the UK. Closer to home, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary receives around 29 missing person reports every day.

That is where HANTSAR comes in. Hampshire Search and Rescue is a volunteer-led charity that assists the

police in searching for high-risk missing people, including children, the elderly, those living with dementia, and people experiencing a severe mental health crisis.

Since its creation in 2003, HANTSAR has been called out more than 1,200 times. So far this year, the team has responded to 50 callouts, including one 96-hour period in which volunteers were deployed on nine separate occasions. Their volunteers are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, whatever the weather.

HANTSAR also has specialist teams, including a medical team, drone team, water team and rope team.



These teams can also be called upon to assist other emergency services; for example, the drone team recently supported Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service by providing live aerial footage of the wildfire near Romsey.

As a charity, HANTSAR relies entirely on donations, occasional grants, and fundraising. Its dedicated volunteers provide much of their own equipment and pay for their own travel to training sessions and live searches.

Recycling your old clothes is not only environmentally friendly, but also a simple way to support this vital local service. HANTSAR needs to raise at least £85,000 each year just to remain operational.

The bins do occasionally become full. They are monitored, and the collection company is contacted as soon as this happens, although it can sometimes take a couple of days for them to respond.

Please recycle

- All clothing
- Paired shoes — please tie them together or secure them with an elastic band
- Sheets
- Towels
- Blankets
- Curtains
- Belts
- Bags

Please do not donate soiled or contaminated rags, pillows, or duvets.

Before you donate

- Please place all donations in sealed bags.
- Do not leave bags outside the clothing bank.

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Karen Bolton



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Successful First Allotment Vegetable and Flower Show

The Allotments had almost perfect weather for their inaugural vegetable and flower show in July. It was lovely to see so many visitors from the village walking round and viewing the allotments. For many, it was their first time on the new allotment site.

Jamie and Carolyn Lane won ‘Best in Show’ with Jane and Simon Payne a close second. There was plenty of laughter at some of the stranger category results and the Allotments would like to thank Ann Snellgrove for kindly judging the competition.

Too much was eaten (and, in some cases, drunk?) at the BBQ after the event. A great way to celebrate the wonderful little community working away on the allotment site.

Bring on next year’s show...

Lorna Brown



Photos for the cover

We now have the cover of *The Gauntlet* printed in colour by a commercial printer. To ensure that the printed pages are back in time to be collated with the rest of the magazine, I need to send them before the 15th. So, I can only consider photos for the cover if I receive them by the **12th**. To make sure that they reach me without delay, please now send them directly to me at harvey.saunders1@btinternet.com

This month’s cover photo was supplied by Abigail Larkin—thank you!

This month’s editor of *The Gauntlet* is Alex Preston.

Will you join in a Jumble Trail?

I would like to hold a 'Jumble Trail' in the village on the 19th September. It's a bit like a car boot sale BUT it's on your drive or front garden. You pay to enter, that money goes to Macmillan, then what you sell is your money. When, or if, people are interested I will draw up a map of who and where the sales are going to be.

This has been done before in the village, a while ago now, but I seem to remember it was a success!

Please email me janettebatch25@gmail.com if you are interested or have any questions.

Janette Batchelor



A Very Somborne Eclipse



At 7.14pm on 12 August, the Sun almost vanished over Hampshire. King's Somborne did something nearly as remarkable: it stopped.

We headed up Cow Drove Hill, where half the village appeared to have had precisely the same idea. Eclipse glasses were passed around, children charged about, old friends bumped into one another and new introductions were made – all while the Moon took

an enormous bite out of the evening Sun.

Even the hedgerows were putting on a show. Blackberries were already gloriously ripe, providing useful entertainment for smaller members of the expedition while the heavens got themselves organised.

For all the astronomical grandeur, though, the best bit was wonderfully earthly: a hilltop full of neighbours, chatting, laughing and looking up together.

The next total solar eclipse visible from the UK isn't until 2090. By then, most of us will be otherwise engaged. So perhaps the real rarity wasn't above us at all. It was a village stopping, together, for an hour on an August evening.

Alexander Preston



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Somborne Sisterhood



Caroline Nokes Shares Life in the Chair

It was lovely to see so many members of the local community join the August open meeting of the Somborne Sisterhood WI to hear from The Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP. Visitors enjoyed coffee, tea and cake as well as taking part in the raffle for two hampers.



Caroline shared insights into her prestigious parliamentary role and provided a behind-the-scenes look into the mechanics of British governance as well as championing the local community. Caroline detailed her daily responsibilities since being elected as a Deputy Speaker. She highlighted what it means to step into the Chair, maintain order during fiery debates, and remain completely impartial. Caroline also talked about her former role as Chair of the Women and Equalities Select Committee and the impact of such work upon government particularly during the Covid pandemic.

Caroline was happy to answer questions from the floor covering such issues as the release of prisoners, local government reorganisation and water quality in the River Test.

The next meeting of the Somborne Sisterhood WI will be on Wednesday 2nd September at 7:30pm. We will be getting to grips with Tai Chi and guests are welcome to join us (£7).

Natalie Ellison



SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

PRESENTS



Sunday 13th September 2026

at King's Somborne Village Hall

Doors open 6:45pm : Curtain up 7:30pm

Tickets £10 + booking fee online at

www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk

or at the door on the day

Bar and Refreshments will be available

Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult



King's Somborne
Parish Council

Somborne Speedwatch

If you would like to help slow down the traffic coming through the village, please

Contact Nicola Pye 01794 388 405 nicola@yewbank.net

King's Somborne Women's Institute



Afternoon Tea Raises a Cheer



On the glorious 12th August, King's Somborne WI held their popular afternoon tea. The event this year raised funds for future WI activities and Winchester Beacon nightshelter.

WI members served each guest with a delicious plate of sandwiches and scones, which were followed by scrumptious cake. Refreshments included a welcome glass of prosecco / elderflower and oceans of tea.

This very successful event, held in the Working Men's Club, was completed with drawing of the raffle.

Can I take this opportunity to thank again all the wonderful WI ladies for their baking, sandwich making, flower arranging and generous donations of raffle prizes.

The WI would also like to thank the Club Committee and especially Tracey for all her hard work in making this event such a success.

Last but by no means least, thank you to everyone who came to enjoy the day.

Sarah Pennington



New Shutters Open New Doors

Thanks to a generous grant from the Parish Council, King's Somborne Working Men's Club has recently installed a set of electric double bar shutters.

This is a fabulous upgrade for the Club as it enables it to be hired as a venue for lots of new activities including a Youth Club for the village.

If you are interested in hiring the Club for a private function or maybe running a new community group (Yoga, Pilates, art class, bridge club etc.), please contact Tracy White on kswmcevents@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

Lorna Brown



Thank you to everyone who shared their views in the playground survey. We had nearly 200 responses which is amazing. The results have now been passed to the Parish Council.

King's Somborne Working Men's Club – Available for Hire!

Did you know that King's Somborne Working Men's Club is available to hire for private functions and community events?

Whether you're planning a birthday party, family celebration, anniversary, meeting, fundraiser, or another special occasion, our welcoming venue could be the perfect place to host your event.

If you're interested in hiring the club or would like to find out more about availability and facilities, we'd love to hear from you.

Please email us at kswmcevents@yahoo.com for more information or to discuss your booking.

We look forward to helping make your event a success!

Do you live alone?

We all worry that someone who lives alone may have a crisis at home - a fall or a health crisis - and nobody knows or is able to help.

So if you live alone, perhaps you could think about things you can do to avoid this:

- ◆ Does someone check on you every day? It could be a phone call or just checking that you've opened your curtains.
- ◆ Give a neighbour or a friend who lives nearby a key for your house so they can let the emergency services have access.
- ◆ You might like to consider having a key safe fitted.
- ◆ Also make sure someone knows the phone number or email of a person you would like to be contacted in an emergency.
- ◆ Consider a personal alarm for ease of calling for help if you need it.
- ◆ Have the phone number of a neighbour or nearby friend so you can contact them in an emergency.
- ◆ If you have a mobile phone, keep it with you all the time.

There are times when we all need help!

Out & About with Maddie

Hello, I'm Maddie Preston, and I'm excited to be joining The Gauntlet with a new monthly family column.

One thing I've learned from reading The Gauntlet is that there's always something happening in and around the area. The event diary is brilliant and, with a young family, I'm always looking for ideas for weekends, school holidays and those afternoons when we just want to get out and explore somewhere new.



I live in King's Somborne with my husband, Alex, and our son, and each month I'll be sharing somewhere we've visited or been recommended, whether that's a local play area, family-friendly walk, café, event or day out a little further afield.

If you know a hidden gem that every family should try, do send your suggestions to The Gauntlet team at thegauntletmag@hotmail.com. We'd love to hear from you! See you next month.

Maddie Preston

Three things to do this September

September is one of the best months to get out and explore, with quieter attractions, beautiful countryside and plenty to discover on our doorstep.

Go blackberry picking

The hedgerows are bursting with blackberries right now. Take a tub on your next walk and you'll come home with enough for a crumble, if they make it back without being eaten first.

Try Longstock Play Park

A bit of a hidden gem. Plenty of space to run, climb and explore, with enough going on to keep little legs busy for an hour or two.

Visit Houghton Lodge Gardens

One of those places that somehow still feels like a local secret. Beautiful gardens, the River Test on your doorstep and a café that's worth the stop on its own.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



KS WORKING MENS CLUB
25TH SEPTEMBER 2026
10AM

In aid of
**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.**
CANCER SUPPORT

Village diary for September 2026

Every Monday	6.00 pm	Beavers
	6.00 pm	Monday Club at the Club
	7.30 pm	Badminton (September to April)
	7.30 pm	Skittles
Every Tuesday	10.30am	Drop in coffee (except the second Tuesday)
	10.00am	Somborne Cafe
	7.45pm	Somborne Singers
Every Wednesday	9.15am	WI Walking Group
	9.30am	Parent, Baby and Toddler Group
	2.00pm	Dial-a-ride
Every Thursday	2.00pm	Needleworkers

1st	Computer cafe	10.00am	15th	Computer cafe	10.00am
	Bingo at the Club	6.00pm for 8.00pm	16th	Wednesday Wanderers	10.00am
			16th	Somborne Solos	Lunch
2nd	WI Sisterhood	7.30pm	16th	Contemplative Prayer	7.30pm
8th	Epworth Lunch	12.30pm	17th	Minibus to Boscombe	10.00am
8th	Short Mat Bowls	2.00pm	19th	Jumble Trail for Macmillan	10.00am
9th	WI	7.30pm	22nd	Short Mat Bowls	2.00pm
10th	Community Cinema Finding Emily	7.15pm for 8.00pm	23rd	Women's Fellowship	2.30pm
12th	Ride and Stride		23rd	Somborne Society	7.30pm for 8.00pm
12th	Children's Disco	6.30pm	25th	Macmillan Coffee at the Club	10.00am
14th	Parish Council	7.00pm			

District diary for September 2026

Winchester Cathedral

15–18 Sept *Afternoon Tea*: Elegant tea during the Wild! Festival

15 Sept *Flower Demonstration*: With the Cathedral Flower Team

24 Sept *Radiohead Reimagined*: Presented by London Concertante

24 Sept *University Welcome Week*: For University of Winchester students

Museum of the Iron Age, Andover

13 Sept *The Romans are Coming!*: Roman history comes to life

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

3 Sept *September Evening Supper*: Seasonal supper after hours

11 Sept *Murder Mystery Dinner*: Supper with a whodunit twist

20 Sept *Botanical Pottery Jug*: Make your own hand-built jug

30 Sept *Autumn Wreath Workshop*: Create a seasonal natural wreath

Houghton Lodge Gardens

27 Sept *Apple Day*: A celebration for apple lovers

Hawk Conservancy Trust

5 Sept *International Vulture Awareness Day*: Discover the world of vultures

12 Sept *Fine Dining at Feathers*: A sumptuous five-course dinner

20 Sept *Wings & Woodlands Artisan Market*: Local makers and artisan stalls

Hampshire Farmers' Markets

6 Sept *Romsey*: 10am–1pm, Alma Road Car Park

13 & 27 Sept *Winchester*: 9am–2pm, city centre

Romsey Show

12 Sept *Broadlands*: One of England's great agricultural shows

Southampton International Boat Show

18–27 Sept *Mayflower Park*: The UK's flagship boating festival

Portsmouth International Kite Festival

12–13 Sept *Southsea Common*: Spectacular kites and family activities

Hampshire Countryside Day

13 Sept *Bereleigh Estate*: Country sports, displays and 100+ stands

International Autojumble

12–13 Sept *Beaulieu*: Europe's largest vintage motoring sale

Karen Bolton

DO YOU LIKE TO WALK?

Every Wednesday at 9.15a.m. a group of us from the W.I. meet behind the Parish Church, beside the John O'Gaunt sign and walk together exploring the local countryside. We walk for a couple of hours with occasionally a stop for coffee on the way and very occasionally even cake and always a good chat.

If you would like to join us we would be delighted to see you.

Either come to the John O'Gaunt sign one Wednesday or phone me, **Frances Shone, on 388626** for more information.

Theatres

Theatre Royal Winchester

2–3 Sept *Jane Eyre*: Brontë's gothic romance on the Yorkshire moors

4 Sept *A Night to Remember Motown Show*: Classic Motown hits from 1960s Detroit

5 Sept *The Legend of Springsteen*: Celebrating the music of Bruce Springsteen

8 Sept *Ivo Graham: Orange Crush*: Award-winning stand-up comedy

9 Sept *Paul Zerdin: Shut Your Mouth*: Master ventriloquist and America's Got Talent winner

10 Sept *The History of Rock*: A journey through rock's greatest eras

11 Sept *Breaking Ballroom*: Ballroom dance with theatrical flair

12 Sept *A Tribute to Sting and The Police*: Europe's leading Sting tribute

15 Sept *The Carpenters*: Voice of the Heart: The timeless Carpenters sound

19 Sept *Marvin Muoneké's Big Band*: Big-band vocals and live music

21–22 Sept *Iolanthe*: Gilbert & Sullivan's satire of power and politics

26 Sept *Winchester Comedy Festival*: Autumn Gala: An evening of stand-up comedy

Mayflower Studios , Southampton

6 Sept *Thank You For The Music*: The ultimate ABBA tribute

9–12 Sept *The Pianist*: Based on Władysław Szpilman's bestselling memoir

13 Sept *David Essex*: Thanks for the Memories: David Essex OBE returns

23 Sept *Paul Merton & Suki Webster's Improv Show*: An evening of improvised comedy

24 Sept–24 Oct *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*: A spectacular world of music and excess

Chesil Theatre , Winchester

26 Sept–4 Oct *Home, I'm Darling!*: A 1950s dream with cracks beneath the surface

Plaza Theatre Romsey

4 Sept *Crazy Little Thing Called Queen*: A high-energy Queen tribute

15–19 Sept *Relative Values*: Noël Coward's comedy of class and marriage

25 Sept *Chuckl. Romsey*: Live comedy with Angela Barnes & guests

26 Sept *The Zoots*: Sound of the 60s: A feel-good trip through the '60s

The Lights Theatre , Andover

17 Sept *Ultimate Elvis*: One of the world's leading Elvis tribute acts

19 Sept *Club 80's 2026*: A high-energy trip back to the '80s

25 Sept *The Three Musketeers*: A hilarious family farce

26 Sept *Dreamcoat Stars*: Musical theatre stars sing the greatest hits

Karen Bolton

SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

Finding Emily

Thursday 10th September 2026

2026 Romantic Comedy: 1h:51m

When a lovesick musician is given the wrong number for his dream girl, he teams up with a driven psychology student to find her. Together, they spark a hilarious campus-wide frenzy that tests their own hearts and ambitions along the way.



Dead Man's Wire

Thursday 8th October 2026

2026 History, Crime, Drama: 1h:44m

A dramatic true story. In February 1977, disgruntled real-estate developer Tony Kiritsis takes mortgage broker Richard Hall hostage demanding an apology and cancellation of a debt. While tied up in his own apartment a tense 63-hour ordeal unfolds between the two as the authorities try to diffuse the standoff.



Tickets for films are just £6 + booking fee online at
www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk
or at the door on the night.



King's Somborne Village Hall



Doors open at 7.15pm and the films start at 8pm leaving plenty of time to get your drinks and snacks from the well-stocked bar.



Somborne Players present...

Join us for our

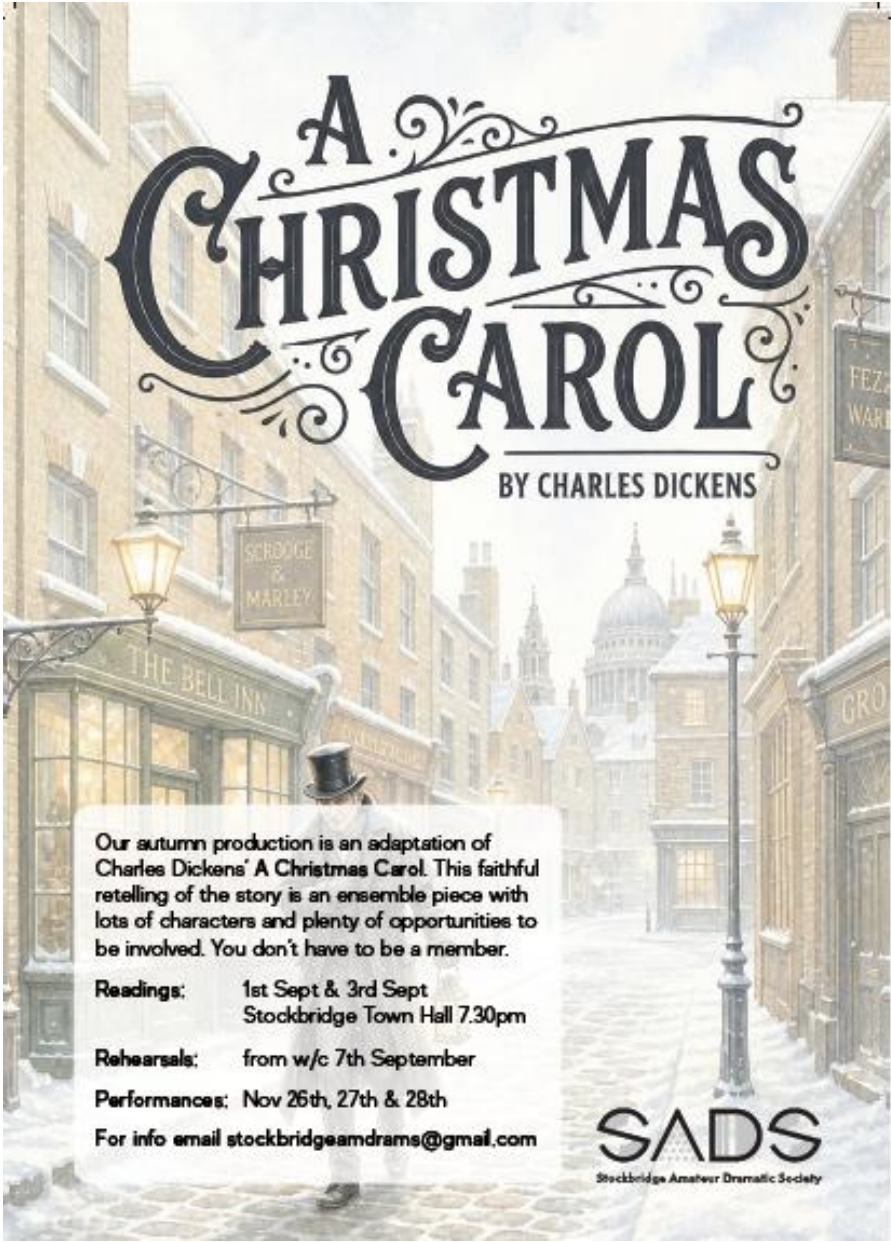
Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 30th September 2026

at 8.00 pm in the Jubilee Room at the Village Hall



If you are interested in performing or would like to get involved supporting behind the scenes, whether in a big or small way, come along and find out more about the Somborne Players. We welcome both adults and children who are interested in amateur dramatics to join in regular drama-related events and activities ranging from formal performances to friendly get togethers. New and returning members are always welcome.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY CHARLES DICKENS

Our autumn production is an adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. This faithful retelling of the story is an ensemble piece with lots of characters and plenty of opportunities to be involved. You don't have to be a member.

Readings: 1st Sept & 3rd Sept
Stockbridge Town Hall 7.30pm

Rehearsals: from w/c 7th September

Performances: Nov 26th, 27th & 28th

For info email stockbridgeamdrams@gmail.com

SADS
Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society

August is usually a quiet month with everybody away and no Parish Council meeting; however, work has continued in the background.

Community Group

The Community Group looking at the Shop and Crown continue efforts to establish the viability of a community stake should commercial operation cease.

There is no further news from Punch, owners of the Crown. They still have not got vacant possession at the time of writing.

Research continues into the shop, still run for our benefit by the current owners. The group has prepared an update, including detail about the Crown; see the separate article.

The PC are grateful for their efforts.

20mph Zone

The Parish Council approved the proposed signage but requested Eldon Road be included. HCC have updated their plans for PC approval.

The Hut

We are still awaiting the structural engineer's documentation to enable installation of French doors.

Affordable Housing

Members of the PC Planning Committee remain concerned about affordable housing. Unfortunately, this is largely in the hands of unregulated Housing Associations.

A meeting has been held with TVBC Planning and Housing Departments regarding NDP sites, to ensure affordable homes are provided in line with legislation, which permits financial contributions in lieu. The

meeting was positive and TVBC agreed to assist.

Future affordable housing depends on a willing housing association, irrespective of the wishes of the PC, TVBC or developers. Affordable housing is generally split 70% rental and 30% part ownership. Housing associations favour larger groups of housing, contrary to the NDP. Finding a solution will be problematic, but the PC is doing its best to facilitate a satisfactory outcome.

Shorewood Homes are preparing a pre-application for the Eldon Road site and consulting with TVBC. They are aware of the issue, and TVBC agreed to a joint meeting once proposals are firmed up.

The Spenser's Farm development has outline planning permission and provision for statutory housing. However, detailed permission is still required and a workable scheme derived if a financial contribution in lieu is to be avoided.

Resilience

The PC and Village Hall Committee have discussed adding solar panels and a battery to the Village Hall electrical system. This could reduce bills and, with the PC's generator, provide further resilience, the Hall being the identified emergency hub.

Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 7th September at the Epworth Hall at 7pm. Parishioners are welcome to attend and raise any matter of concern with the Council.

*Graham Searle
Chair, King's Somborne Parish
Council*

Somborne and District Society



Welcome to the first Gauntlet article of the new society year. Right now, my rather dry and brown garden is full of white butterflies, but we also have occasional visits from a muntjac deer. I hope you are enjoying the sun and managing to stay comfortable in this hot weather.

In July the society held its AGM, which was followed by an excellent talk from Sabrina Mercer, Head of Strategy for Siemens Energy in the UK & Ireland. Her talk on "The Energy Sector Through the Ages" took us on a journey through the history of energy in the UK and further afield. I enjoyed Sabrina's talk and received very complimentary feedback from our attendees, so thank you Sabrina.

At the AGM we started with drinks and a tasty spread of nibbles. The drinks were provided by the society and the nibbles kindly donated by volunteers – thank you all. This AGM was significant as our long-standing president Terry Mackintosh stood down, and a new president Michael Reynolds was elected to the role for a five-year term. Thank you very much to both.

The society's committee has shrunk this year, so we are even more keen for people to join us and take on an active role. However, I do of course thank all committee members and those that contribute to the society in some way.

Are you interested in our local heritage and community? If you are interested, please strongly consider coming forward and volunteer to join the committee.

On Wednesday the 23rd of September, 7:30pm for an 8pm start, we have our first talk of the year in the village hall. This talk will be by our new president, Michael Reynolds, on Thomas Paine and the Age of Revolution. "Thomas Paine was a radical thinker whose ideas and writings inspired both the American War of Independence and the French Revolution. His rival Edmund Burke is known as the Father of Modern Conservatism and Paine could be said to be the founder of modern Socialism."

Steve Silver-Warner



Following our recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessment, our practice was rated **Good** for being **Effective, Caring and Responsive**, reflecting the high standard of clinical care we provide, the compassion shown by our team, and our commitment to ensuring patients can access the care they need. The CQC found that patients consistently described our staff as kind, caring and respectful, with excellent patient feedback on access to appointments and helpful reception staff. They also recognised our strong clinical outcomes, including childhood immunisations, cervical screening and support to help patients live healthier lives.

While our overall rating was **Requires Improvement**, the areas identified relate primarily to governance, documentation and regulatory processes rather than the quality of care patients receive. We have already addressed many of the issues raised and have comprehensive action plans in place to strengthen our systems further. We remain fully committed to providing safe, high-quality care for our patients and will continue to build on the many positive aspects recognised in the report.

Chronic Kidney Disease

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a long-term condition where the kidneys do not work as well as they should. It's a common condition often associated with getting older. Chronic kidney disease is usually caused by other conditions that put a strain on the kidneys such as high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol. You can help prevent CKD by making healthy lifestyle changes and ensuring any underlying conditions are well controlled.

CKD can get worse over time and eventually the kidneys may stop working altogether, but this is uncommon. Many people with CKD are able to live long lives with the condition. 4% of our practice population have been diagnosed with CKD. In order to determine how the kidneys are functioning patients need to have both a blood test and a urine test at least annually. In the coming months we will be ensuring that all patients who have a diagnosis of CKD have up to date blood and urine test results.

For more information please see www.nhs.uk/conditions/kidney-disease

New Season of Somborne Sessions Ready to Roll!



The 2026-7 season of the Somborne Sessions- top quality live music at value for money prices in our very own Village Hall- has now been completely finalised. It's our SIXTEENTH season (how time flies!) and to say we're delighted with the line-up we have waiting for you would be an understatement.

We start off on Saturday 10 October with Rob Clamp and Trio. Hailing all the way from Southampton, Rob is an absolutely zinging performer who blends classic vocals with acoustic guitar. He will be performing with a trio of his regular players.

Saturday 14 November sees us welcoming The Celtic Social Club, seven Franco- Irish musicians who have made a big name for themselves with their daring re-readings of the Celtic music tradition.

On Saturday 12 December, Alice Armstrong performs at the Sessions. Alice has been a Top Three nominee at the Jazz FM Awards and was named Vocalist of the Year at the UK Blues Awards.

Talking of blues, chase any of the New Year Variety away on Saturday 30 January 2027 when Alex Roberts takes to the Village Hall stage. Alex is a highly acclaimed songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and bard.

Lucca Mae and Band, performing on Saturday 13 March 2027, play what has been described as ska-infused soul and are clearly doing something very right, having sold out gigs across the

UK as well as in Australia and Canada. To round the Season off, on Saturday 17 April 2027 we are delighted to welcome Lauren Housley and the Northern Cowboys. Yorkshire singer-songwriter Lauren and her band play an intriguing and brilliant blend of classic Northern Soul, blues rock and old-school Country.

We can't wait to see and hear all these wonderful musicians and hope you feel the same way! As usual, all of the gigs will take place in our very own Village Hall, with doors opening at 7.30 pm for an 8 pm start.

Tickets are now on sale for all performances and are available from www.sombornesessions.co.uk where you can also find more information about our line-up. Season passes, giving admission to every gig of the Season, are also available at the bargain price of £95, which is a big saving across the board. Please note, however, that passes are a special pre-Season deal only. To buy a pass, or for more information, please contact sombornesessions@gmail.com.

Here's to a wonderful sixteenth season of The Sessions!

Peter Duncan

Save OUR Crown

Sadly, as we all know, the Crown remains closed and may remain so for some time. We understand Punch are considering substantial investment and seeking a new tenant for a refurbished Crown. If that happens, King's Somborne will have its pub once more.

However, Punch could decide to sell, creating uncertainty over the Crown's future.

The Parish Council recognises the Crown as an important part of community life and of the historic group including the Grade II listed church, Lutyens war memorial and Parsonage Farm Barns.

Following discussion at the village annual meeting on 6th May, volunteers were invited to investigate the possible community purchase of key village assets, including the Crown.

A group of five volunteers, led by Estelle Hutchinson, has since explored options should Punch decide to sell. They have consulted extensively with Plunkett, which has helped more than 200 communities purchase village pubs over the past 10 years. A nearby example is The Plough at Longparish, now community-owned and profitable.

Their work suggests a successful purchase would likely require Parish Council support, a long-term government loan and a community share offer. A Community Benefit Society would oversee any purchase, business plan, fundraising, refurbishment and future management.

As the Crown is an Asset of Community Value, the community currently has a period in which to bid if it is offered for sale. New legislation is also expected to strengthen communities' rights to buy important local assets.

The Parish Council will support an enlarged volunteer group to explore the option further if Punch decides to sell. We do not know when, or if, that decision will come, but preparation now would be sensible.

Four or five additional volunteers are needed, particularly those with experience in business planning, accounting, property refurbishment, project management, legal or company secretarial matters. Pub, restaurant or hospitality experience would also be very welcome.

If the Crown is sold and the community chooses to buy, this would be a major project requiring considerable effort, but also an opportunity to help secure an important village asset for future generations.

CONTACT ESTELLE AT
ehutchinson96@gmail.com

HAMPSHIRE & THE ISLANDS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

helping to maintain the historic churches in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight
RIDE AND STRIDE 2026

Saturday 12th September 2026

Most of the churches and chapels in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight will be open.

- Have a family fun day out and discover the beautiful churches and chapels on your doorstep, by taking part in a sponsored cycle, walk or journey by car or horseback too if you wish.
- Enjoy a warm welcome along the way!
- Help to preserve our churches for future generations.

Visit the HIHCT website www.hihct.org.uk

or contact Phil Carr on 07860 107012

Family Friday

A new event for your diary

On Friday the 11th of September in St Peter and St Paul's we will be holding the first of our new monthly after school events.



It will run between 3.15pm and 4.30pm on the second Friday of the month and has something for the whole family, especially children. So come along for crafts, chat, singing and more.

P.S. There will be cake!

Apple Meringue Pudding

Very simple and tasty! Serves 4-6

750gms cooking apples, peeled, cored and sliced
50gms granulated sugar
1 jam Swiss roll, sliced
1 lemon, grated rind and juice
2 large egg whites
125gms castor sugar

Method

1. Place apples in saucepan with a little water and granulated sugar. Bring to boil and simmer for about 15 mins until soft.
2. Beat with spoon to form a puree or leave as cooked.
3. Line a 3pt soufflé dish or similar with Swiss roll.
4. Add lemon juice and rind and spread apple on top.
5. Whisk egg whites until stiff, then gradually add the castor sugar. Pile on top of the apples.
6. Bake in preheated cool oven, 200F for 30 mins until meringue is golden.
7. Serve hot preferably or cold.

Add cinnamon, nutmeg or ginger to apple if wanted, to taste!

Enjoy! *D*

TEST VILLAGES U3A

Thursday 3rd Sept in Chilbolton Village Hall

Conservation of the Great Bustards on Salisbury Plain

David Waters' presentation will introduce Great Bustard (one of the heaviest flying birds in the world) that was hunted to extinction in the UK in Victorian times. David will highlight the story of how its restoration and conservation was achieved.

Doors open at 1.40 pm for the presentation followed by refreshments
New members are very welcome to attend our meetings.

U3A is a UK-wide network of groups that provides the opportunity to socialise and learn for fun.

Find out more at: u3a.org.uk, or see the latest on our Test Villages group at:
testvillages.u3asite.uk



Tuesdays 10.00 – 13.00

Jubilee Room Village Hall

Coffee and walnut cake you just can't resist!



Drop In



for a cuppa and a chat
in a friendly, relaxed
atmosphere at the

Epworth Hall!

Every Tuesday

(apart from the second one
in the month)

10.30am to 12 noon.



All proceeds go to charity.

Everyone is welcome!

SATURDAY
5 September 2026
12.30 - 4.30 pm

Otterbourne Brass Band
BBQ Bar Teas
Dog Show Sheep Racing
Tug o' War Laser Tag Axe Throwing
Coconut Shy Golf pitch 'n putt
Tombola Bottle Stall
Books
Produce, Cakes & Jams
Grand Draw

**Come and help us raise funds for
 our church & playground,
 while everyone has fun!**

Longstock Garden Club Committee invites you to an evening with

SARAH EBERLE

'From Show Gardens to Your Gardens'

Tuesday 29th September at 19.30 in Stockbridge Town Hall
(Doors open at 19.00)



Sarah Eberle is the most decorated garden designer in Chelsea history with 14 RHS Chelsea gold medals and four 'Best In' category wins. Sarah was awarded RHS Chelsea Garden of the Year this year for *The Campaign to Protect Rural England: On the Edge* (Photo: courtesy of Mark Spencer). She is one of only three women to have received this prestigious award.

Wine and soft drinks will be available to purchase

Tickets: £10.00 bookable online in advance at:
www.ficketsource.com/longstock-garden-club (small booking fee)
 Free to Longstock Garden Club members



Somborne Padel Tennis Club

- one outdoor, uncovered padel court
- only one mile outside of Kings Somborne
- open all year round
- pavilion with toilets and showers
- available to club members & non-members
- advanced booking essential

If you are new to padel or would like to improve your game, our qualified padel coach is here to help

For details on how to become a member and/or book the court,
please visit our website:

www.thepadelcourtcompany.co.uk/bookingandjoining

or scan our QR code below:



Services for the over 50s

Sue 07891 930 684 & Gill 01794 388 831

Do contact us if you need any support or have anything that is worrying you.

Blue Badge applications, attendance allowance, pension credit, dementia support services etc

Epworth Lunches

Tuesday September 8th

12.30pm £7.00

Coronation Chicken

Jacket Potato* *Green Salad

***Fruit Pie & Custard ***

***Coffee ***

Booking essential - Marilyn 389 356



Over 50s Minibus Trips

Booking essential

Phone Sue 07891930684



Thursday September 17th 2026

Newbury

£10.00 Pick up 10.00am Home for 4.00pm

From The Parish Registers



13 July Funeral of Mrs Pam Monk

30 July Funeral of Ms Susan Everett

15 August Wedding of Michael Scot and Emma Taylor

Harvest Service

All Saints, Little Somborne
Sunday, 20th September at 3.00pm

All welcome — come and join us!
Please bring family and friends.

Parish Home Group

Weekly on Thursdays, 7.30 - 9.00pm during term time

Contact Howard Rowe for details

howard_rowe@btopenworld.com or 01794 388400

Julian Contemplative Prayer Meetings

These meetings are for those, from any faith or none, who are seeking the opportunity to practice silent prayer and contemplation in the companionship of others.

The meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm. The venue is 1 Highfield Cottages, off Strawberry Lane, Up Somborne.

If you would like to know more, please contact Jane Duncan on 01794 388059 or 07766 811 623.

All are very welcome.



Church services in September

Parish Church

Sunday, 6th September—14th
Sunday after Trinity
08.00 a.m. Holy Communion
(1662)

10.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Readings:

Guy Boney: *Ezekiel 33.7-11*

Peter Kent: *Matthew 18.15-20*

Sunday, 13th September—15th
Sunday after Trinity

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings:

Sue Jackson: *Romans 14.1-12*

Linda Aucock: *Matthew 18.21-35*

Sunday, 20th September—16th
Sunday after Trinity

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Readings:

Carol Kent: *Philippians 1.21-30*

Alwena Rowe: *Matthew 20.1-16*

3.00 p.m. Harvest Festival at
Little Somborne

Sunday, 27th September—17th
Sunday after Trinity

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Fi Chilton: *Philippians 2.1-13*

Sandie Pepperell: *Matthew 21.23-32*

Methodist Church

September 6th

10.30am

Rev Catherine Bowstead

Holy Communion

September 13th

10.30am

Mr Tom Belshaw

Harvest Festival

September 20th

No morning service

August 23rd

10.30am

Mrs Elizabeth Britton

September 27th

10.30am

Methodist Women in Britain

Roman Catholic Churches

St Thomas' Stockbridge

St Joseph's Romsey

St Andrew's N. Baddesley

Details of services at RC churches, see:

www.hampshiredowns.org.uk and

www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Change!



Messy Church will now meet on
the 3rd Wednesday of each
month from 3.30-5.30pm,
starting Wed 16th Sept, rather
than on Sundays.

Free fun, crafts, Bible stories
and food for families at the
Methodist Chapel.

The Associate Priest's Last Word

Dear Friends,

As another month unfolds, I want to take a moment to say what a joy it has been to begin getting to know you. Whether we've met at a Sunday service, over a cup of coffee, at a village event, or simply exchanged a friendly wave, every conversation has reminded me what a special community this is.

One of the blessings of a rural parish is the way life is shared. We celebrate together, support one another through difficult times, and appreciate the beauty of God's creation all around us. As the seasons change, they gently remind us that change is part of life too. Some changes are welcome, while others take time to adjust to, but through them all, we can trust that God remains faithful.

As your new priest, I am looking forward to walking alongside you in the months and years ahead. My hope is that our church community will continue to be a place where everyone feels at home - whether you have worshipped here all your life, have recently moved into the area, or are simply curious about faith. There is always a warm welcome waiting.

I would encourage you to join us for one of our services and the many events that take place across the parish. They are wonderful opportunities not only to worship together, but also to enjoy friendship, laughter, and conversation. If you've been thinking about coming along but haven't quite found the moment, perhaps the month of September could be the perfect time.

Please remember that the church is here for the whole community. Whether you would like someone to talk to, whether you are celebrating a happy occasion, or whether you are facing a difficult time, I am always happy to hear from you.

One verse that has been on my mind recently comes from the prophet Isaiah: *"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."* (Isaiah 43:1) These words were first spoken to God's people during a time of uncertainty and change and are a reminder that, whatever lies ahead, God knows each one of us personally and never loses sight of us. My prayer is that, as we journey together, we will grow in faith, encourage one another with kindness and compassion, and become ever more aware of God's presence in our daily lives.

Thank you for the kindness and encouragement so many of you have already shown me. I feel very fortunate to be serving among you, and look forward to getting to know many more of you in the weeks ahead.

May this month bring you moments of peace, reasons for gratitude, and the reassuring knowledge that you are never alone.

May God bless you, your families, and all who live and work in the parish.

Ann

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