



St Andrew's Hagbourne
PARISH MAGAZINE



DECEMBER 2024



*A Happy and Peaceful Christmas
to all our Readers*

St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival

**6th to 14th December – full details in the magazine
together with details of Christmas Services at St Andrew's**

News, Views and Information for everyone in the Hagbournes

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

www.easthagbourne.net

www.westhagbourne.org

CHURCH CALENDAR AND DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2024

The Prayer Intentions this month are for all who live in the Astons and Upton.

Prayer Focus:

Treasurers and church finances.



1 +Sunday

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8am Holy Communion: St Michael's B

9am Parish Eucharist: All Saints' AU

9.15 Lay led Service: St Mary's U

10.30am Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club: St Andrew's H

10.30am All Age Service: St Michael's B

10.30am Parish Eucharist: All Saints' NM

10.30am Online Service

5pm Organ Recital: St Andrew's H

6pm Benefice Advent Carol Service with the Benefice Choir: St Michael's B

6pm Service of the Word: St Andrew's H

2 Monday

8pm online Compline

3 Tuesday

8pm online Compline

4 Wednesday 10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H

8pm online Compline

5 Thursday 7pm Time for Reflection: St Michael's B

8pm online Compline

6 Friday 6pm Carols in the Close: St Andrew's H

8pm online Compline

7 Saturday

St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival begins

10am South Moreton Pre-School Nativity: St John the Baptist SM

8 +Sunday

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.15am Parish Eucharist: St Mary's U

10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's B

10.30am Online Benefice Service

3pm Carols at The Crown: South Moreton

4pm Service of the Word: All Saints' NM

6pm Service of the Word: St Andrew's H



Sidesmen, those who help with hospitality and catering, and Flower arrangers.

9 Monday

8pm online Compline

10 Tuesday

8pm online Compline

11 Weds 10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H

8pm online Compline

12 Thursday

8pm online Compline

13 Friday 7pm The Big Wassail: St Andrew's

8pm online Compline

14 Saturday 4pm Friends of St Mary's: Carols & Readings: St Mary's Upton

15 +Sunday

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's B

10.30am All Age Service: St Andrew's H

10.30am Online Benefice Service

3pm Family Christingle Service followed by tea and cake: St Mary's U

6pm Carol Service: All Saints' NM

6pm Service of the Word: St Andrew's H



Outreach and Parish magazines.

16 Monday

6pm School Carol Concert: St Andrew's H

8pm online Compline

17 Tuesday

6pm Larkmead Vets Carol Concert: St Andrew's H

8pm online Compline

18 Weds

10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H

8pm online Compline

19 Thursday 10am MU Holy Communion: St Michael's B

8pm online Compline

20 Friday

8pm online Compline

21 Saturday

Continued on page 4 . . .

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, HAGBOURNE

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



Rector's Reflections Music at Christmastime

Before we know it, the Christmas season will be fully upon us. Christmas food is already in the shops, as well as a wide variety of Christmas cards. Perhaps you have already made plans for the Christmas period and have begun your Christmas shopping.

And of course there's the Christmas music. I am yet to hear my first Christmas carol, but I'm sure it won't be long. There's something about hearing a Christmas song which really gets us in the mood for celebrating the season.

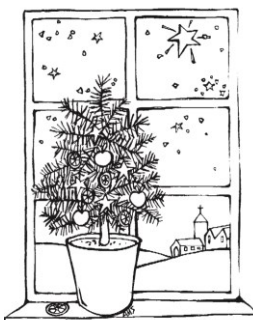
But Christmas music can do more than simply get us into the festive spirit. It also has the power to help us connect with God, and the deeper meaning of the Christmas story. Different types of music will work for different types of people. I wonder what particular music helps you to connect with God. What music gives you a sense of mystery or purpose in your lives, or simply puts a spring in your step and smile on your lips?

Our lives are so busy, but I would encourage us to find some time to enjoy the music of the season. Speaking personally, at this time of year I always make a point of listening to Handel's Messiah. If you have never listened to it, or have not done so for quite a while, let me recommend it to you. I would also recommend listening to some seasonal organ music played on a traditional pipe organ. Most of our local churches have pipe organs, and there's something rather special about hearing them played, especially at this time of year. And of course, nothing quite compares with the sound of a brass band playing carols on a Winter's Day. Locally, we are so fortunate to have the Blewbury Brass Band, and it is a real treat to hear them play. And of course there is the wonderful world of pop music as well, in all its great diversity. I wonder what the Christmas Number One will be?

I think God often uses music to communicate with us – He uses the words or the melody or the rhythm to give us a message. God communicates with us because He loves us. He might be wanting to cheer us up, or to give us a sense of peace, or the glimpse of a world beyond our everyday life.

I wonder what God might be wishing to say to us this Christmas time?

With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year. Father Jason.



Ecumenical Advent group Reflections on some Christmas Carols

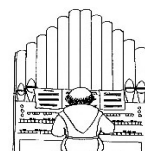
Fridays 6th, 13th and 20th December
10:30 to 12 noon at the home of Jenny Loder

Please let either Jenny or Josie know if you would like to take part.

Anyone is welcome to join us – it is very informal .

Josie Midwinter 01235 759398 or Jenny Loder 01235 510199

Free Organ recitals St Andrew's Church
Every first Sunday of the month at 5pm for thirty minutes
First recital on Sunday 1st December: Christmas music!



Church Calendar and Diary for December 2024

Prayer Focus:

22 +Sunday **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9.15am Parish Eucharist: St Mary's U

10.30am Online Benefice Service

4pm Carol Service: St Michael's AT

4pm Carols by Candlelight: St Michael's B

4pm Service of the Word: All Saints' NM

6pm Informal Carol Service – choose your one Carols!: St Andrew's H

23 Monday

24 Tuesday

CHRISTMAS EVE

11am Baptism: St Andrew's H

3pm & 4pm Crib Services: St Andrew's H

3pm Crib Service: St Michael's AT

4pm Crib Service: St John the Baptist: SM

5pm Crib Service: St Michael's B

10pm Midnight Mass: All Saints' NM

10pm Midnight Mass: All Saints' AU

10.30pm Midnight Mass: St Michael's B

11.30pm Midnight Mass: St Andrew's H

25 Weds

CHRISTMAS DAY

8am Holy Communion: St Michael's B

9.15am Parish Eucharist: St Mary's U

10.30am Parish Eucharist: St John the Baptist SM

10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's B

10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's AT

10.30am All Age Service: St Andrew's H

10.30am Online Christmas Service

26 Thursday

St Stephen, first martyr

27 Friday

S John, Apostle and Evangelist

28 Saturday

The Holy Innocents

29 +Sunday **FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's B

10.30am Online Benefice Service

No Service of the Word at St Andrew's or All Saints' NM today

30 Monday

No online Compline – will resume on 6th January.

31 Tuesday

From 11.30pm - Ringing in the New Year: St Andrew's H



Families, children's outreach, Family Services and Mothers' Union.



No online Compline tonight, will resume on 6th January.

The First Sunday in January 2025

The Prayer Intentions this month are for all who live in West Hagbourne and The Moretons.

(No 10am Wednesday Holy Communion at St Andrew's this week)

5 +Sunday **EPIPHANY**

8am Holy Communion: St Michael's B

9am Parish Eucharist: All Saints' AU

9.15am Lay-led Service: St Mary's U

10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Andrew's H

10.30am All Age Service: St Michael's B

10.30am Parish Eucharist: All Saints' NM

10.30am Online Benefice Service

5pm Organ Recital: St Andrew's H

6pm Service of the Word: St Andrew's H



Giving thanks for all the volunteers in our Churches.



How to contact the Churn Benefice:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Computer, tablet, smartphone <https://meet.goto.com/ChurnBenefice/sundayservice>

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

Weekday evening **Compline** at 8.00pm for 10 minutes. Access via <https://meet.goto.com/312446493>

If you would like to be added to our weekly mailing list to receive the **Churn newsletter**, please contact Elaine or you can sign up here <http://eepurl.com/iEcD8A>.

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

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



Special Services at St Michael's Blewbury during Advent

Everyone welcome to two special candle-lit services led by the Benefice choir with plenty of opportunity to sing and reflect on the true meaning of Advent and Christmas.

The Benefice choir is made up of singers from the whole Benefice.

Advent Carol Service: Sunday 1st December at 6pm

AND ALSO

**A Celebration of Christmas with Carols by Candlelight:
Sunday 22nd December at 4pm** followed by wine and mince pies!

Baptisms in the Benefice

3rd November **Ro Derek Saunders** was baptised at St Michael's, Blewbury.

16th November **Phoebe Clare Sayers** was baptised at All Saints', Aston Upthorpe.

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

Funerals in the Benefice

8th November at St Michael's Blewbury **John Grice** aged 89

19th November at St Mary's Upton **Douglas White** aged 80

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.



Volunteers Needed It's that time of year again! The Christmas Tree Festival is fast approaching and we need volunteers to help construct the tree stands and fix them in position . . . AND . . . then to place the trees in their stands.

The first part will be on **Monday, 2nd December** at 10am. This is when we build the tree stands and put them on the boards. The second part will be on **Wednesday, 4th December**, when the trees need to go up. It is usually around 11am. Please help us if you can. It will be greatly appreciated – even if it is only for 30 minutes! Many hands make light work. **See you there?**

Repair Work on stone wall by the Church Just a brief note to inform you that repair work will have started on the stone wall by the Church on Monday 25th November. I hope this will not inconvenience you too much. I think it would not be advisable to park a car beside the wall while the work is being carried out. Jill Garlick, Churchwarden.

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

This is a popular Service - all welcome.

ROTAS	1st December Advent Sunday	15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent	24th December Midnight Mass	25th December Christmas Day	5th January Epiphany	General Notes
Readers	Jeremiah 33. 14-16 Jeff Powel 1 Thessalonians 3 9-end Justine Shepperson	Zephaniah 3. 14-end Helen Clayson Phillippians 4 4-7 Daniel Dawson	Isaiah 52. 7-10 Doug Amos Hebrews 1 1-4, (5-12) Doug Amos	Isaiah 9. 2-7 Jeff Powell Titus 2 11-14 Justine Shepperson	Isaiah 60. 1-6 Shirley Goss Ephesians 3.1-12 Trevor Goss	<p><i>If unable to do duty, please let your organiser know or find a suitable replacement.</i></p> <p>Help needed please on 2nd and 4th December for preparing the Church for the Tree Festival.</p>
Intercessions	Celebrant	Celebrant	Celebrant	Celebrant	Celebrant	
Sidesmen	Jane Blond Jacqui MacKenzie	Marian Powell Richard Powell		Jane Blond Robin Harries	Trevor Goss Sally Duncan	
Coffee	Jeff Powell Justine Shepperson	Jill Garlick Sally Duncan			Marian Powell Richard Powell	
Church Cleaning	Trees in place – group clean after Festival.					
Flowers Lady Chapel	No Flowers	No Flowers	Trees in place	Trees in place	Alison Davis	
Flowers High Altar	No Flowers	No Flowers	Lynne Carter	Lynne Carter		



Collection for Oxfordshire Homeless

Can you imagine Christmas without a present? Here are some items Homeless Oxfordshire have requested.

The Hamper at St Andrew's will be in place for Advent Sunday, 1st December. If you put your items in the hamper the Action Group will take them to Oxford, where Homeless Oxfordshire will make up personal care boxes and Christmas gifts.

Items needed for personal care boxes: toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower gel, liquid handwash (not soap). New towels, jogging bottoms, hoodies and sweatshirts, socks, underwear. NO second-hand items. Toilet rolls, sanitary items.

Donations by 11th of December please so that the Action Group can get them to Oxford in time to be wrapped for Christmas Day.

Your gift will brighten someone's day!

Homeless Oxfordshire is the county's largest not-for-profit provider of accommodation for people experiencing homelessness throughout Oxfordshire. They also provide a wide range of specialist support services beyond bricks and mortar. **Homeless Oxfordshire** offers an open door when it is needed most and support to help people rebuild their lives.



Christmas Services at St Andrew's

Sunday 22nd December

10.30am online Benefice Service
6pm Informal Carol Service
Choose your own Carols! followed by
mulled wine and mince pies.

Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24th December

Crib Services at 3pm & 4pm
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Wednesday 25th December

10.30am Family Service
10.30am Online Benefice Service

First Sunday of Christmas, 29th December 10.30am Online Benefice Service
Epiphany: Sunday 5th January 10.30pm Parish Eucharist, 6pm Service of the Word

St Andrew's Church welcomes you to our Services



The Crib Services at St Andrew's

Christmas Eve, 24th December 3pm and 4pm

This is the chance for your child to hear the wonderful story of the first Christmas. We are holding a Crib Service at 3pm and at 4pm so that your family can come along to the one that is most convenient to you.

If you would like to, it would be lovely if you could come appropriately dressed as someone in the Nativity story, shepherds, angels etc (animals included!). We will have some spare clothes/props at the Church if needed.

A lovely way to start your Christmas

Online Compline This is a short time of Evening Prayer online every weekday at 8pm – time to wind down from the day and relax. Join using the details from www.churnchurches.co.uk If you go to [What's On](#) and click on [Services](#) you will find the online Compline details to log on. There will be no online Compline on Christmas Day and it will resume on 6th January.

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



Sunday Club In the Parish Room at St Andrew's, Hagbourne on the first Sunday of the month at 10.30am, joining parents in the Church Service later. Bible stories, circle time, drawing, colouring, painting, crafts and more. Ages 4 - 11. Encourages children to interact with each other and adults, make friends, be creative.

A gentle introduction to Christian values.

Next date: Sunday 1st December. ALL WELCOME.



Tower Talk On 8th November a few members of the team attended the Blewbury bellringer's Service and Celebration of the life of Peter Corderoy, a dedicated ringer at Blewbury for many years.

One Sunday evening, in late October, eleven ringers turned up at the tower to ring for Evening Service, so unusual as we sometimes struggle to get six ringers on a Sunday evening. Well done team! Practices are going well with Jill encouraging the team to learn a new method, Double Norwich. Not easy and some are struggling more than others, me included.

The closure of Main Road has not made life easy for some of the team, but some have been walking, some cycling and the others took the scenic drive through Didcot but it did not deter the team. We will be glad when the work is finished though.

On Tuesday 12th November a group of young farmers were due to visit the tower on our practice night but unfortunately had to cancel, they are now coming early next year.



On Sunday 10th November we rang the bells for Remembrance Sunday for Evensong at 6pm, the bells were rung half muffled. A big thank you to John, Daniel and Alan for putting the muffles on for 10th and then for removing on the 16th of November and thank you to John for flying the **St Andrew's** flag for our **Patronal Festival** on the 30th. Shirley Goss.

Birthdays: 13th December - Shirley Goss and Thomas Addison **23rd December** - Rob Abel

Dates for the diary: Friday 13th December – Big Wassail **7pm**

Sunday 31st December – Ringing in the New Year starting at **11:30 pm**

Ringing in the New Year St Andrew's Bellringers will be ringing in the New Year at 11.30pm on Sunday 31st December.

Lovely to hear the bells ringing out to welcome in the New Year.

The Bellringers would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Carols in the Close

6.30pm – Friday 6th December
Church Close, East Hagbourne

Sing along with
Blewbury Brass Band

Followed by the Christmas Tree Festival "Big Switch On"

Mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies and sweet treats for all!
Festival Raffle tickets will be on sale.

IN SUPPORT OF:

Didcot Emergency Food Bank, First Steps Baby Bank & St Andrew's.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:



St Andrew's Church Hagbourne Christmas Tree Festival

6th to 14th December

Trees all around the Hagbournes and in the Church

Church Open
Daily 10 – 4pm
Tea and
Shortbread
12noon to 4pm

Bumper
Festival Raffle
Drawn on 14th
at 3pm.



Carols in
The Close
6.30pm, Friday
6th December.
Lots of events
in the week.

Vote for your
Favourite Tree
20p a Vote.

Supporting: Didcot Emergency Foodbank,
First Steps Baby Bank and St Andrew's Church.
Let's help make a difference while enjoying all the
events at the Christmas Tree Festival.



THANK YOU to our generous sponsors:

Please see the next page for all the events happening at the Christmas Tree Festival and keep in touch with the latest on www.easthagbourne.net and page 15 for details of Didcot Emergency Foodbank and First Steps Baby Bank.

Tree Sitting Rota There will be a Rota List at the back of the Church to enter your name on a day and time if you would like to be on the Tree Sitting Rota. Hourly slots from 12 to 4pm each day. Visitors will be offered tea, coffee and shortbread.

Festival Raffle Tickets Don't forget to buy your Festival Raffle Tickets – available at all the Festival events and at the Community Shop. Lots of good Christmas food prizes and goodies.

Hagbourne Community Choir will be singing carols and seasonal favourites at the Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrew's at 2pm on the 14th of December. Come along and support our local village choir.

2024 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL EVENTS

In addition, the church is open daily and between 10am and 4pm so please do come to enjoy the trees and vote for your favourite.

- Friday 6th Dec** **6:30pm** **Carols in the Close, Church Close, East Hagbourne**
Sing along with Blewbury Brass Band.
Followed by **The Big TreeFest Switch-on.**
- Saturday 7th Dec** **12:00pm** **Soup'n'Tunes Lunch**
Tasty homemade soups and festive tunes from The Mandobuddies and Erica Bevan.
- Sunday 8th Dec** **1:30pm** **Erica Bevan and Young Friends**
Concert by musical stars of tomorrow.
2:30pm **Tea and Cake (Interval)**
3:30pm **Hagbourne & Wallingford Young Pianists**
10th Anniversary Concert by Kate Gooday's Piano Students (and TreeFest23 winners!).
- (also on 8th Dec)** **3:30pm** **Carols in the Farmyard, Manor Farm, West Hagbourne**
Mulled wine, mince pies, and the Farmyard Carollers around an open fire.
- Friday 13 Dec** **7:00pm** **The Big Wassail – 10th Festastic Year**
Carols, poems, songs, tunes . . . and fun!
- Saturday 14 Dec** **12:00pm** **Soup'n'Song Lunch**
Festive songs from Garth Invaders.
2:00pm **Hagbourne Community Choir**
Seasonal favourites as the village sings.
3:00pm **Result of the public vote for favourite tree**
Followed by the **Festival Raffle draw.**
4:00pm **The Festival Closes**
Trees remain in place throughout Christmas.

Note: All events in St Andrew's Church unless otherwise stated.
Don't forget to take your 20p pieces to place a vote for your favourite tree.

Please Support our Generous Festival Sponsors



Arts and Crafts Fair A big thank you to the refreshments team, stall holders, and visitors to the fair (held in St Andrews at the end of October). It was a great success, created a lovely atmosphere in the Church, and a total of £357 was raised for The Friends of St Andrew's.



A very Happy Christmas with all good wishes for the New Year from the magazine committee.



We hope that as many people as possible in East and West Hagbourne are seeing and enjoying the parish magazine which is online on both of the East and West Hagbourne Parish Council websites. Thank you to the Parish Councils for enabling this. We are also emailing copies of the magazine to individuals on request and are also printing some magazines for those without a computer and those who find it easier to have a printed copy. Let us know if you would like to be on our email list or would appreciate a printed copy. (magtemp5@gmail.com)

We would be grateful for any donations towards the production of the magazine and suggest a donation of £6 for the year if you receive it online, or £12 for the year for a printed copy.

It is possible to pay donations or subscriptions by Bank Transfer using the following details:

**Hagbourne Parochial Church Council, Account Number: 30438952
Sort Code: 20-01-09 and please use this reference: "Magazine".**

If you would prefer to pay by cash or cheque, payable to **Hagbourne Parochial Church Council** this can be safely left in the wall box safe in Church (to the left of the door as you enter) or to Peppersfield, 96a New Road, East Hagbourne, 22 Blewbury Road, East Hagbourne or Little Ash, York Road, West Hagbourne. Please put the money or a cheque in an envelope marked "magazine" and if you are paying for a printed copy, please add your name and address on the envelope. Thank you.

Many thanks to all the contributors who send in their varied and interesting articles month by month and many thanks also to our **advertisers** who continue to support the magazine.

The Parish Magazine Committee

Volunteer as a Foundation Governor at Hagbourne C of E School

The local board of Governors at Hagbourne C of E School are looking for a Foundation Governor to join our Board. The role is a voluntary position, and the applicant needs to be a regular Church attendee to meet the Diocese requirements for the role. If you would like the opportunity to give back to the local community and be part of a friendly team that makes a real difference to the local children in the area we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email Chair of Governors, Jemma Dyson on jdyson@hagbourne.oxon.sch.uk to find out more.

Jazz Jam Session at the Fleur

Well! The Jazz Jam was well and truly launched at The Fleur on 13th November, with a strong House Band and a good number of jazz musicians and singers. The standard was very high, and everyone enjoyed a new experience, including a final number of 'Route 66', sung with gusto by the audience.

Semi-professional musicians came from as far as Newbury and north Oxford, and they have all given me feedback to say what a friendly pub The Fleur is, and what friendly people supported this event.

My thanks to Ruth and Darren for agreeing to stage the Jam, which was new territory for them. Also, my thanks to all those who supported the Jam. Musicians generally thrive when supported by an enthusiastic audience!



STOP PRESS: The Fleur will host Jazz Jam sessions on 22nd January, 12th February and 12th March

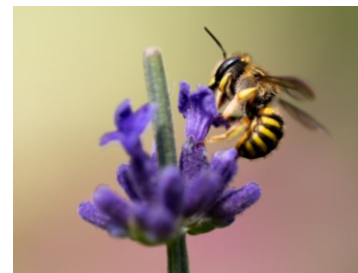
Finally, there seems to be a sizeable appetite in the village for this kind of event, and I am trying to organise a concert in the Church in support of the Friends of St Andrews; more of this later. Peter.

Peter.hands3@btinternet.com

HUGS - Hagbournes and Upton Group for Sustainability

Imagine a world without chocolate Guess what? Cacao plants - which are the source of our chocolate - depend on just one type of midge to pollinate them. So, no midge = no chocolate.

But it's not just chocolate at stake. An incredible 84% of the EU's crops are pollinator-dependent and while global demand for food supply is rocketing, populations of insect pollinators are collapsing. In the UK, our wild bees are especially important pollinators of our crops.



We need to take care of all our local pollinators and provide their larval food plants as well as the habitat they need to survive. So, when you're planning your fruit and veg planting for you to eat, think about the pollinators who pollinate and improve your crops and plant and plan space for them too.

Vital pollinators in the UK include:

- bumble bees • hoverflies • solitary bees • wasps • moths • butterflies • beetles.

And why not come and see pollinators in action on our HUGS tree in the St Andrews Christmas Tree Festival?!

Hagbourne Garden Club A Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year to **all our members**. There will not be a meeting in December so we will meet again on **Thursday 23rd January** at the Pavilion for a talk by Timothy Walker on **The Subtle Art and Exact Science of Pruning**. More details to follow next month. For information call Sally on 01235 352275

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



A Time for Reflection St Michael's Church, Blewbury will be open on Thursday evening **5th December from 7pm to 8pm** for anyone to join a small group for some shared time for reflection, silence and prayers. This is a very informal prayer group where anyone is welcome to come along and share the silence of the beautiful Lady Chapel. Please join us. **This will be happening every month on the first Thursday.** Everyone is welcome.

Joe Corderoy – A Note of Thanks

It was incredible to see so many of you at our father's funeral on October 24th. On behalf of our mother, Janet, I wanted to thank you all for joining us on what was a really hard day. Seeing so many familiar faces from the many walks of our father's life – farming, Rotary, Church, village – was a keen reminder of how much he was loved and how many lives he touched. It helped enormously.

I know that Mum would want to thank so many of you - Thank you to Father Jason for holding the service with such love and kindness, to the bell ringers who accompanied Dad's coffin as it arrived, bringing joy into the sadness, to Peter Mitchell for playing the Organ and to Jane Drewe and Gill Garlick for being such dependable Church Wardens. Thanks too, to Jane Drewe and Anthony Allen for being ushers – your help with such a full church of people was invaluable.

Donations are still coming in for Sobel House. These are being collected by Didcock's Funeral Services Ltd. Thanks to them too, for all they did and to Nina Gaylard, who made sure everyone had plenty to eat and drink at the Wake.

I would also like to thank the many of you who continue to visit and support our Mum. It means a lot. I hope to find the words to write a proper tribute to our father for January's parish magazine. Wishing everyone a kind and gentle Christmas. Gillian Corderoy



East Hagbourne Community Shop

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

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

**East Hagbourne Community Shop and Post Office thank you for your support!
We wish you a joyful Christmas Season and a happy and peaceful 2025**

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS STALL 9am – 12:00 Saturday 14th December

Join us for free mulled wine or juice and minced pies at our festive annual Christmas Bakery Stall while you browse **Heritage breads, savouries, pastries & Christmas treats**. Select thoughtful gifts from **organic guest soaps, children's books and handcrafted pencil cases, adorable knit characters** (concealing a Terry's Chocolate Orange), **festive homemade cakes, gingerbread men** or even **a book of Treefest Raffle tickets** and wrap it all up in our **Village tea towel** or **jute shopper** for memorable – and sustainable – gifting!



Spread Christmas Cheer with **local artist-designed cards!** Choose from the exclusive Shop designs or Linda Benton's latest (£3 for 5) featuring our local villages; or pick a cozy card from Lorraine Drewe or Skillipigs (£2.50 each). Looking for Secret Santa gifts? Tuck **festive treats, local honey** or **Mary's Marmalade** into a stocking or our own **jute shopper**.

Prepaid cards from the PO suit everyone.

And don't forget our **homemade cakes each Thursday** to celebrate each week of the season!



OPERATING SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER AND CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

POST OFFICE:

OPEN: Monday and Wednesday to Saturday 9am – 12:30pm *CLOSED Tuesdays*
Post Office CLOSED 24th December to 5th January
Post Office re-opens 6th January, new January schedule to follow.

SHOP: Monday & Thursday 9am to 4.30pm, Tues/Weds/Friday: 9am to 4pm;
Saturday: 9am to 12.30

Shop OPEN MORNINGS ONLY: Mon – Sat: Dec 24th & 27th - 31st Dec, 9am to 12.30pm

Shop CLOSED: Bank Holidays 25th and 26th December and 1st January



BACK FOR 2024 – Opera-lele warmly invites you to join them for their updated Opera-lele Christmas Show at 7.30pm on Saturday, 14th December, at Hagbourne Village Hall which is suitable for all the family.

The show will feature sizzling operatic highlights alongside festive favourites and carols for all to sing and play along. Come along and get that festive feeling at the jolliest singalong in town! It's the sure-fire way to sprinkle some sparkling seasonal spirit on a dark December day.

A unique blend of opera, ukulele, and lots of laughter. Not to be missed. Please note that you do not have to own or be able to play the ukulele. Just come along and join in the fun.

Tickets and full details available from: <https://tinyurl.com/opera-lele>.

Bus service to the Churchill, Nuffield and Warneford Hospitals

The bus to catch for any of these hospitals from the centre of Oxford is number 15 which is every 1/4 hour during the day, taking 10-12 minutes, longer at busy times.

You can catch it near the entrance to the Covered Market or near Queen's Lane. Those stops work whether you're connecting from Didcot with the Thames Travel X32 or, quicker but more walking, using the train from Didcot. The set down points are announced on the bus; for the Warneford, Warneford Road; for the Churchill, Roosevelt Drive; for the Nuffield, the stop is further on, called Lime Walk, and is actually in Old Road near the Old Road entrance to the hospital. **The website for the 15** is <https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/services/OXBC/15>, where you can also find a useful bus map and even live information. When using the X32 to Oxford, it's also possible to connect with the 15 near the Police Station, generally fewer people trying to get on at once.

Hagbourne Bridge Club If you can play bridge but haven't done so for a while – give us a go!

If you have never learnt to play bridge but would like to give it a try – why not come and see us? We meet every Thursday in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. We have a break around 8.30pm for light refreshments and usually finish playing cards by 10pm. It will cost you £3. We look forward to seeing you. We are: Jill Garlick – 07873431144 hjgarlick@gmail.com and Shirley Goss – 815605 shirley.goss@btinternet.com

TABLE TENNIS at the Pavilion: Join our friendly table-tennis group at the Pavilion for exercise and fun on Tuesday mornings. We play from 10am to 12noon, £2 per session. All ages, skills, welcome; bats available. More info from Julian 01235 813599 jgallop@freeuk.com Anthony 01235 511920 aannanjones@gmail.com

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

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

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

SING & CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT
THE BIG WASSAIL
 7:00PM – FRIDAY 13TH DEC. IN THE CHURCH

A Fun Evening of Music, Song and Words

Carols,
 Mulled Wine
 and Nibbles
 for all!



Suggested
 Donations of
 £ 5.00 each

A **TreeFest** event in support of the church, The Didcot
 Emergency Food Bank and First Steps Baby Bank



Kindly Sponsored By



St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival



Carols in the Farmyard



Sunday 8th December 3.30pm
at Manor Farm, West Hagbourne

Come and enjoy mulled wine, mince pies and carol singing
 with the Farmyard Carollers around an open fire.

Christmas Tree Festival Finale

Saturday 14th December at St Andrew's



12pm Soup'n'Song Lunch.
2pm Hagbourne Community Choir.
3pm Result of the vote for the favourite tree
 followed by the Festival Raffle draw.
4pm The Festival closes.
Trees remain in place throughout Christmas

Supporting: Didcot Emergency Foodbank,
 First Steps Baby Bank and St Andrew's Church.



THANK YOU to our generous sponsors:



Didcot Emergency Foodbank

The Didcot Emergency Foodbank is at The Didcot Baptist Church, 43 Wantage Road, Didcot. OX11 0BS Telephone 01235 813187. Email: office@didcotbaptist.org.uk

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

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

Contact details if you need to use the Foodbank or you would like to make a donation:

You can leave a message on the Baptist Church Office answering machine on 01235 813 187 or you can email the Foodbank: foodbank@didcotbaptist.org.uk or use the [contact form](#) on the website.

All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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

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

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

Wednesday Sewing Class Places available in The Wednesday Sewing Class for complete beginners through to the more experienced sewer. The class is from 12:30 to 3:30 in the Hagbourne Village Hall. Places available for the Spring term which starts on 15th January 2025. Please contact sue.somani@sky.com 07748 771188

Ladies Thirsty Thursday (LTT) The Ladies Thirsty Thursday meets on the third Thursday of each month in The Fleur from 7.30pm for a friendly drink (or two) and an opportunity to meet other ladies in the village. Everyone is welcome, so come and join us, and spread the word. and we look forward to seeing you at the next gathering which will be on **Thursday 19th December.**

Hagbourne Village Hall

Serving East and West Hagbourne for nearly 100 years.

Our village hall is home to a range of activities for all ages, including Pre-School, HAMS drama group, Cubs/Scouts and brownies, yoga, dance, bridge etc. It can also be hired for occasional events and celebrations. Our AGM on 11th November produced a lively discussion and showed that the activities and the finances of the facility are in good health - the Hall clearly achieves its charitable objective of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants of our parishes.

Following the retirement of our long-serving Chairman, we are working to share the management tasks more effectively. We welcomed one new member to our Management Committee at the AGM, but to keep this thriving enterprise alive, we really do need more, especially as some of our members have served for many years and are nearing retirement.

No prior experience is needed, just a willingness to do your bit for the community - and it does not have to be onerous. If you are interested in learning more, please contact hagbournevh@gmail.com or talk to any member of our team with no obligation.

Comments from the East Hagbourne Parish Council Chairman

Footpaths and CIL money The effective reconstruction of Footpath 12 from Fieldside to the top of Parsonage Lane (the two streams) was completed a couple of weeks ago and is now being used regularly by many villagers. Significant improvements to Footpath 15 from Fieldside to the Lower Cross (Grange Path) were completed at the same time.

This was done using around £20,000 of your CIL money, the levy we get from new buildings. As of the last Parish Council meeting, there was £278,788.15 in the CIL kitty, so the £20,000 expenditure on these footpaths did not make a great dent on the sum. In fact the feedback that I have had at surgeries and talking to residents is that repairs to footpaths and to footways (aka pavements) are of high priority and are a good use of this CIL windfall, boosted hugely by the development by the village school.

We already are discussing what to do next and could certainly spend a good proportion of our money on footways which are much more expensive to upgrade. However, as we discussed at the Annual Parish meeting this year, there are other things on which this money, that has to be spent on village infrastructure by the 2028/2029 time frame, can be used. Included in the discussion paper for the APM (look under draft minutes for APM on website) were a selection of possibilities including (in no order of preference): vehicle activated signs (VAS), information boards promoting village heritage and environment, a new footpath to the cemetery, a refurbishment of the bus shelter by Lower Cross, upgrade to play area in recreation ground including facilities for older children or adults. Please keep your feedback coming on what you feel we should be doing with the CIL money.

Housing development opposite school Unless we have more visits from Storm Bert successors, the current schedule for the site is that, by December 9th, all the roads will be surfaced, the mounds of earth near the entrance will be flattened or removed, some landscaping will be done including planting of trees, and the ground where the Marketing Office used to be will be made good. The people on site now are the main contractors of Deanfield, Agetur, who are now the only presence on site. New plans for the playground have just been agreed with the district council and this will be installed in January in the area of the old Marketing Office. Grass seeding will be done in springtime.

On the sales and occupancy side, there are three parties: Deanfield (33 properties), Fairhive Homes (22 rental properties and eight shared-ownership), and Green Square Accord (11 shared ownership). For Deanfield, three of the currently four unoccupied properties have been sold, and two will soon be occupied. For Fairhive, all houses will soon be occupied, and for GSA, only three properties seem unoccupied.

Parish Surgeries Because of the festive season there will be no surgery in December. However I will be around the village and in the Fleur often during the next few weeks and you are welcome to discuss parish issues at any time. As a heads up, it is currently planned that the next parish surgery will be in the Fleur de Lys on Friday 17th January from 5.00 to 6.30 pm. As always, feel free to contact me (iain.duff@easthagbourne.net), the clerk or any other councillor should you have urgent concerns.

Parish Council meetings The next meeting will be held starting at 7.30pm on Thursday 5th December. Because the District Council elections are happening that day, the Parish Council meeting will exceptionally take place in the small hall of Hagbourne Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to join the meeting, and the agenda is posted on village notice boards and the village web pages at least three clear days before the meeting.

Let me remind you that this is not a formal or even approved article from the Parish Council but is rather a few words from me. Thus, anything in this article should not be construed as coming from or endorsed by the Parish Council. Iain Duff



**East
Hagbourne
Parish
Council**

NEWSLETTER No.268 – December 2024

CONTACT DETAILS:

Parish Clerk, Laura Lloyd

Telephone: 07891 551 851

Email: easthagbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com



EAST AND WEST HAGBOURNE CEMETERY

Following the surface water flooding in the cemetery as a result of Storm Henk in January this year, the Cemetery Committee has been investigating possible options to alleviate this issue, as we appreciate how distressing it can be for visitors.

The committee has been liaising with the grave digger and a specialist cemetery drainage company to determine the best course of action. In the short term, there is no quick fix solution, but we have been advised to continue using the new plots within the central part of the cemetery as the ground meets all regulations for burials. Please be assured that the matter is being taken very seriously.

The initial specialist drainage survey has proposed a drainage scheme which will improve the discharge of surface water, but due to the level of investment required, the committee is looking at possible funding options. As the cemetery is jointly owned by East and West Hagbourne Parish Councils, the Cemetery Committee will be seeking an agreement in principle from both Parish Councils to move forward with the drainage works, as well as a commitment to contribute to the works in the event that no alternative funding is available.

Unfortunately, extreme weather conditions that can lead to flooding are increasing in frequency, and other local cemeteries are also currently dealing with similar issues. Thank you for your understanding regarding this sensitive matter.



ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE:

SOFEA Didcot Community Larder is open on Thursdays see [here](#) for information

Didcot Emergency Foodbank is open at Didcot Baptist Church on Tuesdays & Fridays, see [here](#)

First Steps Baby Bank at Didcot Baptist Church on Tuesdays and Fridays, see [here](#) for information

Cost Of Living Crisis An SODC page with a range of advice and support can be found [here](#)

The Community Hub can assist with isolation and financial help. Details can be found [here](#)

Warm Welcome Space at Didcot Library, see further info [here](#) for opening times and other venues

Hagbourne Charities – hagbourne.charities@gmail.com or 01235 814024

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

East Hagbourne (Coronavirus) Community Support Group - easthagbournecovid19@gmail.com or 07568 395228



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

Outside the Village Shop at 114 New Road **Hagbourne Village Hall** (next to the main entrance)

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

In an emergency, call 999 – they will give you the access code.



USEFUL INFORMATION LINKS

<https://www.fixmystreet.com/> for reporting a wide variety of issues from potholes to fly tipping.

<https://publicrightsofway.oxfordshire.gov.uk/standardmap.aspx> can be used to report an issue with a countryside path or public right of way.

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

Get the **Binzone** app on your mobile to receive notifications of bin services in East Hagbourne

<https://one.network/> for checking roadworks in the area

Planning applications received since the last newsletter:

P24/S3496/FUL Hagbourne Village Hall - Replacement insulated metal roof and external wall insulation

P24/S3566/HH 28 Blewbury Road, East Hagbourne - Erection of single storey extension to dwelling

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 5th December 2024 at HAGBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

All Council meetings are open to the public and we welcome your participation.

Agendas and Minutes of previous meetings are published at www.easthagbourne.net



JANUARY 2025 PARISH MAGAZINE

Please let us have copy for the January 2025 parish magazine by
Wednesday 18th December to magtemp5@gmail.com
Thank you, the magazine committee.

Builders and House Maintenance

D. BARTLETT BUILDING SERVICES Customer driven and friendly local builder for all your general building needs from kitchens, bathrooms and plastering to extensions and loft conversions. Please contact David Bartlett on **07816 413166**
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Landline: 01235 817239 www.pipesandwires.co.uk

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sarah@frenchbeanies.co.uk **www.frenchbeanies.co.uk**

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