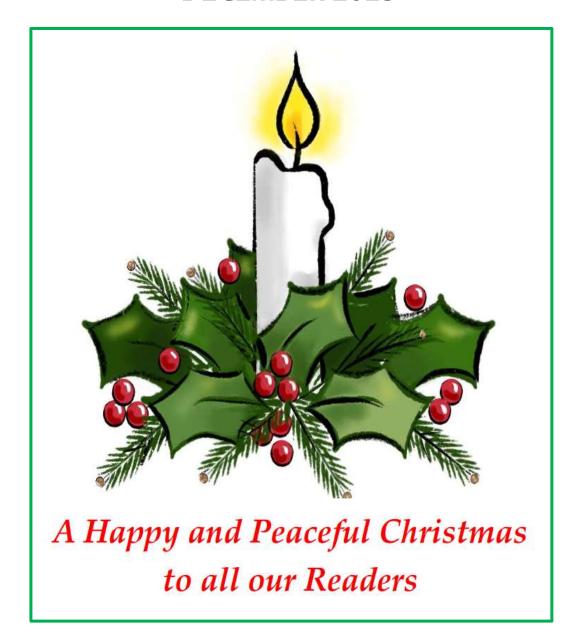


St Andrew's Hagbourne

PARISH MAGAZINE



DECEMBER 2025



St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival

5th to 13th 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 and Coscote

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

www.easthagbourne.net

www.westhagbourne.org

CHURCH CALENDAR AND DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2025

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

Prayer Focus:

Our worship,

organists and

Churchwardens,

fabric and

churchyards.

musicians,

choirs.

1 Monday Christmas Tree Festival: St Andrew's H
 2 Tuesday
 3 Wednesday
 10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H
 8pm online Compline
 8pm online Compline
 8pm online Compline

WI Carols: St Michael's B

4 Thursday 7pm Time for quiet and reflection: Lady Chapel at St Michael's B

8pm online Compline

5 Friday 6.30pm Carols in the Close: St Andrew's H 8pm online Compline

6 Saturday 2.30pm Soup Lunches: St Andrew's H

7 +Sunday SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 and Sunday Club: St Andrew's H

10.30am All Age Service: Blewbury Primary School

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

8 Monday Christmas Tree Festival: St Andrew's H 8pm online Compline

9 Tuesday 8pm online Compline 10 Weds 10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H 8pm online Compline 11 Thursday 8pm online Compline

12 Friday 7pm The Big Wassail: St Andrew's H 8pm online Compline

13 Saturday Christmas Tree Festival Finale: St Andrew's H

14 +Sunday THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.15am Parish Eucharist: St Mary's U 10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's B

10.30 am NO Parish Eucharist: at St John the Baptist: SM due to carols.

10.30am Online Benefice Service

3pm Carols at the Crown, South Moreton 4pm Service of the Word: All Saints' NM 6pm Informal Carol Service: St Andrew's H

15 Monday 8pm online Compline 16 Tuesday 8pm online Compline 17 Weds 10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H 8pm online Compline

7.30pm Fellowship by the fire: Charity School House, Blewbury.

18 Thursday 10am MU Holy Communion: St Mary's U 8pm online Compline 19 Friday 8pm online Compline

20 Saturday Continued on page 4 . . .



The Churn Benefice's Churches are:

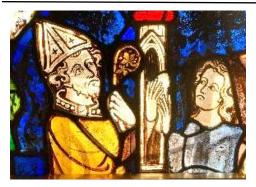
St Andrew's Hagbourne (H), St Mary's Upton (U), St Michael's Blewbury (B), All Saints' Aston Upthorpe (AU), St Michael's Aston Tirrold (AT), St John the Baptist South Moreton (SM), All Saints' North Moreton (NM)



DECEMBER 2025

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.



St Nicholas in the Chantry Chapel Window, All Saints' North Moreton. Photo courtesy of Nick Sanders

Rector's Reflections Children, Sailors and the 6th December

As you read this piece, you may well be wondering: what is the connection between Children, Sailors and 6th December?

The answer lies in St Nicholas, whose feast day is on the 6th December. St Nicholas is the patron saint of children and of sailors. Apparently, Churches dedicated to St Nicholas are often found near the coast, and some at least were built so that they could be seen from the sea.

Unfortunately, hardly anything is known about the real St Nicholas, beyond the fact that he was Bishop of Myra and died in c.326. By the 12th Century, he had become a very popular saint in Western Europe. Locally, a Church was dedicated to him in Abingdon and he also appears in the Chantry Chapel window in All Saints' North Moreton.

One of the stories associated with St Nicholas is that he provided dowries for three young women, in the form of bags of gold, so that they could get married. Sometimes this story is illustrated by a picture of three children standing in a tub at the saint's side. This probably explains why St Nicholas is regarded as the patron saint of children. Over the centuries, a custom arose of giving children gifts on his feast day, 6th December, and this is the origin of Santa Claus, "Santa Claus" being a popular form of "St Nicholas".

So what might this have to say to us today? Why should anyone be interested in an obscure saint, about which hardly anything is known for certain?

Various answers could be given to this question, but the answer I wish to focus on is the importance of protecting and caring for children. St Nicholas is the patron saint of children. Children are always in a vulnerable position, being dependent on adults for their care, education and general well-being. Sadly, some children find themselves in situations where they are particularly vulnerable. Our schools and social services do wonderful work caring for vulnerable children, but ultimately the care of children is the responsibility of all of us. We all have a responsibility to care for the young people in our society.

I wonder if we might spend some time on 6th December to think about the young people in our own lives. How can we support and encourage them? How might we show that we care? I suspect that we will not be in a position to hand out bags of gold, but all of us will be able to do something to make a positive difference in the life of a child or young adult. Sometimes it is a simple as showing an interest and being willing to listen. *Father Jason*

Informal Carol Service at St Andrew's Sunday 14th December at 6pm

Come along and choose your favourite carols to sing at our informal evening Carol Service, all welcome.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the Service.



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

Church Calendar and Diary for DECEMBER 2025 continued . . .

Prayer Focus:

lead.

Clergy and all

who preach or

21 +Sunday FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9am NO Service at St Michael's AT due to 4pm Carols

9.15am NO Service at St Mary's U 10.30am All Age Service: St Andrew's H

10.30am NO morning Service at St Michael's B due to 4pm Carols

10.30am Online Benefice Carol Service 4pm Carol Service: St Michael's AT

4pm Carols by candlelight: St Michael's B

6pm Carol Service: All Saints' NM

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

22 Monday 8pm online Compline 23 Tuesday **8pm Last online Compline for the year!** We will resume on Monday 5th

January.

24 Weds **CHRISTMAS EVE**

10am NO Holy Communion: St Andrew's H

3pm Crib Service: St Andrew's H 3pm Crib Service: St Michael's AT 4pm Crib Service: St Andrew's H

4pm Crib Service: St John the Baptist: SM

4pm Crib Service: St Mary's U 5.45pm Crib Service: St Michael's B 9pm Midnight Mass: All Saints' NM 10pm Midnight Mass: All Saint's AU 10pm Midnight Mass: St Michaels' B 11.30 Midnight Mass: St Andrew's

25 Thursday 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 Friday 27 Saturday



28 +Sunday FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10.30am Parish Service: St Michael's B 10.30am Online Benefice Service

4pm NO Service of the Word: All Saints' NM 6pm NO Service of the Word: St Andrew's H

29 Monday 30 Tuesday

31 Weds 10am NO Holy Communion: St Andrew's H

8pm Short online Prayer Service for the New Year

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 wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year







PCC's, all in

Operations

Manager.

leadership and

CHURCH CALENDAR AND DIARY FOR JANUARY 2026

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

Prayer Focus:

Giving thanks for all the

volunteers in

our Churches.

1 Thursday

2 Friday

3 Saturday

8pm NO online Compline 8pm NO online Compline

4 +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 and 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 Benefice Service 5pm Organ Recital: St Andrew's H 6pm Service of the Word: St Andrew's H

5 Monday

8pm Online Compline returns

Churchwardens chatter Apparently I'm not the only one that thinks that January 2025 was only last week!!! So much going on and so fast! Our monthly organ recitals get better and better. And didn't we all enjoy the special one with our two special visitors? Of course, our other "extra normal Services" continue e.g. Pet Service, Harvest Festivals etc as do our more social occasions e.g.Lent Lunches, Summer Teas, Jazz Concerts, Art and Craft Day. This year Justine introduced us to a new, to us, evening - A Light Party! I so hope we continue with this in 2026.

Routine matters also proceed efficiently, supported significantly by the Friends of St Andrew's. I'm not sure that we could look after our Church building so well without their assistance. The exterior stonework continues to be maintained, and Jane does a great job of landscaping the church yard. How lucky we are to have such good friends! The ones we could do without are the ones who stole the lead from the porch, and we are in the process of deciding what to do regarding its repair. A very big thank you to the lovely gentleman who voluntarily fixed a temporary waterproof covering. I hope next year does not go quite so fast but I'm looking forward to all the great things that may befall us. **Happy Christmas from your Churchwardens, Jill and Jane**.

Advent Collection for the Oxfordshire Homeless The hamper will be in St Andrew's during Advent for donations. **Please see page 17 for details of what to give** and place your items in the basket so that we can take them to O'Hanlon House in Oxford in time for Christmas. Thank you, The Hagbourne Action Group.

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



St Andrew's Tower Talk

On Sunday 9th November we rang the bells for Remembrance Sunday for Evensong at 6:00, the bells were rung half muffled. A big thank you to John, Daniel and Alan for putting the muffles on. Whites of Appleton were due to come in to inspect the bells on Monday 10th November so unfortunately the muffles would not be on the bells for the Tuesday practice.

Shirley Goss.

Birthdays: 13th December – Shirley Goss and Thomas Addison.

23rd December – Rob Abel.

Dates for your Diary: Friday, 12th December – The Big Wassail.

Sunday, 31st December – Ringing in the New Year starting at 11.30am.



The Bellringers would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Prosperous and safe New Year



Free organ recitals at St Andrew's Hagbourne

Every first Sunday of the month at 5pm.

Next recitals:

7th December at 5pm: Organist: Charles Kingston 4th January at 5pm: Organist: Andrew Walker

Everyone welcome!





New Year's Eve Online Service - 31st December 2025 at 8pm

using the compline link https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/312446493
Please join us for our Service of 2025 as we take time to reflect on the last year together and ask God's blessing on the year ahead.

Baptisms in the Benefice

2nd November **Archie William Bernard Sturt** was baptised at St Michael's, Aston Tirrold. 20th November **Patrick Guy Allen Napper** was baptised at St Michael's Blewbury *May God's blessing of peace and joy be with them and protect them all of their days*

Wedding in the Benefice

2nd November **Matthew Duckett** and **Shayini Surendrakumar** were married at St Michael's Blewbury. *We pray for God's blessing on them as they continue to build their lives together*

Funerals in the Benefice

7th November at St Michael's Blewbury **Bernard Mattimore** aged 91
12th November at St John the Baptist South Moreton/South Oxfordshire Crematorium

Patricia (Ticia) Thomas aged 86



May they rest in peace and rise in glory

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

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

HUGS - Hagbournes and Upton Group for Sustainability

The gift of nature

As Christmas approaches, we're thinking of what to give loved ones to celebrate. But if look outside our homes, nature is continuously giving us gifts, especially in terms of health benefits. Every human sense feeds off nature -

- **Sight:** the colour of flowers and trees, reflections on water.
- **Sounds:** birds singing, leaves crunching underfoot.
- Smell: scent from flowers, the smell of rain.
- Touch: the texture of bark, the feel of soil in our hands.
- **Taste:** all of the food that nature provides, such as locally grown apples and cider.



Chaffinch singing

And according to scientists, these natural gifts should start early in our lives. Researchers in Finland have been investigating the health benefits of time spent in nature for nursery aged children. Some nurseries removed asphalt and other artificial surfaces and instead brought in soil, moss, trees and other plants to create a natural environment. Children spent time outside, played in the mud, grew and ate plants and got muddy. During a year of research, these children were compared to those who played in other nurseries, on just asphalt, gravel and plastic mats outside. The results show that the children with a 'rewilded' space were healthier on several counts, they had stronger immune systems and better gut microbiota.

So, let's give ourselves the gift of nature and see how much time we, our children, our grandchildren, can spend outside, to boost our own health.

Source – https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/oct/29/soil-sandpit-children-dirty-biodiversity-finnish-nurseries-research-microbes-bacteria-aoe
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/oct/29/soil-sandpit-children-dirty-biodiversity-finnish-nurseries-research-microbes-bacteria-aoe
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Carols in the Close

6.30pm - Friday 5th 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:

Friends of Hagbourne Pool and St Andrew's Church

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:













Christmas Services at St Andrew's

Sunday 14th December

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

Sunday 21st December

10.30am All Age Service **6pm Service of the Word**

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December

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

Christmas Day Thursday 25th December 10.30am All Age Service First Sunday of Christmas 28th December 10.30am online Benefice Service Epiphany Sunday 4th January 10.30am 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 came 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

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.



Sunday Club In the Parish Room, 10.30am St Andrew's

On the first Sunday of the month, 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 dates: Sunday 7th December and 4th January

ALL WELCOME

St Andrew's Church Hagbourne

Christmas Tree Festival

5th to 13th December

Trees all around the Hagbournes and in the Church

Church Open Daily 10 — 4pm

> Tea and Shortbread 10am to 4pm

Bumper Festival Raffle

Orawn on the 13th at 3pm



Carols in The Close

6.30pm Friday 5th December Lots of events all of the week

Vote for your Favourite Tree 20p a Vote.

Supporting: Friends of Hagbourne Pool and St Andrew's Church.

Let's all 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 Don't forget to bring your 20p coins in order to vote for your favourite tree!

Tree Sitting Rota There is 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 are from 10 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 Saturday 13th of December, part of the final day of the Festival. Come along and support our local village choir. Enjoy a cup of tea and a cake.

2025 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL EVENTS

In addition, the Church is open daily from 6th December, between 10:00am and 4:00pm, so please come to enjoy the trees and vote for your favourite (please bring a 20p piece with which to vote).

There will even be tea and shortbread!

Tuesday 2nd Dec	2:00pm to 6:00pm	Collect your Tree from the Hagbourne Pavillion at the Recreation Ground.		
Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th Dec	6:00pm & 8:00pm	Wreath & Centrepiece Workshops at the Church. Festive, creative and fun		
Friday 5th Dec	6:30pm	Carols in the Close, Church Close, next to the Church Sing along with Blewbury Brass Band Followed by The Big TreeFest Switch-on.		
Saturday 6th Dec	12:00pm	Soup'n'Tunes Lunch. Tasty homemade soups and festive tunes.		
Sunday 7th Dec	1:30pm	Erica Bevan and Young Friends. Piano concert by musical stars of tomorrow		
	3:00pm	Hagbourne & Wallingford Young Pianists. Concert by Kate Gooday's piano students		
(also on 7th Dec)	3:30pm	Carols on the Farm, York Farm, West Hagbourne. Mulled wine, mince pies, and the Farmyard Carollers (venue weather-dependent).		
Friday 12th Dec	7:00pm	The Big Wassail – Sing Your Head Off! Carols, poems, music, dance and fun!		
Saturday 13th Dec	12:00pm	Soup'n'Tunes Lunch. Festive tunes from The Mando Buddies		
	2:00pm	Hagbourne Community Choir. Bi-annual concert by the village singers		
	3:00pm	Awarding the Trophy 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 Andrews Church unless otherwise stated

Huge Thanks To Our Generous Festival Sponsors







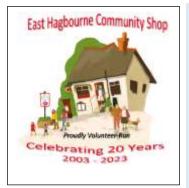




Hagbourne Barn Dance Club an evening of Traditional English Dance is usually held on the third Friday of the month at the Hagbourne Village Hall at 8pm to 11pm. Please bring your own mug and plate. **Next session: 19th December.**

Hagbourne Garden Club wish everyone a Happy Christmas and look forward to meeting in the New Year on Thursday, 22nd January at the Pavilion – details in the January magazine.

East and West Hagbourne sparkling! There will be over 130 Christmas Trees lighting up gardens in the villages as part of the Christmas Tree Festival – thank you to all who have purchased a tree and helped to light up the villages for Christmas for us all to enjoy.



East Hagbourne Community Shop

For over 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 in 1 or 2 hours a month:

email Alice at alice.w.smith@gmail.com or 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 merry Christmas, and a happy and peaceful 2026

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS STALL 9am – 12:00 Saturday 13th December

Join us for free mulled wine or juice and minced pies at our festive annual Christmas Bakery Stall! Browse freshbaked Heritage breads, savouries, pastries and **Christmas treats** for your upcoming gatherings.

Pick up exclusive locally crafted festive treats featuring *NEW* Style Acre Chili Jam, Pear & Date **Chutney, Piccalilli and petite Christmas Cakes** handmade in the Style Acre kitchen by the people they support, paired with fresh-pressed Kings Piece Pear Juice from Harwell or honey from Hagbourne hives.

Select thoughtful gifts from organic guest soaps, handcrafted pencil cases, adorable knit characters (concealing a Terry's Chocolate Orange), festive homemade biscuits or cupcakes, complete with Tree Festival raffle tickets, all wrapped up in our Village tea towel inside our jute shopper for memorable and sustainable gifting!







Spread Christmas Cheer with **local artist-designed cards!** Choose from exclusive Shop designs featuring our local villages, such as Craig Barfoot's evocative snow-bound photos, Linda Benton's soulful night train or Stuart Granger's festive scenes, or tuck prepaid gift cards from the PO into a cozy card from local designers Lorraine Drewe or Skillipigs.

Heritage Bakery available each Saturday Pre-order artisanal breads, savouries and pastries by 4pm Wednesday for collection the following Saturday – or swing by Saturday at 9 to view our weekly selection. Pre-order in Shop or by email to easthagbourneshop@gmail.com. Products and allergen details in Shop or at easthagbourne.net. *No Delivery Available 27 Dec*

Operating Schedule for December and Christmas Holiday Schedule

Post Office: Mon & Wed – Sat, 9–12:30pm and Mon & Thu 1:15–4:45pm. Closed Tuesday

Shop: Mon & Thu: 9am – 4:30pm; Tue/Wed/Fri: 9am – 4pm; Sat: 9 – 12:30pm

Holiday Schedule Post Office: 9:30am to 12pm Christmas Eve, then 29th - 31st December.

Shop: 9am to 12pm Christmas Eve, then 29th - 31st December

Post Office and Shop CLOSED for Bank Holidays 25th - 27th Dec & 1st Jan Regular hours resume on 2nd January, 2026



A very Happy Christmas with all good wishes for the New Year from the parish 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 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 on (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 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

Update on Projects Supported by the Village Fund Each year the Fun Run raises money for Cancer Research and the Village Fund which helps groups and individuals in our community. Over 2025, we are delighted to have funded the recent installation of the bike racks in the Village Hall car park, plus we have also provided financial assistance to the school, including contributing to the school pool refurbishment fund.



In addition, we have supported two further local causes to help with damage to property and renovation work in aid of disability support. If you are based in the village and are looking to raise money please send us an email to haybournevillagefund@gmail.com and we will see if we can help.

CHURCH ROTAS	7th December 2nd Sunday of Advent	21st December 4th Sunday of Advent	4th January Epiphany	General Notes: Christmas Mass
Readers	Isaiah 11 vv 1-10 Jenny Loder Romans 15, vv 4-13 Sally Duncan	Isaiah 7 vv 10-16 Jenny Smith Romans 1 vv 1-7 Margaret Antcliff	Isaiah 60 vv1-6 Shirley Goss Ephesians 3 1-12 Trevor Goss	and Morning Service readers and sidesmen to be arranged
Intercessions	Celebrant	Jenny Smith	Celebrant	- be arranged
Sidesmen	Trevor Goss Sally Duncan	Marian Powell Richard Powell	TBA	If unable to do duty, please let your
Coffee	Marian Powell Richard Powell	Jill Garlick Sally Duncan	Shirley Goss Helen Clayson	organiser know or find a suitable
Flowers Lady Chapel	No Flowers	No Flowers	Christmas Trees to be removed	replacement.
Flowers High Altar	No Flowers	25th December Lynne Carter	Christmas Trees to be removed	



St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival



Carols in the Farmyard



Sunday 7th December 3.30pm at York Farm, West Hagbourne

Come and enjoy mulled wine, mince pies and carol singing with the Farmyard Carollers (venue weather-dependent)

Christmas Tree Festival Finale

Saturday 13th 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: Friends of Hagbourne Pool and St Andrew's Church



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS











Comments from the East Hagbourne Parish Council Chairman

Parish Council Car Park Two major changes have been made to the Parish Council Car Park by the Hagbourne Village Hall. One is to provide three handicap spaces that are far more accessible than what were there before, when one by the Village Hall fence was effectively inaccessible. That space has now been used to install five racks for bicycles. We are indebted to the Hagbourne Village Fund for both covering the cost for the racks and for organizing and paying for the installation.

Footpath monitoring Oxfordshire Ramblers have an established network of Parish Path Wardens (PPW). This initiative is entirely independent of parish councils and PPWs report issues directly to the OCC Countryside Access Service (CAS). The intention is that they monitor footpaths in the parish on a regular basis, get information from CAS on any outstanding 'unresolved' reported problems, and send feedback to CAS using their online reporting tool CAMSWeb. The volunteers are permitted and indeed encouraged to have secateurs to carry out light trimming on any vegetation that is in their way.

East Hagbourne recently joined the network of PPW's, and we currently have a team of 8 wardens who between them coordinate regular checks on our extensive network of footpaths in the parish and record any issues. Although independent of the Parish Council, they interact on a regular basis with the council. This is very useful for the council and village to identify where both minor and major improvements are required.

Speed survey You will probably have seen wires across the road in the village last month. These were to record traffic volume and speeds at five locations, two on Main Road and Blewbury Road, and one on New Road. We have just received the output data from these from Oxfordshire Traffic Monitoring Team and are starting to analyse it to see whether there is a traffic speed issue and what then might be done to alleviate this.

Strange happenings on FP 2. STOP PRESS: The fence on FP 2 is now no longer! The deadline for the enforcement action by OCC on the removal of the fencing and gate on FP 2 by Butts Piece was on 22nd November. The Countryside Access Team of OCC acted very swiftly on the enforcement and the fence and gate were very efficiently removed on 25th November just as this magazine was going to press. So, a big thank you to OCC for their prompt action on this. We are now formally requesting that the seat and rubbish bin can be restored to their original positions. And, by the way, we are still no wiser as to who was behind the original installation! However, they are now invited by OCC to reclaim the material and to pay for the removal costs.

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 16th 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 of East Hagbourne Parish Council will be held in the Pavilion in the Recreation Ground starting at 6.00pm on Thursday 11th December. Members of the public are welcome to join the meeting and the agenda is posted on village notice boards and the village web pages at least three clear days before the meeting.

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

HAMS wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and look forward to entertaining you in the New Year. Come and see our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival. Lots more news of our 2026 production in the next magazine.

To join our mailing list, drop us a line at info@thehams.co.uk.



NEWSLETTER No.279 - December 2025

CONTACT DETAILS:

Parish Clerk, Laura Lloyd Telephone: 07891 551 851

Email: easthagbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com



THAMES WATER CONSULTATION: SOUTH EAST STRATEGIC RESERVOIR OPTION (SESRO) PROJECT

The public consultation, which ends on 13th January 2026, relates to the proposal for a new reservoir near Abingdon, to help supply water to around 15 million people across the South East. All consultation materials will be available to view, free of charge, during the consultation period at: https://thames-sro.co.uk/SESRO/statcon2025



FOLLOW UP: SSEN POWER OUTAGE 30th OCTOBER

The Parish Council sent a formal complaint to SSEN about the power outage communication issues, and has received the following information:



Under the Electricity (Standards of Performance) Regulations, as enforced by Ofgem, electricity distribution companies are required to provide a minimum of two working days' notice for any planned supply interruption. This notice is typically issued by letter to the address held on our records. Where this standard is not met, customers are entitled to a Guaranteed Standard payment of £40. Payments have been issued by cheque to all affected customers based on the information held in our systems. If anyone has not received this payment, they would need to contact us directly so that we may review and resolve the matter promptly. For anyone who made a complaint to SSEN about the power outage and has still not received a payment, individuals need to make direct contact with them quoting PSI reference 245474 - contact options can be found here: https://www.ssen.co.uk/about-ssen/customer-support/complaints/



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 and Fridays, see <a href=here First Steps Baby Bank at Didcot Baptist Church on Tuesdays and Fridays, see <a href=here for information

Cost Of Living Crisis An SODC page with a range of advice and support can be found <a href=here 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 nearby venues Hagbourne Charities — hagbourne.charities@gmail.com or 01235 814024



East and West Hagbourne Fund - Contact David Stainthorp on 07711 802887 or email

<u>hagbournevillagefund@gmail.com</u>

East Hagbourne (Coronavirus) Community Support Group - <u>easthagbournecovid19@gmail.com</u>





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)

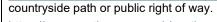
Hagbourne Bowls Club on The Croft (defibrillator is wall mounted outside the gate)

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

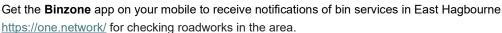


USEFUL INFORMATION LINKS:

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



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



 $\underline{\text{https://powertrack.ssen.co.uk/powertrack}} \text{ for information on planned/unplanned power cuts.}$



Planning applications received since the last newsletter:

P25/S3387/FUL St Andrews Church, East Hagbourne - Remedial works to high level gable between Nave and Chancel.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 11th December 2025 at The Pavilion,

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

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

A Tribute to Andy Barmer 26th November 1962 – 11th September 2023

It with great sadness that we share the news that Andy Barmer died unexpectedly in September. He was on holiday in Greece with his wife Beth at the time. His passing was sudden.

Andy lived in East Hagbourne with his wife Beth during the 2010's before moving to Burton Leonard in North Yorkshire, Beth's childhood home. Andy's funeral took place there on Friday 17th October with a strong representation from Hagbourne. Andy and Beth initially bought what they thought was going to be a weekend home at Upper Cross. Then East Hagbourne got into their blood, and they moved in permanently when Andy semi-retired from working in London.

His distinctive Brummie accent and classic "Sid James" infectious laugh quickly became ever present. Like Beth, Andy was highly creative and was soon the "go to" for every village event. Designing websites, flyers and always on hand to capture the occasion with a series of amazing photographs. Oh, and their Scarecrow entries set a whole new standard - Dr Who, Incredible Hulk, Bo Peep and of course the enormous straw Olympic medal that hung around their house on Church Close, to name a few. Andy was the creative genius behind the Mind the Green Gap campaign, where the village came together to resist speculative development that would have seen East Hagbourne become swallowed up by Didcot. His design, photography and, especially his videography, ensured the cause gained a huge amount of coverage. At one stage the campaign was on the front page of the Didcot Herald every week! The story was picked up by both the BBC and ITV and covered on an ongoing basis. His work captured the beauty of the location, making the compelling point that some things are worth preserving to both Councillors and Planning Inspectors.

Where did this talent originate? To be honest not many people knew. Andy was far too modest to tell anyone. Andy was born and bred as a Birmingham Brummie, one of four brothers. Following a fine art degree in London, Andy started as a "runner", shuttling film cans around the streets of Soho in the early 1990's. From there he worked his way up to become a producer and then Managing Director of The Mill. Fun fact: Mill Film won an Oscar for the movie Gladiator. Specifically, the award for Best Visual Effects at the 73rd Academy Awards in 2001. The award was for their work on the film's special effects, which included recreating the Coliseum and digitally completing the role of Oliver Reed after the actor's death. Andy went on to co-found two other big names in postproduction, Beam TV and Absolute. It is no exaggeration to say that Andy was a major figure in the development of Britian's world class film postproduction sector. The tributes for Andy from those within the industry have been quite extraordinary. Universally recognising his creativity, love of craft, but, above all, his generosity of spirit to anyone and everyone. In 2013, Andy went back to university to study for an MA in Photojournalism and Documentary Photography at LCC (London College of Communication). One assignment was the creation of a wonderful "football programme" of photo reportage covering the life of Didcot Town FC on and off the pitch across a season.

Although Andy and Beth left the village before Covid, many friends were able to keep up with their progress – albeit with much envy – via the photos posted on Facebook of their never-ending travels across Greece and East Asia. Andy leaves behind happy memories but also a legacy. The signs that greet you as you are welcomed into the village of East Hagbourne were, of course, designed by him.

SAVE THE DATE IN YOUR 2026 DIARIES!

Sunday February 15th, 2026 at 3pm in St Andrew's "LOVE LEGENDS and LULLABIES"

Sung by PAPAGENA the UK's flagship voice ensemble

A concert to mark Valentine's weekend with something for everyone! medieval – folk – classical – pop – contemporary a cappella

Tickets cost £20 including a glass of wine (or £10 for under 18s) and will be on sale from 5th January from www.wegottickets.com, Village Shop, Jeff Powell (07751 607932) and on door.

More details next month. In aid of Friends of St Andrew's

For more information about Papagena visit papagena.co.uk and @Papagenasingers

ADVENT COLLECTION FOR OXFORDSHIRE HOMELESS

PLEASE DONATE A GIFT FOR A HOMELESS PERSON

Homeless Oxfordshire are again running their Christmas appeal for donations that can become gifts for their homeless clients. This year, they aim to create personal care boxes, and so need . . .

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Shower Gel
- Liquid Handwash
- Shampoo

- New Towels
- New Underwear
- New socks
- Toilet Rolls
- Sanitary Items

Plus, NEW clothes (jogging bottoms, hoodies, sweatshirts) and (non-perishable) food are always welcome and needed. Sorry, we can't accept second-hand clothes or bulky items.

PLEASE PLACE YOUR ITEMS IN THE BASKET IN ST ANDREW'S AND WE WILL TAKE THEM TO O'HANLON HOUSE IN OXFORD IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS.

Thank you for your kind generosity

FROM THE HAGBOURNE ACTION GROUP

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.

The residents are mothers, brothers, aunties, cousins. They are artists, cooks, teachers, veterans. Their lives have been shaped by trauma and disadvantage, and **Homeless Oxfordshire** offers an open door when they need it most and support to help people rebuild their lives.

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 & Shirley Goss – 815605 shirley.goss@btinternet.com

The Revd H. Smith-Masters Does anyone have any photographs of the Revd Smith-Masters who was Vicar of St Andrew's in the 1940's and 50's, there is a memorial to him in the Lady Chapel and lots of older villagers will remember him. We have been contacted by the local social history society at Stewkley in Buckinghamshire, as the Revd Smith-Masters was born in their village, the son of the Vicar at the time and married the Churchwarden's daughter in 1914. The society would like to be able to add some photos to their research. If you have anything that we could copy and send to them, could you let us know. Thank you, Joy Napper on magtemp5@gmail.com.

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.

The X32 Service from Cockcroft Road Didcot to the JR Hospital is now every 20 minutes.

TABLE TENNIS at the Hagbourne Pavilion

Join our friendly table-tennis groups at the Pavilion at the Recreation Ground for exercise and fun:

Tuesday mornings 10am to 12noon, £3 per session. All ages, skills, welcome; bats available.

New players would be most welcome. Session fee waived for introductory session.

More info from Julian 01235 813599 jgallop@freeuk.com

and Anthony 01235 511920 aannanjones@gmail.com

Wednesday evenings 7:30-9:30pm - contact Adrian Coles 07711350011adrian.coles@gmail.com

FOOTBALL in East Hagbourne: Hagbourne United FC plays regularly at East Hagbourne at the Recreation Ground 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

Didcot Emergency Foodbank – food donations urgently needed.

A recent report shows that there has been a 56% increase in the number of food parcels provided to families with children in the South East over five years. Locally we've seen a significant drop in donations to the foodbank. If you are able to donate, these are some of the items most needed: Tins of meat, fish, vegetables, soup, fruit, puddings; Jars of pasta sauces, jam, peanut butter, coffee (small); Packets of pasta, rice, packets of dried potato, breakfast cereals, biscuits, treats, tea, hot chocolate; Cartons of long-life milk and long-life juice; Toiletries, toilet rolls and clothes-wash items. NO alcohol, razors, medicines or homemade preserves. **There is a collection point at Sainsbury's in Didcot**. Alternatively, you can make a financial donation which can be on a one-off or regular basis. This can be done by visiting:

https://didcotbaptist.churchsuite.com/donate/ and "Foodbank" as your option adding gift aid if you are able to. All donations are gratefully appreciated.

If you need to use the Foodbank 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

Ladies Thirsty Thursday LTT meets on the third Thursday of each month at The Fleur at 7.30pm for a friendly drink and an opportunity to meet other ladies in the village. Everyone welcome – come along to the next gathering on **Thursday 18th December**.

Tai Chi Classes I am running a Tai Chi class in West Hagbourne, it is small and personal, and we have a first-class teacher with 30 years' experience, it is for health and mobility. Any ages welcome. It is on a Monday afternoon from 3.45 – 4.45pm and runs continuously except for the teacher's holiday and Bank Holidays. Payment is in 6 weeks blocks, individual classes can be taken if unable to make all six, at a slightly higher cost. All booked in advance. Maximum in class 12 and I have a few spaces spare. For further details please contact Sue Lay on 07900010367 – text or WhatsApp.

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 Hagbourne Village Hall. Please contact sue.somani@sky.com 07748 771188

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



To look up timetables for all bus services please visit: www.oxfordbus.co.uk
There are some printed timetables in the Community Shop. Buses from the Orchard Centre, Didcot, go to Wallingford, Henley, Wantage, Abingdon and Newbury.

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

The X32 service starts at Cockcroft Road, Didcot, which might be a convenient point for some people to catch it - every 20 minutes. It then goes to GWP South and down Wantage Road, past Didcot Hospital, to the Orchard Centre, Station, and on to Oxford and the JR. Please see page 18 for useful details on how to get to the various Oxford Hospitals via public transport.

Please use our local 94 and 94A bus to help keep the Service going.

JANUARY 2026 PARISH MAGAZINE

Please let us have copy for the January parish magazine before **Christmas Day if possible to magtemp5@gmail.com** Thank you, the magazine committee.

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Website: www.resonatehearingcentre.co.uk Phone: 01235 838515 Harwell Innovation Centre, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Building 173, Curie Avenue, Didcot. OX11 0QG

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Music - Brass Band

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

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

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Public Houses

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

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

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Tel: 01235 812067 email: paulinecox31@gmail.com

Slimming

EAST HAGBOURNE SLIMMING WORLD The Pavilion, Great Mead, OX11 9BN Mondays at 5.30pm and 7pm. Call Rachel 07734 440928 FB East Hagbourne Slimming World with Rachel

Soft Furnishings and Upholstery

GRIFFIN INTERIORS Soft furnishing solutions. Interiors and soft furnishings workroom located in Appleford making quality handmade curtains, pelmets, blinds, cushions. Alterations. Headboards, loose-covers and upholstery. Poles, tracks, and fitting service. Design studio with extensive library of fabrics and trimmings. Interiors mentoring to make your house a home. Over 30 years' experience. Off street parking. Flexible opening hours by appointment.

Tel: 07808 762626 email: griffin.interiors.oxford@gmail.com www.griffininteriorsoxford.com

Solar Panel Installation

RIDGEWAY RENEWABLES Solar Panel and Battery Storage solutions. We can advise and install the best solar solution to meet your requirements. We can also clean and install bird guard on existing installations. Being locally based in South Oxfordshire you can be assured of getting a reliable service with good after sales advice.

NICEIC approved and MCS Registered.

Tel: 07788 713966, 07787 538869 Email: email@ridgewayrenewables.co.uk

Tree Felling and Landscaping

ARBOCARE Tree Surgery and Landscaping. Cert Arb RFS (Distinction) National Trust Approved Arborist • Established 20 years • Tree surgery and landscaping • Grass and hedge cutting • Fencing • 24 Hour emergency service. Please contact:

Freephone: 0808 1555815 Mobile: 07778 811136 www.arbocare.co.uk

Vets

LARKMEAD VETS Caring for pets, horses and farm animals across Oxfordshire.

Didcot, Great Western Park & Sutton Courtenay: 01235 814991

Cholsey & Benson: 01491 651379 www.larkmead.co.uk