

St Andrew's Hagbourne

PARISH MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2026



**Lent Lunches start at St Andrew's Church
on Saturday 21st February at 12.30-2pm**

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 FEBRUARY 2026

The Prayer Intentions this month are for all who live in Blewbury.

1 +Sunday

CANDLEMAS

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

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 Christingle 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



Prayer Focus:

*Churchwardens,
fabric and
churchyards.
Church cleaners.*

2 Monday

3 Tuesday

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

5 Thursday

6 Friday

7 Saturday

8pm online Compline

8 +Sunday

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

9.15am Parish Eucharist: St Mary's U
10.30am Taizé Service: St Michael's B
10.30am Online Benefice Service
10.30am Parish Eucharist for Candlemas: St John the Baptist SM
4pm Service of the Word: All Saints' NM
6pm Service of the Word: St Andrew's H



*PCC's, all in
leadership and
our Benefice
Operations
Manager.*

9 Monday

10 Tuesday

11 Weds

12 Thursday

13 Friday

14 Saturday

10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H

8pm online Compline

15 +Sunday

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

9am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's AT
10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's B
10.30am Family Communion and Christingle: St Andrew's H
10.30am Online Benefice Service
3pm Papagena Concert: St Andrew's H
4pm Service of the Word: All Saints' NM
6pm Service of the Word: St Andrew's H



*Clergy and
all who
preach or lead.*

16 Monday

17 Tuesday

8pm online Compline

8pm online Compline

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)

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

Love in Three Dimensions

I wonder if you plan on celebrating St Valentine's Day? No one is quite sure why this day has become connected with the celebration of love, but the connection is now firmly embedded in our culture. I would add that it is also the case that no one is quite sure who St Valentine was – or indeed, whether there were actually two different St Valentines, who happened to share the same name. The best guess is that there was in fact only one St Valentine, who was martyred for his faith back in the Third Century AD.

St Valentine's Day is, of course, all about love. But what do mean by the word "love"?

Christians have been exploring the nature of love since the days of Jesus himself. Jesus himself summed up his teaching in terms of love: we are to love God and to love one another. This is not always easy to do, and we will often fall short and make mistakes. But we should at least make the effort. The Church as an institution should have love at its heart: the Church is a means of celebrating God's love and sharing that love with his world. Unfortunately, the Church doesn't always live up to this calling, and there are times when it doesn't behave in a particularly loving way. But at least it tries to put love at the heart of all that it does, and when it makes mistakes, it usually tries its best to own up to its failings and to try and put things right.

The Church also thinks hard about what "love" means in practice. It sees love as being exercised in three dimensions. There is the love we share with other human beings – the love which is usually celebrated on St Valentine's Day. But there is also the love we share with God: our love for God and God's love for us. And finally, there is the third dimension of love, which is perhaps the most surprising: the love we show towards ourselves. Down the centuries, Christians have come to the understanding that we cannot truly love others or even love God, if we do not also love ourselves.

I wonder if you would agree that we cannot truly love others unless we have learnt to love ourselves. A challenging thought for St Valentine's Day! With every blessing, Father Jason.



Looking for something different? Blewbury's Taizé service: every second Sunday of the month at 10.30am

This is a quiet, reflective Service with Bible readings, prayer, silence and singing as well as the opportunity to light candles. It is easy to learn Taizé chants as they are repeated again and again, using just a few words. These chants become a way of speaking to and listening to God. Our service shares the ethos of the Taizé Community which is located in the village of Taizé in Burgundy. We welcome people from all denominations and cultures – those who have a Christian faith and those who struggle to believe. We sing in different languages to reflect this but English translations of what we are singing are also provided. Please do join us and bring your friends.



The Churn Mothers' Union AGM

You are invited to attend this meeting along with our branch members on **Sunday 1st February, 3pm in St Michael's Blewbury**. Please see page 8 for more information on our local Mothers' Union.

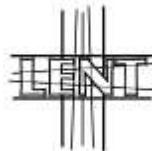
Home Communion Home Communion is available to anyone who is unable to get to church through sickness or frailty, either for a short time or on a long term basis.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the office 01235 850267 and Elaine will arrange it for you.

18 Weds	ASH WEDNESDAY	
	10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H	8pm online Compline
	8pm Service of ashing and Holy Communion: St Mary's U	
19 Thursday	10am MU Holy Communion: St Mary's U	
20 Friday		8pm online Compline
21 Saturday	12.30 to 2pm Lent Lunch at St Andrew's H	

22 +Sunday FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

9.15am Parish Eucharist: St Mary's U	
10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's B	
10.30am online Benefice Service	
4pm Service of the Word: All Saints' NM	
6pm Service of the Word: St Andrew's H	



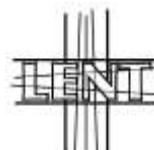
Treasurers and church finances.

23 Monday		8pm online Compline
24 Tuesday		8pm online Compline
25 Weds	10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H	8pm online Compline
26 Thursday		8pm online Compline
27 Friday		8pm online Compline
28 Saturday	12.30 to 2pm Lent Lunch at St Andrew's H	8pm online Compline

MARCH

1 +Sunday SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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	



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



Lent is almost upon us!

This year **Ash Wednesday** falls on 18th February and we will celebrate this with a Service at St Mary's Upton at 8pm. During Lent itself we will put on a pattern of **Lent courses**. There will also be a special Easter Vigil service on Saturday 4th April at 8pm at St Michael's Blewbury. This Easter Vigil Service will be in addition to Services on Good Friday and Easter Day.

More details will be published on a leaflet which will be available in Church and on our website.

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



Christingle Service at St Andrew's Sunday, 15th February at 10.30am combined with Family Communion

The word 'Christingle' actually means 'Christ Light' and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. The orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the 'world', as a symbol of Christ's blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts remind us of God's blessings.

All welcome to this Service

The Children's Society first introduced the Christingle Service to the Church of England in 1968, and it has since become a popular event in the church calendar. This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith, while helping to raise vital funds to help vulnerable children across the country. Visit: www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Confirmation in the Churn Benefice There will be an opportunity to be Confirmed in the Spring of 2026, so we are hoping to start a new Confirmation group early in the year. Are you interested or do you know of someone who might be interested in being Confirmed. Confirmation is not just for teenagers! **All enquiries welcome to the Benefice Office on 01235 850267.**



Free organ recitals at St Andrew's Hagbourne

Every first Sunday of the month at 5pm.

Next recital Sunday 1st February 5pm

Father Jason will play music by one of the great English romantic composers of the 19th century: Samuel Sebastian Wesley.

Everyone welcome!

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

"extraordinary voices" – BBC Radio 3

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

The programme includes works by Kate Bush, Henry Purcell, Claudio Monteverdi, Sandy Denny, Hildegard of Bingen and many more besides.

Tickets cost £20 including a glass of wine (or £10 for under 18s) are on sale from the Village Community Shop or www.wegottickets.com or Jeff Powell (07751 607932) and on door.

In aid of Friends of St Andrew's

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

The Crucifixion: an Oratorio for Choir and Organ by John Stainer



Come and join us singing Stainer's Crucifixion on Sunday 22nd March 2026 at 6.00pm in St Andrew's Church

Rehearsals start on Thursday 12th February and continue each week with a dress rehearsal at 3.00pm on 22/3/26. Please bring a copy if you have one, or the full score can be downloaded on to your tablet or phone as described in: https://colin-windsor.github.io/HomePage/Stainer_Crucifixion.htm

We have the main "Narrator" and "Jesus" soloists, but there are many short solos for people to try in all parts. Contact: Mo Windsor 01235 812083 or colin.windsor1938@gmail.com

Churchwardens Chatter We have drafted out a plan for events to be held at St Andrew's in 2026, and the story so far looks a bit like this:

First Sunday of the month - **the Organ Recitals continue**. They are going from strength to strength and if you've never attended one yet, make it happen this year! In February we have the fabulous **Papagena Concert**. A real treat I hope you have your tickets already. Then Mo Windsor is preparing **Stainer's Crucifixion** for **22nd March**. Another performance not to be missed

Justine is organising a **BARN DANCE** on **Saturday 9th May**, watch this space for tickets.

June 20th of course, brings the **FETE**. If you can volunteer in any way, please let us know. Then the **CAR BOOT SALE** is back!! Hopefully this will be on **13th September**.

And before you know it - the **Christmas Tree Festival**. Didn't they do a fantastic job in 2025? It seems to be going from strength to strength – there are already enquiries for trees in 2026!

Apart from all of this we are having to look closely at the Church building itself to ensure that it will stand the test of time and be with us for the next 100 years. There are water leaks appearing quite regularly now and this means that the roof needs inspecting quite urgently, the kitchen has served us well for the past 40 years or more but probably could do with a bit of a refurbishment and of course, we still have to deal with replacing the roof of the porch. Lots to do, but with your support I know we can do it.

Hoping you all have a great year and that it will exceed your expectations. Jane and Jill

Congratulations to Lewis and Sophie Neofitou on the arrival of their daughter, Emily Grace on the 24th January 2026. Best wishes from your family and friends.

CHURCH ROTAS February	1st February Candlemas Presentation of Christ in the Temple	15th February Sunday next before Lent	1st March 2nd Sunday of Lent	<u>General Notes</u>
Readers	Malachi 3 vv1-5 Myra Hardiman	Exodus 24 vv12-end Jeff Powell	Genesis 12 vv1-4a Jenny Smith	I'm trying to plan a Big Church Spring Clean and the only available date is Saturday 14th February ! Would you all be sweethearts and help me out with this?
	Hebrews 2 vv14-end Helen Clayton	2 Peter 1 vv16-end Justine Shepperson	Romans 4 vv 1-5,13-17 Jenny Smith	
Intercessions	Celebrant	Celebrant	Jenny Smith	I'm hoping to start around 10 'ish Thank you all, Jill
Sidesmen	Robin Harries Jane Blond	Chris Price Wendy Price	Trevor Goss Sally Duncan	
Coffee	Marian Powell Richard Powell	Jeff Powell Justine Shepperson	Shirley Goss Helen Clayton	
Flowers Lady Chapel	Jacqui MacKenzie			
Flowers High Altar	Gillian Harries			

Please save the date:
Monday 4th May 2026



Run ... Walk ... Support ... Eat Cake!

Whether or not you relish covering 4½ miles of glorious South Oxfordshire countryside by foot on your Bank Holiday, please do join us for one of the biggest events in our village calendar and help us raise money for good causes.

Prizes include for fastest under 9s, under 16s, locals and best fancy dress! So do get in training (and dig deep into your dressing up box...)

For more details please keep an eye on our facebook page:
www.facebook.com/hagbournefunrun

Can you write a poem for The Poets' Trail?

Don't be shy! The Poets' Trail is an ongoing project, started in East Hagbourne, encouraging local people to put pen to paper, and then have a chance to see their poems in print in one of our illustrated books.

The first Poets' Trail books were based around East Hagbourne, but the latest one, Didcot's Oaks, spread out to a wider area. Following the success of this we are now collecting poems for the next theme, which is:

ROUTES – From Pathways to Railways in Didcot and Villages.

You could write about your favourite dog walk, what you have discovered in the hedgerows, travelling on the top deck of a bus, speeding along in a train or cycling to a village pub..... We want as much contrast as possible, and your personal take on the theme.

Poems should be no more than 36 lines, including title and spaces.

Entries due in by 30th June 2026.

Send to Linda.benton@live.co.uk Any questions, please call on 01235 817891



Tower Talk We rang the bells at St Andrew's on 31st December at 11:30pm and rang in the New Year at Midnight. There were seven ringers in the tower and there were a few visitors. The tenor was tolled at midnight and then we were able to 'Fire' the bells which means the bells are all struck at the same time!

We hosted the branches New Year's Day ringing this year followed by a hot soup lunch. Lots of ringers from all around the branch turned up to enjoy our bells and also the lunch that followed, which was very popular.

There was no ringing practice on the first Tuesday in January, but we are now back to our normal practices and Sunday ringing.

On Saturday 24th January a few of the Hagbourne ringers joined the Churn Ringing Outing that was organised by Rob Nickless from North Moreton. We had a really good day's ringing with a lovely soup lunch at North Moreton Village Hall, thanks to Rob's wife Jo. St Andrew's East Hagbourne was the first tower of the day followed by St Michael's Blewbury where we were treated to coffee and biscuits. We also rang at Aston Tirrold and North Moreton in the Benefice and a couple of other Churches nearby. Then some of the group finished the day at the Leathern Bottle at Lewknor for an evening meal.

The next of Jill's training sessions will take place on Saturday 7th February and hopefully will cover Double Norwich, not an easy method. The tower AGM should take place on the last Tuesday in February, the 24th this will be a shorter ringing practice followed by the AGM.

Paul is arranging our tower's Ringer's Supper, date to be confirmed.

Shirley Goss.

Birthdays: 8th February – George Kersey

Dates for the diary: Tuesday 7th February – Training Day, Tuesday 24th February – Tower AGM



As Mothers' Union celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, there is an opportunity to research some MU history in our parishes. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! MU in the Oxford Diocese started in 1888. Years ago, there were MU branches in most parishes and definitely branches in Hagbourne, Aston Tirrold and Blewbury.

We currently have one branch in the Churn Benefice with around 30 members.

- **Was there an MU branch in the Moreton parishes?**
- **Are there any MU banners in our benefice churches?** In Blewbury Church we have a HUB MU banner (Hagbourne, Upton & Blewbury parishes) and a Wallingford Deanery Banner, which is quite ancient.
Do pop into Blewbury Church and have a look in the Lady Chapel.
- **Was your mother or grandmother an MU member?** and have you any photos, certificates or records? These days, men can become members as well as single people. In the Churn branch we have five male members.

Revd Louise would be very pleased hear if you have any answers to these questions. Come along to our AGM on 1st February and find out all we are doing in the Churn MU in 2026. The Churn MU branch meet at 3pm on Sunday 1st February for their AGM in Blewbury Church with tea afterwards at Louise's house.

Our monthly Holy Communion service is at 10am at St Mary's Church, Upton on Thursday 19th February. All are very welcome. Join us and Join in.

Revd Louise Butler 07837 009730, leader, Churn MU branch



Lent Lunches at St Andrew's



There will be hot soup lunches served at St Andrew's Church on Saturdays between 12:30 – 2:00 during Lent from the 21st of February – 28th March (inclusive).

The lunch will consist of homemade soup, fresh bread and cheese, fruit and/or cake plus a cup of tea or coffee. If there is anyone who would like to run one or more of the Lent Lunches there will be a sign-up sheet in church or you can contact me, Shirley Goss, on 01235 815605 or e-mail shirley.goss@btinternet.com You are welcome to run a lunch in aid of a charity of your choice but we would ask for a small donation to the church. I can provide an information sheet re: running the lunch. You will need to bring **cash** for your lunch, and we suggest a donation of at least £4.00 each, minimum. These are popular especially in the cold weather so please come and support us. Please note that the last of the Lent Lunches, **Saturday 28th March**, will be in aid of **Sobell House**. (See separate notice on page 12 in magazine for further information).

PS. If we do not get people to sign up to run a lunch then it will not happen, but I will keep you informed. Please check to see if the lunch is available. Shirley Goss



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: Sundays 1st February and 1st March

Coffee & Kids! – is a monthly baby and toddler group that meets in Blewbury, hosted by the local Mothers' Union. Hagbourne families are warmly invited, please let neighbours and friends know. Our next session is on Monday, 2nd February from 10 to 11.30am in the Vale Room at Blewbury Village Hall. We welcome all bumps! Babies and toddlers along with parents, grandparents or carers. Here is a warm, friendly and safe place to enjoy the company of others and have some refreshments as the little ones have fun with toys and learn to play together. A donation of £2 is appreciated towards our costs. Mothers' Union hosts look forward to welcoming you.

Any queries please contact Louise on 07837 009730

With Sympathy We send our heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Pam Haines who died on the 1st of December 2025. Pam was born in Wales on 15th January 1939 and remained staunchly Welsh all her life. Pam and her husband Ken spent most of their married life in East Hagbourne with their three children. Pam was very active in the community of the village, helping out at Church Fêtes and the Sobell House Lent Lunches. She started knitting in later years and enjoyed knitting many colourful squares for the Knitwit knitting group to be made up into blankets. Her husband Ken sadly died in 2020. Pam's health later deteriorated and she moved into The Meadows Care Home in Didcot in 2025.

With Sympathy We send our heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Edna Jones who died on the 16th of January, aged 97. Edna and her late husband, Vic, had lived for many years in East Hagbourne. Edna's Funeral Service will be held at St Andrew's on Thursday, 19th February at 12.30.



Funerals in the Benefice

22nd January at St Michael's Blewbury **Anthony Fortnam**, aged 87

23rd January at St Michael's Blewbury **Marilyn Vaughn**, aged 82

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Why mosaics matter

Globally, nature and climate are deeply connected to each other. The loss of carbon sinks such as forests and peat bogs are detrimental to our climate. Conversely, if nature is allowed to flourish, mangroves, wetlands and other ecosystems protect areas against some of the worst impacts of climate breakdown. And it's more obvious for us to see the direct impact that climate has on nature; rising temperatures and extremes of weather creating adverse conditions for wildlife. That might be bush fires, floods, droughts, storms, heatwaves – all of which we see in the news more and more regularly.

And there's a similar dynamic on a much, much smaller scale in our back gardens. Insects are the basis of food chains in our gardens, and insects often rely on specific conditions to survive. So, if the temperature rises too much or we have flooding or drought, they are in trouble. And when that happens, the creatures up the food chain, who rely on them for food (e.g. birds, bats, frogs), are also in trouble.

In your garden, you can help insect species be more resilient to these changes.

Create a mosaic of habitats –

- **Varying length of grass**, some left long, some cut shorter, then gives more range in temperature and humidity for ground living insects to cope with changes.
- **A range of sun and shade**, bare soil in sun is particularly helpful to mining bees, while a dense area of planting creates helpful shade and protection all year round.
- **Different garden features**: ponds (however small), wildflowers, native trees and hedging, hedgehog holes in your fence and wild corners that might have wood or stone piles.

All of these things make your garden more resilient for wildlife and therefore more enjoyable for us too. For more ideas on wildlife gardening, see our website www.hugsustainability.org

And for an insect success story, read about the case of the large blue butterfly. Reintroduced after becoming extinct in the UK. The butterfly relies on one species of ant to survive. Both insects require very specific environmental conditions relating to soil temperature (and therefore grass length). Nationally important research, carried out locally at the Centre for Hydrology & Ecology. https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/case-studies/case-study-large-blue-butterfly?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21257924601&gbraid=0AAAAA9T_B6tObPv3L7Ea-p7MBP-CtChT&gclid=CjwKCAiA7LzLBhAgEiwAjMWzCKDIUg6dxxE1cGpycVrohJErLJTFZ6Ih3MLI7dXi9oMaZokAZbXvYBoCd2wQAvD_BwE



Hagbourne Garden Club will be meeting on **Thursday, 26th February** at the Pavilion. Doors will open for refreshments at 7pm. The talk will start at 7.30pm. The speaker this month is Chris Day who will give a talk on **A bulb for all seasons** *Exploring the whole area of bulbs as far as planting, displaying, associating and growing them in your garden, with lots of practical tips, plus a lasagna planting demonstration.*

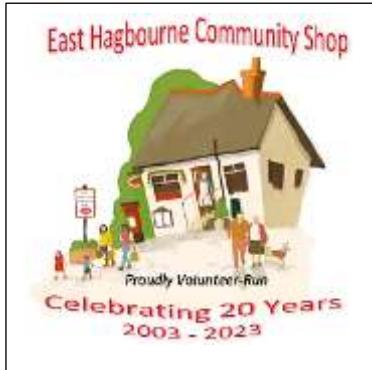
Visitors most welcome at £5 per person.

Plenty of parking at the Pavilion.

For information call Sally on 01235 352275



The beautiful Large Blue Butterfly
picture: Wikipedia Commons



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 easthagourneshop@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/



Be My Valentine Whether luxury chocolate or guilty pleasure, take home a sweet treat for your special someone, or if chocolate doesn't tickle you, try some homemade local honey for your honey. Don't forget a card designed by artists from our community.

Pancake Day Tuesday 17th February Stock up on flour, fresh milk, local eggs, lemon juice, sugar, butter, golden syrup or honey to celebrate and enjoy!



Enjoy a relaxing half-term Find tasty, healthy and fuss-free dinner options from our freezer: **Calnan's** mince or award-winning sausage, variety of **fresh-frozen fish** fingers, cakes or fillets and chips, or grab a pizza. Take a bag of **pick-and-mix sweets** along on your adventures or settle in with a **new or pre-loved book** for a different kind of escape. Pick up local **fresh-roasted coffee** and **Heritage Bakery** artisan breads, savouries and pastries for relaxed family weekends – you can pre-order by **4pm on Wednesday** in shop or by email to easthagourneshop@gmail.com; or just pick up fresh-baked on Saturdays.



Thursday is cake day Whether a mid-week pick-me-up or a half-term treat, stop in for one of our scrumptious homemade cakes every Thursday—but hurry, they don't last long!



~~~~~ FEBRUARY OPERATING HOURS ~~~~~

Post Office Hours:

Mon + Wed-Sat 9-12:30pm + Monday & Thursday 1:15-4:30pm. **CLOSED Tuesdays**
Conduct personal or business banking, pay bills, top up prepaid cards/keys/mobiles.

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

HAMS... DENOUEMENT

WORKSHOPS – MASTERCLASSES – THEATRE TRIPS AND A SOCIAL EVENING!

February brings together all of the plans and activities of our season of Process and Play as we move towards the final few weeks in March! This month HAMS are welcoming masterclass leaders on a range of new topics and building on our earlier themes. We're trying our hand at improvisation, learning to build tension, thinking about status, and sharpening our comic timing with farce. We meet on Thursdays from 19.30 – 21.30 at the Village Hall and everyone is welcome.

We have two further theatre trips planned for friends and supporters. The first is to see the recent RSC touring production of *The Constant Wife* at Oxford Playhouse just before it moves on to the West End. Then in March we are popping back to The Watermill to see *Larkrise to Candleford*. We'll be reading scenes from both plays in workshops ahead of our visits to become familiar with the scripts and enhance our appreciation of the performances we see.

As announced at the start of the year, this season of *Process and Play* will culminate in a social evening at which we would like to share a few of the things we have been doing and invite discussion and engagement with the wider community to help shape the future of HAMS. We hope you will **save the date and come and join us with a drink and a chat and a workshopped performance or two:**

Friday 27th March at The Village Hall, 8pm.

To express an interest in HAMS and join the mailing list, drop us a line at info@thehams.co.uk.

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>

If you would like to join the Weekday evening Compline at 8pm for 10 minutes then, 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>



Annual Lent Lunch in aid of Sobell House St Andrew's Church

Saturday 28th March - 12:30 to 2pm

Come and join us for delicious soups, fresh bread, cheese, fruit and hot drinks and a fun raffle all in support of raising some much-needed funds for this wonderful charity.

Astronomy Notes – through the telescope - one for St Valentine



The Heart Nebula (IC 1805) is a prominent emission nebula located roughly 7,500 light-years from Earth in the Perseus Arm of the Milky Way, within the constellation Cassiopeia. Spanning around 350 light-years, this vast region of glowing hydrogen gas and dark dust is famous for its distinct, heart-like shape. Discovered by William Herschel in 1787, it covers an area of sky 3 x larger than the full moon. Here we have a stellar nursery, where intense radiation from the central cluster of stars (some of which are 50 x the mass of our Sun) is shaping the iconic form.

The clouds of Hydrogen, and Sulphur plus a little Oxygen, are glowing, so it is known as an emission nebula. Captured last Autumn from the observatory. John Napper - Starfields Observatory

Didcot and District U3A If you have recently retired or a semi-retired individual living in Didcot or surrounding area and looking for new interests whilst making new friendships, then look no further and consider joining the local U3A . New members are always warmly welcome (first visit is 'free to see') and chat over tea and biscuits at the monthly meetings held on the third Tuesday of every month for this nationwide self-help teaching and learning organisation in the Didcot Civic Hall, meetings start 2:30 pm.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 17th February, 2.30pm, titled Women and the Victorian Army by Dan Allen, a member of the Victorian Military Society.
For more information on U3A please visit the **NEW WEBSITE:** didcot.u3asite.uk

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

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, saves on the washing up! **Next session: 20th February.**

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

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 19th February.**

Comments from the East Hagbourne Parish Council Chairman

Communication There is mixed news on developments for better communication with OCC. On the one hand, we have just had good updates on the slurry seal and on some future works by the footway team of OCC. On the other hand, we received no advanced notice nor any prior consultation on the controversial work on the removal of nearly all vegetation from the bridleways of footpaths 17 and 19 which was as big a surprise to us as to anyone. Of course, OCC are still not reacting to our ongoing monologue on the state of Main Road between the village and Coscote.

Slurry seal on Main Road We do have an update on this by courtesy of the better communication referenced above. Minor issues, including the patches lost in heavy rains, will be addressed during snagging works in the spring. Since the work was done in wet and very cold conditions, there will be further monitoring over the next 12 months, and further remedial action will be taken if necessary. We have also been told that they hope to resolve the patch opposite Kingsholm Close when doing the footway work on Blewbury Road. BTW snagging is defined by OXFORD Languages as: "the process of checking newly completed works for minor faults that need to be rectified".

Footway works on Blewbury Road We have been given advance notice of some major footway works on Blewbury Road by OCC Highway Maintenance. They have told us that work will commence on Monday the 9th of March, and is expected to take approximately 2 weeks subject to any unforeseen delays. During this time, they will be replacing damaged and defective drainage assets, kerbing, footpath edgings as well as the footpath surface along the highway. These works will be conducted under traffic lights during normal working hours. OCC say they will send out advance notice letters to all residents directly affected by these works to inform them of any restrictions and access arrangements.

Main Road to Coscote Perhaps the issue in the village that is of most concern to villagers are the potholes on the road to Coscote. This is one area that we have been constantly trying to communicate the seriousness of to OCC Highways.

We have said that if they keep a record of the amount of money they spend on fixing the potholes they will see that the cost of fixing the road properly with better edging and resurfacing will save them money. We have also pointed out that due to OCC incompetence when the outline plan was passed in 2017, the builders were not required, through an S278 agreement, to repair any damage done by their construction traffic on this stretch of road. We do keep trying.

Footpaths At the PC meeting in January, we discussed getting specifications and rough quotes for work on the footpaths for improvements to Footpath 12 (final stretch from FP25 junction to Church Close), footpath 30 (Village Hall), footpath 8 (Bakers Lane to The Croft), footpath 13 (Parsonage Lane), and footpath 9 (Shoe Lane), and a kerb access slope to footpath 4 (Wilcher Close).

This is recorded in the minutes of our January meeting which is one of our ways of communicating with you and is repeated here in the spirit of better communication between village and parish council!

Parish Surgeries. On that theme, the next parish surgery will be in the Fleur de Lys on Friday 13th February 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 7.30pm on Thursday 12th February. Members of the public are welcome to join the meeting and the agenda is posted on the Parish Council noticeboard outside the Community Shop and on 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



CONTACT DETAILS:

Parish Clerk, Laura Lloyd

Telephone: 07891 551 851

Email: parishclerk@easthagbourne.net



PUBLIC ART PROJECTS – UPDATE

Work is underway on three art projects funded by S106 contributions from the Deanfield development, all of which will add something special to different parts of the village.

At Lower Cross, artist Linda Benton is completing designs for a bold and colourful frieze celebrating village life, which will wrap around the inside of the bus shelter. Ahead of the artwork being installed, the Parish Council is using CIL money to refurbish the shelter this Spring, including a new cedar roof and damp-proofing.

At the Recreation Ground, Julie Grose is developing a nature-inspired metalwork design for new car park and pedestrian gates, combining visual interest with practical, everyday use.

At St Andrew's Crescent, permission has now been granted for a new stone sculpture. The project can now move into its next phase of design discussions with sculptor Alex Wenham.



CHAIRMAN'S SURGERY – Friday 13th February Iain Duff will be at the Fleur de Lys on Friday 13th February from 5.00 to 6.30pm to welcome any residents with concerns or queries relating to matters in the parish.



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 [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 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://publicrightsfofway.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> 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.

<https://powertrack.ssen.co.uk/powertrack> for information on planned/unplanned power cuts.

Planning applications received since the last newsletter:

P25/S3788/FUL 89 New Road, East Hagbourne – 2 new semi-detached properties to the front of the existing bungalow.

P26/0001/HH Willowbrae Barn, Main Road, East Hagbourne – four bay open sided car port.

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th February 2026
at The Pavilion, Great Mead**

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

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

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 0771135001
1adrian.coles@gmail.com



BIG CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

I am trying to plan a **Big Church Spring Clean at St Andrew's** and the only available date is **Saturday 14th February!** Would you all be sweethearts and help me out with this? I'm hoping to start around 10 'ish. Thank you all, Jill

Jazz Jam at The Fleur, Wednesday, 11th February 8pm

If eating booking is advised. Our House Band will support anyone who wants to play or sing. Piano, Bass & Drums available to share. All popular jazz tunes and songs are known to the band, who will work with you at your pace and in your style. There is no entry cost just turn up and enjoy. This is a community evening contact the pub or Peter.hands3@btinternet.com for more info

The Winter Olympics returns to Europe If you enjoy watching snow-sports, you are in for a great month. From 6th to 22nd February, Italy will be hosting the 2026 Winter Olympics, officially known as Milano Cortina 2026. The opening ceremony is at football's famous San Siro stadium. The Paralympic Winter Games follows, from 6th to 15th March.

For the first time the Winter Games will have two host cities, Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, with events spread across 15 venues in northern Italy, using existing infrastructure to reduce costs. (Thus, Milan will host indoor events like hockey and figure skating, while Cortina hosts alpine skiing and snowboarding.) Around 3,500 athletes from more than 90 countries are expected to compete for 195 medals across 16 Olympic disciplines. New this year is ski-mountaineering.

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.

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.

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

route number
Didcot St Birinus School
Didcot Girls' School
Didcot Parkway Railway Station R4
Didcot Orchard Centre
Didcot Sandringham Road, Saxons Way
East Hagbourne War Memorial
Blewbury The Blueberry
Upton Village Hall
West Hagbourne The Horse & Harrow
Horwell Campus Bocquerel Avenue
West Hagbourne Moor Lane
West Hagbourne The Horse & Harrow
Upton Village Hall
Blewbury The Blueberry
Aston Upthorpe The Chequers
South Moreton The Crown
North Moreton Bus Shelter
East Hagbourne War Memorial
Didcot Sandringham Road, Saxons Way
Didcot Orchard Centre
Didcot Parkway Railway Station
Didcot Girls' School
Didcot St Birinus School

Mondays to Fridays (except Public Holidays)

94	94A	94A	94	94	94A	94	94A	94	94A	94A	94A	94	94	94A	94
Didcot St Birinus School															
Didcot Girls' School															
Didcot Parkway Railway Station R4															
Didcot Orchard Centre															
Didcot Sandringham Road, Saxons Way															
East Hagbourne War Memorial															
Blewbury The Blueberry															
Upton Village Hall															
West Hagbourne The Horse & Harrow															
Horwell Campus Bocquerel Avenue															
West Hagbourne Moor Lane															
West Hagbourne The Horse & Harrow															
Upton Village Hall															
Blewbury The Blueberry															
Aston Upthorpe The Chequers															
South Moreton The Crown															
North Moreton Bus Shelter															
East Hagbourne War Memorial															
Didcot Sandringham Road, Saxons Way															
Didcot Orchard Centre															
Didcot Parkway Railway Station															
Didcot Girls' School															
Didcot St Birinus School															

This journey starts at St Birinus :
on school days only.

1530
1538

This journey operates during
school holidays only.

This journey operates on school days only.
Buses set down for the Orchard Centre on Broadway.

Saturdays

94A	94	94	94A	94	94A	94	94A	94	94A	94A	94A	94	94	94A	94
Didcot Parkway Railway Station R4															
Didcot Orchard Centre															
Didcot Sandringham Road, Saxons Way															
East Hagbourne War Memorial															
Blewbury The Blueberry															
West Hagbourne Moor Lane															
West Hagbourne The Horse & Harrow															
Upton Village Hall															
Blewbury The Blueberry															
Aston Upthorpe The Chequers															
South Moreton The Crown															
North Moreton Bus Shelter															
East Hagbourne War Memorial															
Didcot Sandringham Road, Saxons Way															
Didcot Orchard Centre															
Didcot Parkway Railway Station															

No service on Sundays or Public Holidays

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



First Steps Baby Bank supports families in need with free essential baby items. Through a simple referral they support families with all sorts of essential items for their little ones, including clothes and coats, moses baskets, blankets and sleeping bags as well as nappies, toiletries, bottles, food and formula. We also support mums with essential hygiene items.

To find out more and what items they are most in need of visit: www.firststepsbabybank.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



MARCH 2026 PARISH MAGAZINE

Please let us have copy for the March parish magazine by **Wednesday, 18th February to magtemp5@gmail.com**
A short month in February so copy as early as possible would be much appreciated. Thank you, the magazine committee.

ADVERTISEMENTS 2026

Care and Domestic Duties

CARING TOUCH - Personal Assistant. Ex NHS Nurse. Providing all aspects of Personal Care, washing and dressing, application of creams, help with medication, travel to appointments or social events, companionship. Cover for main carer if they need time out. Domestic duties, such as cleaning, ironing, laundry, shopping, pet care, collection of prescriptions. DBS checked and fully insured.

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Language Tuition

FRENCH BEANIES, East Hagbourne French Beanies is a language learning After School Club for primary school children based in East Hagbourne. Have lots of fun, meet new friends, enjoy games, chat, singing, role play, arts, crafts, French foodie treats and much more. All in small groups of max 6 children. Established 10+ years.

First lesson is free – come and join the French fun! Contact Sarah Wright for more info: sarah@frenchbeanies.co.uk www.frenchbeanies.co.uk

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
Band Hut, Bohams Rd, Blewbury OX11 9HF
Enquiries: secretary@blewburybrassband.org

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PRINCIPAL PILATES Pilates classes and 1-1 sessions both online and in person in East Hagbourne, Didcot and Blewbury. Please contact Caroline Hunt: carolinehunt@btinternet.com 07758 814578 www.principalphilates.com

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

Tel: 01235 813247 Email: info@thefleurdelyspub.co.uk

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