

St Andrew's Hagbourne **PARISH MAGAZINE**

JANUARY 2026



***A Happy New Year to all our readers
Thank you to all who supported the
Christmas Tree Festival***

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 JANUARY 2026

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

Prayer Focus:

8pm NO online Compline

8pm NO online Compline

1 Thursday

2 Friday

3 Saturday

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



*Giving thanks
for all the
volunteers in
our Churches.*



5 Monday

6 Tuesday

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

8 Thursday

9 Friday

10 Saturday

8pm Online Compline returns

8pm Online Compline

8pm Online Compline

8pm Online Compline

8pm Online Compline

11 +Sunday BAPTISM OF CHRIST

9.15am Parish Eucharist: St Mary's U

10.30am Taizé Service: St Michael's B

10.30am Online Benefice Service

4pm Parish Service: All Saints' NM

6pm Evensong: St Andrew's



*Those recently
baptised and
baptism visitors.*

12 Monday

13 Tuesday

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

15 Thursday 10am MU Holy Communion: St Mary's U

16 Friday

17 Saturday

8pm Online Compline

8pm Online Compline

8pm Online Compline

8pm Online Compline

8pm Online Compline

18 +Sunday SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

9am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's AT

10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's B

10.30am Online Benefice Service

10.30am Family Communion Service: St Andrew's H

3pm Christingle Service: St Mary's U

4pm Service of the Word: All Saints' NM

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



*Youth Group and
teenagers.*

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 The Story Behind a Famous Carol

Every carol has a story to tell. For example, you may be interested to learn that the origin of the carol "**O Little Town of Bethlehem**" lies in a visit to the Holy Land made back in the 1860s by a famous American preacher and minister, Revd Phillips Brooks. Brooks was the minister at Holy Trinity Church, Philadelphia.

On his return from the Holy Land, he wrote a carol for use by his Sunday school – the carol we know today as "O Little Town of Bethlehem". It was sung to a tune specially composed by his church organist, Lewis Redner; this tune continues to be popular in the USA, but in England the carol is usually sung to "Forest Green", an adaptation of an English Folk-tune.

Brooks' carol has become one of the best loved of all our Christmas carols. As with many carols, the text has evolved over the years. You may be interested to learn that the original version contained the following verse – a verse which, as far as I know, is no longer sung today:



"Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the Mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more".



I think it is a pity that this verse is no longer sung, for it reminds us Christmas is not just the remembrance of some past event. It is a reminder that Jesus is alive today, and that He wishes to come into our lives and into our communities, bringing His gifts of love, forgiveness and healing. Our task is to make Jesus welcome, by "watching" with a spirit of love, and "holding open" the door of faith – faith in the goodness and power of God, to bring new hope into a world which is so often full of weariness and suffering.

My prayer is that this Christmas time we see afresh the glory of God's love and God's light breaking into our own lives and into our communities – a time when we can truly say that "Christmas comes once more".

With every blessing for the New Year, Fr Jason

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.**



Epiphany Carol Service

St Andrew's - 6pm Sunday 25th January

Come along and enjoy the familiar Epiphany Carols

19 Monday
20 Tuesday
21 Weds 10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H
22 Thursday
23 Friday
24 Saturday

8pm Online Compline
8pm Online Compline
8pm Online Compline
8pm Online Compline
8pm Online Compline

25 +Sunday CONVERSION OF PAUL

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 Epiphany Carol Service: St Andrew's H



*Our worship,
musicians,
organists and
choirs.*

26 Monday
27 Tuesday
28 Weds 10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H
29 Thursday
30 Friday
31 Saturday

8pm Online Compline
8pm Online Compline
8pm Online Compline
8pm Online Compline
8pm Online Compline

Thank you to all who contributed to the hamper in St Andrew's for the Oxfordshire Homeless collection. The items were taken to O'Hanlon House in Oxford and the team there were very happy with all the gifts that were given out at Christmas. Thank you, The Hagbourne Action Group

Free organ recitals at St Andrew's Hagbourne

Every first Sunday of the month at 5pm.

4th January at 5pm: Organist: Andrew Walker

Everyone welcome!



Home Communion in the Benefice 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.

Online Compline This is a short time of Evening Prayer online every weekday at 8pm – time to wind down from the day and relax. Join using the details from www.churnchurches.co.uk
If you go to [What's On](#) and click on [Services](#) you will find the online Compline details to log on.

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 Christmas Tree Festival

A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in any way in order to make our Tree Festival so successful again this year.

Congratulations to The Hagbourne and Wallingford Young Pianists whose clever tree was voted the favourite. Second in the voting came **TM Scaffolding** and third was the **Pre-School**.

A Huge Thank You to all the tree sitters, cake makers, raffle ticket sellers and buyers, planners, entertainers and audiences, sponsors, publicity people, tree angels, washers up, those who put up the trees in Church and then took them down again at the end of the festival! To everyone who bought and decorated a tree in their garden in East and West Hagbourne – the village looked beautiful all lit up in the dark. **So many people to thank . . .**

A good amount of nearly six thousand pounds was raised which is a fantastic amount and will be shared with The Friends of Hagbourne Pool and St Andrew's Church.
Thank you to everyone who donated.



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.

All welcome to join us for coffee and a chat after the Service at about 10.45am



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 4th January and 1st February



Hagbourne Garden Club will be meeting on **Thursday, 22nd January** at the Pavilion. Doors will open for refreshments at 7pm. The talk will start at 7.30pm. The speaker this month is Ben Pope who will give a talk on **Treading Gently through the Borders** *a detailed look at the softer side of border management, including traditional and more contemporary methods, touching on pruning, staking, seasonal planting and plant selection.*

Visitors most welcome at £5 per person. Plenty of parking at the Pavilion.
For information call Sally on 01235 352275



Tower Talk The Christmas Tree Festival was a great success this year with over 100 decorated trees appearing throughout East and West Hagbourne. There were also 30 trees in Church including a Memory Tree. The theme was 'Colours of Christmas' but the ringers did not sponsor a tree this year due to high demand and it is always good for some new organisation to come and join the festival. The weather was awful for the first couple of days of the festival with rain and gale force winds, but people did still turn out which was lovely. Congratulations to Didcot and Wallingford Young Pianists for winning the most popular tree again this year.

On Wednesday 17th December we hosted the afternoon branch practice at St Andrew's and on January 1st we hosted the big News Day practice followed by a soup lunch and raffle.

Our practices have been taking place as usual on a Tuesday evening and have been well attended. Our new ringer Lyn is now ringing on her own and almost ready to join the band ringing call changes and plain hunt. We have rung the bells for two Morning Services a month and also for two Evensongs a month. We have a few injuries in the tower in early December including ribs injuries and an arm injury two following falls and one from a nasty cough and cold.

The bells were rung for the Christmas Services, and we will be ringing the bells as usual from 11:30 on New Year's Eve.

Birthdays – Mary Goy – 27th January.



The Belbringers would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.



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

will be performed at St Andrew's at 6pm on 22nd March 2026

Rehearsals will start in February on Thursdays at 7.30pm. Please contact Mo Windsor on colin.windsor1938@gmail.com if you would like to take part.

All welcome!



In 2026, Mothers' Union celebrates its 150th Anniversary.

In 1876 the vision, prayer and action of one woman, Mary Sumner, founded the Mothers' Union. It has become a global Christian movement of 4 million members across 84 countries. Our previous Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said that MU is the Church's "best kept secret".

In 2026 members of the Churn Branch continue to work with members worldwide to show Christian Care for Families through:

CAMPAIGNING – to raise awareness and lobby against gender-based violence;

PRAYER – to support members across the world and the projects undertaken;

ACTION – local projects and support to overseas projects such as starting credit unions.

More will be explained over the year.

The local Churn MU branch next meets for Holy Communion with refreshments, 10am at St Mary's Church, Upton on Thursday 15th January.

All are very welcome. Join us and Join in.

Revd Louise Butler 07837 009730, leader, Churn MU branch



Nightingale Wikipedia commons

Local leads the way

Lots of UK specialists working in both the fields of climate, and especially biodiversity, are looking at local efforts to keep their hope alive. Why? Because 70% of nature has been lost since the 1970s.* There is also widescale consensus, amongst experts, that the UK is going to miss it's 2030 targets on both climate and biodiversity. There's a lack of UK government leadership in supporting biodiversity nationally. There's a lack of support internationally too. On climate, we've just seen a very depressing COP30. And the world is not on track to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees by 2050.

And just what the changing climate might actually mean for the UK is unclear. Much hinges on what happens to the Atlantic currents that currently dominate our weather patterns. Without them, our weather could look more like that of Iceland, with winters 10-15 degrees colder than they are now.

So, where's the hope? Step in the younger generation who want change now. Look at the **Youngwilders**, who are doing so much to support biodiversity and climate. Their first project has been at Maple Farm, which used to be a retirement home for horses. They started work 4 years ago, clearing fences and invasive species and planting hedgerows and trees. Now, already, they are working with local wildlife trusts to count nightingales as well as being blown away by the butterflies' numbers they're finding there. Please see the article link below for more information and inspiration on how to restore nature at scale.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/nov/25/it-fully-changed-my-life-how-young-rewilders-transformed-a-farm-and-began-a-movement>

And if you want to hear a nightingale sing, as the **Youngwilders** at Maple Farm do, click on the link at this RSPB page. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/nightingale>

*World Wildlife Fund Living Planet Report 2024

www.hugsustainability.org

SAVE THE DATE IN YOUR NEW 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) and will be on sale from 5th January from www.wegotickets.com, Hagbourne Village Shop, 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



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
wish you a happy & healthy 2026!***

Heritage Bakery pre-orders due 7th January

for delivery 10th January Pre-order artisanal breads, savouries and pastries by 4pm Wednesday for collection the following Saturday! Order in Shop or by email to

easthagbourneshop@gmail.com. See available products and allergen details in Shop or at easthagbourne.net.

Pre-order to avoid disappointment, those bacon rolls go fast!



Cake Day 8th January Whether a mid-week pick-me-up or a weekend treat, stop in for one of our scrumptious homemade cakes **every Thursday**—but hurry, they don't last long! And don't forget dinner from our freezer –Calnan's mince or sausage, high quality fish and chips or pizza.



JANUARY 2026 OPERATING HOURS

PO closed Bank Holiday 1st January Normal hours resume **Saturday 3rd January**,
SHOP closed Bank Holiday 1st January Normal hours resume **Friday 2nd January**

Post Office Hours: Mon + Wed–Sat 9am to 12:30pm + Mon & Thu 1:15 to 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

Hot drinks available for takeaway! Freshly frozen fish & savoury pies, Calnan's sausages, local free-range eggs, honey, chutney, chili jam & household essentials including dairy and plant-based milk, gluten free treats, plus crisps, snacks and pick n' mix sweets.

The Hagbourne Mummers – 2026

Your local Mummers performed this year on Wednesday 17th December at the White Hart in Harwell and our own Fleur de Lys in the village.

Mummers plays are a common part of folklore throughout England and are normally performed at Christmas. While the characters will differ, the plays are about "good and evil", "light and darkness". In Hagbourne "good" is represented by King George and "evil" by Bold Slash, a bold French Officer — perhaps a hint as to the origins being after the Napoleonic wars.

Just when and where the Hagbourne Mummers Play was first performed is unknown but, from material obtained from the "Morris Ring" archives, the characters and words of the play are similar to other plays still regularly performed in the area around Abingdon and Wantage. These plays were handed down by word of mouth through the generations, and the Hagbourne Mummers Play is recorded as being learnt by Caleb Hitchman of New Road from his older brother Joseph around 56-58 years ago.

Performances were re-established in 1994 by the late John Stanley and with exception of the Covid years have been performed every year since then.

Traditionally money is collected for charity after the show. Over recent years, in memory of John, the collection has been for Blood Cancer UK. Thanks to our generous supporters we collected almost £550 after the White Hart and Fleur de Lys performances. A big thank you to all who donated, this was a record.

Contributions can still be made through our Just Giving page (www.justgiving.com/page/hagbourne-mummers-2025).



**Our cast
is local,
this is us at
the White
Hart this
year.**

Spot anyone?

**We are always looking for new (and younger) members, interested?
Contact Andy Stocks (andyestocks@aol.com)**

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: 23rd January.**

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 Wizard nebula

Astronomy Notes – through the telescope

I have been asked on several occasions, if I could reinstate my astronomy notes for the magazine. So here goes my New Year's resolution.

As we are into the Pantomime season, I thought I would start with what has become known as "**The Wizard nebula**". Located in the constellation of Cepheus, it was discovered by Caroline Herschel, sister of the famous William Herschel in 1787. It is a very difficult object to observe visually through the telescope. Sadly, practically impossible to see from Hagbourne with so much light pollution. But long exposures with special filters on the camera, reveal much detail. Here we have a cluster of young hot stars lying at a distance of 8,500 light years. The intense radiation from the new stars drives out the surrounding gas and dust while triggering star formation in the neighbouring region, which stretches for 20 light years. Once you get your eye in, it really does look like a wizard.

That really bright object dominating the night sky at the moment is the largest planet **Jupiter** which is at opposition (closest to us) on the 10th, and so will be at its brightest for this year.

A happy and peaceful New Year to you all.
John Napper - Starfields Observatory

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 aannanjoness@gmail.com

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

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 8.00pm for 10 minutes. Access via <https://meet.goto.com/312446493>

CHURCH ROTAS	4th January EPIPHANY	18th January 2nd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	1st February 4th SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	General Notes:
Readers	Isaiah 60 vv 1-6 Shirley Goss Ephesians 3 vv 21-12 Trevor Goss	Isaiah 49 vv 1-7 Doug Amos 1 Corinthians 1 vv 1-9 Andrew Kaye	Malachi 3 vv 1-5 Myra Hardiman Hebrews 2 vv 14-end Helen Clayson	There will be a special Service of Epiphany Carols on 25th January, 6pm St Andrew's. Happy New Year to all on our Rotas.
Intercessions	Celebrant	Celebrant	Celebrant	
Sidesmen	Jacqui Mackenzie Myra Hardiman	Marian Powell Richard Powell	Robin Harries Jane Blond	
Coffee	Shirley Goss Helen Clayson	Jill Garlick Sally Duncan	Marian Powell Richard Powell	
Flowers Lady Chapel	Alison Davis	Marian Powell	Jacqui McKenzie	
Flowers High Altar	Lynne Carter	Jenny Smith	Gillian Harries	

Happy New Year from the magazine committee

We hope that as many people as possible in East and West Hagbourne are seeing and enjoying the parish magazine which is online on both of the East and West Hagbourne Parish Council websites. Thank you to the Parish Councils for enabling this. We are also emailing copies of the magazine to individuals on request and are also printing 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



Wednesday Church: who are we and what are we for? Why do we call ourselves 'Wednesday Church?' The name was suggested back in 2011 when we began to meet on the first Wednesday of each month. A number of us from several different churches in the Didcot area, St Peter's and other C of E churches, Methodists, Baptists, and people from the King's Church, were concerned that there did not seem to be any provision for adults with special needs to meet and worship together.

So, we have been meeting at St Peter's Church in Newlands Avenue since March 2011. St Peter's is an easily accessible modern building which is ideal for our purpose. Our members are adults of all ages who come because they want to and are brought in by their carers from several Day Centres around the area. They are welcomed with drinks and biscuits and various craft activities until 11am when we go into the church for our worship.

Our members contribute to our worship in many ways: lighting candles, ringing the bell, singing, making suggestions for thanksgiving and prayer. Sometimes we include percussion, wave streamers or dance! Even those in wheelchairs can join in!

We have been very glad to see friendships developing between members from different communities and the concern that they show for each other. Local churches have supported us generously and we have been able to buy our own projector so that we can prepare PowerPoint presentations to show the words and pictures that help us to focus our worship.

The songs and prayers are projected onto the wall and Rosie Jackson Kilham interprets them with Makaton signing for those who appreciate that help. In the early days we used to hire a special coach in July to go on an outing to somewhere like the Cotswold Wildlife Park, but recently the Day Centres are wanting to take their people back for a proper cooked meal at lunch time and so now we have a Garden Party at St Peter's with sideshows and so on which is very popular.

We would normally expect between forty and fifty people at our meetings but from time to time we have had up to seventy or more.

Our team continues to be ecumenical with many different skills. We welcome everyone and have many friends. Do drop in and share our worship sometime. It's fun! *Jenny Loder*

Comments from the East Hagbourne Parish Council Chairman

Happy New Year Have you made your New Year wishes? Did they include any hopes and aspirations for things that you might want to happen in the parish that will make life better in some ways? I expect most of you have not, but if you are reading this please think to contact myself, the clerk, or any councillors with your thoughts and ideas.

Slurry seal on Main Road Well before 8am on the 4th December, several residents on Main Road were awakened by sounds of work on the pavement and, for some, that might have been the first that they knew about it! The history of this work is interesting and dates back nearly two years, when it was agreed with senior people in OCC Highways that the best way of improving the surface of the pavement was to use a system colloquially known as a slurry seal, essentially coating the pavement with an almost liquid tarmac. This was put into the OCC schedule for the 2025-2026 financial year. The Parish Council were not updated about the progress or timing of this although the white markings on the pavement were identified as designating areas requiring preliminary work in advance of the slurry seal, information on this coming from talking with the contractors.

About a week before the work, some houses on Main Road were leafleted by the contractor. The work was done very efficiently but most people had not prepared for the fact that the pavement required several hours to harden before use, longer than on the leaflet because of the cold weather. The end result is certainly a huge improvement on what was there before and is much safer. The good news is that this work was done on the OCC budget at no cost to the village. There is one stretch opposite Kingsholm Close that has not been done and we are now in contact with OCC to try and move this forward, potentially at our cost.

Communications Our main concern was not with the work but rather the communications surrounding the work. Communication between parishes and local authorities has long been recognised as an issue and attempts have been made to improve that with an OCC team with a remit to address this. However, although it does seem that some of our requests are taken on board and, of course, it is difficult for an overworked team with limited budgets to schedule work, it is frustrating that often things happen (road closures for example) without prior warning and, it is even more frustrating that sometimes we don't even know whom to thank when good work is done, a recent example being the amazing clearance of Hacca's brook on the causeway (Parsonage Lane) and downstream from there towards Tadley on Blewbury Road. The county wide effort on storm drainage systems is much appreciated although surface blocking, preventing water getting into the drains, has been identified and even addressed by a villager as the main reason for localised road flooding.

CIL Projects Following on from this, communication also remains an issue between villagers and the parish council. It may be that you do mention issues to myself, and then are unhappy that immediate action is not taken. Please don't let this dissuade you from continuing to ask us, as we are indeed pursuing all requests, often held up by the complexities of interaction with other relevant bodies. Some of these are identified in our Action List available with the agenda and minutes of parish council meetings. This leads me on to getting feedback on how best to allocate the spending of our CIL windfall from the new houses in the village. A draft of our thoughts on this is on the village website: Parish Council/Document Archive/Miscellaneous/CIL Projects List March 2025.

One area which can potentially use a significant proportion of our budget is in making improvements to the recreation ground, in particular in providing facilities for older children and young (and old) adults. So please let us know your thoughts on this, by email, phone, or by calling in at the next Parish Surgery.

Parish Surgeries. On that theme, 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 7.30pm on Thursday 15th January. 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



**East
Hagbourne
Parish
Council**

NEWSLETTER No.280 – January 2026

CONTACT DETAILS:

Parish Clerk, Laura Lloyd

Telephone: 07891 551 851

Email: easthagbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com



The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time or engaged with parish matters over the past year. We look forward to continuing to work together to support and strengthen our community in the year ahead.



CHAIRMAN'S SURGERY – FRIDAY 16th JANUARY

Iain Duff will be at the Fleur de Lys on Friday 16th January 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](#)

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

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

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

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

East and West Hagbourne Fund – Contact David Stainthorp on 07711 802887

or email hagbournevillagefund@gmail.com

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



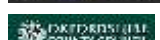
DEFIBRILLATORS: The village defibrillators are available 24/7 at the following locations:

Outside the Village Shop at 114 New Road

Hagbourne Village Hall (next to the main entrance)

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

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



USEFUL INFORMATION LINKS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Planning applications received since the last newsletter:

P25/S3622/A Totems, Community Boards, Fingerpost direction signs & waymarker posts for wayfinding around Didcot

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 15th January 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

HAMS – THE SECOND HALF

Throughout the first half of our season (October to December) Hams have met at the Village Hall on Thursdays from 19.30 – 21.30 to enjoy a programme of masterclasses (led by outside experts), and workshops (led by HAMS members) to build on our learning and link to the masterclasses. We have covered a diverse range of exciting themes and skills from stage combat to puppetry, characterisation, farce, and local festive music traditions. We also took a theatre trip to the Watermill to watch a new adaptation of Charley's Aunt (by Brandon Thomas) which led to further exploration of the genre and scene readings from Blithe Spirit and The Importance of Being Earnest.

Following our short break over Christmas we are back on 7th January with an evolving programme that builds on what we enjoyed in the first half. Once again there are a series of masterclasses and workshops (the detail of which is shared in newsletters each week) and we are planning two further theatre trips. Later in the season, we will also be asking friends and supporters how they would like to see HAMS develop and how they might like to be involved in the future.

Each week, **we warmly invite new and existing members to come along and join in. No experience is needed.** If you, or someone you know, is interested in getting involved in acting, backstage or technical roles, please get in touch or come along to the village hall on Thursdays. Look out for newsletters to know which weeks we are at the theatre.

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

The Revd H. Smith-Masters We asked in December if anyone has 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. We have one photograph at the moment and wondered if you have anything to add to this that we could copy and send to them, could you let us know. Thank you, Joy Napper on magtemp5@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

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 15th January**.

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.

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

		Mondays to Fridays (except Public Holidays)														This journey starts at St Birinus School on school days only.	
route number		94	94A	94A	94	94	94A	94	94A	94	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																	
Harwell Campus Bequerel 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																	
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Didcot Parkway Railway Station	R4																
Didcot Girls' School																	
Didcot St Birinus School																	
		This journey operates during school holidays only.															
		This journey operates on school days only.															
		Buses set down for the Orchard Centre on Broadway.															
		Saturdays															
route number		94A	94	94	94A	94	94A	94	94A	94	94A	94	94A	94	94A	94	
Didcot Parkway Railway Station	R4																
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South Moreton The Crown																	
North Moreton Bus Shelter																	
East Hagbourne War Memorial																	
Didcot Sandringham Road, Saxons Way																	
Didcot Orchard Centre																	
Didcot Parkway Railway Station	R4																
		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.

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 16 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.

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.

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



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.

They are continuing to spread the word about what they do, to ensure that anyone in need of support is aware we are here. Please follow them on Facebook - First Steps Baby Bank - to keep up to date with what they are doing and what items we are most in need of.

You can also find out more on the website www.firststepsbabybank.co.uk.

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

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 20th January titled - Politics in 20th Century Oxford - the life of Olive Gibbs by Liz Woolley



FEBRUARY 2026 PARISH MAGAZINE

Please let us have copy for the February parish magazine by **Tuesday, 20th January to magtemp5@gmail.com**

Thank you, the magazine committee.

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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Harwell Innovation Centre, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Building 173, Curie Avenue, Didcot. OX11 0QG

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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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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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