

St Andrew's Hagbourne

PARISH MAGAZINE

MARCH 2026



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

Come and join us singing Stainer's Crucifixion on Sunday 22nd March at 6pm in St Andrew's Church – details on page 7

Lent Courses in the Churn Benefice: please see page 6

Lent Lunches – come and enjoy our Saturday Soup Lunches: with a special Soup Lunch for Sobell House on 28th March.

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

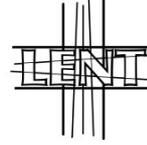
www.westhagbourne.org

CHURCH CALENDAR AND DIARY FOR MARCH 2026

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

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 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



Prayer Focus:

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

2 Monday

8pm online Compline

3 Tuesday

8pm online Compline

4 Wednesday 10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H
7pm – 8pm online Lent Group*

8pm online Compline

5 Thursday 3pm – 4pm Lent Group at St Michael's AT*

8pm online Compline

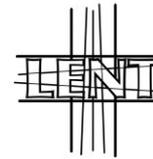
6 Friday 10.30 to 12noon Ecumenical Lent Group*
7pm online repeat of Thursday Lent Group*

8pm online Compline

7 Saturday 12.30 Lent Soup Lunch: St Andrew's H

8 + Sunday THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – Science Sunday

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: St John the Baptist SM
4pm Service of the Word: All Saints' NM
6pm Service of the Word: St Andrew's H



Pastoral care and visiting.

9 Monday

8pm online Compline

10 Tuesday

8pm online Compline

11 Weds 10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H
7pm – 8pm online Lent Group*

8pm online Compline

12 Thursday 3pm – 4pm Lent Group at St Michael's B*

8pm online Compline

13 Friday 10.30am to 12noon Ecumenical Lent Group*
7pm online repeat of Thursday Lent Group*

8pm online Compline

14 Saturday 12.30 Lent Soup Lunch: St Andrew's H

15 + Sunday MOTHERING SUNDAY

9am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's AT
10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's B
10.30am Family Communion: St Andrew's H
10.30am online Benefice Service
4pm Service of the Word: All Saints' NM
6pm Service of the Word: St Andrew's H



Families, Family Services and Mothers' Union.

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 Uphorpe (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 Upton, North Moreton and South Moreton.



Rector's Reflections

What do you think of AI?

I wonder if you have been thinking about the growing impact of AI in the way we do things? Are you worried about AI, or do you take it in your stride?

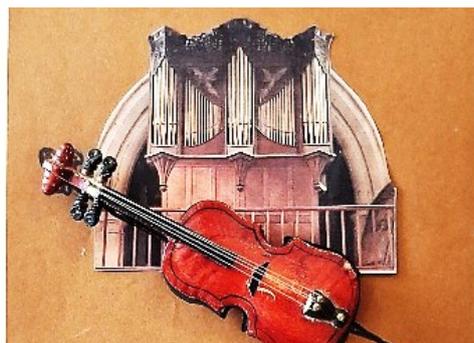
AI has become a part of normal life. Students use it to help them with their work, at School and University. Modern computers seem to take the general use of AI for granted, and AI is routinely used in offices to help with straightforward but time-consuming tasks.

Are we to be worried about the impact of AI on our lives? Is it going to take away our jobs? Will AI get so clever at doing things that it will become smarter than most human beings? Will AI take over the world?

Opinions vary. Some serious and well-informed people worry that AI is poised to change our world for ever – and not necessarily for the better. Other people think that the impact of AI is not going to be as catastrophic as some might fear – human beings have lived through the adoption of new forms of technology in the past, and some think that the coming of AI will be similar to the coming of the railways, the telephone, or the computer. Things will change, and some jobs will be lost; but new jobs will be created, and life will generally carry on much the same as always. It will simply be that some things will be quicker, easier and perhaps cheaper than they were before.

Whatever your thoughts about AI, I think it is important for us all to think about its impact, not least so that we can maximise its benefits and protect ourselves against its risks. To this end, I'm starting a series of informal talks about the impact of AI in different areas of our lives. We'll be looking at the impact of AI in areas such as science, education and the world of work. The first of the series will take place on Sunday 8th March 2026 at 6pm at St Andrew's Hagbourne, as part of our celebration of British Science Week. The topic will be "Science in the Age of AI", and will be aimed at a general audience - you don't have to be a scientist to come along! The talk will take place within our very informal 6pm service. Details of the other talks in the series will be finalized shortly – do contact the church office for more details.

Why am I writing about AI? It is because AI is all about science, and I see science as one of God's greatest gifts to human beings. There is no conflict between Good Science and Good Religion (there can be a conflict between Bad Science and Bad Religion, but that's another matter!) One of the roles of Christianity is to promote the common good, so that every human being can flourish. How might AI help human flourishing? Come along 8th March and share your thoughts. It will be lovely to have you with us. **Father Jason**



Free organ recitals at St Andrew's Hagbourne

Every first Sunday of the month at 5pm

Next recital: Sunday 1st March at 5pm

A programme of organ and 'cello music.

Mo Windsor and Linda Benton will be playing pieces by Vivaldi, Grieg, Reber and David.

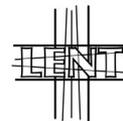
Everyone welcome!

Church Calendar and Diary for March 2026 continued . . .

Prayer Focus:

16 Monday		8pm online Compline
17 Tuesday		8pm online Compline
18 Weds	10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H 7pm – 8pm online Lent Group*	8pm online Compline
19 Thursday	10am MU Holy Communion: St Mary's U 3pm – 4.30pm Lent Group at St Mary's Upton*	8pm online Compline
20 Friday	10.30 – 12noon Ecumenical Lent Group* 7pm online repeat of Thursday Lent Group*	8pm online Compline
21 Saturday	12.30 Lent Soup Lunch: St Andrew's H	

22 +Sunday FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – PASSION SUNDAY



Outreach and parish magazines.

	9.15am Parish Eucharist: St Mary's U 10.30am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's B 10.30am online Benefice Service 3pm Final rehearsal for Stainer's Crucifixion: St Andrew's H 4pm Service of the Word: All Saint's NM 6pm Service of the Word: Stainer's Crucifixion: St Andrew's H	
23 Monday		8pm online Compline
24 Tuesday		8pm online Compline
25 Weds	10am Holy Communion: St Andrew's H 7pm – 8pm online Lent Group*	8pm online Compline
26 Thursday	3pm – 4.30pm Lent Group at St Andrew's Hagbourne*	8pm online Compline
27 Friday	10.30 – 12noon Ecumenical Lent Group* 7pm online repeat of Thursday Lent Group*	8pm online Compline
28 Saturday	12.30 Lent Soup Lunch: St Andrew's H	

29 +Sunday PALM SUNDAY



All the Churches in our Benefice and our relationships together.

30 Monday		8pm online Compline
31 Tuesday		8pm online Compline

***Lent Courses in the Churn Benefice are described on page 6**

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.

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

Services leading up to and during Holy Week

Sunday 22nd March - Passion Sunday

We will start Passiontide at St Andrew's Hagbourne with a special Service at 6pm which will include the performance of *Stainer's Crucifixion*.

Sunday 29th March - Palm Sunday

10.30am Eucharist: St Michael's Blewbury

10.30am Online service

4pm Service of the Word: All Saints' North Moreton

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



Wednesday 1st April 10.00am Holy Communion: St Andrew's Hagbourne

Thursday 2nd April - Maundy Thursday 8pm Benefice Eucharist with washing of feet and watch, stripping of the altar: St Michael's Blewbury

Friday 3rd April - Good Friday 2pm Hour at the Cross: Online

2pm Hour at the Cross: St Andrew's Hagbourne

2pm Hour at the Cross: All Saints' North Moreton

2pm Hour at the Cross: St Michael's Blewbury (with the choir)

Saturday 4th April - Holy Saturday 8pm Easter Vigil: St Michael's Blewbury

Sunday 5th April - Easter Day

8am Holy Communion: St Michael's Blewbury

9.15am Eucharist: St Mary's Upton

10.30am Eucharist: All Saints' Aston Upthorpe

10.30am Eucharist: St Michael's Blewbury

10.30am Eucharist: St Andrew's Hagbourne

10.30am Eucharist: All Saints' North Moreton

10.30am Eucharist: St John the Baptist South Moreton

10.30am Online service

5pm Organ recital: St Andrew's Hagbourne

6pm Service of the word: St Andrew's Hagbourne



150 YEARS OF
Mothers' UNION
Join us, Join in
Lighting the way for generations to come

AWAY FROM IT ALL

One of the key Mothers' Union objectives is to help those whose family life has met with adversity. In Oxfordshire one way we do this is to arrange holidays, days out or treats for individuals and families who have not been able to have a break or time away.

More recently our charity has been able to pay for children to go on school trips and educational holidays when family finances have been tight. MU Members take part in fundraising activities throughout the year raising funds for "AFIA" – **AWAY FROM IT ALL.**

To find out more about our Oxfordshire Mothers' Union and AFIA please visit www.muoxford.org.uk.

Our branch also meet monthly for a Holy Communion service followed by refreshments. This is at 10am at St Mary's Church, Upton on Thursday 19th March. All are very welcome. Join us and Join in. *Revd Louise Butler 07837 009730, leader, Churn MU branch*

Lent Courses in the Churn Benefice



What might Jesus look like?

Artistic depictions of Jesus down the centuries. On **Thursdays** during Lent, Father Jason will be leading a tour around the Churches looking at depictions of Jesus and how they fit into history. He will do a short repeat of these sessions online every Friday using the Compline link. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/312446493>

Thursday 5th March 3 – 4.30pm: All Saints' Aston Tirrold. Repeated online 6th March at 7pm
Thursday 12th March 3 – 4.30pm: St Michael's Blewbury. Repeated online 13th March at 7pm
Thursday 19th March 3 – 4.30pm: St Mary's Upton. Repeated online 20th March at 7pm
Thursday 26th March 3 – 4.30pm: St Andrew's Hagbourne. Repeated online 27th March at 7pm



Ecumenical Lent Group Led by the Revd Josie Midwinter and meeting at Jenny Loder's house in Didcot on **Friday mornings during Lent.**

We shall be looking at the book **Meeting God in John** by David F. Ford. Whether you are completely new to John's Gospel or have read it many times before, this book will help you see the Fourth Gospel with fresh eyes and gain a deeper understanding of its essential meaning and purpose. **On Fridays 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th March at 10.30 to 12noon.**

Contact: Josie Midwinter josie.midwinter@gmail.com Mobile: 07940186006 Please contact the Benefice Office for Jenny's address and/or directions.



Come and See: discovering Jesus through the Eucharist led by the Revd Mark

The Eucharist, or Holy Communion, is at the heart of Christian spirituality and the life of the Church. **Join Revd Mark online on Wednesdays, 7-8pm** to explore the meaning of this holy meal and the life of Jesus Christ. Each week a video by Bishop Steven will unpack a different aspect of the Eucharist, and we'll discuss how these ideas connect with our lives. Everyone is welcome. This is for people at any stage of their journey of faith. Please join online using the Compline link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/312446493>

Quiet Time – online Compline Every weekday Monday to Friday at 8pm (not just during Lent!) there is a short online Service of reflective night prayer or "compline". It lasts about 10 minutes and is a wonderful way of winding down at the end of the day. Join online via this link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/312446493>

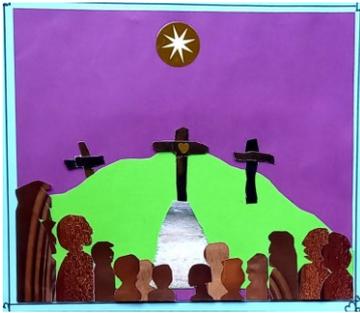


Lent Lunches at St Andrew's

There will be hot soup lunches served at St Andrew's Church on Saturdays between 12:30 – 2:00 during Lent up to 28th March.

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

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. ALL singers are welcome to come and join in the joint choir.

Rehearsals have started 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

Papagena Concert Many thanks to everyone who bought tickets for the Papagena Concert on February 15th and also to all those who helped in any way on the day or beforehand. I am sure you will agree that Papagena were well worth coming to see --and it was so good that the concert was a complete sell out. A very special occasion. As a bonus, we raised £1,380 for the Friends of St Andrew's --all of which will be spent on keeping our church building in good shape for the future. Jeff Powell



Mothersing Sunday – 15th March

Everyone welcome to St Andrew's for the 10.30am FAMILY SERVICE on Mothersing Sunday when small posies of flowers will be given out to the children to present to their mothers in Church. Everyone welcome.

Note to Flower Arrangers ... and others ... Although no flowers in church during Lent, there will be a morning service on Mothersing Sunday on 15th March and it would be lovely if we follow the usual tradition of bringing posies along beforehand, to be handed out to all the Mothers, grandmothers etc afterwards. So, please do bring a few small posies along, either on the morning or beforehand on Saturday to be left in water. With many grateful thanks, Helen Clayson

Science Sunday – 8th March

We are celebrating British Science Week on Sunday 8th March. The Revd Mark will be talking about his **Christian vocation as a scientist** in the online Service at 10.30am. Father Jason will be talking about **Science in the age of Artificial Intelligence** at the 9.15am Service at Upton, 4pm at North Moreton and 6pm at Hagbourne.

Funerals in the Benefice

29th January at St Michael's Aston Tirrold **Barbara Isaac**, aged 84

16th February at St Michael's Blewbury **Victor Bowman**, aged 98

19th February at St Andrew's Hagbourne **Edna Jones**, aged 97

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Baptisms in the Benefice

1st February **Ottalie Rose Jaya Holden** was baptised at All Saints', Aston Upthorpe.

15th February **Luca William Gee** was baptised at St Michael's Blewbury.

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





Tower Talk Many thanks to Jill for organising another training session for the team on Saturday 7th February. This time it was Double Norwich and fortunately she had invited a few experienced ringers from other towers in the area to help out. This is not an easy method and some of the team did better than others, but it was a good training session. I might have to try this again at a later date as I struggled but I am sure I will get there in the end. These training sessions take place about every 2 months; wonder what method we will do next?

The Ringers' Supper took place on Friday 30th January in The Fleur where many of us enjoyed a lovely meal followed by our usual game of Left, Right and Centre. Congratulations to George who won this for the first time. A good time was had by all; we missed Jeff our chairman who was away on holiday. Many thanks to The Fleur and also to Paul, for organising this fun event this year.

The tower AGM was held on Tuesday 24th February after a shortened ringing practice.

Birthdays: Monday, 2nd March Laura Makin, Tuesday, 3rd March Mary Napper.

Happy Anniversary to Jeff and Coral Powell.

Mothering Sunday is 15th March

Shirley Goss.

EASTER FLOWERS 2026

Please do come along to help decorate the church with flowers for Easter once again. We will be there on **Saturday morning 4th April** to make it all fittingly beautiful but if a later time that day is more suitable for you, that will be fine. Very many thanks - as ever - for all your help and wonderful arrangements. Best wishes, Helen Clayson.



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>

CHURCH ROTAS	1st March 2nd Sunday of Lent	15th March Mothering Sunday	5th April EASTER DAY	General Notes
Readers	Genesis 12 vv 1-4a Jenny Smith Romans 4 vv 1-5, 13-17 Jenny Smith	Exodus 2 vv 1-10 Margaret Antcliff Colossians 3 vv 12-17 Sally Duncan	Acts 10 vv 34-43 Trevor Goss Colossians 3 vv 1-4 Shirley Goss	A very big thank you to all those who turned up for the BIG spring clean. What a great job you all did. Once again – thank you.
Intercessions	Jenny Smith	Celebrant	Celebrant	
Sidesmen	Trevor Goss Sally Duncan	Jacqui Mackenzie Myra Hardiman	Robin Harries Jane Blond	
Coffee	Shirley Goss Helen Clayson	Jill Garlick Sally Duncan	Marian Powell Gillian Harries	
Flowers Lady Chapel	No flowers		Joy Napper	
Flowers High Altar	No flowers		Easter Flowers	

Please save the date:
Monday 4th May



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



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

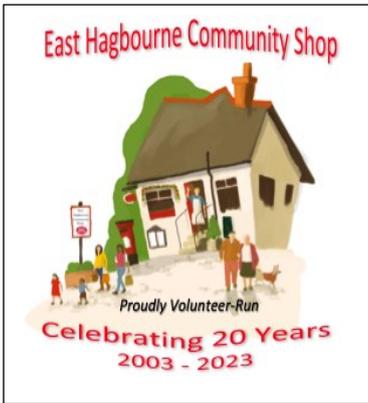
On the first Sunday of the month, joining parents in the Church Service later. Bible stories, circle time, drawing, colouring, painting, crafts and more. Ages 4 - 11. Encourages children to interact with each other and adults, make friends, be creative. A gentle introduction to Christian values.

Next dates: Sunday 1st March and Easter Sunday 5th April

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 March** 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

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 March.**



East Hagbourne Community Shop

MARCH OPERATING HOURS

Post Office: CLOSED until further notice please watch for further updates and see note below.

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

Follow East Hagbourne Community Shop on Facebook for the latest on new local stock and local events.

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

SAVE THE DATES - Welcome in Spring with East Hagbourne Community Shop!

- **PI(E) DAY, 14th March** - Sweet or savoury, we're adding new pies to our stock to help celebrate everyone's favourite irrational number. Pi Day coincides with our weekly Heritage Bakery delivery – nothing irrational about those delicious handmade steak-&-ale pies!
- **MOTHERING SUNDAY, 15th March** - Find lovely, thoughtful, locally-designed cards or chocolate treats to express yourself; or pre-order almond croissants and bacon rolls from Heritage Bakery for pick-up on Saturday to host a celebratory Sunday brunch with Mum.
- **ANNUAL EASTER STALL, 28th March, 9am – 12pm** Stop by for a complimentary cuppa and warm hot cross buns while you browse Heritage Bakery's artisanal breads, savouries and other goodies, handcrafted Easter treats including handknit bunnies and decor, artists' cards, chocolates, home-made cakes, Monica's organic soaps, resin barware and more.

POST OFFICE NEWS

Chris Billen has resigned his position as Postmaster. Please join us in wishing Chris all the best for the future.

The Community Shop are actively facilitating the candidate search, with the goal of having the Post Office operating under new management as soon as possible. **Potential candidates may register interest by emailing their details and CV with subject line "ATTN POST OFFICE"** to easthagbourneshop@gmail.com. We will respond as quickly as possible to answer any questions and to share next steps in pursuing this opportunity.



How can I help support our Community Shop and PO?

One of the easiest ways is to buy local: try **Dark Horse coffee roasted in Nettlebed, Calnan's award-winning sausages and chicken, freshly-pressed pear juice from Harwell, Andrew's local honey, homemade cakes or local artists' cards.**

Pre-order artisanal **Heritage Bakery** breads, pastries or savouries **by 4pm Wednesday** in Shop or by email to easthagbourneshop@gmail.com for collection the following Saturday - see available products and allergen details in Shop or at easthagbourne.net. **New for March:** a new marmalade recipe, hand made by Jenny – try it on some toasted sourdough!

Thank you for your support

Scarecrow Trail

in East Hagbourne 2026



**CUP FOR THE
WINNING
SCARECROW**

**Theme:
"Historical Figures"**

**Scarecrow Trail . . .
. . . for everyone to follow
and vote for your favourite
Scarecrow . . .**

**Saturday 23rd May
until Sunday 7th June.**

**Buy your maps for £1 from the
Community Shop and The Fleur
from Friday 22nd May
in order to follow and vote for
your favourite scarecrow.**

**From Monday 16th March, entry forms will be available at the
Community Shop, or you will be able to print your own from
www.easthagbourne.net. Additionally, it will be published in
the April parish magazine.**

Entry forms to be returned by Monday 4th May.

**Profits will be shared between
Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue and WaterAid.**

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 chat after the Service at about 10.45am



JAZZ IN THE HAGBOURNES

Jam Session The February Jazz Jam night at the Fleur was huge fun, with 13 musicians and singers involved in doing their own 'thing'. This is very enjoyable and a great social occasion at The Fleur. **The next one will be on 11th March.**

Jazz in the Church The third of our series of Jazz in the Church fundraisers for the Friends of St Andrew's will take place on **Sunday, 19th April at 3pm**. I am delighted to say that we have been able to get the Jamie Castell Quartet again, featuring the wonderful vocalist Airlie Scott, who has proved so popular with our village audience for the first two events. Tickets will be available shortly.

Jazz Festival A date for your diary is **Sunday, 21st June**, when there is the third mini-festival at The Fleur. This is expected to start at 1.00pm, and end around 6.00pm. The Fleur will offer their normal magnificent BBQ, of course.

As last year, the **Oxfordshire Youth Jazz Collective** will start things off. They received a standing ovation for a truly remarkable performance, reflecting the highest standards of musicianship in our young people.



Hagbourne Garden Club

The Hagbourne Garden Club will be meeting this month on **Thursday, 26th March** at the Pavilion. Doors will open for refreshments at 7pm. The talk will start at 7.30pm.

The speaker this month is Stephen Head who will give a talk on **Wildlife Gardening – myths and realities**. *A simple introduction to the fascinating new scientific findings that show gardens are the most biodiverse British habitat, demolishing some common myths on the way.*

Visitors most welcome at £5 per person. Plenty of parking at the Pavilion.

For information call Sally on 01235 352275

Details of two of the Lent Lunches at St Andrew's



The local MU branch, The Churn Mothers' Union, will be raising funds for AFIA in March when they host one of the LENT LUNCHES at Hagbourne Church on Saturday, 7th March from 12.30 to 2pm

Come and sample homemade soups, bread & cheese, delicious cakes and hot drinks. You will not be disappointed. If you know of any family or individual who would benefit from an **AFIA** holiday or break, please contact Revd Louise Butler in confidence or go direct to the Oxford MU website: www.muoxford.org.uk. Details of AFIA and our local MU branch on page 5 of this magazine.

In aid of



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. Raffle donations very welcome.

HUGS - Hagbournes and Upton Group for Sustainability



Toucan Picture: Wikipedia Commons

Biodiversity and food security

Nature is a finite resource that underpins the world economy. We need the resources of 1.6 Earths to sustain the world's current levels of consumption (1). The UK government (DEFRA) has just published a report on global biodiversity loss and national security (2). Ecological collapse of 6 key ecosystem regions is assessed, including the Amazon rainforest. The Amazon is earth's biggest land-based carbon store, helping fight against the climate crisis. The tipping point for the Amazon rainforest is likely to be 20-25% deforestation. It is currently 17% deforested.

Agriculture is the biggest driver to Amazon deforestation, clearing land for cattle and also for soya production for animal feed. UK farming relies on soy from South America for one fifth of its produced animal feed. Another cause for tropical deforestation is palm oil production. Nearly 50% of packaged products in the UK contain imported palm oil.

UK food insecurity, economic insecurity and increased pandemic risk, are just some of the direct impacts identified. In the UK we currently import 40% of our food. Global ecological collapse jeopardises future world food prices, the UK's ability to import food, with potential direct impact on household food security.

UK food production is also vulnerable to ecosystem degradation and collapse. Biodiversity loss and the climate crisis are amongst the biggest threats to domestic food production.

The key factors being: • depleted soils • loss of pollinators • drought and flood conditions

As we reach global tipping points, UK agriculture would need to quickly move to new approaches and technologies to maintain food supply. But ecological collapse here would make that much more difficult to achieve. Significant research and investment would be necessary to develop technologies at scale quickly. However, the report concludes that protecting and restoring ecosystems is easier, cheaper and more reliable.

For info on how to be a more conscious consumer:

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate/live-sustainably-how-be-conscious-consumer>

<https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/ethical-consumer-magazine>

Info on Regenerative Agriculture: <https://www.farm-ed.co.uk/regenag>

Sources 1) Dasgupta, P. (2021), The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review. (London: HM Treasury) 2) UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (January 2026), Global Biodiversity Loss, Ecosystem Collapse and National Security. A National Security Assessment.

www.hugsustainability.org

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



East Hagbourne Parish Council

NEWSLETTER No.282 – March 2026

CONTACT DETAILS:

Parish Clerk, Laura Lloyd

Telephone: 07891 551 851

Email: parishclerk@easthagbourne.net



EAST HAGBOURNE WEBSITE INFORMATION UPDATE

If your group or organisation has a listing on www.easthagbourne.net please check the details and contact Councillor Cordelia Gover who manages the website on cordelia.gover@easthagbourne.net if any changes are required. If you would like your activity to be added to the site, please email your details for consideration.



CHAIRMAN'S SURGERY – FRIDAY 13th MARCH

Iain Duff will be at the Fleur de Lys on Friday 13th March 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 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/S3788/FUL** 89 New Road, East Hagbourne – 2 new semi-detached properties to the front of the existing bungalow – 1st Amendment with changes to parking and access
- P26/S0307/HH** 43 New Road, East Hagbourne - Proposed double storey side and rear extension, the insertion of a new dormer window, rooflight and changes to the fenestration.
- P26/S0348/HH** 7 The Crescent, East Hagbourne - Erection of a two-storey side and rear extensions. Removal of chimney.
- P26/S0247/S73** Lower Cross Farm, East Hagbourne - Discharge of conditions 4 (culverting and surface water drainage scheme) and 6 (lighting strategy for bats) on application ref P24/S1468/FUL (Demolition of existing barn and outbuildings and creation of new self-build dwelling)

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th March 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

Comments from the East Hagbourne Parish Council Chairman

Parsonage Lane Parsonage Lane, also sometimes referred to as the Causeway or just the two streams, is an iconic footpath in East Hagbourne and is one of the few tarmacked footpaths in the village. The surface has deteriorated significantly in the last few months and there are some places where the edges to the stream have broken up. While many of you remember fondly your baptism by falling or being pushed into the stream, it is becoming a real hazard for the less nimble amongst us. Because it is a well-used path in the centre of the village, the Parish Council at its February meeting resolved to look into various options for remedying the situation. Although it might be less expensive just to patch up the worst parts, it was felt that this would only delay the need for further action and so would not be effective. Among the possibilities that were considered were a thin resurfacing of the path or raising the full length of the path by up to 10cm which might give a more robust improvement and may also alleviate flooding of the path. This latter option is likely to be quite expensive and was being considered as a good use of our CIL money. We will be consulting with the County Council on this and also welcome any thoughts, ideas, or comments from you particularly because of the iconic nature of this location.

Speeding in the village Several residents, mostly from Blewbury Road, have expressed concern that the 20 mph speed limits have not been successful in noticeably reducing traffic speeds through the village and this was confirmed in the results of speeding surveys conducted last year. It was always recognised that other measures would be necessary to effect speed reduction. We have approached the County Council to get posts installed for vehicle activated signs and will be meeting soon with the county officer responsible for this. Hopefully after this meeting and agreement on the position for the signs, everything will move a bit faster, but not the traffic speeds!

Improving public engagement Last month this page was focussed on communications between the Parish Council and the County Council. At the February council meeting, there was a discussion on ways for the Parish Council to engage more with the residents of East Hagbourne. Some councillors were concerned that members of the public were seldom seen at our meetings and there was some uncertainty about how many people accessed the village website on a regular basis. This discussion, led by councillor Natalie Milner, is recorded in the minutes of the council meeting that will shortly appear on the village website. Clearly, we would welcome your input given the two-way nature of any such engagement.

Potholes Potholes are arguably the major concern for everyone not just for villagers but for many in the county and the country in general. Our County Councillor, Johnny Hope-Smith, attended the council meeting in February and, in his report to council, both gave some explanation of the current situation but also pledged to get involved himself in pressing for urgent action in serious cases while emphasizing that the first action should be to report potholes on Fix My Street (website www.fixmystreet.com or by email to highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk). His report on this is worth reading and might even give you a little sympathy for the task facing the County Council.

Village website All the above information can be found in more detail on our village website (www.easthagbourne.net) that is updated on a regular basis by our clerk and by Councillor Cordelia Gover. The website has information on current news and events as well as an online version of the Parish Magazine. There are also many pages on the Parish Council. The minutes of council meetings are uploaded in draft form around two weeks after the council meeting and are fully approved at the following council meeting. Details of the above items can be found in the February meeting minutes. Reports from our district and county councillors and an Action List to keep you (and us) updated with open issues in the parish are attached to the minutes.

Footway works on Blewbury Road Although we have not had any recent communications on the major footway works on Blewbury Road by OCC Highway Maintenance, <https://one.network/> shows that the works will take place between Monday 9th of March and Friday 20th March. These works will be conducted under traffic lights during normal working hours. OCC said that they will send out advance notice letters to all residents directly affected by these works to inform them of any restrictions and access arrangements.

Continued on page 16 . . .

Parish Surgeries The next parish surgery will be in the Fleur de Lys on Friday 13th March 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 March. Members of the public are welcome, indeed encouraged, to attend the meeting and the agenda is posted on the Parish Council noticeboard outside the Community Shop and on the village website <https://easthagbourne.net/parish-council/meetings-minutes-agendas/> 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



Astronomy Notes – through the telescope

This month we have the star cluster known as **The Pleiades** or the **Seven Sisters**. Lying in the constellation of Taurus, it is one of the nearest clusters to the Earth, containing over 1,000 very young hot blue stars. On a clear night, you should be able to see seven stars with the naked eye. Some claim to see more, but sadly, the light pollution will put an end to that challenge. This is a long exposure which clearly shows there are far more stars in this cluster, plus some surrounding clouds of gas.

John Napper - Starfields Observatory

Events planned at St Andrew's for 2026 **JAZZ in the Church** on **19th April**, 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** – there are already enquiries for trees in 2026!

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

HAGBOURNE BOWLS CLUB The Bowls Club opens every Monday from April through to September. We have an active and growing membership; however, more players of any level are always needed. Whatever your bowls experience you'll find a warm welcome and many new friends at Hagbourne Bowls Club. For more info: please contact our Ladies Captain: Sandy Budd on 07477 814801 or sandybudd@sky.com or visit www.hagbournebowls.co.uk

HAMS – COME AND JOIN US!

Come and join HAMS on Friday, 27th March, 8pm, at the Village Hall for a drink and a chat and a workshopped performance or two.

As announced at the start of the year, our 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.

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



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. 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. Please see the website www.firststepsbabybank.co.uk.

The Earth Hour 2026 The Earth Hour 2026 takes place on Saturday 28th March, when at 8.30pm in their local time millions of people worldwide will turn off their non-essential lights for one hour. Organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the 20th anniversary of this global initiative will aim to raise awareness of the earth's climate crisis, and to encourage environmental action through sustainable, actionable lifestyle changes. The first Earth Hour was held in Sydney, Australia, on 31st March 2007, and has since become a global movement. The 2025/26 theme is 'Giving an Hour for Earth' is encouraging people to adapt sustainable habits in their daily lives. And while our lights are off for an hour, Earth Hour will encourage us to spend the time in nature, or stargazing, or engaging in environmental, educational, or sustainable activities.

More information at: <https://www.earthhour.org>

FREE PIANO - ideal for small spaces! Herbert Ellis Chester upright piano. 1960s. Pretty and compact - in good working order 138cm long, 61cm deep (front of keyboard to back of piano), 120cm high. Please call 0790 448 3456 if interested



Craig Barfoot Antique Clocks

A very fine mahogany-cased clock from c1795. Runs for eight days on one winding and strikes the hours on a bell. Price to include delivery, installation and guarantee. Only £1950 as I shall be retiring from sales very shortly.

I'm your *local* dealer with many happy customers in the Hagbournes!

Please call 01235 818968 to discuss the clock.

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	94A	94	94	94A	94
Didcot St Birinus School																		1530
Didcot Girls' School																		1538
Didcot Parkway Railway Station		0720	0735	0840	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1545	1700							
Didcot Orchard Centre		0724	0739	0844	1014	1114	1214	1314	1414	1549	1704							
Didcot Sandringham Road, Saxons Way		▼	▼	0848	1018	1118	1218	1318	1418	1553	1708							
East Hagbourne War Memorial		0730	0745	0851	1021	1121	1221	1321	1421	1556	1711							
Blewbury The Blueberry		↓	↓	0858	↓	1128	↓	1328	↓	↓	1718							1938
Upton Village Hall				0903							1723							
West Hagbourne The Horse & Harrow				0905							1725							
Harwell Campus Becquerel Avenue				0916	0922	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	1735	1740	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
West Hagbourne Moor Lane	0645	0738	0751	↓	1027	↓	1227	↓	1427	1602	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	1837
West Hagbourne The Horse & Harrow	0646	0739	0752		0931	1028	↓	1228	↓	1428	1603		1749	1838	↓	↓	↓	↓
Upton Village Hall	0648	0741	0754		0933	1030	1133	1230	1333	1430	1605		1751	1840	1943			
Blewbury The Blueberry	0653	0746	0759		0938	1035	1138	1235	1338	1435	1610		1756	1845	1948			
Aston Upthorpe The Chequers	↓	0755	0808		1044	↓	1244	↓	1444	1619	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	1854
South Moreton The Crown	↓	0801	0814		1050	↓	1250	↓	1450	1625	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	1900
North Moreton Bus Shelter	↓	0805	0818		1054	↓	1254	↓	1454	1629	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	1904
East Hagbourne War Memorial	0700	↓	↓		0945	↓	1145	↓	1345	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	1803
Didcot Sandringham Road, Saxons Way	0704	↓	↓		0948	↓	1148	↓	1348	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	1806
Didcot Orchard Centre	0710	0812	0826		0954	1102	1154	1302	1354	1502	1637		1812	1912	2004			
Didcot Parkway Railway Station	0715	▼	0831		0959	1107	1159	1307	1359	1507	1642		1817	1917	2009			
Didcot Girls' School		0820																
Didcot St Birinus School		0828																
		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								
Didcot Parkway Railway Station		0735	0910	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1510	1610	1710	1810	1910	
Didcot Orchard Centre		0739	0914	1014	1114	1214	1314	1414	1514	1614	1714	1814	1914	
Didcot Sandringham Road, Saxons Way		▼	0918	1018	1118	1218	1318	1418	1518	1618	1718	1818	1918	
East Hagbourne War Memorial		0745	0921	1021	1121	1221	1321	1421	1521	1621	1721	1821	1921	
Blewbury The Blueberry		▼	0928	▼	1128	▼	1328	▼	1528	▼	1728	▼	1928	
West Hagbourne Moor Lane	0751	↓	1027	↓	1227	↓	1427	↓	1627	↓	1827	↓	↓	
West Hagbourne The Horse & Harrow	0752	↓	1028	↓	1228	↓	1428	↓	1628	↓	1828	↓	↓	
Upton Village Hall	0754	0933	1030	1133	1230	1333	1430	1533	1630	1733	1830	1933		
Blewbury The Blueberry	0759	0938	1035	1138	1235	1338	1435	1538	1635	1738	1835	1938		
Aston Upthorpe The Chequers	0808	↓	1044	↓	1244	↓	1444	↓	1644	↓	1844	↓	↓	
South Moreton The Crown	0814	↓	1050	↓	1250	↓	1450	↓	1650	↓	1850	↓	↓	
North Moreton Bus Shelter	0818	↓	1054	↓	1254	↓	1454	↓	1654	↓	1854	↓	↓	
East Hagbourne War Memorial	↓	0845	0945	↓	1145	↓	1345	↓	1545	↓	1745	↓	1945	
Didcot Sandringham Road, Saxons Way	↓	0848	0948	↓	1148	↓	1348	↓	1548	↓	1748	↓	1948	
Didcot Orchard Centre	0826	0854	0954	1102	1154	1302	1354	1502	1554	1702	1754	1902	1954	
Didcot Parkway Railway Station	0831	0859	0959	1107	1159	1307	1359	1507	1559	1707	1759	1907	1959	

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.

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.

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 March, 2.30pm, with a garden talk titled 'On top but never in control' by the speaker Timothy Walker, Horticulturalist.

For more information on U3A please visit the **NEW WEBSITE:** www.didcot.u3asite.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 19th March.**

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.

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

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 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



APRIL 2026 PARISH MAGAZINE

Please let us have copy for the April parish magazine by **Friday, 20th March to magtemp5@gmail.com**
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.

Available to meet to consider your needs with no obligation.

Please call Karyn 07947129409

Care in the Home

VINE LIVING – Care in your own Home

Local, reliable and compassionate care, right at home.

Providing personal care, visiting care, live-in care, companionship, dementia support, medication assistance, meal preparation, shopping and domestic support.

CQC-regulated service with fully trained, DBS-checked carers, supporting adults and older people across Didcot and surrounding villages.

For free, no obligation care consultation. **Call 01235 512344**

Carpet Cleaning

GRIMEBUSTERS. Professional carpet, upholstery and rug cleaning.

Most carpets dry within the hour. Unbeatable results, removing almost all spots and stains.

Free estimates and friendly advice. www.grimebusters.co.uk

Oxford: 01865 726983 Abingdon: 01235 555533 Witney: 01993 868924

Catering

CREATIVE CATERING Local flexible and affordable catering For all your catering needs including: Weddings, Parties, Pig Roasts, Buffets, Funerals, Canapé Receptions and Business Lunches. Short notice bookings welcome.

25 years' experience. For more information or menus: **01235 850342 or 07743368373**
email: sheilaaustin@btinternet.com **Please look on our new website for menus and details: www.creative-caterer.co.uk**

Double Glazing

DIDCOT GLASS & GLAZING LIMITED Professional Double Glazing Suppliers and Installation Specialists based in Wallingford, Oxfordshire

Bi-fold doors. Double glazing. Secondary glazing. Shop front glazing. Windows. Upvc doors. Conservatories. Soffits and fascias. Call us now to arrange a FREE survey and quote. FENSA registered company.

Tel: 01491 834038 Email: mail@didcotglass.co.uk www.didcotglass.co.uk

Electricians

CONNECT INSTALLATIONS Electrical Contractors We are your local and friendly electricians. We can help you with your project requirements whether big or small. New installations and Rewires • Extensions and alterations • Replacement distribution boards • External power & lighting • EV charge points • Inspection & testing.

We are an NICEIC approved contractor with our work covered by their platinum promise.

**Tel: 07788 713966 Email: post@connect-installations.co.uk
www.connect-installations.co.uk**

HES ELECTRICAL SERVICES Friendly family run business based in East Hagbourne. Domestic and commercial electricians. All aspects of electrical installations carried out to NICEIC standards. NICEIC and Check a Trader registered. City & Guilds qualified. Heating control specialist • Full and part rewires • Security lighting • Test certificates Extra sockets and lights • Garden installations • E.V. charger installations New build and extensions.

For a free quote or visual inspection please call: **07973 891663 or 01235 814332**

Electrician and Plumber

PIPES & WIRES ELECTRICIAN AND PLUMBER East Hagbourne based 35+ years' experience • Very reasonable rates • Trading standards approved Part "P" building regulations • Meticulous & reliable • Free no obligation advice Solar and Battery installations • EV Points • NAPIT Approved.

**Pete Wood (M.I.E.T.) Email: pipesandwires1@gmail.com Mobile: 07799 661188
Landline: 01235 817239 www.pipesandwires.co.uk**

Funeral Service

RIDGEWAY FUNERAL SERVICE Chapel in the heart of the countryside.

Hill Farm, Church Lane, Steventon. OX13 6SW. info@ridgewayfunerals.co.uk

Telephone: 01235 355269 www.ridgewayfuneralservice.co.uk

Proprietor: Michael Didcock.

Garages

SCOTLAND'S ASH GARAGE Main Street, West Hagbourne, Didcot, OX11 0NA

MOT testing from 6am by appointment. Servicing all types of vehicles including vans and new vehicles under warranty. Air-conditioning specialists. Tyres, exhausts and clutches. Selection of free courtesy cars. Recovery service available.

Diagnostic fault finding and rectification for any make of car. We are now the Oxfordshire taxi compliance testing station. **Huge saving on tyres.**

We are now offering the Terraclean Service – call for details.

Tel: 01235 850707 www.scotlandsashgarage.co.uk

Garden Centre and Family Farm Shop, Florist, Gift & Animal Feed

SAVAGES Family Farm Shop, Garden Centre, Florist, Gift & Animal Feed.

Fresh quality fruit and vegetables and foods, including dairy, meat, bakery items and more, as well as home grown plants, pots, compost, flowers, giftware, greeting cards, wild bird and animal food and accessories. Retail and wholesale services available.

The Nurseries, London Road, Blewbury, OX11 9HB Established 1960.

Tel: 01235 850352 shop@savagesblewbury.co.uk www.savagesblewbury.co.uk

Garden Maintenance and Design

ANDY'S GARDEN MAINTENANCE All aspects covered including: Patios, Fencing, Hedging, Grass Cutting and Weeding.

Please contact: **Telephone 01235 819120 Mobile 07521 031773**

DRUM LANDSCAPING • Hard and Soft Landscaping • Fencing • Garden Clearance
• Garden and Grounds Maintenance • Hedge Planting • Hedge Cutting • Grass Cutting
• Turfing • Power Washing • Winter Gritting • Licensed Waste Carrier • Insured.

Call Nick - Home: 01235 859229 Mobile: 07922 701634

Email: ndrumlanscaping@gmail.com

General Plumbing

TAPS AND TOILETS For all your small general plumbing jobs!

Taps • Toilet repair • Leaks • Sink installations • Toilet installations • Washer changes
• Overflow Issues • Washing/Dishwashing machine installs • Outside Taps • Pumps
• Showers • Stop Cocks • NO HEATING/BOILERS • Emergencies •

Tel: 07526 304050 www.taps-toilets.co.uk

Handmade Soaps, wax melts and more

NESSO GIFTS MONICA'S PRODUCTS Handmade locally. Looking for a gift or something to treat yourself? Welcome to Nesso Gifts. Our eco-friendly, cruelty free, vegan soaps are for people who are looking to avoid synthetic fragrances, preservatives and other potentially harmful chemicals found in many commercial products.

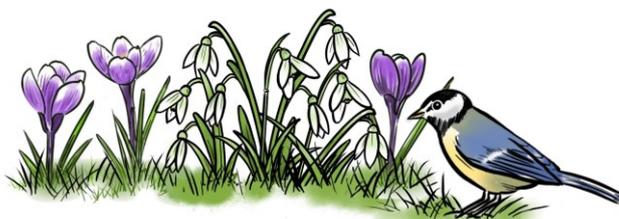
We also have handmade soya wax melts with essential oils, hair scrunchies from organic materials and much more. We hope you will be able to support our independent family business. **Email: nessogifts@gmail.com Website: nessogifts.co.uk**

Hearing and Ear Wax Removal

RESONATE HEARING CENTRE Your local independent hearing and ear wax removal specialist. Take control of your hearing health today. Look no further for advice on Wax Removal, Hearing Aids, Hearing Consultations and Custom Ear Protection. Book online or give us a call. Local home visits may also be available.

Website: www.resonatehearingcentre.co.uk Phone: 01235 838515

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



Heating Services

STUART CORRIGAN HEATING SERVICES Central Heating Installations

Servicing and Repairs of Gas Appliances • Emergency Plumbing Repairs. Gas Safe Register.
Please contact: **01235 417198 or 07711 022410**

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: Weds 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

Painting and Decorating Services

GARY CUDDON Local Fully Qualified Painter and Decorator providing a high-quality service. Free quotations. Fully insured.

Mobile: 07827752904 Tel: 01235 510680 Email: garycuddon@aol.com

E. J. KNIGHT Painting and Decorating Services

A local business for all your painting and decorating requirements. Friendly reliable service.

Mobile: 07566226634 Tel: 01235 833845

Email: ejkpaintinganddecorating@gmail.com

Pilates Classes and 1-1s

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.principalpilates.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

Roofer

Tom Savage Roofing & Building We are a local family-based roofing company providing a friendly and reliable service.

Tom Savage - 07817 252775 info@tomsavageroofing.co.uk

Secretarial Services

PAULINE'S PERSONNEL Secretarial and employment agency.

All grades of permanent and temporary office staff provided. Other types of staff by arrangement. Confidential correspondence, thesis, manuscripts, reports, etc. Word processing service. Photocopying, wages, VAT and general book-keeping.

Tel: 01235 812067 email: paulinecox31@gmail.com

Soft Furnishings and Upholstery

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

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

<https://www.griffininteriorsoxford.com>

SWALLOWS & OTTOMANS UPHOLSTERY Established East Hagbourne 2018.

A bespoke upholstery service restoring cherished furniture to its former glory. All aspects of upholstery covered: antique or contemporary furniture, simple recover to complete reconstruction using traditional horsehair or modern techniques. Loose covers and cushion making service. Contact me for a free estimate of the work and costs involved.

Natalie Wratten AMUSF qualified 07769 976967

swallowsandottomans@gmail.com <https://swallowsandottomans.weebly.com>

Solar Panel Installation

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

NICEIC approved and MCS Registered.

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

Tree Felling and Landscaping

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

Freephone: 0808 1555815 Mobile: 07778 811136 <https://www.arbocare.co.uk>

Vets

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

Didcot, Great Western Park & Sutton Courtenay: 01235 814991

Wantage: 01235 633830

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

