

PARISH OAK



MARCH 2017

Parish Oak Activity Calendar

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 st 10am Christ Church: Ash Wednesday Service	2 nd	3 rd Aldworth School: Partycise 2017	4 th 10.30am Upper Clatford: Woman's World Day of Prayer
5 th 10am St George's: Communion	6 th	7 th	8 th 2 - 4pm Liz Hall's house: Craft Group 7.15pm Enham Resource Centre: Enham Alamein Parish Council Meeting The Oak, Smannell: Quiz Night	9 th	10 th	11 th
12 th 9.30am Christ Church: Matins 10.45am Christ Church: Family Service Launch Pad 3pm Michael House, Enham: Evening Service	13 th	14 th 3pm Smannell & Enham School: Messy Church	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th Enham Country & Western Club: Kevin Bull
19 th 10am St George's: Communion	20 th	21 st 6pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting	22 nd The Oak, Smannell: Quiz Night	23 rd From 2pm The Rectory:, House Group	24 th	25 th
26 th 10am Christ Church: Mothering Sunday service The Oak: Mother's Day Lunches available	27 th	28 th	29 th 12noon St George's: Lent Lunch 6pm Christ Church:: Compline	30 th	31 st	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The Church

Parish Priest	Rev. Val Gagen	748065
Pastrow team Priest-in-charge	Rev. Alex Randle-Bissell	512161
Pastrow Team Administrator	Jude Appleby	07999 352585
Churchwarden - Smannell	Irene Wilson	359950
Churchwarden - Enham	Emma Kinchenton	0783 7736681
PCC Treasurer	Noel Pope	352968
PCC Secretary	Vacancy	
Gift Aid Secretary	Rod Bowker	357201
Parish Magazine Editor	Peter Calcraft	512262

Local Services

Smannell & Enham (CE) School		323201
Enham Club, Landale Wilson Hall		352098
Enham Parish Council	Chairman: Leslie Francis	335678
Smannell Parish Council	Chairman: Rod Bowker	357201
Test Valley Borough Council		368000
Enham Service Station		352651
Enham Shop and Post Office		335678
Enham Trust		345800
Andover Leisure Centre		323355
The Oak (Public House)		363075

Emergencies

Hospitals Andover Memorial		358811
Royal Hampshire County		01962 863535
NHS 111		111
Neighbourhood Watch	Richard Budge (Smannell)	351129
	Meg Chant (Little London)	355167
	Tim & Leslie (Enham)	335678
Police	999 or 101 or 0845 045 45 45	
RSPCA		08705 555 999
Samaritans		0845 7909 090
Social Services - Andover		387400

Utilities

Southern Water	0330 3030368
Southern Electric - Emergencies	0800 0727282
British Gas - Emergencies	0800 111 999

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EDITORIAL

Maybe I'm deliberately searching for it, or maybe it's serendipity, who knows? But one thing I'm sure of is that, despite feeling overwhelmed at times over the past few months with the continuously worrying flux in the societal and political landscape, I have been hugely touched by hearing about some lovely human beings!

- The Big Issue seller in Winchester who raised £5000 for Children in Need through donations on the street
- The young boy whose beloved dog passed away over Christmas, and who raised money to donate to the Dogs Trust.
- A friend's child who was given some money for Christmas and who decided to donate it to Charity.
- A friend's daughter who decided to use some Christmas present shopping money to buy a homeless person a coffee.
- Countless examples of an army of grandparents who help out day after day keeping the economy whirring by supporting their families with the school run or providing day time child care – and loving it.
- The artist who provides a community service to those that want to learn about art and develop their techniques.
- The music school that provides teaching and support to young teens as a charity and works on the basis of volunteers and donations.
- Someone who is reaching out to schools, children and parents teaching mindfulness techniques to support children's mental health.

Honestly, the list is endless and thank goodness for that. A good friend in the US is actively looking for lovely messages about the good in people to reassure her that there is kindness all around. She sent us a bumper sticker as an act of kindness. I certainly believe that if you open your eyes for the positives around you, you will find them and it might just ignite a passion to do something yourself.....



Helen Murphy



CHURCH IN SMANNEL & ENHAM



Ramblings from the Rectory ...

Yesterday I went to visit Stonehenge ... the world's most famous prehistoric monument.

Now I know it is only just down the road and we have been here for over two and a half years but we just hadn't got round to it before. Many years ago I visited it as a child, when you could walk wherever you wished, and stand in the centre if you so desired.

Of course now it is all fenced off and is only available for free access on special occasions. We did choose one of the coldest days of the year to visit, with scatterings of snow lying on the ground and a cold penetrating wind to boot!

But I was amazed at how long the stones have stood there ... to think that prehistoric people put them there more than 4000 years ago is quite something to get your head round. It took them 800 years of construction and alteration stretching into the Bronze Age. It reminded me of some of our wonderful cathedrals, which may or may not have taken 800 years to build, but they are still as majestic and impressive to me as these ancient stones.

Going into Winchester Cathedral in the dark last year for the Easter Eve service was to me equally impressive. As we processed down the long aisle, gradually the candles were lit, and the light flowed everywhere. It showed the cathedral as it was built to be used - full of worshippers, there to celebrate Easter together and the resurrection of God's Son.

Three of our regular members from St George's were confirmed at this service last year and it was an amazing experience for them all. If you know someone who may be interested in confirmation and would like to become a full member of the church, do talk to them about it, and let them know that I am happy to chat about it with them, too.

Easter will soon be upon us and elsewhere in this magazine you will find the list of Easter and Lent services and activities. Do try to come to something you may not have been to before.

On the 1st March we begin our special services with the service of Ashing on Ash Wednesday at 10am at Christ Church, Smannell. All are welcome to this service, with the children from our local school joining us, too. Our Mothering Sunday service will be on the 26th March at 10am, at Christ Church, Smannell, We then have the first of our two Lent Lunches at 12 noon, at St George's, Enham on Wednesday 29th March. You are all most welcome to join us for a simple meal of bread and soup, for the cost of a donation.

In the evening on the 29th, we have the first of our two Compline services: at Christ Church, Smannell at 6pm. If you have never been before, this is a short, ancient service of peace and quiet and a restful way to end the day.

In April we have the second of our Lent Lunches, this time at Smannell church on the 5th at 12 noon. And on the 6th, we have our school Easter service in the church at Smannell at 1.30pm. Then on the 12th, we have our second Compline service at St George's at 6pm.

You are all welcome to any of these services or the Lent Lunches. I wish you all a blessed month of March and a holy Lent leading up to our great Easter celebrations in April.

God bless,Val

Rev. Val Gagen
01264 748065

PARISH REGISTER

Funeral

Jeremy Calcott Reilly on Wednesday 25th January 2017. Funeral and interment at Christ Church, Smannell

I shall not forget you.

Look, I have engraved you on the palm of my hands (Isaiah 49 v15-16)



To love, to learn, to live ... to leave a legacy

SMANNELL & ENHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Do you recognise this photo?



Some of you will of course recognise this as TV's Downton Abbey but I'm sure some will also know that this is of course Highclere Castle. Our Year 3 and 4 children in Kingfishers Class know it better as a fantastic place to find all sorts of amazing Ancient Egyptian artefacts and it is just on our doorstep. Not having to travel all the way to Egypt to learn about Lord Carnarvon's work with Howard Carter in locating Tutankhamun was a real bonus.

Our youngest children in both Robins and Puffins Class have also been out and about as they visited Marwell Zoo. The reception children in Robins Class have become fascinated with penguins and really enjoyed watching their antics in and around the water. As Puffins Class are about to start exploring habitats around the world it was an ideal opportunity to learn just how many different animal habitats there are.

I am sure you will have noticed that the majority of this piece is all about things that have happened away from school. Much closer to home there is a piece of news that could potentially have an impact on our school and the local community. You may well see in the near future in various news outlets, articles about schools funding formula. This is a national attempt at trying to make sure that schools all across England are fairly funded. Without wishing to be overtly political, if this formula is put in place it may well have a considerable impact on the operational viability of schools such as ours in the near future. We will be sharing our concerns with MPs as part of the consultation process which is available to all.

Peter Shaw
Head Teacher

ENHAM ALAMEIN PARISH COUNCIL

We do hope everyone enjoyed the pantomime and we would like to thank Andover Amateur Theatre group for entertaining so many people.

A defibrillator has been fitted outside the Enham Shop & Post Office. It is a standard unit designed for anyone to use with simple clear instructions. There is an instructional DVD available to borrow - please just call in to the shop.

The speedwatch device has been ordered for the Community Speedwatch programme and we hope it will be in use as soon as possible.

We are currently awaiting planning permission for installation of two new Village signs. Designed and constructed to represent the unique village in which we live, we do hope you will agree that they are a fitting welcome and tribute to the village as you enter Enham Alamein.

There have been reports of an increase in dogs' mess in the village. The Parish Council has supplied and pays for the collection of several bins. TVBC provide waste bins that can also be used for bagged dogs' mess. Please do use them and respect your neighbours.

The White House Doctors' Surgery will be open five mornings a week - Monday - Friday, beginning from the 6th March.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th March at the Enham Resource Centre.

Leslie Francis

Chairman, Enham Alamein Parish Council

ENHAM ALAMEIN SHOP and POST OFFICE

We would like to thank everyone who had fun with the tombola and let you know that we raised £225 for the Battersea Dogs Home.

We are organising weekly tastings of new local produce. Currently we have Bowman ales (Bowman is a company situated near Newbury), Upham craft ales of Hampshire, and Honesty Bakers of Greenham Park offering freshly-cooked bread and pastries delivered daily. Watch out for news on the blackboard.

There was a great display for Valentine's with many personalised local gifts including book sculptures, hand-blown glass, beauty boxes, pamper treats and many more. This array of different local crafts is on sale or can be ordered.

Our efforts in the nursery are getting busy now and with the weather hopefully improving we will have more plants for sale. If you need anything particular please do ask.

best wishes,

Leslie & Tim

Parish Oak Advertising Rates

The Parish Oak is a monthly magazine that has an excellent avid readership and covers all households in Smannell, Little London, Enham Alamein, Finkley and Upper Enham.

Full page (12 issues per year)	£ 140
Half page	£ 90

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Heath Gunn, CEO

01264 345 800

Hello everybody,

Hard to believe we're approaching March already; spring time always puts me in mind of fresh starts and new beginnings, as the early shoots start to appear.

I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to be the new Chief Executive of Enham Trust on a permanent basis, and I look forward to working with the people we support, our amazing staff teams, volunteers and trustees, to deliver truly person-centred services, and leading the charity towards its next 100 years.

February saw us launch our second "Make a Will" campaign, encouraging those considering amending or creating their Will, to do so for a donation to our wonderful cause. I'm delighted to share with you that this initiative was once again a great success – enabling us to form valuable lasting relationships with the participating solicitors, as well as raising much-appreciated funds to put towards our work.

I'm incredibly grateful to the University of Winchester Elite Events for organising a 'Partycise' event on our behalf, held on 3rd March at Aldworth School. Partycise 2017 is an exercise class with a difference – using UV light and dance music to put the fun back into exercise!

Congratulations to Andover-based Work Programme customer Ellis who, following college, spent 2 years unemployed before coming to our Andover office for support and advice. Following support with CV writing and interview preparation, I'm pleased to say that Ellis has now found sustained employment with a local business.

In March, our talented and creative Art Programme Project Manager, Dorethea Nowack, will be leading individual and group session art classes from her studio here at Enham Trust. A fantastic opportunity for artistic amateurs and experienced professionals alike to hone their skills and develop new ones, these classes promise to be both fun-filled and educational.

Finally, I'd like to wish this year's London Marathon runners the best of luck with their upcoming challenge! We're fortunate enough to have several local individuals running on our behalf this April, and I can't wait to see how each of them gets on!

More information can be found on our website: www.enhamtrust.org.uk, or on our Facebook page.

Heath Gunn, CEO



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GROUP SESSIONS

Designed for anyone wishing to explore their passion for art, and develop their skills over a longer period of time, group sessions provide enthusiastic beginners with the space and support you need to learn.

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COST Individual lessons are 1 hour each - £45.00

Discounted to £40.00 per lesson if you book 2 lessons or more in advance.



PORTFOLIO SERVICE

Students applying for art colleges are encouraged to visit our Art Studio to receive professional advice and guidance from Dorethea.

CONTACT: Dorethea Nowack - Art Programme Project Manager
Telephone: 08451 307 504 Web: www.enhamtrust.org.uk/art

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A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A COUNTRY VILLAGE PUBLICAN



For just over six years, Tom Goss and I ran the pub together. However, personal circumstances have changed and now I am going it alone with my two little boys, Oakley and Henry. I currently work six days a week; it's tiring but enjoyable and I find the challenge is to juggle working and spending time with my boys. Having always been the head chef here at the Oak, it has been a new challenge to manage the additional roles that come with running the pub alone.

In September many of my long-term staff left to pursue life at university, leaving me with many roles to fill. Fortunately, I am very lucky to have an endless supply of enthusiastic local teenagers, who come looking for their first experience in the world of work, and I am very happy to give them the opportunity to grow in confidence and skills. I now have a brilliant team here at the Oak that supports me both in the kitchen and front of house. Meggie and Josh are my longest reigning staff and have been there for me through the years and I'm very grateful to have them around. Thanks guys.

Tuesday

My first day of the working week. This week I am mainly working out front as I'm covering staff holiday. It's a fun task of juggling food prep, front of house and normal management duties on my own this week.

I wake up for the kids at 7:30, but get up at 8am after cuddles and milk. To start the day; I change Henry's nappy, get the boys showered and dressed and then quickly get myself ready. I fix Oakley and Henry some breakfast and then prepare their lunch boxes for nursery. I then dash downstairs to let in the deliveries for the day: fresh fish and mincemeat for the burgers, etc. The boys come downstairs with me while I clean the pub and toilets. We Hoover and mop every day to keep everything as clean as we can. This week I have arranged an early drop off at nursery of 11:30, instead of 12, to give me time to get back to make the burgers and other prep before opening. On my way to nursery I have to collect some heating oil as we are running low.

After opening, I get on with emails and phone calls, phoning staff hours through to the accountant, and then my order to Wadsworth for the beer, spirits, wines and soft

drinks. I am tied to all wet goods but Waddies take care of all the building and boiler maintenance, so it has its pros and cons for being tied, but it's a lot less of a risk.

We have a busy lunch for a Tuesday. At 3:30 I put a chicken in the oven upstairs to get a head start on the dinner, while I go to pick up the kids. We get home to finish the roast dinner, but the oil from the tray has begun to drip onto the bottom of the oven, in turn setting off the fire alarms. Don't worry, this doesn't normally happen. Poor Oakley is rather upset by all the noise, as every time I think I've reset the alarm it comes back on! After all the drama I rush to finish dinner and open the pub again at 6pm, and a friend comes over to babysit for the evening while I work.

There are a few tables in the evening. Low and behold the card machine is not working due to poor internet service. This makes it really hard to provide a good service to customers as I have to make card transactions over the phone, once it's finally working. Tuesday is a good night, as there is a good crowd in drinking, playing darts & bar billiards. At midnight I lock up, cash up, and make a start on the cleaning, ready for the next day as there is a lot happening in the morning. 12:30 shower and bed at 1am.

Wednesday

Another 7:30 start and all goes to plan, although today I am able to have breakfast myself ... a bacon sandwich!

At 9:30, Pepsi comes to install their equipment as Wadsworth pubs are all changing over from Coke to Pepsi in hope of a better service. Wadsworth sent the wrong mixes, so only lemonade & Pepsi Max can be installed this week ... we end up selling lots of bottled Cokes instead.

The electricians also come in the morning to put up the flood lights in the car park. This has been an ongoing problem and is still yet to be connected!

Norman, the area manager, comes at 10am to go over the changes in the tenancy agreement which I signed for another three years. Unfortunately, Norman has some bad news; as of March I will no longer be able to stock Guinness, instead I will be supplying Waddies own brand stout.

After the meeting I then drop the kids at nursery, getting back in time to open up for the lunch shift. After closing at lunch, I get on with the ales line clean for the week before setting off to pick the kids back up from nursery.

The next stress of the day was that we have no quiz sheet for the quiz this evening and the printer has decided it no longer wants to co-operate with email communication. Instead I try to send an email to a friend to print but yet again no internet. Finally, I manage to send an email to my phone and print wirelessly from that.

During the evening Auntie Julie babysits for me and is also there to help me sort through my paper work for my tax credit allowance. There are about 40 people doing the quiz so £20 goes into the church roof charity fund pot and the rest for prize money.

At 10:30, I ring through my orders for next day deliveries, cash up and do the cleaning. Then off to bed.

Thursday

7am wake up! Kids jump in to bed nice and early, or at least it seems early when I don't seem to get to bed before 1am these days.

Normal morning routine. I need to make sure I am ready for 10am as the U3A walking group is coming to place their pre order for lunch, before setting off on their morning walk. Last time I was running late and had to jump out of the shower and run down the stairs to greet them with wet hair. Don't worry, I remembered my clothes, although quite often workmen and delivery men end up seeing me in my pyjamas and big fleecy dressing gown!

As we are ready early we go to the park at Penton for twenty minutes before nursery. I rush back to open up and light the fires ready for the walkers. Today, I manage to get some paperwork done before picking the children up at 4 and on our way back pop into Enham Post Office to do some banking. When I get back to the pub I am told that the beer delivery won't be coming, as Wadworth's computer system is down and it might be coming on Saturday.

At 5pm, Mum and Dad come to pick up the boys to have them over night and all day Friday. They will then be dropped off at Tom's in Portsmouth until Sunday evening. Normally Oakley and Henry are at home with me on a Thursday but this week I have to work the evening shift. The Rotary come in for their weekly meeting and meal this evening and then I cash up and get the cleaning done by 11.30.

Friday

I get up at 8am today as I only need to worry about getting myself organised this morning. I unlock the doors for the food deliveries and decide to make the most of the extra time this morning by deep cleaning the toilets. This includes scrubbing the floors with a handbrush. Next, I move onto the line clean for the draft ales and ciders and then get myself cleaned and ready for another trip to the post office.

Today's food service comes with no surprises and then I spend the afternoon prepping dishes for the weekend. I make the pie filling using the slow cooker, this week, making a lovely creamy chicken and mushroom pie on offer. I also make a lamb jalfrezi ... another slow cooker miracle.

This evening's service is rather quiet, allowing all the staff to finish early and enjoy some time together, having a laugh and a chat with some of the locals.

Saturday

Thankfully Wadworth's are able to deliver the beer today, however, the delivery guys leave it in the back yard and so I have the fun task of lifting all the kegs and bottles down the stairs to the cellar. I pop to the garage for some more heating oil to get us through the rest of the weekend and then on to Tesco to grab some last

minute vegetables. The other week my supplier charged me £22 for 8 broccolis, so I have begun to shop in Tesco where they are sold at 45p each! I quickly get back so that I can make all the sandwiches for an afternoon tea, and set the table with a table cloth and vintage china. Afternoon teas have been growing in popularity recently, especially for baby showers and christenings.

In the evening there is a 50th wedding anniversary dinner, they have pre-ordered to ensure no-one misses out on the choices they are looking forward to. All the staff work hard tonight, pulling together to ensure service goes smoothly and all of the customers are happy. We manage to finish at 12 but sometimes it can be a little later on a Saturday.

Sunday

Lie in this morning ... 9am! I get myself showered and dressed and I am in the kitchen by 10am with Josh to get ready for Sunday lunch. We make Yorkshire puddings, stuffing, cauliflower cheese, roast potatoes and roast vegetables. Each week our meat varies and today we have turkey, sirloin of beef and lamb. Food service finishes at 4pm and I make sure we all give the kitchen a good scrub from top to bottom before sitting down together to eat Sunday lunch.

About 5pm I take over at the bar and lock up at 6.30, ready to head off to Portsmouth to pick the kids up. It's late by the time we get back, so we have a special Sunday cuddle and story time before they fall fast asleep at 9.30. After such a non-stop week I am fast asleep by 10.30! Can't wait for my day with the boys tomorrow.

Monday

Time off and time with the kids! Once we are all ready we set off for Romsey Rapids. I haven't realised how many schools are on half term, so it is very busy, meaning long queues and chilly boys. We don't stay for too long as we are all very hungry and can't wait to get to Pizza Hut. After filling ourselves with the pizza buffet and ice cream factory, we go to the indoor soft play in Eastleigh for a good run around and to burn off all the energy we've just consumed!

As we drive home, Oakley and Henry dose off in the car and I wake them up to help me make dinner. We have pasta tonight and the boys make sure there is enough left over for Meggie when she gets here after work! Meggie babysits on a Monday, giving me a little time to myself, which I use to go to a pole fitness class. I used to do gymnastics as a child and I loved that. I have found something equally as fun that works my body hard and builds my core strength. After my one hour of the week to myself, I'm back home to put the boys to bed. The plan is to get the paper work done next, but in the process of putting Oakley to sleep I dose off next to him at 9.30!!

Tribute to my father, Jeremy Reilly



Thank you for being here. I want to tell you a little bit about the man who was my father.

Just before the outbreak of the War, when Dad was 5, and his brother, Patrick, was 3, the family was posted to India. There, his mother would play golf. And his father, a colonel in the Royal Engineers (the Sappers), was often away. And so, after a whole month's journey by ship, Dad and Patrick would be left with a not overly watchful nanny, leaving them free to explore the local area, as long as their mother never found out!

With few opportunities to make other friends, Dad and his brother were close and did almost everything together. During wartime new toys weren't available, so Dad worked his way through a series of exciting books about a jungle hunter called *Bill Blackadder*! On his 6th birthday, he was given a bicycle, which was small, second-hand and red. This was in frequent use. And if Dad cycled with the same nerve he later showed driving racing cars, it's no wonder the bike acquired the name of *'the Red Peril'*!

When they moved north, earthquakes were a risk. So when the weather warmed up, Dad and Patrick's beds were moved outside with their mosquito nets. There, they'd have to try to get to sleep, listening to the long and haunting howls of jackals hunting together in huge packs. This was very frightening for two small boys, outside, alone and in the dark, who at the dreadful noise were picturing jackals the size of *tigers*! But *Bill Blackadder* came to the rescue - he wouldn't have been frightened of a jackal! Dad would go to sleep dreaming he was in the jungle stalking a man-eating tiger. Or firing endless bursts from the cannon of his Hurricane as he flew it over occupied France, before getting into his Spitfire to win a dog-fight at higher level!

Away on a long campaign in Eritrea, their father sent back two large boxes. Inside was an Aladdin's cave of confiscated weaponry from Italian prisoners of war, including two small rifles designed for boys' units, empty training grenades, belts, badges, swords, and a catapult! You can imagine the excitement these two small boys felt, having had no new toys for 3 years, especially seeing the rifles! Even without their firing pins, they gave a feeling of power, as they demonstrated their bolt action on sorties around the garden and neighbouring area!

When at home their father would take them on long nature walks teaching them to identify birds and butterflies and inspiring Dad's love of nature. So it must have felt very exciting when they moved south to the edge of the jungle at Chhindwara, where nature abounded all around! Tigers were usually further away, but their landlady had been called on to shoot a *man-eater* not long ago. They learned to recognise the coughs of panthers at night, and found a python sleeping on the beams of their verandah. It's not surprising that this was the very place where Kipling's *Jungle Book* was set. Of course all this was very exciting for two small boys, and their armoury was often called into action. And they shared exciting jungle exploits together, sheltered under the illusion that their catapult and boys' rifles would offer them some degree of protection!

Eventually they had to return with their mother to England - and an education. It was by now 1944, and Dad was 10. It was still wartime. So they had a tense, and yet for small boys quite exciting journey back by sea, under continual threat of torpedo attack. One afternoon, the ship's alarm sounded. Assuming it was a practice, Dad and Patrick began to return down the stairwell to retrieve their life-jackets, only to be overrun by a mass of Indian soldiers charging up in panic from below, and the terrifyingly loud sound of gunfire outside. All they could do was crouch down and hug each other at the side of the stairs, while imagining

a sea-full of torpedoes about to strike the waterline of the ship – just where they were crouching! It was *very* frightening!

With no home to return to until their father could leave India, within 2 weeks of arriving in England, Dad and Patrick were packed off to boarding school in Devon. The two brothers and playfellows, who'd known only the unregulated simplicity and freedom of Indian life, now found themselves in an unremembered country and climate, separated from each other into different age groups, cooped up in icy dormitories; and their days and nights regulated into the strict routines, rules and punishments of boarding school life. The experience was quite overwhelming and depressing, and added to the sense of homesickness, despite having no home. They were behind educationally as a result of inadequate teaching and continual changes of school and home in wartime India. Now faced with things like Latin, French and algebra, and classmates who were already several years ahead, Dad was overwhelmed and found it hard to concentrate. He and Patrick were both so unhappy that, one night, Dad broke out of school, in hope of persuading his mother to take them both away from there. This was not the success he hoped, and she sent him straight back to the headmaster for a beating. Mr Blencoe, to his credit, merely gave Dad an understanding lecture, which left Dad comforted, and of a mind to keep on trying!

During holidays they stayed with grandparents in Eastbourne, where bomber aircraft would fly overhead and sirens would alert to the approach of German flying bombs or Doodle-Bugs. On one of these occasions they saw two aircraft flying over the sea, directly towards them! Their mother dragged Patrick to safety, but Dad was much too excited not to stay and watch. First there was a sound of machine-gun fire. Then the second aircraft turned away in a sharp upwards bank. Then the first aircraft, the Doodle-Bug, was by now passing very low over him, with its loud and rasping pulsating sound. It was all over in seconds, and then the All Clear sounded.

So what kind of man did this daring and adventurous little boy become? He became a brilliant army officer, who loved racing old sports cars, and whose soldiers recounted stories of his bravery as their Commanding Officer in Northern Ireland. He drew up the ceasefire plan that persuaded opposing military leaders in Rhodesia to enter the talks that led to its independence.

He was the strength and rock for Mum, after the loss of their second child Penelope, at only 9 weeks. And then within 3 years he had to deal with the tragic loss of his brother, Patrick.

He was a supportive, encouraging father, a very proud grandfather, and a loyal husband. He inspired my profound love and respect for the natural world, and desire to paint it, as he had done. And later in life, he wrote 22 volumes of autobiographical journals, a labour of love, from which some of these stories have come.

His regiment, the Fusiliers, who were raised on stories of his exploits in Northern Ireland, called him a Regimental legend, an inspirational leader, and a great man. But even great men have to come home and live normal lives, which in some ways for him was his hardest challenge of all. His mind could grasp complex ideas at bewildering speed. He was always finding better ways of doing things, much to the irritation of my mother - and I think some of his senior officers! He wasn't comfortable with small talk. And even though it made him appear taciturn and put one on edge terribly, he'd consider and reflect on things, and wasn't afraid of silence. He wasn't given to expressing feelings, not easy to know, and amazingly, not always right. But he *loved*, *felt* and *cared* very deeply. And *he* was very loved. Never more so than by his wife, in whose loyal and loving care, he was able to enjoy the last precious years of his life, surrounded by friends and family, in the home that he loved.

It is only fair that I give Dad the last word. He liked having the last word on most subjects! In the days when he could still walk a little on his frame, Dad took my husband Peter aside, on one of their walks up the road to the telegraph pole and back, and said that there was something he needed to talk about. Dad couldn't talk easily by this time, but he'd been thinking about us all being here today. He said, "I want *everyone* to know that I was very *proud* of my daughters, and loved them *very* much, and that Julia ... was my *angel*."

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NOTICES

Easter Schedule 2017

Date	Service	Time	St George's / Smannell
2 nd April	Holy Communion	10am	St George's
9 th April	Family friendly Palm Sunday	10am	Smannell
14 th April	Good Friday	3pm	Smannell
15 th April	Children's Workshop	10 -12pm	Smannell
16 th April	Easter Sunday	10am	St George's
23 rd April (St George's Day)	Holy Communion	10am	St George's
30 th April	Holy Communion	10am	Smannell

As part of the Easter schedule we will be introducing our new children's workshops. These are sessions that will be held during the year to support our now monthly family service.

At the Easter workshop we will be making an Easter Garden along with other activities including painting and an Easter egg hunt.



If you are interested in attending please contact Churchwarden Emma at K.kinchenton@sky.com so that we can ensure we have enough supplies (and eggs) for everyone who wants to attend.

NOTICES

Dates for the Diary

1st March - Ash Wednesday service with the School at Christ Church at 10am

4th March - Woman's World Day of Prayer at Upper Clatford at 10.30am

8th March - Craft group at Liz Hall's from 2-4pm

14th March - Messy Church at the School 3-5pm

21st March - Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 6pm

23rd March - House Group at the Rectory at 2pm

29th March - St George's Lent Lunch at 12 noon

29th March - Smannell Compline at 6pm

Advance notice for April dates leading up to Easter:

5th April - Smannell Lent Lunch at 12 noon

6th April - School Easter Service in Smannell church at 1.30pm

10th April - Passion play at the Lights at 7.30pm

11th April - Joint Messy Church [with Smannell and Hatherden] at Charlton Church at 10.30am

April 12th - Craft group from 2-4pm

April 12th - St George's Compline at 6pm.

April 14th - Good Friday Passion Play in Andover

April 14th - Smannell Stations of the Cross at 3pm

April 15th - Children's Art Session at Smannell from 10-12 noon with Easter Egg hunt

April 16th - Easter Day at St George's at 10am

**SERVICES IN SMANNELL WITH
ENHAM ALAMEIN PARISH
MARCH 2017**

Wednesday 1st March

10.00am

Christ Church, Smannell

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday 5th March

10.00am

St George's, Enham

LENT 1

Holy Communion

Sunday 12th March

9.30am

Christ Church, Smannell

LENT 2

Matins

10.45am

Christ Church, Smannell

Family Service

3.00pm

Michael House, Enham

Evening Service

Sunday 19th March

10.00am

St George's, Enham

LENT 3

Holy Communion

Sunday 26th March

10.00am

Christ Church, Smannell

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Holy Communion

Sunday 3rd April

10.00am

St George's, Enham

PASSION SUNDAY

Holy Communion

Enquiries for Baptisms and Weddings should be made in the first instance to Jude (the Benefice Administrator) on 07999 352585 [Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 1pm]. Enquiries for funerals and anything else, please ring Val on 01264 748065.

**Submission Deadline
for the April Parish Oak issue:**

Friday 17th March, 2017

Contact: editor@parishoak.co.uk/Tel: 01264 512262

GREAT FOOTSTEPS AND FOOTPRINTS

"We all do think of doing something in life; be it significant or not, do something positive. If you pursue great footsteps, you leave great footprints." This is a quote taken from the book 'Distinctive Footprints of Life: Where are You Headed To?' by the author and philosopher Ernest Yeboah.



Well, Liz Hall is someone who epitomises the phrase "A Truly Remarkable Woman" and she has lived in our community for nearly 50 years. Liz has certainly left a great footprint in many ways throughout her life.

This is the third and final article chronicling her achievements and in this issue we will recall her contribution to help mental disabilities and in particular her work with the Andover and District Mencap (ADM) charity.

ADM had its origins in 1962, when a group of local ladies began to meet at the original 'Copper Kettle' in the High Street in Andover. Their objective was to raise funds, provide help and give small cash grants to local people in need. The ladies included Shari Whatley (the wife of the then Town Clerk, John Whatley), together with Mrs Griffin (head of the WRVS), and the Countess of Brecknock. The group called themselves 'The Anton Companions'.

During this year Liz Hall, who had recently moved to the area together with her husband Phil and their children, including her son Jonathan who had Down's Syndrome, joined the group and suggested looking at the needs of the 'mentally handicapped' in the town.

The ladies agreed with Liz's proposition and started to fundraise towards this cause. They set up a base called the Gateway Club in the building attached to Old Carruthers Market off Bridge Street (on part of the current site of the Borden Gate car park).

The Gateway Club began meeting here and was the first service provided in Andover for people with a learning disability.

Liz Hall had set up a Society for Mentally Handicapped Children (which were forerunners to Mencap Societies) in Buckingham where the family was living when Jonathan was a baby. With her encouragement, the Anton Companions became the nucleus of the 'Andover Society for Mentally Handicapped Children', with Liz appointed as the Chairman. The charity was formally created at a public meeting held in St. Anne's Hall, Suffolk Road, in 1964.

The Society began fundraising with the aim of providing a permanent base for the society's growing activities and one of the major events which took place in 1967 was a sponsored walk along the 'Spratt and Winkle' railway line which received publicity in one of the national newspapers.

The group approached the Andover Borough Council for a site to build a meeting hall and were offered a plot on South End Road, which was part of the allotments which were about to be redeveloped for housing. When planning permission was applied for, over 80 letters of objection were received from local residents. Liz Hall and Mrs Bradley, another parent of a Down's Syndrome child, took their children to meet each of the objectors and all but one withdrew their objections.

Andover Borough Council very kindly supported ADM by renting the ground at a peppercorn rent. The money for the building of the Bonhomie Centre was raised in the main from football pools run by the Bonhomie Charity – hence the name of the building, and was organised by Sid Vincent. However financial help was also forthcoming from The Rotary Club and many other local organisations.

In 1969 'The National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children' shortened its name to 'Mencap' and shortly after the 'Andover Society for Mentally Handicapped Children' became 'Andover and District Mencap', and Liz continued to serve as chairman of ADM until 1976.

In February 1967 the Bonhomie Centre was officially opened by Baroness Brooke, the wife of the then Home Secretary, Sir Henry Brooke. The building cost £5,000 to build and a further £5,000 was spent on equipping the centre.

The Crossman Commission presented a national report in 1972 entitled 'Better Services for the Mentally Handicapped' which amongst other things recommended the closure of institutions where many children had been wrongly cared for. This report led to 'Care in the Community'.

Liz Hall had a dual role in this exercise, firstly by presenting evidence to the Crossman Commission and secondly in her role as a Psychiatric Social Worker in helping to close down the local Subnormality Hospitals (Coldeast and Tatchbury Mount Hospitals).

ADM was asked to search for suitable properties in Andover which could be converted into three 'locally based hospital units' and to put forward the names of people from the local area who could be considered for placement in these new facilities.

Liz was instrumental in finding the Homeward Care Home in Enham Lane, Charlton. She recalls the purchase as follows: "I thought this property would be ideal for our purposes, so I zoomed down to the Lloyds bank and asked them how much we had in the account at Mencap. We bought the house for £20,000. It had a war shelter in the garden that the children would play in. We negotiated with the Hampshire County Council to use the property as a home for young people coming out of the hospitals. There were 10 bedrooms and Lady Corven formed a committee to fundraise to set the house up with staff and to renovate the building."

Liz Hall has continued throughout her life to fight for better services for people with learning disabilities. She has maintained many public roles in this focus, including being a Governor on The Hampshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, a Governor for 5 local schools (including the Smannell and Enham Primary (CE) School) with an emphasis on Special Educational Needs, a board member of the local Sure Start program, a Trustee of Hampshire Carers Together and also the Local Implementation Group representative on the Hampshire Partnership Board for Learning Disabilities. In 1997 she was awarded the MBE for her commitment and dedication.

A Truly Remarkable Woman has lived and worked amongst us for nearly 50 years!
And the innings is still continuing ...

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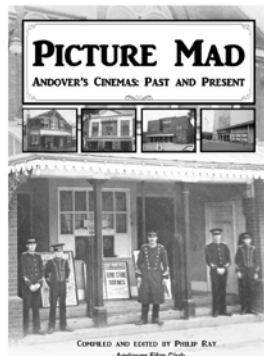
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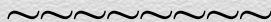
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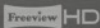
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