



The Mottisfont & Dunbridge ACORN



Parish Newsletter

August / September 2026

Dear Neighbours

I hope you are all coping with the scorching weather! In case you needed an excuse to kick back with a cold drink and watch the world go by this next two months, I've got you covered with a thought borrowed from Sir John Lubbock - a 19th-century politician and scientist who, fittingly for August, drafted and introduced the Bank Holidays Act of 1871 to Parliament. He famously wrote:

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time."

I've certainly seen plenty of people making the most of the glorious weather on the lawn at Mottisfont Abbey recently. While a splash of rain wouldn't go amiss for our gardens, the wonderful outdoor theatre performances have been a joy to watch under such idyllic summer skies.

Looking ahead, I'm sure we are all eagerly anticipating the upcoming Village Hall Fete. It's always a great community day and a highlight of the village calendar, so do make sure to pop the date in your diaries.

With the hot spell continuing, and a hosepipe ban now in place, please stay cool and remember to keep an eye out for one another. It's also a tough time for our local wildlife, so if you can, leave out shallow bowls of fresh water in shaded spots for thirsty birds, hedgehogs, and bees (adding a few pebbles helps the insects drink safely without drowning).

On a local note, our regular Evri driver, Raymond, has unfortunately been unwell and off work recently. I'm sure you'll join me in sending him our very best wishes for a speedy recovery. In the meantime, I know just how frustrating and stressful the resulting parcel delays and missing packages have been for so many of you in the village.

Finally, The Acorn would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mottisfont & Dunbridge Village Hall for kindly sponsoring this edition.

Warm wishes,
Allis X



THE VILLAGE FETE NEEDS YOU

Can you spend some time from 10 a.m. at the Village Hall on Saturday 8th August to help set up gazebos? Or do you have an hour to spare the following day from 10 a.m. to take tables round to the various stallholders, come along in the afternoon to relieve stallholders for an hour or just take round hot or cold drinks.

Donations of bottles, tins and new gifts for the tombola can be left in the garage at Hawthorn Cottage in Lockerley Road if we are not at home. Donations of cakes will also be welcome and can be brought to the hall from 10 a.m. on the day of the fete.

The fete will run from 1-5 p.m. on Sunday 9th August at Mottisfont Village Hall, Hatt Hill, Mottisfont. Free entry and parking. Cash and cards accepted. Hope to see you there.

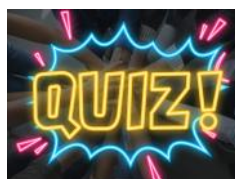
Offers of help to Lynn Young on 01794 40134 or lynnhenmatt@aol.com

The deadline for inclusion of any articles / information in the October / November edition of The Acorn is the 25th of September 2026. Please email any items to acornparishnews@outlook.com

MOTTISFONT SOCIAL CLUB

AUGUST 2026 EVENTS

Thursday, 6 August 8pm - BINGO
Friday, 7 August 8pm - QUIZ (Mike Hughes)
Thursday, 13 August 8pm - BINGO
Thursday, 20 August 8pm - BINGO
Friday, 21 August 8pm - QUIZ (Mike Hughes)
Thursday, 27 August 8pm - BINGO
Saturday, 29 August 7pm - PARTY



SEPTEMBER 2026 EVENTS

Thursday, 3 September 8pm - BINGO
Friday, 4 September 8pm - QUIZ (Mike Hughes)
Saturday, 5 September 8pm - QUIZ (in aid of Young Carers)
Thursday, 10 September 8pm - BINGO
Saturday, 12 September 8pm - 100 YEARS BILLIARDS CELEBRATION
Wednesday, 16 September 8pm - COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, 17 September 8pm - BINGO
Friday, 18 September 8pm - QUIZ (Mike Hughes)
Thursday, 24 September 8pm - BINGO
Friday, 25 September 8pm - CRICKET PRESENTATION & RACE NIGHT

BINGO: includes Mystery Envelope Draw and Snooker Ball Game (Snooker Ball Game tickets can be purchased throughout the week - purchaser to write their name on reverse of ticket if unable to attend the Club on the Thursday).

NATIONAL LOTTERY BONUS BALL: drawn every Saturday (tickets can be purchased throughout the week).



MEMBERSHIP DRAW: is held every evening that the Club is open.

Look to the Skies on 12th August.

Keep your eyes on the horizon on Wednesday, 12th August in the early evening. We will be treated to a spectacular partial solar eclipse, with over 90% of the Sun covered by the Moon around 7:13 PM.

(Remember though never to look directly at the Sun without proper eclipse glasses)

Village Hall Heating Grant Success!

Fantastic news for the Village Hall! We are delighted to announce that we've been awarded a £500 Councillor Community Grant towards the cost of new heating controls. A huge thank you to our local Borough Councillor, Alison Johnston, for supporting our application and helping us make the hall warmer and more energy-efficient for everyone.

A New Landmark for Romsey Abbey

If you're heading into Romsey over the coming weeks, keep an eye out as you pass the Abbey. Groundworks have officially begun in the north churchyard for a new life-size bronze sculpture of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Created by local sculptor Amy Goodman, the piece will depict a young Queen in her Coronation Regalia and celebrates her special connections to Romsey and nearby Broadlands.

MOTTISFONT CRICKET TEAM

As we write this before the end of July it is fair to say that we have had another successful season. With just one game left in the Tuesday Border League season we are sitting second in the league and have reached the semi-finals of a cup competition for the second year running.

On the Saturday Hampshire League front we still have five games to play and lie in 6th place. After being promoted last season this was always going to be a tough step up and it was the aim of the captain to consolidate our place in this division which hopefully we can manage.

We have had a number of very close games and with a bit more rub of the green we could have been safely secured at the top end of the table.

It's been a very difficult time maintaining the pitch this season with severe drought conditions again but the Grounds Team, David Lawrence and Glynn Blake have done a fantastic job producing great wickets leading to consistently high scoring matches.

The remaining games at home are;
Sat 8th Aug v. Penton
Sat 22nd Aug v. Breamore Dravidians

We plan to have the end of season barbecue after the Breamore game.



The National Trust - Mottisfont Abbey

Exhibition - 'The Art & Craft of Print'

Mottisfont celebrates the art of printmaking with an exhibition in partnership with the prestigious St Jude's Gallery in Norfolk and featuring the work of some of Britain's leading printmakers. Pop in and enjoy works by Angie Lewin, Emily Sutton Mark Hearld and Jonny Hannah to name but a few.



Pokémon joins Summer of Play at Mottisfont - 23 July - 6 September

Planning your summer holidays? Unleash your energy with the National Trust's Summer of Play supported by Pokémon. Try out mini games inspired by your favourite Pokémon, practise your Pokémon Trading Card Game skills and build confidence in battle strategies. You can also connect with other Pokémon trainers through trading or battle sessions and get hands-on with a variety of fun activities.

Mottisfont's Summer of Play is one that you won't want to miss with 7 play zones to suit every age and every interest.

1. Burn off some energy in the Active Zone. Get to grips with a tug of war, hone your football goal scoring with a practice goal, get competitive with an egg and spoon race and dash in and out of a magical, fluttery rainbow tunnel.
2. Are you a nature-lover? Get hands on in the Nature Zone, explore cloud formations, identify signs and sounds of summer, grab a pair of binoculars and an insect identification kit and discover the beauty of our Mottisfont countryside. Get busy den building or scrambling through our wild play area. Mini teepees make a shady retreat to plan your nature based fun.
3. Filled with dramatic flair? The Imagination Zone is calling you! Take on the challenge of our wobble boards and roll up, roll up to add to your circus skills! Join performers from circus company Storm in a Teacup to master amazing new skills, from plate spinning and diabolo to juggling and giant bubble blowing.
4. If it's all about play, the Loose Parts Zone is a treasure trove for the imagination. From giant Tetris to build-your-own marble runs and jolly giant Jenga, the sky is the limit when it comes to creating your own fun.
5. Our younger visitors are joining us in the Beech Circle in the Under 5's Zone, with a music making station, super-sized construction materials, a play kitchen, and wooden stepping stones.
6. If creativity is your thing, there are opportunities to do chalk art, tell stories and engage in imaginative games in the Creative Zone.
7. On top of an already jam-packed Summer of Play, discover the all-new Pokémon zone. Get stuck into the Pokémon Trading Card Game, flex your skills and collect Mega Evolution stickers!

Storytelling with Merry-go-Round

Amanda Kane-Smith from Merry-go-Round Storytelling returns to Mottisfont for more interactive storytelling adventures!

Each week of the summer holidays, join us for a different much-loved story to life, packed with laughter, imagination and plenty of audience participation. From bear hunts to teatime tigers, there's a story for everyone.

Tuesday 28 July – Elmer Monday

3 August - The Three Little Pigs Wednesday

12 August - The Tiger who came to Tea

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 August - We're going on a Bear Hunt

Thursday 27 August - The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Wednesday 2 September - Jack and the Beanstalk

Circus skills workshops and amazing bubble displays!

Join performers from circus company Storm in a Teacup to master amazing new skills, from plate spinning and diabolo to juggling and giant bubble blowing.

Roll up, roll up! Join performers from circus company Storm in a Teacup for a day of hands-on circus fun for all the family. Have a go at plate spinning, juggling, tightrope walking, hula hooping and much more, with friendly, expert guidance from their professional performers, who'll help you build confidence and pick up new skills at your own pace, whatever your age or ability.

Then dive into their amazing bubble displays - chase and pop giant bubbles, and get lost in clouds of millions of tiny bubbles as they drift and dance across the grounds. It's a magical spectacle for younger visitors and grown-ups alike, and a brilliant photo opportunity too.

There are six sessions to choose from, and all are free of charge (normal property admission applies) Just drop-in, so no booking required, and see what new skills you can master over the course of the day.

For more information visit: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/hampshire/mottisfont>

Kids' Corner: Summer Word Scramble.

Calling young puzzle solvers. Can you unscramble these mixed-up summer words? Grab a pencil and see if you can crack all five:

ETEF _ _ _ _
NUSSIHEN _ _ _ _ _
KIRTICE _ _ _ _ _
ECICRAME _ _ _ _ _
GARDNE _ _ _ _ _

(Answers are on the last page)



New Website & Online Booking for the Village Hall!

We are excited to announce that Mottisfont & Dunbridge Village Hall has a brand-new website!

It's now easier than ever to hire the hall for your events, parties, and club meetings. You can view full hall details, check live availability, and make your bookings directly online.

Take a look and explore the new site at
<https://mottisfontvillagehall.co.uk/>

Caring for Our Chalk Stream: The River Test

Living in Mottisfont and Dunbridge, we are lucky to have the world-famous River Test right on our doorstep. Following recent news of Southern

Water pleading guilty to permit breaches upstream near Stockbridge, there has been renewed focus on protecting our rare chalk stream ecosystem.

While larger regulators hold water companies accountable, we can all play a small part in keeping the Test healthy for its unique wild salmon, trout, and water voles. Over the dry summer months, please remember to dispose of household chemicals, oils, and garden fertilizers carefully so they don't wash into drains or waterways.

Lockerley Primary School Open Mornings

Wednesday 16th September 9:30am

Tuesday 13th October 9:30am

Come and see how we make a real difference

We welcome you and your child to visit our school. There will be many different activities for your child to get involved in including pond dipping, gardening, sports and arts.

A Message from Gina & Lorna at The Mill Arms

Saturday 13th was a glorious day for Gina, Lorna, and their two sisters as they completed the 13.2-mile Macmillan Mighty Hike along the Thames Path from Windsor to Cookham. The team powered through the scenic route in 4 hours and 17 minutes—averaging a brisk 20 minutes per mile!

They would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported them. Thanks to online contributions and pub donations, they've raised nearly £1,500 so far for Macmillan Cancer Support.

If you'd still like to donate to this fantastic cause, the sponsorship sheet remains on the noticeboard at the pub, or you can contribute online:

mightyhikesfundraising.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/sisterhood-gina



Thank you all - your generosity is humbling.

With love,
Gina & Lorna xx

Lockerley Church of England Primary School

We have had a busy summer term so far at Lockerley Primary School. Children in Swallowtails Class (Years 3 and 4) enjoyed an overnight camp at the Lockerley Water Farm. They had a wonderful time, playing games, eating toasted marshmallows around the campfire, and even managed a few hours' sleep! Staff and children enjoyed this memorable trip.

One of the highlights of the term has been welcoming our upcoming Year R pupils to their weekly Stay & Play sessions. These gentle introductions help children feel comfortable in their new environment and give families a chance to connect with staff. Many of them have enjoyed Caterpillars, our baby and toddler group, where we can already see friendships forming and confidence growing.

Sport has been a big focus this half term, with every class taking part in PE sessions led by Active8Minds. This has brought a fresh burst of energy to our sports curriculum, with children enjoying athletics, rounders, football and many more. They have also been enjoying sporting activities in their lunch breaks, making the most of our field and outdoor space. Year 5s have been out for their summer term swimming lessons which have focused on water safety, swimming technique and developing confidence, building up to hopefully using the Romsey Rapid flumes at the end of term!

Our school community came together in the sweetest way possible as members of Year 6 led a charity bake sale in support of Barnardo's, raising an impressive £127 to support their vital work with children and families across the UK. As we write rehearsals are in full swing for our end-of-term production, Grimm: The Musical, a lively retelling of classic fairy tales with a modern twist. All of Key Stage 2 are enjoying learning lines, songs and dance moves. By the time you read this, our final performances will already be wrapped up - thank you to all the families who joined us!

At our June meeting we welcomed May Martin, a local celebrity, who became famous as a judge on the early series of BBC's 'Sewing Bee' programmes. May was a very entertaining speaker, who had us 'in stitches' as she explained how a humble needlework teacher ended up on the tele!

Even as a child she loved sewing, and after attending Teacher Training College, became a needlework teacher in a secondary school., and later Head of Department, which she loved. During this time she made her sister's wedding dress and two bridesmaids dresses in just three weeks; later following this marathon by making her own wedding outfit and that of her mother in less than a fortnight!

Years later, whilst lecturing at Denman College, her name was put forward for a new TV programme called 'The Sewing Bee', and she got the job. She admits it was a roller coaster ride, and extremely hard work, but she really enjoyed it - although she is enjoying retirement even more. She brought with her a suitcase full of memories and lots of photos of outfits which she has made.

Another local lady, Ruth Kerr, was our speaker in July. Ruth was originally from Scotland and is now a freelance speaker called 'Museums and More'. She took us on a 'Wander without Wellies'. This involved a walking trip around the British Isles , taking old roads and byways, and looking at the wildlife encountered en route. We started on the South Downs Way, where we met up with Barn Owls.

From here it was a quick trip to Wales where we found 'scavenger birds' aka Red Kites, once a fairly rare sight, but now much more common. From here we followed some of the 2,000 miles of Roman roads to Durham where we were introduced to Black Cocks (Grouse). We followed Military Roads and Destitution Roads through the Scottish borders, finding wildlife in every direction, until at last we ended up near our beloved River Test, with its trout and, happily, an increasing number of lapwings.

Members had donated toothbrushes and paste for women and children living in sheltered accommodation as a result of domestic violence. The 'Ladies Who Lunch' had arranged a meal at The Bear and Ragged Staff. There are several theatre date options at the Plaza during the coming months. We are looking forward to lots of customers at our Bric a Brac stall at the Mottisfont Fete. There will be bargains galore, so be sure to bring a full purse!

On August 11th, Sheeley Lozano will tell us about her Amusing Animal Encounters, whilst on 8th September, Mandy, a lady from Ukraine, will give us an insight into life in that troubled country. We always welcome visitors, so why not come and join us in Mottisfont Village Hall at 7.30pm.



MEET THE NEIGHBOURS is an opportunity to get to know the people who live nearby over a drink at the Mill Arms. Come and join us for the next two Meet the Neighbours events from 7.30pm on:

Tuesday 25th August
Thursday 24th September
Put these dates in your diary now!

Whist Drive at Mottisfont Village Hall



Friday 21st August
Friday 18th
September
(7pm start)



Mottisfont Rivers Open Day

Wessex Rivers Trust and the National Trust would like to invite parish residents to enjoy the banks of the rivers on the Mottisfont Estate on **Sunday 16th August**.

The Oakley, Rectory and Dun beats will all be open from 9am until 4pm. Please feel free to take a walk along the banks, bring a picnic, relax and enjoy spending time by the river.

At 2pm Neil Swift from Wessex Rivers Trust will be on the Oakley beat to lead a guided walk and talk about the river, its management and the work we've been undertaking there over the last few years at Mottisfont.

For those attending Neil's talk at the Oakley beat, please note parking is limited so we ask that you walk to the beat if you are able.

Code of conduct: No dogs, No fires or BBQs, Please stay out of the river (no paddling or swimming), Please keep to the mown paths, Take all litter home, Please shut gates behind you

No booking necessary, just turn up on the day. There will be volunteers on the beats to point you in the right direction if you need. We look forward to seeing you.

If you have any questions regarding the day, please contact neil@wessexrt.org.uk

SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

Send Help 15

Thursday 13th August 2026

2026 Thriller, Action, Dark Comedy: 1h:53m

Linda Little, from strategy and planning, (Rachel McAdams) an overworked analyst, and her arrogant nepo-baby boss Bradley Preston (Dylan O'Brien) survive a plane crash near Thailand and must cooperate to survive on a remote jungle island while their workplace power dynamic collapses around them.



Finding Emily 12A

Thursday 10th September 2026

2026 Romantic Comedy: 1h:51m

When a lovesick musician is given the wrong number for his dream girl, he teams up with a driven psychology student to find her. Together, they spark a hilarious campus-wide frenzy that tests their own hearts and ambitions along the way.



Tickets for films are just £6 + booking fee online at www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk or at the door on the night.



King's Somborne Village Hall



Doors open at 7.15pm and the films start at 8pm leaving plenty of time to get your drinks and snacks from the well-stocked bar.



LONGSTOCK
Village Fête

SATURDAY

5 September 2026

12.30 - 4.30 pm

Otterbourne Brass Band

BBQ Bar Teas

Dog Show Sheep Racing

Tug o' War Laser Tag Axe Throwing

Coconut Shy Golf pitch 'n putt

Tombola Bottle Stall

Books

Produce, Cakes & Jams

Grand Draw

**Come and help us raise funds for
our church & playground,
while everyone has fun!**



Not here in Mottisfont & Dunbridge, but we know how tricky (and expensive!) it can be to keep the kids entertained all summer, so thought we'd let you know about this 'Community Skatepark Day' and 'Unlock Andover Gaming' - perfect for fun days out that won't cost the earth!



SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

PRESENTS



Sunday 13th September 2026

at King's Somborne Village Hall

Doors open 6:45pm Curtain up 7:30pm

Tickets £10 + booking fee online at

www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk

or at the door on the day

Bar and Refreshments will be available

Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult



King's Somborne
Parish Council

A Friendly Reminder: Our Village Phone Box Library

Don't forget that we have a brilliant book-swap facility right here in Mottisfont at the end of Hatt Lane. The phone box library is there for all to use and enjoy. If you're dropping by to pick up a summer read, please consider leaving a paperback or two you've already enjoyed so we can keep this fantastic local amenity thriving.

BROUGHTON COMMUNITY SHOP

Village Hall, High Street, Broughton SO20 8AX. Tel.: 01794 502495

Broughton Community Shop: Weekdays: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Saturdays: 9.00am - 12.30pm Sundays: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Broughton Post Office: Weekdays: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Saturdays: 9.00am - 12.00pm Sundays: Closed

Coffee Shop: Indoor and outdoor seating, and takeaway drinks. Dogs are welcome outside and on a lead. Closes 30 minutes before shop closure.

Follow us on FB or Instagram at [broughtoncommunityshop](https://www.broughtoncommunityshop.co.uk) and check on our website www.broughton.shop. Or email news@broughton.shop to be included in the shop's mailing list for updates, promos and more.

Local produce, essentials and treats, fresh and frozen goods, wine and spirits, newspapers, magazines, fresh flowers and beautiful greeting cards, and of course parking is FREE!

Broughton Community Shop (Hampshire) Limited is a Community Benefit Society registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefits Societies Act 2014. Registration no: RS007762. VAT Reg no: 302 2080 69. Registered Office: Ford Springs, The Hollow, Broughton, Stockbridge SO20 8BB



Save the Date: The Mottisfont & Dunbridge Village Fete

The Mottisfont & Dunbridge Village Fete is returning on Sunday, 9th August, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Village Hall.

It promises to be a fantastic day out for all ages, with free entry and free parking, and both cash and card payments accepted across the ground.

There is an incredible lineup of entertainment planned for the afternoon.

Music lovers can look forward to live performances from both the Lockerley & District Silver Band and the Birnie Boozle Band. Car enthusiasts won't want to miss the unique collection of classic cars, while nature lovers will get a chance to Meet the Raptors. Plus, traditional fete favourites like the coconut shy, skittles, tombola, raffle, and silent auction will be running throughout the day.

If you're coming hungry, you'll be spoiled for choice with a licensed bar, BBQ, ice creams, and afternoon teas. You'll also find plenty of wonderful stalls stocked with homemade cakes, preserves, plants, bric-a-brac, and children's games.

It's set to be a brilliant afternoon, so bring your family and friends along to support our village hall.

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY CINEMA

Wednesday 21 August 7.30pm

Sentimental Value (15)

Sisters Nora and Agnes reunite with their estranged father, the charismatic Gustav (Stellan Skarsgård), a once-renowned director who offers stage actress Nora a role in what he hopes will be his comeback film. When Nora turns it down, she soon discovers he has given her part to an eager young Hollywood star (Elle Fanning). Suddenly, the two sisters must navigate their complicated relationship with their father - and deal with an American star dropped right into the middle of their complex family dynamics. The film becomes a quietly gripping study of what families choose to remember, what they try to forget, and what still binds them despite everything. [In Norwegian with English Subtitles] Academy Award winner 2026 for Best Foreign Language Film (and 8 further nominations) and Cannes 2025 Grand Prix prizewinner

Wednesday 26 August 4.45pm and 7.30pm

The Mastermind (15)

JB Mooney (Josh O'Connor), a restless carpenter in 1970s Massachusetts, becomes obsessed with proving his own brilliance through an audacious art heist. He fixates on four Arthur Dove paintings in a small suburban museum, convinced the theft will finally validate the genius he believes he possesses. As he plans the crime, his impulsiveness and patchy preparation reveal a man more driven by fantasy than strategy. The heist itself exposes the gap between JB's imagined mastery and his actual abilities. His attempts to stay ahead of suspicion grow increasingly chaotic, shaped more by ego than clear thinking. The story follows a man chasing a grand idea of himself that reality keeps refusing to confirm.

Wednesday 18 September 7.30pm

A Private Life (Vie Privée) (15)

Dr. Lilian Steiner, an American psychoanalyst in Paris, is devastated to learn that her client Paula has taken her own life. Or has she? Visits from Paula's furious widower, Simon, and taciturn daughter Valérie, along with the discovery that files have been stolen from Lilian's office, suggest that Paula may have fallen victim to foul play. Assisted by her ex-husband Gabriel, Lilian undertakes some amateur sleuthing. Her initial investigations prompt more questions than answers until a session with a hypnotherapist causes Lilian to wonder whether her relationship with Paula began in a previous incarnation [In French with English subtitles]

Wednesday 23 September 5.00pm and 7.30pm

The Christophers (15)

A mainstay of the London art scene since his starry breakout in the creative explosion of the 1960's, Julian Sklar (Ian McKellen) has drifted into a cluttered, self-imposed seclusion. His two estranged children enlist Lori (Michaela Coel), a young painter and sometime-forgery, to pose as a prospective assistant and gain access to a fabled series of unfinished canvases Julian has buried deep in his home studio, in a deceptive bid to secure an inheritance for themselves.

[Information common to both films]

Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall SO20 6HE. Tickets £6.00 on sale online via www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk or by free telephone call to TicketSource 0333 666 3366. Please visit our website for full details of all films.



STOCKBRIDGE MUSIC
Patron: Professor David Owen Norris MA (Oxon) FSA FRAM FRCO
Founding Music Director: Tim Lowden

Friday 11th September 2026, 7.30pm
St Peter's Church, Stockbridge



Daniel Lehardt
Piano Recital

Tickets £25 (U18s £5) from stockbridgemusic.uk

From the Rector – August Reflections

Dear Friends,

August has a curious habit of sneaking up on us. One moment we are wondering whether summer will ever arrive, and the next we are searching for hats, sunscreen, and the longest queue for ice cream!

For many people, August is a month of slowing down. The school holidays are in full swing, gardens are producing courgettes (or marrows in my case) at an alarming rate, and there is a gentle sense that normal routines can wait until September. Even in our beautiful Test Valley, life seems to take a slightly more relaxed pace.

August reminds us that growth takes time, that rest is not laziness, and that God's world continues to flourish even when we slow down for a while. Jesus himself encouraged his disciples to "come away and rest for a while" which I think is wise advice for clergy, churchwardens, parents, grandparents, and indeed anyone who has spent the last few months rushing from one thing to the next. So, if you find yourself sitting in the garden with a cup of tea, watching the swallows swoop overhead, please do not feel guilty. You may be engaging in a very holy activity indeed!

A quick note for young families: there will be no Bubble Church on the 4th Sunday of August, as we take a short summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, refreshed and ready for more stories, puppets, songs, and fun together.

Speaking of September, I am delighted to invite you to our Alpha Course, which is open to absolutely everyone. Whether you have been in church for years, are simply curious about Christianity, or have lots of questions you have never had the chance to ask, do come along.

Stockbridge Town Hall – Mondays at 7.00pm, beginning 14th September
Broughton Village Hall – Thursdays at 7.00pm, beginning 17th September

Alpha is relaxed, friendly, and involves good conversation (and usually good food too!). There is no pressure and no such thing as a silly question. All are very welcome.

Until then, may you enjoy the beauty of our countryside, the companionship of family and friends, and the peace that comes from knowing that God is present in both the busy days and the quiet ones.

With every blessing,
Revd Joe

August & September 2026 Church Services

	Mottisfont	Broughton	Houghton	Bossington
2 August Trinity 9 Green	No Service	9.30am Parish Eucharist Registry		
9 August Trinity 10/BVM Patronal	No Service	11.0am Parish Eucharist (Patronal) Rev John Renni	6pm Evensong Rev Sue Kiplin	
16 August Trinity 9 Green				9:30 BCP Parish Eucharist Registry
23 August Trinity 12 Green	11.00am Parish Eucharist Rev Joe	8.00 Holy Communion (CW or BCP) Revd Joe 11.00 Family service/All Age Georgie B	9.30am Parish Eucharist Rev Joe	6pm Meditation David Livermore
30 August Trinity 13 Green Services as if 1st Sunday	6pm Evensong Rev Sue Kipling	9.30am Parish Eucharist Rev Joe		
13 Sept Trinity 15 Green	11.00am Morning Worship David Stone	11.00am Parish Eucharist Rev John Rennie	6pm Evensong Rev Sue Kiplin	
20 Sept Trinity 16 Green	11pm Harvest Family service			9:30 BCP Parish Eucharist (harvest) Rev Joe
27 Sept Trinity 17 Green	11.00am Parish Eucharist Rev Sue Kiplin	8.00 Holy Communion (CW or BCP) Revd Joe 11.00 Family service/All Age (Harvest) Georgie B	9.30am Parish Eucharist (harvest) Rev Joe	6pm Meditation David Livermore

Answers to the Summer Word Scramble: 1. FETE 2. SUNSHINE 3. CRICKET 4. ICE CREAM 5. GARDEN