

# Ampney Times

Ampney Crucis and Surrounding Villages

Editor

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01285 283220

## Letter from Ampney Crucis Parish Council

Greetings from the Ampney Times and a warm welcome to all new residents.

The New Year starts with the search for a new parish councillor following the resignation of our Chair, Doug Crook. We would like to thank Doug for his sterling service to the village over many years.

Congratulations to the Village Hall Committee on reaching their fundraising target. We look forward to the solar panel installation.

Thank you to the many residents who reported potholes in Waterton Lane and other areas of the parish. It looks as though they have made a start!



Photo by Jacky Leadbeater

MARCH 2024



The village clean-up will take place (weather permitting) on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March. Many hands make light work so please come and help out if you can. Thank you to everyone who helps clear up around the village at any other time.

We wish you all a happy and healthy start to Spring.

Best wishes from Ampney Crucis Parish Council.

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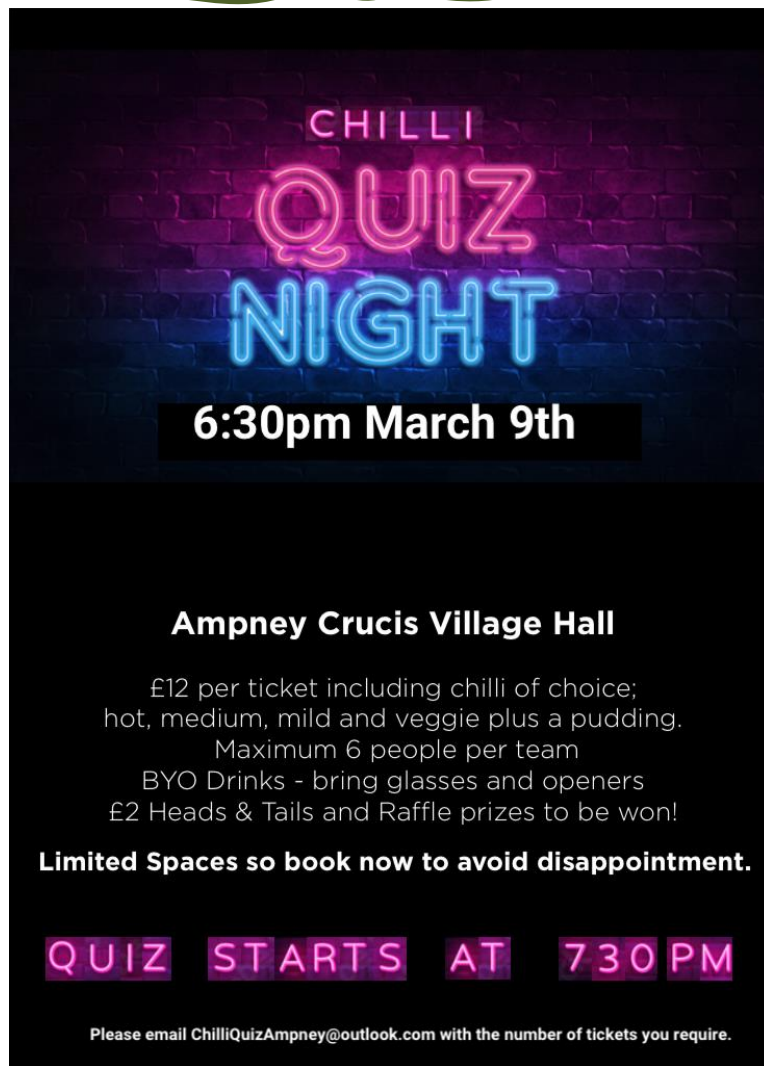
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### Ampney Crucis Flower Arrangers

You don't need to be a florist to make a difference at Ampney Crucis Church! If you would like to use or find the artist in you and would like to have a go at helping with the flowers at Ampney Crucis Church – you would be very welcome indeed. And it's not just about those big floral arrangements – perhaps an arrangement of plants in pots; or some sort of 'installation' for a special occasion, like Remembrance Sunday. Why not have a go? If you want an opportunity to explore the possibilities – please do contact Michelle Evans, she'd love to hear from you. Email: [evans.michelle@hotmail.com](mailto:evans.michelle@hotmail.com)

## Community news



**CHILLI  
QUIZ  
NIGHT**

**6:30pm March 9th**

**Ampney Crucis Village Hall**

£12 per ticket including chilli of choice;  
hot, medium, mild and veggie plus a pudding.  
Maximum 6 people per team  
BYO Drinks - bring glasses and openers  
£2 Heads & Tails and Raffle prizes to be won!

**Limited Spaces so book now to avoid disappointment.**

**QUIZ STARTS AT 7.30 PM**

Please email [ChilliQuizAmpney@outlook.com](mailto:ChilliQuizAmpney@outlook.com) with the number of tickets you require.

Fundraising for Ampney Crucis C of E School

### Communi-Tea News!

The next Communi-tea will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2.00 – 4.00pm.

Please get in touch if you'd like to help, bake a cake or need a lift.

This will be our last Tea until the Autumn. Thank you to everyone who has supported this lovely village get together.

Michelle, Linda and Chris

Tel 07912 230021

### Keep up to date with Ampney Crucis Parish Council news

Visit our website for the latest news, Minutes & meeting information.

Ampney Crucis Parish Council,

PO Box 366,

Fairford,

GL7 9LX

Tel: 01285 283220

If you would like to contact us then please email: [clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk](mailto:clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk) or call 01285 283220

You can visit our website: [www.ampneycrucis.org.uk](http://www.ampneycrucis.org.uk)

### NEXT MEETINGS

The next two Council Meetings will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15pm and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm (this will include the Annual Meeting), in Ampney Crucis Village Hall.

## Community news

### Drifffield and Harnhill Race night



Ampney Crucis Village Hall, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March @ 6.30pm.

Entrance £20 to include fish 'n' chip supper, cheese and pickles 🥒 plus 1 raffle ticket.

BYO drinks.

Enormous fun, why not bring your friends!

Please contact Angharad 07764 515 078 or Susan 07887 847 906 to reserve places.

### Ampney Crucis Spring Village Clear Up

The Village clear up will take place over 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Each day we will meet at the Lych Gate at 10.00am in the Burial Ground to find out what jobs need doing. We plan to tidy up the war memorial and praying cross, cut back foliage in the burial ground and the playground, litter pick the village and anything else that needs doing to keep our village beautiful.

Please do turn up and get stuck in!

### Ampney Crucis Village Hall AGM

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm

Nominations for the 3 elected positions on the Committee may be sent to Anne Bridges 652471 [bridgesae@ol.com](mailto:bridgesae@ol.com)

**Solar Panel Appeal.** Special thanks go to the Parish Council who helped us achieve the final figure needed, by donating a second time and to all our friends in the village for their support. The Committee received 2 very comprehensive quotations for the work from Cotswold Energy and C P Jefferies. After evaluating the proposals carefully it was decided to offer the contract to C.P. Jefferies who are based in our village. We look forward to working with them soon. Then all we want is lots of sunshine!! Please pop in to look at our lovely kitchen kindly offered to us locally. A fine example of recycling at its best. Many thanks to our 3 volunteers who completed the work in record time with minimal disruption to bookings. There is now extra storage space and the water heater which caused all the trouble by leaking has been sorted!!

# Community news

## Ampneys Gardening Club

We started 2024 with our annual New Year Lunch at The Old Spotted Cow in Marston Meysey. A total of 25 members attended and everyone had a great time enjoying the food, location and most importantly the company !



We are now developing our programme of events for 2024 and these are some dates for your diary:

### **15<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Our next Club meeting with a talk by Julie Richie titled 'Cut and Come Again'. To be held in the Village Hall with tea & coffee served from 7pm, the meeting starts at 7.30. All are welcome.

### **21<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

This will be our annual AGM with reports from the Chair and Treasurer. Our Programme Secretary, Jackie Gluning, will also advise everyone of the programme of talks and trips planned for the year. After the formal meeting, we will then enjoy some refreshments together with a short quiz.

The meeting is also the opportunity to renew your membership for 2024/25 with the annual fee remaining at £12. If anyone is interested in joining the Club, this is the ideal opportunity to come along to the meeting and meet everyone in a relaxed atmosphere.

### **27<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

This is the date of our Annual Plant Sale so please come along. We will be asking members to contribute any plants they have to the sale and more information will be available on this in due course.

### **Membership**

We are always keen to recruit new members to the Club to enjoy the activities we are planning. If you know anyone who would like to join or if you are interested in joining, please come along to any meeting or contact myself or Doug Benham.

Looking forward to a successful 2024

Barbara Fullick – fullick.ba@gmail.com – 07960 113752

Doug Benham – doug@dougbenham.com – 07920 010372

# News from Ampney Churches

## Church Services for March & April

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March *Third Sunday of Lent*

8.00am	Holy Communion	Ampney Crucis
10.00am	Parish Communion	Down Ampney
10.00am	Word and Worship	Harnhill

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March *Mothering Sunday*

8.00am	Holy Communion	Poulton
10.00am	Parish Communion	Driffield
10.00am	Word and Worship	Harnhill

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

8.00am	Holy Communion	Ampney St Peter
10.00am	Parish Communion	Ampney Crucis
10.00am	Word and Worship	Harnhill

### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am	School Easter Service	Ampney Crucis
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### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March *PALM SUNDAY*

8.00am	Holy Communion	Harnhill
10.00am	Parish Communion	Poulton
10.00am	Word and Worship	Harnhill

### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

12.30	Lent Soup Lunch	Ampney Crucis Rectory
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*All Welcome – but please let us know if you are coming 01285 851309*

### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March *MAUNDY THURSDAY*

7.00pm	Holy Communion & Washing of Feet	Ampney Crucis
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### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March *Good Friday*

10.00am	At the Foot of the Cross	Down Ampney
2.00pm	The Last Hour	Poulton

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March *EASTER DAY*

*British Summer Time begins – clocks go forward*

8.00am	Holy Communion	Ampney Crucis
10.30am	Easter Communion	Ampney St Peter
10.00am	Easter Communion	Driffield

# News from Ampney Churches

## **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April**    ***Second Sunday of Easter***

8.00am	Holy Communion	Ampney Crucis
10.00am	Parish Communion	Down Ampney

## **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April**    ***Third Sunday of Easter***

8.00am	Holy Communion	Poulton
10.00am	Parish Communion	Driffield
10.00am	Word and Worship	Harnhill

## **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April**    ***Fourth Sunday of Easter***

8.00am	Holy Communion	Ampney St Peter
10.00am	Parish Communion	Ampney Crucis
10.00am	Word and Worship	Harnhill

## **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April**    ***Fifth Sunday of Easter***

8.00am	Holy Communion	Harnhill
10.00am	Parish Communion	Poulton
10.00am	Word and Worship	Harnhill

## RECTOR'S LETTER

There are signs of new life springing up around us. As I write this letter at the start of February the snowdrops in some of our churchyards, verges and gardens are white; daffodils are coming up through the grass; and roses are budding up. Yes, signs of new life are around us if we look for them. Winter is drawing to its close, it seems, and spring is in prospect. In this country we are fortunate to see the cycle of the seasons with their variety and changes.

Our faithful and long-term church organist, PCC Secretary and Churchwarden, Eleanor Toby – and her husband Keith – have moved from Ampney Crucis to Fairford. I am immensely thankful for her unstinting support and encouragement since I have been here. Thank you, Eleanor. And, of course, there are many people in our community who serve in different ways to help the common good. Fortunately, Eleanor has decided to continue to play for Sunday services at Ampney Crucis and Poulton.

# News from Ampney Churches

## RECTOR'S LETTER CONT'D

I was wondering what to do about music for Sunday Services at Down Ampney and Driffield when a new member of our congregation mentioned that he could play the organ. I told him it was a mistake to tell me that! I am delighted that Ray Cook has offered his services at Down Ampney and Driffield; and for special services (Weddings and Funerals). Ray is keen to start a community choir, which – if we can get it going – will meet in Down Ampney. If you would like to join a new choir (no singing experience required) do let me know and I will invite you to our initial meeting.

Singing is good for us – mentally, physically and socially. We already have a small choir that sings on a Sunday at our services. Not only are they a choir – but friends with a common interest; and its wonderful how they welcome people into their group. And it's great to be part of it.

Locally, our churches are really inclusive and – I hope – welcoming. You are welcome on a Sunday; you are welcome to come and sing; you are welcome to come and enjoy the beauty of our buildings; you are welcome to use (or develop) your artistic skills with flower arranging; you are welcome to learn how to ring the bells; you are welcome to come and make some new friends. And you are welcome to simply come and be.

A recent member of our congregation has told me that she was really scared to cross the threshold of our church (and yes, it can feel daunting the first time); but it was the best thing she has done in years!

One of Jesus's disciples, Philip, told his friend Nathaniel – 'Come and see'. At this time of new beginnings and a new season, if you are looking for a new beginning in some way, why not 'come and see' us – you will be very welcome.

As ever - John

See our website for more details of events and activities – [www.ampneychurches.info](http://www.ampneychurches.info)



## Ampney Crucis Church 100 Club

Are you interested in  
winning £100, 5 times each  
year?

If so, please join the relaunch of the  
**Ampney Crucis Church 100 Club!**

Prize Draws will take place four times each year, wherever possible at village events.

For every share that you buy in the Ampney Crucis Church 100 Club, you will have at least:

- **4 chances to win £100** or
- **8 chances to win £25**

An extra prize of £100 will be awarded at each December Prize Draw

**The cost of EACH share will be £12 per annum, payable in advance.**

There is NO limit to the number of shares each member can buy and the more shares you buy, the greater your chances of winning a cash prize!

ALL surplus proceeds will be used to help with the upkeep of our old and much loved parish church.

If you are interested in taking part, PLEASE contact either of the following:

Susan Philips	07887 847 906	soupsphilips@gmail.com	OR
Rev'd Canon John Swanton	01285 851309	ampneyrector@gmail.com	



SOUTH COTSWOLDS  
TEAM MINISTRY



## Local Parish Council contact details

Driffield & Harnhill Parish Council  
 dhparishclerk@googlemail.com  
 www.driffieldandharnhill.org.uk

Ampney St Mary Parish Meeting  
 Eric Partington  
 01285 850131  
 ampneystmary@gmail.com

Ampney St Peter Parish Meeting  
 Annabel O'Sullivan  
 ampneystpeter@gmail.com

*The Christina* 

**MURDER MYSTERY**

**Friday April 19th 2024**

**7.30pm**

**Poulton Village Hall**

**GL7 5HN**

**Tickets £16.50 (including Fish & Chips  
 or £15 (including Chicken & Chips)**



from  
 info@grippers.org.uk  
 or 07736236342

**Cash bar**

**Proceeds to Grippers**

Charity No 1117290

## Defibrillators locations

Ampney Crucis now has 4 24hour accessible defibrillators at the following locations:

- Village Hall.
- The Primary School.
- Opposite Dudley Farm.
- Hilcot End.

The cabinets are not locked, but there is a plastic seal that is easily broken in order to access the defibrillator.

We are always looking for more volunteers to do weekly and monthly checks on the defibs – it's very simple, but very necessary! Do get in touch if you think you could help, just a few times a year would be a great help.

clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk

## Life at Ampney Crucis C of E Primary School

By the end of January, Christmas seems like a distant memory. School life has been extremely busy, full of teaching and learning, wow moments and amazing experiences. Our value this half term has been COURAGE and we have been sharing lots of stories about not big acts of courage but finding our voice inside. Something that even as adults we need to do to make a positive change in this ever-changing world.

We have been delighted to welcome Reverend John Swanton in on a weekly basis to lead worship with the whole school and we are already looking forward to our Easter Service in church.

### The Wow moments in School

Nothing can make you smile more than spending time in **Maple Class**. Our reception children love to explore, laugh and get messy and their time in the mud kitchen recently summed up what our school is about – joy, fun and expressing ourselves!



**Oak Class – Year 5 and 6**, joined forces with children from Down Ampney C of E Primary School to visit the Masjid-e-Noor Mosque in Gloucester and then joined lots of other schools for a special Christingle Service in the Cathedral. Our relationship with local schools is a very special one and as small schools we work closely together to help each other navigate school life.



One of the highlights of many of the children's year is being part of **Young Voices**, a concert at Birmingham Arena, where 6,000 children come together to sing songs they have been learning since the beginning of the year. All parents are invited to attend the concert in the evening, and it is something that the children, parents and staff remember forever. Our children loved every minute of it!

A primary school such as ours is far more than just a place to learn English and Maths, it is a place to nurture young minds, create memories, instill values and give children as many experiences as possible. This is what we will be doing in the coming months as we move towards hopefully a warm summer.

# Village Hall Rural Cinema

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Film starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets £5 to include refreshments served mid-way.

See posters on village noticeboards and village website for details.

## Ampney Crucis WI

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March.** 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Members meeting. No speaker. Activity to be run by members.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April.** Speaker Dorothy Cook, back by popular request! Memories of a midwife. Competition : Baby! Members are reminded that Subscriptions are due at this meeting. Doors open from 7.00pm. The Speaker will start at 7.30pm prompt. Visitors most welcome.

Contact Anne Bridges 01285 652471 [bridgesae@aol.com](mailto:bridgesae@aol.com)

At our January meeting we were treated to a live demonstration of Oil painting by Rupert Aker from Painswick. In just over 30 minutes he completed a large canvas depicting a Cotswold scene with large hay bales. We were all very impressed! He exhibits at The Burford Garden Centre if you are interested to see his work.



Ampney Crucis WI was formed in 1917. We are lucky to have Minute books dated from January 1940 recording all activities and details of meetings held. They make very interesting reading. To ensure they remain together, permission has been given to store them in The Lychgate.

If anyone would like to look at these, please contact Anne Bridges.



## Bell Ringing

Try your hand at bell ringing at Ampney Crucis Church on Monday evenings at 7.30pm. The Ampney Crucis bell-ringing team meet most Mondays during the year and are always ready to welcome people who would like to give bell-ringing a try. Bell-ringing is great exercise (and cheaper than the gym); can be done by people of all ages – but you probably need to be 8 and over. If you want to find out more, contact the Rector or just turn up – you'd be very welcome!

## Useful contact details

<b>Village Hall</b>	Mark Gluning	07922036826	
		acvillagehallbookings@gmail.com	
	Anne Bridges	01285 652471	bridgesae@aol.com
<b>Toddler Group</b>	Daniella Keen	daniella-keen@live.co.uk	
	Facebook: Search Ampney Crucis Playgroup - you can message us privately and directly through the Facebook page.		
<b>Social Bridge</b>	Carol Thompson		carol@richardandcarol.net
<b>WI</b>	Anne Bridges	01285 652471	bridgesae@aol.com
<b>Gardening Club</b>	Barbara Fullick	01285 851151	
	Doug Benham	07920 010372	
<b>Yoga</b>	Daria	07732 529297	iammenowyoga@hotmail.com
<b>Yoga</b>	Rosanna Armitage	01285 850005	07773 474717
<b>Adult Ballet</b>	Jenny Gaden	07713 044702	purplejen11@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Pilates</b>	Jenny Gaden	07713 044702	purplejen11@hotmail.co.uk

## Village Network

Keep up to date with village events and important notices by subscribing to the Village Network, otherwise known as Psst!

**Simply email [psst@ampneycrucis.org.uk](mailto:psst@ampneycrucis.org.uk)**

The Ampney Crucis village WhatsApp group was initially set up at the beginning of Covid but is used as a village information exchange group for sharing info and news. If you want to join, please WhatsApp Jennie Haden on 07884118050 asking to be added to the group.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of The Ampney Times. If anyone would like to contribute to future editions, please email Roz Morton at [clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk](mailto:clerk@ampneycrucis.org.uk). Copy to be received by **2<sup>nd</sup> April for May/June** edition. Contributions and photos are welcome and are included at the Editors discretion.