

Parish News

West Meon & Warnford

May 2026

Rejoice and be Glad - Wear Red

Pentecost: A Moment of New Beginnings

Every year, as spring turns towards summer, the Church celebrates Pentecost; an event that marks the end of the Easter season and the beginning of something entirely new. Christians remember how, fifty days after Easter, the Holy Spirit came upon the first disciples with the sound of wind and as tongues of flame, giving courage to those who had been anxious and unsure. It is often called the 'birthday of the Church,' not really because a new institution was founded, but rather because a frightened group of ordinary people suddenly found the confidence to go out and share the Good News with the world and to act as the body of Christ. For those of us living many centuries later in our villages, and in towns and cities for that matter too, Pentecost still speaks of renewal, of community, and of the surprising ways in which fresh purpose can emerge when people come together.

Ancient Origins

Long before the events described in the New Testament, the Jewish people kept a harvest festival known as the Feast of Weeks. They brought the first sheaves of grain to God as a sign of gratitude and they remembered how, fifty days after the first Passover, God had given the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai in fire and thunder. Two loaves of bread baked from newly



Bede, 12th Century manuscript. Source: E-Codices



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harvested grain were offered each year as a reminder of God's generosity.

This older festival forms the backdrop for the Christian celebration. The Venerable Bede (a monk at Jarrow, scholar and historian, ca. 673-735) saw deep meaning in the way these stories connect. In his surviving sermon on Pentecost, he recalls how Israel's freedom from Egypt through the sacrifice of the paschal lamb foreshadows Christ, "the true Lamb Who has taken away the sins of the world", whose death and resurrection bring lasting hope. And just as the Law was given fifty days after the first Passover, so the Holy Spirit came fifty days after Christ's resurrection—again accompanied by fire.

What Bede Thought Pentecost Meant

Bede noticed that at Mount Sinai only Moses went up the mountain to receive God's Law, while the people stayed below. But at Pentecost, everyone was gathered together, a sign that the message of hope was meant for all peoples. He also reflected on the two loaves offered in the old festival. For him, they symbolised the first new believers; the three thousand people from many nations, who were welcomed into the early Christian community.

Finally, Bede pointed to the significance of the number fifty, linked in the Bible with the Year of Jubilee, when debts were cancelled and people found freedom again. For him, Pentecost hinted at a deeper promise: the hope of rest, renewal, and a world set right.

Why It Still Matters

Whether or not we are regular churchgoers, Pentecost invites us to pause and remember that communities thrive when they are renewed by generosity, courage, and shared purpose. The same spirit that transformed anxious disciples into confident messengers can still inspire us today, helping us lift one another up, celebrate what is good, and look with hope toward the future.

Fullness of Easter

So as Easter reaches its fullness on May 24th this year on the 50th Day, the Spirit's Day, birthday of the church, great Pentecost, celebrate! What began in cold ashes, what was washed with water and oiled with gladness and nourished with bread and wine is now 'fired up' and filled with breath. Breathe deeply at Pentecost; let every breath be a prayer. Sing loudly, play the flute, blow a trumpet or even learn the bagpipes. Hang wind chimes to catch the breeze. Fly a kite. Be 'on fire' today: live passionately, read a love poem or even write one. Challenge someone to act on behalf of the common good or take a stand against a grave injustice, yourself. Light seven candles on the dinner table. Wear red – the liturgical colour for Pentecost and the 'fire' of the Holy Spirit. Eat strawberries, raspberries or even beetroot. Sing Come, Holy Ghost or learn it from YouTube, if you don't know it. Go to the Flower Festival in East Meon wearing a red flower in your lapel or in your hair. Join us at the Eucharist in West Meon or at evensong in All Saints led by our Archdeacon. Read about the Venerable Bede, who is commemorated on 25th May or dust off a copy of his magisterial Ecclesiastical History of the English People (completed in 731 and still in print today) and learn three new facts about the early Church in England recorded in it.

The Fifty days of Easter have been given for our delight and for our salvation, now rejoice and be glad!

Fr Tony

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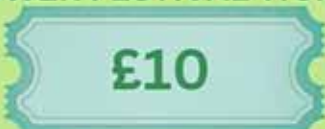
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Spring Walk in Warnford Park

On Saturday the 9th May between 2pm and 5pm Warnford Park will be hosting again a “Spring Walk in Warnford Park”. Come and tour the park in its late spring magnificence and rejoice in the beauty of the park in Spring.

You will be able to wander around the Capability Brown designed pleasure gardens of Warnford Park; through the ancient ruins of St John's House and the woodland belt, past the Memento Mori bridge, returning on the formal walk past the Summer House. It will be possible to walk completely round the lake seeing untrodden parts of the park with information points manned for details of the Park and its wildlife. For the first time you will also be able to walk by the river meon and around the "wild grounds".

A complimentary tea / coffee and slice of homemade cake will be served in the church whilst being entertained by music on the organ. Attendance is by pre-booked tickets only, to manage attendance and traffic carefully to ensure the best visitor experience possible.

This is a fundraising event for Warnford Church and the Rosemary foundation. The income from this event will be split between the two. Our local Rosemary Foundation is a local charity organisation (registered charity number: 1064723) dedicated to providing end-of-life care and support for patients and their families in Hampshire.

Tickets are available through our website located at <https://www.warnfordparkwalks.org.uk/>

Edwin Grimshaw

In Memory of Marjorie

We thank you all for the donations given and sent to the Rowlands Funeral Services in Petersfield for the Rosemary Foundation, in memory of Mrs Marjorie Compton. It was £215.

The Compton family

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Spring Plant Sale
Saturday May 9th 10.00 -11.30

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Spring's song in the sky

As winter fades and the countryside awakens, one of the most uplifting signs of spring is the song of the skylark. This small, streaky brown bird can often be heard long before it is seen, filling open fields and grasslands with a joyous, bubbling melody.

Skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*) are modest in appearance but extraordinary in behaviour – including their remarkable aerial song displays. Males rise high into the sky, sometimes hundreds of metres above the ground, singing continuously while hovering or slowly circling. These flights serve both to attract a mate and to mark a breeding area.

Skylarks are omnivorous, feeding mainly on seeds, grains, and small invertebrates. In spring and summer, insects such as beetles, caterpillars, and spiders become a key part of their diet, providing protein for growing chicks. This reliance on open farmland, grassland, and heathland means that habitat loss and intensive agriculture can have a major impact on skylark populations. Research shows 66% of ground-nesting birds in the UK are in decline, highlighting the importance of protecting these delicate species.

These small, plump birds, are streaked brown and buff above, with pale underparts and a short crest that can be raised when the bird is alert. This colouring provides excellent camouflage among grasses, helping protect them from predators while nesting on the ground. Here, females build shallow nests hidden among grasses, laying three to four eggs. Chicks grow quickly and leave the nest within a couple of weeks, allowing some pairs to raise multiple broods during the season.

However, ground-nesting birds, such as skylarks, are particularly vulnerable to disturbance, for example from dogs. Birds perceive dogs as predators and when dogs roam freely they can trample nests. They may also scare adults and cause the birds to abandon their chicks and nests, leaving eggs and chicks cold and unprotected. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is advising dog owners to help by keeping pets on short leads, especially from March through July when birds are breeding. By following this guidance, dog owners play a crucial role in ensuring skylarks and other spring wildlife continue to thrive.

The Trust works with farmers, landowners, and communities to protect open grasslands and farmland, helping skylarks perform their iconic song flights for generations to come.

To support local wildlife and to help give nature a wilder future, please consider becoming a member of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. For more information about joining the Trust visit: hiwwt.org.uk/join-today or call the membership team on 01489 774408.

Helen Skelton-Smith



Photo © John Bridges



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Garden Club News

On Thursday 9th April our very own team of River Meon Conservation volunteers, Pam Eastwood, Penny Bridle and Stephen Short, gave us a wonderful talk to a packed house about their work conserving the river. They are a recently formed award-winning local group who are working hard to monitor and improve the River Meon, our local chalk stream. Chalk streams are very rare, with only two hundred existing in the world, and are home to a variety of wildlife, some good and some bad. One of the important jobs the team talked about was their work removing invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam and Monkey Flower. These plants cause huge problems for native wildlife by driving out our native ones. And yes, new volunteers are always welcome! We also saw fascinating videos of the animals on the river, including swans, ducks, otters and of course "ratty" the water vole. The talk was topped off by bringing the river into the hall, showing the plants, freshwater shrimps, mayfly larvae and even little fish in a water-filled display tray.



In May our main event will be our Plant Sale & Supper on Thursday 21st May in Warnford

Village Hall at 6:30pm for the Plant Sale, followed by Supper at 7pm with catering provided by Becky from the Cuppacheeno Café. Anybody (not just Garden Club members) is welcome to join us for supper but booking is essential, with payment in advance.

If you haven't already booked, and to choose your preferred menu, please contact Clare Swinstead by Saturday 16th May (clareswinstead@gmail.com or phone [evenings] on 01730 829059). Cost for the supper remains at £15 per person and the menu includes a main: cheese and caramelised onion quiche or coronation chicken skewer with new potatoes and salad), a trio of desserts and a glass of wine, orange juice or sparkling water, followed by coffee or tea.

Edwin Grimshaw

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Upper Meon Benefice Services

Easter to Pentecost

3 May 26	5th Sunday of Easter	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
09:00	Mattins BCP	Warnford
10:30	Benefice Eucharist	East Meon
5 May 26	Tuesday	
18:00	Compline	Langrish
6 May 26	Wednesday	
09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
10 May 26	6th Sunday of Easter/ Rogation	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
10:30	Benefice Eucharist	West Meon
15:00	Rogation Walk	East Meon
16:00	BYO Rogation Picnic	East Meon Vicarage Garden
13 May 26	Wednesday	
09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
14 May 26	ASCENSION DAY	
18:00	Outdoor Eucharist	Warnford St John's House Ruins
17 May 26	7th Sunday of Easter	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
09:00	Holy Communion BCP	Warnford
10:30	Service of the Word	East Meon
20 May 26	Wednesday	
09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
21 May 26	Thursday	
	Flower Festival begins	East Meon
22 May 26	Friday	
All Day	Flower Festival	East Meon
23 May 26	Saturday	
All Day	Flower Festival	East Meon
24 May 26	WHIT SUNDAY/ PENTECOST	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
10:30	Benefice Eucharist	West Meon
	Flower Festival	
17:30	Festival Evensong	East Meon

27 May 26	Wednesday	
09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
31 May 26	TRINITY SUNDAY	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
10:30	Pet Service	Vicarage Garden
2 June 26	Tuesday	
18:00	Compline	Langrish
3 June 26	Wednesday	
09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
4 June 26	CORPUS CHRISTI	
17:00	Special Evening Prayer	East Meon Lady Chapel
18:00	Festal Eucharist	East Meon
7 June 26	1st after Trinity	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
09:00	Mattins BCP	Warnford
10:30	Benefice Eucharist	East Meon
10 June 26	Wednesday	
09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
14 June 26	2nd after Trinity	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
09:00	Service of the Word	Langrish
10:30	Benefice Eucharist	West Meon
17 June 26	Wednesday	
09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
21 June 26	3rd after Trinity	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
09:00	Holy Communion BCP	Warnford
10:30	Service of the Word	East Meon
24 June 26	Wednesday	
09:00	Morning Prayer	Langrish/ West Meon
28 June 26	4th after Trinity	
08:00	Holy Communion BCP	East Meon
10:30	Benefice Eucharist	Langrish
10:30	Service of the Word	West Meon



Meon Community Connect's Upcoming Events

18th June 10.15am - 4.45pm Visit to West Dean Gardens

Enjoy an informative tour of West Dean Gardens just as they are springing into bloom. Before the guided tour at 2pm given by the Head Gardener Tom Brown, enjoy some free time exploring the gardens or in one of the cafes at West Dean. If you wish you can bring your own picnic to enjoy in the grounds. If you do not wish to drive, there is the option of bus transport leaving from West Meon Village Hall at

10.15am - this is bookable along with tickets on our website. Book now to secure your place as tickets are on first come first served basis – there are 16 places available on the bus and 30 places on the tour itself. Food and drinks are not included

Tour price is £15 member/£18 non member; Bus price £5

26th June 6pm - 8pm Warnford Park visit

Enjoy an evening at Warnford Park with a talk on Capability Brown and a tour of the park with canapés and drinks. Bring your own chairs! Tickets £8 member/£12 non member

20th July 2.30pm Afternoon Tea and talk

An English Tearoom presents an afternoon tea along with the history, traditions and some modern thinking on the subject. To be held in West Meon Village Hall. Tickets £12.50 member/£15.00 non member

18th September 6pm - 8pm FREE Members' Social Event

A chance for members to meet with each other and with the MCC committee in West Meon Village Hall. An opportunity to get to know other members better, renew memberships and discuss ideas with the committee whilst enjoying free drinks and nibbles.

17th October 7pm – Autumn Supper

After the success of last year's Harvest Supper we are hosting another evening supper event in West Meon Village Hall. Dinner, entertainment details and ticket prices to follow. Watch this space!

Check out our website www.meoncommunityconnect.co.uk for more information and to book tickets. All the above events require tickets bought in advance.

Emma Barry

Rainfall Report for March to mid April. 2026

The April showers that will bring forth May flowers haven't really been in evidence this year. In reality in April we have only had 14.2mms (0.55") to the 15th. Having said that, looking back to April 2025 we had no rain at all from the 1st of April until the 13th and then we only had 9.4mm to the end of the month, so, what does that tell us?, that the seasons really are changing? I don't think that two years, in a lifetime, tell us very much but one thing that does appear to be changing is the milder climate in general. We have had a really mild Winter and Spring. Total Rainfall to date 443.6mms (17.5"), last year to the same time 288.7mms (11.4")

Peter and Stephen Short



West Meon Theatre Presents **Blithe Spirit**

When Charles and Ruth Condomine invite Madame Arcati, an eccentric medium, to conduct a séance after their dinner party, they get more than they bargained for. Charles is hoping to gain insights and information for a new book he is writing about a fraudulent medium. What he is decidedly not hoping for is that Madame Arcati will succeed in summoning up the ghost of his first wife, Elvira. When Elvira appears, only Charles can see and hear her, and it soon becomes clear that she is out to cause trouble. Charles soon finds himself caught between his two wives, and Madame Arcati seems powerless to help.

Noel Coward's much-loved comedy will be performed in West Meon Village Hall with evening shows from Wednesday May 27th to Saturday May 30th and an

additional afternoon matinee on Saturday May 30th.

Tickets are on sale now at westmeontheatre.co.uk.

Helena Gomm

West Meon Community Cinema

Our last film before the summer break is "Rental Family" which we will be showing on Friday, May 8th. It is set in modern-day Tokyo and follows an American actor (Brendan Fraser) who struggles to find purpose until he secures an unusual gig, working for a Japanese "rental family" agency, playing stand-in roles for strangers. As he becomes involved in his clients' worlds, he begins to form genuine bonds and rediscovers purpose and belonging. The film strikes a good balance between melancholy and comedy without becoming overly sentimental.

We will be offering some traditional Japanese food to accompany the film.

Tickets for the film only £7, Film and Food £15 – doors open at 7pm, film starts at 7.45pm

Tickets available for film and food in the village shop (cash only) or on line at

Ticketsource.co.uk/West-Meon-Village-Hall. Must be booked by Wednesday 6th. May.

Tickets for the film only are also available on the door.

Rosemary Morrish

West Meon School

The Easter break brought us some beautiful weather which we hope will continue as we begin our summer term. The warmer weather brings with it lots of opportunities to use our valuable outside spaces. Since September, when the weather allows, we have made good use of the playing fields for our lunch time activities. It is great for the children to have the opportunity to explore the hedgerows, run full pelt across the grass, collect sticks and dig in the undergrowth. Access to the outdoors is an important part of children's development and child's play is not just all fun and games. The act of play is a crucial component in the growth and development of the brain, body and intellect. Studies of how young people learn have proven that children acquire knowledge experientially, through play, exploration and discovery.

The end of the Spring Term was as joyful and busy as expected! The theme for this year's egg decorating was Zoo Animals. At West Meon Primary, the children are well known for their creativity and problem-solving approach to projects. Some of the most imaginative use of resources was Caitlin in year 5, who was able to create an amazing giraffe from her boiled egg and Elizabeth's beautifully decorated zebra complete with background. Luke, from Smiths of West Meon Butchers, took time out of his busy day to join us and judge the decorating prowess of the children. He was able to pick a champion from each year group and the winner received an Easter egg. We



also gave prizes to the children who had taken part in our Reading Bingo, completing 12 different reading activities to complete their challenge.



Due to the wet weather, our egg rolling in the afternoon took place on the playground. This did not diminish the enjoyment for the children who cheered loudly when teachers and year 6 students successfully caught the used eggs at the end of each round. Many of you reading will know the playground is on a slope; we set up our launching platform to propel the eggs up-hill rather than down. It was surprising how far the eggs travelled, initially defying gravity and then settling, allowing the distance to be marked.

Our very hard working FOWMS group, (Friends of West Meon School) are currently collecting prizes and organising tickets for their annual charity night at the West Meon Village Hall. This event will take place on Saturday 16th May, with bingo and a raffle and lots of amazing prizes kindly donated by the local community - ranging from camping and holiday accommodation, to wine tasting and family meals. This is a community event and tickets will be available from West Meon shop, butcher, pub and school. We look forward to seeing you there.

The summer months give us lots of opportunities to use our wonderful surroundings to support children's development through play, exploration and discovery. West Meon Primary is beautifully situated to make the most of its surroundings.

Julie Slamaker, Headteacher



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***** WEST MEON FETE *****

Saturday 13 June 2-4.30pm

We still have many jobs for volunteers if you can help set up in the morning or lend a hand during the afternoon.

Please support your village fete!

Raffle Tickets – will be on sale outside the shop on 3 Saturday mornings: 23rd & 30th May and 6th June. Can you help?

Cake stall – collect your paper plate & bag from the shop and fill with goodies. Bake and freeze beforehand or fresh on the day. Bring to fete or contact Helen (07973295528) or Susan (07941096308) for collection

Tombola – bring unwanted new items into the shop and leave in labelled box, from end of May.

Bric-a-brac – we need your unwanted household items. Contact Nina until 4th June (07931862490), Susan (07941096308) from 5th June.

Books – leave in church, on left as you go in, from 25th May

Plants – bring plants to fete or contact Helena (07899780830) beforehand

Bottles – bottles will be collected by Mark and his team on afternoon of 7th June. Please leave on your doorstep if you'll be out!

Please contact Susan (07941096308) to offer help.

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

***** AUGUST TEAS *****

August Teas will be happening in the church and grounds

every Sunday in August, 3-5pm

Meon Valley Bowling Club

At the end of a busy indoor season the members of the club came together in March for Finals Day of all the Club Indoor Competitions.

Winners of the competitions below:



Top left to right: Aussie Pairs: Steve Sprake/ Sue Duckmanton, Mixed Pairs: John Dancey / Moira Chiltern, Mixed Triples: Glenn Flloyd/ Christine Wicker/ Howard Felgate.

Middle left to right: Mens Open Singles: Howard Felgate, Mens Singles: Bill Houlton. Ladies Pairs: Kate Cassell/Sally Hurst.

Bottom left to right: Ladies Singles: Sally Hurst, Mixed 3-2-1: Keith Boys/Sally Hurst/ Glenn Flloyd - Nicole Jones/Margaret Cosham (not shown), Mens Pairs: Bill Houlton/ Howard Felgate.

Meon Valley Bowling Club is an open club - open to anyone over 18 from anywhere. We welcome young players to come and give it a try. A group from a local scout group visited

last year and enjoyed a session on the green.



We play indoors from October to March and outdoors on our real grass Green from April to September. You can play three sessions before being asked to pay for Players' Membership. The club is situated on the left hand side of the Priory Park Car Park at the top of Elizabeth Way, off Victoria Road, Bishops Waltham SO32 1SQ. Details on our website: <https://meonvalleybowlingclub.chessck.co.uk/>, we are on Facebook or you can contact us on info@meonvalleybowlingclub@gmail.com.
Jenny Meadows

Letter for next magazine

What would our magazine be without Annabelle's beautiful drawings? We are lucky to have such a talented artist in our midst. I couldn't draw a straight line, so I appreciate someone as gifted as her.

Patricia Matthews

Thank you Patricia. It is nice to get positive comments now and then (A slightly pink-faced Ed.)

West Meon Parish Council

Parish Councillor Resignations

Robin Gedye has given eight years of dedicated service to our Parish Council, and we would like to offer our sincere thanks for his time, commitment, and contribution to the community. In particular, his work on the flood defence has been invaluable, helping to protect the parish and support residents during challenging times. His efforts have been greatly appreciated, and he has played an important role in the work of the council and the wellbeing of the parish. We are very grateful for all he has done and wish him all the very best for the future.

Jacqueline Humphreys has served on the Parish Council over the past year, and we would like to thank her for her time, commitment, and contribution to the community. Her support and input have been much appreciated, and she has played a valued role in the work of the council during her time with us. We are grateful for her efforts and wish her all the very best for the future.

Thank You

A sincere thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Parish Meeting. Your involvement, ideas, and feedback are what shape the direction and priorities of the Parish Council, and it was a pleasure to see the community coming together to share what matters most. We hope you found the new format both engaging and informative, and that it provided a valuable opportunity to connect with and influence the work of the Council.

We would very much welcome your feedback as we continue to reflect the needs and aspirations of the community - please do get in touch at clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk.

We would also like to thank all those who joined the Hampshire Wildlife Trust Action for Nature Workshop. Your interest and enthusiasm for supporting local nature and biodiversity are greatly appreciated. If you are inspired to get involved and would like to volunteer, we would be delighted to hear from you - please contact clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk.

Recreation Ground Tree Works

The felling of the ash trees at the Recreation Ground has now been completed. While their removal was necessary, we recognise the importance of maintaining and enhancing our green spaces. We are pleased to confirm that these trees will be replaced with disease resistant English Elm trees in the near future by our biodiversity team, helping to support the long-term health, resilience, and biodiversity of the area.



Bluebell at Ramster Hall. Photo © A Annabel

Warnford, West Meon, Winchester, Hampshire and Parliamentary Contacts

West Meon Parish Council

Bernice Gibson-Ost, Clerk to WMPC, clerk@westmeon-pc.gov.uk

Hannah Davies, Chair WMPC

Virginia Burke, Vice Chair WMPC

Graham Silk, WMPC

Tim Main, WMPC

Stephen Hickmore, WMPC

Sue Fowler, WMPC

Parish website www.westmeon-pc.gov.uk

Warnford Parish Meeting

Chair: Toby Drought, warnfordchair@gmail.com 07788 715707

Clerk: Lucy Hutchinson, warnfordclerk@gmail.com 07717 296610

Parish website www.warnfordparish.gov.uk

Winchester City Councillors

Neil Bolton, nbolton@winchester.gov.uk 01962 771256

Jerry Pett, jpett@winchester.gov.uk 01489 877633

Hampshire County Councillor

Malcolm Wallace, malcolm.wallace@hants.gov.uk 07739 050224

Member of Parliament for Winchester

Dr Danny Chambers, danny.chambers.mp@parliament.uk 01962 868586

Warnford Parish Meeting

Information relating to WPM can be found on its website which also details local facilities and services, village news and events. Please sign up for 'Alerts' so you will be informed of forthcoming events, planning applications in the area etc.

WPM has an email distribution list so that emails can go to parishioners (eg. relating to Parish Meetings, details of planning applications etc.) If you would like to be added to the list, please email the Clerk.

The 2026 AGM will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th May. All parishioners welcome. Please give any suggestions for the agenda to the Clerk.

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Dolls House Day - Alton Assembly Rooms Saturday 27th June

This year's Dolls House Day will be supporting Dementia-friendly Alton in the Alton Assembly Rooms. There will be dolls houses large and small for children to play with along with various activities for them to enjoy. Dementia-friendly Alton will be offering handmade and pre-loved items for sale. We are pleased to announce Kennet Miniaturists will be joining us. In addition, there will be local exhibitors to support the day's activities. The café will be open for refreshments.

The pre-loved dolls house items range is very popular with collectors of all ages at Dolls House Day. With stock now getting low if you have any pre-loved items relating to dolls houses and would be happy to donate them to Dementia-friendly Alton for this year's Dolls House Day in June please let us know using the contact details below.

All money raised at this event will be used to continue delivering a range of support sessions and services for people living with dementia and their carers. This event will be attractive to all those interested in dolls houses and accessories. For more information please contact Assembly Rooms 01420 551455 or email dementia_friends@btinternet.com.

Saturday 27th June 2026, from 10.00am until 4pm. Alton Assembly Rooms, High Street, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1BA. Free entry. Donations welcomed.

CURTIS MUSEUM 2026 May events

OPENING TIMES Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 4.30pm, Tel: 01420 82802, www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

Object of the Month: - a beautiful punch bowl by studio potter Edgar Campden (1930-1998) of Aldermaston Pottery.

This monthly showcase continues throughout the year until the Allen Gallery reopens in 2027, presenting highlights from the Hampshire Cultural Trust's extensive ceramics collection in storage in Chilcomb, Winchester.

HALF TERM HOLIDAY: For the May half term there will be a range of drop-in crafts and colouring activities, including Thursday Craft Club, (drop in) plus a family museum trail and our seasonal Dodo Natural History trail.

Tuesday 25th May - Make & Take clay session 11am - 12, please pre-book online.

With support from the Museums Association Wellbeing Fund, Hampshire Cultural Trust is delighted to be delivering a programme of creative workshops to benefit young people across the county through 2026 and 2027. Sessions will be held during term times over 5 weeks on a Saturday morning; they are free but must be booked in advance, please visit <https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum-events> for more details.

May Talk - Thursday 14th May.

Nik Knight - Hampshire Bats Group - will speak on "Bats: Superheroes of the Night."

The talk will be preceded by the AGM of the Friends of the Museum - this never takes very long!

To be held in Room 7 of the Alton Community Centre, Amery Street, Alton GU34 1HN. Doors open 7pm for 7.30. FREE, donations welcomed.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 9th May. Spring Walk in Warnford Park. 2-5pm.

Saturday 16th May. Friends of West Meon School Annual Charity Night, 6-9pm West Meon Village Hall. Join us for a fun night of bingo and raffle to raise money for West Meon School. Tickets available from the school, shop, butcher and pub.

Thursday 21st May. Garden Club Plant Sale & Supper. Warnford Village Hall 6:30pm.

Friday 22nd-Monday 25th May. East Meon Flower Festival. All Saints Church.

Wednesday 27th-Saturday 30th May Blithe Spirit - West Meon Theatre. Village Hall 7pm.

Care Group Co-ordinator

Virginia de Cosson 829362

Parish Directory

Rector:

Fr. Tony Forrest, The Vicarage, Church Street, East Meon 642 115 (usual working Sun to Wed)

Vergers for West Meon:

Michael Johnson 829 105

Churchwarden for Warnford:

Andrew Sellick 07973 344 906

Stephen Short 829 261

Vergers for Warnford:

Peter Short 829 285

May Farmers' Markets

Saturday 2nd 10am-3pm

Hamble Spring Food Festival



Sunday 3rd 10am-1pm Romsey

Sunday 3rd 10am-2pm Petersfield

Saturday 9th 10am-2pm Alton

Sunday 10th 9am-2pm Winchester

Sunday 10th 10am-2pm Whiteley

Saturday 16th 9am-1pm Emsworth

Sunday 17th 10am-4pm Alresford

Watercress Festival

Saturday 30th 10am-2pm Ringwood

Sunday 31st 9am-2pm Winchester



The Parish News is published by the Parochial Church Councils of West Meon & Warnford and delivered free to every home in the parishes.

Contributions by the 15th of the previous month please to:

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