



Photo: St Michael and All Angels Church 900th Anniversary by Mike Milner

Many will remember Revd Chris Musser, who passed away on Monday 27th January after a long illness. She was the priest at St Michael's from 2007 to 2019 when she retired due to ill health.

Rev Chris was already a familiar face when she came to Pirbright, from the television series 'A Seaside Parish' which followed her ministry across seven small churches in Cornwall. Having brought up her daughters as a single mum, she knew what it was to struggle and cared deeply about the plight of others. When Boscastle suffered a catastrophic flood, Rev Chris' compassionate leadership and support for the devastated community earned her many accolades.

Revd Chris had a great sense of fun. Beginning a sermon on The Lord's Prayer, with the words "Our Father ..." she was interrupted by "Yes?" apparently from the heavens. Her husband, Brett, had slipped into the organ loft and the 'sermon' became a conversation with God. Another time she claimed to have discovered an amazing slimming diet, based on cat food. She opened a tin, tasted it and said it was delicious. Then came the point of the sermon – "Do you trust me enough to taste it yourself?" Well, would you? Eventually she revealed that it was tinned chocolate mousse. But it made the point in a way few would forget.

Her sense of fun was not confined to the church, she and Brett were active members of the Pirbright Players where she particularly excelled in comedy and loved to play against type, a lady of dubious virtue in Noises Off and a wronged wife on the warpath in Outside Edge. She had frequent run-ins with Yellow Rabbit in PeriNews and enthusiastically supported the scarecrow festival, not least with her own stunning Owl Preacher.

Revd Chris recognised the need to engage with families and children of all ages, and introduced the monthly Family Service with a house band, Angel Tots, Messy Church, Christmas parties, Easter egg hunts, pancake parties for teens and much more. She encouraged Brett and Sandie to start the Pirbright Gospel Choir, with the understanding that it was for people of all faiths and none, for the simple joy of singing together.

Sadly, in the last few years of her time here Revd Chris' health began to fail and in 2019 she and Brett retired, moving to Worcestershire to be close to family. Revd Chris will be fondly remembered as a deeply caring and compassionate priest, whose strength of faith inspired many. **A funeral will be held for her at St Michael's, here in Pirbright, at 2pm on Thursday 6th March.** She will be warmly welcomed home.

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New Email Address for Pirbright Village Newsletter

Pirbright Village Newsletter now has a new email address!

Please send all content to editor@pirbrightvillagenews.org.uk instead of sending it via Julia.

Huge thanks to Julia for all the support during this transition.

St Michael and All Angels Church

The Great Repairer

Isn't it irritating when something breaks down? It could be something minor that you can easily fix yourself, like changing a light bulb, or something more complex, like your TV or car, which may require professional help. In any of these situations, if you're unable to fix the problem yourself, you might need to ask a friend for help or call in a qualified repairer—often at a cost.

Even more frustrating is when a power cut happens right in the middle of preparing a meal? While it might not cost you anything financially, it can be incredibly inconvenient leaving you completely dependent on the expertise of someone you'll never meet, who may be working under challenging conditions.

Yet, there are moments when even the most skilled professionals are unable to provide a solution. This is especially true when a loved one is seriously ill or facing a terminal condition—where, despite their expertise, even the best surgeons may be powerless to change the outcome.

But there is always one repairer who can be called upon in *any* circumstance. A repairer who responds to every desperate call for help, even if the response isn't always in the way we expect or hope for.

God may not always cure the incurable or right every wrong, but He offers comfort and solace to those whose lives have been shattered by tragedy.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

Revd Gary Williamson

St. Michael's Pirbright

Everything we do at St. Michael's church is made possible by your praying, by your serving and by your giving.

In order to allow us to continue the work we are doing in the community please consider making a donation via the QR code or visit the church website: www.pirbrightchurch.org.uk/parishgivingscheme.htm

Thank you for your generosity.



pirbrightchurch.org.uk

St Michael and All Angels Church

Pirbright Singers

MOZART'S REQUIEM St Michael & All Angels' Church

Church Ln, Pirbright, Woking GU24 0JJ Saturday, **15th March** 2025 at **7.30pm**

Doors open at 7pm and tickets are available at £15 for adults on the door (cash or card), under 18s free. With special guests: Miranda Johnson **Soprano**, Hamish Rogers **Counter-Tenor**, Philip Lawford **Tenor**, Martin Johnson **Bass**, Clive Osgood **Organ** and Eralys Fernandez **Piano**. We hope you will come to hear us sing and join us for light refreshments served afterward in the Church Room..

St Michaels Pirbright & St Mark's Wyke

CHURCH ON THE GREEN


Sunday 23rd
March
10am
Lord Pirbright's Hall
GU24 0JE

Join our relaxed family-friendly Sunday Service with a special guest!



pirbrightchurch.org.uk
stmarkswyke.org.uk

St. Michael's Pirbright



Ash Wednesday Service

5th March
11 am
St. Michael's Church
Pirbright GU24 0JJ

St. Michael's Church Pirbright



ANGEL TOTS

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP
MONDAYS
10-11.30AM
St. Michael's Church Hall
Church Lane
GU24 0JJ


All pre-school children welcome

Come meet other parents and carers, enjoy a cup of coffee and home made cake!

During term time only
PIRBRIGHTCHURCH.ORG.UK



St. Michael's & St. Mark's Churches



POP IN for a Pancake

Enjoy freshly made pancakes with lots of delicious fillings

Tuesday 4th March
3.30-4.15pm

St. Mark's Church Hall
GU3 2DA

Pirbright Parish Council

Pirbright Arch

Work began to ensure a safer route between Pirbright and Brookwood from Monday 17th February. The road will be closed for 1 week. Thereafter, and until 21st March, 4-way traffic lights will be in place. This project has been a collaboration between the MoD, Woking Borough Council, Guildford Borough Council, Surrey County Council and Pirbright Parish Council and will see pedestrian lights installed and an extension to the pavement so that pedestrians can be safe when walking from the Brookwood side of the Arch through to Pirbright and vice versa. At the moment there is no pavement and there are no dedicated traffic lights to help pedestrians cross the road once through the Arch. The Parish Council appreciates that this will cause disruption but is committed to making the route safer for everyone.

Rain Rain Rain and Surface Water Spray

You may have experienced the standing water on the roads running through Pirbright in recent weeks and months. The bus stop on the Green and area around Swallow Corner were particularly bad. Drains were blocked and the surface water was making life miserable for pedestrians trying to navigate these pavements. The Parish Council called in Surrey Highways who have now managed to clear all the blockages at both sites. Along the Green a long lost manhole cover was unearthed and the cause of the blockage cleared. Surrey Highways are committed to keeping the water moving and residents can report flooding via the SurreyCC website <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/do-it-online/report-it-online>

Silt From the Pond

A reminder that essential maintenance was carried out last September to remove 20 years' worth of silt from the Pond. The cost of taking the silt away was in the region of £30,000. The Parish Council were faced with passing this cost on to residents or to spreading the nutrient rich silt across the Green. As residents can see, the Council has spread the silt and as soon as the weather allows the Council's contractors will begin the cultivating and reseeded process. The Green will benefit from the addition of the silt and will look better than ever in early Summer



Regular updates on all these topics appear on the Parish Council's Facebook page and website, do please take a look. Residents can always contact the Clerk (Helen M) whose contact details are on the final page of the Newsletter

Protect Our Ground-Nesting Birds

#PawsOnPathsPlease at Brookwood Heath

As of 1st March we have now commenced ground-nesting bird season on Brookwood Heath. Please help reduce disturbance to rare Woodlark, Dartford Warblers and later in the year, Nightjar, by following the #PawsOnPathsPlease guidance displayed on Special Protection Area signage on the heath. By sticking to main paths, we can all help provide these birds with the opportunity to breed successfully.

Thank you on behalf of the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership.



Support Your Local Business

New Martial Arts Academy Opens at Lord Pirbright Hall

A new martial arts academy has recently opened at Lord Pirbright Hall, offering expert training in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu for both children and adults. Lucky Seven BJJ is a family-run business led by husband-and-wife black belts, bringing years of experience to the local community.

The academy provides a welcoming and friendly space for individuals to develop self-defence skills, improve strength and fitness, and enhance problem-solving abilities. Adult classes are available on Monday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, while children as young as four can participate in Saturday morning sessions.

To encourage new members, Lucky Seven BJJ is currently offering a special promotion: four weeks of training, including a free uniform, for just £99.

For more information, visit luckysevenbjj.com or call 01483 399 691. We look forward to hearing from you!



Community Groups

Twinning Association

Join us for a delightful evening at our **Crêpe Supper** on **Sunday, 23rd March 2025, at 6:30 PM**, held at **Lord Pirbright's Hall**. This much-loved event promises an evening of great food, community spirit, and a touch of French flair.

Guests will be treated to a delicious menu, featuring **homemade traditional beef cottage pie** topped with creamy mashed potatoes and an **Indian-spiced lamb shepherd's pie** with crispy spiced potatoes. The meal will be followed by **French crêpes** with a variety of sweet and savoury fillings, complemented by **coffee and tea**. A **wine bar and raffle** will also be available, adding to the evening's enjoyment.

Tickets are priced at £17 for members and £19 for non-members

To assist with catering, **please ensure your booking and payment are received by noon on Tuesday, 18th March 2025**. Payments can be made via **bank transfer (BACS)** using the following details. Bank: **NatWest** Account Name: **Pirbright Twinning Association** Account Number: **93560249** Sort Code: **51-81-22**

For payment enquiries please contact **George Lane** at treasurer.twinning@gmail.com.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to gather with friends and neighbours for an evening of delicious food and community spirit. We look forward to seeing you there!

Community Groups

Twinning Association

Cagny Trip 2025 Friday 23rd May to Sunday 25th May. Looking ahead, we're excited to be visiting our friends in Cagny, France this year, and we'd love to welcome new people and families to join us. It's always good fun and the only self-funding part is the foot passenger ferry costs. If you'd like to find out more, please contact **Jon Lopez** at **07780 066142** or email at **jon.lopez@btinternet.com**. We look forward to hearing from you!

Pirbright WI

Our month's talk, '**Ockham and the Runaway Slaves**' by William and Ellen Craft. On **Tuesday 18th March 7:00pm** at The Club Room in **Lord Pirbright's Hall**. Visitors are always welcome.

Pirbright WI Bring & Buy Sale – Supporting Woking & Sam Beare Hospice

Pirbright WI is hosting a Bring & Buy Sale in aid of Woking & Sam Beare Hospice, our chosen charity for the year. Join us on **Thursday, 20th March 2025**, from **9:30 – 11:30 AM** in The Club Room at **Lord Pirbright's Hall**. Donations of **good quality items and unwanted gifts** are greatly appreciated. You can **drop them off any Thursday morning** during our **Community Coffee Mornings** or on the morning of the sale.

We look forward to seeing you there and supporting this fantastic cause together!

The WI serve refreshments every Thursday morning from 10:00am to 11:15am. If you're visiting the Country Market, why not take a moment to join us for a warm drink and a chat? For more information, contact **Irene Dredge** on **01483 233279** or email at **iredredge@outlook.com**. We'd love to see you there!

Pirbright Country Market

The Country Market is open **every Thursday from 10:00am to 11:15am** in Lord Pirbright's Hall. Come along and enjoy a variety of local produce and goods!

Rawlins Club

Join us at the Rawlins Club
Our next meeting will be held on Friday **14th March from 2:00pm to 4:00pm** at **Lord Pirbright's Hall**. This month's talk, "The Return of the Red Kite" will be presented by Keith Betton.
For further details, please contact **Denise Granger** on **01483 472070**.

Pirbright Horticultural Society

Love gardening? Do garden centres feel a little too pricey—or just too tempting? Join us for our free monthly talk on '**Propagating plants**' by Keith Hines and learn how to grow new plants from your own garden. On **Tuesday, 11th March at 7:30 PM** in The Club Room at Lord Pirbright's Hall. We'd love to see you there—no need to book, just come along!

Pirbright Horticultural Society Annual Show – Save the Date!

This year's **Annual Show**, organised by the Pirbright Horticultural Society, will be held on **Saturday, 19th July 2025** a week earlier than usual!

We hope this change will encourage more entries from younger participants before the holidays begin.

For further details, visit **pirbrighthort.co.uk**.

Royal British Legion

If you would like to learn more about the Royal British Legion, please join us at **The Fox** at Fox Corner, on Monday

10th March at 8:00pm. Everyone is welcome! For more information, please contact **Anne Hawkins** on **01252 404276**.

Craft, Coffee and Chat

Join us on **Tuesday, 25th March at 10AM** in the **Church Room at St Michael's**. A friendly informal group welcomes crafters of all kinds—whether you enjoy sewing, knitting, crochet, card making, or any other craft. Bring your own project and enjoy a relaxed morning of creativity and coffee. New members always welcome!

Community Groups

Pirbright Players

Tales From The Woods, the Pirbright Players' winter production, was a huge success, with **three sell-out performances** enjoyed by all. The cast and crew had a wonderful time, with many memorable Sunday rehearsals and songs that brought back nostalgic memories. A big thank you to everyone involved in bringing the show to life!

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our next production: **Ladies Day**, a hilarious comedy directed by **Holly Didyk and Carole Gailer**.

We can't wait to share it with you!

Gardening tips for March

Cut back herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses that have been left over winter. Prune Buddleja to a low framework of stems to encourage new flowering growth. Split over crowded herbaceous perennials to keep them flowering well. Feed ericaceous shrubs such as rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias and pieris with an ericaceous fertilizer. Hardy annuals such as Cornflower, Nigella and Californian poppies, can be sown directly at the end of the month. Start off dahlia tubers in pots or trays of damp peat-free compost. Summer flowering bulbs, such as lilies, Gladioli and Eucomis can be planted now. Finish pruning bush and climbing roses and wisteria by the end of the month. Plant onion sets and shallots, and plant early potatoes. Protect blossoms of apricots, peaches and nectarines from late frosts by covering with fleece. Mow lawns on dry days if needed. Apply a spring weed, feed and moss killer to lawns. Sow lettuce, rocket, carrots, peas outside when the soil has warmed up. Sow parsnips now, as they are erratic germinators, sow them in clusters of 3 or 4 seeds, 15cm apart. Gooseberries and currants can be pruned now as the sap is beginning to rise, so the cuts will heal faster.



TENNIS CLUB QUIZ NIGHT
MORE HIGHBROW THAN QUESTION OF SPORT BUT EASIER THAN MASTERMIND!

Please bring friends and family – all are welcome (inc. non tennis players)

Where – Village Hall in Pirbright - The Grn, Pirbright, Woking GU24 0JE
When – Friday 14th March
Cost – £10 (entree fee on arrival)
Entry – 7pm
Quiz Starts Promptly – 8pm
Dinner – 9pm - bring your own food, (booze/soft drinks from our bar)
Quiz re-starts 9:45pm
Results – 10:30pm

Cash Bar (Debit/ Credit Card accepted but cash preferable)
Quiz Master – Andrew Thomson - QuizMaster's Voice (Andrew writes the annual fundraising quiz for BBC Children in Need!)

**** Please note only glasses provided – you must bring your own plates and cutlery****

Please RSVP – Clive Watson clive_r_watson@icloud.com
Book early to avoid disappointment – limited tables!

Medal of Honor Day Talks at Brookwood American Cemetery

Join us on **Tuesday, 25th March** at **Brookwood American Cemetery Chapel** for a series of free talks at **8:30am, 10am, 1pm, and 4pm** in honour of **National Medal of Honor Day**.

The Medal of Honor Day goes through the history of the Medal of Honor heroes and those commemorated at Brookwood Cemetery.

Medal of Honor Day aims to foster public appreciation and recognition of Medal of Honor recipients. The first National Medal of Honor Day was celebrated on March 25, 1991. Medal of Honor is the highest U.S. award for valor in action, equivalent to the Victoria Cross in the UK. Established by Congress,

All ages welcome! To guarantee your spot and for more information, please email **brookwood@abmc.gov**.

Pirbright Community Calendar March 2025

Date	Time	Event
Sun 2nd	9.30am	All Age Service at St. Michael's
Tue 4th	3.15 - 4.15pm	Pop in for a Pancake at St Mark's Church Hall GU3 2DA
Wed 5th	11.00am	Ash Wednesday Reflective Service at St. Michael's
Sat 8th	10.00 - 11.00am	Operation Churchyard at St. Michael's
Sun 9th	9.30am	Holy Communion Service at St. Michael's
	5.00pm	Taize Service at St. Michael's
Mon 10th	8:00pm	Royal British Legion at The Fox at Fox Corner
Tue 11th	7:00pm	Pirbright Horticultural Society at Lord Pirbright's Hall
Fri 14th	2:00pm	Rawlins Club at Lord Pirbright's Hall
	7.00pm	Tennis Club Quiz Night
Sat 15th	7.30pm	Pirbright Singers Mozart's Requiem St Michael's
Sun 16th	9.30am	Holy Communion Service at St. Michael's
Tue 18th	10.15am	Mid-Week Communion & Café Club at St. Michael's
	7.00pm	Pirbright WI at Lord Pirbright's Hall
Thu 20th	9.30 - 11.30am	Pirbright WI Bring & Buy Sale at Lord Pirbright's Hall
Sun 23rd	10.00am	Church on The Green at Lord Pirbright's Hall
	9.30 - 11.00am	Mounter Fitness 5K Charity Fun Run and Walk for Dementia UK
	6.00pm	Twinning Association Crêpe Supper
Tue 25th	10.00am	Craft, Coffee and Chat Church Room at St Michael's.
	8.30 - 4.00pm	Medal of Honor Day Talks at Brookwood American Cemetery
Sun 30th	9.30am	Mothering Sunday St Michael's.
Every Mon	10.00 - 11.30am	Angel Tots at St. Michael's (during term time)
Every Thur	10.00 - 11.15am	Refreshments with WI at Lord Pirbright's Hall
Every Thur	10.00 - 11.15am	Pirbright Country Market at Lord Pirbright's Hall

Pirbright Village News is produced and delivered by volunteers on behalf of St Michael and All Angels Church and Pirbright Parish Council.

Editors: Gemma Hyland, Heidi Gower and Jo Hurst.

Please send content to our new email editor@pirbrightvillagenews.org.uk

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