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Owing to pressure of copy space we regret it may be necessary to abridge any article. (E-mail copy much appreciated).

Disclaimer

The Editorial team takes no responsibility for any information given or views expressed in the Oxdrove and will not be held liable for any direct, indirect or consequential loss arising from the use of information and advertisements in this publication.

THE OXDROVE Church and Community News *Of* The Candover Valley and Wield Rector: Interegnum

Associate Minister, Rev Ian Thacker, MA. 07864 095 435.

Ian will be in **Wield Church from 9-10 on Wednesdays** for anyone to drop in. This will be followed by a brief service of morning prayer and bible study.

Benefice administrator – Tricia Knight email address:
beneficeFCW@hotmail.com Phone 07541 463750

Rota for Services

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship LL = Lay led

The Parishes of Farleigh, The Candover Valley
and Wield

The Benefice of Farleigh, Candover and Wield

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship LL = Lay Led

Key to initials: *IDT = Ian Thaker: PR = Peter Raine: JG = Julian Gibbons LH = Lyn Hardy: AL = Anne Luneburg: DS = Debbie Scholey; PR = Peter Raine*

Sunday 3rd August Trinity 6

09:30	Wield	Said Matins	IDT away
09:45	Cliddesden	Morning Prayer	
11:00	Northington	Holy Communion or morning prayer	
<i>Readings</i>	<i>Hosea 11.1–11 Psalm 107.1–9, 43 [for 107.1–9] Colossians 3.1–11 Luke 12.13–21</i>		

””

Sunday 10th August Trinity 7

08:00	Dummer	Holy Communion BCP	IDT
10:00	Preston Candover	Family service	
11:15	Cliddesden	Family Holy Communion	IDT
18:00	Wield	Evensong	IDT
<i>Readings</i>	<i>Isaiah 1.1, 10–20 Psalm 50.1–8, Hebrews 11.1–3, 8–16 Luke 12.32–40</i>		

Sunday 17th August Trinity 8

09:00	Wield	Holy Communion	IDT
10:00	Preston Candover	Holy Communion	IDT
11.15	Cliddesden	Family Service	
11:15	Bradley	Baptism Rosalie Pugh	IDT
Readings	<i>Isaiah 5.1–7 Psalm 80.1–2, 9–end [or 80.9–end] Hebrews 11.29–12.2 Luke 12.49–56</i>		

” ” ”

Sunday 24th August Trinity 10

8:30	Bradley	Holy Communion CW.	IDT
9:45	Dummer	Holy Communion CW	IDT
11:00	Brown Candover	Morning Worship	
11:15	Ellisfield	Family Holy Communion	IDT
Readings	<i>Isaiah 43.8–13 or Acts 5.12–16 Psalm 145.1–7 Acts 5.12–16 or 1 Corinthians 4.9–15</i>		

” ” ”

Sunday 31st August Trinity 11

10:00	Preston Candover	Morning prayer	IDT
11.00	Farleigh	Parish Communion	IDT
Readings	<i>Jeremiah 2.4–13 Psalm 81.1, 10–end [or 81.1–11] Hebrews 13.1–8, 15–16 Luke 14.1, 7–14</i>		

” ” ”

Stanchester 2025 Excavations by Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society

You may have seen in the June Oxdrove an article about the Archeological Dig on Chilton Manor Farm which this year takes place from 26th July to 16th August. This dig is uncovering a Roman house and buildings and each year more is revealed.

Mark Peryer, the dig leader, is offering an open afternoon on Friday 15th August and there will be two time slots, one at 2 pm and another at 5 pm. Mark will meet you at the car park at Chilton Manor Farm and escort you to the dig.

Preston Candover Village Hall

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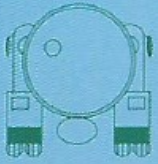
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Thank you Ian

Thank you for your ministry Ian—we will miss you in the Candover Valley and Wield..

We found your services inspiring and thought provoking.

We wish you good luck in your Retirement, continued enjoyment of photography and catching a good picture of those elusive squirrels!

From all parishioners in the Candover Valley and Wield



Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde at All Saints, Bradley

Saturday 20th September 2025 6.00pm

The performance is presented by

Candlelit Theatre (bartletheatre.co.uk)

£22 to include refreshments during the interval

Children under 11 free if accompanied by an adult.

Tickets from andrewmwdon@gmail.com

Church sidesmen and readers

<u>Church</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sidesmen</u>	<u>Readers</u>
St John's Northington		Matthew & Philippa Pellereau	Matthew & Philippa Pellereau
St Peters Brown Candover		Sue Harle	
St Marys Preston Candover	10 Aug 10.00am	Anne Luneburg	To be advised
	17 Aug 10.00am	Marina Avis	Anne Luneburg Marina Avis
	31 Aug 10.00am	Jane Laws	Gunnel Berry
	7 Sept 10.00am	Marina Avis	Jane Laws
All Saints Bradley			
St James' Wield	3 August 9.30am	Alwin Hutchinson	Selina Geddes Ben Robinson
	10 August 6.00pm	Catherine Simons	Jean Frost Philip Geddes
	17 August 9.00am	John Lailey	Mark Kemp Gee Eileen Collins
	24 August 9.30am	Brian Collins	Keith or Lisa Stanton Nicola Robinson
Coffee	3 Aug - Selina 17 Aug - Lisa 24 Aug - Nicola		

Cleaner needed

St John's, Northington is looking for a cleaner for about 2 to 3 hours a month. Mainly consists of sweeping, hoovering and some brass cleaning. The position is paid and can be done at anytime suitable to the person.

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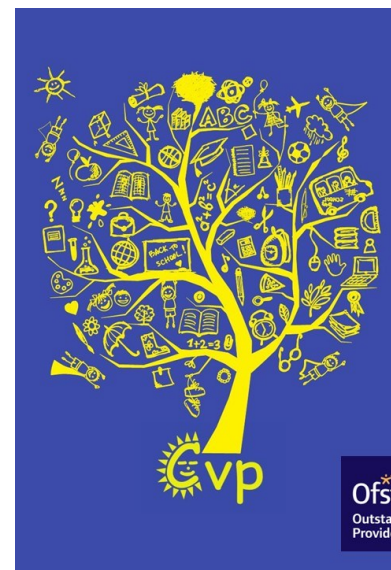
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Church flowers, cleaning and key holders

St. John's Church Northington			
St Peter's Church Brown Candover	Keyholders	August	Michele Brand and Sue Harle
All Saints Church Bradley			
St. Mary The Virgin Preston Candover	Flowers		
St James' Church Wield	Flowers	August	Carol Breakwell and Annabel Feather
	Cleaner	Permanent	Michelle & Nicole



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Introducing our new Rector

I have been asked to write a few words about myself as way of introduction as the new Rector of Farleigh, Wield and Candover.

I am pleased to say that in coming to this post I will be returning to rural life. I was brought up in the Welsh mountains and lived in North Shropshire. I have always enjoyed exploring the countryside, whether it be helping local farming friends ploughing fields, keeping cade lambs in front of the log burner, or using a cherry picker to pick slows. All the fun things you can get up to in the countryside as a young adult. Now, I enjoy and appreciate the peace and tranquillity of walking and just being in the midst of Gods wonderful creation.

It came as quite a shock to receive an unexpected call to ministry. A call to become a priest, to teach, administer the rites of the Church, and to help people and communities bring their whole lives, in joy, sorrow, and day to day, before God.

Quite naturally this was different from my own plans, and I did my very best to ignore it for as long as I could, but I found that it is hard to say no to God.

During the Discernment Process of the Church of England I was asked by my then Archdeacon to look at supporting people in rural areas, especially around domestic abuse. I had the knowledge of living in an isolated area which I was able to put into action in designing a project that the church would lead but involved a variety of outside agencies such as the police force, social care, etc. It showed the importance of the church and the difference it can make to people's lives and especially in rural areas.

I then went on to train at Cranmer Hall in Durham, a theological college teaching Mission, Ministry and Theology. Training allowed me to work in new places, such as the prison service, and Estate Ministry in Middlesborough. I was also lucky to spend time on an Army Chaplaincy course, and living with the Sisters of the Order of the Holy Paraclete in Whitby.

I was Ordained in 2022 in Lichfield Cathedral and have been serving my Curacy in the Benefice of Bradwell and Porthill, large urban deprived areas in the middle of Newcastle under Lyme. I have enjoyed being a part of life in the parishes, local schools and community groups but I am looking forward to returning to a rural parish.

I am looking forward to being Installed as Rector of Farleigh, Wield and Candover on **Monday 15th September at 7.30pm at St. John the Evangelist, Northington** and getting to know the churches, villages, schools and people of the Benefice.

I will hope to meet with you all in the near future. My e-mail address is: rev.jenn4@gmail.com, and I am always interested to hear from you.

Please pray for me in the coming months, as I will pray for you all.



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The Patrons & Churchwardens of the
Benefice of Farleigh, Candover and Wield
are pleased to announce the appointment of
The Rev. Jennifer Wright
As Rector of the Benefice

Her service of Institution will be conducted
by

The Bishop of Winchester
The Right Reverend Philip Mounstephen
at

St. John's Church, Northington
Monday 15th September 2025 at 7.30pm
All welcome

PRESTON CANDOVER VILLAGE HALL UPCOMING EVENTS

15
AUGUST 2025

PICNIC IN THE PARK VJ80 DAY

2PM - 7PM

On the field! RG25 2EE

15
AUGUST 2025

QUIZ NIGHT

7PM - LATE

The village hall RG25 2EE

19
OCT 2025

JUMBLE SALE

11AM - 2PM

The village hall RG25 2EE

08
NOV 2025

BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS NIGHT

5.30 - 8PM

On the field RG25 2EE

www.pcvh.org.uk
Follow us for more details nearer the time!

VJ Day 80

To commemorate and celebrate the 80th anniversary of VJ Day, the trustees and committee of Preston Candover Village Hall invite you to join them for a “**Picnic in the Park**” on **Friday 15th August**.

We will provide soft drinks and nibbles, please bring your own picnic and alcoholic drinks (the Candover Valley Community Store will be open for top-ups!)

If the weather is dry you will find us on the field, by kind permission of the Sainsbury Family and Preston Farms, in the hall if wet.

There will be a bouncy castle for the younger attendees.

Then stay, or return, for a Quiz Evening with some topical questions.

Timings: - **Picnic in the Park 2.00pm - 7.00pm**

Quiz 7.00pm - late

We hope to see you there!

Herriard Folk Music nights

The Herriard Village Hub wishes to inform you that the Folk Music Nights scheduled for August and September have been cancelled.

We are excited to announce that these events will resume at the end of October with a brand-new lineup. For further details, please visit the Calendar and Event Info pages on our website at www.herriardvillagehub.co.uk as the date approaches.

In the meantime, we warmly invite you to join us every Thursday morning for Coffee, Tea and Cake at the Hub.

Don't forget to keep an eye on our website for future events, and we would be delighted to host your bookings for any upcoming gatherings.

Have a wonderful summer!
The Herriard Hub Committee



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Jackies County Corner

Summer is a time of village fetes, and they abound in this division! Thank you if you host or helped at a stall and thank you too if you went to support a good cause whilst having an enjoyable afternoon.

Fetes are good for so many reasons. As well as fund raising, they bring people together, with stalls and games to enjoy, bring a sense of community and it is a good family occasion. Our local

PCSO's also attended several fetes on very hot afternoons: thanks gentlemen!

If like me you bought a piece of bric a brac, or several children's books from each one, we all realise they are great for recycling too.

Talking of recycling, do you have a black bin, or if in a flat, a blue bin for glass? Maybe your bin has been lost or broken? Or do you take your extra bottles to a bottle bank? The bottle banks can be noisy for neighbours and popular banks can be busy places. I am concerned for residents who are consistently woken by the sound of bottles crashing into the bins.

So, I am asking you to think of others as you recycle, please: -

- If you use a bottle bank, particularly the multi bin sites, please only use at sociable hours, from 8am to 8pm.
- After a big sports event or a hot weekend, and if the bins are unexpectedly full, please take your bottles home again and report the full bin to me or on the 'Winchester app'.
- If you don't have a bottle bin for your home, please contact me or Clare Pinniger cpinniger@winchester.gov.uk

Local Government reorganisation continues but Hampshire's solution to the puzzle is different from the solution offered by most of the districts. This subject is confusing for residents enough, without a difference of opinion between layers of local government. Can I assure you that debating this subject doesn't take time away from my purpose to represent you, but I am always keen to hear your views on the subject. To see the picture from your viewpoint is always informative. Thanks for all your comments so far.

Cllr Jackie Porter tel/text: 07973 696085 email: jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk

Walking with Wildlife, Robert Bryant

Butterflies, butterflies and even more butterflies have enlivened many of our walks during this long hot summer. One sunny morning while visiting the Woodland Trust's reserve at Home Farm, Burckham near Bradley, we had barely set off from the carpark along the waymarked white trail, when we almost stepped on a large butterfly resting on the shadowy path ahead. Dusky-brown with white wing bars, it seemed to be a white admiral foraging for salts – until it turned towards the light and those wings flashed and shimmered with a purple sheen. We had met our first purple emperor of the season!

Heading on through the woodlands, we emerged into the grassland savannah of Bishop's Common, entering a butterfly world of marbled whites and ringlets fluttering through the tall grasses. Meadow browns and all the whites, both large, small and green veined, bounced around in the breeze, while small skippers, orange and gold, busily dipped and dived. A flicker of red revealed a passing cinnabar moth, day flying. Comma butterflies, with their raggedy wing profiles, were hiding in plain sight on clumps of wayside brambles, until they suddenly flicked open their wings to bask in the sunlight.

With a backdrop of woodland birdsong including spirited performances from a song thrush, we listened to a medley of blackbird and robin calls, were startled by the explosive trills from wrens, and strained to hear the distant mewing call of a buzzard. Whitethroats, a summer visitor, rasped away, calling from deep cover in the bramble banks.

Strolling on we found an impressive display of pyramidal orchids – a colony of a dozen or more rosy-pink cones of close-packed flowers – glowing from the grassy mead. According to the Harrap's Field Guide to Orchids, the pyramidal orchids respond well to the mild wet winters and hot dry summers of recent years.

Our walk eventually took us onwards and upwards to explore the intriguing high copse above Tickle Common, where we chanced upon the pinky-purple spires of another orchid, the common fragrant, discreetly tucked away either side of the grassy path.

Robert Bryant
9th July '25

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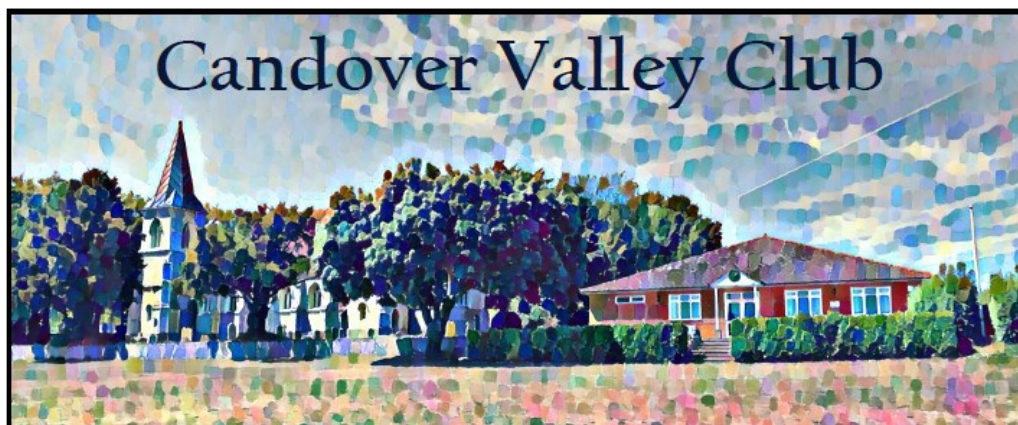


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The Candover Valley Club is located in the beautiful village of Brown Candover next to St. Peter's Church, and is fronted by the village cricket field. The Club has a fully licenced bar with kitchen, skittle alley, dart boards, pool table, TV, wifi and a separate function room suitable for large parties. A marquee, tables, chairs, crockery and cutlery are also available to hire.

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Vist an open Garden

Need a relaxing afternoon in a garden?

Why not travel a bit further afield and visit an open garden.

Here are a few suggestions:



South View House, 60 South Road, Horndean, PO8 0EP.

The garden offers teas, plants for sale and is wheelchair accessible. Open on Sunday 3 August.



Twin Oaks Water Garden, 13 Oakwood Road Chandler's Ford, SO53 1LW.

This garden is wheelchair and dog friendly and offers teas and plants for sale. The garden is open on Saturday & Sunday 9 & 10 of August.



Closer to home is Church House, Trinity Hill, Medstead.

Here you will find teas, plants for sale and the garden is wheelchair friendly.

Church House is open on Saturday & Sunday 9 & 10 August

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Swarraton and Northington WI

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - July 2025

The formal and financial part of the monthly meeting was brief and efficient,

Outing to Chavenage House

The outing to Chavenage House was very enjoyable and well organised. James Loswsley-Williams led our group from room to room and gave such an interesting talk about the history of the house and it's more recent use for well-known TV programmes and films. We were served a delicious home cooked lunch in the ballroom and had the chance to take in the wonderful view from the gardens. There was a well-timed stop in Tetbury on the way home and the chance to visit the Highgrove shop for some gift buying.

Summer Lunch

The planning for the annual **Summer Lunch on Thursday 17th July** to be held at Easton Village Hall at 12 for 12.30, has been finalised. The tickets are £20 for members and guests to include a glass of fizz or soft drink on arrival and bring your own drink to enjoy with your meal. The Committee will organise the main course of the meal, some members have offered to make a dessert, and the cost can be reimbursed. Please bring some cash for the raffle and there will be a table quiz with a prize for the winner. There is plenty of parking at Easton and fingers crossed for continuing good weather! If any tickets have not been paid for yet could this be submitted as soon as possible to Carole by BACs, cash or cheque.

Group Quiz

A team from our WI attended the first round of the group quiz at Bishops Sutton on the 24th June We had an enjoyable time, we didn't win but it was a sociable and enjoyable evening.

The Alresford Show Saturday 6th September Our WI has agreed to help in the tea tent at the show this year from **12.30 to 2.30**. The members helping will be Julia Barber, Rosemary Bligh, Lizzie Laird, Felicity Mathews, Gill Graham Maw, Kate Norrie, Vera Smith and Erica Sisk. Several members have offered to make cakes for the tea tent and expenses can be reclaimed.

Sewing Group

The next sewing session will be held at Old Alresford Village Hall, but the date and time has not currently been arranged.

There being no further business the speaker for the meeting was introduced, Hilary Bowen gave an interesting and intriguing talk and demonstration about the art of Silver Clay Jewellery. She is a member of the Wessex Guild of Craftmen and offers private courses at her home. She had many items of jewellery for sale and some members made purchases.

The next meeting at Swarraton & Northington Village Hall is at 2pm on **Tuesday 2nd September 2025** with a talk titled **"Falconry" - A Talk About Anita's Hawks With The Possibility Of Some Being In Attendance** By Anita Ebdon

Tea hostesses - Vera Smith and Margaret Sweetland

Flowers - Rosemary Bligh

Guests are always welcome at any of the speaker meetings for a small charge of £5. Please will members not able to attend send their apologies to Gill Graham Maw



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Stop Hare Coursing

Police have received a few reports already of Hare Coursing in the Rural areas and likely to follow across the county soon.

Please continue to report all incidents of Hare Coursing, suspicious vehicles, activity and persons.

If it is in progress - Call 999 quoting Op Galileo.

Never approach these individuals, your safety is our priority.

However if it is safe to do obtain any video or photo footage/Dash cam and provide as much information to the controller as you can on your report.

- Are the suspect/s alone or in a group?
- Do they have equipment with them?
- Do they have dogs or firearms with them?
- What type of dogs?
- Where are they going - Direction of travel if leaving/just left?
- Where have they been?
- What do they look like?
- How many vehicles, what are the number plates and vehicle models or any distinctive damage/marks visible?
- Any damage caused to fence/gates/fields?
- Provide What3Words for location identifier
- Name of landowner
- Has there been any intimidation of the landowner, Farmer, Agent?

If it is not in progress or just happened, report via DISC (remembering to ALWAYS escalate the incident), 101, Online or via Crimestoppers anonymously and this includes any intelligence you may have around any Rural and Wildlife Crime.

With planned upcoming patrols and operation for the team, remember your information, intelligence and reporting of these type of crime is what we need to know to be able us to resource and patrol effectively and efficiently.

If you would like a few of the new signs for your land/farm to pop up, please get in contact via discreports@hampshire.police.uk. Your local Neighbourhood Officer can drop some round as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support and cooperation





Candover Valley Gardening Club

In July we had a very enjoyable summer garden party with plenty of lovely food, a fun quiz and a special raffle of local goodies. First prize was a bottle of the delicious Candover Brook wine.

As happens sometimes, not too frequently I'm pleased to say, our visit to the Watercress Farm in Alresford was cancelled due to a sewage spillage at the farm. Needless to say, there is a lot of clearing up to do. However, at short notice were able to organise a garden visit to a garden at Binstead.

In August, we are looking forward to a visit to Longstock to see their collection of Buddleias. Peter Moore will show us around and we will have an opportunity beforehand to visit the nursery or have refreshments in their café.

Our indoor meetings are held at 7.30pm in Preston Candover Village Hall on the third Thursday of the month from September to April. In the summer months we visit some beautiful gardens. If you would like to join us at any time, guests are very welcome for a small fee and we always welcome new members for an annual subscription of only £15 per person.

Candover Valley Store *community made*

Store and post office trading hours

Monday to Friday Store open: 8.00am – 6.00pm
Post office: 8.30am – 5.00pm

Saturday Store open: 8.30am – 5.00pm
Post office: 9.00am – 12.30pm

Sundays & Bank Holidays Store open: 8.30am – 12.30pm
Post office: Closed

We look forward to welcoming you!

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To use this service, just follow the voice prompts when you call the surgery and select the option to check or cancel your appointment. It's a fast and easy way to stay on top of your healthcare needs!

September Flu Vaccinations

We will be inviting the following eligible patients for their flu vaccine from 1 September:

- pregnant women
- all children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2025
- all children in clinical risk groups aged 4 years to 17.

Children in years R-11 will be vaccinated in school by School Health.

October Covid & Flu Vaccinations

We will be inviting the following eligible patients for their covid & flu vaccinations (these need to be co-administered) **From October**, an exact start date to be confirmed by NHS England in due course:

- those aged **75 years and over**
- Residents in a care home for older adults
- those aged 18 years and over in **clinical risk groups** (as defined by the Green Book, Covid-19 Chapter 14a)

October Flu only vaccinations

We will be inviting the following eligible patients for **ONLY** their flu vaccinations. **From October**, exact start date to be confirmed by NHS England in due course:

- those aged 65 years and over
- those aged 18 years to under 65 years in clinical risk groups (as defined by the Green Book, Influenza chapter 19)
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- frontline workers in a social care setting without an employer led occupational health scheme

Please support the surgery & wait for us to invite you for your flu jab at the recommended time.



The Alresford Surgery
Station Road
ALRESFORD, Hampshire
Out of hours telephone number 111

Online Appointment Booking

We have a range of appointments available to book online giving patients the convenience of booking, checking or cancelling appointments at any time and place. Using the NHS App, you can avoid the need to call or visit the surgery during opening hours.

The appointment types available to book online are:

GP Consultation – you can choose whether to have a face-to-face appointment or a telephone call, please just state your preference in the booking notes. Please note that availability can be very variable and if there is a particular doctor you would like to see we suggest checking back over several days.

Blood Test – if your GP has asked you to have a blood test these are usually available from 8.30am to 2.30pm five days a week.

Smear Test – if you have received a letter inviting you to book cervical screening (smear test) these appointments are available with our Practice Nurses.

Physiotherapy – we have a physiotherapist at the surgery every Tuesday and Thursday who can carry out an initial assessment of any joint problems you may be experiencing. Having carried out an assessment, the physiotherapist may advise you to carry out some specific exercises which will be explained to you, or they may refer you for an x-ray or to an orthopedic clinic for further treatment.

August bank holiday closure

The surgery will be closed on Monday 26th August from 8.00-18.30pm.

If you need urgent medical care, you can access the Out of Hours service for advice, a face-to-face appointment or, if it is necessary, a home visit & the number to call is 111. e-Consults will not be able to be submitted after 6.30pm on Friday 24th August & will not restart again until 8am on Tuesday 27th August.

Reminder - Afternoon Closure – Thursday 25th September

The surgery and dispensary will be closed from 12.30pm to enable all GPs & Nurses to attend a compulsory training meeting this afternoon.

Our phone lines will not be open this afternoon.

If you require urgent medical attention, please call 111.

Check and Cancel: A Quick & Easy Way to Manage Your Appointments

We're excited to introduce a new feature available through our phone system that makes managing your appointments easier than ever – Check and Cancel.

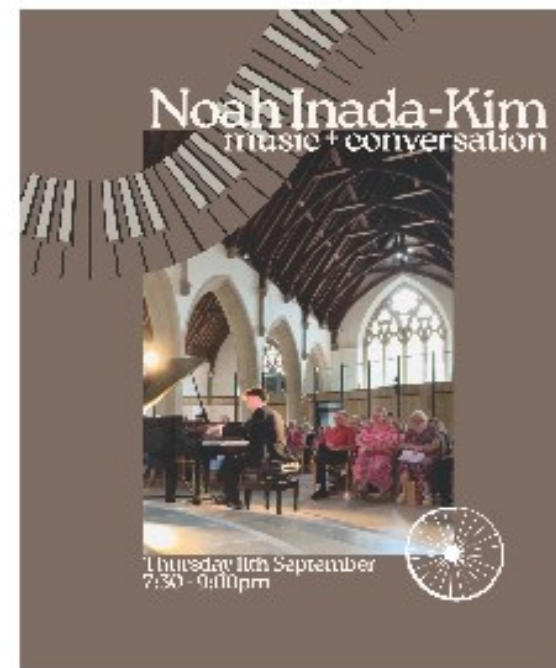
With this simple option, you can now quickly check your upcoming appointments and, if needed, cancel them easily by using the phone system, without the need to speak to a member of the team. This means:

- Less time on hold – No need to queue to check or cancel
- Fewer missed appointments – A quick check helps you remember your bookings
- Better access for all – Helping free up appointments for other patients who need them



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Tickets available on our website.

A Tail-Wagging Success: Valley Pet Service at St Peter's Church, Brown Candover

Brown Candover, 29th June, 2025 — The sun shone in joyful welcome over the picture-perfect cricket pitch and church as we gathered for the special Pet Service at St Peter's Church — a blessing of our most loyal companions.



In what has become a cherished village tradition, the annual Pet Service was held on 29th June, drawing a delightful congregation of animals and their owners.

Plenty of dogs (lots of Labradors!) joined a beautiful Bernese Mountain dog, a wooden elephant and a stuffed hippo. The hippo represented a real hippo which is sponsored in it's natural environment by its owner; the story behind the wooden elephant has yet to be revealed. Their

humans gathered too - some curious, some excitable, and all remarkably well-behaved.

Julian Gibbons led the service with wonderful stories of animals from his own childhood. Apparently, anyone wanting to discourage their children from developing an expensive interest in riding, should start by buying a donkey – it put the Gibbons children off!

Prayers were said and thanks were given for all the animals in our lives – not just our pets, but our service animals too – and for those who look after our animals (someone might have prayed for cheaper vet bills!).

After the service we gathered for cups of tea and coffee, delicious chocolate brownies and British strawberries. St Peter's will hold another pet service next year and judging by the turnout — and the tails — it's sure to be another 'pawsitively' joyful day.



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WEATHERWISE By Simon Bourne

Summary of weather observations taken at Northington Down
in June 2025

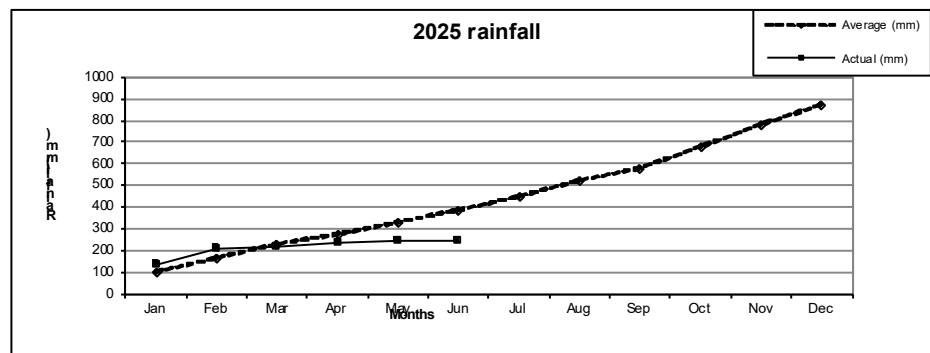
Temperatures (degrees centigrade/Fahrenheit)

Highest	29.5/85	(21 st & 30 th)
Lowest	5.2/41	(8 th)
Warmest Night	16.4/62	(28 th)
Coolest Day	15.7/60	(7 th)
Average maximum temperature	23.0/73	
Average minimum temperature	11.0/52	
Number of air frosts	1	

Rainfall (millimetres/inches)

Monthly total	30.2/1.50	Average 54.8/2.16
Annual Total	284.8/11.21	Average 382.8/15.07
Maximum 24hr. rainfall	9.3/0.37	(7 th)
Number of days with rain	11	

Summary The month started on a cool and unsettled note with low pressure dominant and a series of Atlantic weather systems that brought rain each day or overnight in the first week. Temperatures increased in the second week as high pressure brought settled conditions albeit with a moderate to heavy shower on the 12th. There was no measurable rain in the third week as the temperature continued to build and reached the heat wave threshold and warmest day at 85°F on the 21st, before dropping back. Temperatures increased again in the last few days of the month with the second heat wave, and equal warmest day on the 30th. This was the second warmest June recorded here, with temperatures more that 3°F above the long term average and it was dry, with 70% of the mean rainfall for the month.



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Young Hands, Big Impact – Celebrating Our Local Youth Workers

In honour of International Youth Day – August 11th.

As International Youth Day approaches, we are proud to recognize the positive contributions of our local youth in the Candover Valley.

Each weekend and throughout school holidays, a dedicated team of paid youth workers aged 15 to 18 supports the daily operations of the Candover Valley Community Store. Their work goes beyond simple shifts, they play an essential role in the wellbeing of our community.

From stocking shelves and operating the ProEPOS till system to greeting customers with friendliness, these young team members are gaining valuable practical skills, building confidence, and making meaningful contributions to village life. Their enthusiasm, dependability, and positive attitude are invaluable assets to both the store and the community we serve.

International Youth Day is a global celebration of the potential, passion, and impact of young people. This year's theme emphasises empowering youth to engage actively within their communities. Our local youth workers exemplify this message through their dedication and responsibility. Their efforts demonstrate that even in a small rural setting, young people can make a significant and lasting difference.

This September, we will be sad to bid farewell to some team members as they progress to higher education. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours and look forward to celebrating their continued successes.

We're not currently recruiting new youth workers due to a strong existing team, however, we do have a waiting list, and we'd always love to hear from anyone who's interested in future opportunities. Feel free to get in touch via email at hello@cvcs.org.uk.

Brooching the Subject.

The summer is well and truly here and the excavations of the Romano British building at Stanchester are about to begin once more. In light of this it was a real coincidence that I happened to find a brooch dating from that time during a very recent trip to the fields in the heart of the village.

Although there are rare finds of buttons and some toggles pre-dating the Roman Conquest, brooches appear to have been the popular form of fastening for ordinary Romans. They were an extremely important part of dress and were most likely used to secure outer garments. They were usually die cast from a form of copper alloy and using a two-part clay mould and worked by attaching a sprung or hinged pin to the cast piece to create a safety pin-esque mechanism. This proved very successful, evidenced by the fact that we are using the same technology two thousand years later! It's worth remembering however that metal itself was a premium product for much of history, and poorer Romans would have made do with simple bone or wooden fastenings.

Whilst brooches were chiefly functional items they were usually decorated. Humans before and since have used jewellery as a way to express status and personality, and the Romans of the Candover Valley were no different. There are a mind-boggling number of types and subsets, all with different features. Two local examples I have found are both classed as 'La Tène III', popular in the 1st century AD and showing clear elements of Celtic design. The name of this brooch type is derived from an important salt production site in Switzerland, the style likely finding its way to the UK with population movements due to trade or population movement at or before the time of invasion.

Brooches could be long in design, take the form of an animal, could be flat, were often enamelled, and some intricately decorated in many colours. My recent find is known as a 'Hod Hill' type which is widely thought to have been affiliated with the Roman Army during and after the Conquest. Cast in bronze, its wearer would definitely have looked the part.



A La Tène Brooch found in Chilton Candover, found close to the village



Hod Hill brooch WILT

59B659

Courtesy of the P.A.

A decorated brooch in the form of a hare.



The Hod Hill brooch found recently

Let us stop for a moment to consider what was happening all those years ago. Perhaps an individual walking towards the village from the Stanchester villa, perhaps a soldier passing through? Maybe the day was warming up – a nice opportunity for a quick break, cloak off. Did our individual gather their cloak up and take it back home before realising the loss of their brooch? Alternatively, was it a chilly day, cloak wrapped round tightly. The brooch pin breaks and the plate lost in the grass. The start of its two thousand year wait to be found. A nuisance perhaps, but, an opportunity to acquire the latest design. I hope they chose well!



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On the Farm— Ben Robinson

Every year before harvest Hampshire NFU organises a free Health and Safety training day for farmers and farm staff. This year 150 people attended, and it proved a useful refresher before the busy arable season kicks off. There are various stations and sessions that attendees move round covering issues such as fire safety, first aid, coming into contact with a live electric wire, working from height and livestock handling. Health and Safety is often met with a groan. However, in farming it really matters. You are 21 times more likely to die at work as a farmer or farm worker than in the UK average workplace. Only deep sea trawlermen have a worse rate of occupational fatality.

There are many reasons for this, many of which a risk assessment and a Hi-Viz jacket won't do much to help. There are the weather pressures, lone working, the long hours, the unpredictable livestock and the potentially dangerous machinery. These can be mitigated to an extent by good planning and maintenance.

However, farming is virtually unique in the modern economy that industrial buildings are built around family homes. Nowadays any remaining industry in urban areas is tucked away on industrial estates, well separated from housing. Most farms have precious little delineation between where 'home' starts, and 'workplace' begins. This can make children vulnerable once they get to the age that they want to start exploring. Though we have some strong fencing to keep them in the garden and away from the yard, farm safety is a constant worry here with our three- and one-year old boys.

Despite this it is the elderly who are most at risk on farms. Many farmers don't quite know when the time has come to hang up their boots and thus keep plodding on years and even decades beyond what most would call a normal retirement age. It is easy to do when you live by the yard. However, dodging the bull, climbing the ladder or setting up machinery is a little harder to do when you are in your 80s than in your 20s and 30s. Sadly the injury and fatality statistics back this up. It is the old and young who are most likely to come to harm on our farms.

As I write the dry spell stretching back to March has just broken. The sheep have done fairly well in it and we have just about managed to keep enough grass in front of them. Sheep generally enjoy a dry time as they are less affected by worms, fluke and other internal parasites. The lamb price has so far remained high and indeed has strengthened as the summer has progressed. I am hoping the market for sheep meat remains strong as it certainly won't be the grain price powering the business forward this year.