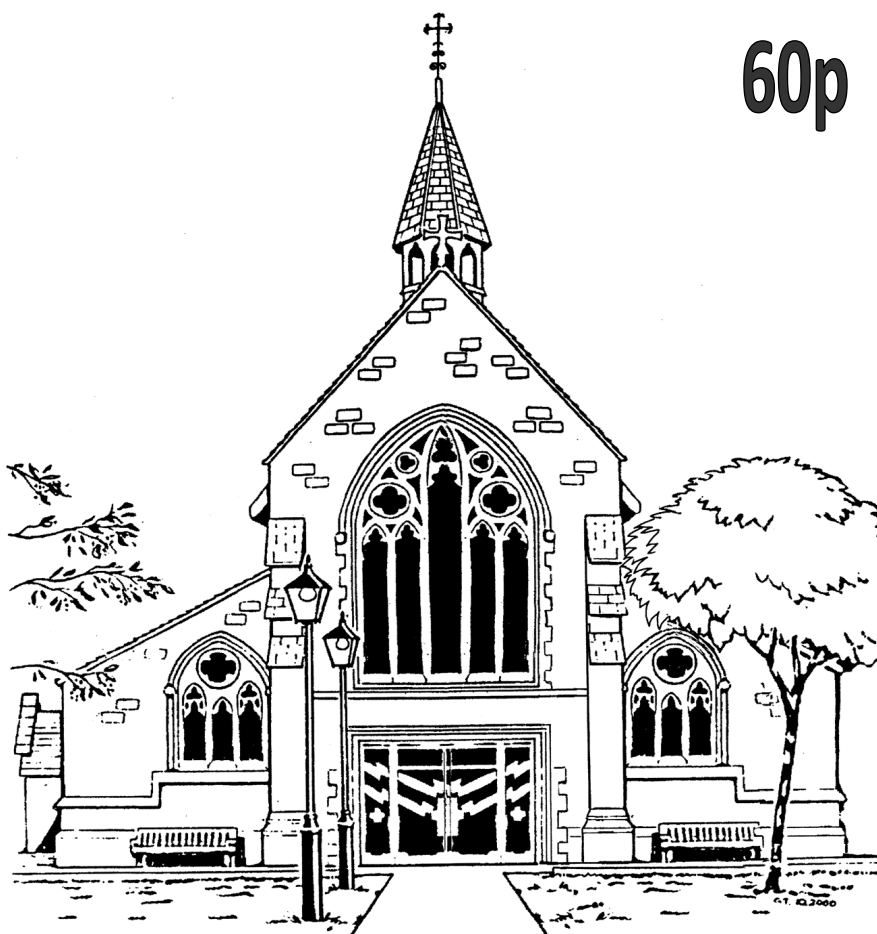




The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

60p



October 2026 Magazine



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The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

MINISTRY TEAM:

Vicar:	The Reverend Michael Macey Boxmoor Vicarage, 10 Charles Street, HP1 1JH Email: vicar@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk	01442 243258 <i>Day off: Friday</i>
Curate:	The Reverend Emma Williams 1 Linden Glade, Boxmoor, HP1 1XB Email: RevEmma@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk	07307 124081 <i>Day off: Friday</i>
Lay Reader:	Mrs Carole Lewis 61 River Park, Boxmoor, HP1 1RB Email: lewicarole@gmail.com	07961 292893

SUNDAY SERVICES:

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion (Every Sunday)	<i>St John's</i>
10.00am	Parish Eucharist <i>Junior Church (3-11 Sunday School)</i> <i>A virtual Service is published on our Website</i>	<i>St John's</i>
10.00am	Mass	<i>St Francis'</i>
12noon	Holy Baptism - normally Weeks 1 & 3 <i>No Evening Services at present</i>	<i>St John's</i>

WEEKDAY SERVICES:

Monday-Friday	9.00am - Morning Prayer <i>Evening Prayer said privately</i>	<i>St John's</i>
Tuesday	9.30am - Tiny Tots for under fives and parents <i>Service finishes by 11.00am (term-time only)</i>	<i>St John's</i>
Wednesday	10.00am - Holy Communion <i>(followed by coffee in church)</i> 5.00pm - Evening Prayer (Wednesdays)	<i>St John's</i> <i>St Francis'</i>

*Please contact the Parish Office or Vicar to make enquiries
re: Baptism, Weddings, or Funerals, or to a request a
visit/Home Communion*

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You are invited to

Friendship Teas

*The teas are open to
everyone, but may be
especially appreciated by*

- ♦ *those who are living alone;*
- ♦ *those who have been bereaved; or*
- ♦ *any who are at a loose end on Wednesday afternoons.*

The teas (for mutual support and friendship) are held in the Church Hall at St. John's, from 3.00pm, on 3rd Wednesday of every month, as:



- *21st October*
- *18th November*
- *16th December*



*... Just come
along.*

MAGAZINE ADVERTISING COSTS

Why not use this parish magazine to advertise your business. There are eleven issues per year with double issue in December/January.

Charges are:	Full Page	£115 per annum
	Half Page	£80 per annum
	Quarter Page	£60 per annum



For part year charges are pro rata of the annual rate rounded up to the nearest whole pound (e.g. 1 month/issue full page $115/12 = 9.58$ rounded up = £10 charge)

To discuss your requirements or for further information, please contact **Sally Bates, 01442 266912 or 07792 768236**
or email: magazine@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

THE VICAR'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

Over the coming month you will see, if you haven't already, the familiar Hallowe'en paraphernalia filling up our shop windows and supermarket aisles; the various masks, costumes and ghoulish accessories. Hallowe'en is now the third biggest festival for retailers behind Christmas and Easter, overtaking Valentine's Day a couple of years ago.

A retraction of 'All Hallows' Eve', Hallowe'en is thought to have originated with the Celtic pagan festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and dress up as ghosts and ghouls to ward off roaming evil spirits. When All Hallows Day (All Saints' Day) was designated as 1 November in the eighth century, the new Christian festival incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. Now, largely thanks to the influence of our brethren over the pond, it has become the hugely popular and money-taking secular festival that it is today.

Hallowe'en is a rather peculiar and funny festival, and I know many Christians who don't quite know what to make of it all. But for us, it begins an annual time and season of remembrance as we celebrate All Saints' and All Souls' day and a few days later Armistice Day.

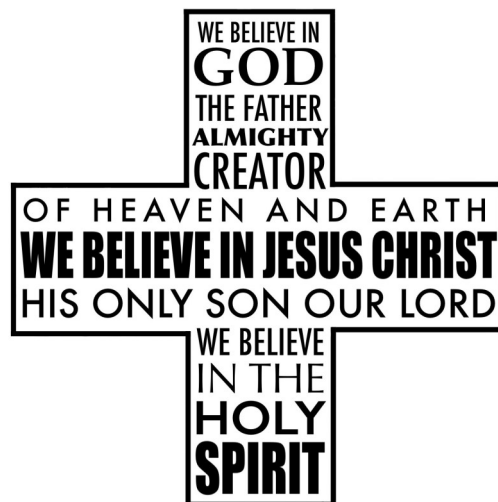
But whatever we think of the Hallowe'en festivities as people of faith, it is hard to avoid all the hype and imagery every time we step out into the high street. Which is why a number of churches now have adopted something of the annual festival and transformed it into a celebration of light and Jesus Christ, whom we believe to be the light of the world.

So this October as you're passing the ghosts and ghouls, witches and goblins (or in some cases far worse) in the shops and supermarkets, remember and hold fast to the light that no darkness could overcome – Jesus Christ. Cont'd.

And as we find ourselves surrounded by the numerous skeletons and Grim Reaper costumes, particularly as we remember those loved ones not with us this All Souls' Day, then remember and hold aloft that hope of eternal life gifted to us all through Jesus Christ.

It is in the darkness that light shines particularly brightly; and so perhaps during this rather peculiar festival of Hallowe'en we might find the courage and confidence, or at least the reason and excuse, to openly proclaim that faith we hold. The faith we share in Jesus Christ, light of the world, who through God's grace has given us full and abundant life in this world, and in the world to come the hope and promise of life everlasting.

Every Blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

PARISH DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2026

Enquiries regarding baptisms weddings or marriage blessings are always welcome.

Please contact the Vicar.

Morning Prayer is said Daily at St John's at 9.00am.

You are most welcome to join the clergy in prayer.

Evening Prayer is said privately for the life of the Parish unless details are below.

*St John's is open daily 9.30am-5.00pm for private prayer
(10.30am-5.00pm on Saturdays)*

The Parish Eucharist and worship resources will continue to be recorded and made available at www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/live-streamed-services

Thurs 1	1.30pm	Bibles for Children	South Hill School
	7.00pm	Confirmation Prep	St John's Hall
Fri 2	12.30pm	MaSJ Lunchtime Concert & Lunch	St John's
	5.30pm	Junior Choir Practice	St John's Hall
	7.00pm	Choir Practice	St John's
Sat 3	7.30pm	Harvest Quiz Night	St John's Hall
Sun 4 Harvest Festival & St Francis of Assisi			
	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St John's
	10.00am	All-Age Eucharist sung by the Junior Choir St John's NO SERVICE AT ST FRANCIS' THIS MORNING	
	12noon	Holy Baptism	St Francis'
	5.00pm	ST FRANCIS' PATRONAL HIGH MASS & BENEDICTION St Francis' Sung by the Parish Choir and accompanied by a brass quintet. Followed by drinks and refreshments. Guest president & preacher: The Bishop of Richborough	

**ST JOHN'S CLOSED FOR HEATING REPAIRS: 5 – 17 OCTOBER.
PORCH WILL BE OPEN AS USUAL.**

Mon 5	8.30am	Lockers Park Harvest Chapel	<i>Lockers Park</i>
	7.45pm	Together on Monday Club Ramblings of a Reverend - Speaker: Revd Emma Williams	<i>St John's Hall</i>
Tues 6	9.30am	Tiny Tots: Stay & Play and Service	<i>St John's Hall</i>
	6.00pm	Confirmation Prep	<i>St John's Hall</i>
Wed 7	10.00am	Holy Communion followed by coffee	<u>St Stephen's</u>
	2.00pm	The Lodge Communion	<i>The Lodge</i>
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St Francis'</i>
	8.00pm	Church Meeting: Finance Committee	<i>Zoom</i>
Thurs 8	11.00am	Mountbatten Communion	<i>Mountbatten Lodge</i>
	7.00pm	Confirmation Prep	<i>St John's Hall</i>
Fri 9	7.00pm	Choir Practice	<i>St John's Hall</i>
Sun 11 Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity – Beatitude Sermon Series			
	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	<i>St John's - High Altar</i>
		<i>No Parish Eucharist at St John's due to repair work</i>	
	10.00am	Sung Parish Mass	<i>St Francis'</i>
	4.00pm	Youth Meet-up: The Great Boxmoor	
		Menu	<i>St John's Hall</i>
Mon 12	2.00pm	Bible Book Club: Hosea	<i>St John's Hall</i>
	7.30pm	Bible Book Club: Hosea	<i>St John's Hall</i>
Tues 13	9.30am	Tiny Tots: Stay & Play and Service	<i>St John's Hall</i>
	6.00pm	Confirmation Prep	<i>St John's Hall</i>
	8.00pm	Church Meeting: PCC Standing Committee	<i>Zoom</i>
Wed 14	10.00am	Holy Communion followed by coffee	<u>St Stephen's</u>
	11.15am	Church Meeting: Christmas Tree Festival Planning	<i>Office</i>
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St Francis'</i>
Thurs 15	7.00pm	Confirmation Prep	<i>St John's Hall</i>
Fri 16	5.30pm	Junior Choir Practice	<i>St John's Hall</i>
	7.00pm	Choir Practice	<i>St John's</i>
Sun 18 St Luke, Evangelist – Twentieth Sunday after Trinity – Beatitude Sermon Series			
	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	<i>St John's - High Altar</i>
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St John's Hall</i>
	10.00am	Sung Mass	<i>St Francis'</i>

Mon 19	7.45pm	Together on Monday Club Berkhamsted Castle Speaker: James Moir	<i>St John's Hall</i>
Tues 20	9.30am	Tiny Tots: Stay & Play and Service	<i>St John's Hall</i>
	6.00pm	Confirmation Prep	<i>St John's Hall</i>
Wed 21	10.00am	Holy Communion followed by coffee	<i>St John's</i>
	11.15am	Prayers for the Future of St Stephen's	<i>St John's</i>
	2.00pm	The Lodge Communion	<i>The Lodge</i>
	3.00pm	Friendship Teas	<i>St John's Hall</i>
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St Francis'</i>
	8.00pm	Church Meeting: Junior Church	<i>Office</i>
Thurs 22	11.00am	Mountbatten Lodge Communion	<i>Mountbatten Lodge</i>
	7.00pm	Confirmation Prep	<i>St John's Hall</i>
Fri 23	5.45pm	Junior Choir Practice	<i>St John's Hall</i>
	7.00pm	Choir Practice	<i>St John's</i>
Sun 25	Last Sunday after Trinity – Beatitude Sermon Series		
	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	<i>St John's</i>
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St John's</i>
	10.00am	Sung Mass	<i>St Francis'</i>
Tues 27	No Tiny Tots this week - Half Term		
	No Confirmation Prep this week - Half Term		
Wed 28	Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles		
	10.00am	Holy Communion followed by coffee	<i>St John's</i>
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St Francis'</i>
Thurs 29	No Confirmation Prep this week - Half Term		
Fri 30	12.30pm	MaSJ Lunchtime Concert & Lunch	<i>St John's</i>



Remembering St Francis of Assisi

Eight hundred years ago, on 3rd October 1226, St Francis of Assisi, the Italian friar, deacon and mystic, died. One of the most venerated religious figures in Christianity, he founded the Franciscan Order.

He died at the age of about 44 of severe illness, including eye disease, malaria and exhaustion, possibly following a 40-day fast. He was declared a saint by Pope Gregory IX two years later.

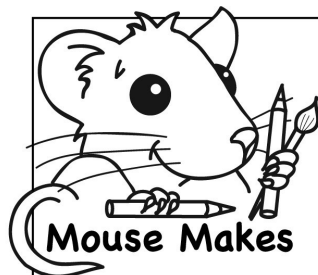
Francis' father was a wealthy silk merchant, Pietro di Bernardone dei Moriconi, and his mother a noblewoman from Provence. He was one of seven children – called Francesco by his father, who was an enthusiast for France. At first, he behaved as a typical son of a wealthy merchant, but several things changed his attitude – one of which was his capture and imprisonment for nearly a year after fighting in a war against Perugia.

He also had visions and underwent a change in character leading him to a strong commitment to help the poor – an attitude which led to estrangement from his father, whom he eventually renounced.

He aligned himself strongly with the poor, on one occasion begging with them at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. He also spent times in lonely places, seeking divine illumination, and was said to have received the stigmata during an angelic vision.

Often pictured wearing a plain brown habit tied with a rope of three knots, symbolising poverty, chastity and obedience, St Francis is one of the most honoured people in Christianity. He is a joint patron saint of Italy with Catherine of Siena, and in 2013 Archbishop Bergoglio of Argentina chose the papal name of Francis in his honour, becoming Pope Francis.

Many pilgrimage routes lead to the tomb of St Francis in Assisi, and he is honoured by many churches, including Lutherans and Anglicans.



The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?

3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

Hebrews 4:12



4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.

B I B L E S U N D A Y

5. The first book of the Bible.

6. God's word is like? A _____ and a _____
Psalm 119:105



8. The last book in the Bible.

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.

11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?

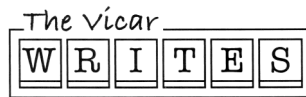
12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?

13. The Bible is also known as the _____ of God.

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman

Hebrews 4:12





Our celebrations will include a **Quiz Night** on **Saturday 3 October** at **7.30pm**, a special **All Age Eucharist** on **4 October at 10.00am at St John's**; and a collection - in partnership with Christian Aid – *Harvest of Hope* helping families across the world grow crops in countries effected by the consequences of Global Warming. £15 could pay for a shovel for establishing a vegetable plot; £40 could buy a sickle, rake and hoe set for tending a community vegetable garden; £750 could fund a hand-dug well for irrigating a vegetable garden.

St Francis Patronal Festival: Sunday 4 October: At 5.00pm there will be Sung High Mass with Benediction in celebration of the Patronal Festival of St Francis, Hammerfield. The Bishop of Richborough will be our guest president and preacher. Our adult choir will sing Byrd's Mass for 3 voices, Palestrina's Sicut cervus, Tallis If ye love me, and accompanied by a brass quintet ensemble. This will be a memorable celebration of thanksgiving to God for the life and ministry of St Francis of Assisi – in the 800th anniversary of the saint's death, and for the witness of the Church in that part of the Parish. Refreshments will be served after the Service.

There will be no morning service at St Francis' that day.

Repair works at St John's

Repairs to pipework under the chancel step are due to take place in the first two full weeks of this month. During this time St John's will be closed for public worship (with the following exceptions). I am sorry for this disruption but I'm sure you would all rather have a short closure now than a long cold winter to come.

During the works our worshipping pattern will be as follows:

- Wednesday 10 o'clock BCP will be held at St Stephen's, Chaulden – there should be plenty of parking available. This will be followed by refreshments as usual.
- Sunday 8 o'clock BCP will continue to be at St John's but at the High Altar. Entry will be via the Hall door and through the Choir Vestry.
- Sunday 11 October – 10 o'clock Parish Eucharist will be at St Francis', Hammerfield. It might be an idea to share transport if possible. Incense will be offered during the service.
- Sunday 18 October – 10 o'clock Parish Eucharist will be in St John's Hall.
- There will not be a service of Choral Evensong in October.
- Daily Morning Prayer will be said at St Francis'.

Confirmation Service

If you are interested in being confirmed this autumn, or would like to explore what this means, please speak to the clergy. Our next Deanery Confirmation Service, hosted at St John's, is on Sunday 22 November, 6.30pm, and before that those desirous of Confirmation will need to be prepared.

Countdown to Christmas Fayre

Advance notice that this year's Fayre will be held on Saturday 21 November, 10.00-14.00 in St John's. All the usual stalls plus refreshments. Please help with preparations and on the day.

Bike 'n Hike

Thank you to all who sponsored Mark Harbour and Andy Fisher to cycle round as many churches as possible on Saturday 12 September. In total they visited 22 churches in 24 miles. If you did sponsor them, please make sure you honour your pledge. Funds raised will be split between our parish and the work of the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust.

All Souls' Services 2026

There are many in the Parish who have lost loved ones, both in recent months or years, and in years gone by. Although they have died, our prayer and certain hope is that they live on with Christ in his eternal Kingdom.

Names of departed loved ones will be read out at both the 8pm Requiem Mass for the Departed at St Francis on Monday 2 November and at the 10.00am Service of Holy Communion at St John's on Wednesday 4 November. You are invited to light candles in memory of departed loved ones and, should you wish for names to be read out, please provide these on the relevant form at the back of our churches on the Sundays leading up to November.

Annual Service of Remembrance

Over the past year the Ministry Team has taken, or assisted with, many Funerals, Memorials, and Interments of parishioners. At our Annual Service of Remembrance, to be held this year on Sunday 1 November at 4pm, we shall be inviting friends and families of those who have died during the past 12 months to remember their loved ones before God and to give thanks for their lives. Should you wish to remember loved ones from previous years you will be most welcome.

Cont'd.

Christmas Services

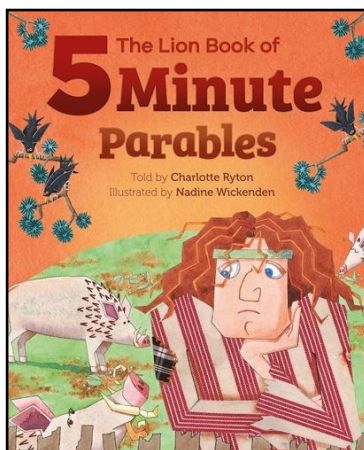
As in recent years we shall be ticketing our most popular Christmas services – the two Christingle Services on Christmas Eve to ensure that we keep everyone safe and have enough Christingles to give out. Tickets for these services can be obtained from our website from 9.00am on **Tuesday, 1 December**. So please share this information with friends and family as tickets go very quickly for these services.

BOOK REVIEW

The Lion Book of Five-Minute Parables By Charlotte Ryton, Lion Cub Books, £9.99

This book brings 10 of the most beloved parables to life with warmth, faithfulness, and sincerity, all perfectly paced for just five minutes of reading. From lost coins to lavish feasts, these engaging retellings help children discover what it means to listen, forgive, and use their gifts wisely in ways they can truly understand.

Stories include: The Sower and the Seed, The Rich Fool, The Great Feast, The Lost Coin, The Prodigal Son, The Widow and the Judge, The Unforgiving Steward, The Workers in the Vineyard, The Foolish Bridesmaids, and The Three Servants.



100 years of Winnie-the-Pooh

One hundred years ago, on 14th October 1926, the children's book *Winnie-the-Pooh*, by A A Milne, was published.

It was set in the Hundred Acre Wood, an innocent world described as "largely Edenic" but based on Ashdown Forest in East Sussex, which the Milne family often explored from their home in nearby Hartfield. It came about through the encouragement of E H Shepard, Milne's colleague on the humorous magazine *Punch*, who provided the beguiling illustrations.

Alan Alexander Milne was firstly a playwright and occasional mystery story writer who, again with Shepard, wrote the book of children's verse *When We Were Very Young*, which contained the seeds of *Winnie-the-Pooh* and its sequel, *The House on Pooh Corner*, all of which proved extremely popular.

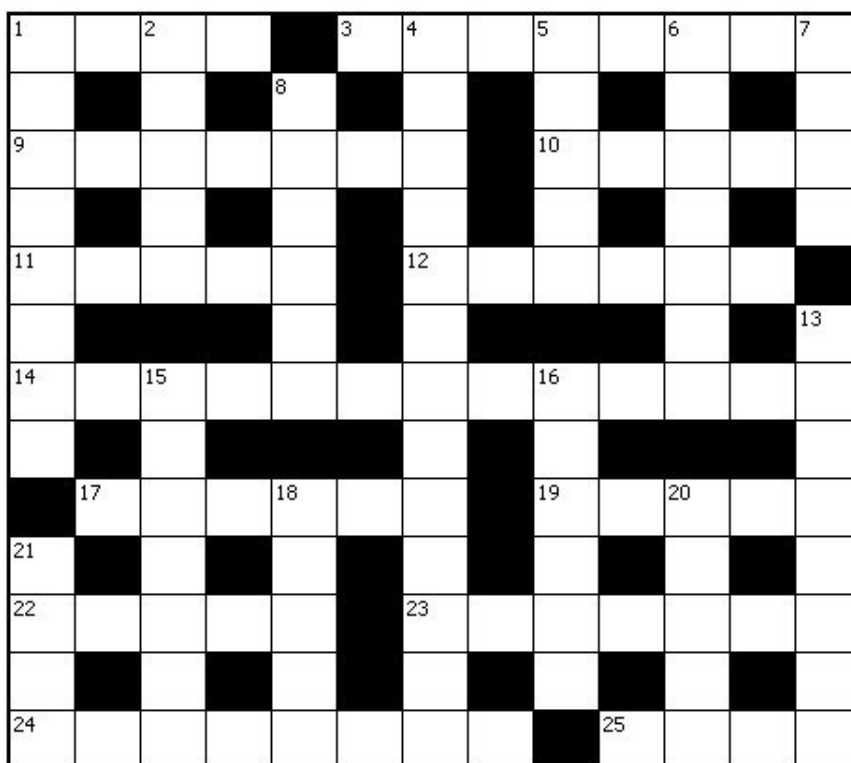
It was apparently during a family visit to London Zoo, where Christopher Robin encountered a tame bear called Winnipeg, that the book was conceived. Winnie's literary friends, such as Piglet and Eeyore, were originally toys of the real Christopher Robin.

Sadly, the book eventually had an adverse effect on the Milne family. The author said that he felt "amazement and disgust" at the fame his son had had thrust upon him: "I do not want C R Milne to ever wish that his name was Charles Robert." Nevertheless, the son did become estranged from his parents, especially following his marriage to his mother's niece.

The effect of the book on others has been happier. A plaque at Ashdown Forest declares that Milne and Shepard "captured the magic of Ashdown Forest and gave it to the world".

Despite creating a kind of Eden, Milne, who was a pacifist, said little about religion. But he did say on joining the Home Guard that "in fighting Hitler we are truly fighting the Devil, the Anti-Christ ... Hitler was a crusader against God."

The four Winnie-the-Pooh books went on to sell more than 50 million copies worldwide. The first book became the first-ever foreign-language book on the *New York Times* bestseller list.



Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)

Across cont'd

- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

Good Luck - Please find answers on page 29.

Christopher
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ST STEPHEN'S HALL, CHAULDEN - (opposite Tudor Rose) - Sunny Hall with tiled floor suitable for dancing and exercise groups as well as being ideal for children's parties. Please contact Parish Office on 01442 773990 for further information and availability.

ST FRANCIS HALL, HAMMERFIELD - Well equipped hall suitable for use by special interest groups, clubs and societies. Ideal for family parties and special occasions. Please contact Hall Bookings Secretary by email: stfrancishallbookings@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk for further information and availability. More urgent queries can be handled by leaving a message on Paul Davies mobile phone: 07802 442908



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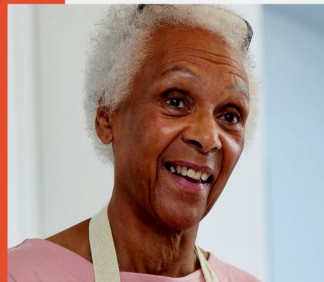
Contact us today:

01923987777

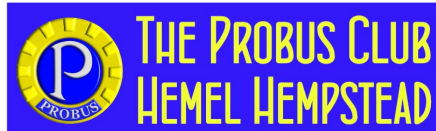
watfordandhemel@walfinch.com

walfinch.com/whh

Time to Thrive




Walfinch
REDEFINING HOME CARE



Our aim is to provide a meeting place for retired and semi-retired men to get together and enjoy a monthly programme of a convivial chat over a cup of coffee and an interesting talk on a variety of subjects from visiting speakers. Our meetings are relaxed and informal, non-political and secular.

Additionally we have a programme of visits to places of interest to which partners and guests are invited. Club Lunches are a twice-per-year feature.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Boxmoor from 10.00am - 12.00 noon. Parking is available.

Our annual subscription is £32pa.

For more information about our programme visit: www.hemelprobus.org.uk/

If you are interested in becoming a member please contact our Secretary: hemelprobus@gmail.com





JAMES B

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Services Provided

- Lawn Mowing
- Hedge and Shrub cutting
- Pruning
- Weeding
- Planting
- General Tidy ups



Weekly and Fortnightly or one time visits

Local to the area

Fully Insured

Email jbgardener25@gmail.com

Tel 07305900016

Age UK Hertfordshire are here to help...

We are a local independent charity supporting over 15,000 people each year, through a variety of different services.
If you need help or someone you know does contact us.

Befriending... If you need some company

North Herts/Stevenage 07538 954 189 Watford/Three Rivers 07976 207 619

Welwyn Hatfield 07527 660 988 East Herts/Broxbourne 07772 173 659

St Albans, Harpenden and Hertsmere 07772 173 822 Dacorum 07496 744 403

Help in the Home...

If you need help around the house

N/E 01707 386 066 S/W 01923 224472 West Essex 01462 420 911

In Touch...

If you need to talk **01992 629
358/01992 634 964**

Information & Advice...

If you need advice
0300 345 3446

Gardening & Handyperson Service...

If you need the right person for a job
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Memory Support Hertfordshire...

If you are living with dementia or are
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Active Ageing...

If you need to get out and socialise
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Dacorum Carers' Support...

If you need help to help others
07376 423 538

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If you need help with your overall health
0300 123 7571 option 5 option 3

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/hertfordshire>

Services provided in partnership with





LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

at St John's Church, Station Road, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1JY

Fridays at 12:30pm

Autumn 2026 series

Date	Artiste(s)
2 October	Chloe Jiang <i>piano</i>
9 October	No concert (<i>building works in progress</i>)
16 October	No concert (<i>building works in progress</i>)
23 October	No concert (<i>building works in progress</i>)
30 October	Bertha Kum <i>organ</i>
6 November	Jachana Piano Trio comprising: Charis Sykes <i>violin</i> , Anna Galloway <i>'cello</i> and Jack Redman <i>piano</i> <i>followed (at 2:00 pm) by the Annual General Meeting of Music at St John's</i>

ADMISSION BY DONATION (suggested minimum donation £5, or £4 for members)

Light lunch available (£3 per head) after each concert.

Net proceeds from all of the Friday lunchtime concerts will be used to support the charitable aims of Music at St John's:
promoting music in the church and the local community,
including provision of bursaries for local young musicians.
(see www.masj.org.uk for details)

If you would like to be added to our mailing list (to be kept informed of events) please send your name and email address to masj@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

Music at St John's Ltd. (registered charity number 1119580)



'Music Percentage Club Update'

Congratulations to the winners of the August Music Percentage Club draw:

Noel James 1st £15
Gina Harbour 2nd £8
Catherine Holness 3rd £4

If you know of someone who would be interested in joining the Music Percentage Club and supporting Music at St John's in this way there are forms in church or please contact Mark Harbour on 01582 841019 or see him in church.

Prayer for harvest

Dear Lord,

As we give thanks for the harvest and pray for the farmers who have struggled through the summer's drought and heatwaves, we also give thanks and pray for those who work to share the good news of Your kingdom, to bring in Your harvest of people who are searching for You.

May we, who know You, join those workers and share the good news that Jesus brings. So many people are lost and without hope or direction. Help us to reach out to them, maybe with an invitation, or simply a smile, or an act of kindness. May they see Your love reflected in us and turn to You.

May they put their trust in Jesus, who alone is the answer to all life's great questions.

Lord, may we be workers in the harvest field where You have placed us, for Your glory.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



NOVEMBER 2026 - PRICE 60p

Please note the deadline for articles for the November edition of the magazine is **Sunday, 4th October.**

You can e-mail direct to **magazine@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk** or leave articles in magazine pigeonhole or deliver direct to 27 Beechfield Road. Thank you. Sally Bates, Editor, Tel No. 266912 or Mobile 07792 768236.

PLEASE NOTE

Website for St John's Boxmoor is:

www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

E-mail: office@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

Website for Music at St John's is <http://masj.org.uk>

Facebook Page: St Johns Church, Boxmoor



NEWSLETTER: If you would like to receive a copy of the weekly Newsletter by e-mail, please contact Alan Munford - alan.munford@btinternet.com with your e-mail address and he will arrange to send it to you.

Please send any items for inclusion in the Newsletter to the Parish Office at the email address: stjnewsletter@btinternet.com

SUBSCRIPTION TO MAGAZINE

If you would like to receive a copy of St John's Parish Magazine on a regular monthly basis, please email magazine@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk or telephone him on 01442 242543 or complete your details below and return tear-off slip to:

Mr. Alan Munford, 16 St Nicholas Mount, Hemel Hempstead HP1 2BB

Name.....

Address

.....

.....

Contact Telephone Number



The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

St John's Boxmoor invites you to join us in tea, food and conversation...

Friendship Teas
St John's Church Hall
3:00pm to 4:30pm

Our next dates are:

October 21st

November 18th

December 16th

Feast Day

St Gaspar del Bufalo

1786-1837

Founded the
Missionaries of the
Precious Blood

If you want to know more
about this ministry, you can contact
Wilf Stepto at wilf.stepto96@gmail.com



SMILE-LINES

Music

The symphony musicians had little confidence in the man brought in to be their new conductor. Their fears were realized at the very first rehearsal. The cymbalist, realising that the conductor did not know what he was doing, angrily clashed his instruments together during a delicate, soft passage. The music stopped. The conductor, highly agitated, looked angrily around the orchestra, demanding, "Who did that? Who did that?"

Others

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

Broad

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

The glass

To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

Accident

As my five-year-old son and I were heading to McDonald's one day, we passed a car accident. Usually when we see something terrible like that, we say a prayer for whoever might be hurt, so I pointed and said to my son, "We should pray."

From the back seat I heard his earnest voice: "Dear God, please don't let those cars block the entrance to McDonald's."

The cow and the Bible

A religious farmer lost his Bible out in the field. A few days later he went to answer a noise at his door. Standing there was a cow, with his Bible in its mouth. The farmer raised his eyes to heaven and thanked the Lord for this miracle. "It's not really," said the cow. "Your name was written inside."



Christmas Tree Festival 2026! **"Come and Join the Celebration"**



Sadly, summer is now over and the autumn leaves are appearing. However, do not despair, this means it is time to start preparing for the 2026 Christmas Tree Festival. Something for all to look forward to!

The festival will open on **Friday 11 December** at 10am and run to **Tuesday 15 December 2026**.

We are now seeking sponsors for the outdoor trees and both sponsors and decorators for the indoor trees and we hope that this year's theme will strike the fancy of the more artistically-inclined in our community. Jean Hammond (jeanandrob@live.co.uk) is sending out invitation letters to those who have participated previously, and leaflets will be available for people whose interest might be sparked for the first time. Volunteers to help in other ways will also be needed nearer the time to set up the festival. Many hands make light work!

Outdoor and Advent trees will be delivered on **Thursday 26 November** and they will be installed that afternoon and/or on Friday and Saturday, depending on the availability of people and time. The indoor trees are being delivered on **Monday 7 December**, and help will be needed to put trees in stands around the church, (bacon sandwiches will be given to all helpers).

Decorating of the indoor trees will take place on **Wednesday 9 December from 12noon**.

The now traditional **Carols round the Trees** will take place on **Saturday 12 December at 3.00pm**, outdoors, followed by a visit from Santa. Hot dogs and glühwein will be served to celebrate this occasion!

We are delighted to announce that **Star Flutes** have confirmed that they will play for us once more on **Sunday 13 December**, from **2.00 - 5.00pm**.

What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the Minor Prophets

The Minor Prophets are '*minor*' not because they lack importance, but due to their length. The 12 prophets, Hosea through Malachi, make up the last books of the Old Testament, and were written from around 770 BC (Jonah) until 433 BC (Malachi).

The prophets fall into 3 time-periods:

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah and Nahum = Assyrian period

Habakkuk and Zephaniah = Babylonian period

Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi = Post-exilic period.

Hosea and Amos spoke to Israel (Northern Kingdom), calling the people to acknowledge their sin and return to God. Joel and Micah addressed Judah (Southern Kingdom), including prophecies about the coming of the Messiah and the church. Habakkuk and Zephaniah spoke to Judah shortly before they were taken into exile into Babylon. Obadiah spoke God's judgment against the Edomites, while Jonah and Nahum both spoke against Assyria and their capital city of Ninevah. Following the people's return from exile, Haggai exhorted the people not to neglect rebuilding the Temple. Zechariah encouraged them with the promise of the future glory of Zion and of its shepherd king, while Malachi reminded them that if he is rejected, God would judge His people.

The minor prophets remind us that God cared not just for the Jews, but also for the Edomites, Assyrians, Egyptians and all of His creation. For Christians today the challenge remains to take the message of God's grace to all nations in the power of the Holy Spirit: *'I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.'* (Joel 2:28, 29)





National Emergency Briefing Film – <https://www.nebriefing.org/the-film>

The UK faces a growing climate and nature emergency.

The ***National Emergency Briefing*** film has been created to help ordinary people across the UK understand the real risks posed by the climate and nature crisis — and, crucially, the hopeful and practical actions we can take together.

What is the film about?

The film distils the latest scientific evidence presented to more than 1,200 MPs, peers and national leaders at Westminster in November 2025. Led by broadcaster **Chris Packham**, the briefing explained how climate and nature breakdown affects our **health, food security, economy, and national safety**.

Rather than overwhelming viewers with data, the film uses a warm, human approach. People from all walks of life — including familiar faces such as **Jennifer Saunders, Deborah Meaden, Konnie Huq, and Adam Buxton** — watch the briefing and react to it. Their honest responses make the information relatable, clear, and surprisingly hopeful.

Why it matters to us as a church community

For many of us, we have lived through decades of change — social, economic, and environmental. But the challenges described are unlike anything before. They affect:

- The stability of our food supply
- The health of future generations
- The safety of our homes and communities
- The natural world we are called to cherish as part of God's creation

Cont'd

The film is not political. It is **non-partisan**, rooted in the belief that people deserve clear, honest information about risks that affect their lives.

Next Steps

Myself, Andy, Rosie and Mark from the Eco team all attended a screening some months ago and would warmly invite you to attend a screening. There is one at Holy Trinity Church, Leverstock Green on Sat 3rd Oct 2-4pm. I have 4 places in my car if people require a lift?

We are also exploring the feasibility of hosting our own screening in the Church Hall at St John's over the coming months, and please speak with a member of the Eco team if this is something you would like to know more about?

PS – The **Petitions Campaign** for a televised national emergency briefing on the climate and nature crisis, presented by Chris Packham, has surpassed 122,000 signatures and secured a future debate in Parliament.

Genesis 2:15 — The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.”

Dee Fisher 07748 307979

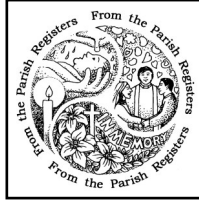
Answers to Crossword Puzzle on pages 14 & 15

ACROSS

1 dare; 3 cherubim; 9 son Tohu; 10 yield; 11 ranch; 12 enlist; 14 Baalah of Judah; 17 Edward; 19 Sheol; 22 media; 23 open air; 24 apostasy; 25 Eton

DOWN

1 describe; 2 run in; 4 household gods; 5 royal; 6 blessed; 7 MIDI; 8 Joshua; 13 children; 15 added to; 16 Jasper; 18 await; 20 exalt; 21 YMCA



**at St John's
In the month of August**

HOLY BAPTISM

16 th August	Elsa Sophia Rochester	Little Green Close
30 th August	Riley Mackenzie Christine Walker	Cypress, Texas

*May the Lord of his great mercy bless these children and give them
understanding of his wisdom and grace.*

HOLY MATRIMONY

1 st August	Jason Plessas and Ebony Ling	Glenview Gardens
8 th August	John Kirby and Jennifer Lane	Latimer

*O God, our Father, whose greatest gift is love, bless those, we ask you,
who within your presence take each other in marriage.*

FUNERAL & MEMORIAL SERVICES

3 rd August	Marion Rosina Stiles	The Lindens
5 th August	Mary Elizabeth Winson	Keiths Road
15 th August	Michele Fussell	Halwick Close

*May these souls and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy
of God, rest in peace.*



BURIAL OF ASHES

None

The Tale of The Friend at Midnight

JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO HAD
RUN OUT OF BREAD...

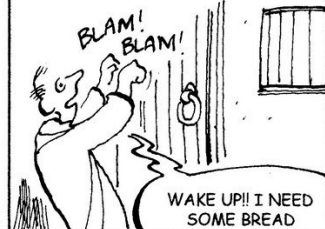


...AND HE NEEDED PLENTY AS
A FRIEND WAS COMING TO STAY.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS
MIDNIGHT...



... HE WENT TO HIS NEIGHBOUR'S
HOUSE AND BANGED ON THE
DOOR - LOUDLY!



WAKE UP!! I NEED
SOME BREAD



PLEASE WILL YOU LEND
ME THREE LOAVES?



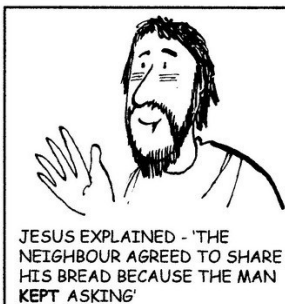
GO AWAY!! WE'RE ALL TRYING TO SLEEP!



OH GO ON... PLEASE I
REALLY DO NEED SOME!



ALRIGHT THEN! BUT I'M
ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE I
WANT SOME PEACE AND QUIET!



JESUS EXPLAINED - 'THE
NEIGHBOUR AGREED TO SHARE
HIS BREAD BECAUSE THE MAN
KEPT ASKING'



'DON'T BE AFRAID TO TALK
TO GOD. HE LONGS TO HEAR
OUR PRAYERS'.



Using Energy Wisely as Part of Our Christian Witness

Heating and lighting are among the biggest sources of carbon emissions in the UK. As a church seeking to care for God's earth, we can each play a part by reducing energy use at home and choosing cleaner, greener options where possible.

Smart Ways to Cut Energy Use:

- **Smart meters and thermostats** help you see what you're using and avoid heating an empty home.
- **LED bulbs** use up to 90% less electricity than halogens.
- **Energy-efficient appliances** (A-rated) save power every time they run.
- **Put radiator reflector foil or baking foil behind your radiators.** This will reflect heat back into your room.

Keep the Heat You Pay For:

- **Loft insulation** and **draught-proofing** stop warmth escaping.
- **Lowering your thermostat by 1°C** can reduce heating bills by around 10%.
- **Thick curtains** help keep rooms warm in winter.

Choose Cleaner Energy:

- If replacing a boiler, consider **air-source heat pumps** or **electric heating**, which run on increasingly renewable electricity.
- Switching to a **100% renewable electricity tariff** is quick and cuts your carbon footprint immediately.

Everyday Habits That Make a Difference:

- Make the most of **natural daylight**.
- Turn off lights and unplug devices when not in use.
- Repair, share, and reuse to reduce the hidden energy used in manufacturing new goods.

Small Steps, Big Impact

Caring for creation is part of our discipleship. By using energy wisely, we protect the planet, support future generations, and honour the God who made all things.

Eco Church Team

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

— FOR A GREENER HOME —

Save energy, cut bills, and care for God's creation.

SMART CONTROLS



Use smart meters & thermostats to manage energy use.



SWITCH TO LED BULBS

LEDs use up to 90% less electricity.



INSULATE & DRAUGHT-PROOF

Stop heat escaping from your home.

UNPLUG & SWITCH OFF



Turn off appliances when not in use.

UPGRADE APPLIANCES



Choose energy-efficient models.

MOVE TO ELECTRIC HEATING



Consider a heat pump or electric boiler.



CHOOSE GREEN ENERGY



Switch to 100% renewable electricity.



MAKE THE MOST OF DAYLIGHT



Open curtains & switch off lights.

Small steps can make a big difference!

An outstanding Independent School
for boys and girls aged 3-16 years

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Contact: 01442 256143

www.westbrookhay.co.uk

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