

Pirbright Village News

Alpha is coming to Pirbright this September

This autumn we are delighted to be running **Alpha in Pirbright**, beginning on **Tuesday 29th September** and running for eight weeks, with a one week break for half term.

Alpha is a relaxed and informal opportunity to explore some of life's biggest questions: *Is there more to life than this? Who is Jesus? Why did he die? How can we have faith? Does God still speak today?*

Each evening begins with food and time to chat, followed by a short film and an open discussion. There is no pressure, no question is too simple or too difficult, and you certainly don't need to know anything about Christianity before coming.

Alpha is for everyone.

Perhaps you have never been to church but have found yourself wondering whether there might be more to life. Perhaps you used to have a faith but have drifted away. Or perhaps you have been coming to church for many years but have never really had the opportunity to explore the foundations of the Christian faith for yourself.

One of the things that first drew me to Christianity was discovering just how much there was to investigate. Christian faith is not simply about believing something because you have been told to. Alpha gives you the space to ask questions, look at the evidence and make up your own mind.

Alpha begins Tuesday 29th September at 7.15pm at St Michael's church room.

Come with your questions. Come with a friend. Come and see.

To find out more or to sign up, please contact St Michael and All Angels Church, Pirbright at office@stmarkswyke.org.uk

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YOU'RE INVITED Alpha course

A ^{new} different kind of hope.

Tuesday 29th September 7.15pm
St. Michael's Church Room
Church Ln GU24 0JJ

TO SIGN UP and for more information
CONTACT OUR OFFICE
office@stmarkswyke.org.uk

Running every Tuesday for 8 weeks except 27th October

St Michael and All Angels Church

 ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH PIRBRIGHT

WE ARE BACK!

1st Sunday 9.30am Traditional Holy Communion

2nd Sunday 8.00am Said Communion
9.30am Contemporary Worship Service

3rd Sunday 9.30am Traditional Holy Communion

4th Sunday 10.00am Church on the Green
Lord Pirbright's Hall GU24 0JE

Follow us on:    

pirbrightchurch.org.uk

 St. Michael's Pirbright & St. Mark's Wyke

CHURCH ON THE GREEN

27th September 10am

Lord Pirbright's Hall GU24 0JE

Welcome!

Village Fair Pauses for 2027 as Pirbright Says Thank You to Helen Whitworth, Who Hangs Up Her Hi-Vis After 12 Years!

Following the success of the this year's event, the Pirbright Village Fair Committee will be taking a year off, so there will be no village fair in 2027. We hope to be back with fresh ideas and new attractions in 2028, so please do think about what you could contribute to help make our wonderful community event happen in the future.

In the meantime, after 12 years as a driving force behind the event, Helen Whitworth is hanging up her hi-viz jacket and stepping down from the Village Fair Committee. In that time, Helen's leadership, and her tireless commitment, enthusiasm and countless hours of hard work, have helped make the Fair one of the highlights of the village calendar, bringing together the whole community while raising valuable funds for the church and other local causes.

The church and the whole community would like to express our sincere thanks to Helen for her outstanding service, her dedication and hard work on behalf of both the village and the church. Her contribution over the past 12 years has been immense, and she leaves behind a wonderful legacy of community spirit.

We wish Helen all the very best and thank her for everything she has done for Pirbright.

St Michael and All Angels Church

Update on Sea of Poppies for Remembrance Sunday

Thank you to everyone who has donated plastic bottles, and to those who have offered to help make the poppies. We are still collecting clean, empty plastic drinks bottles (any size). Please drop your donated bottles off at Pirbright Church. There is a box in the porch where they can be left.

If you would like to help make some poppies, please contact Helen
helenwelliewhitworth@btinternet.com
07777 659138



Could you lead a relaxed, friendly choir?

Pirbright's popular gospel choir is looking for a new leader, for this friendly, informal group who come together to sing for the sheer joy of it. Although styled as a gospel choir, we welcome people of all faiths and none and we enjoy singing anything from spirituals to sea shanties, carols to country & western, as well as pop, classics and show tunes.

Most of all, we are enthusiastic, committed and up for a challenge, there is a lot of laughter in our sessions as well as music making and we can promise that working with us will be both fun and rewarding. Several of our choir members were not confident singers before they joined us, but have discovered a talent they never knew they had. Who knows, we might be just what you need to discover your inner Gareth Malone?

The choir meet weekly on Wednesday evenings during term time, at Pirbright primary school, and perform three or four times a year at community events. We pay a small honorarium and reasonable expenses. If you think you might be able to help, please contact Julia Douetil at julia.douetil@gmail.com, or 07718610494. We would love to hear from you.



Pirbright Parish Council

The Pirbright Village Sign

There is quite a bit of history behind the wonderful Village Sign that many walk past each day. It was unveiled in December 1979 when Stan Dabbs was Chair of the Parish Council. The base is a cairn built from three and a half tons of Pirbright stone - a special hard, grey sandstone peculiar to the area - which was collected by the 1st Pirbright Scouts and built by Arthur (Onk) Cheeseman. It was built around a metal tube with the oak post, weighing three hundred weight, being dropped into it. Under the cairn is a sealed metal box containing a book with the names of the residents who created the sign, together with their personal details. There is also a price list of goods from Jim Rice's shop, a copy of the village newsletter and a copy of the Surrey Advertiser.

The original oak pillar was cut from a fallen oak donated by Dick Stanley (great grandson of the famous explorer) and was shaped by Gregory Bros of West End who donated their services. Today's oak post was purchased from Champion Timber in Guildford and oiled and fitted by Roy Coverly who lives at Fox Corner, who also designed and created a new metal sleeve to fit around the base of the post to allow the rain to run-off and not rot the bottom.

The wrought iron sign at the top was made by Mr Scott Caie from materials that were given to him. The centre piece depicts the pear tree wood from which the village derives its name and this name is incorporated at the top with its date of entry in the Domesday Book - Perifriht MCLXVI. Underneath is the modern spelling of Pirbright and the date of the Jubilee year - 1977. This sign was lovingly rubbed down and repainted by Catherine & Johannes Loots who live in the village and who volunteered their time.

Next time you are walking across the Green, look out for the sign which sits at the rear of the village hall and maybe give the Cairn a rub for good luck.

Save The Date! Community Village Litter Pick Saturday 3 October
10.00am midday



Meet at Lord Pirbright's Hall to collect your litter picking equipment. Hot drinks, cake and appreciation will be waiting at the Hall for all participants.



Pirbright Parish Council

Parish Council Annual Accounts

The Parish Council has successfully completed its annual accounts for the year 2025-26, these were examined and approved by a sector specific internal auditor and then examined and approved by an independent external auditor. The Council must complete this rigorous audit process each year as it is working with public money and must evidence that the money is properly handled. This year the overall cost of the annual audit was £634.89 which comes from the Parish Precept (council tax).

By way of background for residents who may be new to the village; Pirbright (unlike some other villages in Surrey) has a Parish Council. The Parish Council is governed by the Local Government Authority and charges its residents a council tax each year based on the size of the property. This amounts to £95,820 per year in public money. This money is spent on maintaining the village green, over 200 mature trees, 2 free car parks, 3 bus shelters, 28 benches, a playground, a war memorial, a pond and various other open areas around Pirbright including the military facility to the north, Fox Corner to the south east, Henley Park to the south west and everything in between. Grass cutting, tree care and asset maintenance account for around two thirds of the spending, with the remainder being spent on projects such as the village sign, the war memorial and staff and office costs. Next year the Council will hold its 4-yearly elections and under the new West Surrey Unitary Authority will have to fund these elections for the first time. This could come in at around £25,000 and is something the Parish Council is budgeting for. To find out more about what your Parish Council does, please come along to one of the monthly meetings or the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2027. Take a look at the website for dates and other information at: www.pirbright-pc.gov.uk

Metal Detecting on Pirbright Village Green

There are Bylaws protecting Pirbright Village Green and these are displayed on the Green itself and in the Playground. These clearly state that **metal detecting** on the Green is **NOT** permitted.

This was ignored recently and the person has left divots and damage all over the Green.

The Parish Council try very hard to maintain this much-loved open space for the whole community to enjoy.

The wilful act of digging holes all over the Green has really shocked the Council.



Community Groups

Save The Date: Pirbright Surgery Annual Patient Information Evening

Join us for our annual patient information evening.

Friday 4th September

From 7:00pm

Location: Lord Pirbright's Hall

Information Evening sharing the latest news from the surgery and the NHS, followed by information for support for carers and those cared for.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Royal British Legion

Why not join us for our meeting on 14th September at 8pm at The Fox, Fox Corner and join in our often lively discussions on both social and official subjects. The Fox kindly sponsored us at their recent Country and Western evening, for which we are most grateful.

Contact: Anne Hawkins

Tel: 01252 404276

Pirbright Tennis Club

www.pirbrighttennisclub.com

The Summer Tournament Finals & BBQ are on **Sunday 6th September at 12 pm**. All welcome to come, watch and enjoy.

The Jean Seager Tournament (over 50s) on **Sunday 19th July**, was a great success. It's pleasing to see the increase in club membership and great to see so many younger players using the courts.

Remember we have Club Night **every Tuesday** from 6.30pm. All members welcome. Also there are regular events, coaching, professional balls for sale and excellent racket stringing.

All enquiries (inc. new membership): visit website or contact Fiona Robotham:

info@pirbrighttennisclub.com

Pirbright WI

Our meeting this month will be a talk by David Chave and will be on Dirty Money: A History of Money Laundering. The meeting will be on Tuesday September 15th at 7pm in the Club Room in Lord Pirbright's Hall. Visitors are always welcome.

The WI is serving coffees and teas with a good selection of biscuits on Thursday mornings 10am to 11.15am at Lord's Pirbright's Hall. When you pop into the Country Market why not visit us for tea or coffee.

Irene Dredge 01483 233279 or email iredredge@outlook.com

Pirbright Country Market

Every Thursday 10am to 11.15am at Lord's Pirbright Hall.

Selling homemade savouries, cakes, preserves, honey, free range eggs and meat. Home grown plants and seasonal vegetables. Also a large selection of greetings cards and hand made crafts. Orders welcome, why not come and check us out.

Rawlins Club

We are having our next meeting on Friday 11th September between 2.00pm and 4.00pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall. The Talk will be "Upstairs Downstairs" by Edwin Grimshaw.

Denise Granger 01483 472070

Gardening and Eco Tip for the Month

Gardening tips for September

Looking back through the September gardening tips I've written over the years, I think this year our gardens are likely to be looking rather different. After such a hot, dry summer, many lawns will have turned brown and borders may be looking tired. The good news is that, with some autumn rain, most lawns should begin to recover and green up surprisingly quickly.

Resist the temptation to apply an autumn lawn feed until the grass has started to grow again. Feeding a dormant, drought-stressed lawn won't do it any favours, so it may be better to wait until October if the dry weather continues.

Take some time to observe how your garden has coped with this summer's conditions. Which plants have thrived despite the heat, and which have struggled? This can be invaluable information when planning future planting. If you're looking to add new plants this autumn, consider choosing varieties that are more tolerant of hotter, drier conditions, helping to make your garden more resilient as our climate continues to change.

Don't be too quick to remove shrubs and perennials that have lost their leaves or appear to have died. Many plants protect themselves during periods of drought by shedding foliage or dying back. Give them a thorough watering if conditions remain dry, apply a generous mulch, and wait until next spring before deciding whether they need replacing. You may be pleasantly surprised by their recovery.

Autumn is also the perfect time to mulch your borders. Once the soil is moist, apply a layer of well-rotted compost, leaf mould or bark around your plants. This will help retain moisture, improve the soil structure and suppress weeds, while gradually feeding the soil as it breaks down. Finally, think about how you can make the most of every drop of water. Install or increase your rainwater storage with water butts, direct downpipes into storage where possible, and reuse household water (where appropriate) for ornamental plants. Small changes now can make a big difference during future dry spells.

September is a month of transition. As temperatures begin to cool and rainfall hopefully returns, it's an excellent time to restore your garden after the summer, plant for the future, and prepare for another growing season.

Eco tip for September

It's been a great summer, but without rain we're facing a water shortage & hosepipe ban. Here are simple tips to save water now & in future: Turn off the tap while brushing teeth, shaving or washing up – save 6 litres a minute, wash veg in a bowl, not under running water, and fix dripping taps (they waste 13 litres a day), flush the toilet less often when possible, recycle used water (from washing veg, rice or pasta, or old bath water) for plants & the garden, collect water while waiting for the hot tap to run through – use it in the garden or fridge for drinking and shower instead of bathing (80 litres for a bath vs a third of that for a shower), or use less water in the bath. For the garden: Put a pot under hanging baskets to catch drips, water morning or evening when evaporation is lower and use saved water in a bucket or watering can. When rain comes, store it in butts, barrels or old sinks, and use a hose nozzle as a flow-restrictor. A brown lawn isn't dead – it builds resistance and will green up again once the rain returns!

Pirbright Community Calendar September 2026

Date	Time	Event
Fri 4th	7.00pm	Pirbright Surgery Annual Patient Information Evening at Lord Pirbright's Hall
Sun 6th	9.30am 11.15am 12.00pm 6.00pm - 7.00pm	Holy Communion Service at St Michael's Pirbright All Age Service at St Mark's Church Hall GU3 2DA Pirbright Tennis Club Summer Tournament Finals & BBQ Prayer and Worship at St Mark's Church Hall GU3 2DA
Fri 11th	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Rawlins Club at Lord Pirbright's Hall
Sat 12th	10.00am - 12.00pm	Operation Churchyard at St Michael's Pirbright
Sun 13th	8.00am 9.30am 11.15am 5.00pm	Said Communion Service at St Michael's Pirbright Contemporary Service at St Michael's Pirbright Holy Communion Service at St Mark's Church GU3 2DA Taize Service at St Mark's Church Hall GU3 2DA
Mon 14th	8.00pm	Royal British Legion at The Fox Inn, Fox Corner
Tue 15th	10.15am 7.00pm	Midweek communion followed by Cafe Club at St Michael's Pirbright WI at Lord Pirbright's Hall in the Club Room
Sun 20th	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion Service at St Michael's Pirbright Contemporary Service at St Mark's Church Hall GU3 2DA
Sun 27th	10.00am 11.15am	Church On The Green at Lord Pirbright's Hall Holy Communion Service at St Mark's Church GU3 2DA
Tue 29th	7.15pm	Alpha at St Michael's Pirbright Church Room
Every Mon	10.00pm - 11.30pm	Baby & Toddler Group at St Michael's Pirbright Church Room (term time only)
Every Thur	10.00am - 11.15am	Pirbright Country Market Lord's 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.

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07984323709

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