February 2018

BASINGA



Anna Fairs





Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Magazine www.basinga.org.uk







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FEBRUARY 2018 - NOTES AND NEWS

The cover photo this month is 'Home is Where My Heart Is...' by Anna Fairs.

February is the second month of the year in both the Julian and Gregorian Calendars; February comes from the word februa which means cleansing or purification. The Anglo-Saxons called this month Sol-monath, cake month, because cakes were offered to the gods. Also known as 'sprout-kale' from the sprouting of brassicas. This year February will have no full moon, the first time for 19 years.

February also sees the start of Lent and many of us will be 'giving up' meat or chocolate to prepare for Easter. In the past 'Collop Monday', before Shrove Tuesday and was a day on which to eat large pieces of fried meat. The next day marks 40 days before Easter and the day before a period of quietness and fasting. Sometimes called 'Mischief Day', this was the last opportunity for fun and food for a long time.

St Valentine's Day was the day on which birds chose their mates. Each year in Britain we spend over £500m on cards, flowers, chocolates and other gifts for this 'special' day. February's gemstone is the Amethyst and the flower a Primrose.

BASINGA ARTICLES

We welcome both regular and occasional items for the Basinga. The very last date for copy to the Editor for the MARCH edition is by 6 pm on Saturday, 10th February. Send emails to: editor@basinga.org.uk All advertising enquiries – classified, free adverts or inserts (flyers) to: advertising@basinga.org.uk Don't forget that we only accept articles with 300 words maximum. All articles sent by email should be sent to the Editor as an attachment.

If we are unable to get your copy in this month's edition please could you look on our website: www.basinga.org.uk

HELP NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to **deliver the Basinga** in two different areas (The Street and St Mary's Close in Old Basing.) If you have a few minutes to spare each month and would like to help all residents to receive this magazine, please phone **Jenny Harris** on **01256 462280** to find out what is involved.

The Basinga Team are also looking to recruit an **Assistant Advertising Manager** to learn what is involved in this part of our activity and to lend support to the advertising manager when necessary. For more information contact the Editor, via the email address above. Thank you.

ODIHAM COTTAGE HOSPITAL CHARITY SHOP, OLD BASING

The shop, in **Belle Vue Road** celebrated two years of 'trading' just before Christmas. The occasion was marked with a half price reduction across the whole store, all the tea you could drink and cakes galore! Manager Sue Cameron would like to thank all her volunteers for their efforts and her many customers for their loyalty and support. The Christmas raffle alone generated over £500 and this, together with consistently good 'takings' contributed a considerable amount to the Cottage Hospital. If you haven't yet visited the shop then you are missing great deals across a whole range of quality items. The shop is open on **Monday** to **Saturday**, **10.00am** to **4.00pm**. Come in, grab a bargain and support a valuable resource!

CARNIVAL NEWS

On behalf of the Carnival Committee, Happy New Year and here's to another fantastic Carnival. Plans are in full swing for this year's Carnival activities, so we hope you can come and join in the fun.

Dates for your diary:

Senior Citizens Party – 17th February, Old Basing Village Hall - noon for 12.30pm start Carnival Selection Disco – Friday, 9th March, Royal British Legion, 4.30pm to 6.00pm Carnival Day – Saturday, 16th June 2018 - Theme – Book Titles

On behalf of the **Carnival Committee**, I am very pleased to extend a very warm welcome to all **Senior Citizens** who reside in the parish, to join us for the **Senior Citizen Party**. Lovely food, great company, a few fun activities and a free raffle. If you would like to join us, please complete the reply slip below and return to Sandie Rice at the address on the form and no later than **Friday**, **2nd February**, thank you.

We are also holding our **Junior Carnival Disco** on **Friday, 9th March** from **4.30pm** to **6.00pm** at the **Royal British Legion Hall, Crown Lane**. At this event we will be choosing our **Carnival Princess** and **Attendant**, also a **Prince** and **Escort** and all children over 5 years and under 12 years may attend. To enter you must reside in the Parish. **Admission - £2 per child**. Please complete the form below and bring it with you on 9th March. Parents are requested not to stay – please advise regarding any required medication or allergy issues on arrival.

Many thanks

Joe Croombs, Chair - Old Basing Carnival Committee 07768 032 936 or joe@croombs.org

Number attending:



Old Basing Carnival Senior Citizen Party on Saturday, 17th February 2018
Please complete and return to: Sandie Rice, 16B Pyotts Hill, Old Basing, RG24 8AR no later than Friday, 2nd February

I would love to join you for the Old Basing Carnival Senior Citizen Party 2018:

×	
∼	
Carnival Selection Disco Friday, 9th March 2018 at 4.30	to 6.00pm
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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

FLOODING UNDER THE MILKINGPEN LANE BRIDGE

At the time of writing we understand the water has been drained from under the bridge, however we have been asked what is being done about this ongoing problem, particularly since the most recent floods left the road inaccessible during Christmas and into the New Year. Unfortunately, what we were led to believe was an extreme instance of blocked drains may, it appears, turn out to be collapsed culverts. County Councillor Elaine Still is liaising with Highways on our behalf and has provided the following information which, although does not offer a solution yet, goes some way to explain the circumstances:-

HCC tried jetting/camera surveying the drainage system last year but the outfall from the gulley just under the bridge could not be traced. It drains away over time but is slow thereby leading to flooding and sometimes ice. Other sites with a similar problem may indicate a problem with the original drainage design when the railway line was built!

An order has been placed to jet/camera the section of Milkingpen Lane from Bellevue Rd to the railway bridge (or just beyond) as a result of issues raised by the resident at Browns Farm. HCC Highways had hoped to complete this before Christmas but had to reschedule. The site has been submitted for inclusion in the 2018/9 Operation Resilience planned works programme. Op. Res. has already undertaken drainage improvements at the top of Milkingpen Lane prior to resurfacing the junction and officers will attend when the drainage work is carried out to get a better idea of the issues by the bridge.

Water has, on a number of occasions, been seen flowing down the track fairly regularly between the railway and the Scout Hut appearing to come out of the ground both near the railway and the hut. Network Rail has been contacted in the past but they do not own the track nor have they any drainage infrastructure in that area. Highways officers have recently tracked down someone involved many years ago with work on an unknown culvert and hope to arrange a meeting to gain a better understanding of what is there.

This is one of several drainage schemes Highways Officers are keen to complete but there are other areas in Hampshire of equal/higher importance. However, I and the officers are pushing hard to have Milkingpen Lane included in the Operation Resilience 2018/9 scheme. In the interim, Highways will proceed with the jetting/survey work but it is doubtful the flooding will stop until they locate the outfall and clear it. An added complication is that there may be more than one private landowner all of whom have to be approached

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Next two meeting dates: **Tuesday, 6th February** and **6th March at 7.30 pm** at the **Pavilion**. All are welcome - anyone with impaired mobility should contact the Parish Office so they can be accommodated.

Chairman: Cllr. Mark Oszczyk (contact via Parish Office)

Parish Clerk: Mrs Sandra Tuck Deputy Clerk Mrs Heather Mountford

Address: The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground, The Street, Old Basing, RG24 7DA.

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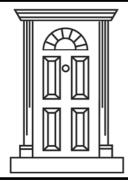


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THE BADEN-POWELL CENTRE FOR OLD BASING GUIDES AND SCOUTS

We are organising several fundraising events to help fund the Baden-Powell Centre for the Guides and Scouts. For those who aren't aware, the old **Scout and Guide Hut** was flooded in January 2009 and became unusable then condemned. We have applied for some grants and are also fundraising to enable us to rebuild this facility.

In November 2017 we held a very successful quiz night with fish and chip supper and thanks to the generosity to those who attended we raised a massive £850.

On **Thursday, 8th February** we are holding a **Charity Indian Night** at the **Raj** of **Blackdam**. **Tickets** are on sale at £20 per person this includes a voluntary £5 donation to the Baden Powell Centre. There will be a raffle too.

On **Saturday, 3rd March** we are holding an **Auction Night** with a **three course dinner** at the **Bolton Arms.** There will be a silent auction and then a main auction. If any local business would like to donate an item or service please email on: **fundraising4newhut@gmail.com** More details to follow but if you would like to reserve places then please contact us by email. Tickets will go on sale early in February. On **24th March** we shall be holding a **Tabletop Sale** at **Old Basing Village Hall** with different crafts and activities. If you are interested in having a table then please let us know and we can let you have more details.

If you are interested in any of the above events or would like to help on the fundraising committee please contact us on: fundraising4newhut@gmail.com

Paula McBride

CHINEHAM LIBRARY

For children this month activities will include the preschool **Rhymetimes** on **Tuesdays**, with the **under ones** at **10.00am** and the **over ones** at **11.00am**. Preschool **Storytimes** take place every **Saturday** except the first in the month at **10.00am**, and **Craft Sessions** take place on the **first Saturday** between **10.00am** and **noon**. The **Chatterbooks** children's reading group meets on **Thursday**, **15th February** and **15th March** between **3.45pm** and **4.45pm**. For information about future **Coding Club** dates please see the staff. We also have a special event coming up for children of **Charlie's** storytelling parties. The date for this is **Monday**, **12th February** with sessions at **1.45pm** and **3.00pm** costing £3.75. Tickets can be booked via the library.

Regular activities for adults continue with the **Crime Reading** group meeting on **Saturday**, **3rd February** and 17th March, and **CHIPPS** on **Wednesday**, **14th February** and the 14th March. The new reading group and the new creative writing groups have now met and would love to have more members join them. **Age Concern** will continue to hold their regular computer sessions for the **over 50s** on **Wednesday** mornings between **10.00am** and **1.00pm**. For details and to book a place please contact the area office on: **01256 423874**.

There are also some interesting activities coming up in the near future. From 19th February to 12th March we are running a free course called 'Art for Wellness' with sessions from 10.00am to 1.00pm. This is free to attend but places need to be reserved. On 17th March at 2.00pm we are holing a session on Container Gardening, with some plants available for sale afterwards. Tickets are for sale costing £4 each.

Please continue to follow us via social media and other sources for details of future events.

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Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a type of depression that comes and goes in a seasonal pattern. It is sometimes known as "winter depression" because the symptoms are more apparent and tend to be more severe during the winter. The symptoms often begin in the autumn as the days start getting shorter. They're typically most severe during December, January and February. SAD often improves and disappears in the spring and summer, although it may return each autumn and winter in a repetitive pattern.

Symptoms of SAD can include:

a persistent low mood; a loss of pleasure or interest in normal everyday activities; irritability; feelings of despair, guilt and worthlessness; feeling lethargic (lacking in energy) and sleepy during the day; sleeping for longer than normal and finding it hard to get up in the morning; craving carbohydrates and gaining weight

For some people, these symptoms can be severe and have a significant impact on their day-to-day activities.

When to see your GP

You should consider seeing your GP if you think you might have SAD and you're struggling to cope. Your GP can carry out an assessment to check your mental health. They may ask you about your mood, lifestyle, eating habits and sleeping patterns, plus any seasonal changes in your thoughts and behaviour.

What causes SAD?

The exact cause of SAD isn't fully understood, but it's often linked to reduced exposure to sunlight during the shorter autumn and winter days.

The main theory is that a lack of sunlight might stop a part of the brain called the hypothalamus working properly, which may affect: the production of melatonin – melatonin is a hormone that makes you feel sleepy; in people with SAD, the body may produce it in higher than normal levels; production of serotonin – serotonin is a hormone that affects your mood, appetite and sleep; a lack of sunlight may lead to lower serotonin levels, which is linked to feelings of depression; body's internal clock (circadian rhythm) – your body uses sunlight to time various important functions, such as when you wake up, so lower light levels during the winter may disrupt your body clock and lead to symptoms of SAD

It's also possible that some people are more vulnerable to SAD as a result of their genes, as some cases appear to run in families.

Treatments for SAD

A range of treatments are available for SAD. Your GP will recommend the most suitable treatment programme for you.

The main treatments are: lifestyle measures – including getting as much natural sunlight as possible, exercising regularly and managing your stress levels; light therapy – where a special lamp called a light box is used to simulate exposure to sunlight; talking therapies – such as cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) or counselling; antidepressant medication – such as such as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs); changes in diet – the Mediterranean diet has been shown to improve mood.



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ST MARY'S FLOWER LADIES COFFEE MORNING: Come and join us on Sat 24th Feb 2018 in the parish room at St Mary's, 10am to 12 noon. Everyone welcome. Raffle, gifts, tea, coffee and biscuits.

LADIES FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING: The next occasions will be at the home of Mrs Ann Price 10 Oliver's Walk Lychpit on 2nd February and then at the home of Mrs Eroula Tyson 1 Cowdery Heights Old Basing on 2nd March both at 10.30 am to 12.00 noon.

MARIE CURIE DAFFODIL DAY is the main fundraising event of the year. Thank you for your support in 2017 we raised £884.22 at Chineham Shopping Centre. If you can spare an hour or more on the 24/02 please go to www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil Thank you very much.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S QUIZ NIGHT: Come along to the Parish Rooms on the 24th February. Bring your own refreshments. Maximum team size is 6 people. Starting at 7.00 for 7.30. Tickets are £5 per person for members and £7.50 for non-members. Please call 01256 352403

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THE MILL FIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Event News: Our work party on **Sunday, 18th February** will continue with the winters challenge to tackle the scrub and open up the paths and views for walkers across the site. We have made good progress so far this winter along the middle path but there is always more to do. You don't need to book in advance just come along on the day, the more the merrier. No special skills are required either just appropriate clothes and footwear and we will provide tea, coffee and tools. We meet at the **Play Area at 10.00am** (or go directly to the middle path), and work for about two hours.

What's around this month: Look out for Winter Finches, particularly larger numbers of Siskins, Bramblings and Redpolls, in particular see if you can spot the Meally Redpoll which is slightly bigger than the normal redpoll. We should also be seeing the Winter Thrushes such as the Fieldfare, large numbers of Linnets will be roosting in the field too and the Waxwings should still be around. This winter we have had good numbers of Little Egrets coming in both onsite and around the fish ponds by the barn where the Yellowhammer maybe roosting amongst the reed beds and Kingfishers are seen regularly.

Remember we now have a **Facebook** page, search for "Mill Field Conservation Group", there you will find posted events, photos of wildlife and other information will be shared.

Anne Francis tel: 07974 944439

Email: millfieldoldbasing@yahoo.co.uk

THANKS TO ALL BIG TURKEY SUPPORTERS

It was wonderful to experience such a gathering of warmth and new and old friendships over the celebratory **Community Christmas Lunch on 30th December**. Nearly 180 people came to eat together (next time White Christmas as big screen film, with great songs I think?), and so many helped make the day a great celebration of our community life together, hosted in a village hall which has been built and maintained in that same spirit of generous, voluntary hospitality (and which is seeking new help on their committee – contact Sandie Rice). Thanks to so many who contributed before and on the day, and special thanks to local organistions who helped make it all happen: Glayshers Butchers, the Bakehouse Café, OB&L Parish Council, OB Village Hall committee.

If you'd like to be involved in planning this year's free Big Turkey Community Christmas lunch please contact Elizabeth Fourie, or Colin Follett.

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Basingstoke & Deane have confirmed that the **Neighbourhood Plan Submission** and supporting documents are legally compliant. They have conducted a Consultation exercise which began on October 30th and ended on December 11th 2017. Copies of the Submission Pack have been advertised as available at the Parish Office, the Village Hall and the Old Basing Health Centre, and on the websites.

The Plan will now go for formal Examination by a planning expert after any amendments resulting from the Consultation exercise.

David Whiter



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NWR - A DISCUSSION GROUP FOR WOMEN

Our first meeting of 2018 was an Alphabet meeting. Last year we discussed anything beginning with A so this year we tackled B and a very varied list of topics were covered from Babies and breast feeding to a very amusing poem on Buying a Bra (not entirely unconnected). Also looked at Borneo where one of our members had just had a most memorable holiday and Bermuda where another member first met her husband some years ago. We also covered Beards, Bells, Betting and Big Birthdays. This well attended meeting was very light hearted with lots of lively conversation and much laughter so an excellent start to the New Year

Our **lunch club** will be going to **The Mill House** this month and our **Reading Group** will be discussing **Next to Love** by **Ellen Feldman**, a book set in America just after the war. We have also arranged a trip to the cinema to see **Breathe** about a young man whose life was changed forever after polio. Our next meeting on **Monday, February 12th** will be our planning meeting where we take ideas and suggestions from our members to plan all the events, discussions and activities for the coming year so we are hoping for a good attendance with lots of ideas and recommendations.

Our meetings are very friendly and informal, usually but not always, in the afternoon in each others' homes. If you would like to find out more about NWR there is a lot of information on the website: nwr.org.uk or to find out more about our group in particular, or to come along to any of our meetings (to check us out with no obligation to join) please contact: Avril Keable, email: avrilkeable@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01256 322832 or Evelyn Jones, email: evelyncjjones@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01256 816636

OLD BASING WI FEBRUARY

Members met at the beginning of January for our regular meeting where we provided our own entertainment in the form of a Quiz. The subject was "Sweet Treats" and teams puzzled over clues such as "sweet tooth cleaner" (Candy Floss) and "edible fasteners" (Chocolate Buttons).

Our next meeting will take place on **Tuesday, 6th February** at **7.30pm** in the **Parish Rooms** when we will welcome **Dinah Warnock** to talk about the **History of Make-up**. The competition this evening will be a Small Perfume Bottle. **Other activities** planned for **February** include **Coffee at the Bakehouse** and **Lunch at Wyvale Garden Centre**.

Full details can be found on the website: **www.hampshirewi.org.uk** click on WIs from the top of the page and select Old Basing from the list.

OLD BASING VILLAGE HALL JUMBLE SALE

On Saturday, 3rd March at 2.00pm, come and grab some bargains, and tea, and cake!

Is it time to clear some bits and bobs around the house and garage? The OBVH welcome contributions to sell at our spring jumble sale. We appreciate bric-a-brac, unwanted good quality clothing, gardening tools, books and toys! Unfortunately we can't take large items of furniture, but everything else, **YES PLEASE**. Leave your items in the outer porch **from Monday, 26th** February through to noon on the day of the jumble.

This is a fundraising event, helping the volunteer committee to maintain our wonderful hall. If you would like to help on the day, with sorting or selling, we would love to see you there. Sorters arrive at 10.00am, sellers 1.45pm. Entry 25p

Laura Haystaff tel: 07969 072230

THE PATH WE MAKE BY DREAMING

(thanks to Jan Richardson for her words)

It may not be a midsummer night, but with winter lingering on and the hope and new growth of spring perhaps not yet visible, isn't February a month ripe for dreaming?

If you own a dog, you'll probably not only find you dream of having an obedient one, but also see the blissful space a contented dog affords to rest and dream with twitching nose and wiggling paws. But what space do we give to dream? How is our path shaped by dreaming? Rubin Naiman in his book 'Healing Night' challenges our tendency to belittle and crowd out our dreaming: with the loss of our night dreams, we lose touch with our waking dreams and with the larger world of the creative, sacred and imaginal process. The time for dreaming offers space to search our longings, learning and discerning, to make connections that elude us in more rational moments. Dreams come by night, dreams come by day; the imagining and envisioning we engage in as we work to find and navigate our path through the wilderness.

Jacob had a dream. He was a man on the run from his brother Esau. Fleeing from his home he runs for hours and finally as evening falls he stops. He's in the wilderness, alone, has left everything he knows and loves behind, and knows little of what lies ahead. He's in the place between, at a threshold, and he decides to rest. Picking up a stone, he places it beneath his head for a pillow, and somehow manages to sleep...and Jacob dreams. He dreams of a ladder stretched between earth and heaven with angels ascending and descending. He hears the voice of God speaking to him 'know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land'. In his wilderness heaven and earth meet for the dreaming man, who finally stopped long enough to let God catch up with him and who was willing to have his eyes and his heart opened. Jacob's path unfolded anew with his assurance of God's loving presence and hope for his journey ahead.

Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on February 14th a day when appropriately we celebrate love, is the day when our journey through Lent begins, our journey to the cross and beyond to resurrection hope, to new life. The very name Lent is derived from 'lengthening': the lengthening of days when, like nature, we grow. Lent offers a rich blend of themes, one of which is time spent in the wilderness. Our wilderness times can offer positive if painful times of discovery, renewal, vision, and growth in identity, relationship, service and grace. Space to rest, to pray, to dream, to hope, to grow - a place between.

When you come to the place between. When you have left what you held most dear.

When you are traveling toward the life you know not.

When you arrive at the hardest ground.

May it become for you a place to rest. May it become for you a place to dream.

May the pain that has pressed itself into you, give way to vision, to knowing.

May the morning make of it an altar, a path, a place to begin.....again.

Dream deeply, with prayers and blessings for your way,

Rev'd Sarah

THIS MONTH AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Saturday 3rd February Men's Breakfast Group from 8:45 to 10:00am. Men of all ages

are invited to join us for good food and fellowship.

Sunday 4th February Candlemas Service at 9:30am. Traidcraft Stall after the service

in the **Parish Room** selling all kinds of Fair Trade food and craft items with the proceeds going to the producers in developing

countries. St Mary's is a Fair Trade church.

Thursday 8th to 17th Parish visit to Old Basing & Lychpit Global Partnership friends in

Katakala, Uganda. See article on page 24.

Sunday 11th February All-Age Service at 10.00am

Wednesday 14th Feb. Ash Wednesday – services at 10.00am and 7.30pm including

the imposition of ash (Please return any palm crosses from 2017 to the blue box at the welcome table before this date, thank you).

Sunday 18th February Special Global Partnership Katakala, Uganda focused service

9.30am – led by those returning from parish trip to Uganda.

Monday 19th and 26th Living Soup Mondays through Lent. All are welcome to simply come along to the **Parish Room** and join anybody who turns up

for soup, bread and cheese anytime between **7.00** and **8.00pm**. Come with your soup/cheese and simply share supper together.

Also March 5, 12, 19, 26th March.

Tuesday 20th February A Churches Together Lent Course at Old Basing Methodist

Church at **7.30pm** following the book *Lentwise*, by **Paula Gooder.** There will be 5 sessions up to 20th March. Further details

please contact Fr Alec or Revd Alison Parker.

Monday 26th February Tea & Talk Café (previously called 'Memory Café') from 2.15

to 3.45pm. Anyone who would like some company and a chat is welcome. It is free and is on the 4th Monday of each month.

After the weekly 9:30 am service at St Mary's refreshments are served in the Parish Room which is an informal setting in which to meet other members of the congregation. If you have time after the service do join us, you will be very welcome.

For more details about the life of St Mary's please visit **www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk** or **St Mary's Facebook page** and follow us on Twitter – **@OB&L_StMarys** where you will find fresh updates including sermons. The church is open daily for prayer and you are welcome then as you are every Sunday.

Looking forward to March:

Womens' World Day of Prayer on Friday, 2nd March

Prayer for Christian Unity hour, 7.00 to 8.00pm on Saturday, 3rd March.

Parish Quiet Day at Alton Abbey on 10th March

Mothering Sunday, 11th March (10.00am service)

Feast of the Annunciation on 25th March

Palm Sunday on 25th March

Holy Week begins on 26th March

CAN YOU SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS IN KATAKALA, UGANDA BEFORE FEBRUARY 8TH?

Our Katakala - Old Basing & Lychpit Global Partnership continues to evolve and strengthen, and four people from the parish are travelling to Katakala on February 8th to develop our village, church and school links, and carrying our donations, gifts, prayers and love from across the Old Basing & Lychpit community. Rosey Stevens, Gill Sakakini, Tracey McCarley, (Headteacher of Old Basing Infant School), and Rev Sarah, will be spending time in Katakala primary school and in St Apollo's church and the village. We are now raising greatly needed funds to take with us for school and church, and gathering donations of gifts too. Before Thursday, 8th February, please leave any donations of the following in the collecting box in St Mary's church porch or Old Basing Infant School in new or nearly new condition: men's shirts or ties; ladies scarves or tops or costume jewelry; micro fleece towels; un-inflated foot/basketballs; baby cuddly toys; thick marker / sharpie pens; toothpaste; bars of soap. Financial donations to help the school with teaching resources and children's food, and the church to continue to function in its building and with its pastoral support of the sick, hugely appreciated via online: uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ SomeoneSpecial/Katakala Partnership or cheque/cash in gift aid envelopes at St Mary's church or Old Basing Infant school.

If you'd like to come to a special fundraising **Katakala Supper** in the Infant school hall on **Monday,5th February** evening, please contact Rosey, Gill or Sarah (or via Infant school). And on **Sunday, 18th February,** at **9.30am** all are welcome to a special 'feeding back' service at **St Mary's** led by those returning from this parish visit, plus April Basinga feedback news. If you are interested in joining a future Katakala trip or helping develop our global communities partnership with St Mary's church, St Mary's Junior School, Old Basing Infant School, and the wider village, please contact Rosey Stevens or Rev Sarah. Thanks so much for all your support for those living with very little in Katakala.

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)

This month's working party will be on **Saturday, 3 February at 10.00am** – meet in the church lobby. We will continue our winter conservation tasks, including woodland management and path maintenance. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing our regular volunteers and also new participants. **There will be no Thursday afternoon working party this month.**

Churchyard Conservation is a community project, not just for churchgoers, so please come along if you would like to be involved. We will give you a warm welcome. Just turn up in gardening clothes and bring gloves. The tools are provided. Our Saturday morning sessions last about three hours (with a coffee break and chance to relax).

The Conservation Area is a community space for everyone to enjoy. You are very welcome to visit. With the longer days lovely signs of spring are appearing. The snowdrops are now at their best. Together with the catkins and singing birds they herald the start of spring. It is a lovely time to visit. On a warm day the WI seat offers a quiet spot for a moment of peace in this busy world.

For further information please ring Fay Farrant on 01256 476863.

Margaret Carr www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

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NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

Basing House continues to be closed during February but will reopen for the summer season in March.

2018 will see a wide variety of events in addition to the traditional re-enactment weekends. Among these is this year's outdoor theatre production – **Jane Austen's** *Sense and Sensibility* – performed by the Chapter House Theatre Company who return for the third year on 19th August.

For many years a number of courses and activity days have been run at Basing House but this is the first where the bulk of the programme has been published for the whole season. This is at **hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/venue-events/68** and features not only craft courses in a wide range of subjects, but also courses in poetry, photography, gardening and nature, many of which draw on the historical and natural features of the enormous Basing House site. The first courses – in March include willow weaving, poetry and an introduction to stone carving along with a five-week course using our site as an inspiration for "crafty" activities. Basing craft mornings return on 29th March for the rest of the season.

These days, every historic monument needs volunteers. We are no different. We have both a band of gardening volunteers who meet once a week (currently Wednesdays) and "welcome" volunteers. This latter role, which involves contact with visitors, need not be a great commitment as they would only be needed three or four times a year for the most major events, when we can have a substantial number of visitors. We would also be very interested in anyone who had a special expertise which they thought they could use, as a volunteer, to help us. If you are interested in volunteering, please give me a ring.

Andrew Howard tel: 01256 327014

BASING SINGERS

It was good to see so many people packed into the Village Hall for our Christmas Concert supported by the Blue Horizon Handbell Ringers and a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

As you will have read in the past all profit is donated to a worthy cause and on this occasion it went to the **Hampshire Search and Rescue Services** and with your generous support in attending our concert and the raffle we were able to make a donation of £500.00. Thank you.

We had a very busy time over Christmas singing at the Barn, Tesco's at Chineham and Conkers Garden Centre which enabled us to make a further donation to Naomi House and Jack's Place a very worthy cause I am sure you will agree. We are now looking forward to our Spring Concert and if you feel you would enjoy singing for pleasure we are always looking for new members. We meet each Wednesday from 7.45pm to 9.45pm in the Parish Room.

Sue Wilson - Publicity

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX HOLDERS

The time of year has come round again for your boxes to be handed in for counting. We will be contacting you at the beginning of February to arrange a convenient time to collect your box. If it is more convenient for you to bring it to a service at **St Mary's Church** on **Sunday, 4th February**, please do so. Thank you.

If anyone else is interested holding a box at home for all those little bits of change please contact us on 01256 355500.

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OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH, THE STREET, OLD BASING.

On **Tuesday, 6th** and **Tuesday, 20th February**, there will be **Craft** afternoons from **2.00pm** to **4.00pm**. Bring your own crafts or materials will be provided.

On Friday, 9th February 'Coffee Break' is our monthly coffee morning from 10.30am until noon.

On Tuesday, 13th February, the MHA Lunch Club with planned activity noon until 3.00pm, and on Tuesday, 27th February Prayer-time is from 2.00pm to 3.00pm.

Our regular Sunday worship starts at 10.30am, coffee and tea are served after the service. Children are welcomed into our junior church. Come and join us for Worship, Friday coffee, Communion and craft, a warm welcome awaits you.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On **Friday March 2nd** at **10:30am** in **The Methodist Church**, Old Basing: Interdenominational service open to all, men, women and children. This year's country focus is Suriname, and the title is 'All God's Creation is Very Good!' This is not simply a day of prayer for women, but for everyone who cares about our world and those who live in it. Refreshments afterwards.

Denise Baugh

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

Sunday September 9th 2018

Welcome to 2018. You will be pleased to hear that the Village Show Committee met in December to start the task of organising this year's Village Show Schedule, this entails looking closely at, not only last year's entries in each class, but taking an overall view over the last three years entries to see if they have been popular and whether to change them in the light of these figures. Much midnight oil is used in this task, also taking note of the Judges' comments after last year's Show. We hope that this year's Schedule will be available in the usual outlets around the Village in March, also of course on the Village Show website: www.oblvs.org.uk

Following on from the 2017 Show the Committee are enthused by the level of support shown by young and old alike and look forward to another very successful year. One question though, where are all the Wine and Beer makers, is it that there are too many super pubs and clubs in the Village?

PS. When next enjoying the facilities of the Recreation Ground look out for the Tree planted by the Village Show Committee to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Show.

Mark Offord

PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH IN THE PARISH ROOM

The dates for 2018 for the Ploughman's Lunch in the Parish Room, St Mary's Church, the third Thursday in the month (except August), starting at 12.30 pm, are:

15th February; 15th March; 19th April; 17th May; 21st June; 26th July; August no lunch; 20th September; 18th October; 15th November; 20th December.

Please note the date for July does not follow the normal third Thursday in the month rule, it is the fourth Thursday in the month, for that month only.

Denise Lane

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BASINGSTOKE AND DISTRICT RAILWAY SOCIETY

At our first meeting of the month on **Wednesday, 14th February** we will welcome award-winning writer and broadcaster **Christian Wolmar** for a return visit. In **Railways and the Raj**, Christian will give us a presentation based on his recently published book about Britain's role in the railway network of India.

At the end of the month we will hear the story of Britain's most spectacular main line railway. On Wednesday, 28th February, John Harrison will take us to The Settle and Carlisle Railway, bringing glimpses of its past and more recent history, its dramatic viaducts and their construction and its magnificent surroundings

Our meetings are held at **7.45pm** at **The Wote Street Club** in New Road in Basingstoke. We welcome new members to the Society and we will be pleased to see non-members at our meetings. More information about the Society, membership and future meetings can be found on our website at **www.bdrs70d.com** or telephone **01256 331002**.

PROBUS HEARS ABOUT RADIO TIMES

The **Probus Club of Basingstoke**, the social group for retired professional and business managers, listened with interest about radio broadcasting memories in the era of 1930s – 60s. It was presented by John Pitman, who grew up during WW2 on a farm near Winchester, where the "wireless" was the main form of information and entertainment.

Like many places in those days his home had no electrical supply and the radio was powered by an accumulator, an early form of battery consisting of glass phials filled with acid and it had to be taken away for recharging. However radio broadcasting goes back to the turn of the twentieth century after the invention of valves made it possible to receive electrical signals. The first broadcast took place on Christmas Eve 1906 from the New York Metropolitan Opera House but the only listeners were ships moored in New York harbour.

1920 saw the first radio news broadcast by the Marconi Experimental Station at Whittle near Chelmsford followed two years later with regular entertainment programmes. The British Broadcasting Company morphed into the Corporation in 1926 becoming the BBC.

Many memories were stirred as old radio programmes were recalled, ITMA, Worker's Playtime, Have a Go, In Town Tonight, Ray's a Laugh, Much Binding in the Marsh, Life with the Lyons, Meet the Huggetts, Take it from Here, Dick Barton, Journey in to Space, Two Way Family Favourites, Billy Cotton Band Show, the Goon Show, Round the Horn, Mrs Dale's Diary and The Archers. Who would believe that a ventriloquist's dummy would have a successful radio show called Educating Archie.

The New York Opera still broadcasts on Christmas Eve but today over 300 radio stations around the world carry the programme.

For more information about the Probus Club go to: www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com or phone Paul Flint on 07770 886521.



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BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

The Chairman, David Cowling, welcomed members to the first meeting of 2018 on 3rd January and wished everyone a Happy New Year. The Secretary, Tony Brazier, gave details of the forthcoming trips to either Kensington Palace to see the display of Diana's dresses, or the Science Museum, on Tuesday, 20th February and to Oxford, go as you please, on Thursday, 22nd March. He also reminded members that subscriptions for the year were due and that nominations for the committee should be sent to him.

There then followed a presentation by Tom and Sheena from Wiltshire Farm Foods. They gave a short history of the company from its foundation in 1992 as Waldens Wiltshire Foods Ltd, its takeover in 1995 by Apetito, getting the Queen's Award for Innovation in 2005 until today where the majority of the business is operated on a local or regional basis by some sixty franchisees. All the food used in their meals comes from known, mainly local, sources and is all cooked at their kitchens in Trowbridge where it is immediately fast frozen. Customers then order from a range of over 300 fuss-free meals and desserts for all appetites and special dietary requirements for easy microwave or oven cooking. Uniformed drivers in liveried refrigerated vehicles then deliver even offering a freezer packing service to frail customers who find it difficult to perform tasks such as bending.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, 7th February when the speaker will be Barbara Cummins on Cycling USA. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10.00am to noon and all retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. Further details about meetings can be obtained from the Secretary Tony Brazier on 01256 418770 or at bjmapbr@ntlworld.com and if you would like to join us on any of our trips please contact Kate Lambeth on 01256 328791.

David Cowling

LINGUATASTIC LANGUAGE ACADEMY

Last month, we had a busy start to the term. In many of our classes, we learned about the ways "Epiphany" is celebrated in different countries. Amongst other things, some children had the opportunity to try the special cake (La Galette des Rois) eaten in France on 6th January. The tradition is that a little figurine ("une fève") is hidden in the cake and whoever finds the figurine in their piece of cake becomes the king for the day. Needless to say, the children were very keen to gobble down the cake to see whether they would be crowned!

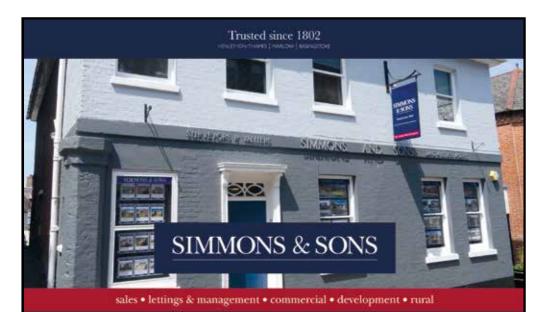
This month, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year. This year is that of the dog. Those born in the year of the dog are said to be objective, observant and cautious. Other "dog years" include: 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994 and 2006. According to Chinese astrology, the luckiest things for dogs include:

The numbers: 3, 4, and 9; the colours: red, green, and purple; the flowers: rose and orchid

And sticking with the theme of "fortune telling", on **Friday, 2nd February**, it's the **Catholic holiday of Candlemas**. In France, it is a day when lots of "crêpes" are eaten. Whilst making the pancakes, some people do a bit of fortune telling by holding a coin in their writing hand and a crêpe pan in the other, and flip the crêpe into the air. If they manage to catch the crêpe in the pan, their family will be prosperous for the rest of the year.

And on that note, we wish all readers a fantastic year ahead!

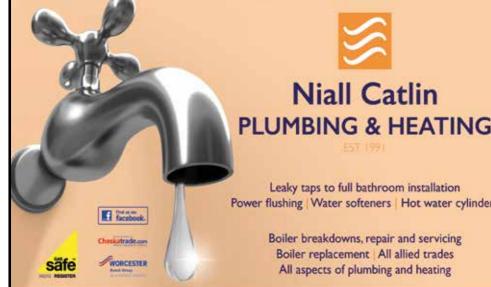
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OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Spring is almost upon us and you may be looking to clear out some of your **old clothes and shoes**. If that sounds like you then we have **collection bags** at **Legion Hall in Crown Lane** and would welcome your donations. When you have some to donate please contact either **Tracey** or **Kyle Merritt** after **5.00pm** at the club, or myself, and we will be happy to see you. All proceeds go to the **Poppy Appeal** and if you have any questions please contact me, Hon. Poppy Appeal Organiser **Tim Russell** either by telephone: **0777 288 3964** or by e-mail at: **hampshire.chairman@rbl.community**

RBL Branch meeting

On Thursday, 1st February there will be a Royal British Legion Branch Meeting; gather at 7.45pm for an 8.00pm start. The meeting will be held in the Jack Morris Hall.

Rick Bourne

RBL Women's Section

On **Thursday, 22nd February** at **7.30pm** there will be a **General Meeting** followed by talk on Kingfishers by Alan Willis, held in the **Jack Morris Hal**l. The competition is an ornate perfume bottle.

Suzanne Wilson

PETER MAY-MILLER

Peter May-Miller died at St Thomas's care home Basingstoke on 12th December 2017. A Service of Thanksgiving was held at St Mary's Church on 20th January.

Peter moved to Old Basing in 1968 with Hilary and their five children. He taught at the newly-established Cranbourne Bilateral School, taking oversight of pastoral care in addition to teaching French.

He organised and led Anglo-French summer camps in the UK and France and when Basingstoke was twinned with Alencon in the early 1970s, he became involved with pupil exchanges, visiting the town and building friendships which have lasted over 40 years.

A keen sportsman and cyclist, he was known for the support, encouragement and coaching that he gave to young people in a variety of pursuits. Even into his 70s, he enjoyed cycling in the Hampshire countryside.

A keen participant in the Old Basing Village Show, he won prizes for home-grown vegetables, home-brewed wine, cakes and jam. In an active retirement Peter studied Spanish and led the village U3A French conversation group.

The family attended St Mary's church and have been involved with the church for almost fifty years, Peter and Hilary each taking a variety of roles in services and administration. Peter sang in the church choir, performed in local theatrical productions and sang for many years with the Basing Singers.

Peter was known for his gracious and friendly character, his commitment to a generation of Cranbourne schoolchildren and his enthusiasm and warmth. He will be sadly missed by his widow Hilary, five children, eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Many others in Basingstoke and beyond have lost a dear friend and role model.

Hilary and the family would like to thank their many friends in Old Basing, Lychpit and beyond for the letters and cards they have received which have been very much appreciated.

Steven May-Miller

FEBRUARY IN YOUR GARDEN

As the winter draws slowly onwards, one could be forgiven in thinking that one month is very much the same as the next, and in terms of gardening jobs, there is little difference between January and February. If you are behind with jobs from last month, you ought to still have time to complete them. That's what I tell myself anyway!

An interesting tip I was given in regard to growing Tomatoes is to search for Crimean varieties, such as 'Black Krim.' Not only do they taste superb, most Tomato varieties are grown for warmer climates, whereas the South Ukraine has a similar climate to our own, allowing them to grow better in cooler conditions, and in theory, crop longer. I have bought a pack to test out this theory, and will keep you updated on their progress.

A last chance warning: now is the last month you can sow garlic. To form good cloves it needs to spend ten consecutive days at a temperature below 10°C (50°F). You can of course place them in a fridge if you so desire.

Continue to prepare beds for planting. Those that have been completed can have black sheeting put over the top of them to keep them warmer and drier for springtime. Another advantage is that as the soil warms, weeds will start to grow, giving you a clean crack at the whip of removing them before anything is planted.

If you are looking for an easy crop to grow, that crops in winter when little else grows, gives fantastic flowers and tastes fantastic, then look at growing Jerusalem Artichokes. They are related to the sunflower family rather than Globe Artichokes, they grow in most soils and are the definition of plant and forget! The tubers make a fantastic soup.

If the ground is not frozen cane fruits can be planted now. Blueberry and gooseberry plants may be stirring into life, check the soil isn't too sodden or bone dry, especially container plants. Blackcurrant bushes should be inspected for swollen buds, caused by big bud mite, and disposed of.

Protect the blossoms of fruiting trees should they flower early again this year. Peach and Apricot are notoriously early anyway, and may need hand pollinating as there little else to do it for you! I also hand pollinate my pear trees, as they can also blossom before the bees.

If you are planning to grow climbing French or Runner beans this year, give them the best start by digging a trench where you plan to grow, lining with shredded newspaper and filling with kitchen waste (vegetable peelings, uncooked fruit and veg, tea bags, not cooked meats, bones, cheese or milk) and back fill with soil. This gives the beans a much needed nitrogen boost come summer.

Next month the garden really starts to get going, so any preparation work that can be done now will save time later. It may be cold and miserable you will thank yourself for the effort.

NATURE NOTES FOR FEBRUARY

The sun is shining today but it is 4 degrees C outside and gazing at a bleak garden from this warm chair doesn't stop thoughts of what it might look like come the summer. However, I find it easy to resist the urge to do 'those chores', something I know I shall regret when I'm REALLY busy! A wisteria needs those wispy bits pruned, a privet needs its woody stems chopped back and the lawn threatens to swallow the path. What's this to do with nature I hear you ask? Well, the hedge is sanctuary to dozens of Sparrows, the tiny buds on the wisteria shoots have an appeal to the Blue tits who are finding it interesting and several Pied Wagtails that are running up and down the path pecking at invisible morsels so it wouldn't be right or proper to disturb any of these would it??

On Christmas morning the phone rang and expecting a greeting I picked it up. It was Terry Hawthorne from Rawdons Close (just over the road from me) and yes, it was a greeting but it was also to ask me if I could hear the Song Thrush singing his heart out from a lofty perch in the canal. No I hadn't but what a great thing to hear on Christmas Day and since then the bird has been singing just about every day to announce his presence.

Thanks to everyone who contacted me during December with various observations. Hilary May-Miller was pleased to see a couple of Grey Wagtails in her garden amongst the Blue and Long Tailed tits, tempted in by suet feeders. Winter does bring this species into more built-up areas and another bird that has made local appearances are Marsh Tits, spied by Terry McAnish, Pat Brace and yours truly. The one in our garden was very nervous, only alighting on to the feeder for a couple of seconds before retreating to cover to swallow the morsels. It has been back on several occasions now so I think the company of Coal, Great and Blue Tits is helping its confidence.

David Trevor-Jones sent a very interesting observation whilst walking near Tunworth that had occurred back in November. On the Down was a substantial flock of Lapwings, a bird that for the last decade has been well documented as being on the red list due to fast reducing numbers. So it was heartening to see this many all in one place but there was more. Trevor could also see some waders amongst them but it took a moment before he could identify them as Golden Plovers, an unlikely visitor to these parts for sure. Not just a few, several hundred and far outnumbering the Lapwings so this was something to be excited about. Neither of us knows if these lovely birds drop by on winter migration every year but Id be pleased to hear from anyone who does.

Last month I wrote about my Brighton jaunt to see a Starling murmeration and then to my delight I found one right here in Old Basing. I saw a flock of about a 100 birds over Lingfield Close late one afternoon but several days later as my wife and I were out walking, we saw several similar sized swirling flocks start to merge and head towards Blenheim Road way. We worked out where they had dropped and tracked them down to Chalk Vale and there, filling a modest sized fir tree, were about a thousand chattering birds! The noise, which sounded like loud running water, was audible from 100m away. It was quite astonishing!

Don't forget to send all your nature related photos to naturenotes@basinga.org.uk

Richard Bourne, telephone: 01256 321108, email: rbourne@glenair.co.uk

For 'Bird Drop-ins', use answer-phone: 01256 842722

DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY

(For details of services and events as St Mary's Church, please refer to page 23)

ıry	
7.45pm –	Royal British Legion Branch Meeting. 8.00pm start
10.30am – noon	Ladies First Friday Coffee Morning. 10 Oliver's Walk.
6.00pm –	Deadline for Senior Citizen's Party Application – See page 4
7.30pm –	RBL Women's Section General Meeting. Jack Morris Hall.
10.00am - 1.00pm	PIOCC Working Party. Meet in St. Mary's Church porch.
2.00 pm - 4.00 pm	Old Basing Methodist Church Craft Afternoon
7.30pm –	Old Basing WI, Parish Rooms, History of Make-up.
7.45pm – 9.45pm	Basing Singers meet every Wednesday in the Parish Room.
7.00pm –	Scout and Guide Hut Charity Indian night. Raj at Black Dam
10.30am – noon	Old Basing Methodist Church Coffee Morning. The Street.
6.00pm	LAST DATE FOR COPY TO EDITOR. SEE PAGE 3
11.00am – noon	OBAGS Shop opening at Riley Lane, opposite Bolton Arms.
12noon – 3.00pm	Old Basing Methodists Church MHA Lunch Club
7.45pm –	BDRS. Railways and the Raj. The Wote Street Club, New Road
12.30pm -	Ploughman's Lunch in the Parish Room, St Mary's Church
8.00pm –	Basingstoke Blues Club. The Voodoo Sheiks. Railway Social
	Club.
10.00am – noon	Millfield Working Party. Meet in play area Barton's Mill
2.00 pm - 4.00 pm	Old Basing Methodist Church Craft Afternoon
8.00am –	Marie Curie Daffodil Day at Chineham Shopping Centre
7.00pm –	Friends of St Mary's Quiz Night for 7.30pm Parish Rooms
7.45pm –	Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra Classics Concert. Anvil
11.00am – noon	OBAGS Shop opening at Riley Lane, opposite Bolton Arms.
2.00 pm - 3.00 pm	Old Basing Methodist Church Prayer Time
7.45pm –	BDRS. The Settle and Carlisle Railway. The Wote Street Club
10.30am –	Women's World Day of Prayer, Old Basing Methodist Church,
10.30am – noon	Ladies First Friday Coffee Morning. 1 Cowdery Heights.
2.00pm –	Old Basing Village Hall Jumble Sale.
7.00pm –	Scout and Guide Hut Auction Night at The Bolton Arms
4.30 pm - 6.00 pm	Junior Carnival Disco, Jack Morris Hall, Royal British Legion
	7.45pm - 10.30am - noon 6.00pm - 7.30pm - 10.00am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 4.00pm 7.30pm - 7.45pm - 9.45pm 7.00pm - 10.30am - noon 6.00pm 11.00am - noon 12noon - 3.00pm 7.45pm - 12.30pm - 8.00pm - 10.00am - noon 2.00pm - 4.00pm 8.00am - 7.00pm - 7.45pm - 11.00am - noon 2.00pm - 3.00pm 7.45pm - 11.00am - noon 2.00pm - 7.45pm - 11.00am - noon 2.00pm - 7.45pm - 11.00am - noon 2.00pm - 7.45pm -

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Church of England (Parish of Old Basing & Lychpit).

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ASSISTANT CURATE: Rev Sarah Lloyd

Tel: 07541 ADMINISTRATOR: Debbie Filer

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> Ian Kershaw Tel: 355500

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Evening Service 5.30 pm.

OTHER DAYS: Wednesday 10am Holy Communion.

2nd Thursday 2pm Bears & Prayers (except April and August)

Changes to the regular service pattern and other weekday services are shown in the weekly news-sheet, a copy of which is displayed on the noticeboard in the church porch

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