June 2019

# BASINGA



Anna Fairs





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#### **JUNE 2019 - NOTES AND NEWS**

The cover photograph, 'Balance', is by Anna Fairs.

The name June, owes its origin to the Roman god Juno. June was a popular as a (mainly) girl's name. In 1950 it was the 24th most popular girl's name in the UK., but last year the name June didn't even appear in the top 100! The Magna Carta was signed in 15 June 1215 between the barons of Medieval England and King John. On June 18, 1815, the Battle of Waterloo ended 23 years of warfare between France and the other powers of Europe.

#### **BASINGA**

We welcome both regular and occasional items for the Basinga. The very last date for copy to the Editor for the July edition is **6.00pm on Monday**, **10th June**. Please use the forms on the Basinga website **www.basinga.org.uk** to get your dates, articles and letters to us (see box on page 15 for further instructions). All advertising enquiries — classified, free adverts or inserts (flyers) can also be made via the Basinga website. Don't forget that we only accept articles with about a 300 word maximum.

#### **ASSISTANCE NEEDED**

The team would still like to recruit an **Advertising Assistant** to learn what is involved in the maintenance of our many advertisers, who provide the income which allows us to support good causes in Old Basing and Lychpit and to distribute the magazine free of charge to over 3000 households. For more information about this role please contact us by email, advertising@basinga.org.uk.

#### INSTITUTION AND INDUCTION

The Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council of St Mary's, Old Basing & Lychpit request the pleasure of your company at the **Institution** by The Rt. Revd. David Williams, Bishop of Basingstoke, and the **Induction** by the Venerable Richard Brand, Archdeacon of Winchester, of **The Revd. Heather Leppard** at **St Mary's Church, Old Basing, 7.30 pm Wednesday 26th June 2019** 

Clergy and Readers are invited to robe in the vestry. Refreshments will be available after the service. RSVP by 14th June 2019 to: admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk, or telephone: 07541 698235

#### HAPPY GARDENING

We would like to welcome a new contributor to the magazine. **Tracy Braybrook**, as well as keeping us in touch with Old Basing Allotment and Garden Society, has also written the article on page 35, **June Jobs for the Garden**, We welcome her expertise and enthusiasm and look forward to better weather in which to carry out the multitude of tasks she's listed for this month.

#### **ELECTION RESULT**

Following the election held on May 2nd and with a turnout of 35% of the eligible electorate, Paul Gaskell was elected to represent the Basing Ward on the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

#### OLD BASING INFANTS SCHOOL

There is never a dull moment here at Old Basing Infants School and the summer term is certainly no exception! We have had plenty of trips this term and Year R have visited Marwell Zoo to embed the learning they have been doing during their Animals topic, thankfully no children were left in the monkey enclosure! Also, Year 1 have visited Southsea to identify the similarities and differences between there and Old Basing as part of their sea-side topic. Much fun was had by all!

Year 2 have begun the transition process to various Junior schools and they will be taking part in a range of activities such as several visits to the school, meeting their Year 3 buddies and taking part in a PE lesson!

The whole school have been learning about British Values and how these affect everyone; these values also underpin the engaging and exciting rights respecting curriculum we deliver here at Old Basing Infant School.

We have had staff from the University of Toronto visiting us to explore how we place the UN Convention of the Rights of a Child at the heart of our ethos and curriculum. They were particularly interested in how we deliver the message to such young children. They were impressed with how our curriculum not only teaches about children's rights but, as a school we also model rights and respect in all our relationships, whether between children or between children and adults.

We are looking forward to greeting our new cohort of children and their families in September as they begin their educational journey with us. There are places available in the current Year R and visits to the school are always welcome. Please call our school office on 01256325704 to make appointment.

#### CHINEHAM LIBRARY

Our annual **Summer Reading Challenge** starts on 13th July and runs until 14th September. This year it is called **'Space Chase'**, so do encourage your 4 to 11 year olds to sign up for it and collect their rewards for reading six books over the Summer. Also, we need help to run the scheme, so would be delighted to hear from anyone aged over 14 who could offer a couple of hours a week. Application forms are available on line or in the Library.

On 4th July we are holding another of our popular evening events, this time called 'Murder by Gaslight' This will involve a dramatic presentation based around infamous poisoners William Palmer and Harvey Crippen, by the 'Don't Go Into the Cellar' theatre group. Tickets costing £12.50 are available from the library or online.

Our regular groups will be meeting as usual, with the **Crime Reading** group on 22nd June and the **Chineham Fiction** group on 29th, both from 10.30 to 11.30am. The **Writing Group** meets on 13th from 5.30 to 7pm, and the new **Cuppa and Chat** over 50s drop-in group on 12th and 26th from 10.30am. **Age Concern** continue to provide computer tuition for the over 50s on Wednesday mornings. Places can be booked through the office on: 01256 423874. Activities for children also continue as usual, with **Rhymetimes** on Tuesdays for under ones at 10am and 11am for over ones. **Storytimes** will take place Saturdays at 11am excluding the 1st June and 6th July when there will be **Craft** sessions from 10.00am. Construction Club takes place Saturdays from 2.00 to 3.30pm. **Chatterbooks** meets on the 18th from 3.45 to 4.45pm. The **Stay and Play** group for preschool children and parents meets on 5th and 19th from 10.00 to 11.00am. We hope to see you in the library soon.

**Cathy Foster** 





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#### **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

#### YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL

By the time you read this the Parish Council will have held its Annual Parish Council Meeting and first Ordinary Meeting of the newly formed Parish Council. Although eight of our existing Councillors will again take office, we hope that the May meeting will see the co-option of at least two additional Councillors if not the four that we need to make up our number. It is also possible we may have a new Chair and Vice-Chair if one or more of our Councillors is willing to be nominated for these roles.

The meeting will also decide whether or not to start meetings 30 minutes earlier at 7.00 pm instead of 7.30 pm so if you do wish to attend a meeting (all meetings are open to the public) it is worth checking with the office first.

Updated information will be published in the June Community Newsletter and in the July Basinga.

Refurbishment of the Pavilion Tea Room is now finished and this room together with a new kitchen is available to hire for small gatherings when not in use for cricket teas. There is now easy ramp access to this and also the public toilets for anyone unable to manage steps. Whilst Parish Council Meetings will continue be held in the first floor meeting room which has been fitted with new conference tables & chairs, the Tea Room now provides a very suitable alternative, so please let us know if you wish to attend a meeting and are unable to use the stairs.

#### **FIVE-WAYS TRAFFIC LIGHTS**

You may have wondered what the roadworks were for at the Five-ways traffic lights and information now received from Hampshire Highways is that the old lights had reached the end of their maintainable life and the new signals have been upgraded to a new system called MOVA (Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation). We are told this is currently the most responsive system to traffic conditions leading to a significant increase in capacity at junctions, thereby improving traffic flow provided the volume of traffic does not exceed the capacity of the junction. We are sure this will be put to the test over the coming months.

#### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesday**, **4th June and 2nd July** in the **Pavilion Meeting Room**. All are welcome and anyone with impaired mobility should contact the Parish Office so they can be accommodated.

Parish Clerk: Mrs Sandra Tuck

Deputy Clerk: Mrs Heather Mountford

Address: The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground,

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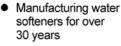
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#### **NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE.**

We didn't have the "beast from the east" this year but have had most of the other variations of weather. A glorious Easter weekend for the Sealed Knot re-enactors, followed by high winds and torrential showers. The winds were "contrary" to say the least – just when we'd tidied up and battened everything down against the strong westerlies, they changed to easterlies!

If you are currently having an "It's half term what can I do with the kids / grand-kids?" moment, do remember your local historic site. We've got fourteen acres of countryside, ancient ruins, a nature trail and even quiz books for children to fill in. There is plenty of room to run around, have a picnic or re-enact your own battle. Dogs on leads are welcome. Admission is £9 adults, £6 children and concessions and £25 family (two adults, three children) and this does allow you to come back as many times as you like over the next twelve months (so it may be a cure for "what can I do?" moments in the summer holidays too). And it's cheaper online. We are open from 11.00am to 4.00pm every day but Friday, and have parking just off Barton's Lane near Barton's Mill pub.

Later in the year we have two open air theatre performances by the Chapterhouse Theatre Company in the Walled Garden. These are **Pride and Prejudice** on 26th July and **Wuthering Heights** on 1st September. Doors open for Pride and Prejudice at 1800 with the performance at 1900, while Wuthering Heights times are an hour earlier.

Full details about Basing House, these performances, events, parking and how to book are at **www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house**. Otherwise telephone **01256 463965** or call in at the visitor centre, next to the Great Barn between 11am and 4pm, Saturday to Thursday.

Andrew Howard

#### MURDER ON THE CANAL!!

On an evening in early spring, the John Pinkerton II sailed from Colt Hill wharf in Odiham, heading west along the Basingstoke Canal towards King John's Castle. The night was mild, the setting sun casting long shadows on the water. The thrum of the diesel engine lulled the passengers as they sipped their drinks. But all was not as it seemed; dark deeds were afoot, for this was a murder mystery cruise! We can't tell you whodunit but we can tell you the trip was sold out and enjoyed by all, so look out for another in the future.

John Pinkerton cruises raise money to support the canal. All proceeds go towards maintaining this lovely canal for the future. Regular public trips and themed cruises run throughout the summer to the end of September. The boat, with crew, is also available to charter for family celebrations, private parties, club or business events. Information can be found online at **JohnPinkerton.co.uk**.

If you haven't discovered this hidden gem in north Hampshire, this summer is a good time to start exploring the Basingstoke Canal. Walk, run, cycle, paddle or cruise it, the canal is a 32 mile long country park with something for everyone to enjoy. If you are interested in taking the Murder Mystery Cruise then visit us on www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/jp/

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#### FOOBS Summer Fair, Sunday 7th July noon to 3.00pm.

Come and join us on our African adventure and support your local schools. Activities include an African drummer running workshops, petting zoo, story tent, arena performances, fun inflatables, assault course, water play, archery, face painting, a variety of games and stalls for everyone, BBQ, Beer, Pimms, hot and cold drinks, cakes and ice-cream.

Entrance £1.50 per adult, accompanied children free. At St Mary's Junior School, Belle Vue Road, Old Basing. All proceeds go directly to our schools.

#### **BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL**

**Friday, 21st June to Sunday, 7th July**. There's fun for all the family at this year's Basingstoke Festival. The annual arts festival is designed to showcase the best of the arts locally, nationally and internationally. From music to dance, visual art to theatre, you will 'discover art in unusual places'.

To kick the festival off, you can take part in an **80's Silent Disco** at the Top of the Town on Friday, 21st June. On the festival's opening weekend head into town to be entertained by street theatre and acrobatics.

On Saturday, 29th and Sunday, 30th June get involved with an **Alien Interaction**. Don't forget to also check out what's on at Anvil Arts, Proteus and Hampshire Cultural Trust as part of the festival.

The packed programme also features a series of outdoor cinema screenings showing popular movies with tickets for **Moulin Rouge!** and **Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again** still available.

The festival builds up to the popular **B LOVE festival** - Basingstoke's biggest weekend of live music, packed with a variety of exciting performance, art and fantastic family fun, in the War Memorial Park on Saturday, 6th July and Sunday, 7th July. This year's B LOVE will see an incredible line-up of local music and art talent as well as international headliners on a number of stages. Headliners announced to date include Toploader and a Faithless DJ set by Sister Bliss, and many more will soon follow!

There's plenty of opportunities to get involved in wonderful family activities and events including thrilling outdoor performances, beat-boxing workshops, and pop-up theatre or explore the Magical Forest created for festival goers aged 12 and under, with face-painting, arts and crafts, games, and storytelling.

Keep an eye on the website for more information **www.basingstokefestival.co.uk**. Tickets for B LOVE can be purchased at **blovemusic.com/**. Children 12 and under go FREE with a paying adult.

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Selection for Articles/Letters and Diary Dates will be found on the "Submissions" drop down and for Free and Concession Ads on the "Advertise with us" drop down. Paid advertising enquiries can also be made in the same way.

Submissions made via the forms now provide a common input for both the magazine and website and are automatically routed to the member of the team responsible for processing them. All submission must be received by the 10th of the month (6th in December) previous to the magazine issue month.

If you have trouble finding the forms, you can of course contact us and we will advise.

Our privacy Policy is available to read on the website which includes the new GDPR requirements for publishing photographs.

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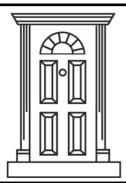
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#### **CONCESSION ADVERTS – WHAT'S ON**

LADIES FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING: The next occasions will be at the home of Mrs June Brant, 19 Rosehip Way, Lychpit, on 7th June and then at the home of Mrs Christine Stuart 44 Lambs Row, Lychpit on 5th July. Both from 10.30 a.m. to noon. For more information contact Sheila Stone, tel.01256 350238.

**BASINGSTOKE ROTARY:** Family Festival at the Basingstoke Cricket Club in the centre of town RG21 3DR on Saturday and Sunday 22 and 23 June, 11 am to 4 pm. Free entry and parking, entertainments and food. Come along, support local charities and find out more. See Forthcoming Events on the website.

DISCOVERY CENTRE JUNE: See Extras on the website for Adults, Children's and Learning in Library events.

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# THE BUSES OF OLD BASING: PART 3 – THE SEVENTIES AND EIGHTIES

Many thanks to those who contacted me following the April edition of The Basinga, especially John Pearce, co-author of "Venture Limited – The Story of Basingstoke's Own Bus Company". John has informed me that no Venture buses were requisitioned during the war but many of the older buses in the fleet were used as ambulances to convey injured troops to Park Prewett hospital. John says: "I had a ride on one of these old buses shortly before their withdrawal and it was a real bone shaker! I often wonder what injured troops thought about the ride!"

Joyce Stevens also emailed to tell me that Byfleet Stores, who acted as parcel agents for Wilts & Dorset, was run by her grandparents Thomas and Emily Stevens who moved to the village in the early 1930s. Let's continue our short history. Barbara Castle, the Labour government's Minister of Transport was the architect of the National Bus Company which was formed on 1st January 1969. Services were to be provided by locally managed subsidiaries and it was now possible to purchase a "Wanderbus" ticket covering all National Bus Companies. In 1979 this cost £2.40. Wilts & Dorset became Hants & Dorset, and Aldershot & District merged with Thames Valley to become Alder Valley. Buses were numbered 305 & 306 for services from East Oakley to Hatch Lane via town, and 405 & 406 going back in the other direction. There were buses every half hour with the last bus back from town at 10pm. From town the 305 ran via Daneshill, The Crown, Crown Lane then clockwise round Belle Vue Road to terminate at Hatch Lane. The 306 went via Daneshill, Bartons Lane, Pyotts Hill, The Street and then up Crown Lane. On Sundays there was an hourly service. The old 117 Newnham bus, which also served Basing, became the 331 and ran on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The route was

extended to Heckfield where it was possible to transfer on to Alder Valley service 12 for Reading.

Oh yes. Alder Valley. To the north of the village they ran the number 6 (6A on summer Sundays) via Chineham between Basingstoke and Reading. And along the A30 London Road they ran the 201 (direct to Heathrow airport), the 206 (formerly the 7A) to Odiham, and the 207 to Hook, Farnham and Aldershot. I was a daily user of the 207 and got to know the drivers well. By 1978 I was living in Farnham but working at Crookes Laboratories on the Houndmills Estate. According to a diary I kept at the time the single fare from Basingstoke to Farnham was 69p. Bob Priddy was a regular driver who lived locally. One February morning, having finished my overnight shift, I arrived at the Bus Station to catch the 6.25. Bob was standing by the side of the 207. "I've been waiting for you" he said. "We've been called out on strike and I figured you wouldn't have any way of getting home." Was he offering me a lift? Well, it was better than that. Another driver, Bill (surname of Knight I think), lived in Odiham, drove the 206, and parked the bus outside his house at night. But Bill, a strict union man, was not on the telephone and Bob had to let him know there was a strike before his first journey at 7am.

Astonishingly Bob told me to get on the bus, and then drove at high speed along the A30. As we approached the top of Byfleet Avenue, where Olivers is now, there was a figure in the dark at the bus stop indicating for the bus to stop. Bob obliged. It was a regular passenger who travelled daily from Basing to Hook. He got on board and I explained the urgent nature of the journey. We dropped him off at work, continued to Odiham, managed to alert Bill, and I hitch hiked back to Farnham.

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#### continued from page 19

So the question is; who was the passenger that murky morning outside the Big Fry? I'd love to hear from you. Indeed, I'd love to hear from anyone who has any comments or memories of Basing's buses in the 70s and 80s.

#### Email me at ianmaynard@msn.com

Next month: a court case involving an Old Basing bus crash!

lan Maynard

# THE MILL FIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

#### **Event News:**

Our first event this month is a Guided Walk around the Mill Field Local Nature Reserve. This will be on Thursday 20th June, starting from the play area by Barton's Mill at 7pm. Do join us if you can for what will be a fascinating tour of the birds, butterflies and plants in the field. As ever, everyone is most welcome.

On **Saturday**, **29th June** as part of the **Fun Day at Barton's Mill Pub** we shall be holding our annual Duck Race to raise funds to enable us to maintain the field to the benefit of you, the users and the abundant wildlife that abounds on this Local Nature Reserve. Tickets will be on sale in advance at Barton's Mill or on the day.

However, money alone only covers our administration costs, such as insurance and tools. What keeps the field in trim is time and effort from a small team of volunteers over the winter series of maintenance sessions.

These sessions are two hours on a weekend morning once a month from October to March, between 10.00am to noon, with a coffee break halfway through the session. We would love it if Mill Field regular visitors such as dog walkers could join us; it's just two hours, and even just helping at one session this winter would make such a difference

#### What's around this month:

May brought us plenty of Chiffchaffs, Blackcaps and the Lesser White Throat. During June we should see flowerings of the orchids (Common Spot and Pyramid, both a purple colour) and the Grass (pink) and Meadow (yellow) Vetchling. warmer days butterflies to watch out for are Meadow Brown, along with the Marbled white. There'll be increased numbers of birds around the field feeding their young. the nesting Whitethroats being particularly noticeable, and we should also be seeing Swifts and House martins in flight and the raptors such as the Hobby hunting from above. Dragonflies will also start to appear in the areas of the field near the water and the woods. Early in the morning, or later in the evening, there's also the possibility of seeing a grazing roe deer or a fox.

**Anne Francis** 

mobile: 07974 944439

email: millfieldoldbasing@yahoo.co.uk facebook: Mill Field Conservation Group

# OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

The Village Show Committee hope that you all have managed to obtain the **Schedule of Classes** for this year's Show from the various outlets around the Village. The Schedule also appears on our website, **www.oblvs.org.uk** The Show this year takes place on Sunday, 8th September at 2.30pm in the Village Hall.

Do look particularly at class 1 for hanging baskets, as this of course brightens up the whole Village for us all to enjoy. Also don't forget the many classes for young people of all ages and interests. The photography classes have some interesting titles for the categories this year.

We look forward to another bumper entry this year for the entire Village to enjoy.

Mark Offord

#### **GREETINGS!**

I am looking forward to moving to the vicarage this month and meeting you all as I take up the post of vicar of Old Basing and Lychpit. I will be moving with my husband Dominic and our two young children. For the past four years, I have been serving as a curate in Salisbury and immediately before that I was at theological college in Cambridge.

It is a great time to be arriving with so much happening in the parish. I remember vividly the final sermon at theological college, sending us out to parishes across the country with the suggestion that what the Church of England needed is more prayer and more partying!



Prayer gives us the space to be with God, to simply rest in God's loving gaze. It is also a space in which we can lay our needs before God, and hold others and their needs in the love of God. As your vicar, I am here for everyone in the parish whether or not you come to church, and will continue to pray for you all each day. If you have any specific prayer requests, do let me know.

Then there is partying, and that is important too! Partying is about celebration and relationships. For Christians there is much to celebrate! We live with the hope the God is with us in both this life and for life eternal. As a community gathered around St Mary's we seek to find opportunities to come together and strengthen our relationships with one another, and with God.

There are lots of opportunities coming up to gather together for prayer and partying. I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you all to my 'Institution Service' on Wednesday 26th June at 7:30pm, and in the days following to Hymns and Pimms, the Church Fete, and the Sunday services.

I look forward to meeting you!

Reverend Heather

#### THIS MONTH AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Saturday, 1st June Men's Breakfast Group from 8.45 to 10.00 am. Men of all ages are invited to come along to a full English breakfast in the Parish

Room; you'd be most welcome (price: £4)

Wednesday, 26th June Institution Service at 7.30pm for the Reverend Heather

**Leppard**, the new Vicar of St Mary's. The service will be led by the Rt. Revd. David Williams, Bishop of Basingstoke and the Archdeacon of Winchester. The Venerable Richard Brand.

Friday, 28th June Hymns and Pimms from 7.00pm. Tickets (£5) are now

available for this popular event, either in advance from St Mary's Administrator (telephone: 07541 698235) or on the door. Price includes two glasses of Pimms. If you'd like to choose a hymn, please pick up a form from the church (to be returned please by

7th June).

**Saturday, 29th June** Village Fete Between 11.00am and 5.00pm we are holding a

traditional village fete with music, children's games, stalls and

refreshments.

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\_St Marys**) where you will find fresh updates.

The church is open daily for prayer and you are welcome as you are every Sunday.

#### OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, June 2nd Our 152nd Church Anniversary. Worship led by Mr Terry

Rowell followed by bring and share lunch.

**Tuesday, June 4th Craft afternoon** from 2.00 to 4.00pm. Bring your own crafts or

items will be provided.

Tuesday, June 11th MHA Lunch Club followed by social activity, noon to 3.00pm

Friday, June 14th Come and join us for our 'Coffee Break' from 10.30am to noon.

Saturday, June 15th Visit us at Old Basing Carnival.

Tuesday, June 18th Craft afternoon from 2.00 to 4.00pm. Bring your own crafts or

items will be provided.

Tuesday, June 25th a time of quiet reflection and prayer from 2.00 to 3.00pm

Our regular Sunday worship starts at 10.00am, coffee and tea are served after the service. Children are welcome into our junior church. Come and join us - a warm welcome awaits you.

#### A VILLAGE FETE AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's Church is holding a summer event to celebrate its position in Old Basing and Lychpit.

Our weekend will kick off with an Evening of "Hymns and Pimms" on Friday 28th June. Fortified by a glass of Pimms (from 7.00 pm) come and join the hymn singing (7.30 pm) and listen to the solo instrumental items. A reviving second glass of Pimms will be offered in the concert interval. Fruit cup will also be available. If you would like to have a favourite hymn of your own included, please pick up a form from the table just inside the door of the church, fill it in and pop it into the blue box by the door by 7th June! Tickets cost £5 a person.

On Saturday we move on to a traditional **village fete** from 11.00am to 5.00pm. Admission is free but generous donations to the work of St. Mary's in the village are requested. There will be a concert by the Infant and Junior Schools at 2.00pm, street organs playing outside, children's games, a variety of stalls, a raffle and an exhibition of the history of the church. Refreshments will be served throughout the day with cream teas in the afternoon.

There will be an opportunity to meet our new Vicar on her first weekend in post following her induction on the previous Wednesday.

Ian Kershaw

#### **CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)**

Thank you to everyone who attended last month's Coffee Morning. It was lovely seeing you. This month the working parties will be on Saturday, 1st June at 10.00am and Thursday 27th June at 2.00pm – meet in the church lobby. We will continue the summer season maintenance to encourage the wild flowers and associated wildlife. 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) and our Thursday afternoons about two hours.

Walking around the churchyard is an experience of discovery and revelation. Look for insects, the bumblebees and butterflies love the flowers in the Central Glade. On sunny days Speckled Wood butterflies fly through the woodland while in the open grassland Meadow Brown and Ringlets may be found. The Conservation Area is a community space for all to enjoy. For further information please ring **Fay Farrant** on **01256 476863**.

Margaret Carr www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

#### VILLAGE CAFÉ - A CAFÉ FOR THE VILLAGE, BY THE VILLAGE!

Thank you for your continuing support of **The Village Café**. We are delighted to report that through your generosity we have raised in excess of £1,400 for The Pink Place, who provide support and services for those with any form of cancer in our area.

A reminder that we're open on Friday afternoons, 2.00 to 4.30pm in the Parish Room of St Mary's Church. With the arrival (hopefully!) of warmer weather, we intend setting up some tables outside in the coming weeks. All proceeds (up until 19th July) will to go to The Motor Neurone Disease Association. We shall continue to open during the summer, with the exception of the last two Fridays in August.

We'd love to hear from you if you would like to get involved. Please call **07813 186328** or email **thevillagecafeoldbasing@gmail.com**. Thank you for your support.

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#### **OLD BASING WI - JUNE**

The Old Basing WI held its AGM on 7th May in this our centenary year. Our retiring President, Chris Hall, reflected on the past year and thanked the members of the committee for their support with all the events that we have held, including our wonderful centenary celebrations. Retiring committee members were presented with flowers. The new committee members were voted in and our new President will be Sue Stewart. It is pleasing to report that all committee vacancies have been filled.

Following a short demonstration by one of our members on scarves and how to wear them, Members tucked into homemade cakes and a cup of tea.

Our next meeting takes place on Tuesday, 4th June at 7.30pm at the Parish Rooms St Marys Church when we will be having a talk by Mr R Eggington entitled "Bringing Home Uncle Jack- A WW1 story". The competition on that evening will be an item from WW1.

For details of all our activities during the next month please go to the Hampshire WI website at **www.hampshirewi.org.uk** Click on WI's from the top of the page and select Old Basing from the list.

Linda Frawley

#### OLD BASING ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN SOCIETY

A big thank you to everyone who attended our plant sale. Special thanks goes to those who volunteered, donated plants and the amazing local companies who kindly gave us prizes for our raffle. We hope you all came away with some lovely plants and enjoyed the homemade cake. The shop is open on the 2nd and 16th June 10.30 am to noon

Now the last of the frosts should be behind us, tender plants such as squashes, sweetcorn and runner beans can be planted out without protection. Since there were some issues with water supply last year, it might be an idea install water butts if you can to ensure that you have sufficient supplies if we have a heatwave. You should be harvesting strawberries, gooseberries and peas, as well as salad crops and beetroot. Be sure to cover fruits with nets to protect them from greedy birds and keep on top of weeds. If you are growing tomatoes in grow bags, you can start feeding them now to ensure a heavy crop.

www.facebook.com/oldbasingallotments

**Tracy Braybrook** 

#### **OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB**

We're heading towards the longest day and enjoying playing at Club Nights on Tuesday and Friday evenings from 6.00pm. New members are welcome, so please do get in touch with us!

JB Tennis Academy are offering junior and adult coaching. If you are interested, please contact Jamie and Ben by email jbtennisacademy1@gmail.com. Teams are playing in the Basingstoke and District League and members are playing in our Summer Tournament which finishes at the beginning of September with Finals' Day being held on Saturday, 7th September. For more information email: OBTC.Information@gmail.com or find us on Facebook @oldbasingtennisclub or www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/OldBasingTennisClub

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#### CHINEHAM AND OLD BASING NWR

National Women's Register (NWR) is led by the membership – with a shared purpose of connecting women for stimulating discussion, friendship and fun. If you would like to meet other women to share and explore thoughts, ideas and experiences, then NWR is for you. The Chineham and Old Basing NWR meet at 2.00pm on the first Monday of the month in the relaxed atmosphere of someone's home. We also meet for lunch or ad hoc trips. Our Reading Group meet in the evening every 4th Thursday. The current book is Paradise News by David Lodge

In April we joined with the Rotary Club for a fascinating visit to Basingstoke Fire Station. We were impressed by the array of very expensive equipment and kit, and discovered that although the new station does have the iconic pole, that fire-fighters rarely use it to descend to their trucks.

For our May meeting we discussed Significant Events from our Birth Month. In **June** it is **Puddings and Poetry** when we will share puddings and our favourite poems.

To find out more NWR information can be found at **nwr.org.uk**. For specific information about our Group please phone **Evelyn Jone**s by e-mail; **evelyncjjones@hotmail.co.uk**. or on **01256 816636**. You will receive a warm and friendly welcome.

Sandie Tapping

#### THE LONGEST DAY WILL BE ARK DAY!

It's a fundraising campaign that people in Basingstoke and Deane are at the heart of; and now **Ark Cancer Centre Charity** has launched a special 24-hour event where everyone in the borough can make a big difference in a small way.

**Friday, June 21, 2019 will be Ark Day**; a day when everyone in the town and borough can play a part by supporting the charity that is raising £5million to help fund a much-needed NHS cancer treatment centre at Basingstoke hospital.

In 2019, Ark Cancer Centre Charity wants the Basingstoke and Deane community to make a really big difference on Friday, June 21, the longest daylight day of the year, by raising as much money as possible for the good cause in 24 hours.

Every pound counts and that's why £1 donations will be at the heart of the Ark Day fundraising campaign. And it's also very much about putting the fun into fundraising as people of all ages are encouraged to have a good time while raising money for the good cause.

"People have the power to make a really big difference with a small donation on Ark Day," said world-leading liver cancer surgeon Merv Rees, who is a trustee of Ark Cancer Centre Charity, and a driving force behind the cancer treatment centre project.

"Nearly 180,000 people live in Basingstoke and Deane. If everyone donates just £1 on Friday, June 21, then this will make a massive difference to Ark's £5m campaign."

It is hoped that local people, businesses, schools and community organisations will support these (please register your support at **arkday.co.uk**) and also organise their own fundraising activities. There are lots of fundraising ideas at **arkday.co.uk/ideas/** 

Ark Cancer Centre Charity's £5m will provide a range of support services and complementary therapies, alongside chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatments, in a calm and uplifting environment. The new centre will largely be funded by Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

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When this happens with a call made to your mobile phone – it can even show the name as 'Bank' if that is how you have it stored in your mobile, leading you to think it's a genuine call from your bank, when it isn't. Do not confirm anything and do not start any process. This trick is often used when fraudsters will have successfully hacked a person's email or other account, so they can speak with authority about financial transactions you have made recently, leading you to think you are speaking with someone genuine.

The **Telephone Preference Service** cannot protect you from these types of calls, as they are there to ensure genuine companies do not make contact if you have registered to opt out of receiving unsolicited calls.

The advice is simple, never enter into any business with someone who you cannot 100% verify. Call your bank using a number you have sourced yourself, or better still, visit your bank in person.

Remember: Banks will never call you to get you to transfer money or ask for your PIN;

Police will never call you to assist in an investigation regarding money, jewellery or debit/credit cards:

HMRC will never call you to tell you they have an arrest warrant for you because you have an outstanding tax bill

Visit Action Fraud for more advice and to sign up for alerts on the latest scams.

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#### **DAZZLING DAMSELFLIES**

Watching damselflies dance through the air is one of the quintessential experiences of summer, and something many of us look forward to every year. Garden ponds are important habitats for damselflies, and creating even a small body of water on your patch is a great way to attract them to your home. You can find lots of helpful guidance on making and maintaining a wildlife pond at www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk

Here is a damselflies to look out for as the weather gets warmer. For more descriptions visit **Basinga Extra** 

#### **Beautiful Demoiselle**

Beautiful demoiselles are large damselflies, usually found on small, fast-flowing rivers. Males have metallic blue bodies and striking, dark wings, and they show them off with a flitting, fluttering flight in a bid to attract mates. Females are slightly different with brown wings and green bodies.

#### Alice Ashcroft

Assistant Communications Officer Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

#### RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

The North Hampshire Downs Ramblers group is part of the Ramblers Association. We walk mostly in Hampshire and the surrounding countryside. In the last few months our group has enjoyed both walks and social activities, including a Ramble and Roast and Christmas Lunches.

The group walk on Tuesday, Saturday and occasional Thursday walks which are sometimes a bit shorter for those who do not want to walk the longer distances. The walks cover areas in and around Basingstoke as well as sometimes going further afield. We have had some lovely Winter and Spring walks, enjoying the changing landscapes and of course trying to make the best of much better weather. For much more information read the

Basinga Extra at www.basinga.org.uk

30



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#### **BASINGSTOKE AND DISTRICT RAILWAY SOCIETY**

Exciting history at our first meeting in June. At 7.45pm on **Wednesday**, **12 June**, Judy and Chris Rouse of Wyvern Railway Ancestry will present **The Railway Navvies – their finest hour – Building the Crimea Railway**. Using contemporary sources and illustrations the story will be told of two patriotic and well-organised contractors and their navvies who came to the rescue of the British army bogged down in the Crimea, taking just three months to build a railway from the coast to Sevastapol in the spring of 1855.

A little bit of mystery surrounds our next meeting on **Wednesday**, **26 June** at 7.45pm when Jack Boskett will present **From Railways to Royalty**. We'll have to wait and see precisely what that means, but Jack promises a show with something for everyone, from classic railway scenes to celebrities and the Queen.

Our meetings are held at The Wote Street Club in New Road in Basingstoke town centre. We welcome new members to the Society and are always pleased to see non-members at our meetings at a cost of just £3. For more information about the Society, membership and our programme of meetings in 2019 take a look at our website at www.bdrs70d.com or telephone 01256 331002.

**Tony Wright** 

#### BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

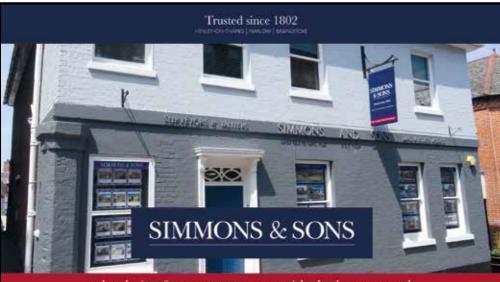
The group's meeting on Wednesday, 1st May opened with a plant sale which included 40 pots of bedding plants kindly donated by Wyevale at Dummer. This raised £68 which will go towards group funds. In welcoming everyone the chairman, David Cowling, thanked all those who had both contributed, and bought plants, at the sale. After this the secretary, Tony Brazier, gave details of the forthcoming trips, and the Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, gave an update on those members who had not been well.

The speaker this month was Dr Becky Peacock from the Mid-Hants Railway which is known as the Watercress Line. She gave a history of the line which was formed in 1861 when the Alton, Alresford and Winchester Railway Company was authorised to build a new railway to connect to the existing lines at Alton and Winchester. It was opened on 2 October 1865 as the Mid-Hants Railway with trains being operated by the London & South Western Railway which eventually purchased the line in 1884 after it went bankrupt. It was mainly a freight line and obtained the nickname "The Watercress Line" as this was a large part of its business from the Alresford area. The line was closed by British Rail in 1973 and bought in 1975 to reopen as a heritage line in 1977 running a 10 minute journey from Ropley to Alresford. It now runs the 10 miles from Alresford to Alton and has many special events and themed days throughout the year.

Bookings are now being taken for the trips to: Tea on the Watercress Line on Thursday 13 June; Bosham Arts & Craft Centre on Wednesday 10 July; Isle of Wight during Cowes Week on Thursday 18 August.

The **next meeting** is on **5th June** which is our open meeting with refreshments and the speaker is Deborah A Brady on "My Life as a Journalist". The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10.00am to noon and all retired Civil Servants, their relatives and friends are welcome. Further details about the group and information about our trips can be obtained by contacting **csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com**.

**David Cowling** 



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#### OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

#### RBL and Armed Forces Golf Day - Proceeds to the Poppy Appeal

On **June 24th** the **Sherfield Oaks Wellington Course** has been booked for the RBL to run another Poppy Appeal fund raising golf day.

The cost for the day has been held yet again at £45 per person (£180 team of four) by the kind generosity of the Sherfield Oaks. Please contact Rick Bourne for an entry form on **07900 648675** or **rickbourne@yahoo.com** or by collecting a form from the RBL bar Closing date is 17th June so DO NOT DELAY as only ten teams of four can take part!

#### SURVIVAL DAY held on April 13th

A big, big thank you to everyone who came along to participate in the second RBL 'Survival skills Day', not only learning something potentially very useful, but to also help raise £250 for the Poppy Appeal funds.

Classes for the enthusiastic 50 or so people of all ages that came along ranged from fire lighting, shelter building, trapping and preparing 'wild' food and with the weather being mainly kind it was also a great day to take in the air.

Many thanks to the course tutors who worked very hard before during and after the event. They were RAF Odiham, ex-Special forces, the 'Yorkshire Viking' and RBL members.

Let's hope another even bigger day can take place next year!

**Rick Bourne** 

#### **Old Basing RBL Social Club**

During the month of April we had a couple of really fabulous events starting with our 'Gin and Ale' afternoon, which was an amazing success on a beautiful sunny day. it was lovely to see so many village people in the club. The following weekend we held a 'virtual race night' this was also a great fun night and it was lovely to see such a good turnout. Thank you to everyone for your support.

The next date for your diary is **Saturday, 8th June** when we have the popular covers band **'Carbon Copy'** performing in the Jack Morris function hall. Doors open at 7.30pm and the tickets are £5 per person. There will be refreshments available on the night.

You don't have to wait for one of these events to use the club; we are always pleased to welcome new members, and anyone can join. Our club offers a friendly atmosphere with regular entertainment, sporting events shown in the bar and on the big screen together with our low drink prices. What are you waiting for?

For further information on the above events or if you are interested in joining please pay us a visit and see for yourself the facilities our club members enjoy. Email: socialclubentertainments@gmail.com, look us up on our Facebook page or phone us on 01256 465800,

#### Tracey Merritt, OBRBL Club Secretary

#### Old Basing RBL Women's Section

On **Thursday 27th June** at **7.30pm** there will be a **General Meeting** in the Jack Morris Hall which will also be a craft evening Knitting and Crochet. Competition: Flower arrangement in a vase, maximum 12" high including vase. All are welcome

Sue Wilson, Publicity

#### JUNE JOBS FOR THE GARDEN

Finally summer is here and as the longest day approaches, there are still plenty of jobs to do in your garden.

Top of the list is weeds. They seem to reappear as soon as your back is turned, so regular hoeing is essential to make sure they don't take control. Perennial weeds or those with long tap roots such as dandelions, thistles, bindweed and nettles need to be dug out with a garden fork, otherwise they will just reappear. Be sure to dig out every single bit of bindweed lest it re-shoot.

Lawns can be mown once a week now and edged with a half-moon edging iron to ensure that the borders are kept neat. If you have a compost heap, you can add the clippings to your pile, but be sure to do so only in thin layers to keep it properly aerated. It is a good idea to alternate green compost with 'brown' layers such as clean shredded paper or cardboard to keep the air circulating. If moss is a problem in your lawn, then you can use a combined mosskiller and fertiliser to treat it, but you may want to live with a little moss as it will keep the lawn looking green if drought hits.

Summer bedding plants and home raised seedlings should now have been hardened off and are ready to plant into your borders and pots. Be sure to water them in well and continue to keep them hydrated in warm weather. Annuals are perfect for filling in gaps in borders and if you are guick, there is still enough time to sow late flowering plants such as Calendula and Godetia. For those who are thinking ahead, winter bedding plants such as pansies can be sown now. as can next year's wallflowers. Tidy up spring flowering perennials by cutting back foliage, which should encourage a new flush. Lift and divide hostas, primula and overcrowded bulbs. Stake tall flowers to prevent wind damage and keep tying in

sweet peas and other climbing flowers.

Evergreen hedges such as Lonicera nitada, Box and Privet can be clipped this month and the slipping added to the compost heap if they aren't too woody. Once Clematis Montana has finished flowering, it can be cut back – hard if necessary. Honeysuckle and climbing roses will need tying in to their supports, the latter need to be tied as horizontal as possible to ensure the best showing of flowers. If you need to propagate any shrubs, now is the time to take softwood cuttings of plants such as lavender, rosemary, hydrangea and philadelphus.

If you are growing your own, you can keep sowing salad crops, French and Runner beans, squash, sweetcorn and outdoor cucumbers all directly into prepared ground outside. Keep an eye out for blight on potatoes and tomatoes. Plant out vegetables such as winter brassica and sweet peppers, quick crops like radish can be sown in gaps between crops. You should be thinning your apple, pear and plum trees this month to ensure the best crop. Summer prune red and white currants and gooseberries.

All types of pests can be problematic at this time of year whether in the vegetable or flower borders. Keep an eye out for slugs eating young seedlings, caterpillars, carrot fly and aphids. Small amounts can be dealt with by hand but consider investing in mail order ladybirds or nematodes to treat more severe infestations.

Happy gardening!

**Tracy Braybrook** 

#### NATURE NOTES FOR JUNE

Unbelievable! I trolley off to California and Arizona on holiday for two weeks over Easter and swap UK Bank Holiday weather for theirs! You guys were (apparently) basking in 25C temperatures and we are on Venice Beach, LA with a fleece on. Fortunately, that didn't last as we eventually saw some sun and mid 20's too, though sadly I couldn't bring it back. Since our return its felt right chilly which has meant that NO migrants seem to have arrived in Old Basing, not that I've heard anyway, and it's rather worrying because it is now getting late for breeding and their young won't be strong enough to make their extraordinary journey south come the autumn.

You'd normally expect to see a few Swallows or hear the chattering of House Martins but nothing so far. The TV weather showed the jetstream way below the UK so clearly we remain in a northerly airflow for now and the birds will be locked down in France until that changes.

But as I mentioned Easter here was superb and thanks to Terry McAnish for photos of a male Blackcap, possibly a migrant bird but most likely a resident, taking a drink from a bird bath and of an Orange Tip butterfly. There had been numerous Brimstones and Red Admirals plus the occasional Holly Blue but not many of these delightful little insects. Thanks also to Benjamin Hall who spied a Slow-worm using an area of concrete patio to bask on, an ideal spot in warm sunshine.

It was disappointing on our return to find a completed yet empty Blue Tit nest in the new camera box, the birds seemingly preferring our neighbours older box, or at least, showing interest in it and I think they may be in the process of laying now. Robins and Dunnocks are collecting food in earnest, so clearly they have young somewhere close to here and the Kites

have been very vocal this week, perhaps to announce the arrival of their own 'Archie!'

Now, a potentially controversial topic and this is purely my opinion with which you may or may not agree. We live in a semi-rural environment and would mostly accept the ways of the countryside both for traditional and commercial reasons? So interference for no reason other than apparent dogooding or self-righteous purposes is not welcome in my book. I therefore fumed when I found out that Chris Packham, well known nature lover and conservationist. had threatened to take Natural England to court if they didn't revoke the General shooting licenses granted to farmers and gamekeepers that allows them to control pest birds such as pigeons, carrion crows and magpies. In the face of an expensive legal bill, Natural.England. capitulated and Packham, along with two other 'like minds', succeeded thus rendering it illegal for landowners to protect their crops and livestock, or for companies to have this option to control public health threats posed by defecating pigeons, gulls etc.

As much as I admire his action against people or countries that kill, trap or poison protected birds, I just do not understand the logic of this move. All he's done is to bring vilification and ridicule upon himself and potentially the BBC for whom he works.

**Rick Bourne** 

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

Or ring **321108** for news. For all your bird food requirements, order it from me at 'Bird Drop-ins' use the former email address or ring me on **07900 648675** to place an order or get a form.

#### **DIARY DATES FOR JUNE**

For details of services and events at St. Mary's Church and The Methodist Church please see page 23

Sat 1	10.00am –	1.00pm	PIOCC Working Party. Meet in Church lobby.	
Sun 2	10.30am –	noon	OBAGS Shop open in Riley Lane, opp Bolton Arms	
Mon 3	2.00pm		Chineham and Old Basing NWR. Meeting.	
Tue 4	7.30pm		Old Basing WI Meeting. Parish Room, St Mary's	
Thu 6	7.45pm		RBL Monthly branch meeting (for 8pm) Jack Morris Hall.	
Fri 7	10.30am –	noon	Ladies First Friday Coffee. 19 Rosehip Way, Lychpit	
	2.00pm -	4.30pm	Village Café in Parish Room of St Mary's Church	
Sat 8	7.30pm		'Carbon Copy' performing in the RBL Jack Morris Hall	
Mon 10	1 10 6.00pm Copy deadline for July Basinga. See page 3 for details.			
Wed 12	7.45pm		BDRS Talk. The Railway Navvies. Wote Street Club	
Fri 14	2.00pm -	4.30pm	Village Café in Parish Room of St Mary's Church	
Sun 16	10.30am -	noon	OBAGS Shop open in Riley Lane, opp Bolton Arms	
Mon 17	8.00am		Deadline for entries for RBL/Armed Forces Golf day	
Thu 20	7.00pm		Mill Field Wildlife Guided Walk. Meet at play area.	
Fri 21	8.00am		The Longest Day will be Ark Day. See page 28	
	2.00pm -	4.30pm	Village Café in Parish Room of St Mary's Church	
	7.30pm		Silent Disco to mark the start of the Basingstoke Festival	
Mon 24	8.00am		RBL/Armed Forces Golf day, Sherfield Oaks. See p. 35	
Wed 26	7.30pm		Institution and Induction of Revd, Heather Leppard	
	7.45pm		BDRS Talk. From Railways to Royalty. Wote Street Club	
Thu 27	2.00pm -	4.00pm	PIOCC Working Party. Meet in Church lobby	
	7.30pm		RBL Women's Section General Meeting. See page 35	
Fri 28	2.00pm -	4.30pm	Village Café in Parish Room of St Mary's Church	
Sat 29	1.30pm		Mill Field Duck Race, Barton's Mill Pub	

#### **BASINGA EXTRA**

We have not been able to include every article that we received for this month's printed Basinga. These extra articles can be found on our website, Basinga Extra using the address www.basinga.org.uk

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CHURCHWARDENS: Tricia Benwick 01256 326155

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#### Regular Services at St. Mary's Church, Old Basing.

**SUNDAY:** 8am Holy Communion. 9.30am Sung Eucharist and Junior Church Evening Service 5.30 pm.

OTHER DAYS: Wednesday 10am Holy Communion.

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.

#### Old Basing Methodist Church

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#### Roman Catholic

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