March 2018

BASINGA



Anna Fairs



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







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MARCH 2018 - NOTES AND NEWS

The **cover photo** this month is of village landmark, **Peacock Cottage** – so named from the very elaborate topiary which has marked it out in Milkingpen Lane for many years (photo by **Anna Fairs**).

BASINGA ARTICLES

We welcome both regular and occasional items for the Basinga. The very last date for copy to the **Editor** for the **APRIL edition** is by **6 pm** on **Saturday**, **10th March**. 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 look on our website (Basinga Extra): 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** at **editor@basinga.org.uk**

THANKS TO YOU A SPECIAL LADY

The **Basinga Committee** would like to thank **Grace Bennett** for her many years service **delivering** the **Basinga** magazine in **Park Avenue**. It is volunteers like Grace who keep the village provided with this useful source of information, but not many can claim to have done it from the very beginning of the magazine. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Basinga Committee in recognition of her commitment. Many thanks Grace, time to put your feet up.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all the kind people who stopped to assist my husband when he fell just outside the Tesco store in Chineham on Thursday, 1st February, especially the young lady who called the ambulance so promptly. Thank you all.

Pauline Chamberlain, 17 Norton Ride, Lychpit

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

This autumn we have held a **coffee morning** and sold Christmas cards for the charity, raising £1,537.86! Thank you to everyone who has given so generously and to those who supported the event where there was much cheerful chat and a happy atmosphere.

Rosemary Kershaw

CARNIVAL NEWS

Carnival plans are in full swing with the Carnival Selection Disco on Friday, 9th March, and the Carnival is on Saturday, 16th June – theme for this year is Book Titles.

CARNIVAL SELECTION DISCO

The Carnival Selection Disco is Friday, 9th March, 4.30 to 6 pm in the Jack Morris Hall, Royal British Legion, Crown Lane. At this event we will be choosing our Carnival Princess and Attendant, also a Prince and Escort (all children over 5 years and under 12 years may attend). To enter you must reside in the Parish. Admission is £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. Event Notice and Entry Forms will follow as inserts in the Basinga editions circulated beginning of May and June.

STALLS

If you are interested in booking a stall, then please complete the slip below and send with a cheque to Sandie Rice by 1st June - details below.

Joe Croombs (Chair – Old Basing Carnival Committee)

Tel. 07768 032 936 or email: joe@croombs.org

	∨
FRIDAY, 9TH MAR	CH (4.30 – 6 PM): CARNIVAL SELECTION DISCO
NAME:	AGE:
	TEL NO:
Please advise regardin	g any required medication or allergy issues on arrival.
ONLY ONE SLIP PE	CHILD PLEASE – THANK YOU
	~
SATURDAY, 16TH	UNE: OLD BASING CARNIVAL – STALL BOOKING
NAME:	STALL TYPE/NAME:
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EMAIL ADDRESS: .	
Please note an email of	text confirmation will be sent to you to confirm receipt of booking
SIGNED:	
Cheque enclosed - £	2 / £15 /£25 (please circle)

Please note: The standard stall sites must not exceed 4 metres (13 feet) frontage. Prices: £12 for one standard stall/side-show site; £15 for one standard size tombola or game of chance site stall; £25 for larger spaces. All cheques in advance made payable to Old Basing Parish Carnival – please write your name on the back.

Access on the day is from 9 am. Own transport (one car/van) can be brought onto the field, however if not removed by midday it will have to remain on site until 4.30 pm due to health and safety and insurance concerns. Alternatively transport will need to be off site by midday and will not be allowed back on site till 4.30 pm

Please return to Sandie Rice, 16b Pyotts Hill, Old Basing, RG24 8AR, no later than 1st June.





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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS

Belated congratulations to our **Grounds & Facilities Manager**, **Stephen** and his wife, **Lindsay**, on the **birth** of their **baby daughter** in **January**.

COUNCILLOR VACANCY

We are sorry to say **goodbye** to **Councillor John Catchpole** who recently moved from Lychpit and wish him well in his new home in Devon. We are grateful to him for his work relating to recycling activities locally and the Incinerator Plant and his expertise in this area will be missed. Following his departure the Lychpit Councillor role will initially be advertised by the Borough Council after which, if no election is required, we will be seeking to co-opt and would be pleased to hear from anyone interested.

DOG FOULING

We have had a number of reports recently of dog fouling and this appears to be a particular problem in certain roads in Old Basing – those owners who do not pick up after their dog will know which roads we are taking about! Please would ALL dog owners consider their fellow residents and also our hard-working Litter Wardens who have to pick it up. It is not acceptable to pick up and then hang the bag from bushes – any waste bins can be used, not just specific dog waste bins, or if there is no bin on your route, take it home and put in your black bin. It is an offence not to clean up after your dog and if you are caught you could face a fixed penalty fine of £50.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE

The particularly windy weather in the past few months has caused household bins to blow over leaving rubbish strewn along road and gardens. When putting out your bins please note the weather forecast and if high winds are likely, delay putting your bins out if you can until the morning rather than overnight and ensure the bin is not over full and the lid firmly in place. The bin collection team will not pick up loose rubbish and our Litter Wardens may not be in your particular area at the time so it is each householder's responsibility to take care of their own rubbish.

ANNUAL PARISH AWARD

Don't forget to let us have your nomination for this award. There are many residents who give their time willingly to various groups and organisations within the Parish and deserve to be recognised. **Nominations must be received by Tuesday, 1st May.**

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesdays 6th March** and **3rd April** at **7.30pm** in the **Pavilion Committee Room**. All are welcome and 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 (tel. 01256 462847)

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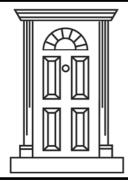


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NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

Basing House be opening for its new season on Saturday, 17th March, this year, rather than at the beginning of the month. It will be open 11 am till 4 pm, every day but Friday.

Our annual visit from the **Sealed Knot** will be over **Easter weekend**, with "battles" on **Easter Sunday and Monday**. The Sealed Knot bring literally hundreds of re-enactors to this event which is one of the real high spots of our season. The **House is closed on Good Friday**.

Other high spots this year will be **two open-air theatre performances**, starting with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on **Thursday**, **21st June**, followed by the return of the **Chapter House Theatre Company** to perform another **Jane Austen** work – *Sense and Sensibility*. That will be on the evening of **Sunday**, **19th August**.

March sees four courses at Basing House – willow weaving (fully booked); stone carving; a five-week springtime craft course (mosaics, silk painting, fabric craft, paper craft and beading); and a course using Basing House as inspiration for poetry. Monthly craft mornings also return on the 29th March.

John, Basing House's gardener, left at the end of last season. He asked me if I could put one plea in the Basinga – largely on behalf of his successor. He always felt he did one part of his job too infrequently and not very well – cutting the grass around the "permissive footpath" from The Street to the River Loddon. It was a strimmer job and he insisted that nobody would choose to be the operator of a strimmer that hit dog droppings in the long grass. It goes everywhere. His plea was to the dog owners who use that path.....

Fuller details of all the events above can be found on our website: www.hampshireculturaltrust. org.uk/venue-events/68

Andrew Howard - tel. 01256 327014; email: fobh@howardz.me.uk

DIG BASING! PRESENTATION EVENING

After three years and 48 test pits, the Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society have brought the Dig Basing! project to a close. We are very grateful to everyone that supported us by hosting a test pit, and for being such good sports whilst we worked in your gardens.

The research aim of the project was to gather evidence of how **Old Basing developed as a settlement** by analysing finds from **1 metre square test pits dug in gardens**. In all, we collected **16,632 artefacts**, of which 4,077 were pottery sherds that are the most useful in terms of dating evidence. We are busy cataloguing, dating and analysing the distribution of the finds so that we can see what they tell us about past life in Old Basing.

Our findings will be written up and published in an **Archaeological journal**, but in the meantime, we should like to invite you to a **public meeting** on **Friday, 16th March**, at the **Lychpit Community Hal**l, starting at **7.30 pm**. At the meeting we shall present our interpretation of how Old Basing grew, based on the evidence that we collected during the project.

If you are interested in the history of Old Basing and would like to find out more about how the village evolved over time, then we would be pleased to welcome you to this event.

Mark Peryer – BAHS Chairman (tel. 01256 780502)

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EVENT NEWS

I'm writing this wondering whether winter will ever end and yet the last **scrub bashing session** of the season is only next month on **Saturday, 17th March,** where we will wrap up our winter challenge to tackle the scrub along the middle path in the field. Unfortunately we are unlikely to reach our goal as our fabulous volunteer group is quite small and the field is quite large as regular walkers will know.

So if you would like to have a go, you don't need to book in advance just come along on the day, the more the merrier and regular users of the field are particularly welcome. No special skills are required just appropriate clothes and footwear and we will provide tea, coffee and tools. We meet at the **play area** at **Bartons Mill** at **10 am** or you can join us along the middle path.

WHAT'S AROUND THIS MONTH

In March we hope to see our first migrants of 2018 like the Green Finch and the last of the winter visitors such as the Redwing and Fieldfare with maybe Waxwings feeding on the remaining rose hips. If we get any spring-like weather Butterflies should start appearing such as the Red Admiral, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell or Brimstone. In January bird sightings included Kestrels, Linnets, Goldfinch, Waxwings, Peregrine and Little Egrets and if you are up early enough you could hear the Tawny Owls and in the afternoons Muntjac in the woods.

Anne Francis – tel. 07974 944439; email: millfieldoldbasing@yahoo.co.uk
Facebook: Mill Field Conservation Group

OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EXAMINATION

The Examiner has all the necessary paperwork for the Examination process including a summary of the representations from the Submission consultation. These are available on Application Consultee Correspondence (Web) – HIGHWAYS. Other documents can be found on Basingstoke website, the Parish website and Basinga Extra. Her report will shortly be with us and Basingstoke and Deane for checking for factual errors. She may also require amendments for the Plan to meet basic conditions.

REFERENDUM

When the Examiner's report is published the Parish Council and Basingstoke have to confirm agreement to proceed to referendum. At this point the Neighbourhood Plan can't be withdrawn.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

David Whitter's update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan, in February's Basinga, caught my eye. The Neighbourhood Plan is something the whole community will benefit from. Having been involved in a small way with the initial stages of developing the Plan, I have a good idea of how much time and effort that must have gone into getting things to this stage. Mr Whitter and others who have clearly worked very hard must be commended for their efforts and dedication, all of which they have given voluntarily to the community. Well done David and thank you.

Jeremy van Hagen, 10 High Mead, Lychpit



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or via Web Site www.basinga.org.uk

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LADIES FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING: The next occasions will be at the home of Mrs Eroula Tyson, 1 Cowdery Heights, Old Basing, on 2nd March, and then at the home of Mrs June Brant, 19 Rosehip Way, Lychpit, on 6th April (both at 10.30 am to noon).

OLD BASING ALLOTMENT & GARDEN SOCIETY: 2018 membership must be paid before purchase from the shop in Riley Lane (open Sunday, 4th March 10.30 am to noon, and on Sundays 11th, 18th and 25th March, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm).

BASING SINGERS AND OOH MAMA: Basing Singer along with Ooh Mama are performing excerpts from The Messiah and a full supporting programme in St Mary's Church on Sunday, 25th March, from 7 pm. Tickets are £7 for adults (children under 16 free) and will be on sale from Glaysher Butchers, Belle Vue Parade, at the door on the night of the concert or by telephoning 01256 471493. A truly memorable evening.

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

As you, the inhabitants of Old Basing and Lychpit read this in the March edition of the Basinga, the printing presses will be whirring and the **2018 edition** of the **Village Show Schedule** will soon be available from **various outlets in the Village**.

Look out for new classes, especially class 1, all of those lovely Hanging Baskets around the Village will now be eligible to enter for a prize! **Details will appear in the April Basinga**.

Once again, do put in your diaries the date for this year's Show – Sunday, 9th September.

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LEG ULCERS

A venous leg ulcer is the most common type of leg ulcer, accounting for over 90% of all cases. They can develop after a minor injury, where persistently high pressure in the veins of the legs has damaged the skin. It is estimated that around 1 in 500 people in the UK are affected, although they become much more common with age. It's estimated that around 1 in 50 people over the age of 80 has one.

The condition is a long-lasting (chronic) sore that takes more than four to six weeks to heal. The symptoms include pain, itching and swelling in the affected leg. There may also be discoloured or hardened skin around the ulcer, and the sore may produce a foul-smelling discharge.

See your GP immediately if you think you have a leg ulcer, as it will need specialist treatment to help it heal.

You're more at risk of developing one if you've previously had deep vein thrombosis or find it difficult to walk because of a problem such as osteoarthritis, a leg injury, obesity or paralysis.

You're also more at risk if you've recently had an operation on your leg, such as a hip replacement or knee replacement. People with varicose veins (swollen and enlarged veins) also have a higher risk of developing venous leg ulcers.

Treatment

Most venous leg ulcers heal within three to four months if they're treated by a healthcare professional trained in compression therapy for leg ulcers. However, some ulcers may take longer to heal, and a very small number never heal.

Treatment usually involves cleaning and dressing the wound and using compression, such as bandages or stockings, to improve the flow of blood in the legs. Antibiotics may also be used if the ulcer becomes infected, but they don't help ulcers to heal.

However, unless the underlying cause of the ulcer is addressed, there's a high risk of a venous leg ulcer recurring after treatment. Underlying causes could include immobility, obesity, previous DVT, or varicose veins.

Prevention

There are several ways to help prevent developing a venous leg ulcer in people at risk, such as wearing compression stockings; losing weight if you're overweight; exercising regularly; and elevating your leg when possible These measures are particularly important if you've previously had a leg ulcer because you're at increased risk of having another one in the same leg within months or years.

OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB

Not long now until the evenings are longer and we can play tennis at our regular **club nights**. These will **start** on **Tuesday, 27th March, at 6 pm**. From then on we shall have **club nights** on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays** throughout the summer with **both sessions** starting at **6 pm**.

The club is situated at the **Recreation Ground** in Riley Lane, Old Basing, in a lovely setting. We welcome new members, so if you would like to join us please get in touch with **Lynne Thomas** by email: **lynne.thomas8@btinternet.com** We would love to see you!



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FIGHTING CANCER

In the UK in 2014 there were 356,860 new cases of cancer diagnosed. In the same year there were 163,444 deaths from cancer. Some 50% of those diagnosed survive cancer for 10 or more years. Only 42% of cancer cases are preventable.

After being diagnosed with cancer, people may be going through a range of emotions. They may need time off and support to process those emotions together with those around them.

In Basingstoke we have a number of cancer charities alongside the major projects of the **Pelican Cancer** and **Ark Cancer** charities.

This year Basingstoke Rotary are raising monies for local cancer charities. We have already started planning events and are organizing a charity golf day on Friday, 18th May, at Basingstoke Golf Club. If you know any golfers who may be interested please contact the organizer Robert Jenner OBE on 07985 626105. Entry is available for teams of four at £55 per person.

A two-day festival is planned also in May (12th and 13th) at Down Grange. We already have food and trade stalls making bookings. We offer registered charities a free pitch so that they can come and raise awareness through marketing and/or running a fun stall. Last year we had 29 charities take part. If you are involved with a charity or know one that would benefit then let us know via our website www.basingstoke.rotaryweb.org Additionally we organize entertainment on the two days including John Searle Fun Fair, Clive Fortune Big Band, Spotlight display, Morris Dancers and many more. Make a note in your diaries, come along and help in the fight against cancer.

NWR - A DISCUSSION GROUP FOR WOMEN

February was our planning meeting where we put our programme together for the coming year. As usual the suggestions were many and varied and we have selected topics ranging from The Suffragettes, in recognition of the centenary of the Suffrage Act; What is on our Bucket list; Our favourite Poem/Book or piece of music; Modern inventions: love them or hate them; The Advertising industry and Exploring our Personality type amongst others. Some of our members are also hoping to attend the National Conference in Chester in June where the theme will be Nature versus Human Innovation.

Our lunch club for February went to The Cafe Dome and our Reading Group, who meet in the evenings on the fourth Thursday of each month, will be discussing *The Tobacconist* by Robert Seethaler. We have also decided to introduce a coffee morning to alternate with the monthly Lunch Club as well as arranging theatre trips, cinema visits, walks or whatever other activities are suggested by our members.

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 or tel. 01256 322832 or Evelyn Jones, email: evelyncjjones@hotmail.co.uk or tel. 01256 816636.

I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR LOVE...

Speaking to a group of children recently about Lent, conversation moved, not unnaturally, onto 'Things we might consider giving up.'

Asked for suggestions about the kind of luxuries we might do without during the 40 days of fasting, they happily volunteered all kinds of things: 'Chocolate!' they cried, "Crisps!' "Meat!'

'Very good!' I said, 'What about TV, or the internet!'

...Somewhere a dog barked. A stunned silence had fallen over the group. They looked incredulously at one another as if Fr Alec had run mad and they were wondering whether someone should alert the authorities before he did harm to himself or someone else.

This was clearly a big ask, and when conversation resumed there was a certain wary reserve to their responses where before there had been childlike enthusiasm. I had suggested something it had not even occurred to them that they might consider giving up. In truth, I felt a bit bad. It reminded me of the excited rich young man who approaches Jesus in the gospels asking 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?' and is told 'Sell everything that you have and give the proceeds to the poor.' All that we hear of his response is that 'he became very sad.' It was not the answer he had expected.

And yet, as we continue our progress towards Easter this month, it's worth remembering that this is what fasting is all about. It involves recognising those things that swallow our time and attention, but leave us no better off. Those things that seem to satisfy us in the moment, but leave us ultimately grumpy and restless. Where have we placed value in our lives where it is not deserved? What are the ways we use to distract ourselves from the painful and difficult business of self-examination. Sometimes it's food, sometimes it's alcohol or tobacco, and sometimes...well, a lot of the time, it's TV and the internet.

This is not to say that these things aren't good in themselves. Some of them are. But it does mean that by separating ourselves from them for a while, we can push them back into their proper place by recognising that they have become substitutes for something more important. Here is the heart of the matter...What is really important to you? How do you really want to be spending your life?

And that is a big question, but I suspect the answer has more to do with the Kingdom of Heaven than it does with playing Candy Crush, however tempting the latter may be in our weaker moments.

So, whether or not you're observing the discipline of Lent this year, perhaps now is the time to give serious thought to what matters most in life, and ask yourself whether you are doing that, or something else.

God Bless,

Fr Alec

THIS MONTH AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Saturday 3rd March Men's Breakfast Group from 8.45 to 10 am. Men of all ages are

invited to join us for good food and fellowship.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Ecumenical Hour of Prayer (7 to 8 pm)

Sunday 11th March Mothering Sunday all-age Eucharist at 10 am

Palm Sunday 25th March Meet at 9.20 am at the Jubilee Cross opposite the Bolton Arms

for those who wish to, or are able to process to the church.

Monday 26th March Tea & Talk Café (2.15 to 3.45 pm). Anyone who would like

some company and a chat is welcome. A monthly free group.

HOLY WEEK

26th, 27th, 28th March Evening Services (please enquire via The Administrator, tel.

07541 698235).

Thursday 29th March Maundy Thursday Service at 7.30 pm. Eucharist of the Last

Supper, Stripping of the Altars and Watch of the Passion.

Friday 30th March Good Friday (noon to 3 pm). A time of reflections and silent

meditation followed by the **Liturgy** at **1.30 pm**

Holy Saturday 31 March Easter Vigil and Eucharist at 8.30 pm. A triumphant and joyful

celebration of the Resurrection, followed by refreshments.

Easter Day 1st April Holy Communion at 8 am. Sung Eucharist of the Resurrection

for All Ages at 10 am

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 where you will find fresh updates including sermons. The church is open daily for prayer and you are welcome as you are every Sunday.

LOOKING FORWARD TO APRIL

Sunday 22nd April APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) at 11.15 am

PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCHES 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; and 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

OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH, THE STREET, OLD BASING

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays 6th/20th March Craft group (2 to 4 pm)

Tuesday 6th March Churches Together Lent group continues 7.30 to 9 pm at the

Chapel. We are following the book *Lentwise* by **Paula Gooder**. These sessions will be continuing on **13th** and ending on the **20th**

March.

Friday 9th March Coffee Break (10.30 am to noon)

Sunday 11th March Mothering Sunday when Rev Alison Parker will lead our worship

which will be 'Cafe Church'

Tuesday 13th March MHA lunch Club (noon to 3 pm)

Friday 30th March Good Friday at 3 pm. Holy Communion and Reflections led

by Rev Alison Parker. Hot Cross buns will be served after this

reflective time.

Our regular **Sunday worship** starts at **10.30 am**, coffee and tea are served after the service, a warm welcome awaits you.

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)

This month's working party will be on Saturday, 3rd March at 10 am – meet in the church lobby. We will continue our winter conservation tasks 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).

In early January *Storm Eleanor* tore a large branch off an ash tree. The heart of the tree was found to be rotten so the remaining two branches have been reduced to the lower canopy height, aiming to provide extremely valuable "standing deadwood" habitat.

The Church Conservation (PIOCC) AGM, with a talk by Tim and Margaret Carr, will be held next month on Monday, 23rd April, in the Parish Room, St Mary's Church, at 8 pm, please reserve the date, we look forward to seeing you. Please note this new date in your diaries as it has moved from the date originally advertised.

The Conservation Area is a community space for everyone to enjoy. You are very welcome to visit. As the days lengthen the early daffodils, primroses and bright yellow lesser celandines are appearing. The birds are singing their spring songs. Visit the conservation area, take a moment to sit, relax and enjoy the churchyard, a haven for us all.

For further information please ring Fay Farrant on 01256 476863.

Margaret Carr - web: www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

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AUDREY LILIAN CLARKE (NEE GANE)

Very sadly, Audrey Clarke passed away at Alton Community Hospital on 5th January, aged 89. Audrey worked as secretary to a senior surgeon in the orthopaedic clinic of Basingstoke Hospital for many years and must have felt very comfortable there as, on retirement, she joined the League of Friends. Very much a 'people' person, she was often to be seen at their information desk or bookstall in the hospital. She was also proud to be involved with supporting patients visiting the hospital's breast cancer clinic. She maintained her involvement with the league of friends until it was disbanded. Audrey and her husband Les have lived in Old Basing since the 1970s. A celebration of Audrey Clarke's life took place on Thursday, 15th February, at Basingstoke Crematorium.

MAVIS LLOYD

Mavis Lloyd, born 2nd March, 1934, was from Bexleyheath in Kent, and studied music at the Royal College of Music in London. She lived in Droitwich, Worcestershire for a few years, and then relocated to Hannington in the early 1960s. After the arrival of her two sons, the family moved to Old Basing in 1966.

Mavis's main interest was music and she taught piano at home to many children from the village and from the Basingstoke area in after-school lessons. She tried to interest her two sons in the piano without much success, but was always thrilled when a pupil achieved a good result in one of the many music exams over the years. She also taught music and remedial reading part time at the Old Basing Junior School, Harriet Costello School and Daneshill School. In 1968 Mavis established the Basing Singers, and remained its conductor and accompanist for over forty years. She loved the choir and was delighted to see it grow from ladies only to a mixed choir. She also accompanied the Basingstoke Male Voice Choir for many years.

In later life, she taught classes in literature appreciation at the University of the Third Age, and very much enjoyed the new challenge. Sadly she had to relinquish many activities due to accidents and illness, and moved to Basingfield Court in December 2011. She died peacefully in her sleep on 26th December.

Her funeral was held on 19th January at St Mary's Church and was well attended, with fine music provided by Paul Wright on the organ, the Basing Singers and a recording of Mavis herself playing a work by Mendelssohn. She is survived by her sons, Richard and Howard, three grandchildren and one further grandchild who was due in February.

OLD BASING WI

Our March meeting will take place at the Parish Room at St Mary's Church on Tuesday, 6th March, at 7.30 pm, when Julie Horton, a Jazz vocalist, will be speaking to us about "All That Jazz". It promises to be an entertaining evening! The competition that evening will be a musical instrument brooch. As it is our Birthday meeting, cakes will be available.

We have a number of exciting activities coming up in the next few months including a skittle evening in April and a summer trip with a cream tea on the Watercress Line. This is in addition to the regular monthly walks and coffee mornings at the Bakehouse, as well as our craft group which meets every month. For further information about the **Old Basing WI** please go to at **www.hampshirewi.org.uk** click on **WI's** from the top of the page and select **Old Basing** from the list.

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LYNSEY'S LITTLE STARS

Lynsey's Little Stars is a new parent, baby and toddler group for ages 0 to 4 years. It takes place every Wednesday during term time (starting 28th February), from 10 to 11.30 am, in the Parish Room, St Mary's Church, Old Basing. Welcoming and friendly, come and join us for a drink and chat whilst the children have fun. For more information contact Lynsey Appleton on 07867 810265 or email: lynseyslittlestars@yahoo.com

BOLTON UNDER 5'S PRESCHOOL

We had a busy start to the year, resettling into our preschool routines and welcoming our new starters. In February we celebrated the Chinese New Year and the children made lovely cards and crafts with hearts for Valentine's Day.

As the weather (hopefully!) warms up, we will be visiting the allotments and getting inspiration for refreshing our garden and the flower/vegetable beds, ready for fun in the sunshine. In March we will be celebrating World Book Day with a week of dressing up as our favourite characters, and then at the end of the month it is Sport Relief so we will be doing fun sporty activities with the children to raise funds for this worthy charity.

If you are interested in your child joining the waitlist for our preschool, please do come in and meet our staff, and see our Outstanding setting in action – call us on **07881 920709** or **01256 326196** to arrange a time for a visit.

OLD BASING INFANT SCHOOL

I am excited to be writing the first of many future, regular articles from Old Basing Infant School. Over the next few months both children and staff will write about the exciting learning opportunities at Old Basing Infant School, both curricular and extra-curricular. For example: Did you know we keep bees at the school and hope to make our own honey? We are also going to be making changes to our school landscape to make better use of our grounds.

The New Year has got off to a great start with each year group focusing on a new topic: 'Transport' in Year R, 'Jungles' in Year 1 and 'Mythical Creatures' in Year 2. As part of our topic on 'Transport' in Year R we are discussing the issue of traffic around the village/school and the impact that has on our environment. The children have completed a Traffic Survey and are coming up with ideas on how these issues might be resolved or, at least, improved. This is, I know, something that is close to the hearts of many who have lived in the village for some years and so we will keep you updated as to our children's ideas.

Part of our School Improvement Plan is to improve the understanding of staff and pupils of their role as members of a local and global community in order to develop responsible global citizens willing to be part of and celebrate an ever changing multi-cultural society. To this end, Mrs McCarley, our head teacher will be visiting Katakala School in Uganda along with representatives from St Mary's Church and the parish. Each class has prepared a book about life in Old Basing Infant School for Mrs McCarley to share with her 'new' students and our children are looking forward to learning more about life in school in Uganda.

A Attenborough (Yr R Class Teacher)

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LINGUATASTIC LANGUAGE ACADEMY

With all the Chinese New Year celebrations last month, we have been inspired to see whether there is enough interest to start up a new beginners Mandarin class for adults. We already have a class running for juniors and secondary school age children, but with the importance of China and its influence increasing, we think that there may well be some adults keen to take up the language. Anybody potentially interested, should please e-mail: **info@linguatastic.com** or telephone **01256 471474** and we'd be happy to provide further information.

But back to this month. We start off this month with **World Book Day** on **Thursday, 1st March**. Our little ones will be dressing up as their favourite book characters, whilst the older ones will be celebrating by reading some books in the languages they are learning.

On Sunday, 11th March, it's Mother's Day and although the children will not be at Linguatastic on that day, we hope that they will be wishing their mothers a "Bonne Fête des mères", "Buona Festa della mamma" or something along these lines in another language!

Towards the end of this month, we will of course, be preparing for Easter, with spring-themed crafts and Easter egg hunts. Make sure you keep an eye out for our Easter display (with a typically international flavour) at Tesco, Chineham.

THE LOFT, A VERY MUSICAL EVENING

We have a monthly accoustic music night at Lychpit Community Hall called The Loft. We organise the event the last Friday of each month from 8.15 to 11.30 pm, for the love of live music and the appreciation of some very talented musicians from all over Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire. Each month is different with an eclectic mix of music genres to excite and delight our music loving audience. Our next event is on Friday, 23rd March, and the musicians booked for this event are: Louise Coles, The Harry Miller Band, Vicky Sayers, Dragonfly Sky and China Bears (recently on BBC introduced, Radio 6 and Radio 1).

Our audience have been very appreciative of the high standard of performance and also enjoyed bringing their own tipple and selection of nibbles so they can sit back, relax and enjoy the music. There is a nominal entrance fee to cover the running cost of this non-profit making music night. Full details can be found on 'The Loft at Lychpit' Facebook page. We hope that you can join us soon for a very musical evening at The Loft.

BASINGSTOKE BLUES CLUB

Basingstoke Blues Club, in association with the Basingstoke Railway Social Club (Station Approach, Basingstoke), presents on Saturday, 17th March (from 8 pm till late), Tommy Allen's Trafficker. Local lad Tommy Allen, guitarist, singer and songwriter, returns to Basingstoke with Trafficker. Tommy is a top-rated blues guitarist and the band really rocks. All are welcome. Pay on the door. There is a licensed bar and low prices. Profits to Brain Tumour Research.

Future dates: Saturday, 21st April – Pete Harris Blues Band and Saturday, 19th May – 'Rex's birthday bash' with the Robin Bibi Band. For further details please contact Rex on 01256 321837 or 07979 422590.



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CHINEHAM LIBRARY

It's good to see that the days are becoming lighter and finally this month the clocks go forward. So do come and join us in the library on **Saturday, 17th March**, when there is a session on **Container Gardening** at **2 pm**. Tickets can be bought in advance, and some plants will be available for sale afterwards. The craft session on **Saturday, 3rd March**, will have a Mother's Day theme, so perhaps dads/grandparents could bring younger ones along between 10 am and noon to produce something for the Day?

Regular activities for children continue as usual with **storytimes** at **10 am** on all other **Saturdays**, and **rhymetimes** on **Tuesday mornings** at **10 am** for **under ones'** and **11 am** for **over ones'**. The **Chatterbooks** reading group has its next two meetings on **Thursdays 15th March** and **12th April, from 3.45 to 4.45 pm**. Don't forget **Construction Club** on **Saturdays** where children can play with **Lego** from **1.30 pm onwards**.

Our adult groups are also meeting as usual, with the Crime Reading group on Saturday, 17th March, at 10.30 am, and the CHIPPS reading group on Wednesday, 14th March. Our newly formed writing group meets on Thursdays 1st March and 5th April from 5.30 to 7 pm and new members are very welcome to join. Age Concern continue to provide computer tuition on Wednesday mornings from 10 am. For further information please contact their area office on 01256 423874.

Looking ahead to **April** we are privileged to be hosting an author talk by **Jean Fullerton**. Jean is talking about **'Inside the writer's mind'**, and the event will take place on **Thursday, 19th April**, at **7.30 pm**. Tickets are obtainable from the library. It should be an interesting evening. Please continue to follow us via social media for the most up-to-date information.

Cathy Foster

CHINEHAM BOARD GAMERS

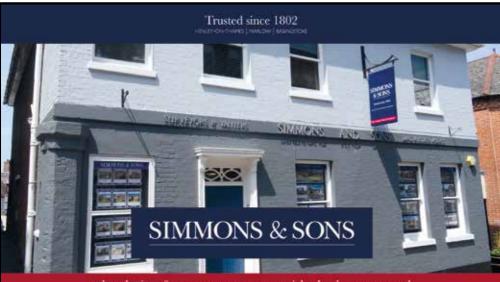
Chineham Board Gamers would like to invite you to our **open day** on **Saturday, 24th March**. If you yearn for a challenge beyond Monopoly or Scrabble or wish to try something new then pay us a visit. The open day will run from noon to 11 pm and is a FREE event for new people.

We are running a **two-hour session** for **small children** from **noon to 2 pm** and will run appropriate games. Most of our board games will be aimed at **10 year olds' and upwards after 2 pm**. We will also be joined by local Barista "Cuppa Joe" from **1 to 5 pm**. We also ask that if children are attending they are accompanied by an adult. Please find us at **Chineham Christ Church**, Reading Road, Chineham, RG24 8LT.

Rob Stokes

MAYOR'S CHARITY CONCERT - 'BASINGSTOKE LOOKS TO THE STARS'

The Mayor's Charity Concert – 'Basingstoke Looks to the Stars', on Saturday, 3rd March, 7.30 pm, at The Anvil, features a varied evening of music, song and dance, showcasing the talent of young local performers. The sci-fi inspired programme will include music from Star Trek, Star Wars, Thunderbirds and Dr Who. Tickets are only available online from The Anvil Box Office or by phoning 01256 844244. All monies raised will go to the Mayor's Community Chest fundraising committee run through Basingstoke Voluntary Action.



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OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION UPDATE

MONTHLY BRANCH MEETING

The monthly meeting will be on Thursday, 1st March, 7.45 for 8 pm in the Jack Morris Hall of the Royal British Legion.

Rick Bourne

WOMEN'S SECTION ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

There is a Meeting of the **RBL Women's Section** on **Thursday, 22nd March, 7.30 pm**, followed by Becky Peacock presenting a talk on "Women on the Railway" (the competition is "A Bowl of Bulbs in Bloom"), taking place in the **Jack Morris Hall** of the **Royal British Legion**. All are welcome.

Sue Wilson (Publicity)

OLD BASING BOWLING CLUB

We are holding two **Open Days** on **Saturday 14th April** and **Sunday 22nd April**, between **10.30 am and 2.30 pm**. We welcome new bowlers as well as those who may have played in the past to try the game and sample our facilities at our Club which is located on the **Recreation Ground** next to the Parish Council offices. There is no charge and we will provide equipment and help as required. Please try to bring a pair of flat soled shoes for wear on the green. For information on the club visit our website: **www.oldbasingbowlingclub.co.uk**

This year, 2018, is the **70th anniversary of the founding** of the **Old Basing Bowling Club** and I am undertaking a 'small' project to try and build a **history of our club**. I am looking for any **documents between 1948 and now**, such as Members' handbooks, also any news articles and photographs etc. If you can help please contact me through the Old Basing Bowling Club website (see above) or on **01256 329082**.

John Fountaine (Old Basing Bowling Club bowls coach)

OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT GOOD NEIGHBOURS

This very worthwhile organisation has been running for 16 months now and thanks to the core of our volunteers has been able to help local residents in many ways. It goes without saying that we are always looking for volunteers who can offer their services with transport, shopping, little DIY tasks, etc, but if not that then perhaps you can help in other ways. We are particularly looking for someone who would be prepared to help our telephone co-ordination team. You don't have to sit glued to the telephone, our specific number is transferred to you for a given length of time, a week or maybe two, when you receive a call, or indeed pick it up from your answering machine, this is then logged on to our task sheet and from our list of volunteers you find a willing hand to fulfill this task (you will need to have access to the internet). Time per week is probably no more than three hours. Full training given. Believe me I am in my 70s and no whizz on the computer and I can do it. Please telephone **01256 328196** for more information.

Sue Wilson (Chairman)

MARCH IN YOUR GARDEN

Spring has sprung! What a wonderful time of year for the gardener. The signs of spring have come like clockwork this year, which is a relief compared with other years. The snowdrops are out, daffodils poking their heads up and crocus' making a gorgeous display all over the village. Let's hope that this growing season will have some normality to it for once!

There is a lot of sowing that can be done. Some flowers can be started off in the greenhouse, but hardy annuals such as Poppies, certain varieties of Sweet Peas and Cornflowers can be sown directly into the ground. Plant tender summer-flowering bulbs such gladioli and lilly now, they can provide dramatic, tall blooms, that are scented, to adorn your summer borders. Also snowdrops can be planted now for next year. Apple and Cherry trees can also be planted, but be sure to be ready with the horticultural fleece in case of frosts! They will damage the young leaves. Silver and grey leaf shrubs are the most at risk of frosts at this time of year.

Now is a good time to divide over-grown clumps of summer-flowering perennials but make sure they are kept well watered afterwards – division is most successful when the plants are not in active growth. Ornamental grasses should have dead foliage cut back to allow for new growth. If the weather stays nice and dry, lawns may need a mow, mine is looking rather unsightly at the moment so fingers crossed we get some sun! You should aim to mow it once a week. Roses will do well being fed with a balanced fertiliser or special rose feed. This is also the last opportunity to prune your roses.

Greenhouses can suffer from condensation in springtime, open any vents on warmer days. Whilst you are out, and preferably before the month gets going, search round your pots, bricks and all those nooks and crannies for hibernating snails and slugs and dispose of them before they run amok.

Onion sets can be planted this month. Growing onions from sets is generally easier, they are less likely to be affected by disease, and the crop will mature earlier. However, they are more prone to bolting (when a flower is produced instead of a bulb) – to reduce this risk, plant the heat-treated sets offered for cultivars prone to bolting. Also, make sure you sow under some netting to prevent inquisitive birds from undoing all your hard work.

If you didn't have any luck with broad beans sown in November, not to worry, more can be sown now direct into the ground for harvests throughout the summer, however they will do battle with blackfly, more so then the November-sown crop.

Pond life will start to stir, fish become more active and may be thinking of breeding. As a result, water quality may deteriorate, so get those pumps and filters back on if they have been turned off over winter. Start feeding fish moderately when the water temperature reaches a happy 7°C (45°F) for a week, and more regularly when the temperature is over 10°C (50°F).

Have you thought about growing asparagus? Rumour has it that it is one of the vegetables that have superior flavour when grown at home compared to when bought at the supermarket or market. They are easy to grow, as long as the conditions are correct. They like light, well-draining soil, free of weeds and big stones. If you have such a space then by all means start buying crowns. They need to be planted this month. If not then why not bear it in mind for next year? A note of caution, it does go quick!

NATURE NOTES FOR MARCH

Now of course I would take every opportunity to advertise the fact that I sell, and have sold for many years, wild bird food delivered to your door. Having as many feeders around your garden in as many different spots as possible and with a variety of tasty morsels will, eventually, lure in species that you might normally see especially when its chilly like this. However, occasionally natural food offerings will do the trick too and yesterday and today we had a large flock of Fieldfares visit just to gorge themselves on the large pile of ripening cooking apple windfalls I'd left out. After 24 hours there wasn't a lot of apple left either so I felt actually more pleased to have helped out in this way than by displaying numerous exotic feeder foods! This in no way of course diminishes the importance of seeds and nuts as it's been a busy few weeks with all the usual visitors coming regularly during these cold snaps. Disappointingly, back last January when it was the Big Birdwatch Weekend the weather wasn't too favourable and our sightings weren't spectacular but our list was okay and I really must send it off. I hope you took part and perhaps had more success?

One plan was to put out some chicken pieces and regular readers will know why, and that was to attract Red Kites so that a 'touchdown collect' would have resulted in a viable tick for us, but alas no such luck. The unwanted evidence of small furry mammals taking up residence close by has restricted us from putting some food out but I will soon deal with that problem. Ahem!

Great pics again from Terry McAnish of Bullfinches, Long-tailed Tits and Goldfinches which together meant a very colourful image. In what could be described as monochrome contrast, Tony Stoney reported seeing a dozen Long-tailed tits (black and white) near the allotment and a Little Egret (pure white) paddling close to the edge of the pond by the village hall plus about 30 Cormorants in tall trees next to the Avon near Downton. Okay, not local but 'black death' are worth a mention.

Malcolm Leavey saw what he believes to be a Hawfinch briefly on one of his garden feeders and BBC's *Winterwatch* recently did say there had been an irruption of them on these shores from Central Europe this winter. This cracking big finch is a rare find but if you know where there are Hornbeam trees then there you may spy these biscuit-coloured beauties.

The famous Belle Vue daffodils were in bloom around 21st January, which was actually quite late compared with other years but they are lasting well with this cold weather. Some twiggy branches of certain trees are beginning to glow red too as sap beings to rise so we are on the downward slope to spring. I think. I hope!

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

Richard Bourne – tel. 01256 321108; emal: rbourne@glenair.co.uk
For 'Bird Drop-ins', use answer-phone 01256 842722

BASINGA EXTRA

A number of articles have been in competition for a place in this month's printed magazine. Those for which space could not be found are available at www.basinga.org.uk

Anvil Arts; Basingstoke Discovery Centre; Basingstoke & District Cats Protection Branch Spring Fair; Basingstoke Lions Club; Basingstoke Voluntary Action; Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust; Join the Hart Male Voice Choir; Probus Hears about Radio Times; Probus visit TAG Aviation Farnborough; Quiz Night at The Café Dome; RCS New Courses

DIARY DATES FOR MARCH

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

(For details of services and events as St Mary's Church, please refer to page 25)			
Thu 1	7.45 pm–8.00 pm	Royal British Legion Branch Meeting (Jack Morris Hall, RBL, Crown Lane)	
Fri 2	10.30 am-noon	Ladies' First Friday Coffee Morning (1 Cowdery Heights, Old Basing)	
Sat 3	10.00 am	PIOCC Working Party (meet church lobby, St Mary's Church)	
	7.30 pm	Mayor's Charity Concert – 'Basingstoke Looks to the Stars' (The Anvil, Basingstoke)	
Sun 4	10.30 am-noon	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)	
Tue 6	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting (Pavilion Committee Room, The Rec)	
	7.30 pm	WI Members' Meeting (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)	
Fri 9	4.30 pm-6.00 pm	Carnival Selection Disco (Jack Morris Hall, RBL, Crown Lane)	
Sat 10		LAST DATE FOR COPY TO EDITOR (SEE PAGE 3)	
Sun 11	10.30 am-12.30 pm	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)	
Thu 15	12.30 pm	Ploughman's Lunch (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)	
Fri 16	7.30 pm	Dig Basing! Presentation Evening (Lychpit Community Hall)	
Sat 17		Basing House re-opens	
	10.00 am	Mill Field Work Party (meet play area, Bartons Mill)	
	8.00 pm	Basingstoke Blues Club, Tommy Allen's Trafficker (Basingstoke	
		Railway Social Club, Station Approach, Basingstoke)	
Sun 18	10.30 am-12.30 pm	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)	
Thu 22	7.30pm	RBL Women's Section Meeting (Jack Morris Hall, RBL, Crown Lane)	
Fri 23	8.15 pm-11.30 pm	The Loft, Accoustic Music Night (Lychpit Community Hall)	
Sat 24	noon–11 pm	Chineham Board Gamers Open Day (Chineham Christ Church,	
		Reading Road, Chineham)	
Sun 25	10.30 am-12.30 pm	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)	
	7.00 pm	Basing Singers and Ooh Mama: Performing excerpts from <i>The Messiah</i> (St Mary's Church)	
Tue 27	6.00 pm	Old Basing Tennis Club, club nights start (Riley Lane, The Rec)	
Fri 30		GOOD FRIDAY	

LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL

Sun 1	11.00 am-5.00 pm	Sealed Knot – Civil War Re-enactment (Basing House)
Mon 2	11.00 am-5.00 pm	Sealed Knot – Civil War Re-enactment (Basing House)
Tue 3	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting (Pavilion Committee Room, The Rec)
Fri 6	10.30 am-noon	Ladies' First Friday Coffee Morning (19 Rosehip Way, Lychpit)
Sat 14	10.30 am-2.30 pm	Old Basing Bowling Club Open Day (Recreation Ground)
Sun 22	10.30 am-2.30 pm	Old Basing Bowling Club Open Day (Recreation Ground)
Mon 23	8.00 pm	PIOCC AGM (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD IN 2018

Sat 16 June Old Basing Carnival (Recreation Ground)

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CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA

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

Tel: 354707 VICAR: Rev Alec Battey, The Vicarage, Church Lane, Old Basing

Tel: 816122 **ASSISTANT CURATE:** Rev Sarah Lloyd

Tel: 07541 ADMINISTRATOR: Debbie Filer

698235

Tel: 326155 CHURCHWARDENS: Tricia Renwick

> Ian Kershaw Tel: 355500

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

SUNDAY: 8am Holy Communion. 9.30am Sung Eucharist and Junior Church (Creche facilities available in the Parish Room) 11.15am Family Communion.

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

Old Basing Methodist Church

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SUNDAY SERVICE: 10.30am Morning Service

Roman Catholic

PRIEST: Fr Christopher Rutledge.

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