

November 2022

# BASINGA



Jim Andrews



Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Magazine  
[www.basinga.org.uk](http://www.basinga.org.uk)

# Christmas



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## NOVEMBER COVER PHOTO, NOTES AND NEWS

The front cover photograph this month is of a **Redstart** by **Jim Andrews**. This bird may look like a robin, which is entirely appropriate as December, when that other, more common, red-breasted bird is a common symbol of that month and Christmas. You will see from this edition of the Basinga, the large number of planned Christmas-related events in the village, it is hoped, herald a return to Christmases more like we have been used to.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BASINGA

We welcome both regular and occasional items for the Basinga. The very **last date for copy** to the Editor for the **December edition** is **6pm on Thursday, 10th November**. Please use the forms on the **Basinga website [www.basinga.org.uk](http://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 website. **Don't forget that we only accept articles with about a 300-word maximum and articles are only published at the Editor's discretion.**

## PHOTOS AND LOGOS FOR THE BASINGA

If any reader would like to offer a **photograph of the village environment** we would be happy to receive them, either for immediate use or to build up a portfolio of 'village views' that we can use. We now have a web form that you can use to send a photograph for the website archive and possible use in the magazine – go to **[www.basinga.org.uk](http://www.basinga.org.uk)** and the form can be found on the **'Contributors Submission'** menu. Should you wish to submit multiple photos, or a photo is too 'large', they can be emailed directly to the **Editor**.

This feature should **NOT** be used for Free Ads or article photos, which can be attached to their own forms. We welcome **club** and **society logos**, with the option to use them within articles. Please send graphics to **[editor@basinga.org.uk](mailto:editor@basinga.org.uk)**

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW ADVERTISING MANAGER

I would like to welcome to the **Basinga Committee** our new **Advertising Manager, Lou Eddy**. If you have ever thought of advertising in the Basinga now is the time. Enquire by email to **[advertising@basinga.org](mailto:advertising@basinga.org)** to reach over three thousand households and premises in the Old Basing and Lychpit area and more as adverts also appear on our website **[www.basinga.org](http://www.basinga.org)**

## BIG TURKEY IS BACK!

**BIG TURKEY IS BACK!** This year we are having a **BIG TURKEY PIE!** Date for your diary: **Friday, 30th December**. We will be serving a complimentary festive meal at **Old Basing Village Hall** starting with **drinks** from **noon** and **lunch** at **1pm**.

Please call **Rosey** on **07544 998292** to reserve your place. Transport will be available if needed. Volunteers to help are really welcome, if you can spare some time on the day or evening before then please let us know. Looking forward to a fantastic village event!

## BASING SINGERS AND BASINGSTOKE MALE VOICE CHOIR

No matter which day or time I enter St Mary's Church I find visitors there looking around the building where people have gathered and worshipped for centuries.

The Visitors Book has been signed by travellers from abroad, by people coming back to their roots and by people who live locally who come to recall their family baptisms, weddings and funerals giving sense of belonging.

A television programme once showed a presenter holding a microphone to an old stone wall trying to hear the echoes of the past. At St Mary's I can imagine the stonemason builders' clunk of stone upon stone. Later came the clatter of horses and soldiers during the English Civil War. I wonder at the seventeenth-century discussions that followed on how best to restore the building as a result of a national appeal.

I imagine the giggles of the choir boys in services and their excitement climbing the tower for judo lessons between the wars. Do the walls echo with the many lives celebrated on the kneelers?

Unsurprisingly St Mary's Church is a Grade 1 listed building. The worn steps show many people's care through the centuries. It is our turn now. Today the **Friends of St Mary's** are amongst those who maintain the fabric of the Church through social fundraising. This has seen many a happy event and continues on **Saturday, 26th November, at 7.30 pm (doors open at 7 pm)**. We have arranged a **concert** featuring the **Basing Singers** and the **Basingstoke Male Voice Choir** in **Old Basing Village Hall**. **Tickets cost £10 for adults and £1 for accompanied children** and can be **reserved** by telephoning **Ian Kershaw** on **01256 355500** or by email **admin@friendsofstmaryschurcholdbasing.org**

**Rosemary Kershaw**

## OLD BASING WI



# Hampshire

At our October meeting we were rewarded with a very interesting talk by our very own Jan Blight about the Newbury Coat. For those who do not know, the original

Newbury Coat was made in response to a wager in the 1800s that a coat could not be made in a day, from shearing a sheep to wearing a coat for dinner on the same day. Jan was instrumental in recreating this feat at the Newbury Show in 1991 and breaking the original record by over an hour. Her talk was very well received by our Members.

Our **November meeting** takes place on **1st November at 7.30pm** at the **Parish Room, St Mary's Church**, when we will be welcoming back local lady, Jackie Dimmock for the second part of her talk entitled 'The Good, The Bad part 2'. The competition that evening will be 'An Old School Photo'. Later in the month the Old Basing WI will be selling its makes and bakes at the **Basing House Christmas Fair** on **26th/27th November** (see page 13). Do come along and stock up for Christmas.

In **December** our Members will be enjoying a festive lunch at **Avenue Nurseries** and we have plans for an evening meal at the Bolton Arms at the end of January.

Details of the WI in Hampshire and other WI activities can always be found on our website **www.hampshirewi.org.uk** – if you would like to join our long-running and thriving group, please contact our **President Sue Stewart** by email at **oldbasingpres@hampshirewi.org.uk**



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### ANNUAL PARISH AWARD

Last year the Parish Council reviewed its criteria for the **Annual Parish Award** to benefit the wider community and agreed that nominations should be for local voluntary groups (rather than individuals). This does not have to be a large national group but may be a small community group that provides a lifeline for some residents, either in the form of regular meetings for a cup of tea and a chat, transport to/from essential appointments, or carrying out odd jobs around the house and garden for those less able. The Award is a financial contribution of **£100** to help the group continue its work.

If you are aware of or are part of such a group please send your nomination to the **Clerk** by **Tuesday, 6th December** (by email or post) stating why you feel the group should be considered or how the money could be used.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP EVENING

We hope this event will go ahead this year after being cancelled for the previous two years due to Covid. Those who have attended in the past have welcomed the opportunity to talk informally to Parish and Borough Councillors and fellow members of the community who are also involved in a range of activities.

If you are a member of a new club voluntary group and have not attended previously but would like to join us on **Monday, 12th December**, at **Lychpit Community Hall**. please contact the **Clerk** so we can add you to our invitation list.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesday, 1st November** and **6th December**, commencing at **7.30pm**. Please let us know if you are unable to manage the stairs to the meeting room so we can make alternative arrangements.

Parish Clerk: **Mrs Sandra Tuck** Deputy Clerk: **Mrs Kate Hope**

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

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## MAYOR'S FREEFALLING FUNDRAISER FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

The **Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Cllr Paul Miller**, has taken part in a skydive to raise funds for his charity appeal, supporting local charities **The Pink Place** incorporating **The Blue Space** and **Tough Enough To Care**. The skydive, due to take place last month had to be postponed due to inclement weather and rearranged for **Saturday, 8th October**, which provided clear skies and bright sunshine – the ideal skydiving conditions. Cllr Miller took the leap from 15,000 feet in the company of three representatives from his chosen charities, all raising money for the **Mayor's Charity Appeal**. As a veteran of the Royal Air Force, Cllr Miller is no stranger to flying at altitude but this was the first time he had jumped out of a plane. The mayor's charity skydive fundraising page can be found on Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's website: **www.basingstoke.gov.uk/mayor-skydive**

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## NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER (NWR)



The **National Women's Register (NWR)** exists to provide mentally stimulating meetings, activities and events across the country. If you would like to meet other women to share and explore thoughts, ideas, friendships and experiences, then NWR could be for you. There is no top-heavy hierarchy so each small group (typically less than 20 members) runs according to what suits the local members. Our National Office also arranges talks (usually in the evening) via Zoom on a wide range of subjects at no extra cost to the £30 subscription fee.

**Chineham and Old Basing NWR** meet on the **first Monday at 2pm in different houses**. In **October** the topic was 'The Colston Four' when we had a lively debate about the toppling of the statue of a man closely associated with the Slave Trade in Bristol. Also in October some of us took part in the NWR national collective walk choosing a short flat route along the canal. Afterwards others joined us for lunch in Odiham.

**November** will be an evening meeting when we participate in the annual **NWR National Telephone Quiz**, always an hilarious evening as we brainstorm to answer cryptic clues. In **December** we've a team of five members who arrange our **Christmas Lunch** in the cosy **Old Basing Cricket Pavilion**. With such an enthusiastic and hardworking quintet we have a magnificent spread for a small cost. Sparkling wine helps the brain cells for participating in the quizzes. Some members meet **monthly** on a **Thursday evening** to discuss the chosen **book** and a **monthly lunch** is also arranged in a local venue on different days.

For more information please go to **[www.nwr.org.uk](http://www.nwr.org.uk)** or contact **Dusty Brough** via **[dmbc861@gmail.com](mailto:dmbc861@gmail.com)** or telephone **01256 357276** for a chat.

## BASINGSTOKE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The **Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra** is an amateur orchestra of about 60 playing members who live in the Basingstoke/Hook/Fleet area (and I think at least three of our playing members live in Old Basing and Lychpit). Our president is Julian Lloyd Webber OBE, and we perform at The Anvil in Basingstoke three times a year.

One of our aims, in addition to putting on concerts for people to enjoy, is to give soloists at the beginning of their careers the opportunity of a full symphony orchestra experience in an amazing venue like The Anvil. As an amateur organisation, all proceeds from ticket sales go to paying our Anvil booking fees and keeping the orchestra going (eg sheet music and rehearsal venue hire etc), so we are always looking for extra ways to help boost our profile and let people know about our upcoming concerts.

Our next performance is **Romantic Masterpieces** and takes place at **The Anvil** on **Sunday, 6th November at 7pm**. We will be performing three of the great romantic works of all time: Tchaikovsky's 'Romeo' and 'Juliet Fantasy Overture'; Dvořák's 'Symphony No.9 From the New World', and Rachmaninov's 'Piano Concerto No.2' – where the internationally renowned piano soloist Yulia Chaplina will be performing. Yulia is winner of seven international piano competitions including the Tchaikovsky International Competition for Young Musicians and regularly performs in major concert venues across the world. Tickets available from **The Anvil Box Office**, tel. **01256 844244** or **[www.bso.org.uk](http://www.bso.org.uk)** to buy online.



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## BASING HOUSE



Basing House is now closed for the winter with the exception of the two events detailed below. We have enjoyed a successful season and thank all of you who came to visit and hope to see you again next year after our re-opening at Easter.

The last week in October (25th to 31st) sees Basing House staging its evening **Ghost Walks**. These tours are limited to **12 people** to ensure safety and a good visitor experience. Tour times are **5.30, 7 and 8.30pm** and the tour lasts approximately **one hour**. It is not suitable for young children and booking is essential.

Our final event of the year is our annual **Christmas Fayre** over the **weekend 26th and 27th November**. It is held in our **Great Barn** from **11am to 4pm**. On offer at dozens of stalls will be locally made crafts, produce and gifting ideas to browse and buy. Mulled wine and festive treats will also be available. On the Saturday we have a nativity scene with animals from Mill Cottage Farm and on Sunday the re-enactors from the English Civil War Society will stage a living history event.

Full details of both events at [www.hampshireculture.org.uk/events?location=6](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/events?location=6)

Parking is in our car park at Bartons Mill and we ask visitors not to park in The Street.

As a personal note, I want to compliment our small band of gardening volunteers who have made such a huge impact on Basing House this summer – their work truly spectacular.

**Andrew Howard** (tel. **01256 327014**)

## FRIENDS OF THE WILLIS MUSEUM

"Museums are not static but dynamic": thus wrote George Willis (1877–1970), Basingstoke shopkeeper, antiquarian and local historian, one-time mayor, first Freeman of the Borough, and, in 1931, the founder of the Borough Museum that evolved into the justly named Willis Museum, now run by **Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT)** and called the **Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery**. Visit the Museum's website [www.hampshireculture.org.uk/willis-museum-and-sainsbury-gallery](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/willis-museum-and-sainsbury-gallery) and you will clearly see that it lives up to Mr Willis's wise dictum in no uncertain fashion.

With high-profile touring exhibitions in the Sainsbury Gallery, frequently changing exhibitions by local people and groups in the Basingstoke Community Gallery – this could be you or your group – and its programmes of talks, workshops, and family activities, you can go there many times a year for a new experience every time. Oh, and enjoy a great morning coffee, or afternoon cup of tea and slice of cake.

No surprise, then, that the Willis has a dynamic **Friends' Association**, founded in 1978 to 'promote, support and improve the Willis Museum.' Members enjoy ten free evening lectures a year, mostly about local history, a guided summer visit, newsletters, discounts in the museum café and shop, and, importantly, an opportunity to volunteer their services in interesting ways – all of this for £12 per year. As a fund-raising body it recently handed HCT a substantial sum towards a forthcoming re-display of the Story of Basingstoke Gallery, the area dedicated to the history of the town. To find out more about the **Friends** call in and pick up a brochure or visit: [www.friendsofthewillis.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthewillis.org.uk)

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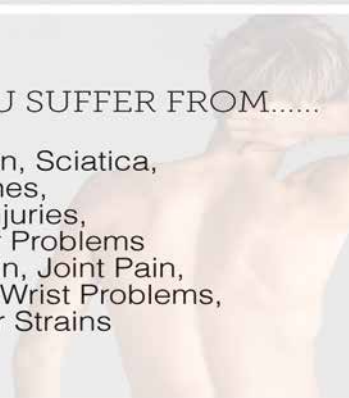


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*We ask for submissions to the magazine and website to be made via [www.basinga.org.uk](http://www.basinga.org.uk) using the web forms:*

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

*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 submissions 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 GDPR requirements for publishing photographs.*

*Contacts for general enquiries and assistance:*

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### PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

**Ploughman's Lunch** in the **Parish Room, St Mary's Church, on Thursday, 17th November, 12.25pm**. Book in advance (telephone: **07946 596778**) as numbers are limited.

### OLD BASING VILLAGE HALL QUIZ NIGHT

There is a **Quiz Night** in **Old Basing Village Hall on Saturday, 12th November**, from **7.30 to 10.30pm**. Up to **six** players per team. **Ticket (£7 per person)** includes buffet supper. Bring your own drinks. Contact: **sheenagrassi@hotmail.com** to reserve table.

### BASINGSTOKE CONCERT BAND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**Basingstoke Concert Band** present their **Annual Christmas Concert at St Michael's Church, Basingstoke on Sunday, 11th December, at 3pm**. Tickets available from **band members, on the door**, or calling **07391 032945**. Complimentary mince pie and drink.

### OLD BASING VILLAGE HALL NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

**New Year Celebration, Old Basing Village Hall, Saturday, 31st December**. Doors open **8pm**. Tickets **£30**. Party food, licensed bar. Fancy dress optional (favourite pop star/group). Contact: **sheenagrassi@hotmail.com** (all proceeds donated to Old Basing Village Hall).

## BASINGA ADVERTISERS

The Basinga magazine is distributed free of charge to over three thousand households and premises in the Old Basing and Lychpit area.

The magazine is produced and distributed by teams of volunteers, while our printing costs are covered by paid adverts from local businesses. Without the income from adverts we would not be able to function and our readership's support for our advertisers is crucial in maintaining this magazine.

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## THE MILLFIELD NATURE RESERVE



Exciting news last month when the annual **Mammal Surveys** on the reserve caught (and let go) several beautiful Dormice and also a couple of Water Shrews along with Bank Voles, Short Tailed Voles, Wood Mice and Pygmy and Common Shrews. It shows how important the correct management of the site is to provide the best possible habitat for these furry species.

### EVENT NEWS

Our **work party** on **Saturday, 19th November**, will continue with this winter's plan to tackle the scrub. We aim to clear areas of ash, oak and thorn to allow smaller plants to flourish and provide shelter for small mammals.

No special skills are required but please bring gardening gloves, appropriate clothes and footwear, we will provide tea, coffee and tools. We meet and will be working on the lower path from **10am** and work for about **two hours**.

Any last-minute changes will be posted on Facebook and the Field Notice Board, or if you can email that you are coming then I can provide updates.

### WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS MONTH

As temperatures drop Roe deer will become more evident, and you may see some early winter visitors like the Siskin, Brambling and Lesser Redpoll as well as increased numbers of Starling, Song Thrush and Redwing. Browsing the various sources of food there will be groups of Long Tailed Tits around with large mixed groups of other species.

Email: [millfieldnature@gmail.com](mailto:millfieldnature@gmail.com)

Facebook: **Mill Field Conservation Group**

## BASINGSTOKE RAILWAY SOCIETY



Our meeting on **Wednesday, 9th November**, will be **Members' Photo Night** – an opportunity for members of the Society to present a selection of their favourite railway photographs and say something about them. Great variety is guaranteed!

On **Wednesday, 23rd November**, we will be a little more adventurous when John Fissler will present the history, development and operations of **Switzerland's Rhatische Bahn (RhB)**.

This extensive metre gauge railway network in the mountainous Graubunden Canton includes two UNESCO-listed lines and the highest open-air crossing of The Alps and John's talk will include photos and videos of steam, heritage and modern traction in this spectacular region.

Our **meetings** are held at **7.45pm** at **The Wote Street Club** in New Road in Basingstoke town centre, RG21 7NG, which has a licenced bar.

We welcome new members to the Society and are always pleased to see **non-members** at our meetings at a cost of just **£5**.

Membership details are on our website at [www.bdrs70d.com](http://www.bdrs70d.com) or call the **Secretary** on **01256 331002**.

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## VILLAGE CAFÉ

This quote from *Winnie the Pooh* sums up the time of year for me, "It's the first day of autumn! A time of hot chocolatey mornings, and toasty marshmallow evenings, and, best of all, leaping into leaves".

I struggle to decide what my favourite season of the year is, I love them all but the smell of autumn in the air and crisp leaves falling from the trees, is pure bliss.

Thank you to all our lovely customers who came along to the café on **7th October** to help celebrate our **4th birthday**. We had a very special baby, Hugo, come along and he blew out the birthday candle on his Mum's cake perfectly. It was so nice to see regular and new faces and as always, the cakes were scrumptious and a sell out.

As you know, the Village Café has changed from opening **weekly**, to **once a month** for the **autumn** and **winter season**. We will be here in the **Parish Room** on the **first Friday of the month from 2 to 4pm**, with hot drinks and scrumptious bakes so do come along and say hello.

For our next café on **4th November**, we are hoping to provide a few Christmas bits and pieces for sale that are being donated by our great supporter, **Alison's Wonderland**, so a nice little addition for you browse.

This month I would like to introduce you to another member of the cafe, **Helen Armstrong** (*photo below*). Helen is a great friend and always willing to help with anything. As a nursing professional, Helen has been helping out with the local Covid vaccination program since it's inception and is vaccinating once again with the booster program, so you may well be greeted by this smiling face when you are next due a booster vaccine. I have asked Helen a few questions to help you get to know her.



**What got you involved with the cafe?** I love baking and wanted to be more involved in the village so I replied to an advertisement in the Basinga!

**Favourite pastime?** Working my springer spaniel! He is retired now from agility but we are now learning scent work. I also love baking and travelling in our campervan.

**Netflix or book?** Neither! Give me a magazine any day

**Favourite tippie?** Pimms and slimline tonic

**Favourite food?** Ice cream!

**Signature dish?** Lemon meringue pie, chicken curry with garlic naan bread

**If you could pick a song to sing along to right now, what would it be?** Any ABBA song.

If anyone out there would like to join this wonderful team, by baking or helping out when we are open, do get in touch via our Facebook page. We are always happy to welcome new members. Remember our next café will be on **Friday, 4th November**, and we very much look forward to welcoming you all.

**Deborah Thorne**

NOVEMBER

*No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,  
No comfortable feel in any member,  
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,  
No fruit, no flowers, no leaves, no birds,  
November*

*November*, a rather bleak and occasionally inaccurate picture of this month by British poet **Thomas Hood** (1799–1855). November can be an attractive month between a colourful autumn and winter frosts.

For most of us in the Church, November is a time of Remembrance. It starts with the great festival of **All Saints Day** when we celebrate the grace of God in the life of great servants of his people through the ages. They kept the flame of faith, the Light of Christ, shining in their generation. They were mostly ordinary men and women who did extraordinary things.

On **2nd November, All Souls Day**, we remember with gratitude and affection those we have loved but see no longer except through faith in the kingdom of God (*the All Souls Service in church will be on Saturday 5th, November, see opposite page*).

But chiefly, we come together on **Armistice Day 11.11.11** and on **Remembrance Sunday** to commemorate those who in two global 20th-century wars and other conflicts since have laid down their lives to protect and preserve our basic human right to live freely and in peace. Do join us for these important times of Remembrance.

War poet **Lawrence Binyon** wrote:

*In proud thanksgiving, a Mother for her children, England mourns her dead across the sea. Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit, fallen in the cause of the free.*

*Very Revd John Morley  
(Interim Priest,  
St Mary's Church)*

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

### REGULAR SERVICES

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	BCP Communion
	<b>9.30am</b>	Sung Eucharist with Junior Church
<b>Monday</b>	<b>8.45am</b>	Morning Prayer
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10am</b>	Holy Communion
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8.45am</b>	Morning Prayer
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8.45am</b>	Morning Prayer
	<b>10am</b>	Diddy Disciples (term-time only)



If you'd like to join the **9.30am Sunday service from home**, you can do so via **St Mary's Facebook page**, also up-to-date details of all services are available on the St Mary's website: **[www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](http://www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)**

### ALL SOULS SERVICE

**Saturday, 5th November, 3pm** – A time to come together to remember loved ones who have died. If you would like the name of your loved one to be read out at the service please contact **Debbie**, St Mary's administrator on **07541 698235**. As we did last year, we will be creating a **cross of stones** in the **churchyard** to remember our loved ones. You are invited to write the names of loved ones you wish to remember on stones and bring them to the churchyard from **Tuesday, 1st November**, and place them on the grass to form a large cross. We will offer prayers of thanksgiving for all those named on the stones and pray for comfort for those whom they have left behind.

### REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

**Sunday, 13th November (10am)** – With Act of Remembrance and The Two Minutes Silence at the War Memorial at 11am followed by Holy Communion in the Bolton Chapel.

### FLOWERS AT ST MARY'S

If you'd like to contribute to the cost of a flower arrangement in the church in memory of a loved one or to celebrate an anniversary please do get in touch with **Debbie** (contact details as above).

*No specific amount is required to sponsor an arrangement.*

### WEDDINGS AND BAPTISMS

All enquiries for weddings and baptisms should be directed to **Debbie**, St Mary's Administrator (contact details as above).

### PASTORAL SUPPORT

If you would like pastoral support contact **The Very Revd John Morley** on **07900 892566**.

### HALL FOR HIRE

The Parish Room at St Mary's Church (including kitchen), is available for hire. There is availability for both regular and one-off bookings. Enquiries to **Debbie** (contact details above).

### WEEKLY BULLETIN

Every week we send out a bulletin with information about what is happening at the church. If you'd like to be added to our distribution list please contact **Debbie** (contact details above). We are also able to hand deliver bulletins to those without internet access.

## ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Decorate a tree based on what the theme of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' means to you. Please contact **Jeanette Edwards** at [christmastreefestival.stmarys@gmail.com](mailto:christmastreefestival.stmarys@gmail.com) or **Debbie Filer** at [admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk) for a form or collect from inside St Mary's. **Trees** cost a **minimum** of **£7.50** to enter.

**Voting** for your favourite trees will end at **3pm** on **Sunday, 11th December**, with a small prize awarded to the winners.

This year we hope to make the event bigger than ever with activities over three days (**Friday 9th to Sunday 11th December**):

### FRIDAY 9TH (6.30PM, SINGALONG STARTS AT 7.00PM)

**Christmas Sing-a-Long:** Join us for a Christmas sing-a-long to some of your favourite festive songs. Send us your **requests**, before **Friday, 25th November**. Tickets available from Debbie, prices: **adults £5; children £2.50, family (up to 4 children) £12.50**. Don't forget your festive jumpers!

### SATURDAY 10TH AND SUNDAY 11TH (11AM TO 4PM)

Over both days there will be activities for all the family including a **Christmas Market**. Hot food and refreshments will be available, including mulled wine and mince pies.

At **2pm** on **Saturday**, the **choirs** from **St Mary's Junior** and **Old Basing Infant Schools** will be entertaining us and at **2pm** on **Sunday**, the popular **Old Basing Royal British Legion Corps of Drums** will be playing some festive tunes.

Please tell your family and friends and come along to start the festive celebrations!

**The St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival Team**

## OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH

### EVENTS/SERVICES

**Thursday, 3rd (2.30pm)**

study from Philippians

Final session of Bible

**Wednesday, 9th (noon–2.30pm)**

with us for lunch

MHA members meet

**Friday, 11th (10.30am–noon)**

Monthly Coffee Morning

**Tuesday, 22nd (2.30pm)**

(Rev. David Jenkins)

Midweek Communion Service

There will be a new set of **Bible study** sessions for **Advent** beginning on **Thursday 1st, December, at 2.30pm**, for **three consecutive weeks**.

Please remember to drop in your tablet blister packs to the Chapel whenever we are open or through the letterbox. A sealed bag outside may be safe too.





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## ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPICE (EVENTS)

### LIGHT UP A LIFE



As the festive period draws nearer, St. Michael's Hospice is asking people in North Hampshire to take part in their **Light up a Life** appeal and dedicate a light in memory of someone they love and pay tribute to them in a truly unique way.

Lorraine Pink, Director of Income Generation at St Michael's Hospice says, "Light up a Life is an opportunity to remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones who are no longer with us but are always in our thoughts. By dedicating a light and donating in memory, people will also be helping support St. Michael's work caring for local families."

In addition to making a dedication to someone special, the Hospice is also inviting people to join them at their **Light up a Life celebration** in the **Hospice grounds** on **Sunday, 4th December**, starting **6pm**.

The event will feature a host of festive activities including Christmas carols and music along with warming mulled wine and delicious mince pies. There will also be a moment of reflection where people remember loved ones and light a candle in their memory. The event is completely **free of charge to attend** and open to all, not just those who have been touched by the Hospice's care.

Chris Bagan, Patient and Family support lead at St. Michael's Hospice says "Bereavement and grief touch us all, and we often feel our loss more during the festive season. That's why, every year at St. Michael's we hold our Light up a Life celebration at the beginning of December. It's important to be able to come together as a community and share the joy of our memories and to support each other as we remember those who are no longer with us."

To find out about attending St. Michael's Light up a Life celebration or to dedicate a light in memory please visit **[www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk)** or call **01256 848848**.

### REINDEER RUN

Calling all reindeers to the North Pole! Rudolph and his friends are back on **Sunday, 18th December!** Put on your antlers and walk, dash, dance and prance along the three-kilometre **Reindeer Run** route, whilst raising vital funds for St. Michael's Hospice. The Reindeer Run takes place on **Sunday, 18th December**, at **9am**, in **Festival Place**, Basingstoke.

You may choose to take part to remember a loved one, spend time with friends and family, or simply to have some festive fun, whatever your reason, we would love to see you. Sign up now at **[www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk/event/reindeer-run-2/](http://www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk/event/reindeer-run-2/)** or call **01256 848848**.

**Lorraine Pink** (Director of Income Generation)

### COMPETITION TIME!

The Basinga is inviting you to the ball this Christmas, as it offers you the chance of winning a family ticket (2 adults, 2 children or 1 adult, 3 children) to this year's pantomime **Cinderella**, at **The Anvil** from **9th December** to **2nd January**, starring Debbie McGee as the delightful Fairy Godmother and Chris Pizzey as Buttons. To enter, answer the question: "What does the Fairy Godmother use to make a carriage to take Cinderella to the Ball?" Email your answer (mark the subject line – Basinga Cinderella – along with your name and a daytime telephone number) to **[competitions@anvilarts.org.uk](mailto:competitions@anvilarts.org.uk)** by **Thursday, 24th November**.

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- Visit the walled garden and learn about Basing House's fascinating history in the museum
- Walk your dog or find a picnic spot

## INFORMATION

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## OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB

### Competitive Finals Day at Old Basing Tennis Club

A great day of competitive and hard-fought tennis took place at **Old Basing Tennis Club** for its **Finals Day** in **September**.

The event, ably organised by Del Slater started with the singles matches and the **Men's Singles** title was retained by **Jamie Thomas** who beat **Marcus Robertson** comfortably with a 6-1, 6-2 win.

The **Ladies Singles** final saw a hard-fought match between **Penny Luke** and **Jane Reap** with **Penny** just edging ahead to win 6-3, 6-7, 6-4, retaining her title from last year.

**Jamie** and **Marcus** went on to partner each other in the **Men's Doubles** and **won**, winning 6-1, 6-2 against **Andy Riding** and **Joe Lane**. All four players put on an entertaining and spirited display of tennis.

The mother-and-son partnership of **Lynne** and **Jamie Thomas** had a good win in the **Mixed**

**Doubles** against **Penny Luke** and **Marcus Robertson**, coming back to win the second and third sets having lost the first 2-6, 7-5, 6-2.

In the **Ladies Doubles**, **Jane Hatter** and **Penny Luke** gained the title having won the first set 6-2 and were winning 4-2 in the second when **Sandie Benham** and **Jane Reap** sadly had to retire due to injury.

The **Men's Handicap Doubles**

final was extremely close and won by **Elton Koeburg** and **Joe Lane**, beating **Andy Riding** and **Mike Wright** 7-5, 6-4.

In the **Ladies Handicapped Doubles** final, **Lynne Thomas** and **Jenny Vaux** won 6-0, 6-4 against **Jen Boyd** and **Cas Lomas**.

Trophies, some dating back to 1931, were presented by **Club Chairman, Nigel Hatt**.

The **Betty Holmes Trophy**, awarded to the member making the greatest contribution to the club over the previous year was justly won by **Tim Winkle** following his hard work as Match Secretary and much other unseen work at the club. *See photo of all winners above.*

With its four newly surfaced courts, Old Basing Tennis Club is a friendly club always keen for new members. To find out more go to our website or Facebook page.





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There are various observances during the month of November, but how many readers know about the **25th November**? Well, it's **Saint Catherine's Day**. During

the medieval period, this day marked the beginning of Advent in England. One tradition was to bake "Cattern cakes" (the main ingredients of which are bread dough, egg, sugar, lard, cinnamon and caraway seeds). And you know the firework, the Catherine wheel? Apparently this firework is so-called because it represents the back-breaking spiked wheel by which Saint Catherine was sentenced to death for defending the Christian faith. The story goes that when she touched it, this apparatus of torture miraculously fell to pieces.

In France, Saint Catherine is patron of unmarried women and those unmarried women over the age of 25 were known as Catherinettes. Single women would make a decorative hat with green and yellow ribbons and flowers to signal their "availability" and attend special balls. Although these traditions have died out in most parts of France, some parties are still held in the north and east of France. While some 'Catherinettes' celebrate the day in hope of soon being married, others proudly embrace their single life.

In Estonia, Saint Catherine (or Kadripäev as it is known there) is still widely celebrated. It marks the arrival of winter and is a day dedicated to women. People dress in costumes and masks, and go door-to-door performing and singing and collecting gifts or sweets. In Estonia, Catherine, or Kadri (a popular name in Estonia), is also the protector of livestock and the holiday is meant to bring luck and safety to cattle and sheep during the winter.

On 25th November, we at LinguaTastic won't necessarily be celebrating Saint Catherine, but as it is a Friday, we will be running two after-school French clubs in the village. We offer an array of language-learning classes, incorporating various levels, languages, days/times of the week. If however, group sessions aren't your cup of tea (and cattern cake!) then please do enquire about private lessons. We'd love to hear from you!

## BASINGSTOKE GANG SHOW



The Gang are back with award-winning, best-selling variety show! **Basingstoke Gang Show** returns to **The Haymarket** for its 28th stunning variety show. With a production of classic to contemporary performances brought alive by over 65 people in this highly entertaining show, the audience can expect to be delighted by magnificent music and comedy. Basingstoke

Gang Show is recognised as the best-selling and longest-running 'family variety show' in our region and showcases an extremely talented cast. Awarded best compilation show by NODA National Operatic and Dramatic Association for our 2020 show. This amateur production showcases the very best of local talent in the Scout and Guide associations.

Book your tickets early. Dates are **Thursday 9th to Saturday 18th February (excluding Sunday 12th)**. **Matinée** performances are also on **Saturday 11th and 18th February**. **Ticket prices: adults £22 and children £15. Last night (Saturday 18th) all seats £24.** **Early Booking Discount** (book by **21st December**) to save **£2** off each ticket by quoting code **'BGS23'** for performances on **Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th February** only. **Group Booking Discount:** buy **ten or more tickets** and get **£1 off** each ticket if booked by **15th January**. One discount only, per booking. Take a look at the Basingstoke Gang Show website [www.basingstokegangshow.com](http://www.basingstokegangshow.com)

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## POEM TO MARK THE DEATH OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The **British Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage**, has penned a poem to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

**Floral Tribute**, which has been distributed by Armitage's publisher, Faber, describes the coming of a September evening and the appearance of a Lily-of-the-valley as a 'token of thanks' – one of the Queen's favourite flowers.

The beautiful white bloom, which featured in Her Majesty's coronation bouquet in 1953, is a permanent feature of the floral displays at Buckingham Palace. Elegant and hardy, it has dark green leaves, bell-shaped, fragrant flowers, and is famed for being relatively easy to grow (see '*October In Your Garden*' in the October edition of the *Basinga*).

In the poem, Simon employs the form of a double acrostic, using the first letter of each line to spell out Elizabeth. He uses the metaphor of a lily to represent both the poem and the Queen, writing: "This lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness/Holds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom."

Later he adds: "The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands, Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight" and pays homage to "a promise made and kept for life".

### FLORAL TRIBUTE

*Evening will come, however determined the late afternoon,  
Limes and oaks in their last green flush, pearled in September mist.  
I have conjured a lily to light these hours, a token of thanks,  
Zones and auras of soft glare framing the brilliant globes.  
A promise made and kept for life - that was your gift -  
Because of which, here is a gift in return, glovewort to some,  
Each shining bonnet guarded by stern lance-like leaves.  
The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands,  
Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight.  
Evening has come. Rain on the black lochs and dark Munros.  
Lily of the Valley, a namesake almost, a favourite flower  
Interlaced with your famous bouquets, the restrained  
Zeal and forceful grace of its lanterns, each inflorescence  
A silent bell disguising a singular voice. A blurred new day  
Breaks uncrowned on remote peaks and public parks, and  
Everything turns on these luminous petals and deep roots,  
This lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness  
Holds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom.*



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## OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF OLD BASING & DISTRICT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BR1890

# LIVE ON



The **Branch Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, 3rd November**, at **8pm**. in the **Jack Morris Hall**. ALL members of Old Basing RBL Club and Branch **SHOULD** attend! Committee nominations can now be submitted. If you wish to

join the committee please add your name to the nominations list on the board. We need to fill the post of Treasurer and any volunteer will have training and help to fulfil the role and the support of committee. Please come to the AGM, it would be nice to see you and we need your support. Both Branch and Club committees always welcome help to ensure all RBL activities can continue and with a membership exceeding 400 this must be achievable.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

This year **Armistice Day** falls on **Sunday, 13th November**, and the **Remembrance service** will take place at **St Mary's Church** at **10am**. We hope many community groups, parishioners and their families will attend and ANYONE who would like to take part in the **march** down to the **church** at **9.30am** would be most welcome!. We hope that you will return to the **RBL Hall** for **refreshments** after the **parade returns** there at approx **11.30am**. **NOTE:** We still expect disruption because of the gas main works in Crown Lane so please do find alternative parking to the RBL Car park if you are able.

**Rick Bourne** (on behalf of Old Basing RBL)

## OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

**General Meeting: Thursday, 24th November, 7.30pm (Jack Morris Hall)**, also Christmas Party. Bring a plate of nibbles. Competition a decoration made using Holly. All welcome

Come and visit our **Christmas Fayre** on **Saturday, 26th November**. Lots of goodies including the odd Christmas present purchase and a chance for the children to meet Father Christmas. There are still a few **stalls** available at **£15 per table**, if interested call **Sue Chewter** on **07986 574303** or email her **susan.chewter1@ntlworld.com**

**Sue Wilson** (Publicity)

## OLD BASING & LYCHPIT GOOD NEIGHBOURS

This is a last ditch effort to keep this service going as we are in desperate need of more drivers. On average you are called on two to three times a month to carry out runs to the hospital, doctor's surgeries, dentists, clinics etc, for the elderly and more vulnerable members of our community and whilst as a volunteer you give your time, you are able to claim your mileage (45p per mile, as per government legislation and 5p per mile per passenger ie 50p per mile). We set this scheme up in 2016 and I am proud to say it has been a huge success and of benefit to our community, most of our clients coming from Old Basing and Lychpit. Please think about it, you simply complete an application form and you are able to apply for your DBS certificate online. Don't let this service cease through a lack of community spirit. I'm happy to provide information on **01256 328196** to anyone interested.

**Sue Wilson** (Chairman)

## NOVEMBER IN YOUR GARDEN

Winter may be on the doorstep but there is still delight to be taken from the colours and depth in your garden and outdoor spaces. Trees are amazing things and as they sense a shift in daylight levels, they begin making changes to become more tolerant of cold temperatures. After the ravishes of the summer drought, what leaves are left, should be falling rapidly as the wind and rain increase but relish in the colours that they have and the thought of bursting back to life in spring. It may be a nuisance that you have to rake your lawns but leaf fall not only protects the trees from the effects of wind but also provides an excellent leaf mould, it's formed from decaying leaves and produces an invaluable soil conditioner.

As the weather gets colder, pots need feet to keep them out of standing water and to stop the compost freezing in the bottom of the pot. Fleece (or bubble wrap if they are in a less windy area) your tender plants or move them under cover to avoid them becoming sodden but please do look after them with a bit of water when needed. Overwatering is the most common cause of loss of container plants; watering should aim to keep the compost moist, never soggy and avoid alternating dryness and saturation.

Roses in November are usually dormant. There is nothing to do now but reduce the size to help them survive root rock. Winter is regarded as the best season to prune most types of roses but rambling roses should already have been pruned after last flowering. Do not worry about them being exposed to extreme frosty conditions or snow as they are in hibernation and will be unaffected by the weather. If you have outdoor planters standing empty during the winter months, try some evergreen shrubs such as potted topiary using box, or fill them with winter bedding plants such as ornamental cabbages and winter flowering pansies. Lawns will still need care and attention. Rake when necessary, avoid scarifying and foot traffic but don't be afraid to use the lawn mower on milder days.

Berries on bushes and trees will be a feast for birds; blackbirds and thrushes will become more noticeable searching your lawn for worms. Food and water may start to become in short supply for birds but they will repay you with keeping pests down. Leave food out for birds every day, including supplementary food such as suet and sunflower hearts and fallen fruit. It's also a good idea to leave seeds on herbaceous plants and shrubs, and don't forget to keep your bird bath topped up and fight off the squirrels!

November can be thought of as the start of the gardening year where traditionally trees and shrubs are planted ready for next year's growth. Treat yourself to something new for your garden.

## OLD BASING GARDEN & ALLOTMENT SOCIETY (OBAGS)

The **Trading Hut at Riley Lane** (opposite the Bolton Arms) will be opening on the following **Sundays: 6th November and 4th December (both days 11am to noon)**. The trading hut will not open again until **8th January** when the **2023 Membership fee** will be due. Anyone is welcome to purchase items from the shop. The Trading Hut sells compost and other garden sundries and saves on petrol by providing a local service for people of Old Basing and Lychpit!

OBAGS is looking for more volunteers to man the shop during 2023, so if you think you could help, please let a member of the committee know. Please visit the OBAGS website **[www.obags.uk](http://www.obags.uk)** for more information on the Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society.



## NATURE NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

I've been amazed at how things have recovered from the heatwave. Trees, plants and lawns all looked stressed beyond a point of return, yet four to five weeks on, everything looks like spring growth. The mower has been out more times in September than in the whole of the summer and at long last, I've been able to cut some dahlias and roses for the house.

Some local Cavalier Road residents have helped me put to good use the glut of eating and cooking apples that have overloaded my two trees, and my good lady has been cooking crumbles, cakes and all things including apple. Mind you, many pounds of windfalls were processed in late August to produce four gallons of cider which has just been bottled here too and hopefully around Christmas, I can still be enjoying a blend of Worcester eater and Brambly cooker fermented apple juice!

Sadly, the virus that certain finches have suffered from over the past decade is still around with two residents reporting dead Greenfinches and one Chaffinch. Truth to tell the latter bird looked to be a juvenile but the lady that let me know about its demise said it looked lethargic beforehand which is a tell-tale sign of Trichomonosis. So, if you are a regular bird feeder do please ensure your vessels are kept as clean as possible and that water dishes are changed regularly.



A shortened column this month as a holiday has meant a very early submission to the editor this month but regardless, there are a couple of lovely images included, again from my saviour, **Jim Andrews**. Our intrepid photographer found a **Redstart** (see cover photo) and a **Spotted Flycatcher** (see left) around the Millfield, both smashing birds and not that common around here, plus a **Clouded Yellow butterfly** (see right), a species that is one of the last on the wing during the summer.



**PLEASE NOTE:** I have done away with my landline so for all Nature Notes or bird food requirements please use mobile **07900 648675** or email as below.

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

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

**Rick Bourne**

## DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER

**For details of services and events at St Mary's Church please see page 24**

### NOVEMBER

Tue 1	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting (Pavilion, Recreation Ground)
Thu 3	8.00pm	Old Basing RBL Branch Annual Gen Meeting (J M Hall)
Fri 4	10.30am	Ladies First Friday Coffee Morning (8 Norton Ride)
	2.00pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Sun 6	11.00am	OBAGS Trading Hut (Riley Lane)
	7.00pm	Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra (The Anvil)
Wed 9	7.45pm	Basingstoke Railway Society talk (Wote Street Club, Bas')
Sat 12	7.30pm.	Quiz Night (Old Basing Village Hall)
Sun 13	9.30am	Armistice Day RBL march (from RBL Hall to church)
Thu 17	12.25pm	Ploughman's Lunch (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Sat 19	10.00am	Millfield work party (meet lower path)
Wed 23	7.45pm	Basingstoke Railway Society talk (Wote Street Club, Bas')
Thu 24	7.30pm	Old Basing RBL Women's Section Gen Meeting (J M Hall)
Sat 26	2.00pm	Old Basing RBL Women's Section Christmas Fayre (J M)
Sun 27	7.30pm	Basing Singers & Basingstoke Male Voice Choir (OBVH)
	11.00am	Christmas Fayre (Great Barn, Basing House)
Sun 27	11.00am	Christmas Fayre (Great Barn, Basing House)

### DECEMBER

Fri 2	10.30am	Ladies First Friday Coffee Morning (7 Oliver's Walk)
Tue 6	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting (Pavilion, Recreation Ground)
Fri 9	6.30pm	Christmas Tree Festival (St Mary's Church) Starts 7.00pm
Sat 10	11.00am	Christmas Tree Festival (St Mary's Church)
Sun 11	11.00am	Christmas Tree Festival (St Mary's Church)
Fri 30	noon	Big Turkey Christmas Dinner (Old Basing Village Hall)
Sat 31	8.00pm	New Year Celebrations (Old Basing Village Hall)

## BASINGA EXTRA

This month we were unable to include every article that we received, or submitted long after the deadline. Content listed below is available on our website: **[www.basinga.org.uk](http://www.basinga.org.uk)**

*Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship; Basingstoke Deane Rotary; Check If You Can Pay Less Council Tax; Hampshire & Isle Of Wight Wildlife Trust; Probus Learns About RAF Mountain Rescue Training In 1980; U3A Members Knit for Ukraine*



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<b>Old Basing Area:</b> Peter Watson, 19 Priory Gardens, Old Basing, RG24 7DS	01256 352299
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<b>WEBMASTER:</b> Alan Morris, 29 Lingfield Close, Old Basing, RG24 7ED	01256 329417

## ● OLD BASING & LYCHPIT PARISH COUNCIL

<b>CLERK:</b> Sandra Tuck	01256 462847
<b>OFFICE AND HOURS:</b> The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground Monday to Thursday 10am to noon	

## ● CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA

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

<b>VICAR:</b> Please direct all enquiries to Debbie Filer, St Mary's Administrator Email: <a href="mailto:admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk">admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk</a>	07541 698235
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### Regular Services at St Mary's Church, Old Basing

**SUNDAY:** 8am Holy Communion; 9.30am Sung Eucharist and Junior Church

**OTHER DAYS:** Wednesday, 10am – Holy Communion; Monday, Thursday and Friday, 9.15am – Morning Prayer

*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

<b>MINISTER:</b> Rev'd David Jenkins	0118 3271592
	07973 195566

**SUNDAY SERVICE:** Morning Service 10.30am

### Roman Catholic

<b>PRIEST:</b> Fr Dominic Adeiza	01256 465214
St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke	
<b>SUNDAY MASSES:</b> 9am, 11am and 6pm	

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### Monday's

14.00 - 15.00  
Lychpit  
Community Hall

### Relax Yoga

*This class is for all levels of ability and uses postures to help you relax and deepen your yoga practice.*

### Tuesday's

19.15 - 20.15  
St Mary's  
Church Hall,  
Old Basing

### Sunday Morning Yoga

*This class is for all levels of ability and focuses on strength and flexibility.*

### Sunday's

09.15 - 10.15  
Lychpit  
Community Hall

### Sunday Night Satsang

*This is deep relaxation yoga. You will be led through a series of gentle yoga postures followed by an extended guided meditation.*

### 1st Sunday

of the month  
18.30 - 19.30  
Lychpit  
Community Hall



Contact Vicky on 01256 910108 or  
email [vicky@infiniteharmony.co.uk](mailto:vicky@infiniteharmony.co.uk)  
Don't forget to book your space.



For more information visit [www.infiniteharmony.co.uk](http://www.infiniteharmony.co.uk)



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