

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the October edition of Hill & Valley.

It is great news that we have been able to return and we welcome Pearl and Ollie Pritchard to the Hill and Valley Team. Pearl will continue to be supported by Roo in these early days as she takes over as editor of the St. Mary Bourne pages and Michael will be gradually handing over all matters advertising to Ollie. Thank you again Roo and Michael for your dedication to the successful running of the magazine. We are all so grateful.

During the Hill and Valley absence, many people have spoken about how they have missed it and how much they have looked forward to its return. The return of someone or something we enjoy, respect or value is important and this set me thinking about this idea of 'return'

Whilst we enjoy our holidays, if you're like me you are glad to return home. I am sure parents are pleased to return to usual routines when children return to school, college or university. We even say many happy 'returns' on someone's birthday. Perhaps for some a tax return is the icing on the cake!

The Bible too talks of many happy returns:

The prodigal son returning to his loving Father,
Those who find Jesus has risen, returning to tell the good news to the other disciples,
The story of those who give generously having a tenfold return.

I am sure there are many positive examples of the idea of 'return' in our everyday lives too and I hope whatever they are for you, you have them in abundance.

As we begin to see the shorter days and the colours of autumn return to us once more, whether you have a birthday this month or not, I wish you all many happy returns and thank the Lord for the return of the Hill & Valley.

Every blessing for an enjoyable October

Craig

Vicar's Diary Dates

1st October - Harvest Evensong - 3.30pm - Winchester Cathedral (Craig preaching)

6th October - Friday Reflections - 7.00pm - The School House (Hurstbourne Priors)

17th October - **Craig licenced as Area Dean - 7.30pm - St. Peter's, St. Mary Bourne**

21st October - Benefice Quiet Day - Alton Abbey

31st October - Bible Study - 11.00am - The Vicarage (St. Mary Bourne)