

Campton & Chicksands Community Newsletter

Issue 98

December 2003/January 2004



Will All Saints' be covered in snow for the Service
of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve?
A Joyful Christmas and Peaceful New Year to You All

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

The first weekend in November was very busy with Gift Day on the 1st. We welcomed friends who popped in with their Birthday Presents for the Church, which was over 750 years old this year. Children came and researched their birthday Saints and made a banner, others came for coffee and a chat and to admire the changes made to the



Church this year. On behalf of All Saints', thank you for the gifts, On Friday November 7th we enjoyed an informal "Ask the Rector" evening when we were able to put to Rev. Margaret Venables some of the nagging questions that remained unanswered. As well as being informative, it had its very amusing moments as Margaret revealed some hilarious accounts of some "local" customs that had been passed down from acolyte or server by word of mouth or imitation and on no theological basis whatsoever!

The service on Remembrance Sunday was one to be "remembered". The Church was full with local families and friends and this year we were joined by thirty servicemen and women from the Combined Forces at Chicksands. Wreaths were laid at the memorials to those who lost their lives in the Two World Wars by Lt. Colonel G. J. Fairclough from the base and Mr D. Tollman on behalf of Campton and Chicksands Parish Council.

From the Registers: On Saturday, November 15th, the Ashes of Anthony Fairweather were interred in the Churchyard.

Chairs: We are at last looking forward to the dedication of the chairs which you so generously sponsored. This will be done at the Communion Service on Sunday December 7th and we would be grateful if you could spread the word to those who have dedicated these chairs in memory of loved ones



Carol Singing: On Wednesday December 17th we will be Carol Singing around the village. Unless there is a huge increase in the number of singers, collectors and supporters we will only be able to spend one evening singing and we promised last year to start with Priory and Rectory Roads which were left out last year. All the money collected will be sent to Keech Cottage, the Hospice for children and St. John's, Moggerhanger. We would love more people to join us. We meet at Church Corner at 6.00pm with torches and warm clothes!

Judith Tollman.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

I am sure that as you read this you will be knee deep in preparations for Christmas. Whether it is still the question of what to buy for all the family members and friends, or working out how big the turkey needs to be or worrying about how everyone will get on together, all that surrounds Christmas occupies us all to a greater or lesser degree. It has been identified as the most stressful time of the whole year! Not quite what God had in mind when he came to earth in the babyhood of Jesus! And also, sadly, not what the vast majority of people in the world have in mind either. How wonderful it would be if everyone was in a position to celebrate fully the birth of our Saviour.

Because we are aware that we do not live in a fair and just world where everyone is free to celebrate, in Campton Church on each Wednesday morning a group of people gather to pray and bring before God the differing needs of people in a Service for Peace and Justice. It began when we were praying for our troops in Iraq, but it has continued in bringing other concerns. I am writing this on a Wednesday afternoon so I am very aware of the wide ranging concerns people brought today: from concerns about children who are the victims of violence, to the setting up of no-go areas in London, to rape victims in Bosnia, to our young members of the Armed Forces who are expected to act in situations to keep the peace. We also light an Amnesty International candle to remind ourselves of the many people in the world who are wrongfully imprisoned. Prayer is something we can all do and I hope more from the Benefice churches will feel able to join us on Wednesday mornings at 9.00am, it is important work that is happening here and half an hour is so little time to draw aside and think about these people.

Prayer, however, is action too and we are looking hard at the opportunities provided by Amnesty to write letters to governments on behalf of individuals who are wrongfully imprisoned. To write is such a small thing to do and it has been proved to be effective so often. There must be more of you who are reading this who could help with this letter writing. Amongst the tinsel and the food and the drink and the real joy of all that you give this Christmas, this one extra gift could be the most precious of them all. After all each imprisoned person is the loved one who will be missing from around the family table at this time - how wonderful if your letter was a part of restoring them to their homes and families. If you want to write please be in touch with me or come along to Campton church - which is always open during daylight hours and you will find the information you need. In the meantime I hope all your preparations for a really wonderful Christmas go well and that you have a truly blessed Christmas and New Year.

Marynet

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS'

Just to remind everyone that the annual **Burns Night Supper** will take place on Saturday, January 24th in the Village Hall. Tickets and more information will be available nearer the time from Jim Milne, 812653 or any Friend.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SERVICES 7th December, 2003 – 1st February, 2004

Sun 7 th Dec	2 nd Sun of Advent	Parish Communion Dedication of Chairs	11.15am	Margaret Venables
Sun 14 th Dec	3 rd Sun of Advent	Parish Communion	11.15am	Margaret Venables
Sun 21 st Dec	4 th Sun of Advent	Morning Prayer	11.15am	Audrey Brand
Wed 24 th Dec	Christmas Eve	Family Carol Service	6.00pm	Margaret Venables
Thurs 25 th Dec	Christmas Day	Family Communion	10.30am	Margaret Venables
Sun 28 th Dec	1 st Sun of Christmas	Benefice Communion CLOPHILL	10.00am	Margaret Venables
Wed 31 st Dec	New Years Eve	Service followed by Bells for New Year	11.45pm	
Sun 4 th Jan	Epiphany	Parish Communion	11.15am	Margaret Venables
Sun 11 th Jan	Baptism of Christ	Parish Communion	11.15am	Margaret Venables
Sun 18 th Jan	2 nd Sun of Epiphany	Morning Prayer	11.15am	Audrey Brand
Sun 25 th Jan	Conversion of St. Paul	Holy Communion Family Service	8.00am 11.15am	Margaret Venables Audrey Brand
Sun 1 st Feb	Candlemas	Parish Communion	11.15am	Margaret Venables

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank all the Boxholders for the fantastic sum raised this year - £294.71. That is creeping towards a record. If anyone in the Parish of Campton and Chicksands would like to have a box, I have a supply of them. It is a worthwhile Society, there are so many children in need and not only for food and shelter. Love cannot be bought but counsellors can help parents.

I can also make use of your old foil which goes to Guide Dogs for the Blind.
Thank you. Sue Hayhurst

GENTLE REMINDER

With the dark evenings and mornings now upon us could householders please cut back overhanging shrub and trees which obstruct the footpaths. Our pavements are not in the best of conditions and it is increasingly difficult for many residents to watch both feet and heads! Also, could you please not obstruct the footpaths with motor vehicles.

Thank you.

Parish Council

CAMPTON LOWER SCHOOL

Classroom Assistant

Required for January 2004 - to work 23 hours per week across the Lower School age range. We have a happy, friendly and highly dedicated staff working with delightful children in a charming setting. You are assured of a very warm welcome if you join us. This is a fixed term contract to 31st August, 2004.



For further information please contact:

Campton Lower School
Rectory Road
Campton, Beds SG17 5PF
Tel. No. 01462 813359

Closing Date: Monday 1st December
Interviews: Monday 8th December

Kitchen Assistants

Scolarest, our school meals provider, has two vacancies at our school for Kitchen Assistants. Monday to Friday, 10 hours per week (approximately 11.30 to 1.30). If you are interested please contact the School Office for more information.

Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre will be on Friday, 5th December at 6.00pm. We look forward to seeing you then if you are able to join us.



At our November meeting we welcomed twenty-three members and one visitor to hear a talk on Osteopathy given by Karen Robinson and Julia Philpot from Shefford Osteopathic Clinic. They explained the benefits of having free joints and how this could keep many people from pain. Karen then worked on Julia's neck, enabling her to move it much more freely. She described what she was doing as she went along and explained that a range of treatments was available to treat different problems.

Our programme for next year has been prepared, thanks to Sue Hayhurst.

At our meeting on December 10th at 7.30 in the Village Hall, we'll be sharing a Pot Luck Supper and wine. We have invited our new neighbours now living in the Annington Homes to meet us on that evening. We'll be having a go at some Christmas Craftwork and perhaps a quiz. Our theme will be red, green and gold so please dress in those colours if you wish.

The first meeting of the New Year will be on Wednesday January 14th when Kirsten Hubmann will relate her experiences at The Ark, a refuge centre for destitute Africans, in Capetown.

All guests will be most welcome.

Deborah Maggs

CAMPTON BELLS APPEAL



In many rural parishes across the UK bellringing is an important part of church activity and village life. Bells are rung regularly, as at All Saints, Campton, for church services and practice night, and also for weddings, anniversaries and national events.

The cover of last year's Christmas Newsletter featured a photograph of a group of young people from Campton who were learning to ring.

Developing the theme of looking to the future, I commented that the bell installation was not in good condition and that a major restoration would soon be necessary for the art of bellringing to continue to thrive in the village.

Well, during 2003 plans for the bells were finalised, presented and thoroughly debated and in October the PCC agreed for the project to go ahead. The Campton Bells Appeal is being launched in January 2004.

So, what is the Bells Appeal all about and how much money do we need to raise?

We want to install a brand new peal of bells, specially cast to our own specification, using state of the art methods of tuning. Effectively, this will provide us with the best there is. As well as new bells, we will also be having a new custom-designed metal bellframe to house them in the tower.

Currently we have a peal of 5 bells of poor tonal quality which are also difficult to ring. Initially, we will be installing a new ring of 6 bells. The new bellframe will house 8 bells, which gives us the option to add two extra bells to complete the full octave. This can be done later or, if our fundraising goes particularly well, as part of the initial scheme.

The cost of all this is around £60,000 and I can already hear people wincing! Consider, the total weight of the bell metal is 1.5 tons, all the bells are individually cast and tuned, the bell wheels are handmade and the bellframe is specially made to our specification. We are buying masses of specialist expertise. All in all, this represents tremendous value for money.

How will we raise the money?

Well, firstly we have already received a grant of 10% of the cost from the Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers. This is a generous grant and we are grateful for the Association's support of the scheme. We look forward to ringers from elsewhere in the Mid Beds area coming both to help us and benefit from the new peal once the new bells are installed.

We envisage a mix of fundraising activity which we will try to announce in good time well before the event. As you might imagine, there is no shortage of fundraising ideas from our young ringers - the difficult bit will be selecting the ones to focus on! They already talk, realistically, of raising enough money for a 'Youth' or 'YoungRingers' bell. Just an idea at the moment is a very special musical event. Watch this space!

Bell initiatives can be infectious. Bells are frequently donated by individuals or by groups of people. They can be given, perhaps in memory of family members, and can be inscribed with the donor's personal details. The total cost of our new bells, will be between £2400 (smallest bell) and £4600 (largest bell). Bell fittings (wheels, clappers etc) are extra.

Gift Aid

The Gift Aid scheme means this type of giving is beneficial, from a tax perspective, both for the donor and the bell scheme. Typically, for a basic rate taxpayer, every pound given under the scheme is topped up with 28p reclaimed from the Inland Revenue. If you or your group are interested in discussing further the idea of donating one of the new bells please contact Bruce Porteous (Treasurer of Campton PCC) on 629193 or John Loveless on 819074

What's already planned?

- On New Years Eve there will be a service in All Saints' Church at 11.45pm when the bells will ring in the New Year and mark the start of the Bells Appeal.
- The first sponsored event, a 1 hour non stop ring, will be on New Year's Day, starting at 3.00pm, Campton ringers, including our young recruits, will be taking part. Please support us. Come along and have a look!
- On Friday January 9th, at 7.30pm the ringers will give a short presentation in the Church to explain the project in more detail. If you're curious this is a good opportunity to find out more about the project. This will be followed by some refreshments and your chance to have a go at ringing!

What can you do?

- Come along to the meeting in the Church on January 9th at 7.30pm.
- Please support our fundraising events, details of which will be in this newsletter.
- Do contact us if you would like to discuss how you, or a group of people, could give or contribute towards the cost of a bell.

The launch of the Campton Bells Appeal represents the start of an exciting project. We hope for your support and look forward to updating you on our progress. John Loveless



CAMPTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

100 CLUB DRAW		
Win	DRAW 10 18 TH NOVEMBER 2003	No.
£50	M. Turner	134
£30	Mrs J. Jenkins	33
£10	M. Davies	70

A reminder that the last draw of the current season takes place in January. Committee Members will be visiting all houses in the Parish early next year to ask you to continue your membership or to persuade you to join. We hope that many of the new residents of Annington Homes will join the Club. With more members we will be able to have bigger prizes! The 100 Club is the big fundraiser for the upkeep of the Village Hall, so please help by joining for the 2004 season – remember you can invest in more than one number.

The Village Hall can be booked for private parties at very reasonable rates; please contact the Bookings Secretary Maryika Wilding on 851729. Graham Williams

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### Have you visited the Parish Website?

[www.camptonandchicksands.org.uk](http://www.camptonandchicksands.org.uk)



Autumn has arrived in the 'Image Gallery' this month. I have also added a printable leaflet of useful information and contact numbers. Go to 'Information' > 'Local Information'.

A message has been left in the 'Guest Book' from a gentleman who unsuccessfully bid for some old postcards of the area (including one of the Manor) on e-bay. Do you know who the successful bidder was as he would like to contact them in the hope of obtaining a photographic record of the postcards for the Library.

All comments, material suggestions always welcome.

Pat Williams, 6 Greenway, Tel: 814086, e-mail: [prwilliams@bigfoot.com](mailto:prwilliams@bigfoot.com)

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## CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS CARNIVAL

Following the success of the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2002, the Golden Jubilee Committee is planning to hold a Carnival on Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup> on the Recreation Ground. We hope to have many events and games for both adults and children as well as a selection of refreshments. Also planned is another bike trial at Camptonbury Farm thanks to Sue and Simon Lamb, and Bruce Porteous is organising a Treasure Hunt at All Saints' Church.

As always, volunteers are needed to help with the organisation and running of the Carnival to make it an enjoyable day for all concerned. If you would like to be involved please contact David Tollman on 851303.

A Halloween Dance is planned for Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup>.

## CARPET BOWLS

Carpet Bowls came to Campton on Thursday evening, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There were first evening nerves for those who had never played before but everyone soon got into the swing of things. Refreshments halfway through gave everyone the chance to socialise whilst enjoying cups of tea, coffee and biscuits.



Carpet Bowls is a very interesting game with fun, laughter and, of course, competition. Everyone enjoyed the evening which, we hope, will be the first of many. Maybe Campton will be able to enter a team for the local leagues soon.

Our thanks to Campton Village Hall Management Committee and the provider of the Grants who made the project possible.

The evening was a great success. If you would like to join in come along on Thursday at 7.30pm. Where else can you find a great evening's entertainment for a pound?

(There will, of course, be no meeting on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.)

Ken and Moreen Stevens

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## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

|                          |                             |                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Christmas Eve            | CLOSED                      | 7.00pm - 1.00am   |
| Christmas Day            | 12 noon – 3.00pm sharp only | CLOSED            |
| Boxing Day               | 12 noon – 3.00pm            | 7.00pm - Midnight |
| Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec | 12 noon until               | Midnight          |
| Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec | 12 noon – 3.00pm only       | CLOSED            |
| New Year's Eve           | CLOSED                      | 7.00pm – 1.00am   |
| New Year's Day           | CLOSED                      | 7.00pm – Midnight |

We wish all our customers, past, present and future,  
a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## WHITE HART GOLF SOCIETY

### SEPTEMBER

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September the Society met at Letchworth Golf Club. The Letchworth is a member's course and seems to consider itself as rather an elite set up. The sun shone once again throughout the day making the already dry conditions even more testing.

A good turnout on the day promised a good day's entertainment and we were not disappointed. The course has been redesigned since last season, adding extra yardage on several holes. This created an element of confusion to some players due to the lack of signage. Players needed the navigation skills of the 'ancient mariner' to find their way around. Congratulations to Bill Roberts who had a really good day, it must have been due to the fencing along Greenway that he'd been doing during the week prior to the match — straight and true just like the golf!

Following the game an excellent meal was enjoyed at the clubhouse, a slight damper on the day was caused by the extremely rude bar steward; he appears to disapprove of Society golfers and shows it by his manner. Presentations were made as follows:

|                                       |                  |                           |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st                                   | Paul Welling     | 37 points                 |
| 2nd                                   | Bill Roberts     | 36 points                 |
| 3rd                                   | Darren Ambridge  | 36 points (on count back) |
| Nearest the pin 2 <sup>nd</sup> hole  | Charlie Primmett |                           |
| Nearest the pin 14 <sup>th</sup> hole | Pete Rogers      |                           |
| Longest Drive                         | Darren Ambridge  |                           |

### OCTOBER

The October match was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> at Chesterfield Downs near Letchworth. This course is very similar to a links course and was in a first class condition.

The facilities at Chesterfield are second to none including a large covered driving range, a well-stocked pro shop and excellent dining facilities.

The weather was fine once again (what a season!!). The greens were like lightning and the conditions really tested the large field. An undulating course with many bunkers, most people spent some time in the sand, it was like being at the seaside! A unique feature of the course is the phone on the eighth hole enabling golfers to order refreshments that are then ready for collection when they reach the ninth hole.

Once again an excellent meal was provided and the presentations were as follows:

|                                       |                                       |                           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st                                   | Robert Smith                          | 36 points                 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>                       | Howard Read                           | 36 points (on count back) |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>                       | Paul Bardell                          | 35 points                 |
| Nearest the pin 3 <sup>rd</sup> hole  | Howard Read                           |                           |
| Nearest the pin 12 <sup>th</sup> hole | Robert Smith (recognise the names?)   |                           |
| Longest Drive                         | Anita Isaacson (Vive la difference!!) |                           |

That's all from the White Hart Golf Society until next year so happy golfing and don't forget you'll always be made welcome if you want to join us next year so pick up the phone!

Ron Harris           01462 814003 (Evening)  
Dave Tingcy        01462 647069

*or e-mail ditollman@btinternet.com*

## **CITIZENS ADVICE ON YOUR DOORSTEP**

The Citizens Advice Bureau was founded in 1939 as an emergency service during the Second World War. From humble beginnings it has developed into a national, professional agency. 5 million people seek advice every year and the organisation is a registered charity. There are 2,000 Bureaux and all are members of Citizens Advice. Over 26,000 people work for the service and 82% are volunteers. Each bureau relies on local authority funding and grants from charitable trusts, Citizens Advice and individual donations. In Mid Bedfordshire we have 2 Bureaux based at BIGGLESWADE and AMPTHILL. They are staffed by 25 volunteers, 9 paid employees and a management committee made up of interested individuals from all walks of life.

The CAB prides itself on offering free, impartial, independent and confidential advice. In Mid Beds we aim to enable people to solve their problems and try to offer options that will help them choose the best solution for them. We aim to advise on issues central to people's lives, which include debt, consumer issues, benefits, housing, legal matters, employment and immigration. We are able to offer advocacy, negotiation and representation with creditors, courts and appeal tribunals. Many bureaux have specialist workers and we are in a position at Mid Beds to offer a specialist Money Advice service and an Outreach home visiting service. Both specialist projects are funded in partnership with the Healthy Living Initiative and Social Services and the Primary Care Trust, respectively.

However, we rely heavily on our volunteers who are fully trained within the service. We have helped over 9,000 people this year and it is vital that we continue to be able to provide the high standard of advice giving that we have built up our reputation on. The CAB are specialists in every field. **Know your rights, be informed, become included and make a difference to your community.** You could become a member of this well established and respected agency. Volunteers are needed from all sections of the community, regardless of age, gender, race or educational background. The most important qualities are to be a good listener, be open minded and be able to work with others in a team to achieve results. It is important to be able to demonstrate the support of equal opportunities and to be able to commit to a certain number of hours regularly each week. Clients are offered advice by telephone and by personally at the bureaux.

Come and join us and make a difference. If you would like to find out more about volunteering at either Ampthill or Biggleswade, call our District Manager, Alisdair Christie on 01525 404511 between 10.30 am and 2.00 pm, Monday to Thursday.

The Bureaux are open from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm Monday to Thursday and we are based at:-

Century House  
Market Square  
Biggleswade  
01767 314961

Community House  
10 Bedford Street  
Ampthill  
01525 404511



### **It's our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday!**

Founded in 1953, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity is “working to encourage thriving, diverse and sustainable rural communities in Bedfordshire”.

We care about the people who live and work in the rural parts of the county and our staff tackle issues that are of greatest concern to people at the grassroots. Our areas of work include:

- Supporting the groups and organisations that make things happen, such as parish councils and village hall committees
- Working with young people in a range of volunteering opportunities
- Improving transport for people in rural areas
- Providing training and support
- Working in partnership with local authorities and housing associations to enable the provision of affordable housing in villages
- Promoting rural services
- Caring for people through village care schemes and the Carers Short Breaks Bureau
- Representing rural interests
- Celebrating rural life by supporting entrants in the Village of the Year competition

To launch our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations and to thank all our supporters and the communities we work with, we organised a bus tour throughout Mid Bedfordshire. A full coach of 50 people boarded at Shuttleworth College early on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

The bus visited villages where local people are running successful community initiatives that Beds RCC has helped in various ways with advice and training.

The 50 year Tour visited:

- Cardington: Community Shop, Home Farm Business Conversion and village care schemes
- Sutton: All Saint's Church medieval wall restoration
- Dunton: Community Garden
- Old Warden: Jubilee Play Centre
- Gravenhurst: Cow Bridge Action Group, e-rural (the IT training bus)
- Millbrook: the new village hall, Red Cross Rider community transport, the Beehive Spring conservation project

The day was a huge success, despite the rain. One of the typical comments made was:

*“The event made me realise the scope and breadth of what the charity does and how so many organisations benefit from the work you do.”*

Celebrations will continue throughout the coming year. More events are planned, so look out for an event near you!

If you would like further information on the work of Beds RCC, please contact Sue Keen, Information Officer on (01234) 838771 ext 105 or email [suek@bedsrcc.org.uk](mailto:suek@bedsrcc.org.uk)