

Campton & Chicksands Community Newsletter

Issue 99

February 2004



Ken Stevens and Jo Jenkins receiving grants from
County Councillor Robin Younger on behalf of the
Village Hall Carpet Bowls and Pre-School respectively.

Produced & Published by:-
Campton & Chicksands
Parish Council

Printed by
MEDIA RESOURCES CENTRE
CHICKSANDS

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

A huge thank you to all who made Christmas at All Saints' such a joyous festival. The Church looked and sounded beautiful, after the bareness of Advent, the colours of the flowers, the sparkle of the Jesse Tree and the richness of the music made the season of Christ's birthday spring into life. Thank you for all the talent and expertise that you shared with us.



From the Registers.

On Sunday December 14th, the Baptism of Abby Helen Lawrence.

The twin baby daughters of Luan and Darren Brown, Ellie Elizabeth and Lauren Jade were baptised on Sunday January 11th.

Future Dates.

A Deanery Quiet Day will be held at Haynes on Saturday 2nd February between 10.00am and 4.00pm. Please contact Audrey Brand for more details (850001)

The Lent Lunch will be on Sunday March 7th in the Village Hall following the 11.15 Parish Communion service. Tickets will be available very shortly from Church members. We look forward to seeing you there.
Judith Tollman.

Thank you to everyone who has decorated the Church with flowers during the past year, particularly at Easter and Christmas when the Church looked so beautiful. Thanks also to the good folk who made donations towards the flowers.

If anyone would like to arrange the flowers in Church occasionally, please have a word with Joyce Thompson (813159) or put your name on the new list in the Church.

A big thank you also to the army of cleaners who have volunteered to clean the Church. Having more people to clean has certainly helped. Appreciation is also due to Ken Harris who regularly keeps the brasses sparkling.
Joyce Thompson.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SERVICES 1st February, 2004 – 29th February, 2004

Sun 1 st Feb	Candlemas	Parish Communion	11.15am
Sun 8 th Feb	Third Sunday before Lent	Parish Communion	11.15am
Sun 15 th Feb	Second Sunday before Lent	Morning Prayer	11.15am
Sun 22 nd Feb	Sunday next before Lent	Holy Communion Family Service	8.00am 11.15am
Wed 25 th Feb	Ash Wednesday	CLOPHILL	8.00pm
Sun 29 th Feb	First Sunday of Lent	Benefice Service HAYNES	10.00am

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

As I am writing there is a fierce wind blowing around the house. It often seems to me that it is windier in North Lane, Haynes than anywhere else on earth. On days like this, I can look out of the window and watch the sky dappled with shades of grey, dark and light, with short-lived patches of blue. It is a welcome sight for the skies have been a monochrome grey for what seems the last few weeks.

It is the Christian writer, Gerard Hughes, who likened the sky to our 'inner landscape'. That is the moods and feelings that arise in our consciousness, affecting our perception of life around us and our reaction to it. In our inner journey there is darkness and light, blizzards and sunshine, hail and rain, gales and calm. Most of the time, hopefully, we operate in light and sunshine, but it is when the clouds gather that our inner journey is most tested. And those are the times when people are most likely to turn to God.

The most destructive force in us is a mixture of fear and imagination. Once they break loose, it is hard for us to cope alone. God knows this. It is striking that the most common phrase uttered by God in Scripture is "Do not be afraid." It is said to appear 365 times - often enough for re-assurance every day of the year. The next most common phrase is "I am with you". If fears are not acknowledged they go underground in our minds, spread, infect every aspect of our lives and diminish us. Once acknowledged they have less hold over us. If we set time apart to be with God in these situations then an inner peace will return.

This is good assurance, but we should not be using God just as a buffer in the bad times or in the very best of times either. I see most people acknowledging God at funerals, baptisms and weddings, and sometimes, of course, at Christmas. It is wonderful to see that, but my concern is that, when only on a nodding acquaintance, how are these folk to find the way to talk to God when they most need him? He IS always there, but it is not always easy for us to find him - we need some practice. And we need other people to help us do that, which is why a Church community is so important, we are not made to be alone. The Church, too, is always there - a symbol of God's presence. Why not come along and enjoy with us the sunny days as well as the blustery ones?

Marynet

^^



February may not be the best month to think about your gardens but get your seed catalogues and gardening books out because the Friends of All Saints' will be holding "**OPEN GARDENS**" on Sunday 27th June. New exhibitors would be most welcome. Further details will be announced in due course.



Items for the next Newsletter to 12 Greenway or 23 Gravenhurst Rd. by 15th of the Month

Over the past year Campton and Chicksands has gained many new residents. A very warm welcome to you all and we hope you have many happy years in your new homes. Campton and Chicksands is fortunate in having many societies and organisations who would be delighted to see new members. Brief details are given below.

Parish Council: The Clerk to the Parish Council is Mrs Jacqui Gibson (01234 381389).

Lower School: The Acting Head Teacher is Stephen Grint. Contact the school on 813359.

All Saint's Church: Rector: Rev Margaret Venables
Churchwardens: Barry Thompson (813159)
Judith Tollman (851303)

Times of Services are published in this Newsletter. For any other information please contact a Churchwarden.

Friends of All Saints': hold regular social events including a Burns' Night Supper, Safari Supper and Open Gardens. Jimmy Milne is the contact (812653).

Bell Ringers: meet on Tuesday evenings between 7.15 and 8.30 to practise. Younger ringers are very welcome; the minimum age is 10 years old. Please contact John Loveless (819074) for details.

Pre-school: Recently given an excellent Ofsted report, the pre-school holds sessions during term time in the Village Hall. These are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30am to 12 noon and 12.30pm to 3.00pm. Thursday is morning only. A few places are still available. Contact Jo Jenkins (813837) or Maryika Wilding (851729).

Mothers and Toddlers: This group also meets in the Village Hall. Their time is Friday morning, 10.30-12 noon. If you would like to join in just turn up.

Women's Institute: hold meetings on the second Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall. New members are always welcome. Contact the President, Deborah Maggs (851057).

Village Hall: As well as the regular events which take place in the Village Hall it can also be hired for private parties. The Bookings Officer is Maryika Wilding (851729). The Management Committee also organises its own events including the Summer Barn Dance and the 100 Club. More information from Graham Williams (816572).



Carpet Bowls: is a recent addition to the village's social life. A great evening's entertainment for just £1 can be had on a Thursday from 7.30pm in the Village Hall. If you would like to take part just come along.

Football Club: plays on Saturday afternoon on the Recreation Ground, Rectory Road. The Club Chairman is John Chambers (732125).

Golf Society: Contact Ron Harris (814003 evening) or Dave Tingey (647069) for more information.

White Hart: The village local has featured for many years in the "Good Beer Guide". A selection of guest beers and wine by the bottle is always available. The pub also has a reputation for its pub games including darts, dominoes and boules. Opening hours are Monday – Friday 7.00pm – 11.00pm, Saturday 12 noon to 11.00pm, Sunday 12 noon – 3.00pm and 7.00pm – 10.30pm. Your host is Jerry Cannon.

Website: Much more information about Campton and Chicksands can be found on the website: www.camptonandchicksands.org.uk

CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on Monday 12th January. The major item discussed was setting the Council's budget for the next financial year. The Council is responsible for the maintenance of most of the streetlights, grass cutting including in the Churchyard and Recreation Ground, and maintenance of the Children's Play Area. It also contributes to the running costs of the Whitbread Wanderbus and pays a precept for the Campton and Shefford Burial Ground. During the past year your Council has provided two new benches in the Recreation Ground and it hoped that more improvements in the amenities, within the limits of the budget, can be provided next year.

Unfortunately costs have risen over the year so it has been necessary to increase the precept required. However, with the increase in the number of homes in the Parish the total cost per household should be less than £1 per week. The percentage of your Council Tax which goes to the Parish Council is extremely low.

Mention was also made of the low usage of the village bus routes 200 and 201. Bedfordshire County Council funds these and if there is insufficient volume of traffic they are liable to be withdrawn. So – to use the well-known phrase – use them or lose them!

Finally, Bedfordshire County Council has been asked to remove the graffiti in the underpass.

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Monday February 9th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Friday 26th March. The Agenda and Minutes of last year's meeting will be published in the next edition of the Newsletter.

+++++

CAMPTON BELL APPEAL LAUNCHED with the “**BIG RING**”



A big thank you to everyone who supported this event on New Year's Day - well over 60 people attended. The Biggleswade Chronicle gave us some great coverage, including a big colour photo, and we were featured several times on Three Counties Radio News. Several parishioners commented on the special atmosphere in the church.

Here's what Robert Taylor thought of the day:

On New Year's Day 2004, the Campton Campanologists started an appeal to raise £60,000 for a new ring of six bells at All Saints' Church. This campaign started with The BIG Ring which lasted for one hour starting at 3 o'clock. One hour may not sound like a long time to any experienced campanologists reading this, but for those who took part, this felt like years because they, like myself, have only been ringing for a relatively short time, having been taught by John Loveless and Linda Garton.

The BIG Ringers were: Natalie Taylor (11), Amy Farmer (14), Lily Farmer (11), Eleanor Dawson (10), Nick Brown (11), Kathy Taylor and Sue Wootton, and myself, Robert Taylor (14). We rang in relays with some experienced friends, Graham Williams, Dennis Davis, Anthony and Charlotte Smith, Russell and Terry Brown, together with John and Linda helping out. We are very grateful for their help and support.

In the final five minutes we had the five least experienced and youngest people ringing and in the last few seconds we had a big count down to stand our bells but, as everyone was too busy laughing, none of us could set our bells!! Following the hour's ring, some experienced ringers rang some more complicated peals like Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles.

We are proud that we raised over £1,500 through sponsorships and donations on the day but we still need £58,500 which we hope to raise in the next two years.

CAMPTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

100 CLUB DRAW		
Win	DRAW 11 DECEMBER 17 TH 2003	No.
£50	S. Kelly	16
£30	S. Farmer	87
£10	Mr L Cullum	73

By now you should have been visited by a Committee Member and, hopefully, bought your 2004 100 Club membership. Over £1300 is paid out in prizes with **FOUR** first prizes of £100. The 100 Club is the biggest fundraiser for the Village Hall and helps towards maintenance and improvements. Currently, the lobby and toilets are being redecorated. If you have not been contacted and would like to be part of the 100 Club, please call Graham Williams on 816572.

A date for your new diaries is the Barn Dance. This popular event will take place on Saturday 26th June. Graham Williams.



What a fantastic start to the New Year. 19 members and 13 visitors heard Kirsten Hubmann talk about her time as a volunteer at “The Ark”, a Christian refuge in Cape Town, South Africa for about 1000 needy people. All of these, whether children, women or couples, were former gangsters, alcoholics, prostitutes, or AIDS/HIV sufferers. Kirsten, a third year Politics student in London, described how different their lives are from ours. “The Ark” depends entirely on donations and prayer. Meals often consisted of a sloppy mixture of strange ingredients (e.g. kalamari and carrots!). Everyone is encouraged to attend church at

weekends which often was the high point of the week. Most of the Pastors are reformed characters from “The Ark” itself; everyone is very grateful for what they have.

Kirsten expressed her sorrow at the Third World conditions and the lack of progress for many there. She'd wanted to adopt many of the children and bring them back, but her mother had said no!

At our next meeting, on Wednesday February 11th, Dot Wigg will describe her day at a Buckingham Palace Tea Party. We look forward to seeing you. Deborah Maggs.

CAMPTON DRAMA GROUP

Many People will remember the Group which put on pantomimes, plays and revues from the mid seventies until the early nineties. Regular donations were made from the profits to various charities.

After our producer, Brenda May, retired and left the village, productions ceased but we still had funds in the bank. £500 was donated towards the development of the children's play area on the Recreation Ground.

The remaining members of the group recently decided to donate the balance of funds (£241.41) to the Leukaemia Research Fund at Great Ormond Street, London. The account is now closed and I hold all receipts. Bill Roberts (Treasurer).

CAMPTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Campton Old Boys 3 Campton Present 2



THIS traditional Christmas holiday game was only decided two minutes from time when veteran defender Roy Hayday hit the winner. He watched the flight of a delicate chip from Sharp before volleying past unfortunate keeper Ollie Morgan. However it has to be said Morgan was hampered by an injury that after a visit to hospital turned out to be a broken foot!

The Old Boys skippered by Peter Sharp who only appeared by kind permission of Meccano - arrived at the ground in a minibus kindly loaned for the day by Saga Travel Services. Their very professional approach to the game was completed as they announced their sponsors for the day— Age Concern!

Add to this concoction an official Scottish referee who detests everything English — except the beer! - and you have the recipe for a terrific game. In goal for the Old Boys was the reserve teams' second choice keeper, Phil 'Flapper' Webb, who you may recall had that instantly unforgettable performance in a league game a few weeks ago. Flapper nearly didn't make the match after a spot of bother the previous evening with the local constabulary.

Apparently, he left his local in Shefford with his good wife, very much the worse for wear, to walk the mile or so home. Now you have to remember Flapper's occupation is to erect and take down 'For Sale' boards and, as he wobbled home, he noticed one that he had not taken down during the day. So, being the consummate professional, he took the sign from a front garden, tucked it under his arm and smugly continued home. That is until a police patrol car spotted him apparently inebriated carrying the 'For Sale' sign under his arm.

When questioned by the policeman, Webb, with a slurring voice, said: "You are not going to believe this officer, but my job is taking down signs," to which the police man replied: "Of course it is sir, now would you mind accompanying me to the station" You can imagine the rest.

The game itself was as you can imagine a high powered fast paced contest with most of the Old Boys team resembling an oil tanker in taking half a mile to stop and at least the same distance to turn. The term 'roll on, roll off' substitutes took on a whole new meaning. Even Mr Webb went off early in the second half complaining that he was cold. Flapper doesn't do cold as he regularly wimps out on golf matches for the same reason!

The present team contained a nucleus of the Campton first team squad. Also starring was 53 years old, Terry Morgan, whose deft touches certainly mark him out as a player to watch for the future. Campton's Present team went ahead with an opportunist goal from a young lad of 14 named Daniel Mabbott. Watch out for this lad as he comes from the same pedi gree as his granddad - Colin Mabbott - a tough tackling stalwart who played for Shillington in their glory days.

The Old Boys came steaming back with two goals from 'Hacko' Haxton who should never have been playing after yet another attack of verbal exuberance. However. David Charge soon restored some normality until that sensational winner from Hayday.

Another successful fundraising day with a surprising amount of spectators braving the cold. One of these brave souls was Jock Homer who won the first prize in the Christmas draw — a digital camera -- while the second prize, a meal for four which had been kindly donated by George McArthur, landlord of the Greyhound pub in Haynes, was won by Bob Wright.