

Campton & Chicksands Community Newsletter

Issue 106

October 2004



PERCY R.I.P.

A tribute appears on page 8.

Colour photographs are on the web version of the Newsletter:
camptonandchicksands.org.uk/info.htm

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH



From the Registers

On Saturday, August 28th, the wedding of Sally-Ann Monk and Steven Waddams.

On Tuesday, August 31st, the funeral of Mrs Pam Brown of Penfold Close, Shefford.

On Sunday September 5th, the baptism of baby Charlotte from Chicksands.

Harvest Sunday

A very big thank you to all who made our harvest celebrations so enjoyable and successful. The Church looked beautiful and the supper was delicious. We were able to send £300 to The Bishop's Harvest Appeal, which this year will help Coffee Farmers in Nicaragua to get a Fair Price for their coffee.

Future Dates

Deanery Festival Evensong will be on Sunday October 10th at 6.00pm at St Mary's Parish Church, Henlow. The service will be conducted by Bishop Richard.

Saturday October 16th Safari Supper

This is always a splendid evening, a £12 ticket will give you the chance to indulge in a three-course dinner in Campton on a Saturday night. No need for a taxi home because you will be able to walk and each course is taken in a different house. For tickets or information please phone Linda Garton (819074) or Yvonne Milne (812653). It is also a very good opportunity to meet old and new faces in the village.

Harvest Open Day

The afternoon with the children was great fun and we all enjoyed it. The pre-school group of fifteen children came first and enjoyed a happy time making paper plates of fruit, singing and listening to a story. Later twenty-six older children spent a very creative time making animals from vegetables; the leaders were amazed at how inventive they were. Alex Bowen won first prize and Emma Wilding second and there were three runners-up. Please contact Audrey Brand (850001) if you have not yet received your prize.

Audrey Brand and Judith Tollman.

SUE RYDER CARE ST JOHN'S HOSPICE

Calling all jam and preserve makers. Can you spare a couple of jars for "Coffee and Christmas" on Saturday 24th October? If you can help St John's raise funds in this way we would be very grateful.

Please contact Jean Luddington on 812756

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

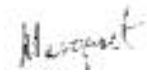
The year has turned and, as we pick up conkers from beneath the trees and take in the final harvest of apples, pull the curtains across earlier each day and start to light fires we know that Christmas is not far away. What a thought, you might be thinking!!

However for many people after Harvest, that will be the next time they are in church - so what is the Church doing between these two big festivals? It may seem odd to some that there is no chronology of Jesus's life at this time of year. At Easter and in the following weeks we know the story, the story which is central to our faith of the death, resurrection of Jesus and then the growth of the early Church. So what is this time of year about?

Essentially it falls into two parts. The first part we call 'All Saints Tide', which is an opportunity in the autumn months to echo the natural world's time of death and remembering. We recall God's action in the lives of the saints and show confidence in rejoicing in our fellowship with the saints in heaven. However, while we celebrate the example of the saints, we feel the loss of those we know and love. But it is a reminder of our Christian belief of another life beyond this which we know and many people are helped by holding together All Saints and All Souls. I have found myself, recently, returning again and again to the phrase: "in this world we are merely Strangers in a strange land". It is a good thought. Of course, part of this, too, is Remembrance Sunday.

The second part of the season is Advent. In the Sundays that lead up to the full Advent Sunday we celebrate the Kingship of Christ. Unfortunately much of Advent itself is now lost in the preparations for Christmas - have you noticed the tinsel is already in the shops? Advent should be a time of watching and waiting and if we manage to experience it properly then the joy of Christmas is so much greater.

Do think about these seasons and try to enter into their meaning. I think it often seems to people that the Church is just going its own sweet way, but in fact everything we do is close to the seasons of the year and a part of the experience of every human being as they journey through the 'Strange Land'.



P.S. Some months ago I told you that I intended to retire in May 2005. However, a number of things have changed and I am now planning to stay longer, just how much longer I am not yet sure, though I am planning not just this Christmas, but the next, however the next retirement date I give will not be changed. The truth is that I enjoy you all so much!

or e-mail ditollman@btinternet.com



Twenty of us met to hear Eve Whitehead tell us all about Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. This charity was only set up twenty years ago, but has already placed 1060 dogs with deaf people. The dogs learn signals to attract their owners' attention to the alarm clock or a visitor ringing the doorbell, or warn of danger. Some have saved lives. Many have opened up the outside world for a formerly isolated person. After all, who can resist chatting to a friendly dog? And then you start chatting to its friendly owner.

On October 13th we meet at 7.30 in the Village Hall to share a Birthday Supper, provided by the committee. There'll certainly be some drink too, so please join us.

We have now received the sponsor money for doing our 5km. walk in August. We've raised the fantastic sum of **£146** for Keech Cottage Children's Hospice. so a huge thank you to everyone who contributed. In April 2005, the WI charity collection will be for Keech Cottage and St John's at Moggerhanger.

A reminder that the WI Coach to London will be on Saturday November 27th. This is always a bargain – this year the price is £7.50. Book early with Pam Cook (638685). Places are open to anyone who wants a day trip to London to spend as you wish. Sue Hayhurst and Deborah Maggs.

HALLOWE'EN DANCE

SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER

DANCING TO ERUDITION
(music for those of a certain age!)

CAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

BYO DRINK AND POT LUCK SUPPER

TICKETS £5

From

MARYIKA 851729 or KATHY 816108

Hallowe'en dress optional (Profits to Keech Cottage Hospice)

Campton Bells Appeal - Music at the Manor

Advertised as "an evening of light classical music in beautiful surroundings" with a ticket price of £25, sparkling wine and canapés served, and black tie as dress code, it was hoped that "Music at the Manor" would be a glittering occasion. Profits would go towards the Campton Bells Appeal target of £60,000, to replace our difficult, less than tuneful, five with a new light ring of eight.



We obtained some very generous sponsorship. Southill Estates provided us with two cases of their locally produced sparkling wine free of charge, plus cases of still wine at a very reasonable cost. Champneys Health Resort at Henlow donated a raffle prize of a spa day for two people. Other raffle prizes included a specially commissioned cake in the shape of a bell and a lovely basket of flowers, expertly arranged by Campton ringer, Sue Farmer.

The evening of "Music at the Manor" arrived and after a couple of days of rain, the sun came out. Just over 100 people arrived on time at the Manor to be greeted by a glass of sparkling wine and a selection of pieces from "West Side Story", confidently played on the trumpet by one of Campton's young ringers, Robert Taylor, accompanied by Joy Curtis. During the evening we enjoyed a varied programme of excellent music, including performances by other bellringers, with soprano solos from Penny Sharpe and violin solos from Jo Dorling, both from London. There were flute duets from Kathy Taylor and Madeleine Best and Irish and Scottish folk songs sung unaccompanied by Audrey Brand, our lay reader at Campton. Peggy Handscombe, a member of a local Operatic Society and her friends, the Merry Musicians, performed a wide selection of songs. The evening was rounded off with a selection of Gilbert and Sullivan performed by former D'Oyly Carte members Mike and Joy Rayner, friends of Nicky and Clive.

..... and so "Music at the Manor" came to an end, but everybody agreed that it had been a thoroughly enjoyable, memorable and certainly glittering occasion, and a very worthwhile fundraising event with just over £1700 raised on the evening for the Campton Bells Appeal. We have since received further donations of about £250 from people either unable to attend or as a result of publicity in the Biggleswade Chronicle the following week..... so almost £2000 raised in total from this event.

Thank you to everyone who supported "Music at the Manor" - the performers and everyone who came. The biggest thank you goes to Clive and Nicky Fletcher, for allowing us the use of their lovely home,

For further information about the Campton Bells Appeal, or if you would like to make a donation (Cheques payable to Campton PCC -Bells Appeal) please contact John Loveless, 19a, Gravenhurst Road, Campton, Shefford, Beds SG17 5NY, 01462 819074, or john.loveless@btconnect.com

For news of our next event watch this space!

CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on Monday, 20th September. An Officer from Mid Beds District Council had accepted the Council's invitation to give a presentation about the new Waste Collection arrangements. Unfortunately, at the last moment, he decided he was unable to attend due to other commitments. However, District Councillor Lew Birt was present and was made aware of the concern felt by many members of the Parish about the fortnightly collection service. The Parish Council has also written to Mid Beds District Council stating its objections to the scheme. The Council has approved the replacement of time clocks in the twelve streetlights which still have them with photoelectric cells. The time clocks are extremely old and becoming increasingly difficult to maintain. They have to be reset frequently as the nights lengthen or shorten or when there is a power cut. Fitting photoelectric cells will alleviate these problems. The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday, 15th November in the Meeting Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm. The agenda will be placed on the Village Hall Community noticeboard by Wednesday 10th November. All parishioners are welcome to attend. Fifteen minutes are allocated at the start of the meeting for parishioners to make verbal representations.

CAMPTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

100 CLUB DRAW		
Win	DRAW 8 SEPTEMBER 9TH 2004	No.
£50	Mr Bond	64
£30	Mr R. M. Hill	93
£10	Mrs D. Alcock	74

The latest project of the Village Hall Management Committee has been to replace the fencing alongside the Village Hall garden and Brookside. I hope you will agree that this is a vast improvement.

If you would like to hire the Village Hall please contact Maryika Wilding on 851729.

Our next event will be the famous Quiz Night on Saturday 20th November. More details next month. Graham Williams.



**CARPET BOWLS EVERY THURSDAY EVENING
AT 8.00PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL
EVERYONE WELCOME**

RESTIN' PEACOCK

Percy was a peacock of somewhat ill repute
As he swaggered down the Greenway
In his multi-coloured suit.
He wasn't on the best of terms with all the residents,
His calling card was visible
On everybody's fence.
The gardeners were demented, as he plundered all their
crops,
Then he danced away and sniggered
With delighted little hops.



He screamed his indignation at such a lonely life,
But no one answered Percy's calls –
To be a loving wife.
He potted on the patios and some could not resist
In feeding him a crumb or two
To help him to subsist.

He rewarded us occasionally and with a careless flick
He swished aloft a jewelled arc
A glorious feather trick.
But whether friend or enemy, misfortune has occurred
As on the plains of Campton
The remains of one large bird –
All skeletised and pick quite clean, as Farmer Bill describes
May soon give rise to fantasies
And some quite eerie vibes.

That shadow on the high church wall – is that a trick of light?
The measured rooftop footsteps
That occur at dead of night
Could that be? ... No I don't think so, we have to turn the page
For Percy has succumbed it seems
To Fox – or perhaps old age.



Pam Roberts (Photographs by Fred Williams)