

Campton & Chicksands Community Newsletter

Issue 108

December 2004



BLUE PETER'S SIMON RINGS A BELL

(see page six)

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

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH



Many, many "Thank You's "

for ...the hard work by folks who turned up to prepare the Church for the winter, gullies cleared, weeds despatched, ivy removed to reveal gravestones and walls and clutter cleared. for...the Birthday gifts of money that will enable us to continue with our mission through worship here.

for...the 61 shoe boxes, packed with Christmas gifts, that our

Benefice sent to families in Rumania

for...the money given to send a cow to Walter's family in Lesotho: after the stimulating talk that Annette Glenn gave us.

From the Registers

The Baptism of Alexander Niah on Sunday November 7th.

Future Dates and Events

On Sunday December 5th there will be a Benefice Toy Service at Haynes at 10.00am. Children from all three Lower Schools will be taking part. We are asked to take an unwrapped gift that will then be distributed by Christian Family Care in Bedford to families in sheltered accommodation over Christmas. We are also requested to arrive dressed as a Toy!

On Thursday December 9th East Lodge School will be performing their Nativity Play in the Church. Valmai Green and the children are inviting anyone in the Parish who would like to come. It starts at 10.30am.

Carol Singing around the Parish will be on Tuesday December 21st. We sing around the three main areas of the Parish in rotation and this year it will be Chicksands. We meet at the Church at 6.00pm to start singing at 6.30pm. We welcome singers and collectors. If there were more people to join us, we could divide in to 2 groups and cover more of the Parish.

If you would like to join us please let me know nearer the time. All the money we raise is sent to Keech Cottage Hospice and St. John's at Moggerhanger.





This year the children are making their own Nativity Figures to be placed in the empty stable at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. We also have a Travelling Crib, a Posada of Nativity figures from Guatemala, that families in Campton and Chicksands may have in their homes, in turn, for one of the evenings in Advent and finally returned to Church on Christmas Eve. If you would like to share in this, please complete the list in Church or contact me.

Don't forget to put in your brand new 2005 diaries that the Burns Night Supper will be on Saturday January 29th, 2005. More information will be available in the New Year.

And finally...We will be having a Massive Book Sale in February - please save any books you may be turning out; cookery books, fiction, travel, etc. etc. If you have a problem storing them we may be able to store some of them in Church.

We look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Services especially the Christmas Eve Carol Service when our children's choir will be singing for the first time.

Judith Tollman and Barry Thompson, Churchwardens

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SERVICES 5th December, 2004 – 30th January, 2005

Sun 5 th Dec	2 nd of Advent	Parish Communion	11.15am
Sun 12 th Dec	3 rd of Advent	Parish Communion	11.15am
Sun 19 th Dec	4 th of Advent	Morning Prayer	11.15am
Fri 24 th Dec	Christmas Eve	Crib Service Carol Service Midnight Mass HAYNES	3.00pm 6.00pm 11.30pm
Sat 25 th Dec	Christmas Day	Family Communion with Carols	10.30am
Sun 26 th Dec	St. Stephen	Benefice Communion CLOPHILL	10.00am
Sun 2 nd Jan	Epiphany	Parish Communion	11.15am
Sun 9 th Jan	Baptism of Christ	Parish Communion with the Archdeacon	11.15am
Sun 16 th Jan	2 nd Sun of Epiphany	Morning Prayer	11.15am
Sun 23 rd Jan	3 rd Sun of Epiphany	Family Service	11.15am
Sun 30 th Jan	Candlemas	Benefice Service HAYNES	10.00am

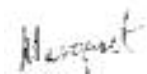
PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

I have a friend who has recently bought a house in Devon as a weekend retreat. When he was describing it to me and enthusiastically showing me photographs, I asked him how often he planned to travel from here to there. "Oh, most weekends," he replied. I found that hard to believe knowing only too well the length of the journey. "Won't you tire of that journey?" I asked. "No," he replied. "You see every time I travel the journey is part of my holiday. I find it as enjoyable as the arrival. It's all part of it."

At this time of year I would love to be able to be just like my friend - not that I am planning to travel to Devon at weekends! But because Advent is all about the journey to Christmas, and if we are not very careful, we miss out on the journey and arrive too soon and quite unprepared. During Advent we need to prepare ourselves for the celebration of that very special day of Christmas - and I mean a little more than rushing round shops buying presents and food and putting up the decorations. I mean giving ourselves time to stop and reflect what this season really means. Advent celebrates the coming of Christ in three ways: it is the time we remember the Virgin Mary waiting for the birth; it is the time we remember that Christ is present with us now and waiting to be asked into our lives; it is the time when we look forward to the Christ who will come at the end of time. Advent is when we need to be open to hearing his words: "Listen I stand at the door and knock; if you hear my voice, open the door and I will come in." So how do we do that?

Advent has the longest night of the year and the darkest days and yet it is about the coming of the light. A good way to enter into this is to light a candle - you can buy Advent Candles and sit quietly for a few moments as the candle burns to the next day. Think about that saying: "It is better to light a small candle than complain about the darkness." That thought might take you all over the world or it might speak to your heart. Some people light more candles - one for the first week in Advent, two in the second week and so on until Christmas Day. Another way of preparing is to make an Advent wreath as an expression of your understanding of God's abiding love for you and for all of creation and put it in your window as a sign to all who pass your door. Whatever you choose to do, it will give you time to pause in an otherwise very busy time of year.

I hope you enjoy the journey through Advent and that when you arrive at Christmas it is an even greater joy.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Margaret', is positioned in the lower-left area of the page.

During Advent there will be weekly meditations in all three churches in the Benefice following *Candles in the Dark* by David Adam. Please see weekly Notice sheets and Notice Boards for times and places.



We met this month to hear from Marion Moule about *Victorian Christmas*, but in fact heard so much more. Marion gave us a wealth of interesting snippets - from our pagan beginnings to modern day. Throughout all that time our traditions have changed, and continue to do so. For example, carols are ancient fertility dances, the Order of the Garter was begun after a riotous Christmas party, and we have Boxing Day from Roman times when boxes of money were first given to servants by their masters. Most recently the Kwanza festival, celebrated by African Americans, has developed.

We next meet on December 8 at the Village Hall at 7.30 to entertain ourselves with a Christmas evening and supper. We plan to wear red, green and gold. Please bring some finger food to share and come and join us if you can.

Deborah Maggs

CAMPTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

100 CLUB DRAW		
Win	DRAW 10 NOVEMBER 11TH 2004	No.
£50	Mr Sellers	220
£30	J. Williams	3
£10	R. Radley	99

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**CRIME STATISTICS**

| <b>Committed</b> | <b>Offence</b>                | <b>Location</b>          |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 07/10/2004       | THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE      | LEYDENE PLACE CHICKSANDS |
| 16/10/2004       | THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE      | A507 CHICKSANDS          |
| 18/10/2004       | THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE      | A507 BEADLOW             |
| 18/10/2004       | THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE      | A507 BEADLOW             |
| 20/10/2004       | CRIMINAL DAMAGE:VEHICLE       | ROWNEY WARREN            |
| 23/10/2004       | THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE      | A507 BEADLOW             |
| 23/10/2004       | INTERFERENCE OF MOTOR VEHICLE | ROWNEY WARREN            |

**CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL**

Please note the new address and contact number for the Parish Clerk.  
Mrs J. Gibson, 7, Coney Gate, MEPPERSHALL, SG17 5GB. Telephone 814251

## ANOTHER FIRST FOR YOUNG CAMPTON BELL-RINGERS!!

After observing two minutes' silence on Remembrance Sunday, Campton's young bell-ringers, Eleanor Dawson, Lily Farmer, Kathryn Hare, and Robert and Natalie Taylor met Simon Thomas from *Blue Peter* to show him the ropes on the six bells at Haynes Parish Church in preparation for Simon joining the team to ring the twelve bells at St Martin-in-the-Field (in Trafalgar Square) at the end of November.



Filming took seven hours, which will provide just four minutes of broadcast footage. The youngsters, along with Will Seear from Haynes, were filmed ringing and chatting with Simon about their experiences as bell-ringers. Linda Garton, who along with John Loveless has trained the youngsters, skilfully put Simon through his paces and he was able

to progress from complete beginner to ringing his own bell in rounds as part of the team in the space of the day.

Each of the young people (and not so young!) was proudly awarded a *Blue Peter* badge and Simon, who was extremely approachable, happily gave signed photos to everyone there. They will all meet again to ring at the Christmas Tree service at St Martin-in-the-Field on 30th November and, at the time of writing, the broadcast of a feature on bell-ringing is expected on 13th December, so set those videos and get the red carpets ready for Linda, John and the young local TV stars!!  
Kathy Taylor



or e-mail ditollman@btinternet.com

TEA, GAMES AND COMPANY

Every Monday, starting on December 6<sup>th</sup>, The Oakley Room, which is warm and cosy, in Church will be open from 2.00pm till 4.00pm for anybody who would like “ a little company”. There will be a chance to have a game of Scrabble, cards or dominoes, a cup of tea and friends to chat to.

If you would like to come and need transport please contact Judith Tollman (851303) or anybody at Church who will forward the message.

We would also be grateful for any spare or unwanted board games that could be donated for this use. We look forward to seeing you.



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**THE WHITE HART, CAMPTON  
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS**



|                          |               |                                   |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec | Closed        | 7.00pm - Midnight                 |
| Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec | Noon – 3.00pm | Closed                            |
| Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec | Noon – 3.00pm | Closed                            |
| Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec | Closed        | 7.00pm – 4.00am<br>Admission Free |
| Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan  | Closed        | 7.00pm - Midnight                 |
| Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan  | Noon – 3.00pm | 7.00pm - Midnight                 |

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

What are you doing on New Year's Day?

Come and take part in our

**Treasure Hunt**

in aid of the Campton Bells Appeal!

Starting from All Saints' Church, from 2.00pm onwards.

£1.00 per person

Tea, coffee and cakes served in the Church until 4.30pm.

Save your coppers too - bring them along and help us to make  
six copper bells outside the Church!

A gentle stroll around the village and fun too -

Bring the whole family

We look forward to seeing you.



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