

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



APRIL 2004

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

Vol 20 Issue No 1

April 2004

Welcome to the first issue of Volume 20!

Thank you to all those who have placed advertisements in the magazine for the coming year. Your support is much appreciated and vital to the continuing success of The Messenger. For everybody else's part, perhaps as a first port of call you can look in The Messenger before the Yellow Pages, or whatever. When you make your call, mention the fact that you got the number from The Messenger. It is good feedback for the advertisers and it is nice to use local people. We can all do our bit to keep this very useful magazine going and I think you would all agree with me that it will be a very sad day when this was no longer possible. Also, I should also like to say a big thank you to those who have given a donation towards The Messenger, but not advertised.

Well, it appears that spring has come (thank goodness). The clocks have moved forward an hour and we are finally out of the darkness and coldness of the winter months. It is a lovely time of year.

The deadline for articles for the May issue of the magazine is 12th April 2004. Please either leave them at the Post Office or drop them through my letter box at 7 Brookmead. Thank you.

Linda Gold
Editor

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Editor:	Linda Gold, 7 Brookmead	811970
Advertising Manager:	Steve Ansell, Post Office Stores	811252
Distribution Manager:	Barbara Horwood, 8 Rectory Road	816177

Easter

At Meppershall Stores

We have in stock

Easter Eggs

Easter Cards

Easter Chocolates

Extra Large Barn

Eggs at only

69p per Half

Dozen



Operation Shoebox

I have received an update on the shoe boxes that we sent to children abroad last Christmas. As this was very much a village event I thought you would all like to know what happened to our boxes.

All the boxes from the Eastern region were collected together at Chelmsford and ten 40 tonne lorries left the warehouse there laden with boxes for Eastern Europe. Amongst others they went to :

- 10,011 to Tula near Moscow where the collapse of the engineering industry has left many families desperately poor.
 - 8,600 to Azerbaijan to homeless refugee families.
 - 7,039 to Armenia to desperately poor refugees still suffering from the massive earthquake there several years ago.
 - 10,518 to Ukraine to children in shelters for street children and to street children
 - 7,452 to Belarus to children in orphanages and prisons – children as young as 12 are imprisoned for stealing bread and potatoes.
 - 12,685 to Serbia to orphans, refugee camps and Kosovan refugees.
 - 6,258 to Armenia to families as above
 - 10,114 to central Moscow to street children some of whom live in the sewer network
 - 6,196 Romania – poor families all over the country
-

The remaining 1,145 boxes were distributed throughout Eastern Europe.

The update I received asked me to pass on the organisation's thanks and I am more than happy to do this. Also a thank you from me to the Brownies who worked hard putting the boxes together, their parents for their support and every who contributed. Better still, I will quote from the update letter :

"The expression on the face of a child who has nothing changes dramatically when a decorated shoebox full of little gifts is put into their hand – absolute joy is the result. This is what you have helped us to do.

A massive thank you comes directly to you from the 80,332 little people from the other side of Europe who benefited so greatly from your generosity."

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
CATHOLIC CHURCH
HIGH STREET, SHEFFORD**

Sunday Masses

First Mass of Sunday

Saturday Evening	6pm	RAF Henlow
Sunday	9am	Shefford
	5.15pm	Shefford

Weekday Services See notice at Church or phone

Parish Priest:	Parish Secretary:
Fr. Bennie Noonan 813436	Rose Boulton 811547

+++++

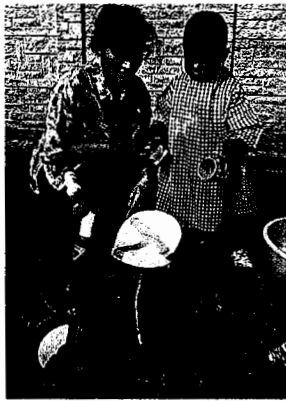
1st STONDON CUB PACK

This term has mainly revolved around activity badges. The Cubs have worked hard on their Home Safety Badge which included finding how to deal with emergencies such as a burst pipe or lights fusing, taking part in a fire drill. It just happened to be freezing cold that night so hopefully they will remember the detail and not wish to repeat it again too soon. We had a talk on crime prevention and they had a look around their own homes for any possible hazards. We celebrated St. David's Day by exploring a coal mine by torch light. In reality a tunnel constructed using tables, ground sheets, darkness and imagination. The Cubs cooked Welsh cakes and constructed a Welsh Dragon.

The Cubs have worked towards their Creativity Badge by making puppets and writing their own script on various aspects of Cub camp. It was very entertaining having a different view of what happens at camp and inspection will never seem quite the same again! We followed this with an evening constructing miniature kites to fly. It never ceases to amaze me how many different designs can come from a basic idea. Some of the Cubs are incredibly artistic and spent a lot of time and care over their designs.

We are now looking forward to the lighter nights and getting out and about. Our next jumble sale is 24th April at 2pm Stondon Village Hall; if you need any jumble collected please give us a call.

Alison Hammond - Akela



ever thought about

CHILDMINDING?

Looking to do something challenging, rewarding and flexible this year? Then have you ever thought about becoming a registered childminder?



Childminding is a very flexible career that suits many different lifestyles - whether you have just retired, want to spend more time with your family, develop new skills or simply do something more fulfilling than the usual nine to five, childminding can give you that opportunity.

As you will be your own boss you can organise your work to suit both yourself and the families you work with.

Want to know more?

Then why not phone Ayer at the **National Childminding Association** on (01234) 242818 for an informal chat.



Wanting to play Tennis??



You may not be aware that Langford has a small but thriving tennis club and quite a few of the members live in Meppershall. There are two courts at Langford, both with a hard all-weather surface making it ideal for our varied climatic conditions.

Membership fees are not expensive. Adults pay £37 and Juniors £17 for a years tennis. Family membership, for two adults and up to four children is only £77 for the year. Meppershall residents will be made to feel very welcome there.

We will be running coaching courses for both Juniors and Adults. Bob Brookes, a qualified LTA coach, will be running these on Monday evenings. This will start on April 19th and run through to June 21st (missing out two bank holidays). Junior groups will be divided by age/ability. There is a separate charge for the course, to cover coaching fee and cost of balls.

If you are wishing to take up tennis again then you will be made welcome at the club. Adult social play is on Saturday afternoons and some special round-robin events are planned for this summer. If you are looking for competitive play, Langford enters teams in the Mid-Beds leagues and is trying to strengthen the squad of players available. Team members have their own practice and coaching sessions.

Want to know more? Membership application forms are available from Neil Franklin at 92 Shefford Road, Meppershall (Tel 815735). Alternatively call in on a Saturday afternoon (after 2.00 pm) at Langford Tennis Club, which is situated at the back of the sports field near the Church, entrance off Mill Lane.

MEPPERSHALL W.I. March 2004



President, Barbara Horwood, welcomed 27 members and 1 visitor to the Annual General Meeting.

Leaflets are now available for Eves Trophy entries including patterns for decorative knitted stockings not exceeding 10" high. Six classes this year at £1 per entry on "Crafty Christmas Creations" theme.

Penny Trundle has offered to do a flower arrangement for the Flower Festival in June and we will also make cakes for the event. Brochures are available for Milton Keynes Theatre April - August 2004. Congratulations to our darts team for reaching the final at Stewartby on 24th March. We wish them good luck.

Forth coming events include International Evening "Ireland" on 20th May at Houghton Conquest Village Hall, cost £5.50 including refreshments. Tickets are limited. A Treasure Hunt around Shefford on Friday 16th July and a taster session of croquet at Wrest Park on 25th July. More details of these events next month. Leaflets for bulbs will be distributed soon. Barbara requested that cakes for the NHS Community Trust be brought to the April meeting.

Our Treasurer, Mrs. John North, presented the financial statement for the year which was adopted. Betty Mather gave her report for the year outlining speakers and events particularly our Summer Supper evening and our outing to Finchingfield. Barbara gave the President's Address and thanked everyone for their help during the year. Mrs. Barbara Horwood was re-elected as President for the coming year with Mrs. Joan North as Treasurer, Mrs. Doreen Pritchard as Mailing Secretary, Mrs. Betty Mather as Minutes and Press Secretary. The following members will continue to serve on the Committee: Mrs. Joyce Dew, Mrs. Pam Flint, Mrs. Irene Heathcote, Mrs. Jill Hickling, Mrs. Joyce Smith, Mrs. Penny Trundle and one new members, Mrs. Pat Butler.

After the serious business of the meeting we had refreshments, scrabble and a new craft to us "Chinese Dumplings". Joan North supplied the materials and instructions for making them and a large number of members took part and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Thanks to Joan for all her efforts.

Our speaker on 14th April will be Mr. Dawson on the subject of National Children's Homes.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT IN MEPPERSHALLCHURCHESSt. Mary's Parish Church

Rector: Vacant. In the first instance please contact Rev. Ken Dixon 850150
The Rectory, 8 Rectory Close, Clifton

Church Wardens: Mr. B. Griffith, 61 Hoo Road 813354
Mrs. M. Bass, 37 High Street 851609

Parochial Church Council

Secretary: Mrs. Linda Chillman 850543
76 Shefford Road

Treasurer: Mr. D. Bartlett, 14 Taylors Close 811191

Methodist Chapel

Minister: Rev. P. Snelson, 79 Amphil Rd, Shefford 813284

Treasurer: Mrs. N. Simons, High Street 813281

Letting Secretary: Mrs. J. Taylor, 6 Stondon Road 814387

Roman Catholic Church

Priest: Father Bennie Noonan 813436

SCHOOLS

Meppershall Lower School: Head Mrs. Murray 813293

Henlow Middle School: Head Mr. Payne 813733

Samuel Whitbread Upper School & Community College
Head Mr. Owen 629900

Adult Education Tutor Mrs. J. Robinson 629906

DOCTORS

Cakebread, Baldock, Bietzk, Griffith & Baxter Appointments Only 819200

The Health Centre, Iveldale Drive, Shefford All other enquiries 814899

Puritz & Collins, The Surgery, 109 Station Road, Lower Stondon 850305

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

M.P. Jonathan Sayeed (Conservative), House of Commons, London 0207 2915142

County Councillor - Mr. Alan Burnage, 23 Broad Street, Clifton 811681

District Councillor - Mr. Paul Carne, 6 Hoo Road, Meppershall 857803
Email: paul.carne@midbeds.gov.uk
Fax: 01462 857804

District Councillor - Mr. Tony Rogers, 3 Poppyhill, Henlow 816305
Email: tony.rogers@midbeds.gov.uk
Fax: 01462 816510

Parish Council meets first Wednesday in month, Methodist Chapel at 7.45pm

Chairman: Mr. P. Chapman, 9 Brookside 813497

Clerk: Mr. C.J. Waghorn, 19 Icknield Green, Letchworth, Herts. 637531
Email: wagers.uk@ntlworld.com

SHOPS

Roger's Bakery & General Store (next to School) 813398
Mon-Fri 8.15am - 5.30pm Sat. 8.00am - 1.30pm

Post Office & Village Store, 6 High Street 811252
Post Office: Mon-Fri. 9.00am - 1pm & 2pm - 5.30pm Half day Sat.
Shop: Mon.-Thurs 6.00am - 6pm, Friday 6.00am - 7pm
Saturday 6.30am - 7pm Sunday 6.30am - 1pm

PUB

Ron and Doreen - Sugar Loaf Public House, 25 High Street 857991

ORGANISATIONS

<u>Meppershall Village Hall Committee</u>			
Chairman:	Mr. Paul Carne, 6 Hoo Road		813305
Treasurer:	Mr. D. Birch		817014
Booking Secretary:	Mrs. C. Turner, 24 Orchard Close		812791
Village Hall Phone Number:			817359
<u>Babysitting Circle</u>	Organiser:	Mrs. Sharon Edwards	814326
<u>Brownies</u>	Mondays at 6pm - 7.30pm	Village Hall	
Brown Owl:	Mrs. C. Elbourne		811964
Snowy Owl:	Mrs. Diane Lancaster		812108
<u>Beavers</u>	Fridays at 6pm - 7.15pm	Stondon Village Hall	
Beaver Scout Leader:	Mr. Steve Mann		816218
	Tuesdays at 6.30pm - 7.30pm	Shefford Scouts HQ	
Beaver Scout Leader:	Mrs. Hayley Henshall		817446
<u>Bingo</u>	Fridays at 7pm	Village Hall	
<u>Conservative Association</u>			
Chairman:	Mr. I. McLuskie		813417
Secretary:	Mrs. G. Bird		811260
<u>Cubs</u>			
Red Pack	Wednesdays	6.45pm Mr. D. Cousins	811441
1st Stondon	Thursdays	7pm - 8.30pm Mrs. Alison Hammond	811548
<u>Evergreen</u> (Over 60s)	Alternate Thursdays at 2.30pm	Village Hall	
	Mrs. M. Tink		812633
<u>Friends of St. Mary's Church</u>			
Chairman:	Mr. T. Thorley, 9 Hoo Road		813357
Secretary:	Mrs. M. Evesham, 107 High Street		814291
Treasurer:	Mr. H. Davies, 15 Hoo Road		812127
<u>Shefford Leisure Group</u>	Mrs. Enid Pamment, 112 High Street		851397
<u>Lions Club of Shefford</u>	Mrs. Enid Pamment, 112 High Street		851397
<u>Mepp'shall Players</u>	Amateur Dramatic Society		
Contact:	Mr. Frank Keen		815387
Minutes Secretary:	Ms. Jenny Moore	01582	503381
Correspondence Secretary:	Helen Gillett		816734
Treasurer:	Mr. Frank Keen		815387
<u>Meppershall School Association</u>			
Chairman:	Louise Palmer		850113
Secretary:	Dawn Addams		814707
<u>Meppershall Social Club</u>	See Notice Board for opening times		
Chairman:	Mr. G.R. Walker, 37 Brookmead		815183

<u>Meppershall Baby & Toddler Group</u>	Tuesdays at 2pm - 3.30pm	Village Hall	
<u>Chairman:</u>	Claire Penney, 3 Gregory Close		850987
<u>Secretary:</u>	Louise Hutson, 4 Coneygate		814148
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mrs. A. Hamson, 22 Eisenhower Road, Shefford		816896
<u>Playgroup</u>	Monday - Friday at 9.30am - 12 noon	Village Hall	
<u>Chairman:</u>	Mrs. Cindy Couzens, 2 Tippet Drive, Shefford		819495
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mrs. Michelle Brennan, 36 Orchard Close		816600
<u>Tennis</u>	(at Langford) - Neil Franklin		815735
<u>Womens Institute</u>	2nd Wednesday in month 7.30pm	Village Hall	
<u>President:</u>	Mrs. Barbara Horwood, 8 Rectory Road		816177
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mrs. Doreen Pritchard		
<u>Press Secretary:</u>	Miss Betty Mather		
AMENITIES			
<u>Banks</u>	Barclays Bank, 6 North Bridge Street, Shefford		01438 202122
	Monday - Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm		
<u>Dentist</u>	Mr Lakhani, High Street, Shefford		814020
<u>Electrician</u>	Mr R.A. Price, 118 Spring Drive, Stevenage		01438 361715
			Mobile: 07710 821878
<u>Fishmonger</u>	Les Braithwaite (Mobile Van) Thurs. Approx 11.45am		
<u>Greengrocer</u>	Nigel Mann (Mobile Van) - Fridays 2pm - 6pm		711802
<u>Hedgehog Rescue</u>	Beds & Herts Hedgehog Rescue - call Jeanette		711370
<u>Mobile Library</u>	Alternate Wednesdays		
	Nursing Home 10.00 Rectory Road 10.25		
	High Street/School 10.50 High Street/Taliesin 11.10		
	Village Hall 11.30 Fildyke Road 12.00		
	Shefford Road 12.25		
<u>Library</u>	High Street, Shefford		639076
<u>Kennels/Cattery</u>	Wayside Kennels & Cattery, Chapel Road		813261
<u>Newspapers</u>	Meppershall Post Office & Stores		811252
<u>Plumber</u>	Alan R. Dellar		814584
<u>Police</u>	Emergencies: Police attendance required		01234 841212
	Shefford Police Post (non-emergencies)	On	01582 471212
			01234 841212
<u>Career, Hair & Training Centre</u>	Caroline Carter, Centre Lane Dressage Fildyke Road, Meppershall		07747 686118
<u>Garage</u>	Gilly of Biggleswade		01767 601253
<u>Whitbread Wanderbus</u>	Mrs. S. Cross, 96 High Street		850075

Services at St. Mary's Meppershall

Sunday 4th April

8.30am
10.45am

Holy Communion
Procession from Meppershall School
Family Communion in Church

Palm Sunday

**Monday 5th April and
Tuesday 6th April**

7.30pm

Compline and Meditation

Wednesday 7th April

10.30am

Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 8th April

7.30pm

Sung Eucharist at St. Michael's, Shefford

Maundy Thursday

Friday 9th April

10am
2pm

Family Service followed by Easter Egg Hunt
The Last Hour

Good Friday

Saturday 10th April

7.30pm

Easter Vigil

Easter Eve

Sunday 11th April

11am

Sung Eucharist

Easter Day

Sunday 18th April

8.30am
9.15am

Holy Communion
Annual Church Meeting

2nd of Easter

Sunday 25th April

8.30am
11am

Holy Communion
Family Communion

3rd of Easter

Monday 10th May

Collation and Induction of the Rev. John Harper as Incumbent of the Benefice of Meppershall and Shefford at St. Michael's Church, Shefford

St. Mary's Musings

Looking Backwards

Benefice Eucharist 29th February. A huge thank you to everybody who worked so hard to produce the beautiful feast which preceded our Benefice Communion with friends from Shefford. We were all well nourished both physically and spiritually.

Looking Forward

Holy Week and Easter

Sunday 4th April Palm Sunday

We shall meet at 10.45am outside Meppershall School for our procession to Church, followed by a family Communion. I am still looking out for a donkey who might take the starring role. Any offers?

Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th April

Compline and Meditation at 7.30pm

Rev. John Barrall will lead us in these two lovely services. Anybody who has come to our regular Friday Compline should be able to vouch for the lovely prayerful time that this beautiful service provides.

Wednesday 7th April

Holy Communion at 10.30am

Our usual service following the BCP.

Maundy Thursday 8th April

No service at Meppershall but John Barrall will lead a Benefice Communion at St. Michael's Church in Shefford.

Good Friday 9th April

Two services today! At 10am we will have a repeat of our successful family service from last year, followed by an Easter Egg hunt. At 2pm a joint service with our friends from Shefford to mark the actual time when Jesus died on the first Good Friday.

Easter Eve Saturday 10th April 7.30pm

The beautiful Easter vigil service in which we light the new fire, bless and light the Paschal Candle and begin our celebration of Easter.

Easter Day Sunday 11th April 11am Sung Eucharist

We meet at 11am for our Easter celebration in a Church full of springtime glories. Do please feel welcome to come and join us for any of our special services as we travel from the discipline of Lent through the sorrow of Good Friday to the triumph of Easter Day.

Easter Flowers

To make the Church look extra special for Easter Day it would be lovely if people would be willing to contribute towards the cost of the flowers. An old tradition has it that lilies, in particular, are given in memory of a loved one. If you would like to contribute in this way, please contact Viv Clark, Pat Bass or Ben Griffith. Many thanks!

Finally, on Sunday 18th April we hold our Annual Parochial Meeting. This year the meeting will be held at 9.15am after Holy Communion. This is an opportunity for all parishioners to have their say in the running of the Church. Since this will be our last meeting before John Harper arrives to begin his ministry here, it would be good if as many people as possible attended. See you there!

A happy and Blessed Easter to you all.

Ben Griffith
Churchwarden and St. Mary's PCC

SERVICES FOR APRIL IN MEPPERSHALL METHODIST CHURCH

4TH Palm Sunday Worship and Sunday Club Rev. Snelson 11.a.m.

11th Easter Day Service of Praise and Celebration and Sunday Club Mr. Dilley 11 a.m.

Easter Services at Shefford

9 th April Good Friday March of Witness at 10.45 a.m. (With other Christian denominations)

11 th April Easter Day Sacrament Rev. Snelson 7.30 a.m.

Come and praise the Risen Lord!

11 th March... location: MADRID... Time: MORNING RUSH HOUR.....TERRORIST STRIKE ON RAILWAY NETWORK.....SIMULTAENOUS ATTACKS WITH BOMBS PLANTED IN BACKPACKS.....RESULT: DEATH TOLL NEAR TWO HUNDRED, HUNDREDS WOUNDED, CHAOS AND CARNAGE.....UNANSWERED QUESTIONS: WHICH TERRORIST GROUP DID IT? WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE?

!2TH MARCH One day on and the reality is there to see in hospitals and mortuaries. Politicians condemn, and most of the world pledges support and solidarity. Grief, Loss, bewilderment is everywhere. Many kneel and pray. Some light candles. All are shocked We too are sickened to the core by the cowardice and barbarism of such an attack, and know that 9/11, Bali, and Lockerbie have gone before. Ireland has taught us lessons too, but our vulnerability to similar attacks is ever present. It could have been us, and so our understanding of what has happened is deeper, more compassionate. But Terrorism by its very nature, breeds on escalating attacks, designed to increase deaths and destruction on a truly hideous scale. And we MUST BE DEFIANT.

Christians are currently on a journey through Lent, a period of spiritual reflection, towards Easter, the greatest Celebration of the Christian Church. The empty tomb on Easter morning signifies that Christ died for our sins on the Cross and came back to life. His Resurrection is resonant with hope, as He offers us eternal Life, and even now He lives for us.

Indeed, amidst the deepest grief in Madrid, Jesus is there. The wounds His people feel are His, the fear we feel, are His too, the candles in the streets and churches proclaim His light, and the despairing will feel His presence when they pray. And through it all He will offer eternal life.

Many will say, "Why does God allow such things, if He is so good? It's a tough, tough question. The fact is that there is wickedness and evil in the world. We are not immune to it and we must try and stamp it out, as best we can, from our lives. Terrorism doesn't follow any laws, spiritual or otherwise. Evil deeds speak for themselves and Terrorists will continue to carry them out. We are expected to fight back and God will give us the spiritual armour to do this. But it is our call! Our world!

Jesus Lives. Get a life this Easter and acknowledge Him.

Easter Blessings from Rev P. Snelson, Becky Snelson, Kath Milner, Julie Taylor and all who worship at the Meppershall Methodist Church.

ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC CHURCH
HIGH STREET
SHEFFORD

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

(8 April) 8.00pm **EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**
Followed by Watching at Altar of Repose
until Midnight. Compline at 10.00pm

GOOD FRIDAY

(9 April) 10.00am **MORNING PRAYER**

11.00am **SHEFFORD TOWN WALK OF WITNESS**
(Starting at BAPTIST CHURCH.)

3.00pm **SOLEMN LITURGY OF PASSION OF THE LORD**

7.00pm **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

HOLY SATURDAY

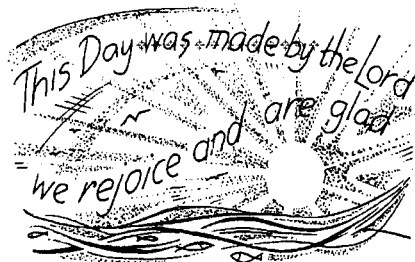
(10TH April) 10.00am **MORNING PRAYER**
11.00 – 12.00noon **CONFESSION**
3.00 -- 4.00pm **CONFESSION**

NO EVENING MASS AT HENLOW.

8.00pm **THE EASTER VIGIL**

EASTER DAY

(11TH April) 9.00am & 5.15pm **MASS.**



ETERNAL BROTHERHOOD

Jesus said to Mary, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am still ascending to my Father, and your Father, to my God, and your God",..... John 20 v 17

The relationships forged prior to the Resurrection were to continue in essence unchanged: Mary could relate to Jesus (almost) as before, though He told her not to cling to Him. Why was this? Because, in His resurrection body, though it felt like a normal body, it could appear and disappear at will (John 20 v 19), and to do this while Mary was holding on to Him would undoubtedly have given her a shock which Jesus would not wish to inflict.

Easter, primarily, is a time of Joy, but it also brings a challenge: to see the divide between this life and the next, not as a yawning chasm, but as a very thin line - a line that can, in spirit, be crossed at will. The Easter message is one of continuity. Much, inevitably, changes on the physical perspective when death comes; but the risen Jesus brings the challenging message: Look! Life and Love go on; life in a grander, freer mode. Relationships known in this life continue unchanged in the next - and I am with you, wherever you are, whatever you are doing.

Sometimes we may sense the proximity of our loved ones: an indefinable awareness - comforting, yet fleeting. Most of us are, in fact, shy about sharing such experiences. Mary, after all, was not believed when she ran to the Disciples with her Easter news (John 20 v 18 and Luke 24 v 11). But if we can take the risk of not being believed, our sharing may encourage others to do likewise. God's glimpses of life's next chapter didn't stop with Revelations: when He decides that we need the spiritual "lift" that such a glimpse can give, He provides one.

And who, amongst us, doesn't benefit from a little bit of encouragement!

God Bless you this Easter.

L.B.

A NURSERY RHYME FOR ALL AGES

Ten little Churchmen went to Church when fine,
But it started raining, and then there were nine.

Nine little Churchmen stayed up very late,
One overslept himself, and then there were eight.

Eight little Churchmen on the road to Heaven,
One joined a rambling club, and then there were seven.

Seven little Churchmen heard of Sunday 'flicks'
One thought he'd like to go, and then there were six.

Six little Churchmen kept the place alive,
One bought a T.V. set, and then there were five.

Five little Churchmen seemed loyal to the core,
The Vicar upset one of them, and then there were four.

Four little Churchmen argued heatedly
Over all the changes – and then there were three.

Three little Churchmen sang the service through,
Got a hymn they didn't know, and then there were two.

Two little Churchmen disputed who should run
The next social evening, and then there was one.

One little Churchman knowing what to do,
Got a friend to come to Church, and then there two.

Two sincere Churchmen each brought in one more,
So the number doubled, and then there were four.

Four sturdy Churchmen simply couldn't wait
Until they found four others, and so there were eight.

Eight eager Churchmen at Communion every week,
Soon encouraged others, troubled souls to seek.

All the seats in Church filled, not an empty pew,
God supply this grace and zeal in our own parish too.

Creating opportunities with disabled people

LEONARD CHESHIRE



As the spring sunshine streams through our windows here at Agate House, our thoughts are turning towards warm weather pursuits and activities. Plans are in hand for days out to the river, fishing trips, pubs and gardens, as well as the seaside and holidays.

Closer to home, we are absolutely thrilled to enjoy the sunshine in the comfort of the conservatory. Built several years ago as a result of generous donations and help from volunteers, the conservatory needed a facelift. We have been extremely fortunate to have received several memory donations from friends who have passed and this help went a long way to assisting us in plastering, heating, carpeting and furnishing the area. The end result is a really comfortable, warm and friendly room. The spin-off benefit, we'd never even thought of, is that the room is ideal for more personal, private meetings with family and friends. So come and see us sometime and view our "new space"!

Jeff is still very busy in his shop which is prospering. He's happy to receive more bric-a-brac and unwanted gifts, if you'd care to drop them in please. So think of Agate house when you next have a spring clean!

A note for your diary - the Gala date has been changed to **Saturday 10th July** (the 3rd conflicted with Bedford River Festival!). Opens 12 noon - 4pm. Do call if you'd like to have a stall or run one for us.

Our warmest good wishes to you all.

Judith Hagger - Telephone 01525 403247
Volunteer Coordinator/Fundraising

THE LIONS CLUB OF SHEFFORD

67 local residents enjoyed the Senior Citizen's Fish & Chip Supper was held at the Memorial Hall, Shefford. Everyone enjoyed the entertainment provided by the Gravenhurst School of Dancing in which selected numbers were performed by varying age groups from their recent show held at The Queen Mother Theatre in Hitchin. This was followed by a mixture of music, beautifully rendered, by The Shefford Town Band. Proceeds of the raffle will be passed to McMillan Nurses. Easter Saturday will see our members outside Lloyds Chemist where we will hold an Easter Egg Raffle. Our collection of used spectacles is ongoing and another consignment is currently being prepared ready for despatch to Chichester where they are sorted before being transported overseas to Third World Countries. We still meet at The White Hart, Shefford on the 1st or 3rd Wednesday of each month. For further information regarding our work, or to book a place for the above events, please contact: Lion Bob Izzard on 01462 629325 or Lion Den Fensome on 07776 157690. We are here to help!

SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

In March several local people joined the coach in Shefford for a day trip to Kew Gardens for the final day of the Orchids. Everyone enjoyed themselves although the weather could have been kinder. James Last fans!! We have managed to obtain a few extra tickets for this popular concert at The Royal Albert Hall on Thursday 29th April.- Tickets including coach £25.00. Ideal Home Exhibition, Earls Court Sunday 28th March - Price £22,50 including coach. Sweeps Festival Rochester Monday 3rd May Price £10.00. London Eye & Riverside Sunday 16th May - Price £16.50 (seniors) (coach only £8.00). Hidden London & Regent Canal, Thursday 3rd June Price £18.00. The ever popular Friday Night is Music Night with the BBC Concert Orchestra on Radio 2 at the Mermaid Theatre, Friday 2nd July - Price £7.50. Glenn Miller Festival - Sunday 29th August. Price including coach £22.00 (this is an all day event, featuring the famous Syd Lawrence Orchestra). Norwegian Fjords Cruise in June (11 days 10 nights) on the Royal Olympic Cruise Liner MS Triton. County Show & Norfolk Scenes - Monday 28th June - Friday 2nd July staying at the Dukes Head Hotel, Kings Lynn. The price includes entrance to The Royal Norfolk Show, excursion to Norwich and City boat cruise, visit to Cromer and shopping time in Kings Lynn. Inclusive price including insurance is £219 based on two sharing.. Tinsel & Turkey Friday 3rd - Monday 6th December. Staying at The Talbot Hotel, Malton, North Yorkshire visiting Harrogate and York. Price based on 2 sharing £170.00 - A limited number of single rooms available at no single supplement. We still support Keech Cottage Children's Hospice. All our raffle prizes are donated and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help and support, which is greatly appreciated. For further information on trips available, please contact Enid on 01462 851397.

RHUBARB MERINGUE POTS
(just 3g fat per serving)

(Serves 4)

450g/1lb rhubarb, cut into 4cm/1 ½ in chunks
100g/4oz golden caster sugar
Grated zest of 1 orange
1 tbsp strawberry conserve
2 eggs, separated

Preheat oven to 180c/gas 4/fan 160c. Put the rhubarb in an ovenproof dish, sprinkle over half the sugar and the orange zest and stir together. Cover and bake for 35-40 minutes until tender.

Remove the rhubarb from the oven and allow to cool slightly. Stir in the conserve, then the egg yolks. Divide the rhubarb mixture between four 175ml/6fl oz ramekins. Put on a baking sheet and cook in the oven for 10 minutes until slightly thickened.

While the rhubarb is cooking, whisk the egg whites until stiff. Sprinkle over half the remaining sugar and whisk again. Gently fold in the rest of the sugar. Swirl the meringue on top of the rhubarb, covering it completely. Return to the oven for 10 minutes until puffy and golden. Serve straight away.

AERO
BOUNTY
CARAMEL
CHOMP
CURLY / WURLY
DIME
FUDGE
GALAXY
KITKAT
LION
MALTESERS
MARS
MILKY / WAY
MINSTRELS
POLO / MINTS
SKITTLES
SMARTIES
SNICKERS
STARBURST
TOFFEE / CRISP
TWIX
WALNUT / WHIP
YORKIE

I	N	A	S	K	I	T	T	L	E	S	R	T	I
D	M	X	P	E	G	D	U	F	T	P	P	O	L
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H	K	O	S	M	I	T	I	R	L	T	P	I	T
W	I	M	R	T	A	M	K	S	N	A	H	N	R
E	S	M	A	R	T	I	E	S	E	W	W	S	A
L	R	I	M	S	T	A	R	B	U	R	S	T	P
T	E	E	S	K	E	H	I	S	T	Y	I	R	G
T	S	U	A	P	S	W	B	W	T	L	M	E	A
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C	L	W	O	I	C	M	N	Y	R	W	N	A	X
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T	A	N	S	I	S	A	L	T	P	O	I	D	S

A very HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those of you
with birthdays in APRIL

Lucy Peacock who will be 14 on the 1st
Rosie Parrish who will be 13 on the 2nd
Micha Staines who will be 11 on the 5th
Caitlin Gardiner who will be 11 on the 12th
Matthew Hill who will be 11 on the 14th
Rhianan Gardiner who will be 13 on the 16th
Katrina Brennan who will be 4 on the 17th
Harry White who will be 3 on the 19th
Bethany Palmer who will be 7 on the 19th
Jordan Robbins who will be 13 on the 20th
Edmund Holmes who will be 6 on the 20th
Samantha Pepper who will be 11 on the 21st
Christopher Wilson who will be 12 on the 21st
Shane Sturgeon who will be 8 on the 21st
Emilie Dunning who will be 13 on the 22nd
Stephen Moules who will be 12 on the 25th
Rachel Aberdeen who will be 12 on the 28th

If you would like your name added to the birthday page
please telephone Tracey Norris on 815 694
