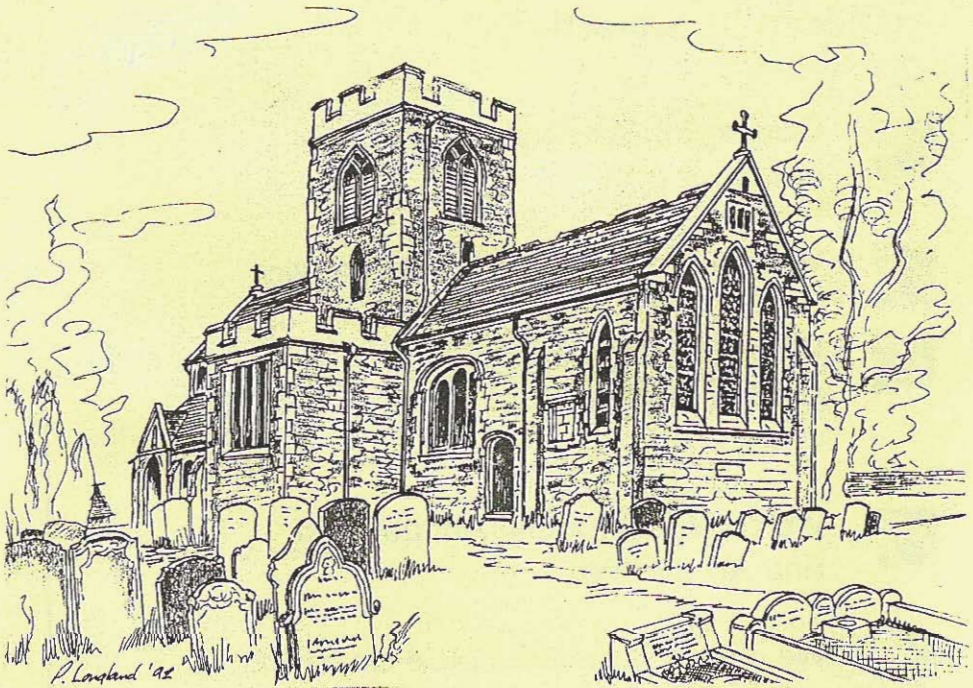


# THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



MARCH  
2005

# THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

Volume 20 Issue 10

March 2005

Thank you to those who volunteered to help with the distribution of the magazine, after my plea for help last month. We have had about half a dozen people offering their assistance, to which we are most grateful.

This is the last issue in the current volume of the magazine so, yes, it is that time of the year when we renew our advertisements. Should anyone wish to advertise in the Messenger for the next ten issues, or just a "one-off", please contact either myself or Steve Ansell for further information. The cost is very reasonable and I know for a fact that current advertisers do have favourable responses. As in previous years, there is a tremendous amount of work involved in producing the advertisements so, therefore, your patience and understanding is requested; hopefully, the magazine will be out on time next month, but if it is a few days late, I apologise for any inconvenience it may cause. I know most of you look forward to the day The Messenger lands on your doormat!

The deadline for articles for the April 2005 issue of the magazine is 12th March 2005. 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  |

## **SETTING SAIL FOR SOME 2012 OLYMPIC GLORY**

A young sailor who is being groomed for Olympic glory in 2012 is appealing for support to help him realise his dream.

Meppershall resident Justin Martin, 18, is one half of Catamaran Team Volitio which is receiving specialist coaching for the 2008 and 2012 Olympics. A year ago Justin was sailing for Great Britain and going to the Europeans. "In the summer during the Olympics, the guys who were sailing the Tornado were not doing very well, and I got an e-mail asking me if I would like to take part in a new Olympic Catamaran programme."

Justin and his team-mate Kevin Cooper also 18 from Hertfordshire, generally attend the training camps at Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy monthly using their 18 ft Hobie Tiger Catamaran. The February camp has been extended to eight days over the half term. "It's called the Olympic Development Squad. The RYA have invited four potential teams, eight people that have been sailing at a fairly high standard, and shown that they can already sail well and proved themselves at different events." "The aim is to train together and get the best out of all of us and get the best team for the Olympics."

Each of the four teams is competing to represent Great Britain at the Beijing Olympics in 2008 but because Team Volitio is the youngest team involved, the following 2012 Olympics is more likely to be its chance for glory and their aim is to win gold. "At training camps we also get to meeting past Olympic sailors coming to train. It is inspiring and gives us something to aim for."

You can find out more about the team at [www.teamvolitio.org.uk](http://www.teamvolitio.org.uk) and anyone wishes to sponsor them should call 07976 885513 or 813555.

## MEPPERSHALL BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

The Meppershall Baby and Toddler Group is a friendly, active group run by committed volunteers who are nominated and voted for by the parents themselves.

We meet in the Village Hall on Tuesday afternoons (term time only) from 2.00pm until 3.30pm.

All are welcome, from new born babies to the more active toddler. Dads are also welcome.

We have ride on toys, pushalongs, bikes, slide, seesaws and rockers. An art and activity table. Separate soft baby area (from new born). Toy Library. Organised events for children including Christmas Party, Teddy Bears Picnic, Easter Events and Halloween Fancy Dress Party. Photographer sessions. Book, craft and clothes sales

**All this for only £1 per family per session.**

***Come along and join us, first session is free!***

If you have just become a new parent, please come along to our group. We understand that it can be a little daunting at first but we are an easy going friendly bunch of parents – no cliques, just like minded parents who want to talk, share stories and discover that it is not just their little angel that 'does that'. Oh and of course the children and babies absolutely love it.

We would like to say a big welcome to those members who have joined us recently. We hope you and your children enjoy our weekly meetings.

I know Christmas seems like a long time ago but both the children's and mothers Christmas parties were a great success. Thank you to everyone who supported us at these events. With the proceeds from the Christmas and previous raffles, we have been able to purchase some new toys for the children. Please come along and take a look.

Our Easter party will take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Please come along and support us at this event. There will be Easter craft activities, bouncy castle, and hunt the Easter egg competition.

For contact details, please see the Organisations section of the Messenger.

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**SAMUEL WHITBREAD COMMUNITY COLLEGE PSA  
SHEFFORD ROAD, CLIFTON, SHEFFORD, BEDS.**

**CAR BOOT SALE**

**To raise funds for a school mini bus**

**SUNDAY 24TH APRIL 2005**

**1pm - 4pm**

|                  |                    |             |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>Entrance:</b> | <b>Adults</b>      | <b>50p</b>  |
|                  | <b>Concessions</b> | <b>20p</b>  |
|                  | <b>Under 5's</b>   | <b>Free</b> |

**To book a stall please call Linda (01462 711533). Only £6.**

**Entrance from 12 noon.**

**BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT**

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# MEPPERSHALL PRE-SCHOOL



Goodbye and Good Luck to  
*Katrina Brennand, Samuel Boggon,  
 Sasa Kovacs, James Parrot, Ruby Watson  
 Chloe Marshall, Manishka Hart and  
 Lucy Edwards who are all starting school  
 in April.*

We all hope you will remember the special and fun times  
 at Pre-school.....

- ☺ Christmas, Easter and End of Term parties
- ☺ Christmas carols at St Mary's church
- ☺ Visits to the local park and shops and church
- ☺ Your first visit with us to your new school
- ☺ Sports day in the park
- ☺ Your parent/carer coming in to help
- ☺ Learning something new



A Big Welcome to

*Caitlin Saunders, Daisy Lucas, Charlotte Watson and  
 Chloe Watson who all started with us in January.*

We will enjoy introducing you to all the variety of fun  
 and educational activities we have for you including;



painting, play dough, sticking, book corner,  
 cooking, construction, climbing frame.....

For more information about how Meppershall Pre-school provides  
 education through play for children in Meppershall and  
 surrounding villages please contact Michele Brennand on 816600



## MEPPERSHALL W.I.

President, Barbara Horwood, welcomed 27 members to our 83rd Anniversary meeting.

Thanks to everyone involved in the Tsunami Disaster fund raising effort on 15th January. A total of £630.20 was raised and three car loads of items were delivered to Letchworth on Sunday 16th January, which were being despatched to Sri Lanka during the following week.

Future events in the area include a Coroners Life, David Morris the County Coroner talking about the history of the profession on 23rd March at Parkside Hall, Ampthill at 7.30pm price £5.50 open to friends and family. Manuka Honey, a presentation evening of Manuka Honey and its medicinal properties, cost £3 including tea/coffee and biscuits. International Evening on Thursday 7th April at 7.30pm, an evening in the sun - Jamaica at £5.50 at Flitwick Village Hall. Trash or Treasure on Tuesday 10th May at the Addison Centre, Kempston commencing 7.30pm, doors open at 6.30pm. Lars Thorp and Penny Britain will select items to value, cost £7.00, available to members and friends on a first come first served basis. Outing to London Saturday 11th May dropping off at Covent Garden, more details to follow.

We didn't have a speaker at our February meeting but after the main business members played darts, scrabble, dominoes and several other brain-testing puzzles plus a quiz. We also had cheese and wine and nibbles which made a very successful and enjoyable evening for our 83rd Anniversary.

Our next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on 9th March 2005. New members and visitors are always welcome.

## *Calendar of Forthcoming Events*

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|                            |   |               |
|----------------------------|---|---------------|
| <i>Saturday 12th March</i> | <i>Antiques &amp; Cherished Possessions<br/>Valuation Day<br/>Shefford Methodist Church</i> | <i>10am</i>   |
| <i>Monday 14th March</i>   | <i>Bible Society Action Group<br/>1 Osborn Crescent, Shefford</i>                           | <i>7.45pm</i> |
| <i>18th 19th March</i>     | <i>The Meppershall Players "One Act Plays"<br/>Village Hall</i>                             | <i>7.45pm</i> |

=====

### *WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER*

This event takes place on Friday 4th March. There will be a service at St. Andrew's Church, Langford at 2pm and all women, men and young people are invited. The speaker will be Father Bennie Noonan from St. Francis of Assisi Church, Shefford. There will be a bookstall and refreshments. If transport is required please telephone 816446.

=====



**WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT IN MEPPERSHALL****CHURCHES****St. Mary's Parish Church**

|                 |                                    |        |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| Rector:         | Rev. John Harper                   |        |
|                 | The Rectory, Church Road           | 813334 |
| Church Wardens: | Mr. Brian Bellamy, 125 High Street | 815944 |
|                 | Mrs. Brenda Wright, 75 High Street | 816446 |

**Parochial Church Council**

|            |                                   |        |
|------------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Secretary: | Mrs. Linda Chillman               |        |
|            | 76 Shefford Road                  | 850543 |
| Treasurer: | Mr. D. Bartlett, 14 Taylors Close | 811191 |

**Methodist Chapel**

|           |   |        |
|-----------|---|--------|
| Minister: | Rev. P. Snelson, 79 Ampthill Rd, Shefford | 813284 |
|-----------|---|--------|

**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 Came, 6 Hoo Road, Meppershall              | 857803                            |
|   | Email: paul.came@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: waggers.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 |
|--|--------|

ORGANISATIONSMeppershall Village Hall Committee

|                    |                                  |        |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| 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. Suzanne Brightwell |              | 815752 |

|                      |                             |                      |        |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| <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 |  |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|--|

Conservative Association

|            |                 |        |
|------------|-----------------|--------|
| Chairman:  | Mr. I. McLuskie | 813417 |
| Secretary: | Mrs. G. Bird    | 811260 |

Cubs

|             |            |              |                     |        |
|-------------|------------|--------------|---------------------|--------|
| Red Pack    | Wednesdays | 6.45pm       | Mr. D. Cousins      | 811441 |
| 1st Stondon | Thursdays  | 7pm - 8.30pm | Mrs. Alison Hammond | 811548 |

|                  |   |              |              |
|------------------|---|--------------|--------------|
| <u>Evergreen</u> | Alternate Thursdays at 2.30pm           | Village Hall |              |
| (Over 60s)       | Miss E. Ashton (Poppy), 20 Fildyke Road |              | 07931 636544 |

Friends of St. Mary's Church

|            |                                  |        |
|------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| 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:                  | John Nye                 | 814113 |
| Secretary:                | Karen Mitchell           | 816336 |
| Treasurer:                | Frank Keen               | 815387 |

Meppershall School Association

|            |               |        |
|------------|---------------|--------|
| 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 &amp; Toddler Group</u> | Tuesdays at 2pm - 3.30pm                          | Village Hall |        |
| Chairman:                                   | Claire Penney, 3 Gregory Close                    |              | 850987 |
| Secretary:                                  | Louise Hutson, 10 Buxton Close                    |              | 814148 |
| Treasurer:                                  | Karen Lucas, 51A High Street                      |              | 811581 |
| <u>Playgroup</u>                            | Monday - Friday at 9.30am - 12 noon               | Village Hall |        |
| Chairman:                                   | Mrs. Julie Stock                                  |              | 817371 |
| Secretary:                                  | Mrs. Michele Brennan                              |              | 816600 |
| Registrar:                                  | Mrs. Viv Thorne                                   |              | 850821 |
| <u>Tennis</u>                               | (at Langford) - Neil Franklin                     |              | 815735 |
| <u>Womens Institute</u>                     | 2nd Wednesday in month 7.30pm                     | Village Hall |        |
| President:                                  | Mrs. Barbara Horwood, 8 Rectory Road              |              | 816177 |
| Secretary:                                  | Mrs. Doreen Pritchard                             |              |        |
| Press Secretary:                            | Miss Betty Mather                                 |              |        |
| <u>Youth Club</u>                           | Fridays 7pm                                       | Village Hall |        |
|   | Linda & Matt Ford 851567 OR Sue & Steve Covington |              | 815736 |

### 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/Taliesen 11.10                |    |                      |
|  | Village Hall 11.30 Fildyke Road 12.00                              |    |                      |
|  | Shefford Road 12.25  |    |                      |
| <u>Library</u>                           | High Street, Shefford  |    | 639070               |
| <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         |
|  |  | Or | 01582 471212         |
|  | Shefford Police Post (non-emergencies)                             |    | 01234 841212         |
| <u>Livery Yard &amp; Training Centre</u> | Caroline Carter, Centre Line Dressage<br>Fildyke Road, Meppershall |    | 07747 686118         |
| <u>Whitbread Wanderbus</u>               |  |    | 850075               |

St. Mary's Parish Church Meppershall  
 In the United Benefice of Meppershall and Shefford  
 Rev John Harper, The Rectory, Church Road, Meppershall  
 01462 3813334  
 Churchwardens  
 Brenda Wright 816446 and Brian Bellamy, 125 High Street

Dear Friends,

Hanging on our lounge wall is a painted china plate that depicts my favourite Easter story. Three men are walking along a country road, chatting as they go, one bearing a shepherd's crook. The scene is not obviously from the bible, as the characters and the landscape are typically Chinese. I bought the plate at a Hong Kong monastery many years ago. But the story it portrays lies at the very heart of the Christian message. It shows Cleopas, a follower of Jesus and an unnamed companion on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a journey of some seven miles. They are accompanied by the Risen Jesus, but they fail to recognise him. The story explains (St. Luke 24 v.13-35) that Jesus enquires of them what they are discussing, and they share their anguish at the events of the previous Friday. No doubt he could have dumbfounded them by making his resurrected presence beyond dispute - "Here I am risen from the grave". But what he actually says and does goes far deeper. First he asks questions to help them express their bewilderment. Then he explains how it is that all their trauma of the previous days fits with what had been prophesied in Scripture, if they have eyes to see it. And Jesus is prepared to leave it there - he isn't going to press them if they aren't ready for more. But the two disciples do want more, and as they ask him to stay with them as they reach Emmaus, he reveals his true identity in the action of the breaking of bread. My Chinese plate says to me that the Jesus of Easter - the Jesus who cared for his mother and forgave the thief as he hung on the Cross, is the same Lord who deals gently with us according to who we are. He speaks to each of us according to our needs, our temperament and our understanding. He respects us for who we are, and is always more ready to lead us into the truth, as and when we are ready. The glory of every Easter is all about God's graciousness to his people - the way he walks alongside us and travels at our pace. It points us too to the way in which the Christian family, the Easter people, are to each out to others, all those for whom Jesus died and was raised in triumph.

With every good wish for a joyful Easter.

*John Harper*

### Services in March

|               |         |   |                 |
|---------------|---------|---|-----------------|
| Sunday 6th    | 8.30am  | Holy Communion  | Lent 4          |
|               | 6pm     | Evensong  |                 |
| Sunday 13th   | 8.30am  | Holy Communion  | Lent 5          |
|               | 11am    | Family Service  |                 |
| Sunday 20th   | 8.30am  | Holy Communion  | Palm Sunday     |
|               | 6pm     | Evensong  |                 |
| Thursday 24th | 7pm     | Commemoration of<br>Last Supper and feet washing              | Maundy Thursday |
| Friday 25th   | 2pm     | The Last Hour Hymns,<br>readings and reflections on the Cross | Good Friday     |
| Saturday 26th | 7pm     | Easter vigil and renewal<br>of baptism vows                   | Easter Eve      |
| Sunday 27th   | 8.30am  | Holy Communion  | Easter Sunday   |
|               | 11.15am | Easter Communion  |                 |

There is also a service of Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) every Wednesday morning 10am and evening service of Compline is held every Friday 7.30pm.

The new Benefice Junior Choir is now well underway and new voices are welcome at the weekly practices which are now being held on Sundays in term time at St. Michael's Shefford 3-4pm. Please ring Sandra for details 813334. Plans are afoot for their first appearance at the Easter Day service.

Enlarging our Vision of God with the Bishop of Bedford. On the remaining Tuesday evenings of Lent there is opportunity to reflect on biblical characters and their relationships with God 8pm at St. Michael's Shefford.  
 March 1 - experiencing God's blessing with Margaret Venables Rural Dean  
 March 8 - experiencing God's absence with Bishop Richard Inwood  
 March 15 - experiencing God's mercy with Bishop Richard Inwood

The Crucifixion - John Stainer. A musical mediation for Passiontide, Sunday March 13 6pm at Shefford Methodist Church. Collection for Christian Aid.

Exploring Prayer - an imaginative opportunity to explore difference approaches to prayer is offered at St. Albans Abbey on Saturday 7th May, all ages welcome. Participants are asked to submit their choice from over 30 workshops by 31st March. Details and forms available in St. Mary's and at the Rectory.

## The Friends of St. Mary's

The Friends would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came along and supported the Quiz Night on Saturday 22nd January 2005. The event was a huge, huge success, and there were eighteen tables with 108 people taking part. Rev. John and Joan Barrall were the quiz masters, presenting a great variety of questions covering all aspects and topics from around the world. Great fun was had by all with fun and with lots of banter and frivolity, creating a terrific atmosphere to add to the occasion.

Thank you to all who supported the raffle by donating prizes and purchasing tickets, a total of £180 was raised which, put together with the takings on the night, less hall and other expenses, the event raised a total in the region of £390. The Friends are extremely grateful, this goes into the fund for the next improvement in St. Mary's and we are currently looking at the feasibility of donating money for the installation of a PA system in the Church. With reference to any future Quiz Nights, it is quite likely that this will feature again next year so get swotting folks!

In the meantime, on Saturday 21st May, there will be a Jazz Concert in St. Mary's Church by the "Vine Street Six". They will be playing Traditional/New Orleans jazz so please watch out for further details, we will be delighted to see you there.

**Trevor Thorley**  
**Chairman**

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES. 2005



(March 24<sup>th</sup>)

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

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

(March 25<sup>th</sup>)

**GOOD FRIDAY**

10.00am **MORNING PRAYER**

11.00am **SHEFFORD TOWN WALK OF WITNESS**

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

7.00pm **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

(March 26<sup>th</sup>)

**HOLY SATURDAY**

10.00am **MORNING PRAYER**

8.00pm **THE EASTER VIGIL MASS**

(March 27<sup>th</sup>)

**EASTER DAY**

9.00am & 5.15pm **MASS.**

**Sunday Masses**

First Mass of Sunday

Saturday Evening

6pm

RAF Henlow

9am

Shefford

5.15pm

Shefford#

Weekday Services

See notice at Church of phone

Parish Priest:

Fr. Bennie Noonan 813436

Parish Secretary:

Rose Boulton 811547

---

***Luxury Pinelodge set in a stunning woodland park in the heart of the beautiful Derbyshire Countryside***

*The lodge sleeps 4, has 2 separate bedrooms and is furnished to a very high standard. Ideal for families and couples alike. Set in 44 acres of woodland, facilities include an indoor heated swimming pool, superb pub serving excellent food, games room, adventure playground, soft play area, mini-golf, tennis, shop and bike hire.*

*Situated between Matlock and Bakewell, its only a short drive to many attractions including Alton Towers, Heights of Abraham, Chatsworth House, Dovedale and Speedwell Cavern. Darwin Forest Country Park is open all year round. Very competitive rates for "off peak" bookings between 1 November and 1 April. Full weeks or short breaks available.*

*For more information either 3-mail to [pinelodgedarwinpark@hotmail.com](mailto:pinelodgedarwinpark@hotmail.com) or phone Gill on 01462 812613 or Wendy on 01462 817080.*

---

**PAINTING & DECORATING**

**By JULIA**

Interior Design, Paint Effects  
and Stencils

**FREE QUOTES**

Tel: 01234 342367 or  
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***imageline***



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## **SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP**

Now the lighter evenings and hopefully warmer days are within our grasp, our thoughts turn to interesting places you may like to visit.

Recently our group enjoyed a roast beef lunch followed by a superb show called "Century of Song". This musical journey, celebrating the Millennium years from 1900 to 2000, were performed by professional artists at The Palace of Varieties in Wood Green, London. On 1st April (Friday evening) we are holding our "Get Together" at the Shefford Memorial Hall (near the Police Station) where we have arranged a fish and chip supper. "Bustles and Beaux" will present an Old Time Music Hall. A cheque will be presented to Keech Cottage Children's Hospice. Covent Garden and Kensington Palace, the home of Princess Margaret on Sunday 12th June. Blenheim Palace, Saturday 16th July, the home of Sir Winston Churchill. Also in July we will be visiting Ipswich which includes a boat trip on the River Orwell. Glenn Miller Festival, Sunday 28th August, and the Mapledurham experience (near Reading) on Saturday 10th September. By special request we have arranged a return visit to the Poppy factory in Richmond on Thursday 20th October. Tickets have been applied for a further visit to Thursford for their wonderful Christmas show, but we are still awaiting the ticket allocation and date. However, we are taking names to avoid disappointment.

Regarding holidays, Lake Como is now completely filled. Places available for Beamish experience and Durham County, Saturday 19th - 21st June and Bournemouth, Tuesday 27th - Friday 30th September. Theatre lovers; The Rate Pack - evening performance Wednesday 27th April and Miss Saigon - Milton Keynes Theatre matinee performance 25th May.

Friends of ours have moved to a hamlet in North Buckland, North Devon and taken over Denham House, with 10 bedrooms for Bed & Breakfast. They also have two self catering cottages, Barley Cottage sleeps 8 and Old Granary Cottage sleeps 4. Both cottages are fully equipped. Ilfracombe, Lynton and Lynmouth are all within easy reach. Water-sports and golfing are an example of the sporting local attractions available. For further information or if you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, please contact Enid on 01462 851397.

### *Hot Cross Muffin Buns*

*450g/1lb strong white bread flour*

*½ tsp salt*

*50g/2oz butter, cut into pieces*

*7g sachet easy-blend dried yeast*

*2 tsp ground mixed spice*

*50g/2oz golden caster sugar*

*Finely grated zest 1 lemon*

*275ml/9fl oz milk, plus extra to glaze*

*2 eggs beaten*

*200g/8oz luxury mixed dried fruit, cherries halved*

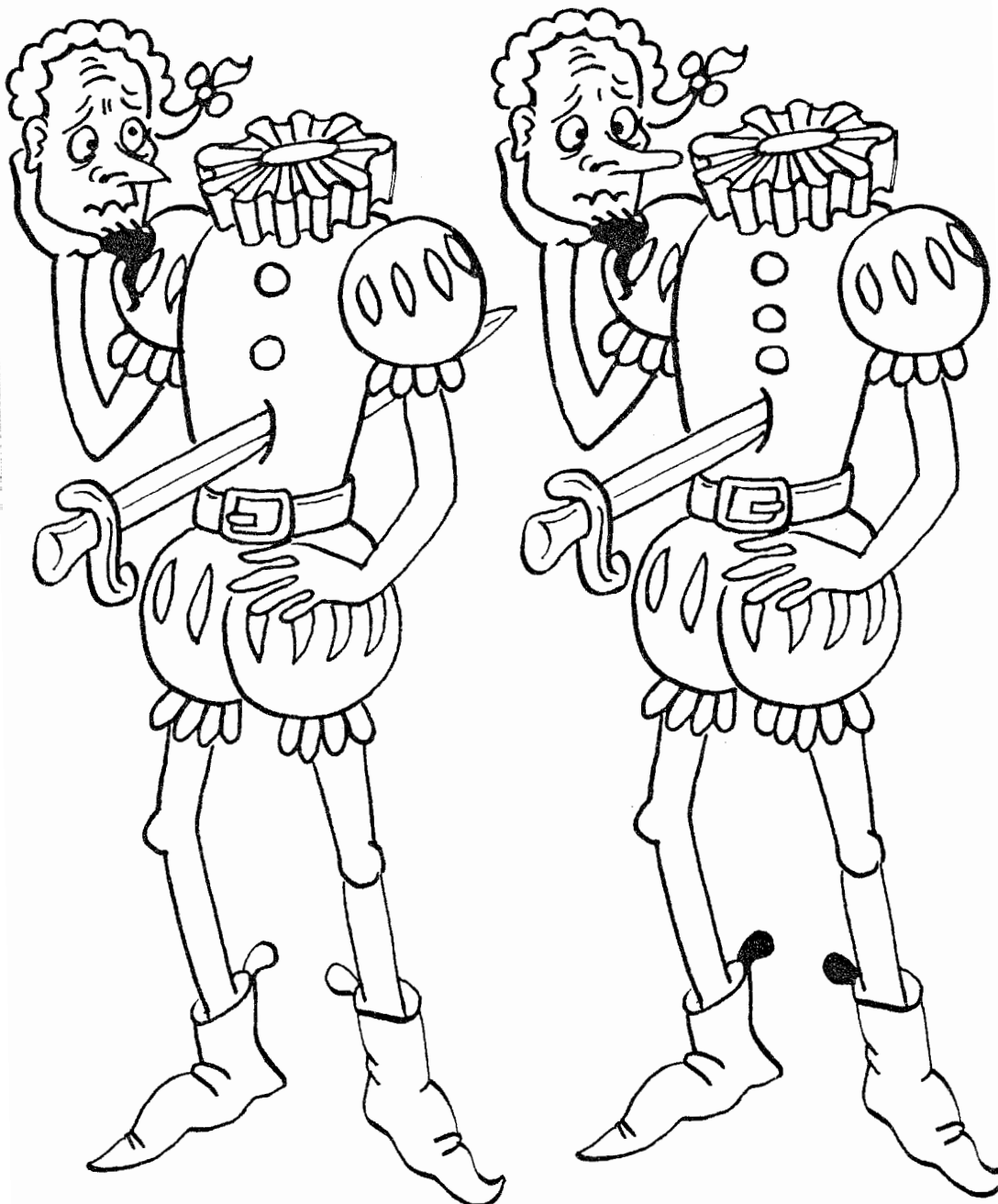
*For the Crosses and Glaze: 2 tbsp plain flour and golden syrup*

Put all dough ingredients, except dried fruit, together and make dough. Once ready, turn out onto a lightly floured surface and punch down. Pan into large flat circle, tip the fruit in the centre and enclose with the dough. Knead the fruit in, cutting through the mixture with a sharp knife, then re-knead a few times to distribute the fruit evenly.

Cut out nine 14cm squares of baking parchment and have ready a 12 hole muffin tin. Cut the dough into 9 even sized pieces and roll each into a smooth ball. Push a square of the parchment into a tin hole and drop in a ball of dough. Repeat with the rest. Cover the tin loosely with lightly-oiled cling film and leave in a warm place for 30-45 minutes or until doubled in size. Preheat oven to fan 180C/conventional 200C/gas 6.

For the crosses, blend the flour to a smooth paste with 5-6 tsp of cold water. Spoon into a small plastic food bag and cut a small hole off one corner or use a piping bag. Pipe crosses on the buns. Bake for 15 minutes or until golden. Lift onto a cooling rack. Brush with a little golden syrup while warm.

These ghosts seem to be the same, but there are 9 differences.  
Find and circle them.



A very Happy Birthday to those of you  
with birthdays in March

Sean Biggings who will be 12 on the 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Archie Underwood who will be 1 on the 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Alexandra Cocks who will be 3 on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Genevieve Cocks who will be 2 on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Tyler Ball who will be 7 on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Marcus Hart who will be 2 on the 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Katherine Gower who will be 7 on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Emma Burr who will be 8 on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Emma Horsford who will be 3 on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Sam Edwards who will be 12 on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Bridgid Holmes who will be 9 on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
 William Roberts who will be 8 on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Peter Gibbs who will be 14 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Katie Gibbs who will be 14 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Reece Osborne who will be 13 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Charlotte Fergus who will be 14 on the 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Daisy Lucas who will be 3 on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Kate Aberdeen who will be 10 on the 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Chloe Scott who will be 8 on 30<sup>th</sup>

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

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***Happy 21st Birthday Darren Game***

*love*

***Mum, Tasha, Carlie, Terry, Dad, Kathy, Carol and  
Ben***

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