

MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



March 2006

This will be the final issue of Volume 21 of The Meppershall Messenger. We are in the process of re-doing the advertisements for the coming year, and should anyone like to place an advertisement in the magazine, please get in touch with either myself or Steve Ansell as soon as possible and we will be happy to give you the necessary information. It is an excellent way of advertising your business locally; the magazine is distributed to every house in the Village ten months of the year (we have two double issues). The cost compared to other publications is very reasonable and it is much appreciated support for the continuing success of the magazine.

As a new item, it has been suggested that we start an "Announcements" page. This could include 18th and/or 21st birthdays, births, forthcoming marriages, newcomers to the Village, bereavements, etc. If anyone would like to make such announcements, then please let me know.

There were quite a few comments about the Incidents in the Village last month. As and when more are brought to my attention, I will continue putting them in. If in some way it helps put a stop to this mindless behaviour, then all well and good. Certainly, the more serious incidents will be reported to the Police.

The deadline for articles for the April 2006 edition of the magazine is 12th March. Please either leave them at the Post Office or drop them through my letterbox at 7 Brookmead. If you prefer, you can send articles to me at my e-mail address lindagoldl@aol.com. 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:	Colette House, 90 Fildyke Road 815585

Dear Editor

I was wondering if it would be feasible to have more activities going on in the Village Hall. At the moment there seems to be plenty of activities for the children (which is as it should be), but what about Mums, middle-aged people and anyone in between? What about aerobics such as pilates, yoga, step, maybe line dancing, flower arranging, weight watchers classes and exercises for the over 60's. Obviously a fee would have to be paid by all.

I know activities go on in Shefford, but I don't drive and the buses don't come every five minutes, so would welcome this.

I do realise it all boils down to time and people to organise these things, but you may get some revenue out of these activities which would help with the Village Hall.

Just a suggestion!

Mrs. M. Murphy

(The above letter was handed to me, and I thought it worth putting in the Messenger, as I cannot help. If anyone has any comments in reply, please let me know. Alternatively, I do have a contact address and telephone number for Mrs. Murphy).

PLEASE SLOW DOWN

I have been asked to request that motorists travelling through the Village **SLOW DOWN** when approaching horses and riders on the road. This, of course, goes for cyclists as well. However, horses are a little more unpredictable than humans, and slowing down, giving them a wide berth when passing would be most appreciated, for the safety of the horse, rider and occupant of the vehicle! The village has a 30 mph speed limit – **PLEASE ABIDE BY IT!** Thank you.

Editor

Dear Friends,

I sadly lost my mother at the beginning of February which was a big shock to me. I would like to thank all the well wishers and everyone that helped me get through one of the most difficult times in my life. This is a time when you understand the value of living in a village.

God bless you all.

Lorraine Jarvis

It is Saturday 4th February at 7.50am and I have just returned from walking down the High Street to the Village Shop. What a disgusting mess! If I had had a dustbin bag with me I could have filled it twice over. Cigarette ends and packets, sweet wrappers, crisp packets, cans, plastic bottles and cardboard boxes from Jaffa Cakes; all items that are purchased at the Village Shop. Not only was the rubbish on the pavements and grass verges, but thrown into people's front gardens.

Where is the pride in our surroundings? But even more so, where is the respect for other people and their property?! There are enough receptacles placed in the Village – perhaps a little more consideration and more of a concerted effort to use the bins provided would make our village more of a pleasure to walk in.

Name Supplied

As many of you may be aware, Madge Morris passed away at the beginning of February after much illness and suffering. Madge was a well known character of the Village and I, for one, will miss her. She was a kind, intelligent lady and on behalf of everyone who knew her, I should like to express sincere sympathy to Colin, Dawn and Stephen at their sad loss.

Editor

VILLAGE PETITION FOR A FOOTPATH BETWEEN MEPPERSHALL AND SHEFFORD

Like many villagers, I am concerned that it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident on the road leading up to the village from Shefford. Drivers have to stop suddenly or swerve to avoid pedestrians. More importantly, pedestrians who live and work in Meppershall take their lives in their hands to walk up and down the road every day. This is even more dangerous at night when the road is unlit.

I wrote to our County Councillor Robert Younger in November about these concerns and received a prompt reply from him saying he had referred my letter on to the County Engineer. Since then I have heard nothing.

I have put together a Village Petition that I would urge all villagers – adults and young people who use the road as drivers, passengers and pedestrians – to sign. The Post Office Stores and Roger's Bakery have kindly offered to display the petitions on their counters. Please encourage your neighbours, friends and students of Samuel Whitbread to sign the petition so that we can work together as a community to make our village safer.

Many thanks for reading this.

Pippa Gibbs

Village Hall News...Update

The first events have come and gone, and as well as being a great success, have raised some much needed funds for the hall. Our particular thanks to Gemma Chapman for the hard work and enthusiasm she is putting into these activities.

New Leader

Following on from the last edition of the Messenger, we do need a Chairman who can devote time and effort into the long-term future of the hall. That doesn't necessarily mean you'll have to make a life-long commitment though! In my opinion, the hall needs someone who has the time to thoroughly investigate the funding of a new hall, and begin the application processes where appropriate.

I can tell you that the committee and the people who work so hard in maintaining the hall are very supportive. The fund-raising activities and renovation work are a shining testament to that. So whoever comes in, I can assure you that you will have a great team of people to work with who all clearly love the hall. If anyone wants to discuss the possibility with me, please do call me on 07939 144190 or email: meppershall@btinternet.com

Coming Soon...

Please do support these activities if you are able, and have fun at the same time!

- March 11th Coffee Morning
- March 18th St. Patrick's Day Party
- April 11th Easter Egg Hunt, Craft Day!
- April 22nd Quiz with a Ploughmans'

Some of the events will be run in conjunction with the Social Club or the Players. Posters will appear in the usual places, announcing times etc. **Tickets** for March 18th are on sale from Gemma Chapman or email: meppershall@btinternet.com

Why not pay us a *virtual* visit :

www.meppershallvillagehall.co.uk

Kind Regards,
Chris Addams – Chairman

Village Hall Emergency Fund

Collection Barometer

We have so far raised over **£6,863**

£10,000	
£ 9,000	
£ 8,000	
£ 7,000	
£ 6,000	
£ 5,000	
£ 4,000	
£ 3,000	
£ 2,000	
£ 1,000	

Note: Amount includes the Parish Council grant that will be provided in April.

Collection boxes at the Post Office and Social Club bar.

INCIDENTS IN VILLAGE – January/February 2006

Village Hall

It is very encouraging reading about and seeing all the hard work being done to save the Village Hall. All voluntary work, I might add. But, how disheartening and unbelievable to hear what some individuals are doing to ruin the Hall.

The side door of the Village Hall seems to be a magnet to some young people. They spit and leave chewed gum around the side entrance; they have smeared faeces all over the side door; they have even pushed paper underneath the door and set light to it! All in the name of "having a bit of fun"!? Someone has to clear this mess up in order for the rest of us to enjoy a night out at the Social Club/Village Hall. How awful for them; how disgusting!

The Village Hall is the heart of the Village; it is there for us all to enjoy and support. Young children attending Toddlers and Play group use it. It is not a target for mindless, filthy vandalism.

MEPPERSHALL PLAYERS STOP PRESS

**Summer Production 2006 – Two Act Play
Read through Wednesday 1ST March
7.30pm at Village Hall
Age range for play 16 – 70 years**

**Auditions will take place the following week on
Thursday 9th March 7.30pm at Village Hall**

MEPPERSHALL PLAYERS

It seems such a long time since "Sinbad the Sailor", which was well received by the audiences who came to see it. On the Thursday evening performance we always support a charity and this year we supported St. John's Hospice, Moggerhanger and were able to present them with a cheque for £250. Also back in the Summer 2005 we put on a variety show to commemorate the end of the World War II, from which we were able to present a cheque for £300 to the British Legion.

The Players meet every 1st, 3rd and 4th Wednesday of the month, and every 2nd Thursday at 8pm at the Village Hall. Our current annual membership fee is Juniors £1, Seniors £3 and we welcome anyone from the age of 9 to 90+ years. Although most of our members enjoy performing, not everyone likes to be in the spot light. If you fancy yourself a dab-hand at DIY, who not come and join us as a set builder. If you fancy yourself as a Renoir or Rolf Harris, come and design or paint backdrops. Good with needle and thread? The Players use a lot of costumes on pantomimes and variety shows. As yet, no-one has come forward to direct a summer production or a pantomime for 2006, so if you imagine yourself a Stephen Spielberg we look forward to meeting you.

The dates for this years pantomime are Sunday 26th November, Friday 1st, Saturday 2nd, Sunday 3rd, Thursday 7th, Friday 8th and Saturday 9th December. One of the most important roles in our pantomimes and variety shows is that of the pianist. The Players have been very lucky with the talented people who have agreed to play for us, and although our pianists to date have given their talent and time free of charge, we are prepared to pay our pianist for rehearsals and performances. If you are interested in joining the Players, come to the Village Hall or ring me, Karen Mitchell, Players Secretary on 816336.



Langford Tennis Club

Hot News! New courts & floodlights.

Last October we splashed out on a refurbishment programme which has completely renewed our tarmac playing surfaces and added some new floodlighting. Why not come along and be one of the **first to play on our new surface** – currently in designer black but early spring of 2006 will see a transformation into the “US Open” colours of blue & green!

New members are always welcome, subscriptions are modest and family groups get a discount. Your key will allow access for play at any time. The only time courts are reserved is for league matches and for adult social play on Saturday afternoons. Think you may need some help? Well, we run coaching sessions for both juniors and adults but due to heavy demand this is for members only.

Spring coaching session starts Monday 24th April, every Monday for 8 weeks (but not on the two bank holiday Mondays). Juniors are at 5.00 p.m. & 6.00 p.m., then Adults on at 7.00 p.m. Our LTA coach Bob Brookes runs these sessions, for which there is a separate charge.

For the more competitive amongst you, we enter Mens, Ladies & Mixed teams in the leagues run by Beds LTA, to which we are affiliated. If you want more information, or an application form, contact Neil Franklin (tel: 01462 815735).

MEPPERSHALL W.I. February 2006

Vice President, Mrs. Penny Trundle, welcomed 25 members to the February meeting which commenced with a minute silence in respect of Madge Morris who died recently.

Future events in the area include "Gone with the Wind" an information evening looking at the air around us. Speaker Dr. Stephen Ashworth from University of East Anglia to be held at Great Barford Village Hall on Monday 10th April at 7.30pm, cost £5.50. International Evening – Italy on Thursday 4th May at Flitwick Village Hall 7.30pm, further details to follow. Celebrity Lunch Tuesday 16th May at Keysoe Village Hall cost £4.50, speaker Hilary Mariarty who writes in Home & Country, full details to follow. Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity International Women's Event, a celebration of crafts from rural and urban groups Friday 10th March at Renhold Village Hall 11am – 3.30pm. Wide variety of crafts including Asian Hand painting and food recipes. Entry free, small charge for refreshments.

We didn't have a speaker at our February Meeting but several committee members organised some craft ideas including card making and decorating, hand cream making with different oils, etc, syllabub flavoured with lavender and cognac, also cream cheese, plus oasis balls decorated with variegated greenery and artificial flowers. Most members took part and enjoyed their evening. As February is our birthday month we finished off our evening with wine and nibbles. Our next meeting on 8th March will be our Annual General Meeting. Visitors and new members are always welcome.



Calendar of Forthcoming Events

<i>Monday</i> <i>13th March</i>	<i>Bible Society Action Group</i> <i>3 Pinemead, Shefford</i>	<i>7.45pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i> <i>18th March</i>	<i>St. Patrick's Evening</i> <i>Meppershall Village Hall</i>	<i>8pm</i>
<i>Friday</i> <i>24th March</i>	<i>Ladies Pamper Night</i> <i>Meppershall Village Hall</i>	<i>7.30pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i> <i>25th March</i>	<i>Friends of St. Mary's</i> <i>The Shannon Express Chorus</i> <i>St. Mary's Church</i>	<i>7.30pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i> <i>8th April</i>	<i>Table Top Sale</i> <i>Village Hall</i>	<i>10.30am</i>
<i>Saturday</i> <i>13th May</i>	<i>Village May Fayre & Barn Dance</i> <i>(further information to follow)</i>	

NCT NEARLY NEW SALE

Langford Village Hall

Saturday 4th March

2.15pm – 3.30pm

**(From 2pm if you are an NCT Member
with Membership Card)**

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 Road, Shefford	813284
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Roman Catholic Church

Priest:	Father Bennie Noonan	813436
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SCHOOLS

Meppershall Lower School	Head	Mrs. Murray	813293
Henlow Middle School	Head	Mr. Payne	813733
Samuel Whitbread Upper School and Community College	Head	Mr. Owen	629900
	Adult Education Tutor	Mrs. Robinson	629906

DOCTORS

Cakebread & Partners, The Health Centre, Iveldale Drive, Shefford	814899
Puritz & Collins, The Surgery, 109 Station Road, Lower Stondon	850305

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

County Councillor:	Cllr. Robin Younger	
	Jesmond House, High Street, Flitton	01525 717090
	Email: robin.younger@bedsec.gov.uk	
Surgery/Advice Centre:	1 st Friday each month (except August), Shefford Library 10am – 11.30am	
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	1 st Wednesday each month, Methodist Chapel at 7.45pm	
Chairman:	Mr. David Foskett, 11 Orchard Close	851770
Clerk:	Mr. C. Waghorn, 19 Icknield Green, Letchworth	637531
	Email: wagers.uk@ntlworld.com	
Member of Parliament:	Mrs. Nadine Dorries, House of Commons	
	London SW1A 0AA	0207 2194239
Member of Euro Parliament:	Tom Wise MEP (UKIP)	
	21A High St, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 1DN	01525 385900

SHOPS

Roger's Bakery & General Store (next to School)		
	Mon-Fri 8.15am – 5.30pm / Sat 8am – 1.30pm	813398
Post Office & Village Store, 6 High Street		
Post Office:	Mon-Fri 9am – 1pm & 2pm – 5.30pm (half day Sat)	
Shop:	Mon-Thurs 6am – 6pm, Friday 6am – 7pm	
	Saturday 6.30am – 7pm, Sunday 6.30am – 1pm	

PUB

The Sugar Loaf Public House	25 High Street (Ron and Doreen)	857991
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ORGANISATIONS

Meppershall Village Hall Committee

Chairman:	Mr. Chris Addams, 9 Hill Top View	07939 144190
Treasurer:	Mr. D. Birch	817014
Booking Secretary:	Kate Hall, Culpeper House, Chapel Road	812869
Village Hall Telephone Number		817359

<u>Babysitting Circle</u>	Mrs. Sharon Edwards	814326
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<u>Brownies</u>	Mondays 6pm – 7.30pm	Village Hall	
Brown Owl:	Mrs. Christine Elbourne		811964
Snowy Owl:	Mrs. Suzanne Brightwell		815752

<u>Beavers</u>	Fridays 6pm – 7.15pm	Stondon Village Hall	
Leader:	Mr. Steve Mann		816208
	Tuesdays 6.30pm – 7.30pm	Shefford Scouts HQ	
Leader:	Mrs. Hayley Henshall		817446
Leader (Shillington):	Jan Montgomery		712386

<u>Bingo</u>	Fridays 7pm	Village Hall	
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Mid Beds Conservative Association

Chairman:	Mrs. Pippa McLuskie, 4 Stondon Road	813417
Secretary:	Mrs. G. Bird	811260

<u>Cubs</u>				
Shefford	Wednesdays	6.45pm	David Cousins	811441
Shillington			Pauline Goodman	711943

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

Friends of St. Mary's Church

Chairman:	Mr. Trevor Thorley, 9 Hoo Road	813357
Secretary:	Jill Wright, 9 Rectory Road	850253
Treasurer:	Mr. H. Davies, 15 Hoo Road	812127

<u>Shefford Leisure Group</u>	Mrs. Enid Pamment, 112 High Street	851397
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Meppershall Players (Amateur Dramatic Society)

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

Meppershall School Association

Chairperson:	Gail Fairey	817594
Vice-Chairperson:	Lorraine Jarvis	811216
Secretary:	Lisa Frost	851058

Meppershall Social Club (see Notice Board for opening times)

Chairman:	Mr. G.R. Walker, 37 Brookmead	815183
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<u>Meppershall Baby & Toddler</u>	Tuesdays 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 9.30am – 12 noon	Village Hall	
Chairman:	Sarah Saunders		850817
Secretary:	Paula Standbridge		811160
Registrar:	Viv Thome		850821

<u>Scouts</u>			
Shefford	Diane Landau	01234	381153
Shillington	Paul Major		834251

<u>Tennis</u> (at Langford)	Neil Franklin		815735
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<u>Womens Institute</u>	2 nd Wednesday in month 7.30pm	Village Hall	
President:	Barbara Horwood, 8 Rectory Road		816177
Secretary:	Doreen Pritchard		
Press Secretary:	Betty Mather		

<u>Youth Club</u>	Alternate Fridays 7pm	Methodist Chapel	
	Linda & Matt Ford		851567
	Sue & Steve Covington		815736

AMENITIES

Banks	Barclays, 6 North Bridge Street, Shefford	01438 202122
	Monday – Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm	
Dentist	Mr. Lakhani, High Street, Shefford	814020
Electrician	Mr. R. Price, 118 Spring Drive, Stevenage	01438 361715
	Mobile:	07710 821878
Fishmonger	Les Braithwaite (Mobile Van) – Thursdays approx 11.45am	
Greengrocer	Nigel Mann (Mobile Van) – Fridays 2pm – 6pm	711802
Hedgehog Rescue	Beds & Herts Hedgehog Rescue – call Jeanette	711370
Mobile Library (alternate Wed)	High Street/School 1.55pm – 2.10pm	
	Village Hall 2.15pm – 2.30pm	
	Fildyke Road 2.35pm – 2.50pm	
Library	High Street, Shefford	639070
Kennels/Cattery	Wayside, Chapel Road	813261
Newspapers	Meppershall Village Stores & PO	811252
Plumbers	Alan Dellar	814584
	G.A.S., 14 Cherry Trees, Lower Stondon	813781
Police	Emergencies/Police attendance required	01234 841212
		Or 01582 471212
	Shefford Police Post (non emergencies)	01234 841212
Livery Yard & Training Centre	Caroline Carter, Fildyke Road	07747 686118
Whitbread Wanderbus		701700

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Meppershall

Rector : Rev John Harper, The Rectory, Church Rd, Meppershall
01462 813334

Churchwardens:

Brenda Wright 816446; Brian Bellamy 125 High St.

Services for March

Weds 1	6.45p.m. Ash Wednesday Communion Service
Sun 5	11.15a.m. Parish Communion, and Sunday School for 3-12's at the Rectory.
Sun 12	8.30a.m. Holy Communion 11.15a.m. Family Service – crèche available
Sun 19	8.30a.m. Holy Communion 6p.m. Evensong
Sun 26	Mothering Sunday – 8.30a.m. Holy Communion 11.15a.m. Family Communion and Choir (no Sunday School today)

Also....

Fri 3	2.15p.m. Womens World Day of Prayer, Shefford Methodist Church
Sun 12	3p.m. United Service at Meppershall Methodist Chapel
Thurs 30	7.30p.m. Deanery Lent Service with Communion at Langford Parish Church

Weekdays services....

Wednesdays	10a.m. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Fridays	7.30p.m. Compline (night prayer 15 mins)
Saturdays	9.30a.m. Morning Prayer

Parish outing to St John's College Cambridge.

St John's has had close links with St Mary's as our patron for centuries, and the Dean has invited us to visit the College in the early Summer. This will include a tour and presentation afternoon tea and Evensong in the Chapel. There is already sufficient interest to justify a group visit on either Saturday May 27 or June 10.(preferred date to be confirmed early March) To sign up please see notice on Church porch door, or ring the Rectory – 813334. Transport can be shared. No costs entailed. All welcome.

Dear friends,
Being the Church in 2006 ...has to do with vision for the future, and awareness of the world of today. It also has to do with learning from the Church as it was at the very beginning. When the New Testament was being written, the Christian family was growing rapidly, largely because her members were exercising their individual gifts in respect of their own abilities and experience and opportunities. The words from which we've derived the terms 'clergy' and 'laity' were both used to describe the 'whole people of God'. In more recent times the 'clergy' have been seen as a group who are trained and 'set apart' to exercise the ministry of the Church on behalf of the laity. But this is not a very accurate way of interpreting what scripture has to say about the Church's life and structure. Nor in 2006 is it a realistic means of sustaining the work of the Gospel.

When I was ordained there were some 700 clergy entering ministry each year – today that figure is in the 300's, and the consequence is that there are now more retired clergy in the Church of England than in full time service. So circumstances are pressing us to learn the lessons of the early Church more urgently than ever. Fortunately some of the retired clergy continue to provide part time ministry, and St Mary's can be very grateful for that. The church is also served by a good number of lay people who have a calling to be Readers, and who are formally selected and trained for this particular form of licensed ministry. There are others who fill important statutory roles in the life of each local Church, ie. as PCC Secretaries, Treasurers and Wardens. But there are also others who have wide experience and a suitable aptitude for serving in other areas, who have not had opportunity to fill roles that are recognised in any meaningful sense.

Consequently we have reached a stage where the local ministry of the Church needs to be 'opened up' so that more of God's gifts may be harnessed and deployed for His work. Recently St Mary's P.C.C. has agreed to recognise and support the particular ministry of two members of the church, given their past experience and training and their present commitment. Brian Bellamy has been recognised as a 'pastoral assistant', and his focus includes the leading of some worship, group activities and pastoral care. Sandra Harper (my wife) is now recognised as St Mary's Children's Worker, and as such will continue to develop ministry with local children through the likes of 'Sparks' holiday clubs, Sunday School, musicals and Junior Choir.

We are also blessed with others who bring their own experience and gifts to the service of the church in a wide variety of ways. My hope is that the local church will go on growing as a community with wonderfully rich and diverse gifts, all of whom serve, not to 'help the Rector' but in their own right, and in the strength which God provides. Please encourage all who carry out their varied responsibilities with all the prayer and support you can muster for His sake.

With good wishes,

John Harper

SPARKS Children's Ministry in Meppershall

SPARKS Sunday School

Our first meeting was Sunday February 5th 11.15 – 12.15. 10 children came along to The Rectory lounge and dining room!!! We praised God in prayer and song [well kazoo's!] and then heard the story of 5 loaves and 2 fish. Everyone made bread, flour hovered in the air, and this was to be shared amongst all those at The Family Service the following week. One thing that this story teaches us is that if we give a little, God can multiply the result. This is exactly what happened at our first Sunday School for I had thought we may have a couple of children, had prepared for 6 yet God blessed us with 10 children!!! Next Sunday School involves water – I wonder what God is going to do!!!!

Future plans:

- Sunday school children will lead their own service for Families.
- In the Summer months meetings will take place outside.

Why not bring your children to learn more about the Christian faith, to seek to experience the presence of God and to grow in their own faith?

1st Sunday of the month sunday school march 5th. april 2nd. may 7th. June 4th.

For children 3 – 12 yrs. Meet The Rectory 11.15am. Collect from church 12.15pm.

2nd Sunday of the month family service march 12th. april 9th. may 14th. June 11th.

For all ages. Altogether in church. Creche area available. 11.15am – 12noon

4th Sunday of the month family communion with sunday school march 26th. april 23rd. may 28th.

For children 0 – 12 yrs. Meet St. Mary's, Meppershall 11.15am– 12.15pm

Sandra Harper The Rectory, Meppershall 01462 813334 sandrayharper@tiscali.co.uk

Please pencil in.....

Saturday May 13th For

Meppershall's May Fayre and Barn Dance

In support of St Mary's Restoration programme

Details coming soon. Offers to help and requests for own site on field

contact Pat Bass

01462 851609

THE FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH

A very big thank you to those of you who took part and supported us in our Quiz Night on Saturday 21st January. A total of 15 tables (87 participants) contributed to an evening of fun and laughter. The Rev. John Barrall and Joan Barrall kindly officiated at the event, which consisted of 15 rounds to suit everyone. Lyn Thomas and his team won the prize of six bottles of wine, which were donated by John Barrall from his private vineyard. Two teams qualified for the booby prize, team members each receiving a bottle of beer. A well-stocked raffle table raised £115 and overall just over £300 was raised for the benefit of the Church. Hopefully we will have another quiz next year, it is not too early to get swotting!

Many thanks again, and we hope that you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did in putting on the event.

Trevor Thorley
(Chairman)

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH HIGH STREET, SHEFFORD

Sunday Masses

First Mass of Sunday

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

Weekday Services

See notice at Church or telephone

Parish Priest:

Parish Secretary:

Fr. Bennie Noonan 813436

Rose Boulton 811547

ONE WORLD – ONE PROMISE

The Scouting Movement was formed by Lord Baden Powell in 1907. Scouting is an organisation which welcomes both boys and girls and has groups to suit all ages: Beavers 6-8 yrs, Cubs 8-10 yrs, Scouts 10-14 yrs, Explorers 14-18 yrs, Network 18-25 yrs, and adult fellowships for those who still have interest but are no longer active in the Movement. All groups enjoy useful activities and fellowship, which are both character building and fun, and the activities cover a wide range both of the indoor and outdoor variety. The skills learnt prove to be an asset when applied to situations which arise later on during their careers.

Scouting is not confined to Great Britain, there are over 28 million scouts worldwide. Get-togethers, called Jamborees, are held every four years during the summer months of the host country, and the last one being held in Thailand over Christmas/New Year 2002/2003. The year 2007 is the 21st Anniversary of the first Jamboree and is to take place in England in August. 40,000 scouts are expected to attend this gathering which is being run on the lines ONE WORLD – ONE PROMISE and as you will appreciate a lot of organisation is needed for this event to take place. The whole event is a big outdoor camp with everyone under canvas for 10 days. As with all organisations, funds are needed. Each Scout participating has to raise £1,000 so that they can attend the Jamboree. Part of the fee is to help enable a Scout from a Third World Country to also attend. To this end an AUCTION OF PROMISES is to take place at Biggleswade Conservative Club at 7.30pm on Friday 24th March. Items include a flight in a light aircraft, a ride in a chauffeur driven Aston Martin DB9, a fly fishing rod, a bottle of House of Commons scotch, a pack of five video tapes. You can pledge a promise beforehand, or come and buy on the night. May we count on your support? Help in the Scouting Organisation is always needed, be it on a regular basis or support on special occasions. This does not have to be a weekly commitment, but to find out more about how you can help use the contact phone number in the article, and they will put you in touch with your nearest local troop. Do come along to enjoy the fun of the Auction and to support the Scout Movement on Friday 24th March. Catalogues will be available from 14th March.

Contact Gerry Pope 01767 225871
Visit our website:
Bedfordshirecontingent.escouts.net

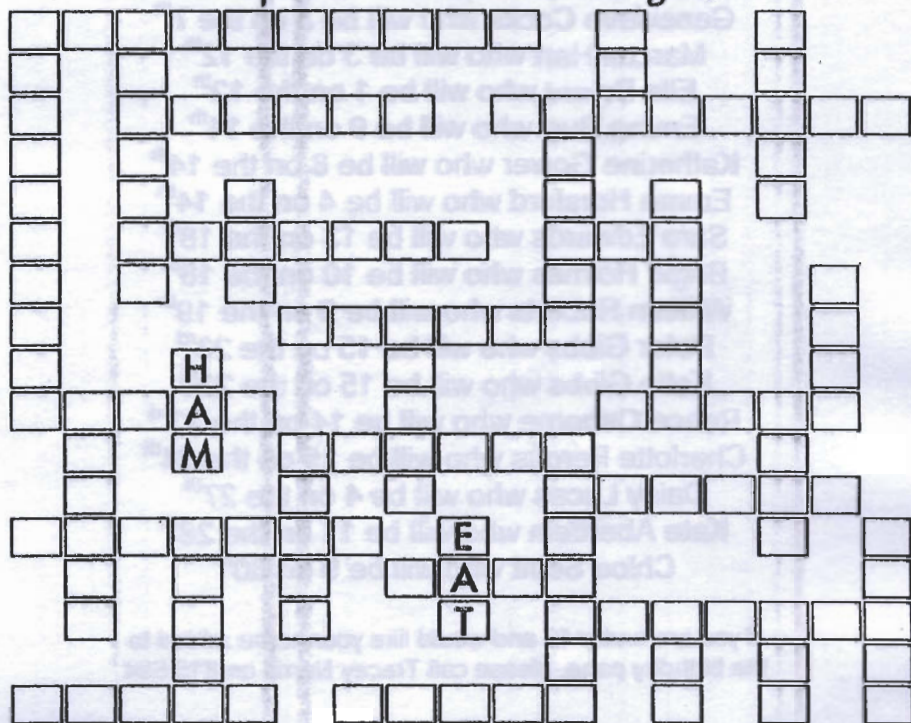


SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

It seems incredible a year has past since our last 'Get Together' where we presented a cheque to Keech Cottage Children's Hospice. A fish & chip supper and entertainment provided by the well known 'Billy Keys' has been arranged for Wednesday evening on April 5th, where once again you can meet old friends and new. Numbers are limited. Our first holiday of the year will take place, 13th to 17th March at Kendal in the Lake District, staying at the County Hotel, all excursions are included. On the 30th March a historical visit to London for 'Faith, Hope and Charity' where we will learn a little of Elizabeth Fry and her prison work and George Peabody and his social housing, Dr Barnardo, Fred Charrington and General Booth to name but a few. Saturday 29th April a special day out in London, will see us at Wellington Barracks in time for the Mounting of the Queen's Guard and to watch as they march out for Buckingham Palace, a few minutes later the Queen's Lifeguard rides by. After lunch we will experience Britain at War visiting the London underground air raid shelter, window shop along the little shops of Southwark and see how people coped with food and clothing ration. Nostalgic!! Our second holiday is a six day Romantic Rhine & Magical Moselle cruise from 29th June to 4th July, starting at Boppard, calling at Rudesheim – Winnigen, Cochen and Koblenz, with optional excursions. The 4th October, will see our Leisure Group on their third holiday, this time to Sicily. Theatres: Our group do book theatre tickets for Milton Keynes only, but we do have the facility to join with our colleagues in Stevenage for London Theatre trips. If only a few people book for a particular show, it may mean they will have to go to Stevenage to collect the coach. However, a minimum of eight booking from Shefford will make it viable for a Shefford pick up. Please check the arrangement when booking. Why not join our friendly group and receive a monthly newsletter by telephoning Enid on 01462 851397. – Happy Days!

PICNIC BASKET

Fit the picnic words into the grid.



3 LETTERS

BAP
DIP
EAT
HAM
ICE
PIE
TEA

4 LETTERS

FORK
SALT
WINE

5 LETTERS

DRINK
HONEY
KNIFE
LUNCH

MELON

PASTY
PLATE
SALAD
SCONE

6 LETTERS

APPLES
CELERY
HUNGRY

PASTRY

PICNIC
SALMON
TOMATO

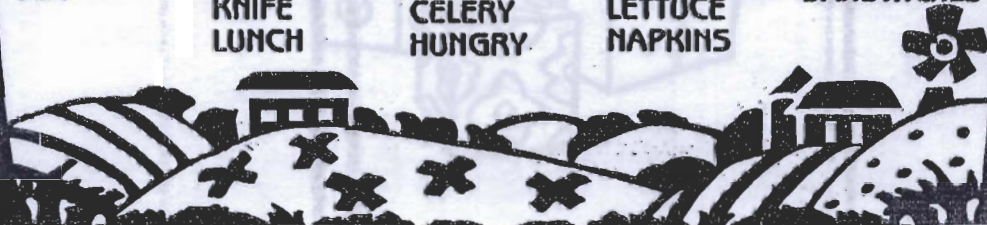
7 LETTERS

CHICKEN
CHUTNEY
LETTUCE
NAPKINS

PLUM-JAM

8 LETTERS
APPETITE

10 LETTERS
SALAD-
CREAM
SANDWICHES



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

Sean Biggings who will be 13 on the 6th
Archie Underwood who will be 2 on the 6th
Tyler Ball who will be 8 on the 7th
Alexanda Cocks who will be 4 on the 7th
Genevieve Cocks who will be 3 on the 7th
Marcus Hart who will be 3 on the 12th
Ella Bryant who will be 1 on the 12th
Emma Burr who will be 9 on the 14th
Katherine Gower who will be 8 on the 14th
Emma Horsford who will be 4 on the 14th
Sam Edwards who will be 13 on the 18th
Brigid Holmes who will be 10 on the 18th
William Roberts who will be 9 on the 19th
Peter Gibbs who will be 15 on the 23rd
Katie Gibbs who will be 15 on the 23rd
Reece Osborne who will be 14 on the 23rd
Charlotte Fergus who will be 15 on the 24th
Daisy Lucas who will be 4 on the 27th
Kate Aberdeen who will be 11 on the 28th
Chloe Scott who will be 9 on 30th

If you are under 16 and would like your name added to the birthday page, please call Tracey Norris on 815 694

