

MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



August/September 2006

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

Volume 22 Issue 5
August/September 2006

This edition of The Messenger is a double bumper issue! It gives "the Team" a well earned break from duties and to enjoy the remainder of the summer without worrying about deadlines, etc.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone for their kind comments and constructive feedback regarding The Messenger, and of course their contributions. I never appear short of articles to put in and it seems that each month there is produced a good, informative magazine for the Village – which is what it should be. Please keep sending your articles and letting me know of any issues which you believe should be included. It is very rewarding to know that all the time and effort put into producing the magazine is appreciated and, most of all, read by most people in the Village.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer holiday, whether you are going away or staying at home. So far the weather has been glorious – let's hope it continues (with a little rain at night for the gardens!).

The deadline for articles for the October 2006 edition of the magazine is 12th September. 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

CONTENTS

Village News	1 - 17
Calendar of Forthcoming Events	18
Who's Who & Village Organisations	19 - 21
Church News	22 - 25
Other	26 - 32
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Dear Editor

Thank you to all those people of Taylors Close who gave so generously during the June annual collection for Barnados. I am pleased to say that between our small close we raised £32.50 to help some of the most vulnerable members of our society. Many thanks!

Val Moules

We are moving, Max my little dog and I, to a smaller more manageable house where my family can keep an eye on me!

I couldn't go without saying a big thank you to the people of this village who I have got to know over the years, for their friendship, kindness and support, especially over the past couple of years through Roger's illness and after his death. I am very grateful.

I am going to miss the familiar faces as I walk Max and the chats on the way, but I will be visiting..... how can I go without my fix of a Multigrain loaf and a Danish pastry?

Love to you all.

Pip Earl

Just to let you know, the raffle prizes kindly given for the Messenger Raffle and subsequently donated to another cause, raised over £180 for Friends of Samuel Whitbread, an organisation which many young people in this village benefit from. Thank you very much indeed.

Name Supplied

MEPPERSHALL SOCIAL CLUB

Over the last two months, at no cost to the Village Hall, some MSC members have voluntarily re-decorated the Social Club area. We have also given the Snooker Room and toilets a much needed coat of paint. We have also painted the Social Club's entrance area and have completely re-vamped the bar and cellar and changed our beer suppliers to Charles Wells of Bedford, who have kindly refitted the beer cellar and bar with new equipment. We have now got a choice of Guinness, Kronenbourg lager, Carling lager, Fosters lager, Eagle Smooth bitter, Bombardier bitter, Adnams IPA and Eagle IPA on draught, all at very reasonable prices! Why not come and see what we have to offer? We try to encourage families and friends. Membership is only £10 per family, £6 single under 65 and £3 for pensioners per year. We also do junior membership for 16 - 18 year olds, but parents must be members.

My thanks go to Steve Collins, Jack Gilmore, Kevin Croft and Gemma Chapman for their help, and a special thanks to Charlie Primett for his skills and expertise in fitting the new walnut bar top which has made the Club more attractive for Club Members, visitors and the Village Hall. I would also like to thank the Playgroup and Mothers & Toddlers for their understanding during these works. I would like to apologise to other users for the noise and smell and inconvenience while this work took place, but I am sure if you come to the Club or a village function you will see it has all been worthwhile. Hope to see you in the near future.

Graham Walker
Chairman MSC

MEPPERSHALL PLAYERS

We are slowly gathering a set building team together but need more people who are handy with hammer, nails, drill, saw, etc, etc. If this is you, why not come along and join our merry band.

Do you have any photos of past Players productions that we could copy? The committee would like to build up a pictorial history of the Players for posterity and any snapshots you might have would be greatly appreciated (also dates and names especially if they are pre 1984). If you have any you would care to lend/donate please send them to me. I promise to take good care of them and don't forget to put your name and address with them and state whether they are on loan for copying or a donation.

This year's panto will be held on Sunday 26th November, Friday 1st, Saturday 2nd, Sunday 3rd, Thursday 7th, Friday 8th and Saturday 9th December.

The Players meet every 1st, 3rd and 4th Wednesday of the month and every 2nd Thursday at 8pm at the Village Hall. Our current membership fee is Juniors £2, Seniors £5 (per year) and we welcome anyone from the age of 9 to 90+ years to participate in any of the following activities; acting, set building, painting, costumes, directing, sound and lights, backstage, front of house. If any of the aforementioned appeals to you why not stroll over to the Village Hall or ring me, Karen Mitchell Players Secretary on 816336. We look forward to meeting you.

The Village Plan

As indicated in the last Messenger we anticipated an extension to our plan dates and there will be up to six months added to the overall program. This is for the best of reasons, namely to ensure as many people in Meppershall as possible are consulted to ensure the questionnaire reflects as closely as possible the issues surrounding Meppershall and Meppershall life, not those of some fictitious average village.

Members of the Working Group will be visiting as many of the village groups as possible. We will hold open days in the Methodist Hall on 22nd and 23rd of September .

Our present plan calls for the consultation period to end at the end of October at which point we will be preparing the questionnaire for the printers.

How can I contact the Working Group?

If you have e mail, then send a mail to plan@meppershall.org and this will automatically e mail all the members of the Working Group with your message. Or, drop a note in at 6 Brookside, or call 813157.

Healthy Lifestyle Group

Members of the group have been meeting regularly for over six months now and all have felt it has been successful. However, during the hot weather, to alleviate discomfort, members have enjoyed walks outside the village in local woodland areas.

Most experts agree that one of the best forms of exercise is a brisk walk. A thirty-minute walk two to three times a week can make a big difference. The benefits include:

- ❑ Work out for the heart and lungs
- ❑ Improved circulation
- ❑ Helps eliminate stiffness of joints
- ❑ Improves posture
- ❑ Helps to burn fat
- ❑ Lifts your spirits

It's never too late to start. Every little helps and we are still keen to welcome new members to our group. For further details call us: Elaine: 01462 851182 or Wendy 01462 850142.



Meppershall Pre-school would like to say goodbye to Caitlin Saunders, Jack Gregg and Heidi Ruse who all left Pre-school at the end of the summer term. We wish Jack and Caitlin luck in their new schools and a special goodbye to Heidi as she moves to another country. We hope they enjoyed their time at Meppershall Pre-school.

We would like to welcome Alexander Newman who has already joined Pre-school and our new starters for September – Kieran Heathfield, and Lucy Wallace. We hope you will have lots of fun with us at Pre-school.

From all the staff.

EVERGREENS

On Thursday 15th June the Evergreens held their 44th Birthday party in the Village Hall. Those present enjoyed superb refreshments and a lovely cake donated by Mary and Roger of Roger's Bakery. Members would like to pass on their sincere and grateful thanks to Mary and Roger for this gesture. On Thursday 29th June a party was held to celebrate the 90th Birthday on Sunday 25th June of Eric Jepps. Eric is a long standing member of the Club and members would like to express their thanks to Eric and his wife Evelyn for a very good time enjoyed by all.

Support your local Kart Racer

Shillingtons own Kart racer is Ollie Howell at only 14 years old. Ollie has shown the potential of becoming a future racing star. Ollie started indoor kart racing at 9 years old and quickly showed the commitment and determination along with an immediate talent needed to succeed, over the last 5 years he has managed to win himself 170 trophies. Last year he won the 2005 indoor Superkarts championship and never failed to be on the podium every week. As well as Superkarts he started racing outdoors last year at Redlodge and also achieved a podium position every race out of 30+ drivers, Ollie's 100% dedication has seen him reach the top at this level of karting.

Ollie has now moved to the next level of karting which is the MSA national kart racing, these races are held at circuits all over Great Britain. To enter these races you have to take an ARKs test which is a practical and a theory test with the MSA (Motor Sports Association). Ollie passed this in February with flying colours, 10/10 on each test. Ollie also needs his own kart which he now has. He has decided to race at Huntingdon Kart racing club in Kimbolton and race in the Junior Rotax class which is the fastest class for Juniors, these karts reach speeds of 90mph+. For the first six races Ollie is classed as a novice but has already proved his natural skills are up there with the best.

Like with any sport the dream is to become the best and reach the top and Ollie is certainly no exception, with a dream to progress one day into Formula 1. With an ongoing training program and support from friends and family there is no reason why Ollie can't fulfill his dream and become a professional racing driver, with one exception... Money

Unfortunately for talented children like Ollie, Karting is a Non-funded sport and although it is the most financially demanding sport, the rewards that can be achieved far outweigh the financial burden. The only problem is finding the money in the first place. For Ollie to compete in monthly race meetings, it is an unbelievable cost, from race entrances to tyres, fuel and parts. Ollie deserves this chance to fulfill his dreams. All he needs is help to fund his future. If anyone is interested in supporting Ollie by sponsoring him (this would include company names advertised on Ollie's kart) whether it be for costs towards the fuel, race entrances, tyres or even donating, please call him or his parents on 01462 711167. This would make a dream come true. Also Ollie is keen to earn money to put towards his costs so if anyone has any ideas for any after school or weekend work please call him ASAP.

Ollie can be seen racing at HKRC Kimbolton every 2nd Sunday of the month.

1st STONDON SCOUT GROUP

It is with great regret that Stondon Scout Group, comprising a Beaver Colony and Cub Pack which have been temporarily closed for the past few months due to the lack of Leaders, is now to be officially wound up and all its assets absorbed into the District. Several attempts have been made to recruit new warranted Leaders to run the sections, but this has proved to be unsuccessful.

Sincere thanks go out to all Leaders, helpers and Committee Members who in the past have given their time willingly and freely to provide an enjoyable programme for all the Beavers and Cubs who have been members of the Group.

On a final note, if anyone is interested in becoming a Leader and possibly restart Stondon Scout Group at some time in the future, please contact Mr. Keith Bennett the District Commissioner on 01767 223398.

Biggleswade & District Art Society

23rd Autumn Art Exhibition

Northill Village Hall (opposite the Church)

Saturday October 14 (10-4.00) Sunday October 15 (10-4.00)

Free Admission Original Paintings for Sale Refreshments

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

I know it is the August/September edition of The Messenger but Christmas is coming! Please help us to make it a Christmas to remember for desperately needy children. I expect many of you will have heard of or been involved with the above in some form or another, not least everyone who has helped or contributed over the last few years in Meppershall. The idea is to spread a little Christmas joy to children around the world. The method is simple.

1. Obtain an empty shoe box
2. Cover it with pretty paper
3. Fill it with suitable items for a child from 2 to 4, 5 to 9, 10 to 14, boy or girl. The items need not be new but must be in good condition.
4. Send it to the local organiser

The box then gets sent to a child somewhere in the world who are homeless, live in orphanages or are without family support or whose lives have been blighted by poverty, ill health, natural disaster, conflict or war. Here is how you can help. Meppershall Brownies are making this their Christmas effort for this year again and plan to fill as many shoe boxes as possible – I have several already that are ready to be filled. We would be very grateful for any items that you could donate to us.

Has anyone the time to knit as hats, scarves and gloves are needed? If you need to be provided with wool please call me during the day on 01462 450111.

Steve at the Post Office and Mary and Roger at the Bakery have agreed to accept any donations or please give them to a Brownie or call in at the Village Hall on a Monday between 6 and 7.30p.m. Please consider buying a small packet of sweets when shopping and dropping that in the donation box.

You may have many items around your house or workplace which could go in the box. I have been saving the free pens that come with surveys you receive through the post. Bars of soap from hotels etc

Some suggestions of items to go in the boxes are :

Cuddly toys, toothbrush, toothpaste, notepad, writing pads, picture books, pencils, pens, crayons, felt tips, hat, cap, gloves, scarf, ball, puzzle e.g. small jigsaw, toy car, truck, passenger plane, girl's jewellery, soap, facecloths, sweets (well within their sell by date), flashlight and spare battery.

The items that cannot be included are liquids, clothing if not listed above, sharp objects, books with words, glass containers and other fragile items, war related toys as many of the children have only too much experience of the real thing.

I have lost my source of supply of shoe boxes so if anybody has a source – friend works in a shoe shop etc, please let me know and I would be delighted to receive them as soon as possible – gives me more time for covering them. Any suitable items will do. We will pack the boxes at Brownies so don't feel that you have to fill a box yourself. All contributions however large or small are valuable and gratefully received.

We will also be holding a fund raising event at Brownies during October. Please help by coming to that. There will be a raffle and various side shows. We need your support on this as £2 goes with each box to cover its transport costs across the world. More news later.

It takes such a little effort to give a child such great happiness at Christmas and that must be what Christmas is all about. Last year our boxes went to children in such desperate areas that they would almost certainly be the only present they received. The Brownies find this very difficult to believe as it is so different to the Christmas they experience. Please help to spread a little happiness and joy to these needy children so they can share the love of Christmas as all children should. Each year we have sent more boxes – please help us to send even more this year. Any questions just phone me on 01462 450111 during the day or 01462 811964 other times.

Christine Elbourne (Brown Owl)

MEPPERSHALL W.I. July 2006

President Mrs. Gillian Thomas welcomed 24 members to the July meeting.

Future events include Fashion through the Ages at the Addison Centre, Kempston on Wednesday 27th September at 7.30pm. Autumn Federation Meeting, Corn Exchange Bedford on Monday 30th October at 7.30pm, speaker Mr. David Morris, County Coroner. Craft Fair on Sunday 15th October at Flitwick Village Hall.

September is WI Promotion Month. There will be stands at the following Garden Centres: Friday 15th September at Poplars Nursery Garden Centre, Friday 22nd September at Milton Ernest Garden Centre, Tuesday 26th September at Wyvale Garden Centre, Caddington and Thursday 28th September at Frosts at Willington.

Members have been playing Petanque at Cross Keys pub, Pulloxhill during June and July and Sheila Waggot and Val Edwards were the winners in June. Our darts team continue to do well; they beat Cranfield 3-2.

Our speakers this month were Mr and Mrs. Weir – Traditional English Willow Basket Makers. While Mr. Weir spoke of the history of basket making, he demonstrated by making a basket during the evening. Mrs. Weir told us how they obtained different coloured willows to make patterns on their baskets. A very interesting evening.

No meeting in August. Next meeting is on Wednesday 13th September, Village hall at 7.30pm. Speaker will be J. Parkinson to talk about Graphology. New members and visitors always welcome.



Calendar of Forthcoming Events

<i>Saturday</i> <i>5th August</i>	<i>Latin Summer Ball</i> <i>Meppershall Village Hall</i>	<i>8pm</i>
<i>Monday</i> <i>11th September</i>	<i>Bible Society Group</i> <i>Fowlers Farm, Meppershall</i>	<i>7.45pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i> <i>14th October</i>	<i>Friends of Samuel Whitbread</i> <i>Table Top Sale at the College</i>	<i>10am</i>
<i>Saturday</i> <i>14th October</i>	<i>Friends of St. Mary's</i> <i>"The Vine Street Six"</i>	<i>7.30pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i> <i>18th November</i>	<i>Barn Dance & Pig Roast Supper</i> <i>Village Hall</i>	<i>7.30pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i> <i>21st January 2007</i>	<i>Friends of St. Mary's</i> <i>Quiz Night, Village Hall</i>	<i>7.30pm</i>

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

First Mass of Sunday

Saturday Evening

6pm

9am

5.15pm

RAF Henlow

Shefford

Shefford

Weekday Services

Parish Priest:

Fr. Bennie Noonan 813436

See notice at Church or telephone

Parish Secretary:

Rose Boulton 811547

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 Amphil Road, Shefford	813284
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Roman Catholic Church

Priest:	Father Bennie Noonan	813436
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SCHOOLS

Meppershall Lower School		813293
Henlow Middle School	Head	Mr. Payne 813733
Samuel Whitbread Upper School and Community College		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, 15 Church Lane, Letchworth	637531
	Email: waggers.uk@ntlworld.com	
Member of Parliament:	Mrs. Nadine Dorries, House of Commons	
	London SW1A 0AA	0207 2194239
Member of Euro Parliament:	Christopher Beazley (Con)	
	C/o Herts & Stotfold Conservative Ass, 4a Swains Mill	
	Crane Mead, Ware, Herts. SG12 9PY	01920 463064

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	25 High Street (Mark Askham)	07724 243109
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ORGANISATIONSMeppershall Village Hall Committee

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>	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

Cubs

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, 11 Crackle Hill Road	816336
Treasurer:	Lin Hurst	811533

Meppershall School Association

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

Meppershall Social Club

Chairman:	(see Notice Board for opening times) 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		850987
Secretary:	Louise Hutson		814148
Treasurer:	Nicola Metcalfe		816785

<u>Meppershall Pre-School</u>	Monday – Friday 9.30am – 12 noon	Village Hall	
Chairman:	Marian Fairweather		814516
Secretary:	Michelle Nesbitt		812102
Registrar:	Viv Thorne		850821

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

<u>Tennis (at Langford)</u>	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

AMENITIES

Banks	Barclays, 6 North Bridge Street, Shefford	01438 202122
	Monday – Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm	
Dentist	Mr. Lakhani, High Street, Shefford	814020
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
	Shefford Police Post (non emergencies)	Or 01582 471212
		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 August & September

Sat 5	1.30p.m. Wedding : Christopher Barker, and Anna Keen
Sun 6	Trinity 8 11.15a.m. Parish Communion; Sunday School at Rectory for 3- 12's
Sun 13	Trinity 9 8.30a.m. Holy Communion 11.15a.m. Family Service and baptism - Dillon Shaw 3p.m. United service at Methodist Chapel
Fri 18	2p.m. Wedding : Andrew Heathfield, Angie Gregory
Sun 20	Trinity 10 8.30a.m. Holy Communion; 6p.m. Evensong
Sun 27	Trinity 11 8.30a.m. Holy Communion 11.15a.m. Family Communion, and Sunday School
Sun Sept 3	Trinity 12. 11.15a.m. Parish Communion; Sunday School at Rectory for 3- 12's
Sun 10	Trinity 13 8.30a.m. Holy Communion 11.15a.m. Family Service
Sun 17	Trinity 14 8.30a.m. Holy Communion; 6p.m. Evensong
Sun 24	8.30a.m. Holy Communion 11.15a.m. Family Communion, and Sunday School

Weekday 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 (20 mins)

Also : Sat Sept 9: Beds & Herts County Historic Churches
 Preservation Trust **Sponsored Bike Ride.**
 Details Peter Longland 814053

Looking further ahead:

Harvest Festival - Sunday October 8 Services at 8.30 and 11.15
 Monday October 9th : 6.p.m. Harvest Supper at Village Hall followed
 by auction. To reserve tickets please ring 851609

Jazz Concert with the Vine St Six, Sat October 14, in Church,
 organised by Friends of St Mary's. Buffet supper and wine. £10
 (813357)

Deanery Festival Service and Confirmation

Sunday October 15, 4.30p.m. with the Bishop of Bedford and Bishop
 Kisembo of Uganda. Venue to be confirmed.

Barn Dance - Saturday 18 November, 7.30 for 8p.m. at the Village Hall
 including Pig Roast Supper. Tickets £10 (family tickets £30 - 2 adults
 and 2 children under 10). Licensed Bar. (850543)

Farewell and Welcome.

On behalf of St Mary's I would like to record our appreciation to Mrs
 Lindsey Murray for her splendid contribution to our Church School for
 the past 17 years. She has served as headteacher with exemplary
 dedication and enthusiasm, building bridges with the Church and
 community, and providing so many children with an enjoyment of
 school and a thirst for learning. We wish her much happiness in her
 retirement. As her successor we welcome Mrs Moira Coomes, and trust
 that she quickly feels at home in her new role in Meppershall.

Dear friends,

‘So God created man in his own image’ Genesis 1. 27

For all our human cleverness, it comes as quite a relief to find that some truths are just too profound for us to figure out for ourselves. It seems highly unlikely that we could ever have discovered this teaching of the unknown author of Genesis from our own logic. Instead some unknown soul received this insight, and in due course it became a foundation block in the Christian and Jewish scriptures.

A later writer put this truth in different words, describing God as the one who plants eternity in our hearts. Later still St Augustine wrote : ‘ You have made us for yourself, and we are restless till we find our rest in Thee.’

But what does it add up to, to claim that we are made in God’s image? If it is true, then we can expect to see within ourselves a reflection of His character. Humans are a complex combination of body mind and spirit, that in turn determine our ability to use our senses, our thinking and our will. We function at our best when we bring all these characteristics into play – that glorious interplay that builds bridges between us, our Maker and the rest of his creation.

So given that there is meaning in the claim that we are made in God’s image, it shouldn’t come as a surprise that we have a conscience; that seemingly independent voice which passes judgement on our words, thoughts and actions (and inactions).

We know so well when we’ve been mean or thoughtless or economical with the truth. We also need, in our increasingly complex world, to inform and educate our conscience, so that our nature is capable of drawing on the divine nature. Thankfully that’s not such an impossible task, because as Christians we believe we know what his nature looks like. It’s presented to us in the coming of Jesus. So to become more fully what we are created to be, we can grow, as St Paul writes: ‘ towards maturity, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ’. And as we do so, we live up to our calling to be made, no less, than in the image of God. What a privilege, and what a joy!

With good wishes,
John Harper

WD 40 Recipe

WD 40 was created in 1953 by three technicians at the San Diego Rocket Chemical Company. The name comes from the project that was to find a "water displacement" compound. They were successful with the 40th formulation, thus WD 40. The Corvair Company bought it in bulk to protect their atlas missile parts. The executives decided there might be a consumer market for it and put it in aerosol cans. It is a carefully guarded recipe and about 2.5 million gallons of the stuff is manufactured each year. It gets its distinctive smell from a fragrance that is added to the brew. The basic ingredient is fish oil. Here are some of the more unusual uses:

- Protects silver from tarnishing.
- Cleans and lubricates guitar strings.
- Keeps flies off cows and horses.
- Restores and cleans blackboards.
- Removes lipstick stains.
- Loosens stubborn zips.
- Removes stains from stainless steel sinks.
- Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill.
- Keeps ceramic/terracotta garden pots from oxidizing.
- Removes tomato stains from clothing.
- Keeps glass shower doors free of water spots.
- Cleans dashboards and bumpers in vehicles.
- Keeps rust from forming on tools.
- Removes splattered grease on ovens.
- Keeps bathroom mirror from fogging.
- Keeps pigeons off the balcony (they hate the smell).
- Cleans and removes flies from grills and bumpers.
- It attracts fish. Spray a little on live bait!
- Removes crayon from walls.
- Removes black scuff marks from the kitchen floor.

PEOPLE COME INTO YOUR LIFE FOR A REASON

People come into your life for a reason, a season or a lifetime. When you know which one it is, you will know what to do for that person. When someone is in your life for a REASON, it is usually to meet a need you have expressed. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support, to aid you physically, emotionally or spiritually. They may seem like a Godsend and they are. They are there for the reason you need them to be. Then, without any wrong doing on your part or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end. Sometimes they die. Sometimes they walk away. Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand. What we must realise is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled, their work is done. It is time to move on.

Some people come into your life for a SEASON, because your turn has come to share, grow or learn. They bring you an experience of peace or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it, it is real. But only for a season.

LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons, things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.

SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

June saw members and friends enjoying another successful river trip. The River Deben was the venue for a boatman's lunch whilst we had a two hour cruise along this very pleasant river. The afternoon was spent in Woodbridge where some enjoyed a walk along the river and others sampled the town. Most managed to sample tea and ice creams before the return journey home.

With the holiday season upon us we will be visiting Oxford in July. In August we will visit Wroxham meeting at Aylsham Station where we board the 15" narrow gauge railway which takes us on the 45 minute trip to Wroxham, where we board our boat for a 90 minute afternoon cruise, leaving time to explore the shops before returning to Shefford. On August 17th we will visit Hampstead – a London Village, the morning being spent at Kenwood House where we will stay for lunch. A short coach tour to the highest point in London where we will leave the coach for a gentle downhill stroll to Hampstead Village.

The following three trips all take place in September BBC/Television Centre Tour at Shepherds Bush which includes a visit to Ikea. Bletchley Park for the Churchill weekend and The Fen Marshes and Villages, which is a butterfly park. Places are still available on the above trips. Ampthill and District Lions are once again staging a 'Sing along Show' with Billy Keys. Tea and biscuits will be served in the interval and raffle held for charity. Entrance is free, transport will be arranged nearer the date. Interested! Please contact Enid.

Holidays include, Sicily, Tinsel & Turkey in Folkestone. Christmas in Valkenburg and Toronto & Niagara Falls in 2007. Raffles are held on all our trips and the proceeds are for Keech Cottage Children's Hospice. We are a friendly group and everyone is welcome. Why not join us and make new friends. For further information please contact Enid on 01462 851397. – Why not enjoy the opportunity of travel from your doorstep!

National Childbirth Trust

Nearly New Sale

Saturday 30th September

2pm - 3.30pm

Langford Village Hall

Creating opportunities with disabled people

LEONARD CHESHIRE



July 2006

Bedfordshire Cheshire Home
 Agate House
 Woburn Street
 Ampthill
 Bedford MK45 2HX
 Tel: 01525 403247 (3 lines)
 Tel: 01525 404470 (Residents)
 Fax: 01525 840244
 e-mail: agate@lc-uk.org

It was a beautiful July morning and some 30 residents and as many staff and volunteers stood by the open doorway of Agate House, waving goodbye to one of our residents. She moved from London and came to live with us at Ampthill, some 5 years ago. Quite a change from city life to the rural quietness of Bedfordshire. Born disabled, she faced many problems in her life but remained stoically cheerful. About three years ago, for medical reasons, she became an amputee and then, some six months later, met a charming man and after a whirlwind courtship of a short year, they celebrated their engagement. How we all celebrated!!

So, it was on that July morning she left us, to move to Wales to join her fiancé and start a new life. They hope to marry in the fullness of time and are looking for suitable accommodation in Wales. Somewhere where they can start their married life together, living in a specially adapted property in the heart of the community. Carers calling regularly to help them with the tasks of life and their friends dropping in to gossip and pass the time of day. We wish them well and wish them every happiness for the future.

Do give me a call sometime and drop over to meet us at Agate House. We're good with tea or coffee and chat. You might even find you like us and would like to come along and help as a volunteer. Go on, call me!

Warmest good wishes from us all.

Judith Hagger
 Volunteer Co-ordinator/Fundraiser

DOG LEADS

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

AFGHAN
AIREDALE
BEAGLE
BORZOI
BOXER
CHIHUAHUA
CHOW
COLLIE

CORGI
DACHSHUND
DALMATIAN
HUSKY
LAPDOG
PEKINGESE

POODLE
PUG
PULI
SCHNAUZER
SETTER
SHEEPDOG
SPANIEL
SPITZ
TERRIER

Here are three "grown-up" iced drinks for you to enjoy while you relax during the summer!

Iced Grasshopper

450ml/16fl oz mint or pistachio ice cream

50ml/2fl oz Crème de Menthe

50ml/2fl oz Crème de Cacao

Combine all ingredients in a liquidizer or blender and mix until thick and smooth. Pour into tall glasses and garnish with mint leaves.

Down Home Shake

450ml/16fl oz chocolate ice cream

15ml/1tbsp honey

50ml/2fl oz dark rum

225ml/8fl oz milk

Mix all ingredients as above. Garnish with grated chocolate.

Iced Julep

450ml/16fl oz mint or vanilla ice cream

50ml/2fl oz Crème de Menthe

2fl oz Southern Comfort or Bourbon

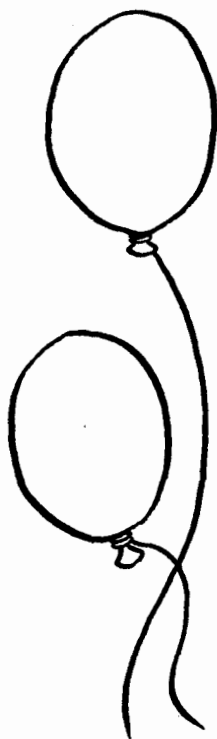
Mix all ingredients as above. Serve over crushed ice and garnish with a sprig of mint.

A very happy birthday to those of you celebrating birthdays in August...

Christopher Cain who will be 15 on the 6th
 Beth Donachie who will be 9 on the 7th
 Thomas Clark who will be 4 on the 8th
 Lucy Standbridge who will be 5 on the 14th
 Billy Gower who will be 5 on the 15th
 Sarah Allen who will be 14 on the 18th
 Manishka Hart who will be 6 on the 21st
 Georgia Thomason who will be 5 on the 23rd
 Toby Standbridge who will be 2 on the 23rd
 Archie Zimmerman who will be 2 on the 23rd
 Lucy Edwards who will be 6 on the 24th
 Kate Chappell who will be 6 on the 25th
 Max Chappell who will be 6 on the 25th
 Ethan Kovacs who will be 8 on the 26th
 Katrina Robbins who will be 11 on the 27th
 Lorena Jarvis who will be 14 on the 31st
 Hannah Boggon who will be 12 on the 31st

...and September

Ryan Sturgeon who will be 9 on the 6th
 Zoe Waring who will be 12 on the 7th
 Thomas Clark who will be 14 on the 8th
 Robert Kitchener who will be 14 on the 8th
 Chloe Burr who will be 7 on the 9th
 Harriet Scott who will be 14 on the 13th
 Ben Horsford who will be 7 on the 13th
 Georgina Brinkley who will be 15 on the 14th
 Jack Gregg who will be 5 on the 17th
 Ross Earl who will be 15 on the 19th
 George Gavin who will be 11 on the 20th
 Liam Sturgeon who will be 4 on the 22nd
 Giles Norris who will be 13 on the 22nd
 Katie Halford who will be 7 on the 23rd
 Peter Curran who will be 14 on the 24th
 Lewis Bridger who will be 4 on the 24th
 Jonathan Bull who will be 3 on the 26th



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