

MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



October 2006

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

Volume 22 Issue 6
October 2006

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer holiday and are suitably refreshed and ready for the run-up to Christmas!

I would like to use this space to ask for your help. We are in desperate need for more volunteers to assist with The Messenger – we need people to help with the printing, collating and distribution. A couple of members of the team have recently “resigned” and this has left us rather short. The remaining members are struggling to cope with the extra workload and we need more people! We currently have only two ladies who do all the printing – at nearly 700 copies of the magazine a month, that is a lot of work. We are also short on the collation team, and extra volunteers for distributing the magazine would be much appreciated. The village is growing rapidly with more and more people coming to live here. Surely some of you out there can spare a couple of hours a month? Obviously, the more people we have the less time it takes. If you can help, please let me know. The Messenger will cease to exist unless we get more help – that is a fact!

The deadline for articles for the November 2006 edition of the magazine is 12th October. 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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~ Announcements ~

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We would like to thank all those who arranged our surprise party in July and contributed to our very acceptable gift. We had a wonderful evening and we intend to use your gift for patio furniture so we can think of you all when we sit in the Suffolk sun. Thank you very much and love to you all.

Frank and Brenda Keen



### **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**

It is nearly time for our annual poppy collection. This is a worthwhile cause that helps and supports families of servicemen and women killed and injured, past and present.

Myself and my helpers will be calling door to door, but would be grateful if anyone would care to join us, especially as the village continues to grow. If you have a couple of hours to spare at the end of October beginning of November, please contact me on 01462 816365. Thank you.

Joyce Harris

### **Village Hall News**

Due to the low turn-out at this year's AGM (understandably so as it clashed with an England world cup game!), the Village Hall committee have decided to hold another AGM/Open meeting. The date for this meeting is Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 8.30 pm at the village hall. It would be great to see as many people as possible at the meeting. You will have the opportunity to see and discuss the financial position of the hall and ask any questions you may have regarding the hall in general. If you do have a specific question you would like raised at the meeting, you may prefer to email or phone it through before-hand. If you do wish to email, please send either to Karen Lucas at [lucas.huntley@virgin.net](mailto:lucas.huntley@virgin.net) or to Dave Birch at [dcbirch@btinternet.com](mailto:dcbirch@btinternet.com). Alternatively you can phone any questions through to Karen on 811581 or Dave on 817014. You may have noticed from the 'Who's Who' in the Messenger that since Chris Addams stood down as Chairman at the AGM, no-one has yet come forward to take up the post. The committee really need someone to take this position, so that the Village hall is run as smoothly and efficiently as possible. If you feel this is something you may be interested in, please contact Dave or Karen to let us know. Fundraising to keep the hall open and running is still of the up-most importance as without it the hall simply cannot survive. The Parish Council have agreed to match any fundraising pound for pound this year, which is a great incentive for us to raise as much as possible! Also, any donations we receive may be gift-aided which adds even more to any money we raise. We have a quiz night on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October from 8.00 pm and a Tea dance on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October from 2-4.30 pm. Also we have our annual bonfire night on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November. If you are able to play a part, either by attending or helping out at any of these events, we will be very pleased to see you.

## **MEPPERSHALL VILLAGE HALL**

### **COFFEE MORNING**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October

10am to 12 noon

★★

### **QUIZ and PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October

7.30pm for 8pm start

Maximum 6 per team, £3 per person

To book a table call Gemma on 07870 697407

★★

### **TEA DANCE**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October

2pm to 4.30pm

£2 per person

(price includes afternoon tea)

★★

### **BUILD A GUY**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November

10am to 3pm

Food and Drink will be available.

If you have any old clothes, please bring them  
along.

★★

### **BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Times and prices to follow

## MEPPERSHALL PLAYERS

Well, the pantomime is cast and rehearsals are well under way. This year's pantomime is Hansel and Gretel and will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 3pm, Friday 1<sup>st</sup>, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 7.45pm, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 2pm and 6pm, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 7.45pm. Tickets are matinees £5, evenings £6 and £8 last performance. Tickets are available from Roger's Bakery, Meppershall from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

The Players meet every 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month and every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



### Kevin Cooper and Justin Martin trip to Europe July 2006

On the 30<sup>th</sup> June Kevin Cooper 19 and Justin Martin 19 begun their intensive month of sailing abroad. First event they went to was a world's warm up event in Belgium. This event was seen as a training event for the team where they could get back into the boat and sail together once again after being out of the boat for a substantial time due to University exams. The team finished a credible 10<sup>th</sup> in a 60 boat strong fleet however believed that they were sailing better than their final position gave them. Once this event was finished they packed up rapidly and made moves towards the south of France where they were to sail at the Formula 18 world championships. When they arrived at this event they were taken back by the scenery of Hyeres. However once they settled down and had rigged the boat they had four days of training where they performed well in the mixture of conditions. The boys where both looking forward to their second world championships and believed they had a real chance of getting a good result. The event went well with a mixture of results but going into the last day they were in 29<sup>th</sup> position overall out of 160 pre qualified from various countries. The last day saw the team get two good results that lifted them up into the low twenty's however the last race was not so kind and saw the boys finish in a disappointing 48<sup>th</sup> place, and meant that they would finish in 28<sup>th</sup> place overall. However they were still first youth the closest being another 50+ places back down the fleet. Steven Lovegrove their coach for this world championships said "the boys deserved to do better and were unlucky". How ever this didn't help pain of underachieving for the boys. Justin said "this is by far the most frustrating event I have been to, because we sailed so well and we know we are better than some of the teams that beat us".

The final event that the team travelled to was in the north of Spain in a small town called Cangas for the Hobie Tiger World championships. The event commenced after a further three days training and saw light winds on the first day this didn't go particularly well for the team who posted some fairly average results that left them in 18<sup>th</sup> position overall. The second day saw the boys climb further up the fleet however the boys never reached the standard that they were sailing at Hyeres. The third day was fairly windy and in conditions that the team normally thrive in however due to two separate gear failures the third day was another disappointment and left a lot for the boys to do on the final two days. They had a goal of top ten however this was seeming unlikely as they were in 16<sup>th</sup> overall. The penultimate day saw the boys climb to 15<sup>th</sup> but still meant that the last day needed to be fairly special for them to climb into the top ten. To catch up into 10<sup>th</sup> the boys needed to catch up 92points which by any stretch of the imagination is huge. However the boys posted a 15<sup>th</sup> after making a silly mistake and dropping from 5<sup>th</sup>. But then they posted a 6<sup>th</sup> and another 6<sup>th</sup> this meant that they finished in a credible 12<sup>th</sup> position. The team were fairly happy with the result due to the amount of things that hadn't gone their own way and felt that their five weeks away in Europe had been a great experience where they had learnt a lot. The boys much also thank the RYA and their sponsors Harken, Spinlock, Rooster, Gul and Skandia team GBR.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Meppershall Brownies**

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Just in case anyone missed what this is all about because they were having too much fun in the August sun (??), just a quick reminder of what this is all about.

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.

Steve and Carolyn 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. 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, sweets but not chocolate.



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

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.

Use the new craze for knitting to make a scarf or hat. Why not get a granny involved and maybe teach you or your child how to knit at the same time.

Any questions just phone me on 01462 450111.

The boxes are sent to children in such need that it is very often the only gift they receive. Please help us to send as many as possible.

Christine Elbourne  
Brown Owl

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### **Friends of Samuel Whitbread**

#### **TABLE TOP SALE**

**Samuel Whitbread Community College, Clifton**

**Saturday 14 October 10am  
(Doors open for vendors at 9am)**

**£4 per table**

**Reserve your table at college reception or phone 629900.**

**Clear out your clutter and earn some cash!**

# BARN DANCE

*with dance caller and live band*

*on*

*Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2006*

*7.30 for 8.00pm*

*at*

*Village Hall, Meppershall*

*Tickets £10 each*

*(including Pig Roast Supper)*

*Family ticket £30.00 (for 2 adults + 2 children under 10)*

*available from*

*Meppershall Post Office, Bakery, Rectory or PCC members  
or by calling (01462) 850543*

*Licensed Bar available*

*All proceeds to St Mary's Church Restoration Fund*

*We regret that tickets are not returnable unless they can be resold.*

## **MEPPERSHALL W.I. September 2006**

Mrs. Barbara Horwood welcomed 22 members and 1 visitor to the September meeting.

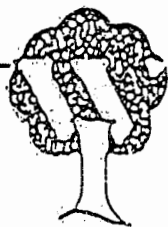
Future events in the area include Autumn Federation meeting, Corn Exchange Bedford on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm. Craft Fair at Flitwick on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October. Festive Flowers on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November at the Rufus Centre Flitwick at 7.30pm, cost £6. Carol Concert at Salvation Army Citadel Bedford on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December commencing 7.30pm, cost £5 includes mince pies and non-alcoholic drinks – tickets may have to be allocated for this popular event.

Very good news from our darts team, beating Stevington 4-1 and Milton Bryon and Battlesden 5-0.

Calendars and Diaries for 2007 have now been delivered to WI House.

Our speaker for the evening was Joyce Parkinson who gave us a talk on Graphology (the art of handwriting analysis) from its origins in France with a group of monks to its uses in the present day. It is used by many organisations, including personnel departments, to assess character and ability to perform in varying work circumstances, also as a guide to health, stress and alcohol or drug abuse. A person's handwriting is unique and can vary in style influenced by emotions such as worry, depression, anger, etc. We were given an outline of various writing styles to give us an idea to check our own methods. A very interesting evening.

Our next meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October will be Flowers for the Home by Jane McDonald. Visitors and new members always welcome.



## Calendar of Forthcoming Events

|                                                        |                                                                            |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>9<sup>th</sup> October</b>       | <i>Bible Society Group</i><br><i>17 Langford Road, Henlow</i>              | <i>7.45pm</i> |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>14<sup>th</sup> October</b>      | <i>Friends of Samuel Whitbread</i><br><i>Table Top Sale at the College</i> | <i>10am</i>   |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>14<sup>th</sup> October</b>      | <i>Meppershall Lower School</i><br><i>Pamper Evening</i>                   | <i>7pm</i>    |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>14<sup>th</sup> October</b>      | <i>Friends of St. Mary's</i><br><i>"The Vine Street Six"</i>               | <i>7.30pm</i> |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>21<sup>st</sup> October</b>      | <i>Meppershall Village Hall</i><br><i>Coffee Morning</i>                   | <i>10am</i>   |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>21<sup>st</sup> October</b>      | <i>Meppershall Village Hall</i><br><i>Quiz and Ploughman's Supper</i>      | <i>7.30pm</i> |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br><b>24<sup>th</sup> October</b>       | <i>Meppershall Village Hall</i><br><i>Tea Dance</i>                        | <i>2pm</i>    |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>4<sup>th</sup> November</b>      | <i>Meppershall Village Hall</i><br><i>Build a Guy</i>                      | <i>10am</i>   |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>4<sup>th</sup> Novmber</b>       | <i>Meppershall Village Hall</i><br><i>Bonfire and Fireworks</i>            |               |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>18<sup>th</sup> November</b>     | <i>Barn Dance &amp; Pig Roast Supper</i><br><i>Village Hall</i>            | <i>7.30pm</i> |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>21<sup>st</sup> January 2007</b> | <i>Friends of St. Mary's</i><br><i>Quiz Night, Village Hall</i>            | <i>7.30pm</i> |

## 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 Amphill Road, Shefford | 813284 |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------|--------|

#### Roman Catholic Church

|         |                      |        |
|---------|----------------------|--------|
| Priest: | Father Bennie Noonan | 813436 |
|---------|----------------------|--------|

### SCHOOLS

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

### DOCTORS

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

### LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

|                            |                                                                                     |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| County Councillor:         | Cllr. Robin Younger                                                                 |                   |
|                            | Jesmond House, High Street, Flitton                                                 | 01525 717090      |
|                            | Email: <a href="mailto:robin.younger@bedscc.gov.uk">robin.younger@bedscc.gov.uk</a> |                   |
| Surgery/Advice Centre:     | 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday each month (except August), Shefford Library 10am – 11.30am  |                   |
| District Councillor:       | Mr. Paul Came, 6 Hoo Road, Meppershall                                              | 857803            |
|                            | Email: <a href="mailto:paul.came@midbeds.gov.uk">paul.came@midbeds.gov.uk</a>       | Fax: 01462 857804 |
| District Councillor:       | Mr. Tony Rogers, 3 Poppyhill, Henlow                                                | 816305            |
|                            | Email: <a href="mailto:tony.rogers@midbeds.gov.uk">tony.rogers@midbeds.gov.uk</a>   | Fax: 01462 816510 |
| Parish Council meets       | 1 <sup>st</sup> 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: <a href="mailto:waggers.uk@ntlworld.com">waggers.uk@ntlworld.com</a>         |                   |
| 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 |
|----------------|------------------------------|--------------|

## ORGANISATIONS

### Meppershall Village Hall Committee

|                               |                                        |        |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------|
| Treasurer:                    | Mr. D. Birch                           | 817014 |
| Secretary:                    | Karen Lucas, 51A High Street           | 811581 |
| Booking Secretary:            | Kate Hall, Culpeper House, Chapel Road | 812869 |
| Village Hall Telephone Number |                                        | 817359 |

|                           |                     |        |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| <u>Babysitting Circle</u> | Mrs. Sharon Edwards | 814326 |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------|

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

### 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 |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|

### 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 (see Notice Board for opening times)

|           |                               |        |
|-----------|-------------------------------|--------|
| Chairman: | Mr. G.R. Walker, 37 Brookmead | 815183 |
|-----------|-------------------------------|--------|

|                                       |                       |              |        |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------|
| <u>Meppershall Baby &amp; 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 |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--|--------|

|                         |                                           |                               |        |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| <u>Womens Institute</u> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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          |

## SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

This month it will be a privilege to welcome Bishop Kisembo and his wife the Rev Canon Lovey Kisembo from Ruwenzori, Uganda. The Bishop has long experience as a pastor and bible translator, and his wife Lovey has been Vicar of one of the fastest growing churches in Kampala. They will be speaking at St Mary's on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11.15a.m. as part of their visit to our Diocese of St Albans. Our bishop describes them as a dynamic team! See below.

- Sun 1      •    Trinity 16. 11.15a.m. Parish Communion;  
Sunday School at Rectory for 3- 12's
- Sun 8      **Harvest Festival**. 8.30a.m. Holy Communion  
11.15a.m. Family Service  
Gifts of produce will be welcomed at Church or Rectory in advance,(for display) or can be presented during the services.  
For **Harvest Supper** please see below.  
3p.m.United service at Methodist Chapel
- Sun 15     Trinity 18 8.30a.m. Holy Communion;  
4.30p.m.Deanery Confirmation and Sung Festival Service at All Saints Church Clifton with the Bishop Richard of Bedford and Bishop Kisembo of Uganda. Do come and support our local confirmation candidates - (no Evensong tonight)
- Sun 22     Trinity 19 8.30a.m. Holy Communion  
**11.15 a.m. Family Communion and Sunday School with Bishop Benezeri and the Rev Canon Mrs Lovey Kisembo of Uganda**
- Sun 29     Last Sunday after Trinity (Bible Sunday)  
11.15a.m. United Benefice Communion followed by refreshments  
Also : 6p.m. Bible Sunday United service at Shefford Baptist Church



**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)

**Harvest Supper**

Monday October 9<sup>th</sup> : 6.30 for 7p.m. Harvest Supper at Village Hall followed by auction of produce and raffle. To reserve tickets - £6.50 and £4 for under 16's- please ring 851609

**Jazz Concert with the Vine Street Six**, Sat October 14, 7.30p.m. in Church, organised by Friends of St Mary's. Buffet supper and wine. Tickets £10 from Trevor Thorley 813357 the Rectory 813334 Roger's Bakery and The Post Office

**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 and members of the Church Council

**Also this month at Shefford:**

Sat 7 : 4p.m. 'Angelmas' - world premiere of a new family musical telling the story of Michael the Archangel and the great battle for heaven, at St Michael's (by the traffic lights) Admission is free, but a ticket is needed to ensure a seat - contact Jenny Dann 817337 or via website below.

Thurs 19: 7.30p.m. United service of prayer for healing and wholeness, at Shefford Baptist Church

(also workshop re prayer for healing at Shefford Methodist Church -

Sat 30 Sept - details from Rev Phil Snelson - 813284)

Sat 21, 7p.m. St Michael's Family Quiz - suitable for 8's and over. Shefford Community Hall. £5 (12's and under £2). Ploughmans' Supper (bring own drinks and glasses) Tickets from 813334

Tues 31, 6 - 7.30p.m: 'Night of Light' - Christian fun activity session as alternative to Halloween for 5's -11's at Shefford Lower School. Details Rev Phil Snelson - 813284.

(To view details of events at St Mary's sister parish of St Michael's and All Angels Shefford in the United Benefice see [www.sm3a.org.uk](http://www.sm3a.org.uk).)

The English are renowned for talking about the weather, and this past summer has been no exception. I'm writing this on the hottest September day for 50 years. We can't say for sure whether recent sizzling temperatures are a direct result of global warming, but the bigger picture is that climate change is undoubtedly with us, and its not just the outcome of natural processes. Human beings are changing the way things are. Back in May David Attenborough presented a brilliant short TV series on the effect man is having on his environment, and currently a documentary film by Al Gore is on general release. He's called it 'An inconvenient truth' and it presents a impassioned plea for greater responsibility towards the earth we depend on.

It seems the jury is no longer out on the consequences of human behaviour on our world. It's an enormous subject, and one I believe that Christians ought to have a particular concern for, and responsibility towards.

Why? Well Scripture begins with creation, and in the very first chapter we read of God creating life in its different forms. So the first insight into our faith spells out that God out of nothing brings creation into being – and after every successive act of creation its says 'God saw what he had done and it was good'. In other words the physical world is God's handiwork, and he's very pleased with it. So if the world is what God loves, our care for the world is one way of expressing our love for God.

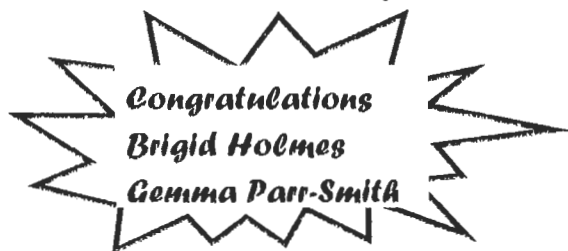
Secondly when mankind is given life he is given a special role. 'Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves' vv 26, 27,28). God gives man unique responsibility – he is told to 'subdue the earth.'

That little phrase has given rise to massive misunderstanding. What it does not mean is that we can do what we like with that world we inhabit.

So one of the fundamental lessons the bible gives us is that the earth is given to man by his generous God, not in order to treat it as an ashtray or an endless goldmine, but to take responsibility for it.

As we celebrate Harvest Festival this month we will be more conscious than ever of our interdependence with the material world. It's a good opportunity to be reminded that the world is God's, and we are the trusted stewards. We have the delight of enjoying it and managing it on behalf of the owner. And, together with the rest of humanity, we're on a steep learning curve in discovering how to care for this precious planet that's our home - and our grandchildren's.

With good wishes,  
John Harper



Congratulations to Brigid and Gemma for receiving their eight blue ribbon medal. It has taken over a year to work through the modules for this Royal School of Church Music award. Well done.

If you are 7 or older and enjoy singing then this is the choir for you. We sing all styles of Christian music at St. Mary's, Meppershall & St. Michael's, Shefford. This year hope to add Christian drama to our repertoire. We also follow the national RSCM course, 'Voice for Life,' which covers some musical theory and voice training.

We've just finished a very busy summer singing at weddings, some of us performed the Kids' Praise Musical at Henlow Theatre and this term we are practising for Harvest and Christmas.

**Have a trial session on Sundays October 29<sup>th</sup> & November 5<sup>th</sup> 4pm – 6pm at St. Michael's Church, Shefford. (next to the chemist).**

More information please contact Sandra Harper  
01462 813334 [revjohnharper@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:revjohnharper@tiscali.co.uk)

Aaaaahhhhhhhh!

Isn't that what we all say? Even you men have been seen to secretly wipe away an escaped tear when your 6 year old presents a fluffy lamb to the baby Jesus in a nativity play.

Well now it's your turn! St. Mary's church is presenting an:

**ADULT NATIVITY PLAY** and its your opportunity to play the part of a shepherd, wise man, angel or even Mary or Joseph!!!! Maybe you didn't get the chance when you were 6 – so don't miss this opportunity. It's open to all grown ups supported by our Junior Choir. The performance will take place on the last day of term, so if you have any children they can come and support you on stage!!!!

There will be only 2 rehearsals and the performance. All at St. Mary's.

**FINDING OUT SESSION:** Tues. 5<sup>th</sup> December 7pm

**DRESS REHEARSAL:** Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 4pm – 7pm Bring snack tea.  
[Maybe your children will pack it for you!!]

**PERFORMANCE:** Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> December 7pm

**MARK THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW.**

Any further information needed please contact:

Pat Bass Tel: 851609 Sandra H. Tel: 813334 [revjohnharper@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:revjohnharper@tiscali.co.uk)

# THE FRIENDS OF St.MARY's CHURCH

In response to popular demand, the Friends of St. Mary's are delighted to announce that they are back AGAIN to perform for you – WHO? They are of course

## **THE VINE STREET SIX**

Playing and Performing for YOU with an entertaining programme of New Orleans and Traditional

## **JAZZ**

In St. Mary's Church, Meppershall,  
Saturday OCTOBER 14 at 7.30pm

Don't Miss Out!

Tickets @ £10 to include supper and wine are obtainable from:

Trevor Thorley 01462 813357, The Rectory 01462 813334,  
Roger's Bakery, The Post Office and Committee Members

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**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

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*St. Francis of Assisi R.C. Church*

***Christmas Bazaar***

***Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November***

***At***

***Shefford Methodist Church Hall***

***10am***

***Raffle, Festive Stalls and Seasonal Gifts***

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## **SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP**

We certainly experienced some super trips during the Summer periods. Oxford, although the weather proved very warm was enjoyed and surprised by all those who enjoyed visiting and seeing everything that was available to them. To visit Oxford way back in history and see how famous names had progressed through the years was indeed an education in itself. Then to have the privilege of visiting Christ Church with the history of 'Alice through the looking glass' certainly completed the day. The coach journey to Aylesham Station where we boarded the 15" narrow gauge railway taking us to Wroxham where we met our coach which took us to board our boat for a 45 minute cruise, leaving time to explore the shops before returning to Shefford. Our trip to Hampstead and Kenwood House has been changed to 19<sup>th</sup> October. This event is booking well and I am sure a visit to the highest point will give a superb London overall view. Future trips include a Victorian Christmas at Wimpole Hall, Shopping trip to Peterborough including Christmas Market stalls from Holland, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Austria & Belgium. Additional stalls selling toffee apples, baked potatoes etc.etc. We are considering a slide show to be given by Success Tours on our forthcoming tour to Toronto and Niagra Falls, also included will be an insight into Croatia which we are considering in the future. Please advise by telephone as soon as possible your interest in attending this show in order for us to arrange a date, time and venue. 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 locally.

## **A very happy birthday to those of you celebrating birthdays in October**

Katie Johnson who will be 6 on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Caitlin Saunders who will be 5 on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Samuel Derrick who will be 4 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Alistair Clay who will be 13 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Matthew Geneux who will be 6 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Chloe Brightwell who will be 7 on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Hannah West who will be 7 on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
James Aberdeen who will be 10 on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Sean Allen who will be 15 on the 9<sup>th</sup>  
Daisy Clark who will be 10 on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
Luke Gold who will be 14 on the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Laura Scott who will be 13 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Rachel Priestley who will be 15 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Beth Edwards who will be 11 on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
Alexander Davies who will be 4 on the 28<sup>th</sup>  
Lauren Earl who will be 15 on the 29<sup>th</sup>

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

