



Arms of the de Meppershall Family

MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



OCTOBER 2008

Meppershall Village Website: www.meppershall.org

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

CONTRIBUTIONS

The editor welcomes contributions to the Messenger, whether as letters, articles or notices. Contributions should preferably be as attachments to e-mail but hand written contributions may be sent by post, left at the Editor's address below or in the folder kept at the Village Stores. Contributions should run to not more than one A5 page (except by prior arrangement) and should be received by the Editor not later than the 12th of the month for publication at the end of that month. Contributions received after the deadline may be held over.

DISCLAIMER

The Editor reserves the right to omit or alter any ad or article and to change the content, format or issue date of the magazine without prior notice. The Editor cannot be held responsible for the factual correctness of, or for any libellous comment or statement made in, any advert, article or other contribution published in this magazine. Every effort will be made to avoid any deliberate attempt to mislead or otherwise cause harm or damage to any person or persons by any advert, article or any other contribution published in this magazine.

THE TEAM

Editor:	Dick Bulley, 116 Shefford Road	815114
	e-mail: richard@bulleyr.fsnet.co.uk	
Advertising Manager:	Christine Elbourne, 5 St. Mary's Place	817409
Distribution Manager:	Colette House, 90 Fildyke Road	815585
Treasurer:	John Thompson, 16, Brookmead	812983

CONTENTS

Editorial		Page 2
Village News		3 - 10
Free Cycle		11
School Report		12 - 13
Features:	Rogers Bees	14
	Travel Guide	15
	You live & learn	16 - 17
	Computer Tips	18
Calendar of Forthcoming Events		19
Who's Who and Organisations		20 - 22
Village Announcements		23 - 28
St Mary's Church		29 - 33
District Announcements		34 - 35
Recipe		36
Garden Tips		37
Bus Times		38 - 39
Birthdays		40

EDITORIAL

I am very cheered by the messages that have reached me, saying that the recent changes to The Messenger are generally approved of. To make the adverts even more useful as a source of reference, we have created a directory of all the current advertisers. I hope this will help you to find what you are looking for and will increase support for these local businesses.

I have been using the August break to try out some new production methods. You should not be able to see the difference, but this issue was produced from one continuous Word document containing all 40 pages and printed in pairs with the right page numbers! Profound thanks to Vince Holmes of Artemis Systems for invaluable guidance in that venture! Vince would also like me to mention his on-line shoe shop: www.maryjanshoes.co.uk.

Profound thanks also to our new Treasurer, John Thompson. John has tracked down a new printer which will copy in colour (when we need it) and has the ability later on to scan documents, collate and even staple the output. John also managed to obtain a grant of £500 from the Parish Council to wards the cost of this machine. Well done John and thanks to the Council! We have just taken delivery of this new beast, and this issue is the first to be produced on it, thanks to Phyllis and Beverley being such quick learners. We do not plan to use all its functions at the start, but it is very good to have possibilities for the future.

We may be able to use the scanning function to preserve the back-numbers of the Messenger that Dorothy Morris has so kindly sent me. My hope is that we can scan them and put them on the Village web site, and we plan to take photo-copies as well which could be loaned to anyone with a need to study them.

Dick Bulley

Readers letters

I would just like to say that I like the arrangement of grouping all the adverts together. It makes accessing them much easier, and, if required, they can easily be removed and passed on to someone not living in the village.

I look forward to seeing each new Messenger now, it has a brighter outlook, and seems more personal. Well done, Mr New Editor!

Best wishes

Wendy Reece

Dear Editor

We love the new version of the Meppershall magazine because the articles on travel, bee-keeping, bus times and various other tips make it so interesting to read! It's good to know that there is a line of effective communication in the village. So keep it up!

One inclusion that we would greatly appreciate is a map of all the local walking routes around the village, as we understand that they are all numbered.

Tessa + David Heath

The footpaths are indeed numbered and the map appeared inside the back cover of the Village Plan. To enjoy the paths and good company too, watch out for meetings of the Meppershall Strollers in these pages.

Ed.

To all my neighbours and friends who I did not get to say goodbye to including Shane & Kyle upstairs, the people who waved to me when I was at the window and all at the Post Office who were always very helpful just like to say 'Cheerio and Thank you' hopefully I might see you when I'm visiting Meppershall.

Lily Dawson

To balance the appreciative letters from new residents published in our last issue, I must record receiving one letter from a very unhappy new resident who set out a catalogue of problems with his neighbours. I do not think it would be constructive to publish his letter, but it goes to show that there are two sides to every picture!

Editor.

Letter from Elsie Lawrence

Bright Sparks 30th July 2008

As a helper at the Sparks in the church and rectory this year, it was a most enjoyable and a happy time. In 50 years of my time in Meppershall I've never seen so many children having such a great time.

There was kindness, hard team work and a loving atmosphere. Then, when I heard the children singing, it brought tears to my eyes. The sounds and actions were so wonderfully done by all the children, it was very moving.

Many thanks to John and Sandra and to Pam Halliwell, the organiser. You have certainly brought a Sparkle here.

Thank you very much,

Elsie Lawrence.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the 'Bike 'n Hike 2008', their sponsors and those who welcomed riders and walkers to St Mary's Church. On the first count, we raised over £600, half of which will go to St Mary's and the rest to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust.

Distance was no object and a record was set by John Nye who visited 60 churches and cycled 78 miles! Well done John.

Trevor Wilkinson

Church Organiser

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Are you interested in joining a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Meppershall?
I am looking at co-ordinating a scheme in the village and would like to know
how much interest there is in a scheme being introduced.

So what is Neighbourhood Watch? The scheme:

1. Reduces opportunities for crime; deterring would be thieves and vandals
2. Establishes a spirit of co-operation and communication; looking out for each other and working together when confronted with problems
3. Encourages people to keep a watchful eye on the more vulnerable residents such as children and the elderly
4. Receives support of the local Police Beat Manager

If there is substantial interest in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme I will arrange for the Homewatch Co-ordinator at Bedfordshire Police to come along and speak to those who are interested about the scheme and what it means to the village.

To register your interest or for further information please contact Tanya Clark:

Mobile: 07890307063

E-mail: tanya@tanya3.orangehome.co.uk

Address: 1 Brookside

Meppershall Village Hall News

The AGM of the Meppershall Village Hall Committee was held in July. Andy Geneux stepped down as Chairman and Karen Lucas stepped down as Secretary, but agreed to carry on as Bookings Secretary. Steve Ansell was appointed new Chairman and Linda Gold was appointed Secretary.

The first main fundraising event for the new Committee will be the Bonfire Night and Firework Display being held on Saturday 1st November. Please come along and support this evening. There is also going to be a building and judging of the Guy during the day. There will be food available from the Fish & Chip van that comes along to the village on a Monday night, and after the display all are welcome to the Village Hall for a disco. Tickets will be sold in advance or at the gate on the evening (see advertisement in this month's Messenger for ticket prices). Any **burnable** rubbish can be dumped on the site of the bonfire from 10th – 12th October, 17th – 19th October, 24th – 26th October and Friday 31st October to mid-day Saturday 1st November. The gates to the track will be open from 6am to 6pm on those days (with the exception of Saturday 1st November). I stress the word “**burnable**” – this **DOES NOT** include glass, tyres, fridges, freezers, any items made of metal, or any other nasties! Please, please use your common sense with regards to this. Also, as a safety point, after the event the bonfire will be left smouldering until it is cool enough to clear away. Obviously, this will be done as soon as possible, but it is advisable **not** to allow your dog or child to walk over the burnt ashes; it is not safe and any accidents or injuries will not be the responsibility of the Village Hall. Again, please use your common sense!

The Committee plan to do several fundraisers throughout the year and your support is invaluable. Finally, if anyone has any matters that they wished raised at our Committee Meetings, please let either Steve or Linda know. The Village Hall is for everyone in the village, and your input is most welcome.

It is your Village – it is your Village Hall!

SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

A small group of us had a very enjoyable sunny day in August visiting Woburn Abbey where we were able to browse the many photographs of the present Duke and his family. This followed our short trek to Woburn Safari Park where we could view the animals in their natural surroundings. Our last trip in August found us at the London Wetland Centre in Hammersmith – work is still in progress for many improvements being made for the wildlife. One would certainly not imagine they were so near the eternal busy London streets. Once again we picked a beautiful day for this venue.

Ireland I am afraid was very wet which spoiled the beauty surrounding us, but the hotels were excellent likewise the food and our coach driver helpful, courteous and with a sense of humour! The Irish coffee's certainly made up for the weather!!

Our visit to Anglesey Abbey and Lode Mill was enhanced by beautiful weather and the gardens beautifully kept with shrubs, trees and small pink and white cyclamen. The house is really warm and inviting with again family pictures dotted around.

Now Summer is sadly nearly over we must turn our sights to shorter evenings – but hopefully we have a few interesting seasonal and varied trips to look forward to.

5th October – London Museums

8th October - St,Albans and a visit to De Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre

8th November - A visit to London for The Lord Mayor's Show on 8th November – this is fully booked with a reserve list only.

Saturday 22nd November - Christmas Spectacular at Thursford – there are a few seats

available due to cancellations for this very popular show.(Matinee performance)

Saturday 29th November Bury St Edmunds 5th Annual Christmas Fayre

Sunday 7th December - Magical Christmas Chocolate Cruise – coach to Cadbury World and in the afternoon a special canal boat taking you

to an enchanted tunnel where you will meet Father Christmas and each child receives a present – something for adults too!!.

Sunday 14th December – Christmas Showtime at Wickstead Park, price includes show, lunch and tea.

Saturday 20th December – John Rutter's Christmas Celebration (Matinee performance) taking place at Westminster Central Hall..

1st – 5th December - Turkey & Tinsel holiday, which will be in Bournemouth this year at the beginning of December

2009 Holidays include a cruise to the Dutch Bulbfields beginning of May and an 8-day holiday to Paignton & Torbay in June.

Shefford Leisure Group is open to everyone in the local community who feels they would like to join us on our ventures. We are always happy to meet new friends. Raffles are held and the proceeds are for Keech Cottage Children's Hospice. For further information regarding dates, prices and availability or to receive our monthly newsletter, please contact Enid on 01462 851397 or e-mail Enidpamment@aol.com.

Meppershall Parish Council Report

The September meeting of the Parish Council took place on Wednesday 3rd September at Meppershall Lower School. The Council first welcomed a visit from our Beat Officer, PC Busby, who presented an update on police activity in the village but unfortunately reported difficulties with providing the services of Community Support Officers at present. If anyone wishes to contact the police on non-urgent matters messages can be left by telephone at the Police Post at Shefford or in the book at the Post Office.

Highways and Lighting

Councillor Bryant reported that survey work has been carried out with a view to improving the pavement outside the Post Office but that funds had not yet been allocated.

Environment and Leisure

A number of Planters have been ordered after organisations were found to maintain the planting. In a further effort to enhance the village spring bulbs are on order, volunteers willing to help with the planting will be very welcome.

Work on the water supply to the allotments has been put in hand.

The contract for grass cutting around the village is renewable in the spring, a specification is to be prepared and tenders sought. A review of some of the older play equipment on Foster's Field will be made to determine actions for the future.

Planning and Housing

A number of applications, principally relating to house extensions, were received during the period and responses made to Mid Beds. As the planning Authority, Mid Beds are currently reviewing responses to the consultation regarding future possible housing sites in the district.

From the District and County Councillors

The Council welcomed back County Councillor Tony Rogers who spoke of the progress being made in preparing for the Central Bedfordshire Unitary Authority.

Parish Plan

The Council are still seeking to establish a working group of interested parishioners to work with the Council to implement the Parish Plan.

Other Matters

The Council have agreed to support the Village Hall Committee in holding the Bonfire Night event this year but wish to urge anyone providing materials for the fire to show consideration in the types of material added to the fire both in view of the pollution which may result during the burn but also the residues which will have to be cleared at considerable cost.

John Parsons, Chairman, Meppershall Parish Council

*The next Parish Council meetings will be held on Wednesday **1st** October and Wednesday 5th November at 7.45 pm at Meppershall Lower School.*

<p>Tickets for the Meppershall Players Pantomime, Snow White, are now on sale from Rogers Bakery. Dates are 30 Nov, 5,6,7 & 11,12 & 13 Dec. Prices are £5 matinees, £6 evenings & £8 for the last night.</p>
--



OCTOBER

Items available	Phone		Items Wanted	Phone
Computer monitor, LG Flatron 775FT CRT 17" . Full working order; VGC.	01462 813080			
Dark Oak Double Gate Leg Table and Four Matching Dining Chairs	01462 813080			
Bag of items, mostly soft toys. Baby's rearward facing car seat with carry handle, suitable 0-9 months	01462 819034		jam jars - any size quince pears	01462 815585
floral china tea service	01462 815585			

Please call the phone number given for the item you wish to collect or wish to donate in order to make necessary arrangements.

Please leave details of further items and your phone number in the Messenger folder at the Village Store, or at 116 Shefford Road or 17 Hoo Road, or e-mail to the Editor.

SCHOOL REPORT**Extra Activities at
Meppershall VA Lower School**

Our recent Ofsted Inspection found that the way the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of the learners is 'outstanding'. We aim to sustain and build on this judgement with the opportunities we offer the children, in partnership with the community, parents and outside providers.

With the help of our music teacher, we are forming an after-school choir. We already have a lunchtime recorder club and are starting a new lunchtime computer club for the Year 3 and 4 children.

We are providing additional games and dance input at lunchtimes and our after school drama club 'Rae-Act' is open to Years 1-4. La Jolie Ronde French Club and Premier Sports Club are also available to all the children.

We are delighted that Mrs Edwards has volunteered to continue our popular after school netball club. We extend our thanks to Mrs Ford for her dedicated input over the years.

Mrs Saunders and Mrs Derrick would like to continue our very successful lunchtime Gardening Club and need plenty of the keen gardeners 'out there' to volunteer to help out on an occasional lunchtime. We will be taking produce from this popular club, to Meppershall Care Home as part of our Harvest Celebration.

Mr Clarke and Mr Savuto have also volunteered to develop football and are looking for more tournaments for our school team to be involved with. Rev Patsy Critchley is re-starting the lunchtime Christian Club that promises to be as popular as the Sparks Holiday Club held at St Mary's Church during the summer holidays.

Jenny Vass our Christian Schools' worker is hoping to set up 'Open the Book'. Volunteers will come in about once every half term and act out Bible stories for the children with props, puppets and a set script. If you're interested in helping, please phone Jenny on 01462 626101.

If you feel you would like to help with any of our clubs, please contact the school office. All of our volunteers are CRB checked.
Paid relief lunchtime supervisors are also required to cover sickness.
Please contact the office for more information if you are interested in applying.

Our Adult ICT class, run by Barnfield College, is hoping to re-run classes on Monday and Tuesday mornings in our school hall. If you are interested in learning new computer skills or upgrading old ones please contact the school. The popular adult Yoga class still takes place on a Thursday evening.

Thank you for all the tokens you send in to school. With our 'Computers for Schools' tokens we were able to order 4 sturdy Tuff-Cam video cameras for the children to use as part of their ICT curriculum. Our sports tokens allowed us to order a 'maze' playground marking and 2, 4 in1 target goals for football.

If your child's birth date falls between 1/9/04 and 31/8/05 and you haven't yet applied for a place in our 'Outstanding' Foundation Stage class in September 2009, please contact the school office on 01462 813293. Mrs Reynolds, our secretary, will arrange a time for you to visit. We may be able to take children from outside the village in accordance with our Admissions Policy. You can read our excellent report on the Ofsted website.

Meppershall Bakery Bees *by Roger*

Autumn is a lovely time, most harvesting is over, the garden is quiet, bees have settled down and have recovered from their resentment following the removal of their honey crop. Even we humans feel the pace of life slowing as the days become shorter. There is a sense of achievement in the jobs that have gone well, and perhaps a determination to do something better next year, but without any urgency, as the need to get started on them seems a long way off.

For myself, as a beekeeper, the hectic rush of weekly inspections, swarm control and honey extraction is over. What with the bad weather in August and the beginning of September, I have not harvested any honey. The honey harvest will not be as good as expected. To harvest the honey we have to clear the bees from the supers by putting a clearer board on top with a "one way escape" called a porter bee escape. The bees can travel down to the brood nest but they cannot immediately figure out how to travel back into the honey supers. It's a one-way trap but only for 24-48 hours. Once the bees are out of the honey supers we need to be prepared to process the honey as soon as possible or within a few days. Extracting the honey is easier to do when it is still warm from the hive. October is the month that bees will begin to cluster when the temperature falls below 18 degrees C and form a complete cluster when the temperature falls below 13 degrees C. Our bees will survive the long winter in excellent condition if we take a little extra care.

After taking the honey we have to feed the bees with a sugar syrup, that is 2kgs of sugar to 1 pint of water, to replace the honey we have taken. A good colony will need about 20-25k of stores to get through the winter, so we will leave them some of their honey. We also have to place mouse guards on the hives and treat for varroa mite. This treatment takes about six weeks and is done after the honey is taken. Woodpeckers can also be a pest as they have a sweet tooth and do a lot of damage. One of Meppershall hives had some damage, last year, from woodpeckers and mice. Hopefully not this year.

A & D swarms are still going well. Hive A will give about 15kg of honey this year but hive D not so much. I think I will let them keep it for their winter stores.

Meppershall honey now available in mini jars at **Rogers Bakery**. See you there!

Many congratulations to Roger and his team for reaching the 25th anniversary of the Bakery in Meppershall on 30th Sept! Long may you bake!
Ed.

Travel Guide – Cyprus

Cyprus - Aphrodite's island and a country that is full of past legends, historical cultures and modern day tourism. Whether you enjoy a stay in a holiday apartment in Cyprus, or you are looking for a nice family villa to rent, in Cyprus you can bask or play in the warmth of the Mediterranean sun for most of the year.

Southern Cyprus is very English, where several resorts have large hotels, villas and apartments. The towns of Limassol, Larnaca, Paphos and Ayia Napa are just some of the best known. North Cyprus has less visitors, but Kyrenia is getting more popular with its stunning harbour and beautiful villas.

Flying time from your nearest UK airport is around 4hrs, so wherever you decide to stay your self-catering holiday villa or hotel will take 1-2 hours from either Larnaca or Paphos airports. This should allow plenty of time for you to enjoy the Island's fantastic array of excellent sporting activities, such as water-skiing, golf, and scuba- diving. In the Coral Bay area of Paphos, an excellent beach resort to the west of Larnaca, there are excellent dive-centre facilities available which cater for all ages and levels of diving experience. Paphos also has an interesting harbour with fishing boats and yachts. Inland, you'll find a number of championship golf courses, playable throughout the year.

Another popular location with visitors to Cyprus is the family orientated beach resort of Protaras, located eastwards from the airport. Here you will find very good hotels and hotel-apartments that ideal for families with small children. Fabulous Fig Tree Bay beach is a must! Further along the coast is the more lively resort of Ayia Napa, where there are lots of apartments to rent plus hotel accommodation for youngsters to share. Most are suitable for those seeking a lively holiday 'night-life', safe in the knowledge that they can sleep all the next day undisturbed.

In Cyprus, try renting a car to explore parts that many tourists never see. There are cultural places, monasteries and ancient historical sites to explore that may only be a short drive from your hotel or villa; or maybe you could adventure 'off-road' deep into the interior where you will discover the beautiful soaring Troodos mountains, with their spectacular views over the island of Cyprus.

For more about Cyprus and renting accommodation contact the writer: Stuart Johnston or visit: www.holidayrentalcentre.com

Options for after Year 11

Now that the Schools have started a new academic year, I wonder if you know anyone who has just gone into Year 11? If you do, you may be interested to know what their options are and how to find out more about them.

Many young people choose to stay on at their current School and go into Year 12/6th Form. It is usual for the Head of 6th Form to invite applications towards the end of the Autumn Term and a 6th Form Prospectus will show what subject options are available. It should also give details of the entry criteria. Study at AS and A level is considerably more academic in nature than GCSE subjects and therefore, it is not uncommon for Schools to require GCSE exam passes at grades A*-B in the subject that is going to be studied at the higher level.

Some Schools also offer a vocational programme. The entry criteria for a vocational programme may be slightly lower than for AS subjects although the qualification may be equivalent to A level passes. A vocational programme will have a strong link to the world of work and so, will be more specifically applicable to a certain area of work than A levels are.

Some young people choose to enter a 6th Form but at a different School to the one where they studied for GCSEs. Some Schools may advertise a 6th form information evening but to be on the safe side, it is usually best to make contact with any School that is of interest to ask about Open Evenings and application procedures.

An alternative to 6th form would be Colleges of Further Education, such as Bedford College, North Herts College and Barnfield College. The Colleges usually run a number of Open Evenings during the year and the first of these tend to be in November. Please be aware, if you are interested in a very popular course, applications should be in to the Colleges by Christmas!

Training and Apprenticeships are another option. Some young people find they are very unhappy in a formal educational environment and therefore,

an option where they can earn and learn at the same time is very appealing.

There is too much to fully cover all these options here but you can contact Connexions, a School based Connexions Co-ordinator or Careers Teacher, or speak to an independent careers specialist - the Institute of Careers Guidance has a list of suitably qualified practitioners.

Submitted by Jill Foskett - Career and Life Coach - Way-2-Go

**St Francis of Assisi R.C. Church Christmas bazaar on Saturday 24 November
at the Shefford, Methodist church hall from 10.30 am Prizes include:
£250 cash, Meal for two at the Black Horse, Ireland, Beds , voucher from
Henlow Grange, a Waitrose Christmas Hamper many more seasonal prizes.
Santa will be visiting to see the little ones
Festive Bazaar Stalls; Red & Green, Christmas Tombola, Xmas Crafts, Toys etc
Hot snacks, lunches and refreshments are served from 10 am
Draw to take place at 2.00pm**

Low Cost Higher Definition TV Pictures

Part 2 of 2

HD TVs have the ability to improve the signal input from your digital broadcasts and DVD player in order to display it correctly on the screen. However, in recent months, peripheral equipment such as DVD players, Digital Boxes and PVRs (digital Personal Video Recorders) are increasingly providing high quality **“Upscaling”** of their output to the television allowing the signal to be chosen (read the simple instructions, usually a one button click sequence) to better match the capabilities of the HD TV. **In most cases this will improve the picture to, as near as makes no difference, High Definition.**

All your existing DVDs and any stored digital programmes will be able to take advantage as well as new digital TV programs and DVDs. After purchasing one of these terrific little boxes all you need is the HDMI cable to connect it to your TV. Your HD TV should automatically adjust to the new input but if it does not, go to the “Input Menu” on your remote and navigate to the “HDMI” input. Programs made in High Definition such as Doctor Who are particularly spectacular but all program material gets a boost. Remember, HD pictures are much sharper than our eyes can resolve so you could be paying a lot for what you cannot see!

The downside of this is that you will currently expect to pay around £100 extra for these boxes to account for the “Upscaling” but the good news is you will not have to buy an expensive Blue Ray HD DVD player and suffer the £30 per film cost to play on it or pay extra for receiving HD content from Satellite (much of which is not made in HD yet anyway). All your home-made DVDs and photos will look wonderful using an “Upscaling” DVD player as well. For the football fan, well, just try it!

It should be noted that all electronic media hardware needs a “bedding in” period (like running in a car) before it gives of its best. Turning on your new equipment and running it constantly from dawn to bedtime for a couple of days will greatly assist this process. Also, the aeralis in TV shops are shared and do not always best reflect the great picture quality attainable at home.

~~~~~

Computer Tips are kindly provided by John Chapman

## Calendar of Forthcoming Events

### ***October 2008***

|                                                                                  |                              |                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b><u>10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October</u></b>                          | <i>Burnable<br/>Material</i> | <i>Bonfire site</i>     |
| <b><u>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October</u></b>                                   |                              |                         |
| <i>Mini Sparks harvest</i>                                                       | <i>11AM – 2 PM</i>           | <i>St Mary's Church</i> |
| <b><u>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October</u></b>                                     |                              |                         |
| <i>St Mary's Harvest Supper</i>                                                  | <i>6.30 for 7 PM</i>         | <i>Village Hall</i>     |
| <b><u>17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October</u></b>                          | <i>Burnable<br/>Material</i> | <i>Bonfire site</i>     |
| <b><u>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October</u></b>                                   |                              |                         |
| <i>Luton Youth Jazz Orchestra</i>                                                | <i>7.30 PM</i>               | <i>St Mary's Church</i> |
| <b><u>25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> October</u></b>                          | <i>Burnable<br/>Material</i> | <i>Bonfire site</i>     |
| <b><u>31<sup>st</sup> October to mid-day Sat<br/>1<sup>st</sup> November</u></b> | <i>Burnable<br/>Material</i> | <i>Bonfire site</i>     |
|                                                                                  |                              |                         |

### ***November 2008***

|                                                             |                      |                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November</u></b>              |                      |                                            |
| <i>Bonfire and Fireworks<br/>followed by disco</i>          | <i>7.00PM</i>        | <i>Village hall</i>                        |
|                                                             |                      |                                            |
| <b><u>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November</u></b>             |                      |                                            |
| <i>St Francis of Assisi RC<br/>Church, Christmas Bazaar</i> | <i>From 10.30 AM</i> | <i>Methodist Church Hall,<br/>Shefford</i> |
| <b><u>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November</u></b>               |                      |                                            |
| <i>Snow White Opens</i>                                     |                      | <i>Village Hall</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                  |
| Curate:         | Rev. Patsy Critchley                |                         |
|                 | 39 Rooktree Way, Haynes             | 01234 381510            |
|                 | (normally available Wed, Fri & Sun) |                         |
| Church Wardens: | Mr. Brian Bellamy, 125 High Street  | 815944                  |
|                 | Mrs. Brenda Wright, 75 High Street  | 816446                  |
| Lay Reader:     | Pam Halliwell, 15 Buxton Close.     | 817069 <u>Parochial</u> |

### Church Council

|            |                                         |        |
|------------|-----------------------------------------|--------|
| Secretary: | Mrs. Janice Middleton, 11 Shefford Road | 813925 |
| Treasurer: | Mr. D. Bartlett, 14 Taylors Close       | 811191 |

### Methodist Chapel

|           |                                             |                     |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Minister: | Rev. P. Snelson, 79 Ampthill Road, Shefford | 813284 <u>Roman</u> |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|

### Catholic Church

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

### **SCHOOLS**

|                                    |              |                   |        |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------|
| Meppershall Lower School           | Head Teacher | Mrs. Moira Coomes | 813293 |
| Henlow Middle School               | Head         | Mr. Payne         | 813733 |
| Samuel Whitbread Community College |              |                   | 629900 |

### **DOCTORS**

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

### **LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES**

|                                                                                                           |                                                                                     |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Chairman, Parish Council                                                                                  | Mr. John Parsons, 17, Shillington Road                                              | 01462 813333      |
| Council meets 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday each month, in Meppershall Lower School at 7.45pm                 |                                                                                     |                   |
| Clerk:                                                                                                    | Mr. C. Waghorn, 15 Church Lane, Letchworth                                          | 637531            |
|                                                                                                           | Email: <a href="mailto:waggers.uk@ntlworld.com">waggers.uk@ntlworld.com</a>         |                   |
| 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 Councillors:                                                                                     | Mr. Paul Carne, 6 Hoo Road, Meppershall                                             | 857803            |
|                                                                                                           | Email: <a href="mailto:paul.carne@midbeds.gov.uk">paul.carne@midbeds.gov.uk</a>     | Fax: 01462 857804 |
|                                                                                                           | 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 |
| 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      |                                                      | 811252 |
| Post Office:                                    | Mon-Fri 9am – 1pm & 2pm – 5.30pm (closes 12..30 Sat) |        |
| Shop:                                           | Mon-Thurs 6am – 6pm, Friday 6am – 7pm                |        |
|                                                 | Saturday 6.00am – 6pm, Sunday 6.30am – 1pm           |        |

### **PUB**

|                |                                          |        |
|----------------|------------------------------------------|--------|
| The Sugar Loaf | 25 High Street (Charlie & Glynis Bailey) | 813513 |
|----------------|------------------------------------------|--------|

**ORGANISATIONS****Meppershall Village Hall Committee**

|                               |                              |        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|
| Chairman:                     | Steve Ansell 6, High Street  | 811252 |
| Treasurer:                    | Mr. D. Birch                 | 817014 |
| Secretary:                    | Linda Gold 7, Brook mead     | 811970 |
| Booking Secretary:            | Karen Lucas, 51A High Street | 811581 |
| Village Hall Telephone Number |                              | 817359 |

**Babysitting Circle** Vacant

|                        |                         |              |        |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------|
| <b><u>Brownies</u></b> | Mondays 6pm – 7.30pm    | Village Hall |        |
| Brown Owl:             | Mrs. Christine Elbourne |              | 811964 |
| Snowy Owl:             | Mrs. Suzanne Brightwell |              | 815752 |

|                       |                          |                    |        |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| <b><u>Beavers</u></b> | Tuesdays 6.30pm – 7.30pm | Shefford Scouts HQ |        |
| Leader:               | Mrs. Hayley Henshall     |                    | 817446 |
| Leader (Shillington): | Jan Montgomery           |                    | 712386 |
| <b><u>Bingo</u></b>   | Fridays 7pm              | Village Hall       |        |

**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 |

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

**Friends of St. Mary's Church**

|                                      |                                     |        |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Chairman:                            | Mr. Trevor Thorley, 9 Hoo Road      | 813357 |
| Secretary:                           | Margaret Evesham, 107A, High Street | 814291 |
| Treasurer:                           | Mr. H. Davies, 15 Hoo Road          | 812127 |
| <b><u>Shefford Leisure Group</u></b> | Mrs. Enid Pamment, 112 High Street  | 851397 |

**Meppershall Players (Amateur Dramatic Society)**

|                      |               |        |
|----------------------|---------------|--------|
| Chairman:            | John Stinson  | 816919 |
| Contact              | Colette House | 815585 |
| Treasurer & Contact: | Graham Scrase | 813966 |

**Meppershall Lower School Association**

|              |                 |        |
|--------------|-----------------|--------|
| Chairperson: | Sarah Saunders  | 850817 |
| Secretary:   | Lorraine Jarvis | 811216 |
| Treasurer:   | Ann Cawley      | 819434 |

**Meppershall Social Club** (see Notice Board for opening times)

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

|                                              |                        |              |        |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------|
| <b><u>Meppershall Baby &amp; Toddler</u></b> | Tuesdays 1.30pm – 3.pm | Village Hall |        |
| Chairperson:                                 | Jessica Bryant         |              | 819143 |
| Secretary:                                   | Liz Gormley-Fleming    |              | 814110 |
| Treasurer:                                   | Nicola Metcalfe        |              | 816785 |

**Meppershall Pre-School** Village Hall

Monday - Friday Morning: 9.30am – 12 noon.

Mon, Wed, Fri only: Afternoon: 12.45 – 3.15

Lunch Clubs available: 12.00 – 12.45

|              |                  |        |
|--------------|------------------|--------|
| Chairperson: | Catherine Turner | 812134 |
| Secretary:   | Rachael Bamford  | 819403 |
| Registrar:   | Louise Hutson    | 814148 |

### Scouts

|             |              |              |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Shefford    | Diane Landau | 01234 381153 |
| Shillington | Paul Major   | 834251       |

|                                    |               |        |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------|
| <b><u>Tennis (at Langford)</u></b> | Neil Franklin | 815735 |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------|

|                                |                                           |              |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b><u>Womens Institute</u></b> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in month 7.30pm | Village Hall |
| President:                     | Gillian Thomas                            | 815979       |

### AMENITIES

|              |                                                                              |               |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Banks</b> | Barclays, 6 North Bridge Street, Shefford<br>Monday – Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm | 0845 7555 555 |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|

|                |           |        |
|----------------|-----------|--------|
| <b>B&amp;B</b> | Old Joe's | 815585 |
|----------------|-----------|--------|

|                |                                    |        |
|----------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Dentist</b> | Mr. Lakhani, High Street, Shefford | 814020 |
|----------------|------------------------------------|--------|

|                   |                                                         |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fishmonger</b> | Les Braithwaite (Mobile Van) – Thursdays approx 11.45am |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|

|                         |                                                                                                                   |        |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Flower Workshops</b> | Joanne Sheppard, 74 High Street. Booking essential.<br>Children: Saturday 10.30-12.00; adults Tue & Wed 7.30-9.00 | 816849 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|

|                    |                                                    |        |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Greengrocer</b> | Nigel Mann (Mobile Van) – Fridays 12.30pm – 2.30pm | 711802 |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------|

|                        |                                    |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Hedgehog Rescue</b> | Hedgehog Trust<br>St. Tiggywinkles | 01584 890801<br>01844 292292 |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|

|                        |                      |        |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| <b>Kennels/Cattery</b> | Wayside, Chapel Road | 813261 |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------|

|                |                       |        |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------|
| <b>Library</b> | High Street, Shefford | 639070 |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------|

|                                          |                               |              |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Livery Yard &amp; Training Centre</b> | Caroline Carter, Fildyke Road | 07747 686118 |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|

|                                       |                                                                                                                                       |        |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Mobile Library (alternate Wed)</b> | High Street/School 1.55pm – 2.10pm<br>Village Hall 2.15pm – 2.30pm<br>Fildyke Road 2.35pm – 2.50pm<br>Meppershall Village Stores & PO | 811252 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|

|               |                                        |              |
|---------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Police</b> | Emergencies/Police attendance required | 01234 841212 |
|               | Or                                     | 01582 471212 |
|               | Shefford Police Post (non emergencies) | 01234 841212 |

|                        |                                                                               |              |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>School of Dance</b> | Positive Moves Saturday Mornings Village Hall<br>Emma Scott, 29, Fildyke Road | 07914 063892 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|

|                            |  |              |
|----------------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Whitbread Wanderbus</b> |  | 01767 318444 |
|----------------------------|--|--------------|

## *Meppershall Village Hall*

### *BONFIRE NIGHT*

*Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008*

*Advanced Tickets available from*

*Post Office and Roger's Bakery*

*Adults £4, Children under 16 £2*

*Family (2 adults and 2 children) £10*

*Tickets on the Night:*

*Adults £5, Children under 16 £2.50*

*Family (2 adults and 2 children) £12*

*Includes entrance to firework display and disco afterwards  
in the Village Hall*

*Food Available from Fish & Chip Van*

*Lighting the Bonfire at 5.45pm*

*Firework Display begins 7pm*

*All Welcome !!*



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

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Several people have asked me if we will be organising this again this year and we certainly intend to.

Just in case anyone is new to this, just a quick reminder of what it 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 is homeless, lives in orphanages or is without family support or whose life has been blighted by poverty, ill health, natural disaster, conflict or war. The stories behind the boxes and the children who receive them are harrowing: a boy who can now go to school because he has pen and paper; children who have to be told that sweets are for them to eat as they have never had a sweet in their life. Look at the stories in this link

<http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk/?q=stories>

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 7.30 pm or bring to me at home.

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), but not chocolate or puzzle books.

Items that cannot be included are: liquids; clothing if not listed above; sharp objects; books with English words, as the boxes will be sent to many countries; glass containers and other fragile items; war 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? I have picked up my knitting needles again!

I save pens that are given free with questionnaires that full through the door – recycling unwanted mail means some good comes out of it.

Any questions just phone me on 01462 817409.

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. You don't need to fill a box just donate any suitable items. We need empty boxes too. A donation of £2 if possible per box helps towards the transport costs. If you want any more information please telephone me or speak to Suzanne at school.

Christine Elbourne  
Brown Owl  
5 St Marys Place

### **Meppershall Village Hall**

**Did you know you can play  
snooker at the Village Hall?**

**Well, you can.....**

**At just 50p a token and a refundable deposit for a cue (or  
bring your own) you can come along and have a game.**

**Hours: 8pm to 11pm**

**Monday to Sunday**

**Available for over 16's or  
under 16's if accompanied by a responsible adult**

**Interested? Then come along to the Social Club during the  
above hours and have a chat with the bar staff**

# St Mary's Meppershall **HARVEST SUPPER**

**Sale of Produce and Prize Draw**

on  
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

in the  
**Village Hall**

at  
**6.30 for 7.00**

Please bring your own drinks and glasses



*Adults £6.00*

*Children (12 or under) £3.00*

*50% of proceeds go to the Bishop  
of St Albans Harvest Appeal*

**Tickets available from :-**

*The Post Office*

*The Bakery*

*The Rectory (tel. 813334)*

*Members of the PCC*

---

**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

See notice at Church or telephone

Parish Priest:

Parish Secretary:

Fr. Bennie Noonan 813436

Rose Boulton 811547

---

# MEPPERSHALL BABY & TODDLER GROUP



COME ALONG AND JOIN US.

MEPPERSHALL VILLAGE HALL

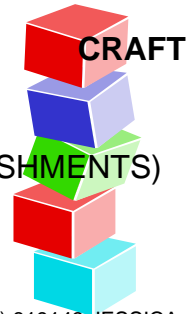
TUESDAY AFTERNOONS 1.45–3.15PM

WE HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF TOYS AND ACTIVITIES  
TO AMUSE AND ENTERTAIN YOUR UNDER 5'S

**BABY AREA  
TABLE**

£1.50 PER SESSION (INC. CHILDREN'S REFRESHMENTS)

NEW FAMILIES ALWAYS WELCOME



FURTHER INFO. TEL (01462) 819143 JESSICA

(01462 814110) LIZ

(01462) 816785 NICOLA



# **THE LUTON YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA**

**By the time you receive your copy of The Messenger, tickets will be selling well for the visit of “The Luton Youth Jazz Orchestra”.**

**This talented ‘group’ comprising approximately 25 musicians, with female soloist, come to us highly recommended, with past performances at The Royal Albert Hall as well as National and Continental appearances, they are indeed a very popular band and we are very lucky to be able to bring them to Meppershall just for you!**

**This performance in St. Mary’s Church will commence at 7.30pm on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2008; doors will open from approximately 7pm. At the end of the show, we have our very popular buffet supper with a choice of red or white wine, for those who don’t want alcohol there will be squash available.**

**All this is ‘included’ in the ticket price of £12 and you can obtain your tickets from myself on “01462 813357” Roger’s Bakery, The Post Office and General Stores, or fellow Trustees. See you there: Trevor Thorley, Chairman,**

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN  
MEPPERSHALL PARISH CHURCH (CHURCH OF ENGLAND)  
Church Rd, off Campton Rd**

**Rector: (Meppershall & Shefford) Rev John Harper, Rectory,  
Church Rd, Mepp. [revjohnharper@talktalk.net](mailto:revjohnharper@talktalk.net) 01462 813334**

**Curate: Rev Patsy Critchley; 01234 381510  
(Patsy's usual ministry days are Weds, Fri & Sun)**

**Lay Reader: Pam Halliwell 01462 817069**

**Churchwardens: Brian Bellamy 01462 815944 (Pastoral  
Assistant); Brenda Wright 01462 816446**

**Services for October**

- Oct 5** 11.15 a.m. Parish Communion & Sunday School (now 'JC' – see article) in Rectory. Rev'd Patsy Critchley will celebrate Communion for first time. Preacher: Rev'd Margaret Venables (former Rural Dean)
- Oct 12** Harvest Festival.  
8.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
11.15a.m. Family Service and baptism.
- Oct 19** 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
6p.m. Deanery Choral Service at All Saints Shillington. Preacher: Rev John Morley (this replaces Evensong here)
- Oct 26** 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
11.15 a.m. Family Communion & Junior Church ['JC']
- Nov 2** 11.15 a.m. Parish Communion & 'JC' [Rectory]  
6p.m. All Souls service (especially for those who are bereaved) – see note below
- Nov 11** Remembrance Sunday Service begins 10.50a.m.

**Weekday Services:**

Wednesdays : 10a.m. Holy Communion (B.C.P.)

Fridays : 7.30p.m. Compline (Evening Prayer)

Saturdays 9.30a.m. Morning Prayer

**The Rev'd Patsy Critchley**

will by now have been ordained as a priest by the Bishop of St Albans. Patsy continues to serve in this benefice of Meppershall and Shefford as the non stipendiary Curate, and, having completed a year as Deacon, is now able to celebrate Holy Communion and exercise all the aspects of Christian priesthood. Please uphold her in your prayers and continue to encourage her in the work God calls her to undertake. JH.

**Harvest Festival – Sunday 12 and Supper Monday 13 Oct**

Gifts of produce, perishable and otherwise, will be greatly appreciated for display in Church and then for auction at the Supper. Donations of prizes for the Supper Draw are also welcomed via The Rectory. Please see full page details

**All Souls Service – Sunday Nov 2, 6p.m.**

This annual service is particularly for those who have been bereaved. If you would like names remembered in prayer during the service, a list will be provided in Church as from Sunday Oct 26. (those for whom funerals have been conducted recently at St Mary's will already be included).

**News from JC**

A few of you might be looking puzzled, asking what JC might stand for. Putting you out of your misery, JC stands for Junior Church, Jesus Christ and Jesus Club.

This new name was chosen by our Sunday school children and is replacing the current name 'Sunday school'. We would like, on a regular basis, to share with you what is happening in our fun packed JC - Junior Church sessions.

Last Sunday we learnt about the story of the ten lepers, where all of the lepers were healed by Jesus, but only one thanked him. This story of giving thanks to Jesus for the things we receive fits well into this season of Thanksgiving.

After an opening prayer and the renaming of Sunday School into JC, the older children and Sandra explored the story at their level whilst the under 8s heard the story, remembered various items relating to injuries and sickness, reflecting on being sick – how does it feel? and had a Quiz.

All of the children and leaders went on to have fun with a short Drama on the story. This will be staged in the following week's Family Service.

Next, we enjoyed a group exercise on saying thank you in which each JC member received a sweet from a fellow member. In neck breaking speed we had two complete runs of the all time favourite "Butterfly" song, before closing in our usual way by saying the Grace. As always- time simply flew by.

**JC meets for an hour on the first Sunday of each month at the Rectory (opposite the church) starting at 11.15am. In smaller doses, it meets on the second Sunday at Family Service and on the fourth Sunday during Family Communion. Both start at 11.15 am.**

If you have any questions or think of joining, please feel free to call any of the JC leaders

ALEX SINFIELD 851473  
GILLIAN MARSHALL-DAVIES 850947  
JULIE TAYLOR 814387

PAUL MERRYWEATHER 816109  
SANDRA HARPER 813334  
MORAG DELUCA 643387

## **St Mary's 'Thanks Giving' 2008 ....**

At our Harvest Supper last year we launched a programme called 'Thanks Giving'. It focussed on God's generosity, and the opportunities we have to give back to Him for the work of his Church. You may recall the five point Vision that gave 'Thanks Giving' its direction: Our aim was to.....

- **E NABLE St Mary's to grow as a viable and outgoing Christian family, so that it has a secure future in the face of uncertain times**
- **E NCOURAGE the offer of skills, experience and good will of all involved with God's work through St Mary's, so that the church's mission will be as effective and relevant as we can make it**
- **E NSURE that members of the Church ministry team, lay and ordained, are suitably resourced for their work.**
- **E NDEAVOUR to make our beautiful Church building as sound, user-friendly and welcoming as possible**
- **E NRICH the lives of local children and young people with all the care, teaching, fun and worship God wants them to enjoy**

As a result of the responses to this 'Thanks Giving' programme God has encouraged St Mary's to move forward in a variety of positive ways. Consequently we decided that every year we should remind ourselves of the key gospel truths: that God's generosity deserves our thanks, and that our gratitude is expressed through the ways by which we give back in His service.

Much can happen in a year, both to a Church and to us individually. Circumstances change and different possibilities may open up. Vision may become more focussed. The ways of the Kingdom are paradoxical, and as such there are good grounds for kingdom people to be thinking and praying about giving, just as the 'credit crunch' is pressing us to tighten belts. So, one year on, St Mary's people are reviewing before God their giving of time, abilities and money, in gratitude for all that He gives to us. If you would like information about opportunities for 'Thanks Giving' in these ways, please just ask for details from The Rectory - 813334

*Responses to this year's 'Thanks Giving' renewal* will be offered to God and a summary presented on **Sunday November 23** - 'Stir up Sunday'.

With good wishes, John Harper

---



# MINI SPARKS HARVEST

*A sizzling, christian holiday club*

for

**£2 /  
child**

**Children 7 – 12 yrs**

*[JC children only 5 – 12 yrs]*

**SAT. 11th OCT.**

**11am – 2.00pm**

at

**St. Mary's, MEPPERSHALL**

**Registration forms from:**

**St. Michael's, Shefford & St. Mary's, Meppershall**

**Meppershall Post Office, Roger's Bakery,  
Rectory, Meppershall. Tel: 01462 813334**

**WILDSPEAKE** *instilling, christian holiday club for:*


**7 -12 yrs.**  
[church children only 5 - 12yrs]

**SAT 11th OCT 2008**  
**11am - 2pm**

**St. Mary's Church, Meppershall**

Your child will need: **£2 [bring on the day]**  
**A PACKED LUNCH [NO GLASS]**  
**TO WEAR OLD CLOTHES**

PLEASE KEEP THE ABOVE FOR YOUR REFERENCE

 **REGISTRATION FORM**

Please **RETURN FORMS** to **St. Mary's, St. Michael's**  
**Shefford & Meppershall Schools, or The Rectory.**

NAME[s] .....

Date of Birth ..... Age on OCT 11th .....

Address .....

Tel No ..... Mobile .....

Name of additional contact & Tel No. ....

Details of any regular medication or medical problem .....

If your child wishes to be in the same group as a friend , please  
name the friend[s].....

Please TICK if you **DO NOT** want your child to be in any photographs. ☐

Parental signature ..... Date.....



## Send a Cow

Send a Cow is a Christian organisation that enables poor farmers in Africa to become self-sufficient by providing them with livestock, training and advice. They source all their livestock within Africa, and work in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

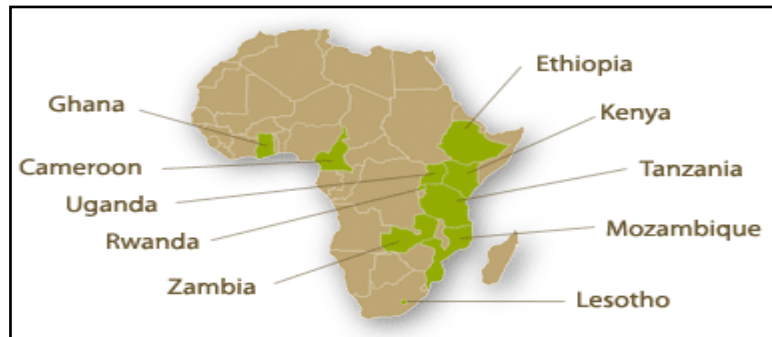
Send a Cow work with some of the most vulnerable groups in Africa, including children orphaned by war, families affected by HIV/AIDS, and disabled people.

Send a Cow operates a policy of 'pass on' - 'Pass on' is a simple, but incredibly effective way of spreading bounty. Everyone who receives an animal from Send a Cow, passes on the first-born female offspring to another family free of charge; they in turn pass on their first-born and so on. Any surplus income from harvests is used to buy more crops, trees or household necessities. Even knowledge gained from training is passed on and shared.

For further information on Send a Cow please visit <http://www.sendacow.org.uk/> or contact Audrey Burr, 01462 420257.

E-mail: [audreyburr@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:audreyburr@tiscali.co.uk). Audrey is available to provide talks and demonstrations to societies and groups on the work of Send a Cow absolutely free of charge and without any obligation.

### Where they work in Africa



John Thompson

## **Central Bedfordshire Council is coming our way**

In April 2009 Central Bedfordshire Council will begin providing public services as an all-purpose unitary authority. It will deliver all the existing services of both Mid and South Bedfordshire District Councils as well as those currently run by Bedfordshire County Council in these areas.

So how will the new authority be better for our village?

Central Bedfordshire will take the very best elements from existing district and county councils and their services and bring them together to create a streamlined, more efficient and more effective council. This approach will focus on easier access to local services, by providing one point of contact for services such as Recycling, Elderly and Children's services, Housing Needs and Highways.

As a single point of contact for service customers in its area, Central Bedfordshire will make sure you can have your say about the major services it will offer in the community.

For more information you can visit the Central Bedfordshire website at [www.centralbeds.gov.uk](http://www.centralbeds.gov.uk).

**MID BEDS. ART SOCIETY**  
**Invite you to their**  
**AUTUM 2008 ART EXHIBITION**  
**AND SALE OF MEMBERS WORK**

**ON**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

**10.00am – 4.00pm**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

**12.30pm – 4.00pm**

**AT**

**ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH HALL, BARTON**

**Free Admission**

**Refreshments Available**

**RECIPE CORNER****OCTOBER****RICH TOMATO & SAUSAGE CASSEROLE****INGREDIENTS**

454g (1lb) Lincolnshire sausages  
1 medium onion, sliced``  
2 cloves garlic, crushed  
100g (4oz) mushrooms, whole  
397g (14oz) can of chopped tomatoes.  
300ml (1/2 pint) stock  
2x5ml sp (2 tbsp) tomato puree  
1x5ml sp (1 tsp) sugar.  
1x2.5 sp (1/2 tsp) dried mixed herbs.

**METHOD.**

- 1) In a large non-stick saucepan dry fry the sausages and onion for 4 – 5 minutes.
- 2) Cut in half.
- 3) Add all remaining ingredients and bring to the boil, simmer and cover for 30 minutes.
- 4) Serve with jacket potatoes and seasonal vegetables or crusty bread.
- 5) Great supper for bonfire night.

Recipes are supplied each month by Brenda Putwain

## GARDEN TIPS FOR OCTOBER

With acknowledgements to the RHS

- Rake up fallen leaves and pile them up to make leafmould
- Continue clearing up the garden, and burn or bin any debris that show signs of fungal infection
- Dig over empty areas of soil
- Finish planting evergreen shrubs
- Take hardwood cuttings from shrubs and fruit bushes
- Collect berries from seeds and shrubs for seed-sowing
- Give conifer hedges a last trim if necessary
- Plant new climbers and perennials
- Divide overgrown perennials
- Protect alpine from winter wet
- Lift and store dahlias, gladioli and summer-flowering bulbs
- Plant lily and tulip bulbs
- Tidy ponds and remove pumps for the winter
- Make new lawns from turf
- Cut down the dying tops of perennial vegetables
- Lift and divide rhubarb
- Fix grease bands to apple and pear tree trunks to catch pests that crawl up them
- Insulate the greenhouse and check that heaters are in good order

### LAST CHANCE

- Sow grass seed
- Finish planting spring bedding
- Harvest apples and pears before they are damaged
- Lift and store tender perennials
- Lift potatoes and carrots and store them

### GET AHEAD

- Prepare the ground for planting bare-rooted stock next month
- Make early sowings of broad beans for next year
- Sow sweet peas for next year under cover

### Bus Timetables – (Weekdays only given here)

In developing the Meppershall Village Plan it was clear that there was a lack of knowledge about the buses serving Meppershall.  
The following information has been taken from the web and has been abbreviated to show the main stops, including Meppershall.  
Full information can be obtained from the bus companies or their websites.

#### Route 79 to Sheffield – Meppershall – Barton – Luton

|                             |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Sheffield, High Street,     |      |      |      | 1533 | 1740 | 1840 |
| Meppershall, Sugar Loaf     |      |      |      | 1538 | 1745 | 1845 |
| Meppershall, Rectory Road   | 0728 | 0928 | 1118 | 1540 | 1747 | 1847 |
| Meppershall, opp Sugar Loaf | 0730 | 0930 | 1120 |      |      |      |
| Sheffield, High Street,     | 0735 | 0935 | 1125 |      |      |      |
| Barton, Windsor Parade      | 0801 | 1003 | 1153 | 1554 | 1759 | 1859 |
| Luton, Silver St            |      |      |      |      | 1825 | 1925 |
| Luton, Galaxy Centre        | 0838 | 1031 | 1221 | 1431 | 1622 |      |

#### Route 79 to Luton – Barton – Meppershall – Sheffield

|                             |      |      |      |      |                   |      |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|------|
| Luton, Galaxy Centre,       |      |      |      |      | 1630              | 1750 |
| Barton, Windsor Parade      |      |      |      |      | 1656              | 1812 |
| Sheffield, High Street,     | 0712 | 0912 | 1102 | 1252 | 1740 <sup>p</sup> | 1840 |
| Meppershall Loaf, Sugar     |      |      |      | 1320 | 1530              | 1745 |
| Meppershall, Rectory Road   | 0728 | 0928 | 1118 | 1328 | 1538              | 1747 |
| Meppershall opp, Sugar Loaf | 0730 | 0930 | 1120 |      | 1540              | 1847 |
| Sheffield, High Street,     | 0735 | 0935 | 1125 |      | 1330              |      |

|                                                 |  |             |             |            |
|-------------------------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Route 89 to Henlow Camp – Meppershall - Hitchin |  |             |             |            |
| Henlow Camp                                     |  |             |             |            |
| Sugar Loaf                                      |  |             |             |            |
| <b>Hitchin, Bancroft</b>                        |  | <b>NSch</b> | <b>Sch</b>  |            |
| <b>Hitchin Station</b>                          |  | 07:37       | 07:37       | 13:27      |
| <b>Hitchin, Bancroft</b>                        |  | 07:45       | 07:45       | 13:35      |
| <b>Hitchin, Grove Road Rd</b>                   |  | 08:20       | 08:25       |            |
| <b>Hitchin, Wilbury Way</b>                     |  | 08:23       | 08:35B      |            |
| Train departs to London                         |  |             |             |            |
| Sch = School Days. NSch = non-school days.      |  |             |             |            |
|                                                 |  | 06:45       |             |            |
|                                                 |  | 07:19       |             |            |
|                                                 |  | 07:22       |             | 10:35      |
|                                                 |  |             |             | 14:10      |
|                                                 |  | 08:30       | 08:42       |            |
|                                                 |  | 07:32       |             |            |
|                                                 |  | B =via      |             |            |
|                                                 |  | Girls       | School      |            |
| Route 89 to Hitchin – Meppershall - Henlow Camp |  |             |             |            |
| Train arrives from London                       |  |             |             |            |
| Hitchin, Wilbury Way                            |  |             |             |            |
| <b>Hitchin, Grove Road,</b>                     |  |             |             |            |
| <b>Hitchin Station</b>                          |  | <b>Sch</b>  | <b>NSch</b> |            |
| <b>Hitchin, Bancroft,</b>                       |  |             |             |            |
| Sugar Loaf                                      |  |             |             |            |
| <b>Henlow Camp,</b>                             |  |             |             |            |
|                                                 |  | 15:54B      | 15:57       | 18:27      |
|                                                 |  | 16:00       | 16:00       | 18:30      |
|                                                 |  | 12:35       | 17:12       | 17:15      |
|                                                 |  | 13:08       | 17:15       | 17:48      |
|                                                 |  | 13:16       | 17:48       | 17:56      |
|                                                 |  | 16:33       | 16:33       | On request |
|                                                 |  | 16:41       | 16:41       |            |



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

Katie Johnson who will be 8 on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Samuel Derrick who will be 6 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Caitlin Saunders who will be 7 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Alistair Clay who will be 15 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Matthew Geneux who will be 8 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Chloe Brightwell who will be 9 on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Hannah West who will be 9 on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
James Aberdein who will be 12 on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
James Nesbitt who will be 11 on the 16<sup>th</sup>  
Isabel Savuto who will be 3 on the 17<sup>th</sup>  
Georgia Nesbitt who will be 6 on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
Daisy Clark who will be 12 on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
Laura Scott who will be 15 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Dylan Woodcock who will be 6 on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
Beth Edwards who will be 13 on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
Alexander Davies who will be 6 on the 28<sup>th</sup>

And belated birthday wishes to Chloe Bryant who was 1 on the  
28<sup>th</sup> of August

If you are under 16 and would like your name added to  
the birthday page, please call Louise Hutson on 814148