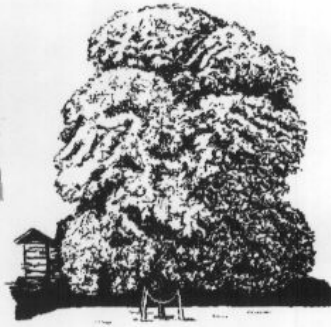


VILLAGE CUDDINGTON VOICE



**FEBRUARY
2010**

VOLUME THIRTEEN

December snow

Our meteorologist, Sean Clarke, has provided the snowy details which are that 2.1 inches (5.3 cms.) of snow fell in Cuddington; however, it was snow in the High Wycombe area that caused the real trouble for Cuddington residents.



Just before Christmas Tim and Jessica Ecott had to make a trip to Heathrow to collect a friend. They agreed that Jessica would be dropped off at John Lewis in High Wycombe and that Tim would pick her up on the way back. Unfortunately they bargained without the weather. Shortly after they had separated the snow arrived.

It was snowing so heavily that John Lewis advised their customers not to leave. They were told that High Wycombe was gridlocked and that no-one could escape. John Lewis invited everyone into their cafeteria and plied them with coffee and chocolates.

By 9.00 pm, having eaten chocolates since about 2.30, Jessica and her mother felt they would like to go home, although they could see that a lot of customers were now taking advantage of John Lewis's continuing hospitality and bedding down for the night.

The two ladies got into their car and Jessica set about driving home; but finding that both the M40 and the A40 were completely inaccessible, she had to use the back roads, but High Wycombe is of course very hilly and in the heavy snow there were times when she had no idea where she was. She had to drive in first gear all the way back to Cuddington in terribly snowy conditions, and finally got home at 10.30 pm, having had what she admits was a very frightening experience and wondering whether she would have been better sleeping in a John Lewis bed.

Having collected his friend, Tim had to drive back on the motorway and most of the time the traffic was stationary. He too had a hair-raising drive home, not getting there until 10 pm having been stuck in his car for more than five hours.

John Fortgang

Angela Wenham describes the problems she and Peter had.

We had taken young Louis aged 7 to the pantomime at High Wycombe. On emerging from the sunlit world of Aladdin, we were shocked to find snow falling thickly and traffic barely inching forward. Things weren't looking good as we reached the foot of the steep hill leading out of town and our fears were confirmed when a lorry jack-knifed across the road ahead and there was no way through. We slewed the car to the side of the road and abandoned it before making our way to the station with the crowds of other stranded people – no buses were running. On arriving in Haddenham there was no sign of transport, so we set off to walk back to Cuddington through the darkness and falling snow, lighting our way with the fluorescent blue glow of Louis' Star Wars sword. Next morning it was the train back to Wycombe where we managed to retrieve the car, staggered at the huge number of abandoned vehicles buried along the roadside as we made our way home.

February feature - Peter Pan

Following their sell-out performances of the musical "Honk!" just over a year ago, Cuddington Youth Drama are thrilled to announce their production of "Peter Pan" in the Bernard Hall between 16th and 21st February—see cast picture right.

This is the traditional British musical version of the classic children's story by J.M. Barrie. Wendy, Michael and John Darling fly off with

(Continued on page 6)





Thought for the month

Graham Carr writes

It came to me afresh in the New Year that the way we are with our children has a major impact on them, and then on their children, then on their children and then.....etc. So how do we raise our children - and how should we - if we are trying to help the World be a better place? Isn't this one of the guidelines so many have?

In the Family Service in St Nicks Church on 10th January, we thought about the one instance recorded for us in the Bible of Jesus as a child, in this case a 12-year-old lad. (Luke's Gospel chapter 2) He was clearly a remarkable boy: he was unbelievably intelligent but was obedient to his parents. He also became very popular with his village and community. How many intelligent, good children these days are popular? I gather it is "not cool" to do well or to conform to the rules. So is that mixture possible – intelligence, goodness and popularity? Jesus managed it – but then He was God's Son. Though it does not say He was not bullied! Are there things we can improve upon as we help our young move through the increasingly challenging toddler, pre-teen and teenage years?

One of the initiatives that the Church is taking is to try and arrange for groups of parents to meet together and share some of the challenges, joys, lessons of bringing up kids in the 2nd decade of the 21st century. If you would care to join in or hear about options, do get in touch with Eric Chamberlain (299303), Jane Giles (292038) or Caroline Stonham (292221).

As a father and grandfather, and finding myself looking back, it seems a couple of key principles helped us. First, to communicate affirmation of unconditional love in order to help them believe in themselves. Obvious, but it is easy to forget that we need both to SHOW them and TELL them, even while disciplining them. Some of us "busy" Dads are the worst at remembering actually to tell our offspring that we love them because we think they already know.

Second, the need for integrity, individually and as a couple. We need to be the same person in the home, in the field/factory/office, in the community, in church. It's the two-faced, dual-charactered Mum, Dad, couple that produces confusion in a child. Apart from parenting discussion groups, one of the very best guides to developing appropriate skills is the Bible, God's Word, deeply relevant even today!

Carol singing around the village

.....except that this year we didn't venture too far as it was snowing heavily and was mighty cold! However, roughly 12 brave stalwarts gathered around the Christmas tree on the green for a few carols before moving into the cosy and welcoming atmosphere of The Crown. Warm again, we made our way down Church Street stopping at various points on the way: there was something rather lovely



about singing O Little Town of Bethlehem in the falling snow to excited and smiling children – and some of them joined in! By the time we reached the bottom corner the roads were becoming dangerously slippery and we were frozen, so into Tyringham Hall we went for a few more carols. There we were well rewarded by Sherry and Phil with much appreciated mulled wine and delicious goodies to eat.

So a shortened evening, and apologies to those we did not reach, but I'm sure you will understand the reasons. We managed to raise £60 which was to be divided between Crisis, in this country, and Tear Fund for their relief work overseas. Many thanks to those who came to sing, to those who gave generously, and above all to Sherry and Phil for their warm welcome and kind hospitality on this very cold evening.

Angela Sanderson

First meeting of choir

The newly formed choir met for the first time on the 20th January at St Nicholas Church in Cuddington. About 16 people attended and were welcomed by organiser Eileen and the new choir's director Joy. After introducing themselves to each other the choir started off with a simple round, Three Blind Mice, followed by scales and voice practice.

Two further pieces were practised, Skye Boat Song and Catch a Falling Star, sung in parts.

Everybody clearly enjoyed themselves and will be meeting again, at Cuddington Church, on Wednesday 3rd February at 2.00pm. New members will still be welcomed so please call me on 01844 291880

Eileen Fortgang

January Snow



The second wave of snow after Christmas caused trouble nearer to home.... John Fortgang and Michael Pegge report on its effects on Cuddington and our meteorologist Sean Clarke has provided the following snowy data:

6 inches of snow fell during the night of 5th / 6th January, followed by another 0.3 inches during the night of 10th/11th. In the early hours of the 13th yet another 1.3 inches added itself, and lying snow covered the ground, fully or partially, for 11 days, from the 6th to the 16th – and it has seemed much longer. The ground temperature fell to minus 16 deg.

Cuddington man in snow rescue drama!

Phil Davidson drove home from Shrewsbury on the evening of Tuesday 5th January – a journey he does regularly. As it got dark Phil encountered heavy snow, but conditions improved on the M40. He followed his usual route on to the A41, and all seemed well - until he turned off towards Ashendon. He now found himself surrounded by a blanket of snow, but as the road there is narrow, and he had a couple of cars behind him, there was nothing he could do but keep going. The road became narrower and steeper; his wheels began to spin, and although a competent and experienced driver he realised that in these conditions he was unlikely to get any further.

He pulled over to the side of the road to let the other drivers behind pass, as he could see that one was a 4x4. What in fact happened however was that the drivers of both cars also stopped. The driver of the 4x4 got out, knocked on his window and offered to tow him up the hill.

A tow rope having been attached they slowly made their way up the hill – until the rope snapped!

The good Samaritan (who turned out to be a local man) then very kindly offered to give both Phil and the other driver, who lives in Haddenham, lifts home once they had placed their cars off the road as far as they could.

Having reported the abandoned cars to the police, Phil went back the next day, but the weather was still too bad to remove it. He finally retrieved it on the Thursday, again with the help of the same benefactor.

Tractor Saves Good Hair Day

Haddenham resident Councillor Margaret Aston was determined not to let a bit of snow get in the way of an important hair appointment with Denise. So she summoned farmer husband Martin from his fields and asked him to take her in his tractor. Martin readily obliged (what else could any husband do?) and Margaret duly arrived in style. Half an hour later he was again summoned to collect the newly coiffured Margaret, a regular client of Denise's, looking even more elegant than before, as lady-like as ever and not at all fazed by her mode of transport. Happily Denise's assistant Mandy was on hand to capture the moment (see picture above). Margaret may well have started a trend and Denise would not be surprised to see the roads outside her salon, the shop and the church to be lined with tractors every time it snows.



Snow and we were just in time!



During last year the Parish Council applied for a grant from the Bucks County Council from what they call their Delegated Budget and we were lucky enough to be awarded £4000. The Parish Council decided that they would use the money to purchase four grit/salt bins just in case we ran into a patch of really inclement weather.

At the beginning, before the weather problems of early January, it has to be said that this project failed to meet with universal approbation. The objections ranged from the bins were too big, the colour of them was awful and in any case they were inappropriate for our picturesque village.

Well, came the snowstorms there was an interesting change of tone and Parish Council were pleased to note that villagers made good use of this new facility particularly at the top of Upper Church Street.

BCC have promised to keep our bins topped up so should the need arise any resident may use the salt and grit with the view to avoiding accidents.

Cuddington's wintry weather



Holly Tree Lane in the snow

November was both very mild and wet - it was Cuddington's mildest since 1994. Day-time maximum air temperatures averaged 11.5 deg C

(53 F), nearly 1 degrees higher than normal. Nighttime minimum air temperatures averaged 6.0 deg C (43 F), 2 degrees higher than normal. The actual highest and lowest daytime air temperatures occurred on the 1st (16.4 deg C, 62 F) and 30th (6.0 deg C, 43 F) respectively. The highest and lowest nighttime air temperatures occurred on the 19th (12.2 deg C, 54 F) and 9th (minus 0.8 deg C, 31 F) respectively - the only air frost of November. There were six ground frosts during the month, the lowest occurred on the 9th (minus 4.4 deg C, 24 F)

December was very cold, being 1.5 deg C below average (coldest since 2001) and wettest since 2002. Snow fell on the 18th and 22nd with a maximum depth of 5.3 cm (2.1 inches), and the ground remained snow covered, either totally or partially, from the 18th up to and including Christmas Day. {In the previous eleven Decembers, significant snow has only fallen in 2005. A total of 1.0 cm (0.4 inches) partially covered the ground for 3 days (27th -29th)}.

Daytime maximum air temperatures averaged 6.0 deg C (43 F) which is over a degree colder than normal. The actual highest and lowest daytime air temperatures occurred on the 5th (12.2 deg C, 54 F) and 22nd (0.8 deg C, 33 F) respectively. The highest and lowest night-time air temperatures occurred on the 6th (7.5 deg C, 45 F) and 23rd (minus 7.0 deg C, 19 F) respectively. There were sixteen air frosts and nineteen ground frosts, the lowest ground frost occurred on the 23rd (minus 11.9 deg C, 10 F)

Precipitation was well above the average for both months. November received 101.4mm (4.0 inches) and December 81.5 mm. (3.2 inches) The 12-year average is 70.5mm (2.8 inches) and 60.8mm (2.4 inches) respectively.

The all-important question is did Cuddington have a white Christmas? Although the meteorological fraternity do not have a definition for what constitutes a white Christmas the gambling fraternity do! Snowflakes have to actually fall at the location of interest on the big day - snow already on the ground from earlier falls do not count. Well we missed out. During the early hours of Christmas morning a band of rain moved across Cuddington turning to snow a little further north where the air was slightly colder.

As we know the weather became problematic at the start of the New Year. I will give an account in February's *Village Voice*.

Sean Clarke



WI January meeting

It has become a custom for Peggy Cattell to give the first talk of the year to her fellow WI members. This year her talk was based on the Radio 4 programme "Something Understood". Peggy's chosen theme was "Trees" and her slides and chosen readings provided a fascinating way of considering trees' varying shapes and sizes, and the different opinions people have about them.

Cuddington's trees provided the subject matter for many of the slides: the oak planted in the early 1950's to commemorate the opening of the *Playing Fields* by the Duke of Edinburgh, elm trees beautiful in their Autumn colours, but since destroyed by elm disease and the trees along Dadbrook which were felled to enable the council houses to be built.

The oak tree featured in many of the illustrative passages: the importance of its wood in providing the ships which in past centuries took the English to fight, and the way in which courageous men were described as having hearts of oak. One poem described a particular oak tree: its growth and final decline after living through many centuries of English history. This tree died a natural death, but other poems described the cutting down of trees in order to provide room for building. In his poem "Binsey Poplars" Gerard Manley Hopkins expressed a real personal grief at the felling of these delicate trees, and in contrast a poem entitled "The War Against the Trees" expressed vehemence at what the poet saw as wilful murder in order to satisfy the gratification of ruthless property developers.

The importance of trees in the fight against global warming was illustrated by readings of press cuttings, and finally a poem was read which referred to the beauty of trees and this led to the final group of slides, all of which gave examples of this loveliness.

Caroline Thompson thanked Peggy for her interesting talk, and she in turn thanked those colleagues who had added so much to the programme by their readings of poetry and prose.

New Committee

President: Helen Griffin

Vice President: Peggy Cattell

Secretary: Mary Turner

Programme Secretary & Acting Treasurer: Diane Picot

Meryl Stevens.



The fascination of trees.





Our December date for the Gardening Club was a visit to Preston Bissett Nurseries for a talk on “Caring for Your Christmas Houseplants”. We were given a very friendly welcome and offered Gluhwein and mince pies which set us up nicely for the informative talk in a polytunnel (see pictures above of polytunnel—and the gluhwein!). By the end I think most members were frozen to their seats but took home some very helpful tips!!

However it was a very enjoyable visit and Preston Bissett Nurseries has much to offer including a comprehensive range of garden plants, trees, climbers, conifers etc. and also a lovely country shop with unusual ideas for presents and many members left armed with gifts for Christmas.

For anyone who has never been it is an excellent nursery and certainly well worth a visit.

Sadly the Gardening Club Social on 11th January had to be postponed due to the snow but has been rearranged for Monday 12th April.

The next meeting on February 8th will include the AGM followed by a talk by Anthony Powell on “The Scented Garden”.

Happy New Year to you all!



The Chairman's house and garden blanketed in January's snow.

The Cuddington canal that never was

History abounds with “might have beens”. Cuddington came very close to having a canal in 1809. The Abingdon – Aylesbury project proposed a 36 mile navigation from the Wiltshire and



The Grand Junction Canal at Marsworth

Berkshire canal at Abingdon with an aqueduct over the River Thames, via Thame and Aylesbury to link with the Grand Junction at Marsworth. The proposed route was surveyed and the Thame to Aylesbury section was scheduled to follow the course of the Thame valley. The Project was revived again in 1813, 1817 and, finally, in 1828, but it was never authorised by Act of Parliament or built. The high cost, the provision of an adequate supply of water and the appeal of other rival projects resulted in insufficient support.

What a difference the coming of a canal would have made to the development of Cuddington if a wharf had been constructed to serve our village and the surrounding area including Haddenham. As contemporaries favouring the building of a canal argued, “it would do much to relieve poverty in the Thame area”.

Cuddington in Victorian times was a poor, rural, isolated community off the main tracks. Henry Boddington (1813-1886), who as a boy lived at Cuddington Mill, described the village as “a small and very insignificant place, the community below in intelligence – they were so isolated and remote from ordinary society”. A busy canal across the fields might have created a greater prosperity and employment and enhanced the social and economic scene. Instead of a reliance on horse and wagon for haulage, bulky cargoes like coal, oil, barrels of ale and manure, together with building materials, would have been imported relatively cheaply and easily. Local agricultural products like milk, root crops and grain and possibly wickert and lace for the London market could have been exported expeditiously. It is clear from countless examples that a canal wharf resulted in the construction of offices, dwellings for canal staff and outlets selling provisions and refreshment to passing bargemen. The nearest public house in Cuddington to the River Thame in Victorian times was “The Fish” (now the Malt House). Although there were at least five other public houses in the village, a canal tavern might have proved an additional temptation for thirsty villagers!

However, as we know, the canal project never happened. But we can enjoy our peaceful, green river valley without the intrusion of noisy tourists in a succession of narrow boats!

Peter Wenham

Peter Pan

(Continued from page 1)

Peter Pan to Never Land, where they encounter pirates, mermaids, Indian braves, the Lost Boys and, of course, a crocodile. This is CYD's most ambitious production to date, with 30 children (and some of their parents!), spectacular sets and some terrific music performed by a live band. The perfect half-term week treat for the whole family!



Peter Pan, the Darling children and the lost boys

Performances are at 6 pm on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th, at 7 pm on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th, at 5 pm on Saturday 20th and at 2 pm on Sunday 21st February. Tickets start at £7 for adults or £5 for children and concessions. More details on the CYD website at www.cuddingtonyouthdrama.org.uk. Telephone Phil or Jane for the Box Office on 299 149.

Snacks, mulled wine and other refreshments will be available during the interval.

Banner Group

Eleven of us attended our first meeting in mid-November, at which it was agreed that there was enough enthusiasm to make a banner to hang in the church: it was hoped that the making of this banner would develop fellowship within the village and the church. We selected two sites for the banner to be hung, and Caroline Stonham will propose these to the P.C.C. during the coming weeks.

However, before any decisions on design, type of stitching, materials, etc, are taken it was agreed to visit other churches that have banners to try and get some ideas – both of what we do like and what we do not, and it is hoped that we shall all keep a very open mind. We were meant to do this early in January, but because of the snow our visits had to be postponed. We are now hoping to visit churches in Dinton, Stone, Aylesbury and Thame on Sunday 7th February departing from St Nicholas at 2.00 pm. Anyone who wasn't at our meeting but is interested in helping with the banner is very welcome to come with us on this visit. We shall then have another meeting at which everyone interested will have the opportunity to air their views and tell us what their particular skills are.

Angela Sanderson

Church Supper

The popular annual Church Supper in the Bernard Hall will be held this year on Saturday, February 27th at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. The speaker will be the Revd. David Bronnert, whose lively manner made him popular with church members when he took services for us last year.



A recent Church Supper in the Bernard Hall

Tickets will be available from Myles and Carolin Saker (291825) There is no charge but donations will be welcome as when we have covered expenses we hope to send a contribution to relief work in Haiti.

**There will be a licensed bar.
Keep this date and do come and join us.**

Home energy use in Cuddington

Following the recent thermal imaging of Cuddington homes, we are holding a meeting to show the results, provide information and help you cut down on your energy bills and reduce your environmental footprint

There is a lot that can be done even for old houses—come and find out the possibilities.

Bernard Hall, on Saturday January 30th at 2.00 pm

Including thermal images of Cuddington houses.

Doug Kennedy

Thank you!

The Editor is most grateful to James Frost and Doug Kennedy for the snow pictures that appear in this month's *Village Voice*.

To see more of Doug's photographs visit his web site on:

<http://www.doug-kennedy.com/photographs/cuddington-snow-2010/>.

Concert in Haddenham

The Haddenham Witchert Chorale, which includes two Cuddington singers, is to hold a concert on Saturday, March 27th at 7.30 p.m. in St. Mary's Church. The concert will feature music by Beethoven, Byrd and Rutter.

This musical group is the one which, for several years, has delighted our village on May Day with its madrigals sung from St Nicholas's Church tower.

Please contact Jessica on 291101 for more information and ticket reservations.

Dates for your Diary

"If winter comes" (and it did!)



"can Spring be far behind?"



February

Wednesday 3 rd 2.00 p.m.	Choir meeting in church (see page 2)
Wednesday 3 rd 8.00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Sunday 7 th 2.00 p.m.	Banner Group's church visits (see page 6)
Monday 8 th 7.30 p.m.	Gardening Club A.G.M. followed by talk on "The scented Garden"
Tuesday 9 th 2.30 p.m.	W.I. Meeting: "Hands on"... Ribbon Floral Art
Tuesday 16 th 6.00 p.m.	C.Y.D. Performance "Peter Pan" in Bernard Hall (see pages 1 & 6)
Tuesday 16 th 7.30 p.m.	History Society: Talk on John Hampden by Colin Oakes
Wednesday 17 th 6.00 p.m.	"Peter Pan" in the Bernard Hall
Thursday 18 th 7.00 p.m.	"Peter Pan" in the Bernard Hall
Friday 19 th 7.00 p.m.	"Peter Pan" in the Bernard Hall
Saturday 20 th 5.00 p.m.	"Peter Pan" in the Bernard Hall
Sunday 21 st 2.00 p.m.	"Peter Pan" in the Bernard Hall
Saturday 27 th 7.00 for 7.30 p.m.	Church Supper in the Bernard Hall (see page 6)

March

Tuesday 2 nd 10.30 a.m.	Coffee morning in church (see this page)
Wednesday 3 rd 8.00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Monday 8 th 7.30 p.m.	Gardening Club: Talk "Learning from mistakes other Gardeners make"
Tuesday 9 th 2.30 p.m.	W.I. Birthday Meeting
Tuesday 16 th 7.30 p.m.	History Society: Talk "Intrepid Women travellers"
Saturday 27 th 7.30 p.m.	Concert in St. Mary's Church, Haddenham (see page 6)

Coffee morning

A Coffee Morning will be held in church on Tuesday, March 2nd at from 10.30 a.m.

Do join us whether or not you have been before to one of these friendly, informal coffee mornings, with an opportunity to meet our Vicar, the Revd. Margot Hodson.

As it is during Fair Trade fortnight there will be an exhibition of the range of fair trade goods available. Some of these will be on sale together with cards and jewellery made in Uganda.

WI donations to local charities

In these "credit crunch" times it is extremely heartening to report that thanks to help from the village and clients at Denise's hair salon it has been possible for the W.I. to send the following donations to three local charities: £300 to the Young Carers Bucks, £50 to the Dementia Respite Carers Group and £25 to the Paediatric Respite Home Service at the Florence Nightingale Hospice.

A big THANK YOU to you all.

Anne Holland

Cuddington lives remembered



Edith Wilmot, taken from a group photograph of her with the Sunshine Club

Although Edith Wilmot was born in Australia in 1917 and died in Ireland in 1997, she lived in Cuddington for over 40 years and made a substantial contribution to village life. Edith and her husband, Chester, moved to Dadbrook House with their family in 1952. Sadly they were not to live long there together. Chester was a prominent news reporter, not only during the Second World War, but also in peacetime afterwards. He commented on the Queen's coronation in 1953. In January 1954 he died in the Comet air disaster.

Edith played a key role in Cuddington. The grounds of Dadbrook House proved a very attractive venue for the annual Church fete for over 20 years until it was relocated to the streets of the village. Village participants have spoken of the Dadbrook fete as "homely" and "like a garden party". She was also responsible for establishing the Sunshine Club for seniors in Cuddington, Chearsley and Nether Winchendon. The Club, her major legacy, still provides an enjoyable and useful service to villagers today. St. Nicholas's Church played an important part in Edith's life throughout her years in Cuddington and her family gave a very generous donation to the 2004 Organ Appeal in her memory. Edith was also interested in the environment and was a prominent

member of several societies in Aylesbury Vale. She was a prime mover in the planting of sycamore trees on the Playing Fields, which sadly have since had to be felled. She was also a member of the Cuddington Women's Institute and the first woman on the Management Committee of the Bernard Hall. Further afield she was a County Girl Guide Commissioner, a leading member of the WRVS and a JP.

Edith is remembered with great affection and respect by villagers. Residents have described her as "gracious", "delightful", "modest" and "approachable". This was manifest in July 1997 in a crowded thanksgiving service in St Nicholas Church. It is entirely fitting that the memorial stone to Edith (to the left of the path just past the entrance) lies in the churchyard of the village in which she spent over half her life and to which she contributed so much.

Peter Wenham



The end of the Autumn term was packed with events as usual. The children performed brilliantly in productions held in Cuddington and Dinton churches. The churches were full to capacity with parents and friends at every performance.

The whole school visited High Wycombe

to watch the Pantomime Aladdin at the Wycombe Swan theatre. Our junior children performed a short violin concert to parents. All of our Year 3 and 4 children are learning to play the violin as part of the wider opportunities music scheme. Our younger children sang to members of the Sunshine Club after their Christmas lunch (see picture and caption on this page) and the term ended with parties and discos on each site.

The start of term has been difficult with the severe weather we have been experiencing. The school had to be closed (despite the valiant attempts of teachers to get in) on several days at the start of the term.

A Family Assembly was held in Cuddington Church on Monday 18th January. The next one will be on Monday 8th March to which you are all invited.



Some of the school children and their snowman!

John's Column

*"Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times,
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in."*

Alfred, Lord Tennyson 1809-92

I am writing this article during the first week of January and I am trying hard to be optimistic about the future.

The weather has brought a host of birds to the garden. We have been visited by Red Wings, Fieldfares, Thrushes, Blackbirds---the latter no less than ten at a time. Starlings sixty plus not to forget two pairs of Jackdaws (the latter rendered homeless following the sealing off of our two chimneys last summer.) We have the seasonal Robin together with a solitary Wren, numerous Finches and both House and Hedge Sparrows. In addition to feeding this lot, we provide four birdbaths which are replenished twice a day with warm water--all are dry by late afternoon. I might add that my dear wife does all the foregoing.



And having written that, I must dig the car out of the snow, and go and get some more birdseed.

Sunshine Club Christmas Lunch

Children from the school lining up to see Farther Christmas after entertaining the Sunshine Club. The children had sung some songs from their Christmas production and then asked club members to join in with a sing-along, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.



Services at St. Nicholas

(Churchwardens: Myles Saker, 291825 and Caroline Stonham, 292221)

February

- 7th 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION
A modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to "Sunday Special" for part of the service
- 10th 9.30 am PRAYERS
- 14th 10.00 am FAMILY SERVICE
A service for all ages, including lively hymns, with the involvement of young musicians and occasional drama.
- 21st 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION
A less formal modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to Sunday Special for part of the Service
- 11.30 am PRAYERS
- 28th 10.00 am MORNING WORSHIP
A service of worship and the word, with a mixture of traditional and modern hymns. The children go straight to Chatabox and the Grid in the Bernard Hall at 9.50 a.m.
- 11.15 am HOLY COMMUNION
A communion service with hymns, according to the Book of Common Prayer.

There is a service at 5.30 pm every Sunday evening at Cuddington Methodist Chapel.

Village Voice is published by the Cuddington Parochial Church Council as a service to the community Editorial Team

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