

VILLAGE CUDDINGTON VOICE



**April
2010**

VOLUME THIRTEEN

Good Friday

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son

10.30a.m.—12.15p.m.

An event for children and parents

Painting, jigsaw hunt, film,
Hotcross buns.....and more!
in St Nicholas Church

2.00p.m.—3.00p.m.

**A Reflection and Devotion on the
Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus Christ**
With readings and poems combined with hymns,
music and recordings
in St Nicholas Church

Easter Sunday

Jesus is risen from the dead and He is Lord

10.00a.m.

Family Communion Service
in St Nicholas Church

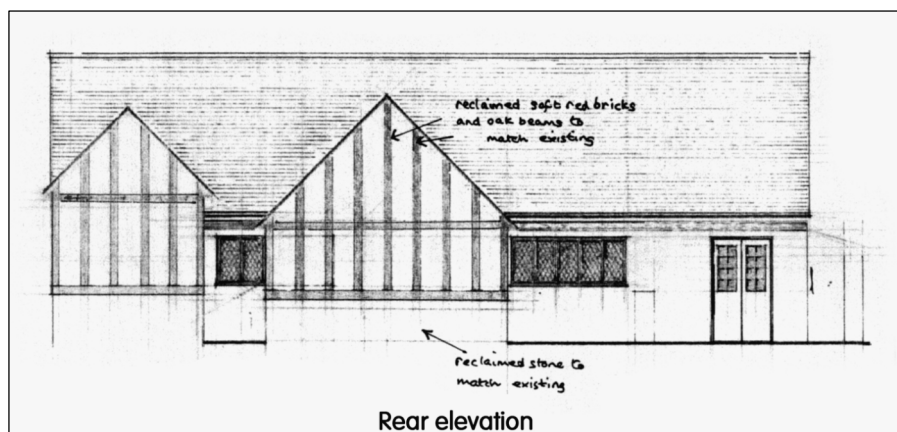
5.30p.m.

Easter Evening Service
In the Methodist Chapel



New Kitchen for Bernard Hall!

The Bernard Hall Management Committee is delighted to announce that it has raised £60,000 of the £65,000 required for the new kitchen project. Your help is now needed to raise a final £5,000 to build the kitchen this summer.



Architect's drawing of how the new kitchen would fit onto the back of the Bernard Hall

The project provides a new larger kitchen at ground level so that hall users will no longer have to carry hot food and drinks up and down the stairs at the back of the hall. It includes a serving hatch so that refreshments can be served directly from the kitchen. We are also building a new wall and roof to bring the gents WC into the main Hall building. It is fantastic news that this project, long demanded by Cuddington residents and Hall users, is now so close to fruition.

*Provided that the rest of the funding
(Continued on page 5)*



Thought for the month

Dear Friends,

Recently we have been faced with many tragedies –earthquakes in Haiti and Chile with many deaths and much destruction – people left without the basic necessities of life. In our own country on the media there are reports of what seems like a murder a day. I am sure that for many of us we have had to face up to personal sadness in one way or another and very difficult problems.

All this makes us realise the frailty of the human body, the fact that life is fragile and the reality and certainty of death. How do we face up to these issues?

The Easter message brings good news. First of all we have in Jesus the one who understands all the trials of life, and, what's more overcame them. Romans 1.4 says "He was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from the dead".

Secondly he did this for us. He died and rose again to defeat all the powers of evil and death and as a result he wants us to trust him, to find His help in this life and death too. John 3.16 tells us "God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" –a life of hope in dark times now and the promise of eternal life when this life is over. It requires a conscious decision to accept Him as our Saviour and Lord and then we are promised "I am with you always" (Matthew 28.20).

So whatever difficulties you may face, bring them to the victorious Lord Jesus Christ who is alive, cares about you and is there to help and give you the guarantee of eternal life.

Finally the chorus of an old hymn sums it up like this:

"I know who holds the future, And he'll guide me with his hand,
With God things don't just happen, Everything by him is planned.
So as I face tomorrow, With its problems large and small,
I'll trust the God of miracles, Give to Him my all."

Happy Easter! May you know the reality of the loving Jesus with you as you trust in Him .

Your friend in Christ,

ERIC CHAMBERLAIN

P.S. There are some free booklets in church which you may find helpful on this subject; especially helpful is one called "Why Jesus?".

Change of date

Concert in St Nicholas Church, Cuddington
Sunday 25th April 2010
Recital 5.00pm and 6.30 for wine and canapés

Roselle Collins (soprano) and Fiona Carr (piano) gave a greatly appreciated recital to a packed Bernard Hall in January 2009. This year they are joined by Claire Hawkes (clarinet), whose musical training started at the Aylesbury Music Centre and culminated as a Fellow at the Royal College of Music, London.

Their attractive programme includes a charming song-cycle by Spohr for clarinet, voice and piano, songs by Mendelssohn, French songs, folk songs and clarinet solos.

The proceeds will go to Kampala Music School, Uganda, and St Nicholas Church, Cuddington. Tickets will be £12 (£10 for concessions) and £5 for those under 16, available from Les at Cuddington Stores or from Myles Saker, 291825.

You can now "Come and Sing" on Saturday at St Mary's, Haddenham, and "Come and Listen" on Sunday in Cuddington!

Changes on the PCC

After nine years as Churchwarden and over thirty as Treasurer Myles Saker has decided it is time for him to retire. Great appreciation was expressed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on March 21st for the tremendous contribution he has made to the life of the church, through his faith, his leadership and his devoted hard work.

Alan Marsh of Rose Tree Cottage, Lower Church Street, a retired financial director, has been appointed as Treasurer and David Benson elected as Churchwarden.

In 1988 David's wife Jane was appointed as organist and although living in Aylesbury they have both been invaluable members of this church ever since, except for three years when David, then an officer in the RAF, was posted overseas.



David Benson

We are very conscious of the brilliant work David has done recently as Project Manager for the Refurbishment but he has also served the church in very many other ways over the years. Among other things he has been on the Parochial Church Council for over 10 years and also represented Cuddington on the Deanery Synod for 4 years. Like Myles he has a sincere faith and is a very hard worker and we look forward to his contribution in this new role.

John Hampden and wayward women!



**John Hampden in
Aylesbury town
centre**

The February meeting took place on the Tuesday 16th, a winter's evening that penetrated the Club House as the heating was not working and even the combined brains of the members were unable to solve the problem. The speaker, Colin Oakes, spoke about the Buckinghamshire hero John Hampden. Colin enthusiastically recounted John Hampden's life starting by telling us that he was in fact a bit of a failure! Hampden's public career commenced when he challenged the payment of Ship Money in court. He lost the case (but gained a moral victory), he was an MP but never made a major speech and early in the Civil War he was shot at the battle of Chalgrove probably by his own gun backfiring, dying as a result of his injuries six days later in Thame. Colin then expounded on John Hampden's virtues. He was a great democrat, a great parliamentarian, a leader of men, an excellent second in command, a good decision maker and the list continued. Having first debunked John Hampden's achievements Colin quickly won our support for him. Without notes or slides Colin gave a fluent and lively talk that ended with an animated question and answer session and left us pondering whether we would now have a monarchy had John Hampden lived longer. Colin so enthralled the meeting that the discomfort caused by the lack of heating was forgotten.

By the meeting on 16th March the heating had been fixed, the Club House providing a warm venue for local author, Jane Robinson's talk on "Wayward Women – Intrepid Women Travellers", Jane's first book, now out of print, has the same title.

Women have been travelling and writing of their travels for over a thousand years, the first such author Jane found was a fourth century Spanish nun who went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from her native country using the Bible as a guide book. The motive for exotic travel of these women seemed to fall into defined categories.

Religion, the motive for the Spanish nun and the 15th century Margery Kemp, who being illiterate, took a monk with her to write the account. Following their husbands as did the pirate wives, Mary Reid and Ann Bonny. For adventure, and none were more adventurous than Luscious Lola Montez (born Dolly James) who circumnavigated the globe more than once, she married several times and was charged with bigamy. Late in life she settled in America and repented of her ways. For freedom, Isabella Bird and Marianne North both waited until their parents died, their filial duties fulfilled were able to do what they wished. There were women who travelled for work and those who wanted to be tourists. In the twentieth century there were women who travelled for the love of adventure, notably Amy Johnson who lived at Dragon Tail Cottage, Haddenham which is opposite Jane's own house, bringing this account full circle.

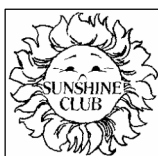
It was a stimulating and thought provoking talk that I suspect caused more than just me to have itchy feet.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Cuddington Village,

Thank you all so much for being such amazing hosts of Cuddington Youth Drama. We all had such a marvellous time with Peter Pan, and couldn't have done it without you. Sherry and Phil provided the men's dressing room, and its heat, Tim Ecott manned the lighting desk, Jessica made the tepee and the crocodile, the Davidsons were the professional box office, the Boltons were ever ready for a million things- including their sitting room as a rehearsal space, the Dykoffs were printing away to their usual perfect standard, and helped back stage with loving hearts. Thank you to Nan and Caroline Stonham for organizing platforms, and this newsletter Peggy, for such support and encouragement. Thank you to Les and Jan in the shop for happy service and publicity! Thank you Will Stonham for page turning when we really needed you! Christine Luckett has been so helpful and cheerful in the Hall! Thank you, Zoe Woodward, for all your time and help. Thank you and sorry to all of you who were inconvenienced by parking vehicles. Chris Long not only made Bryony Davies' art into posters and programmes (with the Dyckoffs), but he also made a dozen amazing, enormous props fit for the National Theatre. He also made the sounds and brought the lights, and rehearsed every weekend, and did a million other things. What an amazing village you have. On behalf of all the talented actors who have come to the Bernard Hall's stage, thank you so much.

*All the best to all of you,
Elaine English*



The Sunshine Club's Traditional Spring Bazaar will be held at The Bernard Hall on Saturday 17th April at 2.00pm with all the familiar stalls - homemade cakes, white elephant, clothing, raffle, tombola and teas. An event not to be missed!! We will be delighted to accept contributions at the Hall on the morning of the 17th or please phone 01844 291 526 for collection.

Recycling Appeal

We continue to collect used ink cartridges and old mobile phones for recycling in aid of our funds. These can be dropped off at Cuddington Post Office (thank you Les and Jan) or please phone 01844 299150 for collection.



A recent bazaar



Ten tips for gardeners

Graham Pavey a Garden Designer of 20 years (one of whose designs is pictured right) gave a practical and amusing talk with slides entitled "Mistakes Other Gardeners Make" and I'm sure many of our members went home and checked various features in their own gardens to see if they were guilty! But hopefully various gardening problems were solved.

A few of the suggestions he made were:-

- *Front garden features should please everyone (including your neighbours) not just you!*
- *Curvy beds should be big and bold not a little squiggle.*
- *Be careful when selecting bricks, especially regarding porosity and drainage*
- *Paths should be at least 3ft wide so two people can walk*
- *If creating steps they should be identical in height and tread*
- *Manhole covers are best not covered with containers as it draws attention to them – a better option is a ground hugging plant that can be lifted up if necessary.*
- *Arrange containers in odd numbered groups and not in a line.*
- *Put water loving plants in containers because they are aggressive and make sure if you are selecting water lilies for a pond they are the right size for the depth of the pond*
- *Plant wisteria at least 2ft from a wall.*
- *Give plants space and investigate all plants before planting – e.g. a dwarf conifer might not grow up but it will certainly spread.*

The next meeting of the Gardening Club is on Monday April 12th when there will be the postponed Gardening Club Social evening. There will be an illustrated presentation of the Gardening Club highlights of 2009, a finger buffet supper quiz and raffle. Don't forget the annual distribution of seed potatoes and buckets will take place after the social evening.



When Spurt Street lived up to its name!

Some weeks ago there were two burst water pipes in Spurt Street, one of which the Water Board regarded as an emergency and it was repaired within a few days. However the other one they did not put into this category and proposed to have it mended on May 12th!! In the meantime water continued to flow down the road, but then fortunately there were second thoughts—it was an emergency! So at 10 p.m. on the night of March 18th the men from the Water Board arrived and worked to repair the pipe throughout the night until 5.30 a.m. At 8 a.m.



another group of workmen arrived (see photograph) to re-surface the area and by 10 a.m. Spurt Street was back to being a road again instead of a flowing stream.

Annual Parish Meeting

This is a reminder that this year's Annual Parish Meeting is being held in The Bernard Hall on Wednesday 21st April at 7.30 pm. And, as mentioned in last month's Village Voice, send your views about what should be included on the agenda to Venetia Davies at 2 Church Close or by e-mail. venetia.davies@talktalk.net

Problems relating to vehicles



The police report that there has been increasing activity of late on matters relating to vehicles. As we all know speeding has always been an worrying issue for us here in Cuddington and in an endeavour to combat this our local police intend to continue moving round the local villages in the coming months, armed with their Laser Gun, with the intention of catching those drivers who are intent on ignoring all speed limits. From the evidence gathered so far the police contend that there is not really an overall speeding problem but there are however a limited number of drivers who show absolutely no respect for statutory speed signs or for the lives on people on our roads.

With the clocks changing, thus providing more daylight hours at the end of the day, the police will be able to carry out their work at rush-hour times which has been shown to be peak times for speeding.

Haddenham has seen an increase in unattended vehicle damage in recent times and a few weeks ago in one evening, ten cars, were kicked, dented and key scratched. So, if possible, do make sure your vehicle is parked somewhere where it is least likely to attract the evil intent of the hooligan element.

Theft from vehicles has also been apparent of late. Amongst the latest problems a handbag was stolen from a locked Land Rover parked in Upper Winchendon. The offenders smashed the passenger window, snatched the handbag that contained, amongst other things, a mobile phone and a purse. Another report concerned a SatNav being stolen from a Renault van from a farming location in Kingsey.

For further information about reducing the risk of vehicle crime visit www.thamesvalley.police.uk and click on the "crime prevention" tab.



As always the W.I.'s Birthday Party was a very pleasant occasion. Members lived up to their reputation for producing delicious food, which on this occasion included a splendid birthday cake made by Lydia Woodford and iced by Caroline Thompson. The table was enhanced by a beautiful flower decoration - the work of Meryl Stevens. 10 Visitors from neighbouring Institutes were welcomed by our President, Helen Griffin, who also welcomed our speaker for the afternoon -- Mr. Mervyn Edwards, a retired Chief Police Superintendent.



Mervyn Edwards with one of the confiscated lethal weapons

Mervyn began his talk by giving a brief synopsis of his career in the Thames Valley Police Force which he joined as a constable in 1940, remaining in this force for 40 years until his retirement. As we heard of his service of forty year we were also hearing of

the changes in the Police Force throughout these years. As a Bobby his patrolling had be on foot, now such patrolling is carried out by constables in police cars (nothing like so efficacious), and now helicopters are also in use, as many as 200 a day.

We found two of Mervyn's responsibilities over these years particularly interesting: when the controversial Newbury By-Pass was being constructed it was Mervyn who, for 3 years, was in charge of the police protection, and when he was Head of Special Operations one of his duties was to see that the Princes William and Harry were protected during their years at Eton A final great responsibility came to Mervyn three years before his retirement when, just before the start of the Iraq War, it was rumoured that Weapons of Mass Destruction had been brought into this country. A call from Tony Blair resulted in Mervyn's being put in charge of preparing for such an eventuality.

After these personal reminiscences Mervyn showed us how police protection had changed throughout his years in the force. The whistle, simple handcuffs and truncheon had given way to more sophisticated protections including C.S. Gas Sprays and bullet and stab-proof vests. All this was a clear indication not only of changes in the police force, but also of changes in the society which had necessitated these developments.

The present state of our society was also made apparent by the final collection of visual aids which we were shown, all of which had been confiscated by police on patrol; guns of all kinds, and knives of varying degrees of sharpness, some of which had been made specifically for children to hold. These confiscated articles even included ones which looking like Medieval torture weapons: a ball of metal on a rope and embedded with nails, weapons which made us realise how thankful we were to have a police force on the lookout to protect us from such things.

Jeanne Gordon in her vote of thanks expressed the feeling of everyone that we considered it a great privilege to have had such an absorbing talk from a man whose career had been so distinguished.

Good citizens of Cuddington.....



Here is the news that will hopefully lift the winter blues - the date and theme for this year's village fete has been decided! Yes, your fete committee is alive and well.

Saturday 10th July 2010 will see King Arthur and his Court assembled in medieval majesty here in Cuddington - chivalrous knights, distressed damsels, pesky pages, joyous jesters, hearty heralds, winsome wenches, wicked wizards, wandering minstrels, possibly even the odd dodgy dragon . . . who knows?

So put the date in your diary and make sure that you and your family and friends find time to get involved - to partake in and frankly enjoy yet another fabulous fête!

Sherry Scott,	Michael Straiton
Phil Johnson	Maggie Waters
Rosemary Bradbury	Julia Straiton
Margaret Spurrell	Brenda Williams
Jessica Ecott	Jane Davidson
Candy Morgan	Richard Haining

Bernard Hall

(Continued from page 1)

can be raised as planned, the building work will be completed over the summer ready for a busy schedule of events in the autumn. Fortunately, most of the work is external to the Hall so the disruption to Hall users will be limited.

The £60,000 has been raised through a combination of grants, personal donations and existing Hall funds. Grant funding has been provided by WREN, Aylesbury Vale District Council and Cuddington Parish Council. The various grants elapse after 12 months if not used, so it is essential that the rest of the money is found this year.

It is hoped that the last £5,000 will be raised through a wine tasting event and further personal donations. Anyone wishing to make a donation, should send a cheque made payable to the Bernard Hall Management Committee c/o Markus Bolton at the Old Post, Upper Church St, Cuddington, Bucks, HP18 0AP. Tel: 292818

We really hope that the Village is able to help us with this last push towards funding this project so that we can have a celebratory opening event, with refreshments served from our new kitchen through our new serving hatch!

Cuddington lives - William Webb



William Webb in tropical kit in North Africa

William Webb must be one of the most unfortunate men ever associated with Cuddington.

William came to the village from a Church of England Home in London in 1918 when he was seven to be fostered by the Oakley family. William seems to have enjoyed country life. He attended Cuddington School and was a choirboy in St Nicholas Church. However at 14 he had to return to the Boys' Home in London.

Eventually he was sent to Ontario, Canada, to work on a farm. At 21, he could make his own decisions, so he returned to England and Cuddington. He worked in a local dairy and later as a clerk with a construction company.

However, in 1941 he was called up with the Royal Artillery and took part in the North African campaign. He wrote home in July 1941 that "Cuddington will always be my home after this". He was captured at Tobruk and sent to a Prisoner of War camp in Italy. When Italy collapsed he escaped but, unfortunately, as he reported in a letter home, after celebrating on Italian wine, he was recaptured by a German patrol. Eventually he ended up in a Prisoner of War camp in Prague.

His adopted family in Cuddington became very anxious. His letters had ceased and although the war ended in May 1945 William did not return home. This was particularly galling as repatriated prisoners of war were being flown into nearby Westcott on a regular basis.

It was not until January 1947 that a letter from the War Office stated that "it is thought possible" that Gunner Webb died in a traffic accident about May 10th 1945 in Czechoslovakia. A further letter in October 1947 reported that he was buried in the British cemetery in Prague. A letter from a fellow prisoner of war, Harry Fenton, declared that William was "in the best of health and spirits" when he last saw him on May 7th 1945 in the camp. He confirmed that William had stayed in the camp on the orders of Captain Earl Haig, the senior British officer, while Harry disobeyed and travelled westward towards the US army. He eventually arrived home safely by aeroplane from Regensburg on May 17th. Meanwhile William's fate may be surmised. The date of death on his tombstone in Prague is May 8th 1945, which is the day of the end of the war in Europe. We know at this time the area around Prague was in turmoil with German troops retreating from the advancing Russian army. The Daily Mirror carries an article reporting "a final burst of fiendishness" by S.S. troops in Prague who refused to recognise the armistice and committed atrocities on the civilian population. These troops may have regarded enemy prisoners of war as legitimate targets too. One theory is that William was en route to the airport when his lorry was attacked.

William died at 34. His life had been short and very unlucky. He was the victim both of the culture and events of the period in which he lived. Let us hope at least that his days in this village were happy.

Peter Wenham

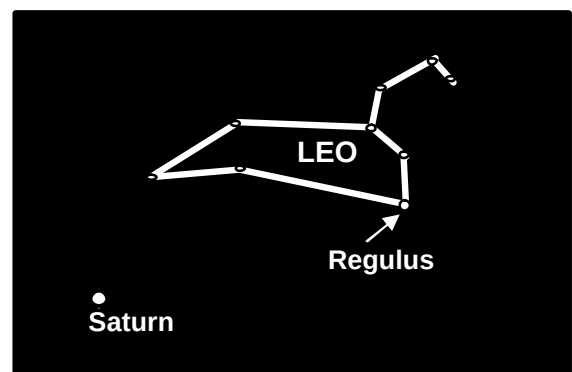
Cuddington's weather

February was a cold month with the average monthly temperature being well over 1 degree lower than normal; Cuddington's coldest February since 2006. Maximum daytime air temperatures averaged. 6.3 deg C (43 F); which is nearly 2 deg. below normal. Nighttime air temperatures averaged 0.7 deg C (33 F); over half a degree lower than normal. The actual highest and lowest daytime air temperatures occurred on the 5th (11.5 deg C, 53 F) and 8th (1.9 deg C, 35 F) respectively. The highest and lowest nighttime air temperature occurred on the 25th (5.5 deg C, 42 F) and 21st (minus 3.2 deg C, 38 F) respectively. There were a total of 10 air frosts and 21 ground frosts, the lowest of which occurred on the 20th (minus 7 deg C, 19 F).

It was a wet month, being fifty percent wetter than normal; the total precipitation amounted to 66.8 mm (2.63 inches) compared to the 13-year average of 44.3 mm (1.74 inches). There were 4 snow days (11th, 19th, 22nd and 23rd) but nothing like in the previous month and only giving rise to a dusting that covered the ground, either totally or partially. The greatest snow depth was only 1 c.m. (0.39 inches) on the 22nd. Interestingly, Cuddington's weather statistics reveal that last year, February had 14 days when snow covered the ground either totally or partially, 2 days longer than last months snow although the impact was no where near as great.

Sky Notes:

Last month I told you about the planet red planet Mars, which is still well placed for observation after dark when the sky is clear, however, its brightness, will decrease appreciably over the coming month. Another planet has now begun to grace the evening sky, that being the ringed planet Saturn. Soon after dark look southeast and you will see a lone but conspicuous 'star'. At this time its elevation above the horizon will be about one third the way up to the overhead point in the sky. A view through a small telescope will reveal its magnificent ring system to even the most casual observer. Once you have located Saturn look a little higher and a further around to the south and you will find the star pattern (constellation) of Leo the lion (see diagram) the stars



making up Leo are prominent and once identified is never forgotten. The brightest star in Leo is called Regulus and is so far away that the light entering your eyes as you look at it set out from that star 85 years previously!

Sean Clarke

Dates for your Diary

Spring flowers on Upper Green



April

Friday 2 nd 10.30p.m.	Good Friday family event (see page 1)
Friday 2 nd 2.00p.m.	Good Friday Meditation (see page 1)
Sunday 4 th 10.00a.m.	Easter Family Communion Service
Wednesday 7 th 8.00p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Monday 12 th 7.30p.m.	Gardening Club Social Event
Saturday 17 th 2.00p.m.	Sunshine Club Spring Bazaar (see page 3)
Tuesday 20 th 2.30p.m.	W.I. Talk on Crime Prevention by PCSO Sue Jones (note change of date)
Tuesday 20 th 7.30 p.m.	History Society: Talk "Evidence from School Log Books"
Wednesday 21 st 7.30 p.m.	Annual Parish Meeting in Bernard Hall (see page 4)
Sunday 25 th 5.00 p.m.	Concert in St Nicholas Church (see page 3)

May

Monday 3 rd 9.30p.m.	Madrigals from the Church Tower (see page 8)
Wednesday 5 th 8.00p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Sunday 9th to 16th	Christian Aid Week (see below)
Tuesday 11 th 2.30p.m.	W.I. Resolutions Meeting
Thursday 13 th	Gardening Club Outing to Savill Garden, Windsor
Tuesday 18 th 7.30p.m.	History Society Talk by Peggy Cattell on Cuddington Voices from the Past



The Cuddington, Chearsley and Nether Winchendon Sunshine Club for the over sixties welcomes new members from these three villages.

We hold fortnightly social meetings with bingo, cards and afternoon tea at the Cuddington Playing Field Clubhouse on Monday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm; transport can be arranged for those who are unable to come under their own steam.

Additional free activities include coach outings, a summer garden party and a Christmas extravaganza including Christmas Dinner, entertainment and tea.

The annual subscription is £4.

For more information please contact Sherry Scott on 01844 291526.

We are always delighted to hear from anyone willing to offer help by joining our tea rota. This involves preparing and serving tea at Club meetings, usually only once during the year.

Gentleman's Dining Club

Our next eating experience will be on Thursday 22 April at the Crown Public House, 7.30 for 8 o'clock Starter, Main course, and cheese £15.00.

Interested gentlemen please telephone Phil Johnson 291526 or e mail parkstone28@tiscali.co.uk



Spicey Church Supper

Around eighty hungry and thirsty parishioners sat down to delicious Chicken in Spicy Tomato Sauce at the annual Church Supper in the Bernard Hall on Saturday 27th February. This event is always popular and the atmosphere was as jolly as ever.

The tomato sauce was indeed spicy, but fortunately there was plenty of cold water, not to mention wine and other drinkables. And for those who wanted it, there was a vegetarian option. And for those who were particularly hungry there was plenty to go round again.

Then there was a great variety of desserts, lots of good puds – and a cheese board. No need for anyone to go home hungry.

The evening was ably hosted by Chris Blumer who kept the diners well under control and made sure no one missed out on any food. Nothing was rushed, however, and after coffee David Benson introduced the guest speaker, The Revd David Bronnert.

In an age of doubts and scepticism he talked about five books which had made significant impressions on him. The first, perhaps not surprisingly, was Richard Dawkins' 'The God Delusion'. In answer to Professor Dawkins' reliance on genetic theories David Brunert referred to four books which he felt strongly countered the Dawkins arguments. They were: "Real Scientists, Real Faith" – a collection of articles and arguments edited by R J Berry; "There is a God – How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed his Mind", by Anthony Flew and Roy Abraham Varghese; "The Goldilocks Enigma – Why is the Universe Just Right for Life?" by Paul Davies; and "Bursting the Limits of Time" by Martin Rudwick.

David was thanked for his thought-provoking contribution and the evening was brought to a close. All those who helped once again to make it such a success are to be warmly thanked.

John Fortgang

Christian Aid Week

- Monday 10th May -

Coffee evening at Skittle Green Cottage with garden and produce stalls

House to house collections during the week



The highlight of this past month has to be our Creative Arts Week. Children worked off timetable for a whole week taking part in endless art and craft activities themed around the painting 'Two Boys and a Girl making Music' by Jan

Molenaer. Pupils and staff were inspired by the bird cage, chairs, children and musical instruments which were all depicted in the painting. The main projects of the week were led by our resident artists Pippa North and Anita Osborne, with a musical interlude provided by the multi-talented Adrian Broadway.

Other activities involved a group of Key Stage 2 children taking part in a Tag Rugby Festival for Years 3 and 4 at Sir Henry Floyd School. This friendly tournament was organised using mixed-school teams and a great time was had by all.



Creating a string sculpture inspired by the bird cage



Our Foundation class went on an outdoor adventure to Green Park and got back to nature investigating the wildlife and local area. No minibeast or woodland creature could hide whilst our in-

repid explorers followed trails and pitched tents in the great outdoors! Years 1 and 2 will follow in their footsteps during next term.

This Spring Term concludes with our Easter Hunt organised by the Friends of Cuddington and Dinton CE School, and an Easter service at the church in Dinton. School closes on Wednesday 31st March and we return for the Summer Term on Monday 19th April.

A very Happy Easter from all the Staff and Pupils at Cuddington and Dinton CE School!

Services at St. Nicholas

(Churchwardens: Caroline Stonham 292221 and David Benson 01296 433757)

April 2010

- 4th 10 am HOLY COMMUNION
*An **Easter Service** for all ages*
- 7th 9.30 am PRAYERS
- 11th 10 am FAMILY SERVICE
A service for all ages, including lively hymns, with the involvement of young musicians.
- 18th 10 am HOLY COMMUNION
*A modern Communion Service with hymns
The children go to Sunday Special for part of the Service*
- 25th 10 am MORNING WORSHIP
A service of worship and the word, with a mixture of traditional and modern hymns. The children go straight to Chattabox 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 each Sunday at Cuddington Methodist Chapel.

John's Column

"As the Squire is landlord to the whole congregation, he keeps them in very good order, and will suffer no one to sleep in church besides himself; for if by chance he has been surprised into a short nap at sermon, upon recovering out of it, he stands up, and looks about him, and if he sees anybody else nodding, either wakes them himself, or sends his servant to them" *Joseph Addison 1672-1719*

Now I freely admit that I have been guilty once in the past of this unseemly behaviour. However it was not a Squire nor his servant who aroused me—it was my dear wife, who gave me a very sharp prod with her elbow. There are some things in life one does not easily forget – since this happened during morning service in our Church of St Nicholas some forty-six years ago!!

However back to birds – this month we had two visits by a Reed Bunting – previous sightings were in February '04 and March '08. The hen of the species is, at first glance, similar to the Sparrow, but the cock has a distinctive black crown with white under feathers. Its habitat is generally reeded areas and along river banks but is now known to visit gardens. Reed Buntings are present all over England, Wales and Scotland. The sightings of this bird in my garden are due to the lack of food in areas adjacent to rivers, reed banks etc., and the extremes of weather conditions.

Madrigals for May Day

We are very pleased to welcome the Witchert Chorale again. They will be singing their Madrigals from the church roof at 9.30am on May 3rd, followed by coffee and croissants. There is then the opportunity of a walk to visit all the churches in the benefice. Details will be available on noticeboards and in church.

