

VILLAGE CUDDINGTON VOICE



**June
2009**

VOLUME TWELVE

May Time Celebrations

St Nicholas celebrated May Day in great style this year. On Sunday 3rd May the de Kegelaar folk-dance troupe from Antwerp came to the Holy Communion Service and, after coffee, danced in the centre of the church, thus proving that the refurbished church could achieve its ambitions to become a flexible space for community events. Further dancing outside the Bernard Hall was followed by a demonstration of complex flag waving by four of the boys.

This was a very joyous occasion followed, on Monday morning, by another. May Day dawned cool but dry and a large crowd gathered round the church to listen to the singing of Madrigals and Spring Songs from the church tower. The members of the Witchert Chorale from Haddenham then descended from the tower to sing inside the church to everyone's delight. This was followed by coffee and croissants with plenty of conversation and socialising.

Finally those feeling strong, set off with our Vicar, Margot, and her husband, Martin, to visit the other churches in the Benefice Walk -- a round trip of 9 miles which included a picnic lunch at Aston Sandford.

Over the two days St Nicholas welcomed over 250 people, from Cuddington and other parts of the Benefice, many of whom had not seen the church in its refurbished, light, and welcoming state.



The dancers from Antwerp and (below) the Witchert Corale on the tower.



A Final Celebration on May 20th



On this sunny Wednesday morning the children, specially dressed for the occasion, came out of the school building and, accompanied by parents and teachers, processed along the roads presenting posies to everyone they met. After visiting the Old People's bungalows in Welford Way, they returned to school where they performed several delightful dances in the round watched by appreciative parents and villagers.

The children setting off from school with their posies (above) and back in the school playground performing their dances.



Bishop in Cuddington

On July 7th the Bishop of Oxford is coming to Cuddington to re-dedicate the church building after the completion of the extensive refurbishment programme which has re-shaped the interior to meet the needs of the 21st century.

When the Bishop visited the village last year he expressed great enthusiasm for what we were doing, and so it was natural that he should come to re-dedicate the building both as a place where God can be worshipped but also as a centre where the village community can gather.

A service of re-dedication, at which everyone is welcome, will be held in the church at 7pm and this will be followed by refreshments in the Bernard Hall.



Thought for the month

David Benson writes:

June is one of those busy kind of months; a time for doing rather than thinking; a time for rapid change as Spring slips aside and summer leaps forward. In "Cider With Rosie", Laurie Lee describes it in this way: "Outdoors, one scarcely knew what had happened or remembered any other time. There had never been rain, or frost, or cloud; it had always been like this. The heat from the ground climbed up one's legs and smote one under the chin. The garden, dizzy with scent and bees, burned all over with hot white flowers, each one so blinding in incandescence that it hurt the eyes to look at them". Well the Gardening Club has lots of activities planned for June and on the 21

June Cuddington gardens are open under the National Garden Scheme. So as you enjoy the warmth of summer and explore the gardens why not put pen to paper and record your thoughts.

Laurie Lee was reminiscing of his time as a child growing up in a village in Gloucestershire in the 1920's. Village children do not now perhaps have so much free time to spend exploring and getting to know everyone and everything so intimately. And June is the month for tests and examinations. A time for revision, reflection, and that old fashioned word so familiar to explorers - "endeavour", particularly for those engaged in GCSE and A level examinations. For parents it will not seem that long ago since this cohort of teenagers were starting out in Cuddington School. And now they are spread over a wide range of schools in Aylesbury, Thame, Waddesdon and Oxford. We can but wish them well in their examinations and in whatever further studies or careers they intend to pursue.

The longest day of Summer is also in June. How appropriate that the "Longest Day" was chosen as the title for the film of the D Day landings which we commemorate on 6 June. We perhaps need just to take time to think about that cohort of young men and women who were thrust into the carnage of the invasion beaches of Normandy and the subsequent battles in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Those that survived the war are now in their 80's but will no doubt take the time to remember the past and honour their fallen comrades. And let us also not forget this year all those young men and women killed and grievously injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. Ted Ferris may no longer live in the village but think of the work that he did for BLESMA and remember that this charity and also "Help for Heroes", so well supported by Major Phil Packer and others in the London Marathon, need our help.

Poetry so often uplifts and inspires us, so I will end this thought with some verses from Psalm 139; they are as relevant today as they were when written so many thousands of years ago." O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You mark out my journeys and my resting place and are acquainted with all my ways. Where can I go then from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there your hand shall lead me, your right hand shall hold me fast."

Bernard Hall's new kitchen

Summer Fizz!

The Bernard Hall Management Committee is pleased to report that the first of its applications for grants to support the building of the new kitchen for the village hall has been successful. The Community Chest, a grants scheme for community projects run jointly by AVDC and VAHT have agreed to provide £5,500 funding towards the overall cost of the project and the Committee are delighted to be receiving this support. Further grant applications are underway and the Committee is hopeful of receiving full funding by the end of the year as planned.



One of the Bernard Hall's other improvements - the disabled ramp being built six years ago.

A REMINDER that Aylesbury Choral Society will be giving a summer concert in St Nicholas Church on Saturday, 6th June starting at 7.00 pm.

Tickets, which will include a glass of wine, cost £8.00 and are available from Graham Carr (290000) or Angela Sanderson (291626).

A proportion of the receipts will be given to the Church, so why not come and listen to some lovely music and support our Church at the same time.

Annual Parish Meeting



Cuddington's Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Bernard Hall on the 24th April. Sherry Scott was in the chair. About thirty members of the public also attended. Chris Blumer gave a report on the newly combined Cuddington and Dinton school, which is proving very successful.

Michael Pegge spoke on the Neighbourhood Watch group. Our area is relatively crime-free, although thefts from cars have been reported. Volunteers for the group are still needed. The public was reminded that the Parish Council owns the playing fields and the club house and everyone is urged to use the facilities.

Judging for the Best Kept Village competition and Britain in Bloom will take place soon, so there is the need to ensure the village is in a neat and tidy condition; residents with cars who can park off-road were requested to do so to enable the roads to be swept.

The new No Parking arrangements outside the school appear to be improving matters, Amongst other topics mention was made of the Sunrise walk on the 20th June; the cause of the drainage problem at Dadbrook has now been identified; the Vehicle Activated Signs appear to be slowing the traffic. The Parish Council is seeking an extension of the 30mph limit and introduction of 50mph limits.

Villagers are reminded of the website; all clubs and societies are encouraged to make use of it.

Sherry also announced that we had not gone through to the next round of the Village of the Year award but we had apparently done very well.

Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village



The certificate of Cuddington's last win—can this be brought up to date with a “2009”?



This year it is our intention to win the Morris Cup as it is four years since this was achieved. The judges' visits are unannounced and will take place at any time throughout June. As part of their brief they will be looking for a clean, tidy and litter free environment. We live in a very attractive and well kept village so your help is required to keep it this way. Any visible efforts by the community itself will be noted by the judges.

The romance of bazaars!



What nostalgia village bazaars arouse. For many of us, during childhood, they were among the eagerly awaited high-

lights of village life. There are memories of the delightful anticipation of queuing amongst buzzing friends awaiting the opening of the doors and then surging through clutching our pocket money in a quest for bargains – and what spending power we had. We would come away having feasted on cake and squash, with 'new' toys, 'a present' for Mum (received by Mum with mixed pleasure!). Mum would find us 'new' clothes, something 'new' for the house and possibly be a winner in the raffle. She may have allowed us to choose the prize and, whilst it might not have been *exactly* what she wanted, she knew it would make an excellent contribution to the next bazaar!!



Buzzing activity at the Sunshine Club bazaar.

“But, hold on a minute,” I hear somebody say. “Enough of this romantic stuff – the success of bazaars depends heavily on hard work and generous support, not to mention good weather; and when the advertising boards were going up in pouring rain this year, my heart was sinking nearly as deeply as the posts!” She of little faith. We all know by now that the rain cleared up, hard work was done, the supporters were generous, children enjoyed and, yes, the bazaar was a success. The marvellous sum of £445 was taken. Thank you, everybody.

Liz Davies



Cuddington's Gnomes at Home Saturday 11th July 2009

Some gnomes and other little people living in our gardens & fields have heard about the fête & ventured out to offer suggestions & help which is very much appreciated. One rather life sized one even appeared at the Village of the Year exhibition on 30th March – so that proves beyond doubt that they do exist.

As usual we will be asking for donations of items for the tombola stalls, bric-a-brac, books etc in the next few weeks so please start putting these to one side. You will get a letter to inform you of when collecting will take place. But **what we need right now** is donations of material, brightly coloured plain fabric (at least 1m) and large old denim shirts to make costumes for our little friends.

Some of our “stall-warts” are going to be away this year so this is your opportunity to step up & offer your services, just think you can add Hoop La or Coconut Shy to your list of skills & achievements on your CV.

The usual suspects to contact are:

Phil & Sherry – Tyingham Hall. 291526

Michael & Julia – The Old Place, Lower Church St. 299455

Maggie – 4 Lower Church St. 290847

Rosemary – Downes, Lower Church St. 290249

Margaret – The Old School House, Upper Church St. 292255

Many thanks in advance.

Maggie

Stop Press! Local street theatre performer & director, Paschale Straiton, will be leading a series of workshops, culminating in curious, incidental performances at this year's fête. She is also looking for volunteers aged 18-25 to work on 'The Gnome Factor' – an art trail of guerrilla gnomes in and around the village. For further information please contact gnomesweetgnomes@googlemail.com & see postings on the village website www.cuddingtonvillage.com.

For inspiration on gnomonic costumes for the fête do have a look at the following website: www.gnomeland.co.uk. And there are many others!

Mama Mia!

Mama Mia! What an evening we had in the Hall on Saturday! Ninety of us watched the first film showing on the new Bernard Hall Screen! It is so big it fills the entire stage area! Thank you Chris Long!

First, we watched a couple of musical numbers from the Cuddington Youth Drama's production of HONK! Jr., then the main feature, the Sing-a-long version of the film Mama Mia, had the crowd up and dancing at every opportunity!

What fun!

The Randall's excellent catering provided refills for fruit punch, and popcorn for all. Thank you to everyone who contributed and came to enjoy another great event in the Bernard Hall!

Gentlemen Diners of Cuddington



The Crown - venue for the inaugural meeting of the Diners' Club.

Cuddington's premier gentleman / diner/mover and shaker Phil Johnson announced a few weeks ago that he wanted to start a club for like-minded gourmets. As result almost a dozen such sat down at the Crown on the evening of the 7th May for the first of what is hoped to be a regular event. Quite a few who were not able to be present had said they would like to come at a future date.

With one exception every face was well-known in the village. The Crown's team of chefs had prepared a delicious meat and potato pie followed by an equally tasty pud, and wine of all colours flowed freely.

A fly on the wall would have heard a number of entertaining opinions on a wide range of issues, from King Zog and the Zoglets to the decisions of local planners and speeding signs. It was agreed that at the next meal (at The Crown again, probably on the 23rd July at 8.00pm) we would discuss future venues and diners would take it in turns to organise the dinners.

The atmosphere was extremely congenial and at the end of the meal the diners thanked Phil for organising the evening and parted, some to their beds and others to the bar to talk about them.

This article will no doubt inspire others to join us. If you are interested, contact Phil Johnson at park-stone28@tiscali.co.uk tel. 01844 291526. You are assured an evening of unrivalled sophistication at which every word will be taken down and used in Village Voice.

John Fortgang

A look back in thankfulness to June 1944

65 Years ago on June 6th the Allies returned to Europe and thus began the liberation of Western Europe after years of Nazi domination. A Cuddington man, the late William Woodford, was one of the crew of the Cruiser H.M.S. Enterprise which on D Day led the American Invasion Force.



In a letter to his wife, Dorothy, Will vividly described the part played by his ship on that vital day:

".....when we were 15 miles from our ob-

ject we leave our transports for a time and get closer in - about 6 miles from the beach. It's in a big bay and Jerry had not spotted us yet. Then we opened up when the R.A.F. had done their job. By now the shore batteries were firing back and that gave their position away. Soon there were fires and lots of smoke from the shore. This went on until the Landing Barges were due to land - that was 6 o'clock. To support the troops we now fired on the beach itself and covered their landing....."

The full text of Will's letter is to be found in "A War Remembered", an account of Cuddington at war which is now on sale in the Village Shop at the reduced price of £2.

Sixty years of memories



At the monthly meeting at the playing fields clubhouse, Caroline Thompson gave an account of the resolution that has been selected this year by

the NFWI to be put forward to HM Government - **"SOS for Honey Bees urging them to increase funding for research into Bee Health"**. Afterwards Anne Holland thanked Caroline for stepping in and enlarging on the informative written account given by Jeanne Gordon. The meeting then centred on a display of all the written records kept diligently by Dorothy Woodford (our Secretary for 52 years) and the many photographs that have been lovingly stored in albums since we were officially recognised in 1949. It provoked many memories with our long standing members and gave our newer members a marvellous insight into all the skills and the generous time given by the members past and present.



Each year the Bucks Federation of Women's Institutes produce a calendar and all members have the opportunity to show off either their photographic and/or cooking skills by sending in photographs or recipes. Cuddington W.I. have been fortunate in having Helen Griffin's photograph and Diane Picot's recipe for her Apple Cake selected for the 2010 calendar. This was Diane's first ever entry; however, over the past number of years, Helen's and Peggy Cattell's photographs have appeared in the calendar on a regular basis. This year has been extra special for Helen as she was awarded at the BFWI council meeting in April the Judges' Cup for her beautiful photograph taken on our outing along the canal near Marsworth.

If you would like to join our friendly group please contact Anne Holland on 01844 290982

Ruby Small Sunrise walk



Don your walking shoes and join in something special to celebrate midsummer! Following a village tradition, Cuddingtonians will be climbing gently up to the observatory at Upper Winchendon to view the sun rising over the horizon on Saturday 20 June. We will leave the Lower Green at 4am, serenaded by the dawn chorus, and as we stand triumphant on top of the world, will enjoy light refreshments provided by the Sunshine Club. We'll be back in the village between 6 and 6.30am. If you'd like to see the view but don't fancy the walk, you may summon a lift to whisk you to the top!

Queries to Angela Wenham 291932

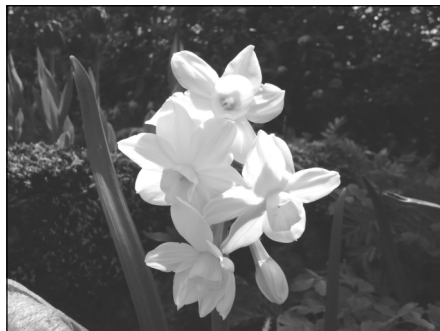


Ruby Small (above left) and participants at a walk several years ago - but does anyone know how many years?



The weather did us proud for our first outing of the year to Hidcote Manor in Gloucestershire. Nestled in the Costwolds with panoramic views over the Vale of Evesham it was created over a period of 40 years by the American horticulturist Lawrence Johnson and was given to the National Trust in 1948.

There is a series of "outdoor rooms" which reach their peak at different times of the year, each with its own character making Hidcote a year round pleasure to visit. As one moves outwards towards the beautiful surrounding vistas the gardens changes from the formal to the more informal and there are surprises round every corner.



Tulips of every imaginable colour were in the borders and tubs making a magnificent display, and the accompanying photograph shows tri-andrus narcissi. This late flowering graceful flower is white with lemon bell shaped cups and is suited to semi-shade.

Hidcote is renowned for its rare and unusual plants and trees including

the foxglove and handkerchief trees and beautiful magnolias such as davidia involucrata. The Theatre Lawn which is new this year is large and people were having a fun time playing croquet. The Orchard is in the process of being transformed into a working kitchen garden.

Members were able to sit in the gardens and absorb the pleasures that Hidcote has to offer and many did just that before visiting the plant shop, which was doing brisk business, before our departure for Cuddington after a most enjoyable day.

Our second outing this year is to Sarah Nicholson's garden in Wendover on 4th June and at the next meeting of the Gardening Club on June 15th Edwin Rye will be talking on roses. On June 25th there is to be a visit to Mary Berry's garden in Penn.

Lamb's tales of interesting Artefacts

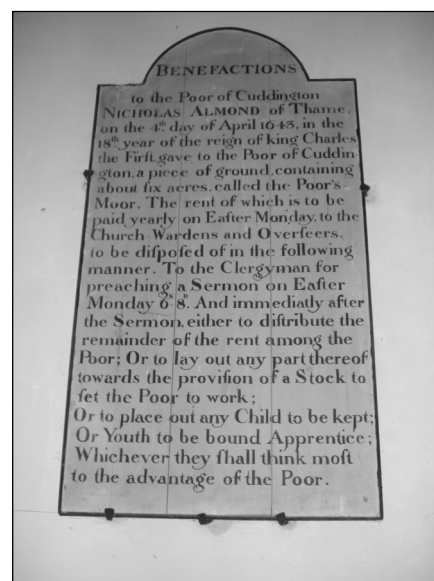
George Lamb, the History Society's speaker at the May meeting, has an enduring interest in antiques. He was education officer at Bucks County Museum for 25 years, during which time his interest was in objects and their history, but not their monetary value. Since his retirement, he has been a consultant for 'Antiques on High' in Oxford, where the value of old artefacts is often of primary interest.

He explained that his passion is for discovering what old objects can tell us about the lives and times of the people who fashioned and used them. Starting with his own first purchase made when he was ten years' old – a sword used by the Bucks Hussars, which George bought for 10 shillings (50p) and took to school hidden down his trouser leg, he showed us his grandmother's best candle sticks, and a teapot from 1882, inscribed: "In memory of Lord Beaconsfield". Later the audience were challenged to examine interesting objects and guess their original purpose. We handled a silver school attendance medal given to a junior member of the Coutts (banking) family, a Roman dish from Tunisia, a pen knife (used for sharpening quill pens), and a piece of shrapnel from a Second World War bomb which fell on Stone, the speaker's home village.

We felt that George Lamb's enthusiasm brought some old but simple objects to life for us, and made history interesting.

The next meeting of the History Society will be on September 15th at 7.30 in the clubhouse.

Cuddington's 17th century benefactor



A piece of land bequeathed to Cuddington in the seventeenth century by Nicholas Almond is still auctioned each year, and thanks to a change in the wording of the trust deed some years ago, any young Cuddington person going on to an apprenticeship or further education is eligible to apply for a grant.

Now is the time for applications to be made: name, address, age and full details of the proposed course should be sent as soon as possible to Mrs. Jennifer Schram de Jong at Larden, Spicketts Lane.

Holiday activities for children

Children's Entertainer

This will be taking place on Wednesday 22nd July at 11am in the Bernard Hall.

Play around the Parishes

The dates allocated for Cuddington are:

Monday 27th July, 10-12.30
Thursday 6th August, 10-12.30
Thursday 13th August, 10-12.30
Tuesday 25th August, 10-12.30

The play sessions will take place at the Playing Fields.

Dates for your Diary

Early Roses in a Cuddington Garden



June

Wednesday 3 rd 8.00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 4 th 2.15 p.m.	Gardening Club Outing to garden near Wendover
Saturday 6 th 7.00 p.m.	Concert in Church (see page 2)
Tuesday 9 th 2.30 p.m.	W.I. Members with a "Pocketful of Poems"
Sunday 14 th 1.00 p.m.	Tennis Club Veterans' Tournament
Monday 15 th 7.30 p.m.	Gardening Club Talk on Roses
Saturday 20 th 4.00 a.m.	Ruby Small Sunrise Walk (See page 5)
Sunday 21 st 2.00 p.m.	Cuddington Gardens Open under National Garden Scheme
Thursday 25 th 2.00 p.m.	Gardening Club Outing to Garden near Penn (see page 6)
Saturday 27 th 8.00 p.m.	Monthly Bingo in Club

July

Wednesday 1 st 8.00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 7 th 7.00 p.m.	Visit of Bishop of Oxford to St. Nicholas
Saturday 11 th	Village Fête
Sunday 12 th 12.30 p.m.	Burma Lunch at Tyringham Hall
Tuesday 14 th 2.30 p.m.	W.I. Garden Meeting
Wednesday 22 nd 11.00 a.m.	Children's Entertainer in Bernard Hall (see page 6)
Saturday 25 th 8.00 p.m.	Monthly Bingo in Club
Monday 27 th 10.00 a.m.	Play Round the Parishes on Playing Fields (see page 6)

ngs gardens open
for charity



A reminder that **Cuddington Gardens** will be open on Sunday 21st June from 2pm to 6pm.

Entry of £5 covers all 5 gardens (children free)

The following gardens will be open:-

33 Bernard Close
Box Cottage
The Old Place
The Old School House
Tyringham Hall

TEAS at The Bernard Hall and Tyringham Hall.

Plant stall at The Bernard Hall

**Tyringham Hall and (below)
Box Cottage**



Burma Lunch

7th ANNUAL BURMA GARDEN LUNCHEON

at Tyringham Hall

Sunday 12th July 2009 12.30pm for
1.00pm

The Burma Forces Welfare Association (BWFA) was set up by the late (Lt.Col.) Ray Scott with the intention of raising funds to give financial help to the old Burmese soldiers who had fought with the British in World War II. Ray lived and worked in Burma for



11 years, was in the Burma Rifles, in both Chindit expeditions and in Force 136 and he always felt that he owed his life to those Burmese men who served with him.

Due to the illegal regime in Burma, it has not been possible for the British or American governments to provide pensions or help of any kind to a now aged group of old soldiers. Their plight is desperate. Since the establishment of the BFWA, large amounts of money have been raised and distributed to the old soldiers or their widows.

Sherry and Phil, together with the BFWA committee continue with the work. Fundraising and distribution are urgent.

With this in mind, Sherry and Phil invite you to join them in the garden (under shelter if wet) at Tyringham Hall on Sunday 12th July at 12.30pm for 1.00pm to enjoy a traditional Burmese curry followed by 'traditional Tyringham dessert', cheese and biscuits and coffee.

Tickets (to include Pimms) are priced £25 and are available from Sherry Scott 291526.



The school participated in Christian Aid Week with a Family Assembly in Church and a series of assemblies throughout the week on the theme of helping others. On the Wednesday children brought money to throw in the "wishing wells" that had been made on each site.

All of our pupils had time working with an artist making wooden owls. The children learnt new skills and are thrilled with the finished products that stand proudly on each site.

Little Owls had a trip to Green Park in Aston Clinton to take part in picture orienteering and problem solving activities with children from Marsworth School.

Year 2 pupils took part in a tag rugby festival where they had coaching in the morning and a mini-tournament in the afternoon at Aylesbury Rugby Club. The team came second in their group.

Our half term ended with the annual procession, singing on the village green and country dancing by the children at Cuddington. Everyone had a lovely time and a big thank you to all those villagers who came out to support the children.



The wishing well and the owl



John's Column

*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate;
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And Summer's lease hath all too short a date;
Sometimes too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd.*

William Shakespeare 1564-1616 "Sonnets"

Should you be lucky enough to hear the call of the Cuckoo this year, then double check on this, since you could be mistaken. There is a little bird whose call is similar – I refer to the Chiff-Chaff, a bird with a loud call made when perched at the top of tall trees, and whose sound extends over a surprising distance. The call is onomatopoeic. It is a visitor during the months of March to October.

Last month I had a surprise visit to the garden by a pair of Tree Sparrows – similar to the House Sparrow but with much more distinct markings to the head, wings and breast. This pair flew into a rose bush, and for a little time fed on insects on the stems. They stayed for some minutes and then flew off.

We are in the middle of a big change in the seasonal habits of our migratory birds. It is now agreed that since 1967 when last recorded, the decline is now thus—Cuckoo 60%, Spotted Flycatcher 84%, turtle Dove 82%, Yellow wagtail 47% and the cause is said to be 'Climate change'. However I am inclined to blame the constant assault of over development in our countryside.

Services at St. Nicholas

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

June

- 3rd 9.30 am PRAYERS
- 7th 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION
A modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to "Sunday Special" for part of the service
- 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
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