

VILLAGE CUDDINGTON VOICE



**December/
January
2009/10**

**VOLUME
TWELVE**

Christmas in Cuddington



*To celebrate the wonder of the birth of Jesus
Christ, coming to earth to be our Saviour*



Preparations

Cuddington Post Office for:

- All Postal Services including Christmas stamps (Christian and Secular) and posting of parcels
- Christmas Specials: Wrapping paper, gift tags, coloured string, festive paper, table cloths, table napkins, Christmas cards and Cuddington's own calendar with beautiful photographs of the village.
- Ingredients for your festive cooking and jars of ready made mincemeat, etc. etc

Denise's for:

- Special hair-do's and all beauty treatments including facials, manicures, gel nails and pedicures.
- After hour appointments by arrangement.

Sunshine Club's Bazaar: Thursday 3rd. In Tyringham Hall 2.30 p.m.

Christmas Cards: "Cuddington in the Snow" designed by Caroline Stonham.
On sale in the shop or from Caroline.

Christmas tree on the Green, decorated by the school children.

Activities in December

School's Christmas Production in Church, Monday 7th at 2p.m. and Tuesday 8th at 6.00 p.m.

Sunshine Club's Christmas Dinner in the Bernard Hall Monday 14th 12.30 for 1.00 p.m.

Christmas in the Club Thursday 17th (see page 7)

Carol Singing round the Village Monday 21st (see page 2)

Church services



- ? Christingle Service Sunday 6th 3 p.m.
- ? Family Toy Service Sunday 13th 10 a.m.
- ? Carol Service in the Methodist Church Sunday 20th. 5.30 p.m.
- ? Christmas Eve Carol Service Thursday 24th 7.00 p.m.
- ? Family Carol Service Christmas Day 10.00 a.m.
- ? Christmas Communion Service 27th 10 a.m.



***Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new born king***





From the Vicar

Dear Friends,

When I was a child I had a Christmas picture on my bedroom wall of the Angels coming to visit the Shepherds. Across the sky in red letters were the words "Glory to God in the highest, on Earth Peace and Goodwill to All Men." As a child, I be-

lieved that I was growing up in a world of peace. I heard stories from my parents about the Second World War, which they had experienced as children: evacuation, air-raid shelters and houses being bombed. That was their world, but I thought that my world was one where there was peace. Of course that was far from true; even then there were various major conflicts going on in different parts of the world – but unless war comes close to you (as it did for all who lived through the Second World War) you don't tend to be aware of it at all as a child.

As this new century wears on we realise that our desire for peace in the world is as far from our grasp as in any other age. Hope for a peaceful millennia has been shattered amid terrorism, war in Iraq and the most recent conflict in Afghanistan. So what about my childhood picture of the angels and the shepherds and the promise of peace. Is this just a myth - What is this peace that is proclaimed by the prophets in the Bible? You might say that we don't see much of it. Where is the Good News?

The Hebrew word Shalom brings a different dimension to peace. It is not only the peace that comes when war ends, but it is also an inner peace – even when troubles are raging all around you. This peace comes from a certain hope that God has a future that he has promised to us. A peace that comes from the certainty that he is with us and whatever life brings, even when we are empty and alone, he is there and we can turn to him.

As we go through the familiar customs of Christmas, we sing the well-known carols, eat our familiar festival foods and maybe have the joy of watching children and grandchildren open presents and see the magic of Christmas afresh. In all of this we can hold on to that solid promise that God has a peace for us and for them that transcends the ordinary and gives us a small and precious glimpse of heaven.

Love and Prayers

Margot Hodson



Tales of the unexpected Carol singing



A mile stone giving a pictorial illustration of Bow Bells, indicating the mileage to London

Alan Copeland's "curiosities" talks have educated and enthralled the History Society in the past, and his latest "Tales of the unexpected" did not disappoint his large audience.

He showed us photographs connected with cars and wars – from mile posts without the name of a town to unusual memorials and the sight of a huge explosion when 74 people were killed, including an entire farm and 6 people, who were never found.

We saw carvings on a wall showing the price of bread from 1800 to 2000 - in 1971 for example, a gallon of bread cost 40pence. (Yes, a gallon is the correct technical term in bread making! Ed.)

We learned a great deal, including the danger of damaging or defacing a bridge in Dorset where the penalty for doing so was **transportation for life**.

There will be Carol singing round the village on Monday, December 21st. Do come and join in!

This will start on the Upper Green at 7 p.m. and after about 20 minutes move round the village. You are very welcome to join in at any point along the route which will be as follows:-

Up to Bernard Close, along Bernard Close to No.12 Along to Swan Hill, down Holly Tree Lane to the Lower Green, along Lower Church Street and Upper Church Street, ending between 8.15 and 8.45 pm, with refreshments at Tyringham Hall by kind invitation of Sherry Scott.

There will be a collection for "Crisis" which helps homeless people particularly at Christmas time.

Cuddington's weather

October was a warm month with daytime air temperatures averaging 15.5 deg C (59.9 F), which is above the 10 year mean of 14.8 deg C (58.6 F)); nighttime air temperatures averaged 7.0 deg C (44.6 F) which is exactly what you would expect for this time of year. The actual highest and lowest daytime air temperatures occurred on the 6th (19.0 deg C (66.2 F) and 17th (11.6 deg C (52.9 F)). Only one air frost was recorded during the month, occurring on the morning of the 18th (minus 0.4 deg C (31.3 F), the grass temperature fell to minus 4.4 deg C (24.1 F) at this time. The recent warm October contrasts markedly with October last year, which was some two degrees Celsius colder; snow fell during the afternoon and evening of the 28th although it did not settle.

It was a dry month with a total accumulation of 41.9 mm (1.65 in), just over half the 12-year average of 75.8mm (2.98 in). It was Cuddington's driest October since 2003 when 32.6mm (1.28 in) fell.

Sky notes:

There will be a Partial Lunar Eclipse, albeit a rather small one, during the early evening of the 31st December. The eclipse begins at 6.52 pm after which you will begin to notice a small 'bite' appearing on the lower part of the moon's disc. Mid eclipse occurs at 7.23 pm, when about 8 percent of the moon will be obscured by the earth's shadow; the eclipse ends at 7.53 pm. Lets hope for clear skies!

Sean Clarke

Singing for pleasure

Our group is expanding. We now have more than a dozen people of both sexes. We are planning the first meeting in St Nicholas Church, Cuddington, on a Wednesday, probably in January. I will get in touch with everyone as soon as I have a definite date. If there are others who are interested but have not yet got in touch with me you will be welcomed. I can be contacted on 01844 291880 or on email to jfortgang@aol.com.

Eileen Fortgang



Famous British gardens

Bodnant, Stourhead and Tresco were the three gardens featured at November's meeting on "Famous British Gardens". Our speaker was Ken Burras, former superintendent of Oxford Botanic Garden.

The major part of the talk was on Bodnant in Wales where he had worked in the past and clearly loved and we were taken on a wonderful journey round the garden through his slides. Situated above the River Conwy it covers 300 acres with stunning views to Snowdonia and is the creation of four generations of Aberconways. The upper garden consists of a series of terraces built between 1912-1914 and the lower garden, known as The Dell, is a tranquil area with walks along a tributary of The Conwy.



A border of late summer flowers at Bodnant

There are wonderful displays of rhododendrons, huge mature magnolias, camellias and the famous laburnum arch with its mass of yellow hanging flowers.

For those of us who have never visited this gem I, for one, can't wait.

The second garden was Stourhead in Wiltshire built by Henry Hoare in the 1740's. He was inspired by

scenes from the Grand Tour of Europe, and features one of the most romantic landscapes in the world. He dammed a fish pond to create a magnificent lake with a palladian bridge, classical temples and follies. There are beautiful trees and walks and seating areas which reveal stunning vistas.

The third garden covered briefly was Tresco in the Scilly Isles which has an exotic collection of wonderful plants which have vibrant colour due to the intense sunlight.

The next meeting of the Gardening Club will be on Monday 11th January 2010 and will be the annual social evening. A DVD featuring Beth Chatto's garden will be shown before supper and a flower quiz will complete the evening.

Grease is the word!

On Friday 11th December at 7.00 pm the Bernard Hall will be transformed into Rydell High School – complete with milk shake bar, popcorn stall, hot dogs and soda fountain – for the best pre-Christmas treat of the year!

Come and join the fun-filled party as we sing along, dance and watch the brilliant movie musical "Grease" starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. And the excitement continues after the film with much more music and dancing. What better way to kick off the Christmas party season with all your friends?

Mums and dads can come to but only if they are cooooooooooooooooooool and don't interfere with your fun. Tickets cost just £5 for students of Rydell High (girls wear pink, boys wear black) or £6 for adults. There are prizes for the best costume / hairstyle, and don't forget boys: grease is the word!

Whatever you do don't miss this high spot of the build up to Christmas! Proceeds will go towards Cuddington Youth Drama's forthcoming production of "Peter Pan" on 16th to 21st February 2010 (half-term week).

County-wide speed limit review



You may have noticed that there are some notices displayed in the village which report that the long awaited Speed Limit Review consultation for our area of Bucks is about to commence. The Traffic Action Group (TAG) and the Parish Council are anxious that the recommendations Cuddington put forward to Bucks County Council some six years ago should be accepted and implemented as soon as possible. We believe that

this would dramatically improve the safety of all those who live and visit our beautiful village.

In the October 2008 issue of Village Voice an article appeared on this very subject providing the background to this exercise and detailing the proposal TAG had put forward. Now that the public consultation is to commence, this article with some minor up-dates is repeated here in the hope that villages will show support by writing to Transport Department, Bucks County Council.

“The County-wide Speed Review was announced by Bucks County Council back in September 2002, the idea was, and still is, that where it was felt appropriate new speed limits should be introduced or changed on the County's roads in the interests of safety. The County was broken down into 14 areas with Cuddington falling into Area 11. Haddenham was included in Area 8 and as you will have seen the adjacent A418 and the roads around Haddenham itself have already been dealt with some time ago.

The original plan was for a public consultation exercise, for our area, to take place in the summer of 2007 with implementation in late 2007/early 2008. This timetable has of course been dramatically delayed and we now know from BCC that work on our area is about to recommence and the public consultation will take place before the end of this year with the new limits being in place by Spring 2010.

You may remember that sometime ago an article appeared in Village Voice which reported that TAG and the Parish Council had put forward proposals to BCC providing them with details of the changes we would recommend for Cuddington. To remind you these recommendations include the following: -

Speed Limits

- C56 – the 30mph limit to be extended in both directions starting at Winchendon Hill junction through the village to Brookfield Farm on the Aylesbury Road.
- C66 – move the existing 30mph sign outwards just past Dadbrook House and Dadbrook Farm to slow the traffic thereby helping with visibility.
- C66 – 40mph, from the end of the revised 30mph position to Kings Crossroads where it meets the A418.
- C56 – 50mph limit from Winchendon Hill junction to Chearsley.
- C56 – 50mph limit from Brookfield Farm to the C56/A418 at Dinton Castle.

HGV Restrictions

- C56 and C66 – introduce a 7.5 tonnes limit on all roads leading to Cuddington from the A418 Dinton Castle junction, the Kings Crossroad and also Chearsley.

It is in all our interests to support the recommendations Cuddington has put forward, so please do make your views known to Bucks County Council. Further news on this subject will be published in the Parish Council Minutes and *Village Voice*.

Green tips

Shopping for Fresh Food – keep it local!

For fruit, vegetables and meat that have real flavour, shop at the Thame Farmers' Market on the first Tuesday of the month. This supports local farmers and businesses, keeps money in the local economy and saves food miles and packaging. But most importantly, you get excellent quality. This month there were some superb apples and pears straight from the orchard, delicious juices and some very tempting meat and game offerings.

The weekly Tuesday morning market is also great value and quality but not necessarily local.

Baptist burial ground



The Trustees responsible for the Cuddington Baptist Burial Ground upkeep would like to remind villagers that it is the policy is to permit burial of any who are close relatives of those already interred there or who are practising Baptists with Cuddington connections.

The relevant conditions, fees etc. correspond to those in use at St Nicholas Church Cuddington, and anyone interested in further information should get in touch either with Ken Tomes (291103) or Myles Saker (291825).



Cuddington Spa?!!

History abounds with 'might have beens' Cuddington could have developed as a prosperous Spa town in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when medicinal watering places like Bath, Leamington and Tunbridge Wells became fashionable.



Royal Leamington Spa—is this what Cuddington could have turned into?

James Joseph Sheahan in his "History and Topography of Buckinghamshire" (1862) noted, "In the southern part of the parish (Cuddington) on the brow of a hill below Dadbrook House is a medicinal spring, which was formerly

of some celebrity. The water is received in a stone reservoir, near the highway, and is remarkably clear and pleasant to taste".

This has been confirmed by earlier historians. Lysons in 1806 wrote that the Dadbrook spring was formerly "in great repute" and "its virtues are still talked of, but it has long been wholly disused" The magisterial Bucks historian, George Lipscomb, in his "History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham" (1847) commented that the spring's "sanative qualities have not saved it from almost entire neglect".

Some springs had long-standing Christian connections like Schorne's well at nearby North Marston, but there is no record of any religious involvement with the Dad Brook. As we know, the Dadbrook spring was never exploited or developed and has remained literally a backwater.

So next time we go along Dadbrook, perhaps we can reflect that we live in peaceful, green countryside and have escaped the streets and commercialism of a crowded spa town!

Charity Ball

A huge thank you to everyone who came to the 'Pink & Blue' Charity Ball - in aid of Cancer Research on Friday 20th November.

A lot of help and support was received from many people in the village and that is why the evening was such a success. I would also like to thank all the people and companies that donated the wonderful items for the auction.

I am very pleased to say that we raised just over £900.00 for Cancer Research UK and now look forward to seeing you and your friends at the next event!

Candice Morgan

Fete AGM

The AGM took place at the Playing Fields Clubhouse on Tuesday 27th October and was attended by representatives from several of the village organisations and some villagers who took up the offer of the open invitation extended to come along, find out more about the fete over a glass of wine and some "cheesy wotsits".



Visitors to this year's fete enjoying themselves outside the Bernard Hall.

Sherry Scott opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking those that had helped in fete preparations and run things on the day. Phil gave a brief summary of the accounts – takings were £9,024 (an increase of £500 on 2008). Expenses had increased by £100 this year but this included

some items of capital expenditure (new tombola drum etc) which will benefit the fete for years to come. Phil also explained that due to new red tape – oops I mean H&S regulations – in order to close the roads we had to have someone with a City & Guilds qualification to supervise this, so he attended a course and is now duly certified. The consensus of opinion at the meeting was that he should have been certified years ago!

The applications for funds from the village organisations were discussed and voted upon resulting in a total amount of £4,250 being distributed. This leaves enough in the kitty to start preparations for next year's fete – if there is one...

Sherry announced that the committee of the last 3 years felt it was time to hand over the mantle (or gnome hats), to some people with fresh ideas, and although they are all willing to help & pass on their experience the majority do not wish to stand next year. Chris Long has agreed to stand as Chairman subject to being able to form a suitable committee – **so come on people, it's now your opportunity to get involved and make your mark!** Organising the fete doesn't have to be arduous if enough people with good ideas and a "can do" attitude are prepared to chip in. An Extraordinary General Meeting will be announced shortly. If you are possibly interested in helping please let any of the outgoing committee know or get in touch with Chris - 291153.

Peggy Cattell thanked the committee for their hard work which was met by a resounding round of applause and Sherry closed the meeting by reiterating her thanks to everyone who had participated.

Maggie

New clerk for the Parish Council

THE Parish Council are delighted to announce the appointment of Venetia Davies as Clerk to Cuddington Parish Council. Venetia's main responsibilities will be to provide advice and administrative support to the Council and to take action to implement the Council decisions. Venetia, who lives in Cuddington, says she is very much looking forward to working together as a team with the councillors to represent the interests of the residents of Cuddington.

Family Concert

Those of you who did not attend the Family Concert in the church on the 15th November missed a gem of a performance.

Before an audience that should really have been larger the Haddenham Recorder Consort (pictured below), conducted and introduced by Rosemary Shaw, played a number of short but delightful pieces. The Consort consists of about a dozen lady players, of whom nine were present with Rosemary, who also plays. There are several different pitches of recorder, from bass to tenor and treble – all different sizes, the bass looking a bit like a length of drainpipe (but sounding a lot more romantic). The pieces ranged from Handel, to folk tunes and madrigals. The audience was delighted and showed its appreciation enthusiastically.

After the Consort finished their first set we were in for another treat. Aylesbury Bassoonist Melissa Davies took out her instrument and produced some amazing sounds, first on her own and then accompanied by the piano. Melissa took time to explain that the bassoon is made of maple, and she gradually dismantled it, showing how the different components produce very different sounds. Even more surprising was the fact that Melissa is only sixteen, as she has a very mature stage presence. Apparently her other great love is singing, a talent she shares with her sister. She already plays with various orchestras; watch out for her name in lights as she will go far.

The Consort then returned to finish the concert with a polka and the well-known tune "Santa Lucia".

After the players being thanked by Caroline Stonham, who arranged the concert, Jane Benson gave a short lesson on her own recorder assisted by those members of the audience who had brought theirs. They ended up playing "Ode to Joy" and "When the Saints go marching in".

All this was greatly enjoyed by all

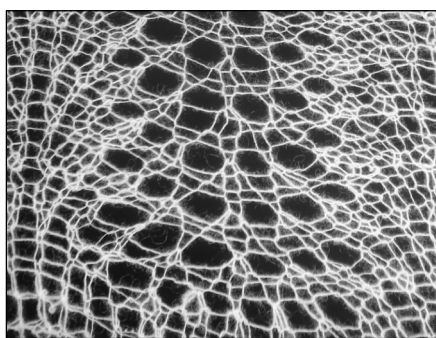


A whistle stop tour of Orkney, Shetland and Papa Stour

The WI were back 'home' for their monthly meeting in the recently refurbished clubhouse. The new carpet and fresh decoration made a pleasant backdrop for our members. After the brief meeting, the President introduced our speaker, Mrs J Gudge who took us through some Scottish islands with colourful and interesting slides.



Mary Turner showing her beautiful family heirloom and (below) a detail of this intricate work.



many blow holes inland as well as ancient rock shapes and stacks. Pink sands and blue seas make it a magical place. Mrs Gudge made a recording of these birds nesting and the noise is best described as listening to a 'sewing machine with hiccups.' With her Shetlands roots, it was appropriate for Mary Turner to thank Mrs Gudge for her colourful tour and for the members to admire Mary's intricate and beautifully knitted shawl in this very fine Shetland wool.

We started off in the Orkneys where the winters are not so cold and the summers not so hot compared to England, but they do have to endure extremely strong winds. At Marwick Head stands the Lord Kitchener memorial and on many rocky faces you will see thousands of Gannets, Puffins and Kittiwakes. At Skale Bay a violent storm took the sand away and a village was uncovered believed to have been built some 3000 BC. During the war an old nissen hut was taken over by the Italian prisoners and it was painted to resemble marble in an Italian Chapel. It is known as the memorial chapel of camp 60 and today there is a steady stream of pilgrims. The Old Man of Hoy standing at 450 feet high is probably the most photographed structure in these islands.

We were then taken across to the Shetlands where the people are very welcoming and the island is not unlike Norway with the volcanic stone and mini Fiords. The Muckle Flugga lighthouse was built in 1858 and the area is of special scientific interest where 100,000 sea birds breed and a botanic paradise where plants grow in the rocky outcrops. Papa Stour is Norse for the 'Big island of the Priest' There are

those present and we made sure our guests were aware of it. The performance was followed by tea and cakes and the opportunity to talk to the performers.

Caroline is to be congratulated on once again putting together an enjoyable entertainment. It is a pity that more local people did not turn up on a Sunday afternoon when others worked so hard to put it together. It is hoped there will be more such concerts; please do support them as it would be a great shame if they came to nothing through lack of encouragement.

John Fortgang

Christmas at The Crown

Christmas Eve:

Open as usual, except closing at 10.30 p.m.

Christmas Day:

Closed

Boxing Day:

Open 12noon to 6 p.m.

New Year's Eve:

Open for Lunch and evening 7p.m. until late

New Year's Day:

Open 12noon to 6 p.m.

Dates for your Diary

A tree in Autumn



December

Tuesday 1st 2.15 p.m.
Thursday 3rd 2.30 p.m.

Sunday 6th 3.00 p.m.
Monday 7th 2.00 p.m.
Tuesday 8th 2.30 p.m.
6.00 p.m.
Friday 11th 7.00 p.m.

Sunday 13th 10.00 a.m.
Monday 14th 12.30 p.m.
Thursday 17th 7.30 p.m.
Saturday 19th 8.00 p.m.
Monday 21st 7.00 p.m.
Thursday 24th 7.00 p.m.
Friday 25th 10.00 a.m.

Gardening Club Visit to Preston Bissett Nursery
Sunshine Club Bring and Buy Sale at
Tyringham Hall

Christingle Service in Church
School's Christmas Production in Church
W.I. Annual Meeting
School's Christmas Production in Church
Cuddington Youth Drama's Party and showing of
film "Grease"

Family Toy Service in Church
Sunshine Club Christmas Dinner
Christmas in the Club
Prize Bingo in the Club
Carol Singing round the Village
Christmas Eve Carol Service
Christmas Day Family Carol Service

January

Wednesday 6th 8.00 p.m.
Monday 11th 7.30 p.m.
Tuesday 12th 2.30 p.m.
Tuesday 26th 7.15 p.m.

Parish Council Meeting
Gardening Club Annual Social Evening
W.I. Illustrated talk by Peggy Cattell
History Society A.G.M. and talk
"The Tradescants...Royal Gardeners and Curio
Collectors"

Thermal imaging

Is Lost Heat Costing You Money and thereby driving up CO2 production in Cuddington?

There is a unique opportunity to have your house photographed using a thermal imaging camera, which is sensitive to heat rather than light. This is an entirely free service offered by volunteers and sponsored by Transition, Thame and District which could give you a precise idea about where heat is being lost from your home through walls, doors or windows (roofs cannot be properly photographed unfortunately).

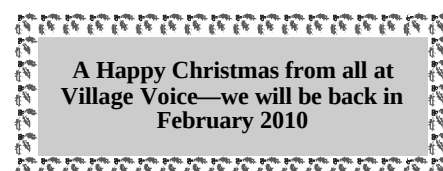
If you contact us using the details below you will go on our list of candidates for having the images taken in early January. Much depends upon the weather, but all being well, you will be contacted by us to get some basic information about your home and heating and a provisional day set. All the work is external, so you do not have to open your home or be disturbed unless you want to see what's going on.

Images will be sent to you by email free of charge, but a small charge will be made for printed images and more detailed reports, if these are needed, to cover costs. Please be assured that this is for your information only, and there will be no selling or commitment to any further action on your part.

To apply for your home to be included in the thermal imaging project, complete and return the form included in the last issue of the Voice, or write to Doug Kennedy at email address dgkennedy@alloverde.com, or drop a note through the door of Vulcan House, Holly tree Lane, Cuddington HP18 0BA. Tel. 01844 290602.



A thermal image indicating problem areas in a building.



Quiz night

A massive thank you to everyone who joined us for the quiz in the playing field club on Saturday 21st November. Over 70 quiz goers grappled with some fairly challenging questions, tucked into a ploughman's and took part in the raffle. With generous donations of the food and prizes the evening was a great success. Congratulations go to the Keeping Family and their team who were the ultimate victors, taking away 6 lovely bottles of wine. With everyone's help we raised over £300
Thank you, Lorraine Ray

Helen Keeping, a member of the winning team, with her spoils from the raffle

Christmas in the Club

- Thursday 17th December -

A friendly supper with singing of familiar Carols to which everyone is very welcome

A charge of £3 is payable at the door, any profit will go to Playing Field Club's Expenses
Please let Peggy Cattell (291313) know if you can come.





The whole school went to the cinema in Aylesbury to see "The Tale of Despereaux" before we broke up for our half term holiday.

We are pleased that both villages continue their support of the school. Cuddington

fete committee gave the school enough money to purchase an additional dining room table and two benches because of the increase of children on the Cuddington site. Dinton fete gave funds to provide four new picnic tables and benches for use by the children eating outside. We have also improved the facilities for our Year 1 children with the installation of an outside shelter working area.

A group of Year 3 and 4 children took part in an inter-school hockey tournament in October and were runners-up only losing 1-0 to the eventual winners. Year 2 took part in a hockey training day this month. Friends4CaDS have bought a class set of hockey equipment for the school that is already being well used in PE lessons.

Our main fundraising for the term was for Children in Need. This year as well as the children (and some of the staff) wearing something different on the day the staff cooked the children lunch of baked potato, sausage and beans with a Pudsey cake to finish. This was much enjoyed by everyone.

Family assembly in Cuddington church was well attended on the 16th November. Our next event in the Church is our Christmas performance which this year will be held on Monday 7th December at 2.00pm and again on Tuesday 8th December at 6.00pm. Please remember that because of numbers our evening performance is only for adults and that any children should be brought to the afternoon performance.

We are collecting The Times Books for School and Box Tops tokens at present. Last term we managed to collect over 40 books from these schemes. Please send any tokens into school.

School closes for the Christmas holiday on Friday 18th December and opens for the new school term on Tuesday 5th January.



John's Column

"Heap on more Wood! - the wind is chill;

But let it whistle as it will,

We'll keep our Christmas merry still"

Sir Walter Scott 1771-1822

This year our Autumn has been outstanding and the flowers which were late in blooming have combined with the colour of the trees, all giving a magical effect. Most of us need 'cheering up' -living during a depression is not easy, although I have lived through the bad times of 1920,30 and 40 and I have witnessed poverty and despair unknown to most of us today. Since returning from holiday I have resumed my hobby of bird watching, although there is little to discuss. The extended mild weather has prolonged insect life and most bird species have remained in the countryside. We shall have to wait for the frosts before our feathered friends return.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy Christmas and much better times in 2010.



Services at St. Nicholas

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



December 2009

2nd	9.30 am	PRAYERS
6th	10.00 am	HOLY COMMUNION <i>A modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to "Sunday Special" for part of the service</i>
	3.00 pm	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
13th	10.00 am	FAMILY SERVICE <i>A service for all ages, including lively hymns, with the involvement of young musicians and occasional drama.</i>
20th	10.00 am	HOLY COMMUNION <i>A less formal modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to Sunday Special for part of the Service</i>
	11.30 am	PRAYERS
24th	7.00 pm	CAROL SERVICE
25th	10.00 am	FAMILY CAROL SERVICE
27th	10.00 am	HOLY COMMUNION <i>A united Christmas service for the Benefice.</i>

January 2010

3rd	10.00 am	HOLY COMMUNION <i>A modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to "Sunday Special" or a crèche for part of the service.</i>
6th	9.30 am	PRAYERS
10th	10.00 am	FAMILY SERVICE <i>A service for all ages, including lively hymns, with the involvement of young musicians and occasional drama.</i>
17th	10.00 am	HOLY COMMUNION <i>A less formal modern Communion Service with hymns. The children go to Sunday Special a crèche for part of the service.</i>
	11.30 am	PRAYERS
24th	10.00 am	MORNING WORSHIP <i>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 am</i>
	11.15 am	HOLY COMMUNION <i>A communion service with hymns, according to the Book of Common Prayer.</i>
31st	10.00 am	MORNING WORSHIP

There is a service at 5.30 pm every Sunday evening at Cuddington Methodist Chapel.
The service on December 20th will be a Carol Service

