

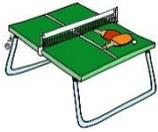


## MENTMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Volume 23, Issue 3

September 2016

### “DIARY PAGE”



#### TABLE TENNIS

Our small group is getting larger! This is not a problem, as we can expand the time. Meeting afterwards in the Stag is part of the fun. You can come as often or as infrequently as you like and you don't need to worry that you will be among experts - you won't, although people's standards do improve quite quickly once they start to want to win!

The village hall is open from **6.30 - 8.00 pm every Tuesday** for all comers. Membership fees are **£2 per person per session**; just come along and you will be welcomed, as well as having a chance to meet new people.



#### BUCKS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST RIDE & STRIDE

St. Mary's Church will be open for participants of this annual event to register their visit and to replenish their reserves with a refreshing drink and a biscuit. Anyone can take part and the money raised is split 50/50 between the Trust and the church of your choice. This year's ride takes place on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September**. Please contact Penny Hibbert (01296 660416) for more information.



#### HARVEST FESTIVAL

St. Mary's Harvest Festival Service will take place in the church on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 11.30 am** and will be followed by a light luncheon. All parishioners are welcome. The offering this year will go to the Archbishop's Mustard Seed Project – helping people in the UK overcome debt.



#### PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Village Hall at **8pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October**.



#### BIG TIDY UP – Mentmoreons United

Emerging from their homes in and around our parish, volunteers will be joining forces for Mentmore's next scheduled tidy-up on **2<sup>nd</sup> October** as part of Mentmore's on-going initiative to rid our verges of litter.

It's not too late to get involved, so if you would like to help tidy up our parish on this, or any other date more suited to your own timetable, please contact Liz at [elizadack@outlook.com](mailto:elizadack@outlook.com) and she can provide you with more information and advice.



#### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

This year's service of Remembrance will be held at St. Mary's Church on **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00 am**.

# YOUR VILLAGE IN FOCUS



[www.mentmore.org](http://www.mentmore.org)

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Hot news is that we now have a representative from Crafton as well as Ledburn and Mentmore on the Parish Council. Welcome to new councillor Robert Fletcher!

The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting can be found on the website [www.mentmore.org](http://www.mentmore.org). To contact the Parish Council, please email [clerk@mentmore.org](mailto:clerk@mentmore.org). The email will go to all Parish Councillors as well as to Maxine Hayes, our clerk.

## VALP

VALP stands for Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, to which you will certainly have seen references in the media. The plans for the future development of this area affect us all and everyone is entitled to express a view. The link is on the Parish Council website (thanks to our busy and conscientious Parish Chairman, Peter) and comments were requested by 5th September.

## UNITARY AUTHORITY DEBATE

Should AVDC and Bucks amalgamate to form a unitary authority? If so, how should this be configured? There will be a Public Meeting in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm** when representatives from Bucks County Council will discuss the issue from their point of view. This is an opportunity to find out more and to ask questions.

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

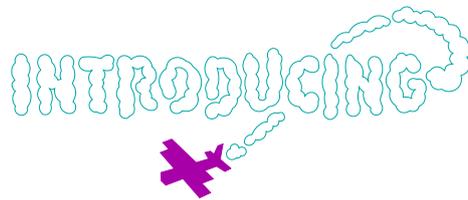
The extension work has now started and is going well. There is a link to view the plans on the parish council website. There has not been too much disruption to bookings so far and the book sale continues to open at weekends, unless the hall is in use. Donations are always gratefully received but storage can be a problem, so please, no more donations until the new look hall is up and running.

We are always looking for new people to man the cleaning rota and spread the load. Duties are light and best done with a partner so that if one is not available, the other can cover the work. More help is available after big functions, so a good community service if you have a little time to spare. Call Diane on 661141 if you would like to help.

## LITTERPICKING

There has been much coverage recently in the media regarding fly tipping, and clear but discreet signs have been placed in vulnerable areas in the parish. However, we still need to keep on top of the casual disposal of wrappings, containers of all sorts and odd car parts that continue to rain down on our verges. I would like to invite more volunteers to join the team on Sunday afternoon 2nd October for a session of litter-picking, based on the Village Hall. We can make this a social occasion with refreshments available, but if you are not available on this date, pick a convenient time and I will allocate a section as near as possible to your own home. We now have plenty of equipment for you to use. The work is not pleasant, but there is a sense of comradeship and also pride, as the verges look so much better after our attentions. I would be delighted to receive a call on 661309 if you are interested in taking part.

Liz Dack



Congratulations to Mona and Iain Butler, of Ledburn, on the birth of  
Sami  
on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016



## **NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH**

*PARISH OF CHEDDINGTON WITH MENTMORE*

Thank you to everyone who so generously responded to my last article revealing the difficult financial position St Mary's is in. Over £2,000 has been freely given to date; a wonderful response, and there are one or two fundraising events in the pipeline too! In addition we received a fabulous £2,250, from the Mentmore Arts Festival, for which we are extremely grateful. We are still not out of the difficulties, and the long term future of the church does need to be addressed, but I am encouraged by the response from villagers – which is much appreciated. I am interested in hearing any ideas you may have for the use of the church – for example, if you would like Sunday services at different times on the day, or different styles of service – I would like to know. (I can't promise anything!) My thinking is that the long term future for St Mary's has to lie in using the beautiful space in creative ways, not just on Sundays, but mid-week too.

This summer we held a Christian Creative Arts Retreat at St Mary's on four Wednesday mornings (10-1); it was a toe dip, following on the heels of the Arts Festival. Led by two artists, one of whom is also a professional dancer, and hosted by myself, the retreat created space for artists and interested individuals to meet with God through their own art, journaling or simple contemplation. People came from Crafton, Mentmore, Leighton Buzzard, Chesham, Cheddington and Berkhamsted. Everyone brought their own materials with which to work; nobody was obliged to do or share anything they didn't want to. It was special. Prayer at the beginning led into a time of guided meditation/creativity, giving us space to explore our "inner artist". Each morning was different. We were given tools to engage with, and listen to, God – some familiar, some new. It was great! We tapped into our inner lives, discovered more of what it is to be fully human and creative members of a creative Universe. We gave expression to what was moving within us as we thought, prayed, wrote (poetry or prose), drew and painted - and one morning we even danced the Lord's Prayer! I can only speak for myself: as we gave time to God, we met with God, and our souls were nourished. We also blessed one another, the church and the people of Mentmore, Crafton and Ledburn - so we hope you are feeling the effects...and now we are considering what the next step might be...

In the meantime, you might like to come to St Mary's Harvest Festival on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, at 11.30 am, followed by a bring-and-share lunch, an opportunity to thank God for his provision and goodness and generosity to us, to pray for local farmers and for the needy in the world. The offering this year will go to the Archbishop's Mustard Seed Project – helping people in the UK overcome debt.

Gill Rowell, Team Vicar, Parish of Cheddington with Mentmore

**MENTMORE CLUB 200** - The Mentmore 200 Club was formed in November 2012 to raise funds for the running costs of St Mary's Church, Mentmore. The hard work of Deborah, Jill and Sue has resulted in 93 members as of today. They have now decided to hand over the administration to members of the Parish and the new team is Carol Cox, Sally Smith and Penny Hibbert.  
 Many thanks to Deborah, Jill and Sue.

The cost is just £24.00 per ticket per year and there are two prizes to be won each month. First prize is £300 in December, £200 in June, £100 in February, April, August and October and £30 in January, March, May, July, September and November. PLUS there is a second prize of £10 every month.

**June winners:**

The first prize of £200.00 went to - Caroline Gates of Mentmore.  
 The second prize of £10.00 went to - Diane Cleland of Horton.

**July winners:**

The first prize of £30.00 went to – John Nutkins of Cheddington.  
 The second prize of £10.00 went to - Sue Foster of Cheddington.

**August winners:**

The first prize of £100.00 went to – Sally Smith of Mentmore.  
 The second prize of £10 went to – Charles Storr of Cheddington.

Prizes yet to be drawn are:

SEPTEMBER	£30	£10
OCTOBER	£100	£10
NOVEMBER	£30	£10
DECEMBER	£300	£10

Since January prize winners have donated a total of £130 of the prize money to the church.  
 If you would like to join and help support our Church please contact Carol Cox on [carolcox48@gmail.com](mailto:carolcox48@gmail.com) or 07920 140 740.

**SERVICE TIMES**

	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
St Mary's	9.00 am HC	-	9.00 am HC	-	Combined 10.30 with Methodists (alternate locations)
St Giles	10.30 am HC	9.00 am BCP  10.30-11.15 AA	10.30 am Morning Worship	10.30 am HC	

*HC – Holy Communion; AA – All Age; BCP – Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion;*



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### FOOTPATH WALK MEN/13/1, MEN/12/1

These two footpaths, which both start in Crafton and finish on the Leighton Road, can be linked using 300 yards or so of the Leighton Road. Each section can be walked independently. The whole circuit, or more accurately rectangle, takes less than half an hour to walk from start to finish.

Beginning at the junction between the lower and upper parts of Crafton where there is space to park by the noticeboard if needed (keeping the gateway clear), walk up the road to the right, ignoring the first footpath sign. Footpath MEN/13/1 starts at Little Chapel Farm, a short distance into Crafton on the right after the post box. The way is indicated by a sign on the side of the building at this point and the path takes you directly through the farm yard and gardens and a series of four gates and stiles. You will see a pond to your left before you find yourself on a mown grassy path running between a fence and a hedgerow. Stiles are waymarked, so that you can be sure you have not strayed. It is advisable to keep any dogs on a lead until you emerge into a field after about five minutes. Cross diagonally aiming for the pylon ahead, and a hedgerow.

Walk down the right hand side of the hedge, continuing in the same direction. You will not have a choice about this, although hidden in the undergrowth at this point is a bridge across into the next field which would bring you to the other side of the hedge, waymarked as the correct side from the road at the far end. The bridge is no longer passable (B.C.C. aware). Once you arrive at the end of the hedge, and reach the road, this section is nearly complete.

If you wish to continue, you need to negotiate the ditch to the left, into the adjoining field and walk a short distance to the left, parallel to the road. At a gap in the hedge, after the second tree, cross onto the road at a disused field gate. This is not visible until you reach it, but is waymarked from the road. By walking the paths this way round, you can now link up with MEN/12/1 by walking along the road to the right, facing the (fast-moving) traffic. It is possible, though not comfortable, to walk on the verge to avoid the traffic.

The next section of the walk is also waymarked from the road and is quite straightforward. Just beyond the field gate is a gap in the hedge, currently rather overgrown with a bridge over the ditch which takes you into the field. Walk along the edge of the field, straight up the left hand side of the hedge. You will find straight lines to be quite a feature of this part of the walk, crop lines and hedges, criss-crossed by pylons and telegraph cables, with roads running along three sides of the field.

Nearing the far side of the field, the path bends slightly to the right. Go through the well-worn gap in the hedge to find yourself within a few yards of your starting point.

**Liz Dack**

## **ADVANCE WARNING**

### **PLANT FAIR**

The Plant Fair will be on *22<sup>nd</sup> April* next year. Plenty of time to pot up a few cuttings in the autumn - please. Our village stall depends on your generosity which has never failed and we appreciate any plants whether bought or home-grown as well as garden artefacts of any kind. Anything eye-catching, or in flower, goes particularly quickly and everyone loves a bargain.

## ADVERTISING FOR LOCAL EVENTS & BUSINESSES

<b>Town Farm</b>	<p>Perfectly timed for that special Christmas gift!</p> <p>Paintings, Illustration Ceramics, Woodcraft, Woodcarving Jewellery, Egyptian quilts Willow weaving, Sculpture</p> <p><a href="http://www.townfarmartshow.blogspot.com">www.townfarmartshow.blogspot.com</a></p> <p>Mulled wine, mince pies &amp; Christmas cake in aid of Rennie Grove Hospice Care</p> <p><b>ONE WEEKEND ONLY</b> Friday 25 - Sunday 27 November 10am - 4pm</p> <p>6 Town Farm, Cheddington, Nr Tring, LU7 0TT PLEASE PARK ON HIGH STREET - NOT IN TOWN FARM</p> <p>Free entry</p>
<b>ART SHOW</b>	

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please contact either Elizabeth Dack (Tel 661309 /email [crackerdack@aol.com](mailto:crackerdack@aol.com))  
or Karen Thomas (Tel 661509 / email [karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com](mailto:karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com))  
Newsletter deadline: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016*

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