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# TEMPSFORD TIMES

Issue 14  
 March & April 2009

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

The village magazine of Tempsford, Bedfordshire

*AFTER THE SNOW,  
 SIGNS OF NEW BEGINNINGS*

- A NEW VILLAGE PRIEST
- NEW AND EXTENDED MOBILE LIBRARY  
TIMES
- PLANNING FOR NEW THINGS IN THE  
VILLAGE

Read all about them in our  
 Spring Time issue

TEMPSFORD TIMES is published bi-monthly by Tempsford Parish Council and St Peter's Parish Church, Tempsford, and is delivered free to all households in Tempsford. Please support our advertisers mentioning TEMPSFORD TIMES whenever you do so.  
**Articles are accepted for publication on the condition that they are included at the publishers' discretion and may be edited if felt necessary. The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Parochial Church Council or the Parish Council.** Articles for the next edition should be sent by April 20th to the Editor at 92 Station Road, Tempsford or by e-mail to [alant@atuffnell.plus.com](mailto:alant@atuffnell.plus.com); advertising enquiries to Jeff Cloughton on 01767 640624

**PEOPLE, PROJECTS, PARTNERSHIPS (P3)**  
**GET INTO, ENJOY, IMPROVE AND UNDERSTAND**  
**YOUR LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE**

These are the aims of Bedfordshire's P3. It used to be just about using local footpaths, but it has now grown to include all the local countryside and our access to it. Come and hear more about it on **Tuesday April 21st at 7.30pm** when we have a special speaker Steve Halton at the Annual Parish Meeting in the Stuart Memorial Hall. The meeting will be more than just hearing reports from organisations and financial statements, but an occasion for you to learn more about our parish and how to enjoy it.

There is no charge, and tea, coffee and refreshments will be served after the meeting.

**PARISH COUNCIL NOTES**

The Parish Council has spent a lot of time recently discussing the state of the children's play areas. The grass was not cut to the Council's satisfaction last year, and so it will be done privately this year to keep it shorter and tidier. New play equipment has also been ordered for Church End and Station Road play areas and these will hopefully be in place in the next two months.

Tenders for this year's grass cutting were closely scrutinised in Council in the hope that the successful bidder will have a significant effect on the appearance of the cemetery and playing field areas.

Similarly to improve the churchyard, a survey was made so that the trees can be identified and then carefully tended by professionals from Shuttleworth. You should be seeing a more open, clear and tidy view of the church and churchyard soon.

After much discussion with Beds CC Highways Department, we have been pleased to see the work they have done to the paths at both ends of the village. However the council is still making representation about the state of the road-surface on the slip road and mini roundabout leading to the over bridge from the Blunham side.

Full Council minutes are available on the parish website.

The next meeting of the Council is on March 17th at 7.30pm in the Stuart Memorial Hall.

**STEAM THROUGH TEMPSFORD**

Every so often our quiet little village becomes a magnet for train spotters from far afield. On a snowy Saturday, 7th February, we had many visitors for the first sighting, this far south, of the latest mainline steam locomotive built in this country: A1 Class No. 60163 *Tornado*\*. By the time that you read this a further steam excursion will have passed over Tempsford rails heading southbound powered by BR Class 7MT No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* at lunchtime on Saturday 28th February.

If you are interested in watching these fascinating locomotives recreating their past glories you can seek out the dates and times of trains running to and from Kings Cross using the East Coast Mainline through Peterborough at [www.uksteam.info](http://www.uksteam.info)

\*Details of this remarkable steam loco can be found on the internet at [www.A1Steam.com](http://www.A1Steam.com)



**60163 Tornado leaves a beautiful steam trail as it passes through Tempsford, 7th Feb 2009, seen from across the snowy fields.**

*Picture by Adrian Besant*

## **PEOPLE NEWS**

Our best wishes go to the two members of the village being cared for in nursing homes. Best wishes also go to Wendy Bettles, Sylvia Eastley, Sam Knott, Betty Ingram, and Barry Fitzpatrick.

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Dorothy "Dorrie" Munns who died recently, a stalwart member of the village.

Our condolences also go to the family of John Zwetsloot who died suddenly and whose funeral was on Feb 25th, and to the family of Pat Edwards whose funeral is March 2nd.

Congratulations to Angus Lammie and Caroline Downs who were married in Tempsford Church on Feb 14th

*Correction to last edition: Ralph Franklin is obviously a brother to Lydia and Josephine.*

## **MOBILE LIBRARY DATES**

The Mobile Library will be opposite the telephone box in Station Road at 9.45am on Friday on March 6th and March 20th

### **Please note there is a change of date and time of the Mobile library visits from April onwards.**

As part of the change to unitary authorities in Bedfordshire, the mobile library routes are being adjusted. Tempsford will now have the mobile library visits on **alternate Mondays between 1.20pm and 1.45pm**

(yes we have an extra 10 minutes!)

**Monday April 6th and Monday April 20th.**

It will still visit Station Road, opposite the telephone box,

Church End parishioners: would you like to have the library visit your part of the village? Let the Tempsford Times know and if we get enough response, we may be able to influence the Library Services, who knows?!

## **TEMPSFORD PARISH PLAN**

**What's the point of a Parish Plan?** The whole point of the Parish Plan is to get the views of as many Tempsford residents and visitors as possible so that we can clearly point to a strategy for the village going forward. We can use the completed Parish Plan document to strongly influence decisions that have an impact on Tempsford made by other councils, authorities or organisations

**How do we the parishioners make our views known?** Included in this Tempsford Times are two copies of the 'Initial Thoughts' survey from which we hope to gather your initial views to provide us with the framework for further consultation in the future. Please spend a few minutes jotting down your thoughts under the three headings. We would really appreciate individual views on this so if you need further copies please ask at 73, 92 or 126 Station Road or download from [www.tempsford.org](http://www.tempsford.org).

**Are there any events when we can learn more about it?** The Parish Plan steering group have been working hard behind the scenes to prepare for 2009's Parish Plan events. We will be visiting the Chat Club on 25th March for the first of our 'Planning for Real' events. This is an interactive session where people's views can be placed using stickers and mini flags on a table-mounted large scale map of the parish. It enables conversations to be held with everyone seeing and understanding what location is being discussed. The major event in the spring calendar is the 'Planning for Real' event open to everyone at the Stuart Memorial Hall on Saturday 18th April from 10.00am to 4.00pm. We hope to be able to provide displays on the results of the initial thoughts gathered by the Survey in addition to the large scale map table. Tea and scones will hopefully provide a reward for those who attend this event.

**Is there something special for the young people to get involved?** Beds Rural Communities Charity have a vehicle fitted out to appeal to the younger members of the parish. This is called the 'Rave Bus' and it will be coming to the village in the early evening on the 12th May. Special leaflets will be given to the younger members of the village explaining more about what they will see and can do.

Further publicity for all of these events will be circulated so keep your eyes open for the green flyers that drop through your letterbox or posters on the village notice boards. If you have any questions or would like to get involved it would be great to hear from you. You can contact the Steering Group on 641115 (Dan Clark) or by [danclark@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:danclark@dsl.pipex.com)

## RIVERSMEET BENEFICE SERVICES : MARCH & APRIL

<u>Sunday Mar 1st</u>	Blunham	11.15am	Family Service
	Great Barford	9.30am	Family Service
	Roxton	11.00am	Holy Communion
	<b>Tempsford</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<u>Tuesday Mar 6th</u>	<b>Tempsford</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Women's World Day of Prayer</b>
<u>Sunday Mar 8th</u>	Roxton	11.00am	Holy Communion
	<b>Tempsford</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<u>Sunday Mar 15th</u>	Blunham	11.15am	Holy Communion
	Great Barford	9.30am	Holy Communion
	Roxton	11.00am	Family Service
<u>Sunday Mar 22nd</u>	<b>MOTHERING SUNDAY</b>		
	Blunham	11.15am	Family Service (followed by shorter Holy Communion)
	Gt Barford	09.30am	Holy Communion
	Roxton	11.00am	Family Service
<u>Sunday Mar 29th</u>	<b>Tempsford</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Benefice Holy Communion</b>
<u>Sunday Apr 5th</u>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>		
	Gt Barford	9.30am	Passion Gospel Reading
	Roxton	11.00am	Palm Sunday
	<b>Tempsford</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<u>Monday Apr 6th</u>	<b>Tempsford</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Compline</b>
<u>Friday Apr 10th</u>	<b>Tempsford</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Hour at the Cross</b>
	Blunham	7.30pm	Cross of Christ
<u>Saturday Apr 11th</u>	Roxton	7.30pm	Service of Light
<u>Sunday Apr 12th</u>	<b>EASTER DAY</b>		
	Blunham	11.15am	Holy Communion
	Great Barford	9.45am	Holy Communion
	Roxton	10.30am	Holy Communion
	<b>Tempsford</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<u>Sunday Apr 19th</u>	Blunham	11.15am	Holy Communion
	Gt Barford	9.30am	Holy Communion
	Roxton	11.00am	Family Service
<u>Sunday Apr 26th</u>	Blunham	11.00am	<b>Benefice Holy Communion</b>

### Please take note:

For the moment Margaret can be contacted on 01480 390705.  
Her day off is Monday

## BURNS' NIGHT CELEBRATIONS

Although the 250th anniversary of his birth was not for another eight days, this did not affect the pleasure of about 130 people who filled the Stuart Memorial Hall on Saturday 17th January to celebrate Burns Night.

The Hall was a splendid sight, its long tables clad in snowy white cloths garnished with tartan runners and attended by a regiment of comfortable dining chairs.

As soon as the diners were settled and welcomed, Rev Barbara Eberling said the Selkirk Grace, cock-a-leekie soup was served and the evening was under way. The haggis ceremony followed, piped in by Dr Brian Crawford, resplendent in full highland dress followed by the two young chefs, Sam and Jacob Evans, and the whisky bearer. Graham Walsingham, also in highland dress gave the Address to the Haggis, and then the rest of the meal was enjoyed.

After the splendid meal, Adrian Besant proposed the Loyal Toast, and Dr Brian Crawford proposed the toast to the immortal memory of Burns. Liz Budek, accompanied by Alan Tuffnell on the piano, beautifully sang "My love is like a red, red rose" and two other Burns' poems. Chris Eberling in his inimitable and amusing style then proposed a toast to the lassies, and Rev Barbara replied on their behalf.

After words of appreciation to all those who had prepared the meal and contributed to the entertainment, the room was cleared for the dancing to begin, with excellent music from "The Occasional Few" from Northampton, with Adrian Besant calling the dances.

I am sure that I speak for all of us in sending our thanks to Sheila Bradley and Eileen Gosling, the main organisers of the evening, for all their efforts, both before and during the evening, making it such a splendid occasion.

Profits went to Roxton and Tempsford Parish Churches' funds.

*Jean-Miriam Amos*

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## EASTER FLOWERS

Easter time is approaching and if anyone would like to bring any spring flowers into the Church on Easter Saturday afternoon either in memory of someone dear or for just an Easter gift, the Church will be open from 2pm until 4pm to receive them. Also, if anyone would prefer to give money for flowers to be purchased please give Eileen a call 01767 640858.

## LENT STUDY COURSES

A Benefice Lent Study Group will be held on the five Tuesday evenings in March. As with the Advent Course, it will move homes each week. A small donation (£2) towards the cost of the study book you will receive would be appreciated.

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 2 The Barns, Blunham

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 17 School Lane, Roxton

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 32A Silver Street, Great Barford

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 2 The Barns, Blunham

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 32A Silver Street, Great Barford

Each course starts at 7.30 pm

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

St Peters Church Tempsford Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm

This is an annual event involving Christian women throughout the world. The service for 2009 has been written by Christian women in Papua New Guinea and is entitled

*"In Christ there are many members but one body"*

The speaker will be Mrs Sheila Berry who is a reader at St Marys Church Goldington.

Everyone is most welcome to join in the service.

Anyone needing transport should contact Kath Tipping on 01767 640277

## FROM REV MARGARET MARSHALL,

### OUR NEW PRIEST IN CHARGE

Dear Everyone,

As I write to you for the first time, just a few days before my licensing service, I am conscious that Lent is almost here - it hardly seems possible!

In the church's year it is a season for penitence and self-denial, an interval for introspection as we move away from the joy of Christmas toward the ominous shadow of a cross, the chill of a rock-hewn tomb. This is the time when we attempt to join Jesus in a spiritual desert, to rethink the way in which we interact with God and his world, and re-assess our response to our calling. It's increasingly hard to prise apart schedules crammed with busyness to find some space for reflection, but it is a valuable discipline: whether we join others at a Lent Study Group or simply make a short time each day to stop or to stand apart - to listen to the voice of the Spirit within.

My present busyness is not quite what I expected; most of you will know that I have not yet moved to Great Barford. A burst pipe in the vicarage has meant that it may be some considerable time until I can be truly part of the community, because of the scale of the remedial works required. So instead of being busy with settling in, I remain in my home in Eynesbury coping with the practical difficulties: although it is not far, several trips back and forth each day would place considerable strain on what can be achieved!

I am enormously grateful for the generosity of the Gt Barford Parish Council and Gt Barford Lower School, in Silver St, who have enabled me to share a temporary office [at the school] with the Parish Clerk. I will try to be there around lunchtime between Tuesday and Friday whenever appointments allow -

## INCREASE IN LOCAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

There has been a lot of criminal activity in and around Tempsford and Blunham in the last few weeks. In fact crime in the Ivel villages' neighbourhood has seen a significant increase with a third of the crimes recorded for the month of January being burglary from other buildings (non-dwellings). This has resulted in patrol sections being tasked with extra patrols around the area in an attempt to prevent or detect the crimes. PC Paterson has also been working in the areas most affected to offer reassurance and crime prevention advice to local people.

Most burglars are opportunist and will look for weaknesses at properties so make yours as secure as possible. Many burglaries can be prevented.

Try to do the following:

- \* Keep doors and windows locked at all times.
- \* Remove all keys from the locks and keep them in a safe place and out of view.
- \* Avoid leaving property like handbags, keys, or laptops in hallways, or where they can be seen from outside the house.
- \* Keep garden furniture, ladders, and wheelie bins in a secure garage or shed, or locked up away from the house, where they might be used to climb onto a roof or access a first floor window.
- \* Be a good neighbour: be aware of sounds like breaking glass, and report any suspicious activity, or vehicles, in the area.

Thank you for your support.

For more information on reducing burglary related crime visit [http://www.safer-beds.org/rmwebportal/rm\\_desktop/files/Crime%20Reduction%20-%20Burglaries.html](http://www.safer-beds.org/rmwebportal/rm_desktop/files/Crime%20Reduction%20-%20Burglaries.html) }

Or call crime stoppers in confidence on (0800) 555111.

### **POLICE SURGERY DATES**

The mobile police surgery will be at the far end of Station Road on **Monday 2nd March** and **Monday 6th April** between 1.15pm and 2.15pm on both days (emergencies permitting!)

PC Ross Paterson will be in attendance and will be available to security mark property if you require.

We're looking for contestants from Beds, Herts and Bucks to take part in Treasure Quest, every Sunday 9am-12pm!

If you'd like to take part, call 01582 637400 during office hours.

Treasure Quest with Andy Gelder every Sunday morning from 9-12 on BBC Three Counties Radio.

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churchwardens can help if you need directions. Anyone who wants to do so will be welcome to come and say hello or see me face to face for particular business. It will not be like having a fully-functional office, but we will do our best to make the administration work. Please be patient during this transitional period.

Already as I drive around the benefice, I notice signs of new life everywhere - the snowdrops and aconites made brave appearances in the vicarage forecourt even through the snow! And in that lies the most positive metaphor of the Lenten season for me: if we clear away the tangles of spiritual weeds, banish the grubby and treacherous slush, new growth becomes more feasible.

In the benefice particularly - despite the delays with the house and office - we may be entering a time of new possibilities. It seems slightly incongruous, when we are mourning the loss of Clarissa Robinson from our midst. I am personally sad, as when we met on interview day we thought we were going to get along famously. I know she has contributed more talents and time over the years to our churches and community life than I can estimate, and she will be greatly missed.

Yet as Springtime glimmers on the horizon, we should still try afresh to clear some space for the tender shoots of hope.

Yours in Christ,

*Margaret Marshall.*



## THE RIVERSMEET BENEFICE HAS ITS NEW PRIEST -IN-CHARGE!

The Licensing of Rev. Margaret Marshall as Priest-in-Charge of Blunham, Gt Barford, Roxton and Tempsford with Little Barford took place at All Saints Church, Gt Barford on the evening of Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February.

To the relief of everyone, the weather was clement and so there were nearly 300 people in church to witness the occasion, including two buses full of parishioners from St Neots, who had come to wish her a fond farewell!

The service, led by the Bishop of Bedford, supported by the Archdeacon, many local and visiting clergy and, of course, many members of the four parishes, was a joyous one with wonderful singing led by a joint choir. After the licensing, "Rev. Margaret" was welcomed by representatives of village organisations before she said her first words as our new priest.

At Alban School a feast had been jointly prepared and was much enjoyed by congregations old and new!

All agreed the service was an uplifting one and the whole evening a fitting welcome to Margaret and we all wish that her stay is a long and happy one.



*Margaret greets new parishioners as they leave the Licensing Service.  
Photo Jeff Cloughton*

## STUART MEMORIAL HALL

The hall is still very busy and bookings are continuing to look very good for 2009. Our website is very popular and it is possible for people to download the booking form which helps with the paperwork. This is also increasing the number of bookings we receive. Our continual thanks go to Jim Donnelly who is in charge of our site and works really hard to keep the information up to date.

We have just recently had all the curtains cleaned in-situ and at a cost of £550; we do hope that you will notice the difference!

We have also applied for, and received, a grant from Councillor John Scott on behalf of the Community Leaders Fund to purchase a portable ramp for the disabled to be used at the north door of the hall. This will prove extremely helpful as it will be much lighter and more manageable than the rather heavy one we have at present.

The theatre club are installing a new lighting system for their shows and whilst they are working at the hall they are going to install two silver balls suspended from the ceiling which will rotate electronically should anyone hold a dance or party at the hall...How cool is that??

We are arranging more attractions (especially with the children in mind) at the horticultural show this year which will be held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September - don't forget to put your seeds in ready for the event -and of course Nick Grounds will be here again on 4<sup>th</sup> December with an evening of flowers, fun and laughter...please book those dates!

Don't forget that the hall belongs to Tempsford and booking is easy especially through the website  
[www.tempsford-stuart-memorial-village-hall.co.uk](http://www.tempsford-stuart-memorial-village-hall.co.uk).

## **SNOW SHOWS TEMPSFORD AT ITS BEST**

As with many other areas of the country Tempsford looked beautiful clothed in white for the first week in February.



It brought out the best in creative talents in the building of igloos and some very ingenious snowpersons, even a cow in one farmyard!



It also brought out the best in village camaraderie in that many people were quick to help others for whom the snow caused problems.



Even one tractor was stuck in the snow, and needed another tractor to pull it out!

*Photos by  
Adrian Besant*



**ROXTON**  
GARDEN CENTRE

The logo for Roxton Garden Centre features the name 'ROXTON' in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with 'GARDEN CENTRE' in a smaller, similar font below it. The text is enclosed in a decorative rectangular frame with rounded corners. Behind the text is a stylized sunburst or flower-like graphic.

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## **TEMPSFORD METHODIST CHURCH**

### **March and April Services**

1st March	6.00 pm	Section United Service at Eaton Ford
8th March	3.00 pm	Preacher: Mr. John Green
15th March	6.00 pm	Circuit United Service at Warboys
		Preacher Rev Graham Thompson, Chair of East Anglia District
22nd March		No Service
29th March	6.00 pm	Preacher: Mr. David Bushby
5th April	6.00 pm	Section United Service at Tempsford Chapel Anniversary led by Rev. David Shaw
12th April	6.00pm	Easter Day: Rev Chris Giles: (includes Holy Communion)
19th April	6.00pm	Rev Pam Siddall
26th April	6.00pm	Mr Richard Crane

### **CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY** **Midweek Celebration**

Wednesday, 1 April at 7.30 pm: visit from  
Potton Salvation Army Band and Songsters  
(with refreshments afterwards)

### **Anniversary Service**

Sunday, 5 April 2009 at 6.00 pm led by  
Rev. David Shaw

### **CHAT CLUB**

Chat Club will meet again in the Chapel Schoolroom on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009 from 2.30pm to 4.00pm. If you would like to come along and join us you will be made most welcome.

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

10

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11