

# TEMPSFORD TIMES

Issue 19  
Jan/Feb 2010

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

The village magazine of Tempsford, Bedfordshire

## Station Road has suffered three break -ins in the last two months



## WHAT PRICE A NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME IN TEMPSFORD?

The Parish Council would like to know if you are  
willing to be part of a scheme.

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 **February 20th** to the Editor at 92 Station Road, Tempsford or by e-mail to [alant@atuffnell.plus.com](mailto:alant@atuffnell.plus.com), and advertising enquiries to Jeff Cloughton on 01767 640624.

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

**ST PETER'S PARISH CHURCH,  
Church Street, Tempsford  
Priest-in-charge : Rev Margaret Marshall  
Phone 01234 870363**

Dear Friends,

**And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
"Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown!"**

**And he replied:**

**"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."**

This quote comes from a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins, who became a member of staff at London School of Economics in 1919. She penned *The Gate of the Year* in 1908, but it caught the public interest when it was read to the nation by King George VI soon after the outbreak of the Second World War. Astonished to hear her poem being read by the King in his Christmas broadcast of 1939, she donated royalties earned from subsequent interest in the poem to charity. It was read again at the Queen Mother's funeral in 2002, as she was believed to have brought the poem to the king's attention.

As we enter another year, bemused at where the last has gone, I have been thinking about how widely people's attitudes to the secular holiday of New Year differ. Perhaps it depends largely on whether they are disposed to optimism? The turning of the year is a sign of change. Some of us will be looking for change – a new start perhaps. Others will be fearful and still others sceptical that it can bring anything different. As the way in which we mark the passage of time is just a human invention, why should another digit prove significant at all?

This time last year I was busy selecting hymns for my licensing service in February and getting ready to leave St Neots. Naturally the general excitement was tempered with apprehension: almost all of us fear change and I already knew that I had an especially challenging year ahead. The one hymn which almost chose *itself* for the occasion was:

'All my hope on God is founded'. I have often been grateful for its reassuring words. Not only was it included in the order of service when I was ordained in Ely cathedral, but it was also sung at my beloved husband's memorial service.

The focus of the hymn is the perpetual changelessness and faithfulness of God, which contrasts so markedly with the transient world we inhabit. It is a reminder too that we are called to participate in *his* mission. God's vision extends far beyond the scope of individuals, even individual churches and communities. His timescale is far longer than our short human life-spans, yet each of us with our particular gifts is welcomed to contribute and led to the place where we can most productively do so. All we have to do is step out into the darkness - the unknown - putting our hand into the hand of God: 'Christ doth call, one and all, ye who follow shall not fall.'  
A very happy 2010 to you all.

With love in Christ, Margaret

**JANUARY AND FEBRUARY SERVICES**  
**AT ST PETER'S CHURCH**

Sunday January 3rd	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday January 10th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday February 7th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday February 14th	9.30am	Holy Communion

**Gift Envelopes**

Tempsford PCC warmly thanks all those who donated to St Peter's via the envelopes distributed around harvest time. Many were anonymous and there were those that were gift-aided. The initial total was a grand £1403, which will be further raised when we get the tax refund on the gift-aided donations later in the year.

Thank you everyone.

**OUR APOLOGIES TO READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS FOR  
THE DELAY IN PUBLICATION OF THE LAST ISSUE.**

**This was due to problems with the printing machines ,  
(and with availability of the operators!)**

## **TEMPSFORD METHODIST CHURCH,**

**Station Road Tempsford**

(part of the St Neots and Huntingdon Methodist Circuit)

**Minister: Rev Christine I Giles : 01480 473444**

**Church Steward: Stephen Gosling,**

**Biggin Farm, Station Rd, Tempsford 01767 640289**

### **JANUARY AND FEBRUARY SERVICES**

Everybody is assured of a warm welcome at all our services

3 <sup>rd</sup> January	3.00pm	Section United Service Berkley Street
10 <sup>th</sup> January	3.00pm	Preacher: Rev. Christine Giles
17 <sup>th</sup> January		No Service
24 <sup>th</sup> January	6.00pm	Preacher: Mr. Colin Webber
31 <sup>st</sup> January		No Service
7 <sup>th</sup> February	6.00pm	Section United Service Great Barford
14 <sup>th</sup> February	6.00pm	Preacher: Mr. Richard Crane
21 <sup>st</sup> February	3.00pm	Preacher: Rev. Christine Giles (includes Holy Communion)
28 <sup>th</sup> February	6.00pm	Circuit United Service at Over

### **CHRISTMAS FAYRE THANKS**

The annual Christmas Fayre held at the Methodist Chapel on Saturday, 5 December raised the magnificent sum of £1,004.00. Our grateful thanks go to everyone who came along to support the Chapel on the day and to those behind the scenes who worked so hard to make it possible.

During 2009 the kitchen/schoolroom roof has been re-slatted and we are now hoping to go ahead with the improvement of the kitchen/toilet facilities. The Christmas Fayre is an important part of our being able to keep the Chapel open and make these improvements. Thank you once again for your support.

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL**

Our Minister, Rev. Chris Giles writes: "Dear Friends, I am writing to thank you all most sincerely for the simply wonderful response from the village to the Shoebox Appeal 2009, Operation Christmas Child. Each year we wonder how many boxes will come in, and each year we continue to be amazed by the generosity of so many people in the village. At the dedication service in the chapel, we heard from Bill who went out to Kyrgyzstan earlier in the year to help distribute shoe boxes. He told us about the needy children he met and the joy and hope that the boxes brought, not only to the children but also to the parents. Thanks to the generous hearts of the people of Tempsford, there will be lots of smiles on children's faces this Christmas. A total of **108 boxes** have been donated by the village, what a magnificent achievement! This year our boxes are going out to Serbia and Kyrgyzstan. Children who otherwise would have received nothing this Christmas, will have their lives touched by your care. They will know they are not forgotten. Children who have never had a toy to play with, will be given hope through your boxes. For them and their families, the boxes are nothing short of a miracle, a blessing from God. May God bless you for your kindness, and give to you and those you love, the peace of the Christ child this Christmas."

A heartfelt thank you from everyone at the Methodist Church for your support once again in 2009.

## **CHAT CLUB**

On 25 November 2009 members met in the Chapel Schoolroom at 2.00 p.m. for their 'in-house' Christmas Party. The afternoon got underway with a wonderful concert provided by the Sandye Singers which everyone enjoyed immensely. Everyone then made their way into the Schoolroom for a Christmas tea party. A special thank-you must go to all those who helped make the afternoon such a resounding success.

On Wednesday, 9 December members met for their annual Christmas Lunch at The Wheatsheaf. A special thank you must go to Mr. Jim Sawford for his generosity and kindness in providing drinks for the Club and also three Christmas Cakes which were won at the end of the day. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their meal and had a really good time amongst friends.

Next get-together will be Wednesday, 27 January 2010 from 2.30 until 4.00 p.m. and again at the same time on Wednesday, 24 February 2010. If you would like to come along and join us you will be made most welcome.

## **PARISH COUNCIL NOTES**

The Parish Council last met on Tuesday 15th November.

### **Reports received**

The Chairman and our new Clerk attended the Town & Parish Conference held on 4<sup>th</sup> November at Central Beds Offices and reported that it was very informative. The Ward Profile and Key Facts and Figures were circulated to Councillors. The council also received reports from the Ward Councillor, Cllr Tricia Turner, on the deliberations of Central Beds Council.

The council received a report on the Housing Needs Survey which was conducted earlier in the Autumn. It stated that 48 replies from parishioners and 2 from Kiers employees had been received which equated to 18% of the distributed forms. The Clerk is to seek further information on the analysis of these forms.

### **Police Reports**

PC Ross Paterson produced crime sheets for the meeting but reported that he was unable to provide crime figures in the old format. He stated that there had been two house burglaries in October/November, one car had been stolen from outside The Anchor public house and a car had been broken into and a handbag stolen, again from outside The Anchor. He encouraged parishioners to join the Ringmaster system which reports on local community policing matters and provides advice on safety matters.

It was agreed that the Ringmaster form, which can be completed by parishioners and gives a breakdown of crime in a specific area will be put onto the village website.

### **Highways**

The willow trees in the link road have now be cut back by the Highways Department, but the Council is asking for them to be dug out so that they do not re-grow each year.

Parish Partnership Fund: The Council has contacted the Highways Department about the spending of this grant, and it was reported that this year it will be spent on resurfacing the service road in Church Street, and this is due to take place in January 2010. Further details on dates and how it will affect parishioners will be circulated by letter to

householders nearer the time.

The Clerk has received a letter from La Farge who are looking to hold an informal quarry liaison meeting in order to provide an update on the development proposals and timescales on workings at the Black Cat site and it was agreed that Councillor Ian Gosling would attend.

### **Finance**

On reviewing the Council's income and expenditure accounts for the last 12 months, it was agreed not to increase the local precept for the forthcoming year remaining at £12,000.

It was agreed that a further grant of £500 be paid to the running of the "Ivel Sprinter".

The Clerk reported that the final amount of the grant of £2,988 towards the new equipment in the children's play areas had now been received.

### **BT Telephone Box**

BT has informed the Council that it proposes to remove the telephony equipment from the red phone box in Church Street. (It was used only 27 times in the last year.) BT has therefore offered the village to adopt the box for a nominal price of £1 which the Council has agreed to. The Council now seeks parishioners' ideas about how the box can be maintained and how it might be put to good community use.

### **Other Matters**

The Clerk will request information from Shuttleworth regarding the continuation of the work of tidying the trees and shrubs in the churchyard.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be on Tuesday Jan 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Stuart Memorial Hall.

*Full copies of the minutes are available from the clerk or on the village website.*

### **PARISH CLERK**

Apologies to Amanda Baldwin, our new parish clerk in that her phone number was incorrect in our last issue. **It is 01462 813094.** She can be contacted by email on [clerk@tempsford.org](mailto:clerk@tempsford.org).

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## OUR WEATHER IN 2009

2009 was quite a varied year weatherwise. The first few months were cold especially February when snow fell on 6 days; to a depth of 3-4 inches on Feb 2nd and Feb 5th. It was the snowiest winter of the past decade and the school children of the village all enjoyed days off school to build snowmen and play on their sledges.

Spring was fairly average for temperatures but rather dry, in fact the dry theme continued right up to July when we had the

heaviest month's rainfall of the year, 3¾ inches. The weather became quite tropical, warm but with tremendous thunderstorms. On July 17th Tempsford and the surrounding areas had a violent storm with 1½ inches of rain and hail that destroyed a large proportion of the rape crop in the area. The hottest day of the year was July 1st when the mercury reached 31°C. The coldest night was January 7th when it dropped to -8.5°C

The rain continued to fall into August but with less intensity, but when September arrived we began probably the most settled and pleasant spell of the year. All of the Autumn months were mild; September and October were very dry too. On Nov 9th I recorded the first frost of the season, the latest date for an Autumn frost I have recorded since my records began in 1984.

After the mild Autumn, December's wintry weather has come as a bit of a shock especially the snowy spell just before Christmas, - lying snow in December is quite rare. Does this mean that Winter 2009/2010 will be a hard one? We have to wait and see.

*Meryl Besant*



## **THE STUART MEMORIAL HALL NEWS**

**Nick Grounds** Our last event for the year was an evening of flowers and laughter with Nick Grounds, an old friend of Tempsford making his fourth visit to the hall. A full house was kept enthralled by his story telling and superb arrangements he created so casually. In the interval mince pies and a glass of wine were served by the male trustees and at the end of the evening the flower arrangements were raffled off to the delight of the winners. This very enjoyable evening raised a total of £254 towards the upkeep of the hall.

**2009 was another successful year** for the hall with income for the year at another record level. Bookings are high and increasing from village residents. We have also had a number of bookings from national organizations such as The Royal Philatelic Society, the National Fancy Rats Society and the English Civil War Society to name but a few. Expenditure has continued on the maintenance and improvements of the hall and it's facilities including for example the refurbishment of the main hall floor and the installation of a new electrical system.

We have a new regular booking on Monday evenings from The Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire Lindyhop experience. Lindyhop is perhaps better known as the jitterbug and is danced to big band swing music from the 1930's and 1940's. Classes in the evening will include classes for both beginners and improvers. Details can be found from the advert in this edition.

Regular users of the hall are Tempsford WI on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, The Kingfisher Players on Tuesday evenings, a children's stay and play session on Wednesday afternoons, Yoga on Wednesday evenings, dog training on Thursday afternoons and line dancing on Thursday evenings.

**A new event for 2010** is a celebration on St George's Day which will be held of course 'on the day'. If you would like to be involved in this event please contact Meryl on 01767 640873 who would be

delighted to hear from you.  
Thanks to everyone for supporting the hall during 2009 and we look forward to your continuing custom in 2010. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.

**You can book the hall**

Don't forget you can book the hall by calling Alan on 640207. All information on the hall can be found on our website [www.tempsford-stuart-memorial-village-hall.co.uk](http://www.tempsford-stuart-memorial-village-hall.co.uk).

The picture shows one of Nick Grounds' wonderful creations.

*Photo by Ian Gosling*



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### **PEOPLE NEWS**

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Jock Lammie who died recently. Our continued best wishes go to Marion and Sam Knott, Ron and Phyl Moore, Kath Mardlin, Phil Plumb, Paul Bambridge, Cynthia Jeffries and Betty Ingram.

There are several members of our village who are undergoing courses of specialised treatment for one reason or another at the moment. Without wishing to highlight problems or names, we wish you a good outcome to all this help. May you quickly return to full health.

As we go to press, we hear the sad news of the passing of Bessie Darrington. She was 93 and was the eldest resident of Tempsford who was actually born in the village. Her funeral is on Jan 6th at 11.30am at the Methodist Church.

*(Full obituary next issue)*

## **WILDLIFE NOTES**

Tempsford may not be the centre of the tourist map, but it is a really special place for wildlife. We are very fortunate here to have such a range of habitats around us, including woodland, parkland, lakes and rivers. Not far away are the wide open spaces of the airfield, with its skylarks, and the 'uplands' of the greensand ridge, with its buzzards.

The presence of mixed farming – arable fields and pastures – is a bonus for wildlife too. The fields, hedges and margins provide lots of food and shelter for more kinds of birds than I could list in one short column. Among the species you should look out for are our local swallows, corn buntings, little owls and nightingales. The last one you will be lucky to see, but it can be heard singing long into the night at the end of Station Road, and by the level crossings, throughout May and perhaps a little later. I am sure they have increased in number locally in recent years.

For more info on how to encourage birds to visit and nest in your garden, you can visit [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk) .

*Conor Jameson*

### **MOBILE LIBRARY DATES**

Mondays at 1.20pm opposite the  
Notice board in Station Rd

**Jan 11th**

**Jan 25th**

**Feb 8th**

**Feb 22nd**

### **THE EDITORS OF TEMPSFORD TIMES WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY 2010,**

and invite contributions from parishioners on any subject that could be of interest to the village. In particular we would be pleased to receive items for a children's page or a puzzle page.

(Please see front page for contact details.)

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