

TEMPSFORD TIMES

Issue 26
March/April 2011

The village magazine of Tempsford, Bedfordshire www.tempsford.org



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you need for



SPRING
MOTHERING SUNDAY
EASTER

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, and advertising enquiries to Jeff Cloughton on 01767 640624.

www.tempsford.org

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

On the Feast of Candlemas we had a service at St Peter's Tempsford, for all the Benefice churches. The Gospel of the day tells of the two elderly souls who recognise the infant Jesus as God's chosen Messiah, despite his being just a babe in arms.

On that day we joined in with a new Diocesan initiative, called: 'Living God's Love.' Its three strap lines are: 'Going deeper into God', 'Transforming communities' and 'Making new disciples'. These are the priorities on which we shall concentrate in the coming months. Below is part of my sermon given on that day, as we turned away from the bright lights of Christmas towards the greater light of Easter, with its death and glorious rebirth. I include it here as we are once again facing something of a crisis at St Peter's: how can such a tiny group of people maintain a crumbling mediaeval building? It is a constant anxiety. Please read what follows and think whether you may be able to help us.

(Luke 2: 22-4) 'For me the power of the encounter, apart from its mysteriousness, lies in the very essence of the two precocious witnesses. (Eighty-four year-old) Anna has been constantly in the temple, fasting and praying; Simeon is brought there at the right moment by the Holy Spirit's prompting. Each of them is righteous, that is, they know their need of God, they have committed themselves to worship and fully trust in him. They have no assurance that the utterly unique event they are awaiting will be along any minute, apart from the assurance of faith. But the two of them are quite plainly living lives which match their beliefs. They never forget the Lord: he is right at the centre of their existence. They are truly 'living God's love', having gone deeper into his nature over time, they worship him unstintingly and this is how they happen to be present, eyewitnesses as the 'new thing' that God has promised finally arrives – the Lord whom they constantly seek has come, out of the blue, in person.

For Simeon and Anna there is no gap between what they are and what they ought to be. Both are fully attentive to the God they love. Even if, in their declining years, all they can 'do' is be *there*, however physically demanding and difficult it may be, worshipping and waiting on the Lord, for them, is as essential as breathing. In our very different culture and times, few of us can

say the same. There is always too much else going on, too many competing demands on our time... and after all, it's perfectly alright to be a Christian without going to church! It is just as well, because as we do so less and less regularly, the chances of our churches surviving as places of weekly worship – especially in the countryside – are dwindling rapidly.

Yet worshipping, gathering to pray and praise, to seek the Lord, is the very first requirement if we are to live God's love. We shall not go deeper into God if we don't go out of our way to do so. 'Being there' can often seem a sacrifice too far: our churches are cold, uncomfortable, unfriendly; the services are at the wrong time of day, are not accessible, don't come from the right book any more, never include our favourite hymns – more often than not, we don't even know them! – and the priests will never live up to Father so-and-so – they are not even the right gender! It's also the only day we can play rugby, see the family, have a lie-in.... We say our prayers, of course, we help our neighbours – all the important things – but if we love the Lord our God, with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind and with all our strength, why do we offer him so little of ourselves?

Going deeper into God has to begin with faithfulness - *being there*: seeking the Lord in his own house, constantly giving our attention and waiting with the flickering assurance of faith, for the blessing of his light, approaching through our world's darkness. Only when we have built ourselves up into vibrant communities that truly reflect his love, shall we make the slightest impact on our villages and hamlets, or draw others to travel with us.' So let's pledge ourselves anew to being there and wait for the Spirit of Jesus to come, to share our lives and then transform them.

With love to you all,

Revd Margaret

St Peter's and other Benefice services for
March and April including Easter are listed
on the back page.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The Parish Council last met on 18th January 2011.
Among the items discussed were:

War Memorial

Several trustees of the Stuart Memorial Hall attended the meeting to address the Parish Council on their desire to reduce the size of the gravelled area around the war memorial. They put their case clearly and explained the need for more room for cars to pass when parking to reduce the incidents of cars hitting the bollards. There is also a need to make the area tidier and make it more attractive and special by the addition of a simple chain linking the bollards at the corners of the area.

The council discussed the matter later in the evening and agreed that the proposal was a good one in that it would improve the area in a sensitive way, making it a fitting memorial to members of our village who gave their lives in the two world wars. The council agreed to write to the trustees informing them of the council's opinions asking that the trustees provide scaled drawings and alternative options for the reduction of size before the Parish Council comments further. The Parish Council is happy to donate some funds to this project.

Finance

It was resolved that replacing the Parish Notice Boards in Church End and Station Road were priority purchases and councillors agreed review the catalogues supplied by the Clerk with a decision of the style to be made at the March meeting.

Others items identified for possible spending throughout the forthcoming year are:

- Salt Bins (Already committed to this purchase)
- Painting and a use for the Telephone Box
- Roundabout in Church End play area
- Painting of the Millennium Garden gates and new Information Boards
- Spring Plants/bulbs throughout the Village

It was reported that the fence around the Station Road play area is not looking good and will need replacing. Also the gate post is loose again and it

was resolved that a working party be set up to investigate costs and discuss the best way to deal with the repairs needed.

One salt bin has been received and unfortunately been positioned in the wrong area. Three bins were required, two for Church End at the top and bottom of the "Ski Slope" and one at the entrance to Station Road. The Clerk is to contact Central Beds to enquire as to the whereabouts of the missing two bins and to arrange for the correct positioning.

Other matters

It was reported that the dog in Mill Lane, who has previously bitten several people, has been put to sleep upon an order by the Court.

Cllr Turner thanked the Chairman for his presentation at the recent Town & Parish Council Conference held at Central Beds offices on the voluntary work carried out by the Councillors of Tempsford.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 15th March 2011 at 7.30pm in the Stuart Memorial Hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Tuesday 19th April at 7.30pm in the Stuart Memorial Hall.

All welcome

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday April 19th
Stuart Memorial Hall 7.30pm
All Welcome

Your opportunity to hear how the parish is being run (and to be involved if you wish). We are hoping to hear from village organisations letting us know how they have been progressing during the last 12 months.

We shall also be hearing more about the Localism Bill, how we might be affected by or have an affect on "The Big Society", and the local elections on May 5th.

Bingo!

Saturday 12th March 2011

Start 7.30pm

Stuart Memorial Hall, Tempsford

**Tickets only £3 inc a Ploughman's
(bring your own drink). Contact:**

Eileen 01767-640-858

Linda 01767-640-968



www.tempsford-stuart-memorial-village-hall.co.uk

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DON'T MESS WITH US!

Gabe, Sam and Jake Evans have just been awarded their 1st Dan black belt in karate. They have been training for five years at the Temple Martial Arts in St Neots and graded by master Andy Drumgold (5th Dan) Let's hope this WadoRyu karate trio will keep our village safe!



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A black and white photograph of a busy nightclub scene. People are dancing and socializing. There are bright stage lights and a dark, smoky atmosphere. The image is used as a background for the text in the advertisement.

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2012

It is hard to believe that nine years have passed since we celebrated Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Yet next year she will be celebrating her sixtieth year on the throne.

To celebrate this momentous occasion in Tempsford, a committee has been formed to start fundraising for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. This is just a preliminary notice, to let you know that it is all systems go.

Fundraising this time round will be made all the more difficult with all the financial turmoil going on at the moment. Hence the early start. Over the next year, we will be organising various fundraising events in and around the village, and you will receive notices of these, either on the village website www.tempsford.org, in future editions of the Tempsford Times, or by leaflets dropped through your door. The first will be on **Saturday 16th April 2011**, when we will be holding a coffee morning at the Methodist Chapel in Station Road. More details will be on www.tempsford.org, or posted through your door nearer the time.

We hope that you will be generous and support us in our fundraising activities. To give you an idea of the sort of money we need to raise, the Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2002, cost £2700 to put on. Those of you who were there to celebrate will remember what a fantastic time was had by the whole village over a four day period, and many of the children will still have their commemorative coin as a keepsake of the special occasion. Next year's celebrations, we hope, will be just as good, if not better than those at the Golden Jubilee.

So please give this your support and let's all be part of it

For more details, or if you would like to make a donation to the funds, or you have any ideas or can offer any help, please contact any of the following:

Steve Cooney on 640968

Shirley Sharman on 640990

Eileen Gosling on 640858

Betty Russell on 640887

REMEMBRANCE DAY COLLECTION

Betty Mardlin would like to let you know that £100 was sent to the Royal British Legion following a collection made at the village Remembrance Day Service

Apologies, this was omitted from our last issue.

EASTER FLOWERS

We will be decorating St Peter's Church for our Easter celebrations and wondered if, as in previous years, the people of Tempsford would like to donate some money in order for us to buy some spring flowers for this very special occasion in the Church calendar.



Any amounts would be welcome and very much appreciated. Please contact either
Gloria on 01767 640050,
Margaret on 01480 215684
or Eileen on 01767 640858

Thank you

MARION KNOTT

Sadly Marion Knott passed away on 10th January 2011 aged 79. She and Sam had been married for 59 years. They moved from Potton to Tingey's Farm 51 years ago where she raised her family of four sons.

Much loved and sadly missed by all her family.

STUART MEMORIAL HALL

Our magic show before Christmas was the most amazing evening and if you ever see the name Ian Keeble advertised do go to the show. Unfortunately we didn't have a very large audience but those who stayed away really did miss a treat! We had another attempt to steal our oil but they were disturbed by the police before they could get away. We have spent a lot of money on security at the hall recently and fortunately it now seems to be paying off.

We have quite a few fund raising events coming up during 2011 starting with a fun **bingo night** on 12th March. Tickets are £3 which will include a ploughman's supper, - bring your own drink! Ring Eileen 640858 or Linda 640968 or any committee member for tickets. Do come, it should be fun and you could win some money!

On Sunday 12th June we are having an afternoon tea with "Decibels", a 10 piece brass band - weather permitting it will be in the grounds of the hall. Further details to follow but book the date!

Saturday Sept 3rd is our Annual Horticultural Show and so get those seeds in!

Our harvest supper and musical entertainment will this year be on 8th October and we hope to have a Christmas Quiz in early December—details will follow.

The hall continues to thrive and keeps very busy. For booking call our bookings clerk Phil on 01767 641170 or on her mobile 07784 438343, or visit our website

www.tempsford-stuart-memorial-village-hall.co.uk

TEMPSFORD METHODIST CHURCH,

Station Road Tempsford

(part of the St Neots and Huntingdon Methodist Circuit)

Minister: Rev Patricia Williams : 01480 473444

Church Steward: Stephen Gosling,

Biggin Farm, Station Rd, Tempsford 01767 640289

March and April Services

Everybody is assured of a warm welcome at all our services

6 th March	6.00pm	Section United Service Eaton Ford
13 th March		NO SERVICE
20 th March	3.00pm	Preacher: Rev. Tricia Williams
27 th March	6.00pm	Preacher: Rev. David Shaw
3 rd April	6.00pm	Section United Service at Gt Barford
10 th April	6.00pm	Preacher: Mr Colin Webber
17 th April	6.00pm	Preacher: Rev Tricia Williams (Chapel Anniversary)
24 th April	6.00pm	Preacher: Rev Pam Siddall

Do come along and join with us as we celebrate the 206 years since the Chapel was built. Chapel Anniversary Celebrations begin with a visit from the Potton Salvation Army Band and Songsters on Wednesday, 13 April with refreshments to follow. The Chapel Anniversary Service will take place on Sunday, 17 April and will be led by Rev. Tricia Williams. Full details of both events are detailed below. We look forward to welcoming you.

CHAT CLUB

The next meetings will be in the Chapel Schoolroom on

**Wednesday, 30th March and
Wednesday, 27th April
from 2.30 to 4.00 p.m.**

If you would like to come along and join us
you will be made most welcome.

TEMPSFORD METHODIST CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Wednesday, 13 April at 7.30 pm

visit from

Potton Salvation Army Band and Songsters
(with refreshments afterwards)

Anniversary Service

Sunday, 17 April 2011 at 6.00 p.m.

led by

Rev. Tricia Williams

MESSY CHURCH

On 22 December 13 children together with mums/grandparents filled the Chapel Schoolroom and enjoyed a fun-filled morning with plenty of glue, glitter, baubles, chocolate icing and lots more.

Table decorations were made, red baubles turned into Father Christmas tree hangings, mini rolls were covered with chocolate icing and turned into yule logs. A Christmas wreath was decorated with the cut out hand prints of the children - duly covered by them with more glue and glitter, sticky stars etc. and tissue paper. There were cards to make, pictures to colour – it was a real joy to see the children enjoy themselves so much. We sang carols, had a Christmas sweet quiz and there was even a visit from Father Christmas. Fruit juice and chocolate biscuits for the children together with warm mince pies and a cuppa for those who accompanied them. Everyone had a lovely time and left loaded down with their goodies.

A HUGE thank you to all those who helped make this event such a success on the day.

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PEOPLE NEWS

Our continued good wishes to all our village friends who are in hospital or who are housebound: Phil Plumb, Dorothy Bettles, Sam Knott, Paul Bambridge, Tracey Kenoy, Jodie Knott (who is making good progress), Cynthia Jefferies, Ron Moore, Kath Mardlin, Betty Ingram, Alec Gore, Ron Bettles, Jane & George McCarthy, Andrew Myers and Adrian Jarvis.

Our condolences go to members of the village who have recently lost close family members. (see item elsewhere)

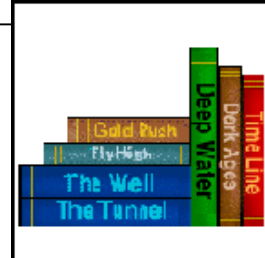
Congratulations to Dan and Paulina Clark on the safe arrival of Lois on 19th Dec at 7lb 14oz; a sister for Leah.

Congratulations to Sam Knott who was 90 yrs old on Jan 28th (see item elsewhere in this issue)

MOBILE LIBRARY DATES

**Mondays 7th March; 21st March;
4th April; 18th April**

**1.20pm—1.40pm
opposite the noticeboard in Station**



MOBILE POLICE STATION AND “SURGERY”

In Station Road and Church End
on **Friday 11th March**
between 16.45 to 17.45

problems : grievances : general advice



Vandalism of cars in Church Street

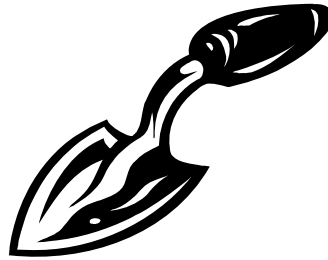
It has been reported to the Tempsford Times that unfortunately a number of vehicles were damaged intentionally by youths from Tempsford and Sandy resulting in hundreds of pounds worth of damage. The previous night a gang had been seen loitering and eggs were thrown at villagers' homes.

The police were extremely quick to respond and caught two of the youths. Hopefully the offenders will begin to understand the trauma and upset this causes residents. Let's work together to stop crime in our village.

Please be on the look out for anti-social behaviour and if you see anything suspicious report it to the police on 01234 84121.

BLUNHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Our Gardening club is now underway! Our first speaker, Eva Aldridge of Chalkcroft Nurseries, gave a very interesting and informative talk about Laxton's the nursery. Mr Laxton was a Bedfordshire man who pioneered many of the fruit and vegetable varieties that we know today. He achieved this by his intensive trials in plant breeding.



On **1st March** Peter Holden will be presenting 'Gardening for Wildlife', introducing simple measures to ensure wildlife survives in our gardens.

On **April 5th** Joanne from 'Edible Ornamentals' will talk about her passion which is chillies and our May meeting will be held at Chalkcroft Nurseries when you can bring you own hanging basket and get ideas on how to fill them.

However, most meetings will be held in Blunham Village Hall at 7.30pm. on the **first Tuesday** of each month. All will be welcome.

Brenda Leaf

Last issue's puzzle answers

1. Pot OOOOOOOO = potatoes (pot 8 o's)
2. bad bad = too bad
3. knee
light light = neon lights
4. chawho'srge = who's in charge
5. ONCE
4:56pm = once upon a time
6. injury + insult = add insult to injury
7. Welieight = lie in wait
8. Garplayden = play in the garden
9. XQQME = excuse me
10. must get here
must get here
must get here = three musketeers

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Farm, Station Road.



Use it or Lose it.

HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY, SAM!

Sam Knott was one of a family of nine children born in the small village of Urghaan, Drumshambo in southern Ireland. He tells of how poor and hard it was for the family at that time in Ireland and how he came to England as a young man to make a better living for himself. He found work and along the way met Marion. They married in 1952 and lived in Potton for a short time. It was 1959 when Sam and his family came to Tempsford and took up farming at Tingey's Farm in Station Road. Over the years he tried many things—in the 60s and 70s he was a well-known tomato grower in the market gardening industry, employing local people to pick and pack the tomatoes before delivery to the wholesalers. Sam always kept cattle, but he was also known for pig farming and more recently sheep. He owned a 16 ton Mercedes lorry which he used to transport cattle and pigs all over the country, buying and selling. In 1986 Sam and Marion moved across the road to 120 Station Road, but still took an active role on the farm. He now enjoys the comforts of his home, starting the day with a "full English", followed by lunch, late afternoon snack and then dinner (preferring a roast) and pudding, not forgetting a whisky and dry ginger to finish. Congratulations Sam on your birthday on January 28th. We wish you many more.

Elizabeth Knott



Dakins Restaurant

Dakins has a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere in which to meet friends or work colleagues, or to simply treat yourself. It is situated right in the heart of the centre looking out onto our superb plant area.

A restaurant for all seasons;

be inspired in the spring to take home a few of those plants you have just watched our staff display;

lazily sip your coffee on the terrace in summer and watch the life of the centre drift by;

savour the changing moods and colours of autumn;

in winter, sit warm and snug in the restaurant with a bowl of steaming homemade soup.

Whatever the weather, whatever your mood there is always a warm welcome awaiting you here.

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WHAT WE DO TODAY IS OUR HISTORY TOMORROW

Steve Cooney is an ardent collector of any historical items relating to Tempsford. Here he tells of how he would greatly appreciate your help.

Over the years I have been fortunate enough to copy many of Tempsford's older residents' photos and old family papers. Sadly many of these people have since died, however I believe these people live on having left their written memories, or photographs or other memorabilia. The late Margaret Gosling, Bessie Darrington, Kath Infield, Flo Houghton and many others left a vast amount of historical facts, photographs and documentation. Without these, I would never have been able to produce the book "Images of Tempsford" three years ago. A new book is a little way off, but I have made a start.

The fact is that nothing lasts forever, but we can preserve our heritage by keeping it all together and passing it on to the right people who will look after it for future generations.

If you come across something relating to our lovely village and you don't want it any longer, please don't throw it away. Pass it on to me and I will make sure it is kept and preserved for the future generations of Tempsford.

Many people have had great fun looking at the old photos I have. Remember that what we do today is our history tomorrow. Many of you see me taking photos at most of the functions in the village. If someone hadn't done it over the last 100 years or more, we wouldn't have the lovely old black and white and sepia photos to look at today. History is ongoing. It is hard to believe that in fifty years time the photos I am taking today, will have just the same fascination to future generations of Tempsfordians, as the old black and white ones do for us today.

I don't class the artifacts I have collected over the years as mine personally. Anyone who would like to view them is more than welcome to do so. It is my long term ambition to try to have a purpose-built archive in the village and maybe even start a historical group. If you would like to view the archive at any time, just give me a call to arrange a suitable time.

Steve Cooney 01767 640968

CHILDREN'S PAGE

One of every letter of the alphabet has been taken from this puzzle. Can you put them back into their correct positions?



FPZ AND TOOLS FOR AFRICA.

FPZ (Fighting Poverty in Zambia, www.fpz.org.uk) has just completed the final phase of its first project in Eastern Zambia. This has involved the installation of an array of solar panels and a suitable pump to lift water from the borehole up to the village of Mkolama. This arrangement has replaced the generator, and means that the village is now free from the heavy, ongoing cost of providing petrol. There has been great rejoicing in the village about this and plans are already in hand in the community for an extension of the scheme to the local clinic.

We are now looking at other community projects in Zambia, fund raising continues and I am also hoping to be able to send more tools later this year.

If anyone has tools they would like to donate for this please give me call on 01767 640624. Sewing machines, either hand or electric, are also needed. Age isn't important as long as they are serviceable or can be refurbished. Thank you very much.

Jeff Cloughton



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HITCH A LIFT, WHERE TO YOUNG MAN?

– MOROCCO!!

Mark Dakin son of the owners of Roxton Garden Centre, Roxton, North Bedfordshire is being sponsored to Hitch a lift to Morocco in March to raise funds for Link Community Development to help children in African Countries.

A key sponsor Garden Friends Farm Shop owners Val and Mark Howson said

“We are delighted to be sponsoring Mark on his journey to Morocco, it will be a tough trip getting from his University in Swansea all the way to Morocco in hopefully 9 days. As the highest sponsor so far, Mark has to carry an item from us, so he will be carrying with him our lucky mascot which is a toy goat which has travelled around the county to shows and events that we have attended, so hopefully it will give him any luck he needs on his journey.”

Mark, who is in his first year at Swansea University studying Classical Civilisation and Egyptology, hopes to raise in the region of £500- £600, said

“I think the hitch will be an exhilarating and unforgettable experience which will leave me with great memories, enable me to meet new friends, and has also made me realize how generous people really are. More importantly the money raised will be used to improve the education of children who really need it.”

To sponsor Mark visit

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/m.dakin>

for more info about the Link Community Development visit:

www.lcdinternational.org

for more details about the Garden Friends Farm Shop visit:

www.gardenfriendsvegetablebox.com

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MARCH AND APRIL SERVICES AT ST PETER'S

Friday March 4th Roxton
2.30pm Women's World Day of Prayer; All welcome!

Sunday March 6th
Tempsford 9.30am Holy Communion

Ash Wednesday March 9th
7.30pm Holy Communion Blunham

Sunday March 13th
Blunham: 11.15am Holy Communion
Gt Barford: 9.30am Holy Communion / 6pm Deanery Lent Evensong

Sunday March 20th
Tempsford 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday March 27th
Gt Barford: 9.30am Holy Communion
Blunham: 11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday April 3rd Mothering Sunday
Tempsford 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday April 10th
Gt Barford: 9.30am Holy Communion
Blunham: 11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday April 17th Palm Sunday
Tempsford 9.30am Holy Communion [Passion Gospel]
Roxton 10.45am Benefice Service for Palm Sunday

Compline will be held at 7.30pm
On Monday at Gt Barford,
On Tuesday at Roxton
And on Wednesday at Tempsford

Sunday April 24th Easter Sunday
Gt Barford: 9.30am Holy Communion
Blunham: 11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday May 1st Tempsford 9.30am Holy Communion

www.tempsford.org