

SOULBURY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 452 - APRIL 2015

(closing date for next edition - 18th April)

CHURCH NEWS - Philip's Message

Dear Friends - "Alleluia,! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, alleluia!" So goes the great Easter acclamation. A great message of hope and positivity in a world sadly lacking in both.

On the 4th Sunday in Lent, we heard Jesus telling His disciples that He must suffer at the hands of the authorities and poor old Peter's anguished response of rejection of this unpalatable fact. How can his great friend and mentor be killed by others who are nowhere near His level of care and love and honesty? How is Peter supposed to cope, to go on, without this inspiration? Despite roundly telling Peter he is way off target in his understanding, nevertheless Jesus goes on to entrust the future of His 'Church' into Peter's hands, clearly seeing greater strength and depth in him than he saw himself.

Peter, an ordinary fisherman was entrusted with great responsibility and his example has inspired many apparently unremarkable people ever since, to step out in faith and take on seemingly impossible responsibilities on behalf of others.

We live in a very cynical and materialist world but there are still billions of individuals who seek and find inspiration in a faith which is not about stand up/knock down arguments but about a relationship with no lesser being than the one who started the whole thing off and took the risk to enter 'our' world.

If Good Friday looks like a defeat (and in many ways it certainly does), there is no ambiguity about the victory of Easter Day . What we need to do is trust ,however falteringly, like Peter in the reliability of the master he strove to serve.

Have a great Easter and a good break if you're having one.

God Bless, Philip.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in the church on WEDNESDAY APRIL 29TH AT 6.30PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Over 108 people attended March's **Soulbury Breakfast** and made £420. Put the next one in your diary : **10th May**.

SOULBURY MILLENNIUM GREEN

WORK PARTY: We are starting our work party days again and the first one will take place on Saturday April 4th at 10.00 am till 12 noon. We will hold them on the first Saturday of the month, throughout the year, so do come along and help. There is always plenty to do and if there are a good few people they can be good fun.

EASTER EGG HUNT On SATURDAY APRIL 4TH FROM 2PM TILL 4PM, there will be an Easter egg hunt on the Millennium Green. For the little ones, five years and under, it will be in the toddlers' playground and for older children there will be a treasure trail with clues and an Easter egg for those who finish the trail! (with a little bit of help no doubt from parents)

Race night on SATURDAY MAY 9TH in the Parish Hall.

CRICKET CLUB NEWS - The 2015 season is about to start and Club members are working hard to make sure the ground and pavilion are ready, although many of the early matches are "away" fixtures. This season the Club is re-joining the Morrant Four Counties League, starting in division 6. Here are the fixtures for April and early May – weather permitting!

Saturday 18th April: 14:00 Friendly match, v Leighton Town 2nd XI at Bell Close

Saturday 2nd May: 13:30 League match, v Buckland & Aston Clinton at Aston Clinton

Sunday 3rd May: 14:00 Friendly match, v Cublington at Cublington

Anyone interested in helping the Club in any way should contact the Captain, Nick Mead on 07771 738546

W.I. NEWS After welcoming members and guests to the March meeting our President, Jean Housley, dealt with the business of the evening. She then reminded everyone of all the events being arranged to celebrate the centenary of the NFWI. It was then time to meet our speaker for the evening, Sheila Phillips, whose topic was "Canine Partners". This is an organisation which trains dogs to provide assistance to people with disabilities enabling them to become much more independent. The charity was founded about 25 years ago and is one of several under the umbrella of Assistance Dogs UK. Sheila then introduced us to not just one, but four of the dogs in training, along with their handlers. The dogs normally stay with their initial trainers for about a year. They then go on for more specialised training at a central training centre. The dogs then gave a demonstration of some of the tasks in which they can assist. These included turning on lights, helping with the laundry, and picking up various items such as credit cards and coins. Sheila and her assistants, both canine and human, were thanked by Andres Hamilton, after which refreshments were served.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday April 14th when the speaker will be Peter Stevens whose subject will be "Alice Hawkins-Suffragette"

NEWSLETTER FUNDS The newsletter is looking for sponsors. If you would like to help in this way, or get together with a friend/neighbour to share the cost of £57 for one month, please contact Mrs.P.Norman on 01525 270483 or email soulburynews@btinternet.com

BAKE DAY FLOUR

Flour left over from the Bake Day is on sale for £1.00 for three pounds of flour or 2buzzards (if you are in LetsBuzz group). Contact Christine on 270377 or Liz Miller on 376198 for more information or to buy some.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The monthly meeting took place in the Parish Hall on Monday 16th March. Apologies received from Morris Cross who is recovering after a short spell in hospital. We wish him a speedy and full recovery.

There were six members of the public present, four from Soulbury and two from Linslade.

Spring is here and Grass cutting has begun and we think that Mr Keil and his men do a grand job around the village so our clerk is renewing our contract.

Our AVDC councillor Neil Blake, informed us of two awards that the district council have won. The first is "Council of the Year 2015" and the second is "Entrepreneurial Council of the Year 2015". So whatever we think of AVDC they seem to be impressing people so Well Done to them.

We have requested some road markings outside the Parish Hall, to ease the exit from the lane next to it. The request went in months ago and BCC Highways agreed to do it, at a cost. The Clerk was asked to chase up the work.

Our Chairman has been rallying support on The Hollingdon Industrial estate and has raised enough funds for another defibrillator to be placed at The Depot. Well done Vic!

Six planning applications were before the Council and we did not raise any objections. We are trying to obtain legal ownership of the Jubilee fountain in order that we may then apply for grants to maintain it and restore it to its former glory. Progress is being made on our Speed Indicator Device which we hope to have up and running this year. We have earmarked several positions around the village for it. Date of next meeting is 20th April 2015. The meeting closed at approximately 9pm. The nomination forms for the Parish Council are available from Vic Wright.

Soulbury Millennium Green Race Night 9th May 2015

Ever been to a race night? No? You don't know what you're missing. Lots of fun, laughter, shouting and cheering and a hot supper included!! The chance to win money too. All of this for only ten pounds a ticket. Place a bet and maybe double your money! You can even become a racehorse owner for the evening and reap the rewards if your horse wins. Winning owners get an extra bonus.

Why not sponsor a race and get your advert on our race card? I will be looking for sponsors! All this fun and excitement takes place in the Parish hall, so space is limited. Don't miss out on the fun and help us to raise some funds for the Millennium Green Trust. For more information or to book your place call Alan on 270213



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STREETLIFE is an online community resource available at

www.streetlife.com. It is a place where you connect with other people in your area, with the purpose of sharing information. Someone may put up a post to say, "Can anyone recommend a plumber?", or you could advertise a local group or event on it. It's totally free to use and the more people in the Soulbury area that use it, the more useful it will be. It's really easy to use. Just go to the website, put in your email address and password, or simply log in via facebook. Please join so that we can make our community a helpful and connected one!

Stewkley Singers with French choir "DeSiDeLa" present a "Soirée Musicale"

A programme of popular light classics for a Summer's evening

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Conductors: Jenny Morgan and Véronique Ougier

Piano: Anne Brezovski and Gary Howarth

Double Bass: Richard Hodby

Saturday 16th May 2015 at St Barnabas' Church, Linslade at 7.30pm

Tickets: £12 (under 18s £6) from Julia Sims 01525-240671
and Jean Spier 01525-240570 from April.

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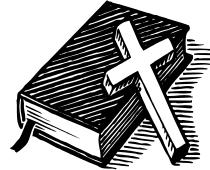
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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SERVICES

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 Team Vicar Wing & Wingrave : Rev. Helen Barnes
 Team Vicar Cheddington with Mentmore : Rev. Gill Rowell



Thurs. 2nd Apr - 7pm	Maundy Thursday	Altar Stripping - Stewkley	Rev. Philip Derbyshire
Fri. 3rd Apr - 4pm	Good Friday	Meditation - Stewkley	Rev. Philip Derbyshire
Sun. 5th Apr - 8:30am	Easter Sunday	Said Communion	Rev. Philip Derbyshire
Sun. 5th Apr - 11:00am	FAMILY SERVICE	11am for refreshments	Rev. Philip Derbyshire
Sundays 12th, 19th, 26th	Parish Communion	11:30am	



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesdays	7th & 21st	Food Bin & Recycling (Blue Lid)
Tuesdays	14th & 28th	Food Bin & General Waste (Green Lid)
Mondays	13th & 27th	Garden Waste (Brown Bin)
Saturday	4th	10am Millennium Green - Working Party
Saturday	4th	2pm Millennium Green - Easter Egg Hunt
Tuesday	14th	7:30pm W.I. Peter Stevens "Alice Hawkins-Suffragette"
Wednesdays	1st, 15th & 29th	2:30pm Social Group : phone Christine on 270377 for details
Monday	20th	7:30pm Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday	29th	6:30pm Annual PCC Meeting in the Church



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This month's newsletter is sponsored anonymously.

If you would like to sponsor an issue, or submit items for publication please contact:

Mrs. Norman 270483

soulburynews@btinternet.com

ALERT: Our PCC Treasurer of All Saints Church tells us that it costs over £1,200 per month to keep the Church open

CHURCH FINANCES

The Church of England is the national Church but receives NO money from Government and no special help or consideration. It has to be entirely self-financing, unlike Churches in secular countries like Germany and France where there is a church tax which people have to opt out of! We 'own' and have to maintain the greatest stock of Grade I and Grade II listed buildings in the world. These are part of our national heritage and are entirely our responsibility.

Church finances fall into three categories:

- 1) **Running Costs** These consist of insurance (£3,500 p.a.), heating/lighting (£1,000 p.a), supplies for worship and expenses (£400 p.a.), churchyard (£40 p.a.). Total = **£4,940 p.a.**
- 2) **Maintenance** This not only covers day-to-day minor repairs, cleaning and servicing but the major ones too. The cost of the major repairs can be huge and we can fund-raise via certain charities. The Friends of Soulbury Church money can **ONLY** be spent on the building and not applied elsewhere, however desperate the need. e.g. we could (theoretically) have £30,000 in our fabric/building fund and no money to pay our Share (see below) and there would be nothing we could do about it because the money had been given in good faith for the building. In an average year with no major repairs this is **£1,800 p.a.**
- 3) **Parish Share** is our 'contribution' to the cost of ministry and amounts to **£7,700 p.a.** and goes partway towards the cost of a full-time Priest plus an element for housing and pension. This has to come from regular giving by the congregation and fund-raising events.

The only other income we have is from weddings and funerals which of course are impossible to predict, especially the latter!

If we think it is important to have a church at the heart of the village we need to consider giving some financial support - as the saying goes 'use it or lose it'.

If you would like to contribute on a regular basis please contact Mrs Chris Bryant (mrschris@soulbury.org) on +44 (01525) 270607 or +44 (07774) 237929 who will give you the relevant form. This will be confidential.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this Appeal, with best regards,

**Reverend Philip Derbyshire,
Team Rector of the Cottesloe Benefice and Rural Dean of Mursley,
The Vicarage, 2, High Street North, Stewkley, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 OHH**

An open letter

Rohan
Church Lane

Vic Wright
Chairman
Soulbury Parish Council

2nd March 2015

Dear Vic,

Re: Proposed Development of 300 House at Valley Farm

Thank you for taking time on Sunday to explain, in more detail, the reasons behind the decision by the Soulbury Parish Council to support and encourage the proposed development of 300 houses at Valley Farm by Paul Newman Homes. As discussed, I have set out in this open letter, the areas on which we disagree and are of most concern to me.

1. The Stance Of The Parish Council

I expressed my concern that the Parish Council did not take into consideration the views of the Soulbury residents before they made their decision to support the proposed development of 300 houses and I don't share your view that once the developers build the initial 300 houses and then the additional 75, they will not then attempt to expand further the development of the site.

I do not share your view that it will be good for Soulbury, on the contrary I believe that it will provide no positive benefit to Soulbury Village. I believe it will encourage more developers to test the determination of Aylesbury Vale to maintain the current building line. It could encourage the AVDC and Beds County Council to agree to move the current county boundary to the by-pass, in which case Soulbury Parish would receive no financial benefit from the development. The other alternative scenario is that it may even encourage developers to test the determination of the AVDC to restrict development on the Soulbury side of the by-pass.

2. The Referendum

I was unable to attend the Parish Council meeting of the 16th February, but I understood from people who did attend, that it was agreed that a referendum would be held to enable the residents of Soulbury to vote on this matter. I now understand from our meeting, that you reject this view and stated it was never agreed to hold a referendum, no vote was taken at the meeting and it was not minuted. I would point out that the wording in the Soulbury News Letter reporting the Parish Council meeting, under the section dedicated to the Parish Council News, states the following - "During the debate it was agreed that we should hold a referendum". In addition, you said that you have looked at the mechanism and controls that must be in place to hold a referendum but considered the operation to be too complicated, too costly and too difficult to manage with the limited resources at the disposal of the Parish Council. I am concerned that many people in Soulbury are expecting a referendum and I therefore encourage you to clarify this misunderstanding and make your position clear as soon as possible. However, in preference, I would urge you to reconsider this decision and if the Parish Council are unable to manage this process they could request assistance from the residents of Soulbury, as I am reasonably sure that a team can be gathered together to undertake this task, under the overarching control of the Parish Council.

3. Proposed New Village Hall

The Parish Plan which was finally published in 2010 rejected the idea that a new parish hall was needed. In addition, it concluded that Soulbury did not see the value of a large, expensive-to-maintain venue, which would need to be managed daily, and potentially take business away from The Boot. The promise by Paul Newman Home to build a new village hall as an incentive for accepting the proposed development at Valley Farm is extraordinary, especially as by its very size and nature, it would need to attract a regular income and make a profit and would change the whole character of Soulbury Village. The offer by Paul Newman Homes should be rejected as I believe that you do not have a mandate to accept it. If you feel that the Parish Plan is now out of date and no longer relevant the right course of action would be to rewrite it. The revised plan should be published before any decision is made on the acquisition of a new Parish Hall. In this way Soulbury residents will be in a position to take into account all the very major changes being proposed to the environment of Soulbury going forward.

These were the key points we discussed, please come back to me as soon as possible if I have not represented your views correctly. Since our meeting, it is important to acknowledge that the debate may have moved on, if the reports in the Leighton Buzzard Observer, concerning the AVDC's decision to reject the application are correct. However, the principal issues remain and should be addressed. I will publish this letter as an open letter in the next Soulbury News Letter.

Kind regards
Alan Howell

Response to Alan Howell's letter

We thank Mr Howell for his letter and would like briefly to reply to the points he has raised.

The Parish Council has decided to support the proposal for 300 houses at Valley Farm, after finding out all the facts. Having questioned Paul Newman on matters such as traffic, footpaths, landscaping and even sewage disposal we were happy with the revised plans. Regarding phase two, we have an undertaking that 50 houses will be the maximum and that further covenants will be put on the site to prevent any further development.

As for moving boundaries this is pure speculation and who knows what may happen in 20 or 50 years from now? We only know what targets AVDC have imposed on them and feel this could be assisting them in attaining some of their objectives.

The development is scheduled to include affordable housing and this may help some of our youngsters get a foot on the property ladder and stay within the Parish.

The Referendum was not a viable option considering the time scale for representation to AVDC. We, as a council, made it perfectly clear that this was the case and invited everyone, stress everyone, to voice an opinion. We received very few responses and such is the apathy of the majority.

The proposal of a new village hall was, by no means, an incentive by Paul Newman. In fact it was a gesture to make use of funding if this scheme were to be accepted. We are not looking for a large expensive-to-maintain venue. As you say this was made perfectly clear to us in 2010. However our present hall is close to 100 years old and is of timber construction. Would not a replacement on that site be an improvement?

Times move on and Soulbury should be looking at moving forward. We have new residents who are getting involved in the community and it is their successors we should be preparing for.

Finally, may we say, that the final decision, as you know, will rest with Authorities greater than ours but we must add that local businesses welcome the thought of increased trade.

Soulbury Parish Council