

# SOULBURY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 395

FEBRUARY 2010

## NEWS

We hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year, along with coping with the recent bad weather. Special thanks to the paper girl, postman and milkman.

The recipients of the parcels would like to say thank you to the Stapleford Trust and the those people who delivered them. They were very much appreciated.

Car Thefts : The cold weather may have left us for the time being but please be aware that we have had reports of a couple of cars being stolen in the area during the recent cold snap. In both cases the car had been left with the engine running on the drive to defrost.

## CHURCH NEWS

Most people will know by now that the Rev. Michelle Morton has left our benefice and that while we are in an inter regnum ( between vicars), we are extremely fortunate to have as our temporary priest the Rev. Ian Ogilvie from Marsworth and Tring. In the event that you need a priest for weddings, baptisms, funerals or for a visit and a sympathetic ear, please contact Ian (details on the back page) or phone the Churchwarden, Christine Sheppard on 270377.

The benefice held a farewell party for Michelle on Saturday January 2nd which several people from Soulbury attended. There were loads of people there and it was very sad to see her go. The following e-mail was sent by Michelle for everyone to read:

**“On the 2nd January the four parishes put together a wonderful farewell for me in the Church Room in Aston Abbots. I have heard that over a hundred people turned up, it certainly felt like it.. at one point we could hardly move... and although I was promised that there would be no speeches what was said was heart felt.. thank you for that. I felt so overwhelmed by your love, generosity, and support, the words just wouldn't come out at the time to say a proper thank you. I was thrilled to receive a super set of cutlery and so much money which will be an enormous help for me in my new home as I need many things. So, this is my opportunity to thank you all so much and I will never forget you. My very best wishes to you all.” Michelle.**

**HAITI COLLECTION:** On Sunday January 17th we had a special collection for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. People were very generous and we sent £87.50 to Christian Aid. The other parishes also had collections on the same Sunday and in total the benefice sent £600.00 to Christian Aid. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

**LISCOMBE HOUSE GET-TOGETHER:** We are specially indebted to Nadine because she has very kindly offered to host a get-together for all four parishes at her home at Liscombe House on Friday March 5th at 7.30pm. Numbers are limited to 60 in total and Soulbury is allocated 12 places, so if you would like to come, please phone Christine, we hope there will be room for you.

**SONGS OF PRAISE:** On Sunday February 21st at St Michael's Church Stewkley at 6.00pm there will be a Songs of Praise Service to which everyone in the benefice is invited. Each church will choose a favourite hymn and a specially chosen person will introduce the hymn, perhaps explaining why this is a favourite of theirs. Our specially chosen person is Nadine Bonsor.

**BELL RINGERS:** I have been asked by the church bell-ringers to appeal for more people to learn to ring the bells. I am assured you do not necessarily need to be built like a weight-lifter to ring. It's a knack and good fun. If you are interested, please phone Greeba Cochrane on 270271.

**LENT COURSE:** During Lent the Rev. Ian Ogilvie will be running a course, open to all, to take place in the different churches of the benefice. Each session will start with coffee, followed by a video and ending with some discussion. There is a booklet (cost £3.50) to accompany the course. If you cannot attend all the sessions, it will not matter- just come to as many as you can. Dates and venues are as follows:

Thursday February 25th	Stewkley Church, 7.30pm
Thursday March 4th	Aston Abbots Church, 7.30pm
Thursday March 11th	Soulbury Church, 7.30pm
Thursday March 18th	Stewkley Methodist Church, 7.30pm
Thursday March 25th	Cublington Church 7.30pm

If you need a lift to get to the course, please phone Christine.

## YOUTH CLUB

It is with regret that I need to inform you that the Youth Club will be closing, sessions were organised for this term however with dwindling numbers and a lack of help and support we have ended up making the very tough decision to close the club.

Our plan is to donate our equipment to another youth club and charity, pay back the grant that was won by the Club and if we have any funds left over, we thought Soulbury Church would be a worthy benefactor. We know that our members will be very disappointed and want to say how much we have enjoyed our two and half years with you all - there have been a lot of good times and laughs!

Can we also say a massive thank you for all the hard work of our volunteers past and present - I know how difficult it has been for you to help out with the club at the end of a working day but we all really appreciate your help, without it we wouldn't have run as long. We'd also like to thank The Leighton Buzzard Lions Club who have helped us with our annual insurance needs.

On a final point, although the Youth Club is now closing, we consider that it has been a success, at our peak we had nearly 30 members and children came together in the village that had never even met before. I personally am very sad that it has come to an end but I am also very happy with what the Youth Club has achieved. Debs.

## PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Thanks to the support of the very few members of the steering group, we have made considerable progress in the finalisation of the Parish Plan. We now need to prepare an open presentation so that residents of the parish can see what the community had to say.

In order to achieve this we need volunteers to join the group, to help take us through to the final stage. If you are able to help, please contact Ian Housley on 237654 or [housley2@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:housley2@tiscali.co.uk)

## MILLENNIUM GREEN NEWS

### A REMINDER ABOUT THE BIG BAKE DAY:

Saturday 20th January in the Clubroom from 9.30am till 1.00pm  
Learn to bake bread or buy (pre-ordered) cakes and bread.

The Trustees would like to make a special plea to dog walkers and all those who use the Millennium Green to make a special effort to contribute towards the upkeep of the Green by either joining the 100 Club, (cost £12.00 a year) or by making a donation to The Millennium Green Trust, via Mrs Elizabeth Caplan, (Secretary) 4, The Mead, Soulbury. I am not sure many people realize how much it costs to maintain our Millennium Green, the only one in Buckinghamshire! Phone Elizabeth on 270838 or Christine on 270377 for more info.

Our Treasurer assures us that we need to make at least £3000 a year to ensure we have enough funds to replace lawn mowers, benches, fencing, playground equipment etc. in the future. The Green has now been in existence 10 years and has afforded a lot of pleasure to many people in that time. It would be very gratifying if people could show their appreciation of its existence by helping the Trust financially. We are extremely fortunate to have Mike Rutter, who does all the grass mowing voluntarily and Zeus Gillespie who looks after the outside and entrance verges. Dave Jones has also helped us for nothing as have Claire and Michael Perry and of course the Trustees themselves do so much to contribute financially and also by working, weeding clearing etc. Many, many thanks to all these people and everyone else who has helped. But we still need more volunteers. Any offers?

### STEWKLEY PLAYERS SPRING PRODUCTION TONS OF MONEY - A FARCE ADAPTED BY ALAN ACYKBOURN

A fast moving comedy by Will Evans and Valentine, set in the 1920s. Aubrey and Louise Allington, a young upper class couple, have enjoyed their lifestyle on debt and credit, but now the credit is running out. They come into an inheritance and are determined that the money will not go to their creditors. They dream up schemes to keep their hands on the money however nothing goes to plans as their relatives, friends and even their staff manage to complicate proceedings. An action packed farce with twists and turns right up to the last.

Performances in the village hall from 24th-27th March, at 8pm.  
Doors open at 7:30pm.

Tickets cost £5 (including programme) will be available from 1st March, please contact the Box Office on 07845 489167.

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

### NEIL BLAKE

**Save over a million pounds in order to balance the Council's budget!** That was one of the first tasks presented to me on taking over the Resources Portfolio on AVDC's Cabinet in May. During the summer and autumn a series of Service Prioritisation meetings was held with individual budget holders from every department to see where savings could be made. I made two stipulations – no reduction in our main services and no job losses. Those meetings generated nearly £750,000 of savings or extra income and included a pay freeze for all staff, a pay freeze on Members allowances and increased, or new, car parking charges across The Vale. It is proposed to make up the shortfall of around £300,000 by increasing Council Tax by 8.8p per week for an average house. I appreciate that, in this difficult economic climate, any increase is not particularly welcome but every effort has been made to keep it to a minimum. These recommendations have to be debated by the four Scrutiny Committees before a final decision is made by the Full Council early in the New Year.

The two major capital projects are both progressing well. The contract with the Ambassador Theatre Group, who will be running the Waterside Theatre, should have been signed by the time you read this and Janet has performed the topping-out ceremony on the new Conference Centre on behalf of the Council. Apart from doubling-up as a Council Chamber, the Conference Centre will be an income generator and the first major booking has already been taken, with others in the pipeline.

**The Council's lease on the Friar's Square offices, in Aylesbury, is due to expire and a complicated exercise has been taking place to move staff into the Council's two remaining offices. The exercise proved that, with the goodwill and understanding of staff, it is possible to fit a quart into a pint pot. The main problem was the storage of paper records but this will be overcome by undertaking an extensive programme of scanning those records so that they will be retained electronically. Not only will this overcome the storage problems but, also, it will mean that information will be accessible far more quickly and easily. The new joint venture, that will run our commercial properties, is now formally up and running. Funds should now be available to bring our existing properties up to standard and, also, to invest in new capital projects.**

Janet has been working extremely hard fulfilling her Chairman's duties. I've lost track of the number of functions that she has attended but, suffice to say, I have to carry a photo of her around with me so that I can recognise her when our paths cross. As I've said before, it would be impossible to list all of the events but one that springs to mind is when she received a delegation of college lecturers from China who had come over to see how Aylesbury College functioned. When Janet greeted them in Chinese they couldn't believe their ears and they really appreciated the gesture.



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# ALL SAINTS CHURCH SERVICES

Priest in Charge : Rev. Ian Ogilvie, The White House, 19 Icknield Way,  
Marsworth, Bucks. HP23 4LN. 01296 661479

Curate : Rev. Peter Lymbery : 17 Hartwell Crescent, Leighton Buzzard. Tel. 371235



Sunday	31st January	10:00am	Benefice Service at STEWKLEY (no Soulbury Service)
Sunday	7th February	11:30am	Family Service - Andrew & Lesley Berry
Sunday	14th February	11:30am	Holy Communion (Rev. Ian Ogilvie)
Wednesday	17th February	7:30pm	Ash Wednesday Service at STEWKLEY
Sunday	21st February	10:30am	Holy Communion (Rev. Peter Lymbery)
Sunday	28th February	11:30am	Holy Communion (Rev. Ian Ogilvie)
Sunday	7th March	11:30am	Family Service - Andrew & Lesley Berry

## \*\* WI PUDDING CLUB \*\*

Soulbury WI Pudding Club will be meeting on Friday 12th February at 8:00 pm in the Clubroom. All welcome - have your main course at home, then join us for some delicious home-made puddings! Cost £5.

This is a very popular event, so please call Margaret Rowe on 270355 for tickets.

## \*\* RACE NIGHT \*\*

Soulbury Village Cricket Club will be holding a fund raising Race Night on Friday 26th March at 8:00 pm in the Clubroom. Please support this event. The club is struggling to stay afloat since much of the mowing equipment was stolen last November. Tickets £8 including 2 course hot supper. Horses £4 - you choose the name. Contact Chris Bryant on 270607 or [mrschris@soulbury.org](mailto:mrschris@soulbury.org)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesdays	2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd		Toddler Group	
Wednesdays	3rd & 17th	11:15am- 11:35am	Mobile Library - Stewkley Road Bus Stop	
Thursdays	4th & 18th		AVDC Refuse Collection	
Thursdays	11th & 25th		AVDC Refuse & Recycling Collection (11th - Glass)	
Tuesday	9th February	8:00pm	W.I. - Nursing in the 50s and 60s	Clubroom
Friday	12th February	8:00pm	Pudding Club	Clubroom
Monday	15th February	7:30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Clubroom
Friday	26th March	8:00pm	Cricket Club Race Night	Clubroom

Thank you to everyone who has offered to sponsor future editions of the newsletter.  
We will be in touch soon!

This month's newsletter is sponsored by Miss Rena Stewart.

If you would like to sponsor an issue, or submit items for publication by 21st February please contact:

Mrs. Bunyan 270461

Mrs. Norman 270483

or email James Mansfield-Sturgess at [soulburynews@btinternet.com](mailto:soulburynews@btinternet.com)