

HARVEST SUPPER

The Harvest Supper is to be held on Monday 21st September at 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. in the Club Room. Tickets at £3, include Barbequed Chicken and Salad, and are available from Mrs. J. Kellner, Mrs. H. Ashburner or Mrs. B. Maudlin.

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ALL SAINTS APPEAL

During the recent house-to-house collection, £293.50 was collected for our Parish Church. The Church Wardens and Parochial Church Council would like to express their gratitude to all who contributed, and especially to those who have offered their continued support. We are not a rich Parish and every little helps!

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We have noticed that there has been an increase in dogs fouling the childrens playground, and feel sure that everyone would agree that this is not an area which should be used for exercising dogs. It was pointed out by one of the members of the Environment Group that "pooper-scoopers" are freely available in Leighton Buzzard Pet Shops, and coupled with the £100 dog fouling fine, may be a useful acquisition.

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The Soulbury (Red Lion) Tug of War Team has now been disbanded, and the Committee has decided to give a cheque for £278.55 to the Social Circle. All the members of the Social Circle are extremely grateful for this donation.

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The Produce and Flower Show held in the Clubroom on 8th August raised the sum of £75. Thank you to all those who exhibited and attended the show.

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BABYSITTER A 15 year old girl is available for babysitting. Tele: Soulbury 284

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YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club is hoping to 'buy' a leather football via the Beds and Bucks Observer Target Stamp Scheme. However, 1100 of these stamps are needed, and we have a long way to go! Would anyone who has no use for these stamps please cut them out and pass them to Dave Miller, Lovett House, Chapel Hill.

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We are pleased to welcome to the village Dr. Michael and Lorraine Shepherd who have come to live on the Green, and Len and Elizabeth Selby, also of the Green.

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It is with regret that we record the death of Mr. Kenneth Scholefield on 17th August at the age of 63. Mr. Scholefield served with distinction in the war as a Flying Officer in Bomber Command of the R.A.F., afterwards farming in Suffolk. He worked for some years at Vauxhalls, leaving there to care for his wife Betty who predeceased him by such a short time. Ken had a deep and committed love of the countryside, he and Betty spending their holidays in the more remote parts of Britain. He was local secretary of the British Field Sports Society as well as a long-time member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and took a keen interest in all manifestations of the wild life around Soulbury. We salute the memory of a very gallant gentleman and extend our sympathy to his family.

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Readers might be interested to hear about the following, which has been passed to us by the trustees of the Stapleford Bridge Charity:-

Stapleford Bridge lies on the road from Soulbury to Great Brickhill and has declined greatly in importance since the time when the main route from Leighton Buzzard to Stoke Hammond shared the bridge as a way of crossing the River Ouzel. On 2nd April 1807 a trust fund was established for the purpose of maintaining the bridge. Its assets consisted of 4 houses with gardens in Soulbury, a strip of land close to the bridge and a detached pasture of some 20 acres. The Charity Commissioners Report of 1825 shows an annual income from rents of £10.8.6., a not inconsiderable sum at that time.

In 1858 the Charity was reformed to provide "clothes, coal and blankets for the deserving poor of the Parish", the County Council having taken on the task of maintaining the bridge for a nominal sum of £5 per year.

The Minute Book dates from this time and mentions, for example, that in 1881 a cottage, location unspecified but owned by the Charity, was demolished due to its poor condition. In 1885 the Clerk at the request of the Trustees wrote to the tenants stating that any case of immorality would be met with immediate notice to quit. Perhaps the Trustees would have hesitated to take to themselves the task of guarding the morals of the Parish if they had been aware of the final paragraph of the Charity Commissioners Report of just 60 years before:-

" Mr. Richard Mead, who is the sole managing trustee and tenant of the land, and who keeps a public-house, called the Boot, was the only witness examined by us. The accounts are kept by him, but in such a way that it cannot be ascertained from them how much of the income of the charity is expended upon the repairs of the bridge. It appears from his evidence that a considerable sum is annually laid out in purchasing meat and beer, which are given to poor people; that all the labourers employed by the trust receive meat and drink besides the usual wages which they would obtain from private persons; that £5 is paid annually for a dinner to the trustees and a party of poor men, and generally that the distribution of food, and not the reparation of the bridge and roads, is considered the main object of the charity. We thought it right to animadvert strongly on the impropriety of this mode of managing a bridge trust, by a person who is sole acting trustee, tenant of the charity land, and keeper of a public-house.

By the early 1970's the Trustees were still organising the annual delivery of 4 cwt. of coal before Xmas with an additional 2 cwt. afterwards, but recently they decided that Xmas Parcels were more suitable for the recipients, and, in 1986, 37 such deliveries were made at a total cost of about £700.

The Trustees are:- Mr.C.Kimble(Chairman), Mr.T. Hall, Mr.W.J.Rolls, Mr.I.Parrott, Mrs.O.Fountaine, Mrs.J.Kellner, Mr.A.J. Pargeter (Clerk).

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METHODIST CHURCH Minister: The Rev. A. Creber, The Manse, Stewkley. Tele:254

Sunday 6th September 10.30a.m. Family Service. Mr. M. Corbey
 " " 6.00p.m. Circuit Service at Stewkley. Preacher:
 Rev. Howcraft.

Sunday 13th September 6.00p.m. Rev. J. Lloyd
 Sunday 20th September 6.00p.m. Rev. A. Creber
 Sunday 27th Septmber 10.30p.m. & 6.00p.m. Harvest Festival. Mr. R. Gurney
Fellowship Meeting Every Monday at 2.00p.m. Sunday Club Every Sunday at
 10.30a.m. except 1st Sunday in month. Youth Group Every Sunday after
 evening service except 1st Sunday in month.

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ALL SAINTS CHURCH Minister: The Rev. P. Dallaway, The Vicarage, Stewkley.
 Tele: 287.

For all services refer to the Church Newsletter.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS (All meetings in the Clubroom unless otherwise stated).

Every Wednesday (except 16th) Keep Fit at 8.00 p.m.
 Every Thursday, Youth Club, at 7.00 p.m.
 Tuesday 8th 8.00p.m. Women's Institute. Victor Scott will be talking
 about the Himalayas.
 Wednesday 9th (Social Circle Afternoon Mystery Trip. Coach leaves the
 (Stone, and Stewkley Road at 1.30 p.m. Non-Members Welcome.
 (Please ring Mrs. M. Jones for details. Soulbury 349.
 Monday 14th 8.00p.m. Parish Council Meeting
 Wednesday 16th 7.45p.m. Women's Fellowship. Business Meeting to be held at
 the home of Mrs. B. Maudlin, 1 Laburnham Cottages.
 Monday 21st 7.15p.m. Harvest Supper.

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DIARY DATES October 10th:Tearfund Evening at the Methodist Chapel, talk and
 slides on Mauritius. October 17th:Christian Book Day 10.00-4.00 in the
 Clubroom. W.I. Barn Dance at Manor Farm in the evening.

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 Items for the next Newsletter should be submitted by 21st September to:-
 Mrs. Miller: 545. Mrs. Bunyan: 461. Mrs. Norman: 483