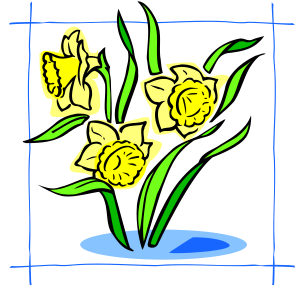


# Wappenham Village Newsletter

Spring 2017

## FROM THE EDITOR

Well, it's good to see spring is on its way after winter weather and Storm Doris.



Your artwork can be in print! Please send any photos of Wappenham to me for the newsletter cover – it has been hard to find something springlike of Wappenham that works in black and white. All seasons or general photos, preferably of the village, are welcome.

Thanks to our sponsors: Smiths Newsagents, Rock Schools, the Old Dairy Farm (doing lambing weekends in March), Craig D and The Bell Plantation, and to our printers The Oscar Group (01908 260333).

Jane H

[wappenham@gmail.com](mailto:wappenham@gmail.com)

## WIZ

Wiz is the Wappenham email contact group run by Clive W. To join, send an email to [wappenham@gmail.com](mailto:wappenham@gmail.com)

## WAPPENHAM VILLAGE WEBSITE



If you would like to add something to the website, such as photos, events, articles, news items, your business details, stories, and so forth, please send the information to [wappenham@gmail.com](mailto:wappenham@gmail.com). The website address is: <http://www.northantsvillages.org.uk/wappenham/>

## NOTICES

**Welcome** to En and Daniel G, who have moved into Helmdon Road. We hope you enjoy living in the village.



If there is anyone else who has recently moved in and would like to be mentioned, please let me know. *(Ed.)*

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Christmas Lunch Club meal at The Bull in Towcester, organised by the village hall committee, was a great success. Eighteen diners enjoyed an excellent meal and all were in celebratory Christmas spirits. Requests have been made that we pay a return visit this Christmas. Please let me know if you think you are eligible – you or your partner need to be seventy or over while any non-seventy companions will be charged a nominal fee of £10.



The quiz night was, as usual, a great success – held in February, with Frank K as our accomplished quiz master and Annie's Pantry providing the food.

Thanks must go to the tireless efforts of Jane H who has obtained funding for a full survey of the hall. This will provide us with a schedule of essential building work and go some way towards enabling us to apply for further grants.

I'm pleased to report that the hall continues to be well used. In addition to the monthly coffee mornings and pub nights, we also have a wedding reception booking, a lunch stop for a cyclists' rally and possibly a Cynthia Spencer Hospice 'fill a bag'

afternoon. If you have ideas for other events, please do feel free to put them on, or ask us if you'd like some help.

Best regards  
Jenny S - Secretary

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Dear everyone

Welcome to 2017 and the approach of Spring. Planning activity this quarter has again been very quiet, with only one application for a single-storey timber orangery at 8 High Street - we note this has subsequently been withdrawn. After a long time we have had notice from SNC Planning that they refused the planning permission to convert Bloxhams Barn to a dwelling; our Council had fully supported it.



There is still no action from Highways regarding the condition of the fencing on Slapton bridge nor the sharp flint stones virtually hidden on the verge up Wild Hill. The running water across the road towards the bottom end of the village has been reported to Street Doctor, as it was dangerous during the recent cold snaps.

The NCC posts to hold the speed camera are now in place and hopefully helping to calm the speed of traffic through the village. I can also report the installation of the defibrillator is imminent and the website is under design at the moment.

Our first meeting of the New Year is when the Council considers both the budget and the precept for 2017/18. It was resolved to

set the budget at £3,131 and the precept for £3,028. The breakdown of these figures is detailed as an attachment to the Minutes of our meeting on 11 January 2017.

The Council agreed to support the Village Hall Committee application to SNC from the New Homes Bonus to finance a professional report to be carried out on the structural condition of the Hall.

Two matters have been brought to our attention, the first being that walkers are not always sticking to the public footpaths and bridleways. We would ask everyone to please respect the marked paths within our parish and the work landowners do to help our enjoyment of the countryside. The second is to ask all bodies who place notices around the village advertising various events to please remember to remove them after the events! Thank you.



The next Ordinary Meetings are scheduled for **5 April** and following with the **Annual Assembly on 17 May** and the **AGM and Ordinary Meeting on 25 May**, all starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall - please come and join us if you can.

With best wishes

Hilary W

Chairman, Wappenham Parish Council



**The Astwell Benefice**  
*St Mary Magdalene Helmdon with Stuchbury  
and St Lawrence Radstone  
and St James the Great Syresham  
with St John the Evangelist Whitfield,  
St Mary & St Peter Lois Weedon with Weston and  
Plumpton  
and St Mary the Virgin Wappenham*

## HELLO FROM YOUR RECTOR

It seems we are living through new and strange times at the moment. And I know many of you have concerns about what will happen in the weeks and months ahead. It may be a comfort to know that almost every generation thought it was facing “the end of days”, from the World Wars that are still in living memory, right back to the first Christians who believed that Christ’s second coming was literally just around the corner.



To be fair to them, Jesus did tell us his return would be heralded by terrible birth pangs, wars, natural disasters, (even the rule despotic world leaders!). But Jesus also said that he would be with us, not just through the good times, the happy joyous times and the sentimental festive times, but also through the bad times, the worrying times, the sad times. “*I am with you always*” wasn’t an ‘alternative’ fact, it was a simple and lasting truth. Basically whenever you need him, he’s there and so are we!

So if events in the wider world, (or closer to home) seem worrying or sad, our Church offers a still quiet and safe space

where you can offer up any and everything that concerns or saddens you.

We are also holding a special and simple service of healing for all of the above things on Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Parish Church at Helmdon. The Service of Healing and Prayer is open to everyone from the Astwell Benefice and will provide a chance for you to come along and receive God's blessing and healing for you, your family or your concerns for the wider world.

And if you would like to explore more about faith and how Christ is with you always, then you are welcome to join us during March and April at our Lent Courses, which take place around the Benefice on Monday and Wednesday evenings. For more details on the service or courses just email me or give me a call.

Lent begins on March 1<sup>st</sup> this year; in preparation, we will be holding various pancake parties around the Benefice (see the church noticeboard for more details).



Tradition says in preparation for a Lenten fast, you should use up all the rich elements in your larder, to make pancakes with various sweet and savoury fillings. Very few of us now fast for the next five weeks, but that shouldn't stop us enjoying our Shrove Tuesday treats! Lent itself is all about preparing for Easter, and while the idea of a Great Fast for five weeks is long gone in the Church, we still keep some other Lenten traditions.

We begin on Ash Wednesday with a special service at Helmdon where we mark ourselves with the sign of the cross made out of

the ashes from last year's Palm Sunday crosses – that's why you'll see people wandering round that day with black crosses on their foreheads! This may seem a bit medieval, but it reminds us visually that Christ gave his life on the Cross, to allow us all to continually get the chance to try again and again to be better people.



Lent continues with our range of Sunday services including our special service on Mothering Sunday, where we make (and give) special posies of flowers for our Mums.

So after making sure Mum gets her breakfast in bed, why not bring the whole family along to celebrate just how special your Mum is!

This year our Benefice-wide Easter celebrations begin in Wappenham on Palm Sunday (April 9<sup>th</sup>) with breakfast in the village hall and then a procession down to the Church led again by our wonderful donkeys. Bring the kids along to meet them and join in the fun.

And without donkeys or processions, our popular Big Breakfast continues in the village hall (see dates and times below). So do come along and join us for a community breakfast and chat once a month.



And don't forget you are always welcome at any or all of our regular services:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month 11.15am - Parish Communion followed by coffee and chat  
March 5<sup>th</sup> – Communion



April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Communion

May 7<sup>th</sup> – Worshipping Together -Benefice Communion at Whitfield

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month 9am – The Big Breakfast:

pastries, bacon butties, newspapers and chat in the Village Hall

Feb 12<sup>th</sup>,

March 12<sup>th</sup>,

April 9<sup>th</sup> – starts off our Palm Sunday procession led by our Benefice donkeys.

May 14<sup>th</sup>.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month 11.15am - Parish Communion followed by coffee and chat

Feb 19<sup>th</sup> – Communion in Lent

March 19<sup>th</sup> - Communion in Lent

April 16<sup>th</sup> – Easter Day with Communion

May 21<sup>st</sup> - Worshipping Together Benefice Communion at Wappenham.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month 11.15am Village Praise and Prayer followed by coffee and chat

Feb 26<sup>th</sup>

March 26<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday

April 23<sup>rd</sup>

May 28<sup>th</sup> –Rogation Sunday Benefice Family Service with the blessing of the tractors at Whitfield.

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday- Benefice Worship

April 30<sup>th</sup> – Lois Weedon

Looking ahead if you are thinking of getting married – we are holding our Astwell Benefice Wedding Fayre and Celebration of Marriage on the weekend of June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Over the weekend there will be a chance to meet cake makers, flower

arrangers, photographers, listen to a selection of hymn and music choices and see a selection of local venues for your reception along with a whole host of other wedding-related things, all accompanied by a glass of celebratory fizz. On the Sunday we will be holding special services to celebrate with brides and grooms past and present, the many weddings that have taken place at our parish churches down the years.

Your Parish Church is there for you, we are here to serve our community, so if you haven't visited us already, you are more than welcome. Should you need someone to talk to, or you want to find out more details about any of the above or maybe how you can plan your Wedding or a Baptism -my details are [*on the Wappenham website*].

I am on the end of the phone or an email away- so do contact me if I can help with anything!

***Reverend Carole***

## FROM THE CHAPEL

### Should Jiminy Cricket Always Be Our Guide?



One of the questions that God asked Adam and Eve after the fall was, *"Who told you that you were naked?"* (Genesis 3:11). Of course, noone had actually told them; they just "knew". But the question was intended to make them think about the fact that they now had an inner sense of right and wrong and that it made them feel their nakedness in the sight of God. From that moment on they were to listen to that inner voice because it was to play such an important role in human society.

In his fight for freedom, Mahatma Gandhi recognised how bad it would be for the human race to be free from the conscience, when he said, *"The only tyrant I will accept in this world is the still, small voice within me"*. There are many things wrong in the world as it is, but can you imagine what it would be like if we all became "free" of that inner voice!



This is surely one of the distinctive features of the human race. You may remember that that was one of the reasons why Pinocchio wasn't considered a "real boy"! And until he was a real boy he was told that he must always let his conscience (Jiminy Cricket) be his guide. That was good advice, wasn't it?

Or was it? Should we **always** let our conscience be our guide? Is it always an infallible voice of what is right and wrong? Surely not! The book of the Judges in the Old Testament must be one

of the darkest periods in the whole Bible. Some awful things were done by a people that ought to have known better. But the reason for all of the wrong is given in the very last verse: *“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”* Judges 21:25.

Those words could have been written about our own day. We live in a time of profound individualism. Since the period of the Enlightenment 300 years ago, the Church has largely been regarded as irrelevant. We were told at that time that “reason” was the key that would lead us all to the truth. But time has shown that even the greatest thinkers cannot agree on the really big issues. Where does it leave us today? With a society full of individuals that believe that no one has the right to tell us we are wrong about anything. As the boys from Boyzone once put it in a song,

*“No matter what they tell you;  
no matter what they say;  
no matter what they teach you;  
what you believe is true.”*

So “truth” and “right” and “wrong” are whatever you think they are. In effect, our conscience is silenced.

The Swiss psychologist, Carl Jung once famously said, “Through pride we are ever deceiving ourselves. But deep down below the surface of the average conscience a still, small voice says to us, something is out of tune”. That is a good analogy. Imagine an orchestra in which each individual musician failed to make sure their instrument was tuned in to, say, the grand piano. What a cacophony of sound it would produce! To play in harmony it is not enough for each musician to say that he or she was playing their own instrument correctly. Likewise, for there to be harmony in our own society our conscience needs to be “tuned in”.

But tuned in to what? At this point, you may be expecting me to say something like, “the Church”. But that would be a mistake. The Church is an institution and has made many mistakes down through the years and will probably make many more. It is no more an infallible guide than your conscience is. But human reason has failed us too. So what is our grand piano? What are we supposed to be tuned in to? We need to be tuned in to the God who made us. Henry Louis Mencken once said, *“The conscience is the inner voice that warns us, someone may be looking”*. Well, He is!

**Chapel Life - Sunday school 10.45am.**

We are pleased to welcome all children. They share in a reading, some singing, a short prayer and various learning activities.

**Chapel Life - Bible Study where the Bible is opened up**

Every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the schoolroom behind the chapel

**Chapel Life – Sunday Services**

**10.45 – Sunday Mornings** - Family Worship Wappenham

**6pm – Sunday Evenings** – At Slapton Chapel

**Good Friday service April 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am**

**Easter Sunday 10.45am (Wappenham) and 6.00pm (Slapton)**

Everyone is welcome to come and join us for any of our weekly services and meetings.

Trevor T

On behalf of Slapton and Wappenham Independent Evangelical Church

## I HAD TO CHUCKLE AFTERWARDS!

Since the return of my health problems I am unable to muster the strength to walk very much, especially if it is slightly hilly. So I have been cheating a little. I drive up Wild Hill and park in Mr Jones' farmyard and walk towards Syresham, which is quite flat going. On this day, I set off with my litter picking kit and my shooting stick. I was doing quite well when I ran out of steam. So I sat down on my shooting stick with my back towards the hedge, looking over the fields, waiting for my batteries to recharge.

After a few minutes I decided I had probably overdone it, so I had better see if I could get back. I stood up to set off. I have no idea why, but I fell over backwards, did a complete somersault, finishing upside down in the ditch! I was laying on my back with my head in the bottom of the ditch! Thank goodness there wasn't any water there. As I looked round to see how the heck I was going to get out of there, my legs were stuck straight into the sky! I remember thinking, "I'm too old for this sort of thing!"



Well, after a struggle I managed to get to lie along the bottom of the ditch and then crawled out. Luckily a lady who was driving towards Wappenham must have seen me disappear. She helped me to stand up and very kindly took me back to my van.

When I told Lesley the next day, after she had stopped laughing her head off and dried her eyes, all she said was, "*That's typically you, any way of getting a cuddle with a member of the fairer sex!*" I don't know who the lady was, but I would like to thank her for her help.

Brian P

## **SPRING GARDENING NOTES**



March is a good time to prune roses and catch up on any pruning you didn't get round to in February, such as buddleias, autumn raspberries, and winter jasmine, and to cut down deciduous grasses. With evergreen grasses, comb through with your hands to take out any dead leaves.

It's also time to sow seeds under cover, including lettuces, celery, celeriac and parsley as well as hardy perennials and hardy annual flowers. Sow tomatoes if you can keep them warm – I usually start them off in a heated propagator but beware low light levels indoors, which can make them too spindly to flourish. I use a piece of card covered in silver foil to reflect light back onto them, just as my mother did.

Start looking at the lawn to see if it's time to mow, and trim the edges 'with a half moon edging tool' (Gardener's World) or a spade.

And it's the last month you can plant bare root trees and shrubs, which as they are dormant can be posted to you, and are cheaper than container plants. Suppliers like Ashridge will give you lots of planting instructions and kit.

This is also a good time to divide overgrown perennial plants, so they can get going as the weather gets warmer. See Gardener's world website for how to do this – <http://www.gardenersworld.com>.

Jane H

## WAPPENHAM RAINFALL



2016 was a year of two halves. The first six months were extremely wet with the ground saturated up to the end of April. May was a bit drier but in June it never stopped raining and we had a record month for rainfall.

It then changed and July was the driest since I started recording. The balance of the year was also dry. So the overall rainfall for the year was 10% below average.

The result of the weather was that there was abundant growth of grass and it was noticeable how much the trees and hedges grew in 2016.

R.C.T

	Wappenham Rainfall			
	2016			
	Monthly	17Year	17 Year	17 Year
	Totals in	Average	Highest	Lowest
	2016			
January	4.26	2.99	7.21	1.17
February	2.79	2.57	4.79	1.16
March	3.91	2.04	4.16	0.30
April	2.46	2.39	6.73	0.42
May	1.47	2.95	6.71	1.72
June	5.83	2.64	5.83	0.25
July	0.94	2.87	6.59	0.94
August	2.01	2.87	5.99	0.50
September	2.34	2.08	4.89	0.64
October	1.34	3.52	5.66	1.34
November	2.9	3.48	5.57	1.76
December	1.36	3.31	5.46	1.31
TOTAL	31.61	34.27	45.81	21.3



## WAPPENHAM THEN AND NOW

Exerpts from church magazines for the diocese, collected by the Mitchells, kindly given to the PCC by Jane C.

**March 1933**

**Rev. E. J. Mortimer**

THE ELECTRIC LIGHTING OF THE CHURCH – It is with pleasure that we are able to record the completion of the Fund for installing the electric light in the Church. In addition to the amount raised.. by an American tea last summer, the following have contributed towards lights as Memorials: Miss Gibbard.. Mrs Honeywell; Mrs Fairbrother; Mr H King; Miss E Scott... Mrs Tarry [*who died recently – Ed*] also contributed. Thanks etc.. In reflecting on this great modern convenience our thoughts go back to previous conveniences provided for the use of the Parish in the past. First the ancient Sundial on the south porch of the Church.. This was succeeded some hundreds of years ago by the present Church clock and the peal of bells. For these and many other conveniences provided for our use and comfort, the known and unknown provider, we desire to express our deep appreciation.

**Feb 1961**

**JD Smyth, Rector**

Has anyone got any documents.. relating to.. the three parishes? [Abthorpe, Wappenham and Slapton]. We know of well over a thousand documents relating to the Parishes, but more may be hidden away..

An interesting fact that has come to light is the names of 6 priests who were at Wappenham in 1338. They were John De Asshebi, Warden of the 'Middleton Chantry' of Wappenham, and William de Adestok, John Onalefeld, Robert Pyrus, William Keylmersh, and Robert de Horwode, chaplains of the said Chantry. Also in 1394 the Abbey of Biddlesden owed the Rector of Wappenham 2 acres of corn, 2 lambs and 2 cheeses.



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## **PLAY IN A BAND**

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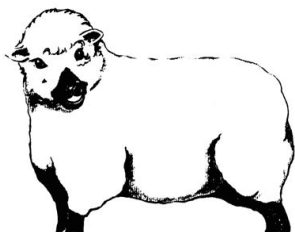
We teach electric guitar, drums, acoustic guitar, keyboards, electric bass, piano and vocals.

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# Old Dairy Farm Craft Centre

## Spring Lambing Weekends



Lambing sheds will be open  
between 10 am & 4.30 pm

Entrance to the lambing sheds  
is £2 per person  
entrance to the rest of the Centre is free

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March

**Tearoom, art gallery, shops & free car parking**

Lambing sheds are under cover, but a warm coat and  
wellingtons are advisable as we can't guarantee the weather

**Upper Stowe, Nr Weedon NN7 4SH - Just off the A5 between Weedon & Towcester**  
**Telephone 01327 340525 - [www.olddairyfarmcentre.co.uk](http://www.olddairyfarmcentre.co.uk) - Find us on Facebook**

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## What's on this spring

3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	Women's World Day of Prayer time tbc (St Mary's)
31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Pub Night 5-10.30pm (Village Hall)
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Coffee morning 10-12 noon (VH)
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Palm Sunday breakfast, procession & service 9am (VH and St Mary's)
14 <sup>th</sup> April	Good Friday service 10.30am (Chapel)
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Sunday service 10.45am (Chapel)
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Sunday communion 11.15am (St Mary's)
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Pub Night 5-10.30pm (Village Hall)
1 <sup>st</sup> May	May Day Country Fair (Weston)
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Coffee morning 10-12 noon (VH)
6 <sup>th</sup> May	Barn Dance, Friends of St Mary's (Manor Farm)
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Annual Assembly 7.30pm (VH)
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Benefice Communion 11.15am (St Mary's)
25 <sup>th</sup> May	Parish Council AGM/meeting 7.30pm (VH)
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Pub Night 5-10.30pm (Village Hall)

## Regular Events

*Chapel service & Sunday School* Sundays 10.45am (Chapel)  
*Church service* 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in month 11.15am (St Mary's)  
*'Big Breakfast'* 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in month 9am (Village Hall)  
*Village Praise & Prayer* 4<sup>th</sup> Sun in month 11.15am (St Mary's)  
*Mumford's butcher/grocery van* Tues 12 and Fri 12.30pm  
*Bible Study* Tuesdays 7.30pm (Chapel)  
*Short mat bowls* Thursdays 2-4pm (VH)  
*Table tennis practice* times vary (VH)