

Wappenham Village Newsletter

Summer 2017

FROM THE EDITOR

Here's hoping we have great weather for the beer festival, and the other events on this summer.



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.

Did you know that there are many photos of Wappenham on the Flickr website? These include the beer festival last year, the Queen's birthday, old fete photos and general views. Go to <https://www.flickr.com/groups> and look for 'Wappenham on Flickr' and also 'Wappenham Calendar Competition'.

Thanks to our sponsors: Smiths Newsagents, Wappenham Beer and Music Festival, Craig Duffy, Blakesley Show, Hollowell Steam 2017, Images by Joanna and The Bell Plantation, and to our printers The Oscar Group.

Jane H wappenham@gmail.com

WIZ

Wiz is the Wappenham email contact group run by Clive W. To join, send an email to 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. The new website is



not up and running yet, but its domain name has been registered as www.wappenhamvillage.org.

NOTICES

Welcome to Roberta and Alex W-S and their two children Elizabeth and Edward, who have moved into Pittams Lane. They were previously living in Weedon Bec. We hope you enjoy living in the village.



WAPPENHAM RECREATION ASSOCIATION: URGENT NEWS



The current committee will proceed to close the village playground and hand it back to the landlord if a replacement chairman and committee is not found by the end of the summer (September). If you are interested in taking over, please come and see me at Pyrford

House.

Regards, Dene A- outgoing chairman

THE BOOK CLUB

The Book Club held its inaugural meeting on Thursday 27th April with nine readers in attendance. This was hosted by Teri T, at her house in Lois Weedon, who generously plied us with coffee and biscuits. We discussed **Sepulchre** by Kate Mosse and the evening was made enjoyable by the diverse range of views inspired by the novel. We had previously agreed to grade the books out of 5 and **Sepulchre** scored an average of 3.5.



Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 8th June and Jane B has kindly agreed to act as host. We will be discussing **Sweet Tooth** by Ian McEwan. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Hilary W in the first instance via wappenham@gmail.com.

Jenny S

WAPPENHAM BEER AND MUSIC FESTIVAL 2017



The 4th annual beer and music festival will be on Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th June. Friday will be from 5pm until 10.30pm and then starting at midday on Saturday, going on until late. There will be a selection of local beers and ciders, along with wine, prosecco and soft drinks. Catering will be provided by Towcester-based All Seasons Kitchen, with burgers, hot dogs and Tex Mex street food. The bands playing are:

Dire Needs	Tim Jon Brophy & Co
Paranoid Puppets	Fleetwood Cave
Shattered Timbers	No Strings
Steam Pudding	Just Nuisance

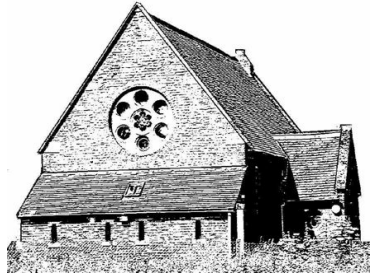
Music will be starting at around 1.30pm.

Pre-purchased beer tokens or Prosecco tokens are available from Michael P or Jim W. The cost of the tokens are £5 for two pints or £6 for two glasses of Prosecco. The event is completely free; beer tokens just give us an idea of how much beer to get in, we don't want to run out!

Michael and Jim

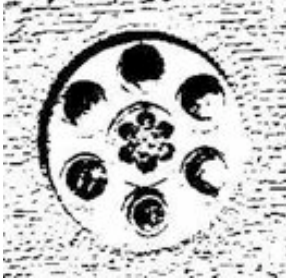
VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The committee has no events planned for the summer other than hosting the monthly pub nights and of course the forthcoming Beer Festival. We are planning another quiz night in the



autumn but a date has yet to be set. However, the building is being well used, with two cycling groups using the facilities as a break in organised tours; two wedding receptions; a birthday party and the Chapel fellowship meal. All these events are planned for the summer and early autumn, plus of course our regular users the monthly Coffee Mornings, Bowls Club, Parish Council and the Church's Big Breakfast.

The committee, however, is currently focusing on the fabric of the hall. There is ongoing concern about the deteriorating crack in the gable wall to the left of the main toilet door. The view is that the toilet extension is coming away from the main building and in doing so is pulling on the back wall. One possible suggestion for this is that the toilet foundations were not dug sufficiently deep. Jane H has obtained grants to enable us to hire an independent surveyor to assess the extent of the problem. We are also in contact with our insurance company with a view to arranging an assessment of the situation. One possible solution may be underpinning the whole toilet block. However, at the moment we are just waiting for a professional assessment of the situation and hopefully the matter can be resolved through our insurance before it poses a danger. That said the hall is currently completely safe to use and it could be another two years before matters become serious, by which time it should have been resolved. So do continue to hire the hall!!



Continuing with the theme of the hall fabric, Ant R has removed the wooden panelling and plastic sheeting from around the rose window and has cleaned away fifty years' worth of dead flies and cobwebs. Close examination has revealed that while the centre window glass is in a very fragile condition the other panels are fairly robust and the stone around each is sound. Research as to the design of the original glass has drawn a blank so we have decided to go with plain glass. This was the preferred choice of the majority who attended last year's rose window meeting. Finally having decided on what we want, the next step is to find someone experienced in working on such a project. Money is available through the New Homes Bonus scheme and rough estimates have come up with a figure of £4k for the enterprise. It is hoped that by the time of the next newsletter I will be able to report on further progress with both the gable wall and the rose window.

Finally if you are considering hiring the hall, it would be easier if payment could be made using BACS. Contact Julie L, our treasurer, and she will give you the village hall bank a/c no. and sort code. Our current problem is that the Nat West bank in Towcester, which we use, is closing in September. This makes paying in cheques/cash more problematic as our nearest branch will be Stony Stratford.

Best regards
Jenny S- Secretary
860073

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Dear All

We have recently held the Annual Assembly and the following is quoted from The Chairman's Annual Report: "It has proved enormously helpful and successful to have a full Council this year of 7 members, and I do appreciate all the time and effort that they have put into work in hand. The financial position is healthy and looked after very efficiently by our Vice Chairman Paul Featherstone, who will be reporting in more detail later in the meeting. Our clerk has been aware of all possibilities in acquiring grants for the various new projects initiated. Through these grants this year, we have achieved the installation of the Defibrillator and the Speed Radar signs and our next project of the redesign and build of a new website is well underway."



I want to thank all who came to support the Council and also those who represent the groups within the village and gave updated reports on finance, activities and future plans etc. These and information from our County Councillor and District Councillor will be enclosed with the minutes in due course.

You will all be aware by now that the Defibrillator is installed and up and running with a Training Day fixed. Let's hope that the Speed Radar in action is benefiting parishioners on the High Street and Helmdon Road. It has been resolved that the domain www.wappenhamvillage.org will be registered for the new website, with the clerk's new email to be parishclerk@wappenhamvillage.org.uk.

We have some helpful new safety signs installed on approaches to Slapton Bridge junction but will continue to investigate the barrier fencing, which is in an appalling condition. I expect everyone is pleased with the road improvements to Towcester and the efficiency to us of the now completed roundabout, although I guess it might be a little different in the early 2020s when the northbound A5 traffic will join the A43 between Silverstone and Towcester! There are still ongoing discussions regarding the merits or not of the Freedom of the Village project.

It will probably not be a surprise to many of you that I am not seeking re-election as Chairman at the Annual Parish Meeting and so I will end by writing my deep appreciation of so many who have stood by me over my intermittent 12 years as Chairman. My recent particular thanks must go to Paul F and Liz H, without whose wit, help and knowledge I could not have survived. Looking back at my records, I realise I have been on the Council for 34 unbroken years and that I have served 17 in the last century and 17 in the 21st!

Thank you to my Council colleagues and everyone in Wappenham for the patience you have shown over many years.

With kindest regards

Hilary W
Ex Chairman
Wappenham Parish Council

Your Parish Council 2017-2018

On 17 May 2017, Alan L was unanimously elected as the new Chairman and Paul F re-elected as Vice Chairman; the remaining Councillors are Shelley S, Charlotte S, Hilary Wand Mark W. Regrettably Sheena W has stepped down owing to other commitments, and we thank her for her input over recent years. Therefore a vacancy remains and Liz H will begin due process regarding the co-option of a replacement.



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*

FROM YOUR RECTOR...

I receive a lot of thank-you notes, for the weddings I've taken, the children I've baptized and sadly all too often for the funerals I've ministered at. But I have to admit, I'm a terrible thank-you note writer myself and it's not the notes of thanks I forget, sometimes I'm so busy I even forget to thank God.



But here in the Astwell Benefice we have a huge amount to say thank you for, not just the very special area we are lucky enough to live in, but our schools, our communities and of course our

wonderfully ancient Churches. Did you know that there has been a site of worship here in the village for over 800 years? But it is fair to say that our Church has only survived this long because of the support of its community: from the building works that would have been a real community endeavour, through to all those who attend worship and help support the ministry and mission down the centuries.

The Church has faced some pretty big threats before, the Reformation, the Commonwealth and even the Victorians, who remodelled the church out of all earlier recognition. But today we face an even bigger threat.

Throughout the country the rural church is in decline. People lead busy lives and coming to Church every Sunday is no longer the norm, but perhaps we can tempt you back?

This Summer we are holding a number of services and events across the Benefice that celebrate what our Parish Church is all about and we would love you to come along and join us.

Rogation Sunday is on May 28th and we will be gathering together at Whitfield House Farm, just over the A43 in Whitfield, to celebrate our Farming Communities. As well as a hog roast and a speaker from the City Farm, we will be holding the annual blessing of the tractors – big and small, old and new. Everyone is welcome.

On **June 24th** we are holding a benefice-wide **Astwell Wedding Fair** show casing all that we can offer potential brides and grooms, from the ceremony, through to reception venues, photographers, beauty, dresses, suits, cakes and flowers, this will be your one stop shop for everything Wedding.

And did you know that a Church Wedding can be a quarter of the price of most hotel packages?

So come along, have a free glass of bubbly and if you want to chat to couples who have already got married here, then on Sunday we are holding a Special Celebration of Marriage Service in the evening. This service is open to everyone, whether you got married in our churches or not, so come along and receive a blessing on your lives together, young or old.

Confirmation classes are on offer in June and everyone is welcome to join us in preparation for welcoming Bishop John Flack here on **July 10th for our Benefice Confirmation Service.** *For further details just give me a ring or contact me by email.*

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

1st Sunday of the Month

May 7th 11am Benefice Worship at Whitfield

June 4th 9am Prayer walk from Brackley

11am Benefice Worship at Helmdon for Pentecost

July 2nd 11am Benefice Service at Lois Weedon

August 6th 11.15am Parish Communion at Wappenham



2nd Sunday of the Month

May 14th 9am The Big Breakfast in the Village Hall

June 11th 9am The Big Breakfast in the Village Hall

July 9th 9am The Big Breakfast in the Village Hall

Aug 10th 11am Outdoor service at the historic Church of St Lawrence Radstone

3rd Sunday of the month

May 21st 11am Benefice Communion at Wappenham
June 18th 11.15am Parish Communion at Wappenham
July 16th 11.15am Parish Communion at Wappenham
August 20th 11.15am Parish Communion at Wappenham

4th Sunday of the Month

May 28th 11am Rogation service and blessing of the tractors with Hog Roast at Whitfield
June 25th 6pm Celebration of Marriage Service at Wappenham
July 23rd 11am Saints Feast Day at St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon
Aug 27th 11am Bank Holiday Communion at St John the Evangelist, Whitfield

5th Sunday of the Month

July 30th 11am Benefice service at Syresham

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 and 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 below.

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

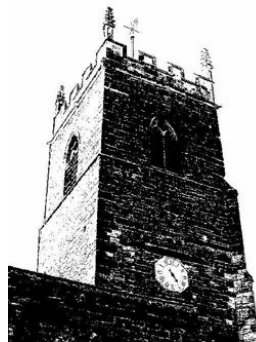
Reverend Carole

carolepeters@aol.com

FRIENDS OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN WAPPENHAM

The 62 steps...

We are going to press the 'go!' button, hopefully, at our next meeting. Everyone in the village has been so generous. Churchwarden Edwin K has sought an updated quote and it all looks possible.



Once we have finished, we will put some sort of memorial list on the wall of tower inside the Church, to remember all the names of those requested by donors. Any ideas for design – or offers of help, welcome!

This will mean that we have safe access once again to the top of the tower, not least for the engineers who keep our wonderful community broadband going, on which we all depend for our 21st century communications!

We are still a couple of thousand short, so anyone new to the village - how can you help? Please consider donating the cost of a step in memory of a loved one. Each tread needs repair, each costs £300. .

Cheques made out to the Friends of St Mary the Virgin Wappenham can be passed to any member of the committee. Or contact us for bank details via parishclerk@wappenhamvillage.org.uk.

All hands on deck for the Church

While this has been going on, the Friends have also been helping the Church raise funds for its general running. Thank you to everyone who supported the winter supper and barn

dance. Thanks to your support, and that of regular donors, our Church can pay its way.

Next challenge for the Friends

The next challenge on the church fabric is to repair the north porch roof and we will keep you posted on progress as quotes are being sought. And we haven't forgotten the loos.

We also look forward to supporting the Beer and Music Festival in June if needed.

Most importantly, we want to keep our Church open and safe and a beautifully tranquil place for all to go and worship in or just sit quietly and find peace. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Jane M

On behalf of members of the committee:

Jane M (Chair), Anthony T (Secretary), Alastair J (Treasurer), Howard M (PCC), Edwin K (surveying expertise), Di W (functions/fund-raising), Revd Carole Peters (Rector).

Reg Charity: 1116889

FROM WAPPENHAM CHAPEL



Knowing where you are going

It's easy to feel lost in our directionless society today. The theory of evolution leaves us with no roots and no purpose. Where we come from, what we are here for and where we are ultimately heading are questions that many simply don't want to face up to, because the alternatives all seem so bleak. As one Russian philosopher has put it, *"Life is like a country where there are no signposts because there is nowhere to go"*. There are times when we can identify with Alice in Wonderland when she came to a fork in the road and didn't know which way to turn. She looked up to find a grinning Cheshire Cat.

"Please, Mr Cat, help me. Tell me which road I should take?"
"That depends," said the cat. *"Where are you going?"* *"I don't know,"* muttered the confused Alice. *"Then it doesn't matter..."*, said the fiendish cat.

And that's where we are today! We are told we have no roots, nor destiny so we have no meaning either. So it doesn't matter which road you take or how you live your life if you don't know where you are going!

The **absurdity** of this position is surely obvious to all. How can the life of a peacemaker like Nelson Mandela have no more meaning than the likes of Ian Brady! But if we have nowhere to go to, as we are told today, then it doesn't matter which road we take. You can be a Mandela or a Brady, it makes no difference. We are all on a road to nowhere; a life-long cul-de-sac.

“You know the way”

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus told his disciples that the reason he was going to the cross was to prepare a place for them and that **they knew the way** to that place. But they were still confused. Thomas expressed what they were all thinking when he said, *“Lord, we don’t know where you are going. How can we know the way?”* Jesus’ reply was categorical. *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* John 14:1-6

If anyone else had said that we would be at liberty to disregard those words as the thoughts of someone who was delusional or just plain arrogant. But it was Jesus who said it! The One who loved us so much that the very next day he was about to lay down his life to open the way for us to go to the Father.

Far from meaninglessness, Jesus came that we might have an abundant life. (John 10:10). It is through repentance of our sin and faith in him that this life is given to us now and eternally. The road you are on has great significance! *“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”*

Studying the gospel of Mark on Sunday mornings

04/06/17	Introduction	Mark 14:51-52
11/06/17	Make way for the King	1:1-8
18/06/17	The King and I	1:9-11
02/07/17	Let the Battle begin	1:12-13
09/07/17	When the King comes in	1:14-15
16/07/17	Follow Me	1:16-20
23/07/17	A Question of Authority	1:21-28
30/07/17	A Word of Contradiction	1:29-39
27/08/17	The Lord and the Leper	1:40-45

You can follow the Ministry on our **new website**
www.evangelicalchurch-towcester.org.uk

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

10.45am – Sunday Mornings - Family Worship
Wappenham

6pm – Sunday Evenings – At Slapton Chapel

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

Trevor T

Website: www.evangelicalchurch-towcester.org.uk

ABTHORPE PUB SOLD!

It's possibly the most important piece of news to come out of Abthorpe since the Royal Visit by King George V in September 1913. Abthorpe pub has been sold!



Whilst there are large for sale banners outside the pubs in nearby Greens Norton and Blakesley, the sale of our pub was unheralded and took place below the radar. Who has purchased our ancient stone-built hostelry from the Hook Norton Brewery? It's Rob S our landlord, and rather than being upset the village is delighted.

Rob, a farmer from the next village of Slapton, became the landlord of our pub in August 2008. At that time the pub was struggling and many locals feared that it was destined for closure. From his first night as landlord, when some of his family wore L plates on their backs to emphasise they were on a steep learning curve, things changed. Customers packed the bars and the restaurant became known for its good quality, delicious and reasonably priced food. To this day it remains a vibrant, traditional safe haven in the Northamptonshire countryside for locals and visitors alike.

Rob S is most modest about his wonderful achievement and simply commented that *"..... it's nice to get control of our pub to ensure its future for our local village community."*

And for those who are anxious that they will no longer be able to quaff a pint of their favourite *Hooky*, Rob assures us that although his pub is now a Free House, a long term agreement has been signed with the brewery for the supply of its ales. Cheers!!

John R



IMAGES
by Joanna

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At Towcester Centre for Leisure

WAPPENHAM BEER FESTIVAL 2017

Friday 23rd June – pub night

Saturday 24th June – Beer & Music Festival

Thank you to our sponsors and supporters to date:



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BLAKESLEY & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SHOW LTD

BLAKESLEY SHOW

Saturday 5th August 2017

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Further information: Liz Black, Honorary Secretary, 01327 263186

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Tractors : Cars
Military : Lorries
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Tea Tent : Market Stalls
Motorcycles : Barn Engines
Fire Engines : Buses

HOLLOWELL
STEAM 2017
31st YEAR
2ND HEAVY HORSE SHOW

Reptiles : Birds of Prey
Hounds : Rifle Shooting
Working Area
Archery : Model Boats
Silt Walkers : Model Tent
Pets Corner : Arts & Crafts
Childrens Entertainers

1st & 2nd JULY

SATURDAY ONLY:
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What's on this summer

- 7th June Coffee morning 10-12 noon (VH)
- 8th June Book Club (see newsletter for details)
- 23rd June Beer Festival village evening 5-10.30pm (VH)
- 24th June Beer and Music Festival 12-late (VH)
- 25th June Celebration of Marriage Service 6pm (St Mary's)
- 28th June Parish Council meeting 7.30pm (VH)
- 30th June Pub Night 5-10.30pm (Village Hall)
- 5th July Coffee morning 10-12 noon (VH)
- 28th July Pub Night 5-10.30pm (Village Hall)
- 2nd August Coffee morning 10-12 noon (VH)
- 5th August Blakesley Show 8am-5pm (Blakesley Heath Fm)
- 25th August Pub Night 5-10.30pm (Village Hall)

Regular Events

Chapel service & Sunday School Sundays 10.45am (Chapel)

Church service 1st & 3rd Sundays in month 11.15am (St Mary's)

'Big Breakfast' 2nd Sunday in month 9am (Village Hall)

Village Praise & Prayer 4th 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,
parishclerk@wappenhamvillage.org.uk.
for details)