

# Wappenham Village Newsletter

Spring 2018

## FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks to our sponsors:

Smiths Newsagents, Craig D, Towcester Veterinary Centre, the Bell Plantation, Wappenham Parish Council and Lawrence Furnishings. The cover photo is the horse chestnut tree in the field at Helmdon/Highbridge Road, in flower.



I would really appreciate some more photos of Wappenham in springtime, so I don't have to spend hours next year finding one in the depths of February. Or maybe just a springtime plant, or lamb? Please get snapping! And of course photos from other seasons are also welcome. Thank you.

Jane H

## WIZ

Wiz is the Wappenham email contact group run by Clive W. To join, send an email via [parishclerk@wappenhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@wappenhamvillage.org.uk).

## 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 [parishclerk@wappenhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@wappenhamvillage.org.uk). The new website is now up and running, so go to <http://www.wappenhamvillage.org.uk> and have a look.

## NOTICES



**Welcome...** to Lynn G from Herefordshire, who has moved into The Green, and Morgan and Sarah and their children Jack and Lucy B, who have moved from Helmdon into the High Street. I hope you all enjoy living here.

## SAFARI SUPPER NEWS



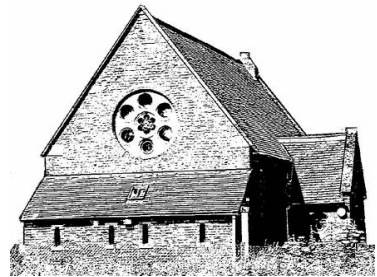
Hi all

Just a reminder as a date for your diaries, the popular Wappenham biennial Safari Supper event will be held in the evening of Saturday June 9th.

Further info and tickets to follow in the next couple of months.  
Regards Dave L

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

A very successful Christmas lunch has recently taken place, organised by the village hall committee and funded by the beer festival. It was held at The New Inn, Abthorpe on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December and



attended by both past and present village residents, bringing the number to twenty-two. I think it's the most we ever had at one of our Christmas meals. The food and service were excellent and, in having the downstairs restaurant to ourselves, the

atmosphere was both cosy and congenial. It's certainly a venue we'll be using again.

The committee has organised another **quiz evening** to be held in the spring. This will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April and instead of the usual fish and chips we have decided to use the services of a local wood-fired pizza company. There will be a variety of both individual meat and vegetable/cheese pizzas to choose from, so it will be possible to sample the whole range of toppings that are available. As ever, Frank and Fiona K will be running the quiz. Sara W will be organising the publicity, so watch out for further information on Wiz about this popular event.



Thinking ahead, the committee is in the process of organising a **Royal Wedding tea** to be held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May in the village hall. It will be very similar to the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday tea with the emphasis on the village coming together in a traditional way to celebrate a royal occasion. If you think you may be able to assist with making sandwiches or cakes, please contact our chairman

Anthony R in the first instance. Let's just hope that the weather is kinder to us this time!

Progress is being made with the rose window project. Quotes have been received from two companies and Jane H is currently sourcing grants that will enable us to get this enterprise off the ground fairly quickly.

Finally some of you may have noticed cracking inside and outside the hall. Don't worry, the building is perfectly safe! Contact has been made with our insurance company and surveys carried out to ascertain the extent of the problem. It appears that trees around the perimeter of the gravelled area at

the back of the hall are drying the soil to such an extent that the clay, on which the hall is built, is cracking and causing problems. This ongoing situation is currently being monitored by our insurance company.

Finally, the new updated Wappenham website contains a village hall diary. If you wish to make a booking, please check that diary first to ensure the date is free, then phone or email me so I can book you in. The cost for the hall is £8 per hour. You can contact me via [parishclerk@wappenhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@wappenhamvillage.org.uk).

Hope to see you at the quiz.

Jenny S  
Secretary

## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

Dear All

A relatively quiet period for the Parish Council this quarter, but we are still concentrating on trying to bring the village together with a couple of initiatives.



### **Welcome book and Village directory**

We have started to update our village welcome book, which we can use for anyone who has recently arrived in the village, and in addition we are also trying to collect the names and addresses of everyone in the village, so we can produce a comprehensive village directory.

I would urge everyone to complete the survey form we sent out recently so that we can make it as detailed as possible; it will be a great way to know who lives where and make meeting the neighbours that much easier.

### **Budget**

At the last meeting we agreed our budget for the next financial year. We have managed to reduce our precept request from SNC by over 5% by moving some of our expenses between other easily accessible funds, so we can still support the village requirements without asking for more money to do it. I would like to thank Paul Featherstone for all his hard work on this.

### **Planning**

It was noted that the applications for Spring Hill House had been approved.

Bloxhams Barn redevelopment has been approved.

### **Womble Accolade**

It was nice to receive the letter below from SNC to congratulate Wappenham Village for its community Litter Pick Event back in November:

*“Chair of Wappenham Parish Council*

*Please pass on my sincere gratitude to everyone who took part in the Wappenham Parish Council Litter Pick on 18 November 2017. We are always very honoured to be part of such grand local events like this, and we enjoy taking great pride in our communities. People come together to share a common passion, that is, caring for our villages that we love. Thank you.*

*It sends strong messages out to the offenders; that we will take a stand if we see anyone dropping litter or fouling our home communities.*

*This is all the more reason why I wanted to say a special thank you to everyone who gave up their own time and volunteered to pick up litter in the village. Be very proud of taking such loving care of Wappenham, your Parish.*

*If you do have any photos to share, please would you send them to me and I will add these on to our web page.*

*I look forward to the next Litter Pick in the spring 2018.*

*Warm regards*

*Sue D*

*Community Safety Manager”*

As she said, I look forward to our next event at the beginning of April, dates to be confirmed in WIZ.

So that's it for now, I look forward to meeting you around the village as the weather gets a little better and the nights start to get lighter.

Alan L

Chairman Wappenham Parish Council

## CHURCH NEWS

### *From your Rector.....*

Have you given anything up for Lent this year? – The nation's favourite Lenten abstinences are chocolate and alcohol.

But don't worry if you find yourself cheating, it is reckoned that 80% of those good intentions go by the wayside within the first month.



Keeping focused on any goal can be hard and we all need a bit of help. As Christians we believe that help comes from God, and we get it by a constant dialogue of prayer and worship.

And over the next two months our Churches will be entering the time set aside in the Church's year when we devote ourselves to more of this prayer and worship as we follow Christ's journey to the Cross and beyond. You see, as Christians, we take things on, not give them up, for Lent. Our Lent and Holy Week worship offer a variety of ways to do this, and you are more than welcome to come along to any of these services.

During Lent, we will also be holding our **popular weekly Lent Course**. This allows those who come along to explore matters of faith and learn for themselves what the Bible actually says in relaxed group sessions, after watching clips from television and film.

And as well as our courses we will be holding a few "tasters" during this time for those who are curious about the Bible, Christianity or Church. **One of these will be our Lent Cinema at Helmdon Church** where will be offering some



Hollywood films that explore faith and or Christianity as well as simply providing some “Flicks in the Sticks” over the next two months.

**On March 14<sup>th</sup> we are holding a special Lent Soup lunch in the Village Hall** from 12.30pm to 1.30pm with a bowl of delicious homemade soup and a fresh baked roll. Donations for the lunch will be going towards the work of Christian Aid.

Then on **Maundy Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> we will be enacting the ancient ritual of “stripping” the church** for Good Friday. We cover statues and store away most of ‘adornments’ that make our church so beautiful. This is to remind us of the stark reality of Christ’s death and is done in silence. **Everyone is welcome to come along and help, as this traditionally was a community event.** Here in Wappenham we meet at the Church at 10pm.

Details of everything that’s going on in the Astwell Benefice can be found on our church noticeboards or our website: [www.astwellparishes.org.uk](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk). If you would like us to email you with our weekly list of services and events, then send your request to: [rectorastwellbenefice@aol.co.uk](mailto:rectorastwellbenefice@aol.co.uk)

So why not come along and see what it is all about! God’s support is open to all, you only have to ask, but sometimes we might need that help through a more human intervention, and that’s why the Church is here for you.



Do you know someone who might benefit from a bit of company? Do you need advice or a listening ear? Or maybe the dark nights are making it harder for you to cope alone without a loved one. We can offer free grief and other one-to-one counselling, or just a simple listening ear, and we also have a

team of people who are happy to visit anyone who finds themselves housebound or in need of company.

*Contact Wiggy S to find out more about what we can offer.*

***And here are a few dates for your February, March Diaries...***

### **Monday Nights Beyond Lent**



Every Monday night until March 26th

7.30 pm - 9.45pm at the Astwell Rectory

(lifts available). Bible study and relaxed discussion based around the film and book “ The Shack”. Relevant clips from the film will begin each session.

There is no requirement to have read the book or seen the film to join in this course. The book is available through Amazon or any good book retailer.

### **Wednesday Lent Charity Lunches 12.30pm -1.30pm**

A bowl of homemade soup and bread - in aid of Christian Aid (bringing food to those in need.) Bring friends and neighbour along to this simple friendly lunch in aid of a good cause.



**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb** Helmdon Reading Room

**Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup>**-Lois Weedon Village Hall

**Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup>** Wappenham Village Hall

**Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup>** Whitfield Village Hall

**Wednesday March 28<sup>th</sup>** The Rectory

## **Lent on the Big Screen**



Come simply to watch a movie or stay on afterwards for a relaxed discussion. There will also be take home reflections for the week ahead. All movies are being shown at Helmdon

Church, refreshments available. All movie showings start at 2.30pm.

**Saturday March 3<sup>rd</sup> *Les Miserables***

**Thursday March 8<sup>th</sup> *The Way***

A moving and incredibly uplifting film about a group of pilgrims travelling the Camino de Santiago, with Martin Sheen.

***Rev'd Carole xx***

The Rector of the Astwell Benefice [carolepeters@aol.com](mailto:carolepeters@aol.com)

## **SERVICES (including a selection from the Benefice)**

### **MARCH**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 11.15am Parish Communion**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Mothering Sunday Breakfast in the Village Hall**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 11.15am Parish Communion**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> The Passion Narrative across Three Churches:**

8.45am Breakfast at The Rectory Lois Weedon

9.30am Procession and the clipping of Lois Weedon Church  
*followed by* the reading of "The Passion" Part 1

10.30am Procession and the clipping of Helmdon Church  
*followed by* the reading of "The Passion" Part 2

11.15am Procession, Clipping of Syresham Church  
*followed by* the reading of "The Passion" Part 3 and Holy Communion for Passiontide.

## **Sacred Spaces for Holy Week**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Prayerbook Communion  
7.30pm Service Talk by Rev'd Viv Baldwin –Prison Chaplain**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> 10pm Stripping of the Altars -  
Wappenham Church**

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Good Friday Stations of the Cross:**

Starts at 8am Whitfield Church.. via other churches, then 2pm  
Wappenham Church

## **APRIL**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 11.15am Communion by extension for Easter**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 9am Breakfast Church**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 11.15am Parish Communion**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 11.15am Village Praise and Prayer**

## ***BREAKING NEWS***

### ***New service pattern from May 2018....***

At the beginning of May 2018 there will be a change to the pattern of regular Sunday services at St Mary the Virgin.

Our new Benefice PCC has listened to the feedback from all the Parishes, who asked for a less complicated and regular diary of services with regular provision in the parishes, but also regular opportunities to worship together as a Benefice. We have worked hard to make sure the new pattern reflects these wishes and also increases the number of services in each Parish.

*Below is the new Pattern from May to Dec 2nd 2018*

**First Sunday of the Month – Astwell Benefice Shared Service - lifts available**

May 6<sup>th</sup> 8am Benefice said Communion *hosted by* Helmdon Church

11am Rogation Service with Blessing of the Tractors and Ploughs and Hog Roast *hosted by* Cold Harbour Farm, Radstone

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am Benefice Shared Communion *hosted by* Whitfield Church

July 1<sup>st</sup> 8am Benefice Said Communion *hosted by* Helmdon Church

4pm Celebration of Marriage Service at St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham

Aug 5<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Outdoor Communion for Lammas *hosted by* Radstone Church

Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am Benefice Shared Communion *hosted by* Lois Weedon Church

Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Benefice Shared Communion *hosted by* St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham

Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Benefice Shared Communion for all Saints *hosted by* Syresham Church

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am Benefice Shared Communion for Advent *hosted by* Helmdon Church

### **Every Second Sunday of the Month**

9am Breakfast Church in the Wappenham Village Hall

Except November 11<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Sunday Service 10.45am

### **Every Third Sunday of the Month**

11.15am Parish Communion at St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham

### **Every Fourth Sunday of the Month**

11.15am Village Praise and Prayer at St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham

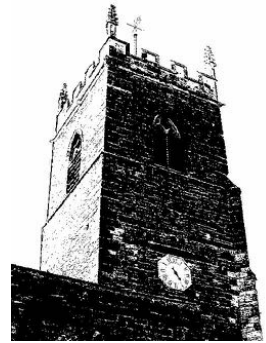
### **Every Fifth Sunday (July, Oct, Dec 2018)**

11.15am Parish Communion at St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham

6pm Choral Evensong at St James the Great, Syresham

## **FRIENDS OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN WAPPENHAM**

We are delighted to say that work is well underway to repair all 62 steps in the Church tower.



This work has been made possible through the generosity of local people, both at Friends' events and direct donations, so a huge thank you to all our supporters. It is not too late to 'buy' a step for £300. This will enable us to use our funds to get on with repairing the porch rooves – with an 12<sup>th</sup> century building, there's always something else. We are due our five-yearly inspection this year by the Church authorities, so we need to crack on! We want to celebrate the repairs to the steps, so watch this space for ideas.

But in the meantime, you can help – we are planning how to commemorate donations in memory of your loved ones with a 'posh' list. Perhaps on wood. What sort of message would you like to see?

Thank you again for your help!

Jane M  
Chair, Friends of St Mary the Virgin Wappenham

Reg Charity: 1116889

## FROM WAPPENHAM CHAPEL

We had a very good evening back in December with the Village Fellowship Meal and we hope to have another meal later in the year. So watch out for the invites.



Our chapel offers to you all, the opportunity to have God's word opened up to you. There are many times in our lives when somehow we are missing something and looking for that missing piece in life that gives us fulfilment. If you asked most of the friends who come to the chapel, they would have told you the same. We are all so different and we all have different goals and objectives. But you can discover that missing something too, if you could open your hearts to the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are heading to Easter and the whole reason the Lord came down to earth is for Easter. Not eggs, not chocolate, not chicks, not bunnies, all lovely, mind. Easter is when Jesus went to the cross and bore our sins. He died for you and me, so that if we can trust and believe on Him we can have eternal life. He said "*I am the way, the truth and the life*".

What sets Jesus apart from leading figures in world religions is that he rose from the grave. Three days later after dying on the cross, he rose. There are no prophets or any other person in the history of the world who fulfilled the promise in the Old Testament to rise from the dead. This was the power and promise of God. Our world is full of empty promises and unfulfilled lives. You may find all this too hard to come to terms with. You may find the thought of going to church on a Sunday a waste of time, but we can assure you before we found Jesus in

a waste of time, but we can assure you before we found Jesus in our lives, in times past we really felt the same. Our lives have been transformed and we are not sad people, but happy people knowing we have a risen Saviour.

If you want to discover the truths of the Bible and discover what God has done for you, please come along; if you feel uncomfortable about that, then listen to the ministry on our website and then see what is opened up to you.

### **Chapel Life**

Sunday 10.45am - Studying Mark's Gospel, led by Trevor Thomas

Sunday School for the children. All children are welcome to join with us at 10.45am. They share in a reading, some singing, a short prayer and various learning activities.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study at 7.30pm in the schoolroom behind the chapel

6pm – Sunday Evenings – At Slapton Chapel

### **Easter Services**

Good Friday Service – 10.30am Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Sunday – 10.45am Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April

Everyone is welcome to come and join us for any of our weekly services or listen in on our website at:

[www.evangelicalchurch-towcester.org.uk](http://www.evangelicalchurch-towcester.org.uk)

Richard K on behalf of Wappenham Chapel



		Wappenham Rainfall		
		2017		
	Monthly	18 year	18 year	18 year
	Totals in	Average	Highest	Lowest
	2017			
	in mm	in	in	in
January	3.17 80.52	3.00	7.21	1.17
February	1.97 50.02	2.54	4.79	1.16
March	2.09 53.09	2.04	4.16	0.30
April	0.45 11.43	2.28	6.73	0.42
May	3.51 89.15	2.98	6.71	1.72
June	1.61 40.89	2.58	5.83	0.25
July	2.69 68.33	2.86	6.59	0.94
August	4.01 101.85	2.93	5.99	0.50
September	2.54 64.52	2.11	4.89	0.64
October	.60 15.2	3.35	5.66	0.6
November	1.97 50.02	3.39	5.57	1.76
December	3.11 78.99	3.30	5.46	1.31
TOTAL	27.72 704.09	33.91 861.31	45.81 1163.57	21.3 541.02

*I have always worked in inches and after 18 years am not going to change, but as a gesture to those of you who work in mm. I have converted some of the above figures (@1inch=25.4mm) & entered them alongside in a smaller font.*

Overall a very dry year.

For the first four and half months we had very little rain but mercifully it rained in May so this got everything growing.

Then summer arrived and we had lovely weather up to the last week of July when it started raining and virtually did not stop till early September. As a result we had a fantastic growth of grass.

The last 3 months of the year were again dry. We had snow and very cold weather in the third week of December.

Robert T

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## What's on this spring

7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Coffee morning 10-12 (Village Hall)
11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Mothering Sunday breakfast (Village Hall)
14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Lent soup lunch 12.30 (Village Hall)
29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Maundy Thursday stripping the church 10pm (St Mary's)
30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Good Friday service 10.30am (Chapel)
30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Stations of the Cross 2pm (St Mary's)
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter service 10.45am (Chapel)
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Communion by extension service 11.15am (St Mary's)
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Coffee morning 10-12 (Village Hall)
27 <sup>th</sup> April	Pub night 5-11pm (Village Hall)
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Coffee morning 10-12 (Village Hall)
20 <sup>th</sup> May	'Royal Wedding Tea' afternoon (Village Hall)
25 <sup>th</sup> May	Pub night 5-11pm (Village Hall)
6 <sup>th</sup> June	Coffee morning 10-12 (Village Hall)
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Safari Supper (village-wide)
29 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Beer & Music Festival (Village Hall)

### Regular Events

*Chapel service & Sunday School* Sundays 10.45am (Chapel)

*Benefice services* 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in month (location varies)

*'Breakfast Church'* 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in month 9am (Village Hall)

*Communion service* 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in month 11.15am (St Mary's)

*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)