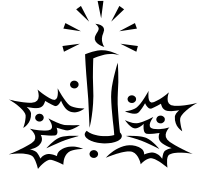


# Wappenham Village Newsletter

Winter 2017

## FROM THE EDITOR



Thanks to our sponsors: Smiths Newsagents, Craig D, Towcester Veterinary Centre, the Bell Plantation, Wappenham Parish Council and Lawrence Furnishings. Thanks also to Michael P for the cover photo.

Please note that there is now a tear-off form for people to give me or the PC, so that you can let us know how you would prefer to read the newsletter – see the Parish Council report.

With best wishes for the Christmas and New Year.

Jane H

## WIZ

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

## 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 Sam and David C and their children Rory and Toby, who have moved into The Lane from Yorkshire, to Chris T who has moved to Helmdon Rd from Bromsgrove, and to Teresa D who has also moved into Helmdon Road, from Greens Norton. I hope you all enjoy living here.



**Congratulations** – to Ashleigh and Karen, who were married in Wappenham Church in September, and Sam and Sam, who were married on the same day. Both had their wedding receptions here, in the Hall and on Rectory Farm. As far as I know, this is the first time there have been two weddings on the same day in the village – and all went well.

## DRAMA CLUB NEWS

### *Little Red Riding Hood*

The Weston and Lois Weedon Drama Group's annual pantomime will take place on the **9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

Rehearsals are well underway and this year the Group has joined forces with the children and teenagers from the Weston and Lois Weedon Drama Club.

Look out for full details regarding times and tickets sales at a later date on Wiz.

## **BRIAN P**

It is now almost 3 months since we lost our lovely Brian, and his family and I wanted to thank everyone for all the help, love and support we have had from so many people during this very difficult last 12 months when his Mantle Cell Lymphoma returned so aggressively. Brian tried so hard to keep on top of it and gave it his all, but this wretched disease won in the end. All along the way he kept his cheeky sense of humour and always had a smile on his face. He was always amazed at the number of people popping in to visit him, but so much appreciated everybody's concern for him and all of us.



We had a private cremation with immediate family attending in the morning and then the Celebration of Brian's life at the chapel in the afternoon and both services went well. It helped that the sun shone, too. The number of people at the chapel in the afternoon was staggering, we think about 160, but very uplifting for all of us to know how much people thought of Brian. He was a very quiet, unassuming man, always ready to help anyone with anything at any time. He was involved with the Brackley Dippers, a swimming group for people with physical difficulties, for 34 years and helped many people over that time get their confidence back and progress forwards. He is certainly very much missed there as well. One of the girls at the swimming pool said he was a humble man and I think that sums him up perfectly. He certainly loved his litter picking walks around the village as well and chatting to whoever was about. He enjoyed being in the countryside and the fresh air. He was born in Wappenham, loved the village, and he was able to end his days at home, which is where he wanted to be.

The collection in Brian's memory for Katherine House Hospice raised about £1000, which is wonderful and we would like to thank everyone for their generosity. It was lovely to catch up with so many relatives and friends at the Village Hall afterwards too.

Brian has left a big hole in our lives, he was certainly my soulmate, and I miss being in my second home, too! But I will be keeping in touch! Thank you again to everyone for everything!

Lesley W

### **BRIAN P - A REAL GENTLEMAN**

I am deeply saddened by Brian's passing, but I find some comfort in the knowledge that he went peacefully in the night. Brian was more than the best neighbour anyone could wish for, he was a real gentleman, a comic and a good friend. Brian was loved by everyone because he thought about others before himself. I shall miss his smile, the twinkle in his eye when he made me laugh and his non-judgmental character. I shall miss him greatly.

Mike L

## **WOMBLING UPDATE**

Dear All,

So many thanks to all who turned up and supported our Wombling Day in November.

With over 20 people there, we made short work of tidying up the village and identifying a couple of real hazards, which I will report to SNC. Despite the weather, there was a great community spirit on show and I am sure we would have made Brian very proud.

Please see a couple of photos of both the handsome team and the results of your efforts.

If you would like to do it again I would suggest March/April time?

Many thanks once again.

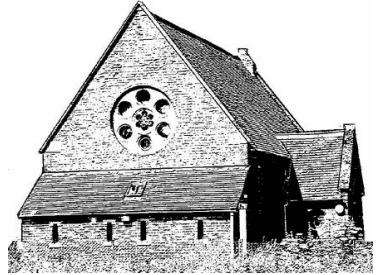
Alan and Ashleigh





## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Christmas is fast approaching which means that the annual seasonal lunch for those of a certain age is with us here again. If you think you are eligible (that is 70 or over), please contact me if you have not received an invitation and menu; if you have received one please reply with your menu choice as soon as possible. This year's meal is to be held at The New Inn, Abthorpe.



Many thanks to those of you who have again contributed to the village Tote. We will be having three draws this month – for September, October and November. If you haven't joined the Tote and would like to do so, the cost is a mere £2 per month, £24 for the whole year, then do please contact me and I'll pop round to collect the money. The sum raised really does help with the ongoing maintenance of the building. Next month there will be the big Christmas draw with a first prize of £50.

Thanks to everyone who came along to the bi-annual quiz with fish and chips. A good evening was had by all; congratulations to Paul F's team, who just managed to nose to the winning post despite not having additional help from Anne M, who unfortunately had a prior engagement. Thanks must also go to Frank K, our excellent host and quiz master and his wife Fiona, who manned or should that be womanned the scoreboard.

Plans for renovation of the rose window are moving slowly onward. We now have one quote for the work; when there are two we can go forward and apply for grants. Our grants specialist, Jane H, has already identified a number of possible



bodies to contact so once this has been finalised the work, hopefully, should be able to go ahead in 2018..

I am pleased to report that, of late, the hall has been very well used. In addition to our loyal regular users, we have been used as a feeding stop for a national cycling organisation, by the Chapel for evening meals, the upholstery group has been resurrected and of course the increasingly popular monthly pub night. Long may this continue.

I think that's about all – so it only leaves me to wish you a happy Christmas and a very healthy New Year.

Jenny S  
Secretary

## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

Dear All

Another busy period for the Parish Council, so let me start with:

### **Freedom of the Village**

This was introduced a couple of months ago to recognise those people in the village who make long term and important contributions to village life. (Please see website for full details.)

I am delighted to report that at our November meeting we unanimously endorsed the nomination of Brian P as a Freeman of Wappenham.



Brian very sadly passed away before we had the opportunity of making the award, but Hilary will be presenting it to his family in the very near future.

### **Wombling Day**

#### ***“The Clock goes on, although the pulse has gone”***

Linked to the above, it was decided that we would organise a litter-picking day in memory of Brian which will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> November.

At the time of writing this has not yet happened, so I will report back on Wiz after the event [*see preceding article on the results – Ed.*]

This also gives me the opportunity of welcoming Ashleigh Robbins as our latest recruit to the Parish Council team: his first contribution will be in helping to make the litter picking day a great success.

We both look forward to meeting up with all the wombles on the day, have a great deal of “FUN?” and make a positive impact on the village environment.

Many thanks to all the volunteers.

### **Playground Demise**

It was a really sad day when the Playground had to be dismantled, but many thanks are owed to Dene and the volunteers who kept it going for so long.

The area will now be returned to the landlord and will no longer be available as a village resource, which is a great shame.

## **Pub Nights and Beer Festival**

Although it was a blow when Jim decided to move away from the village leaving Michael with the prospect of having to go it alone to continue the ever popular Pub Nights, many villagers immediately stepped into the breach and made the September and October events even more successful.

Michael was so pleased with the response, he has agreed that he will ensure that the 2018 Beer Festival will go ahead, with much more involvement from the village. He has spoken to the musician who arranges the music and has agreed with him to include local musicians where possible, with a variance in music genres.

Therefore if you would like to be involved in next year's event, please get in touch with Michael and put your name down. There is now a group email address for volunteers, if you would like to be added to this list please contact Michael.

## **Planning**

Since the last issue the construction of agricultural track at Greens Park Farm has been approved by SNC.

The Parish Council has been consulted on the following applications:

**S/ /2017/1777/FUL at 6 The Old Barn Rectory Way Wappenham, Northamptonshire, NN12 8SQ - Two single storey extensions to the West of the existing barn conversion**

It was resolved to object to this application for the following reasons:

While the Council was mindful of the reasons why the applicant might seek to extend the property, it felt that the current design and placement of the extension are inappropriate for a number of reasons. There are several principles in the Wappenham Supplementary Planning Guidance that we believe substantiate our opposition to the application:

a) Design Principle 10 –Format and Materials; Alterations to traditional and vernacular buildings should respect the original architectural form and materials used –the Parish Council believed that the linear style of the original barn conversion is compromised by this application

b) Design Principle 11 -Future development should respect and complement the importance and variety of garden types in Wappenham –This application will remove a sizable proportion of the garden and not add or enhance the gardenscape of the near area

c) Design Principle 23 –Old farm buildings, barns, old shops, historical railway stock, railway bridges and wells, as those described above, should be preserved. If there is a justifiable need to adapt them to new uses, great care should be taken to preserve their architectural character and historical character and importance –This building was once an old farm building that has already been converted into a residential property. This new application for two extensions does not preserve the agricultural character and historical importance of this property.

SNC refused the application.

**S/2017/1993/FUL, S/2017/1994/LBC High Street House, 8 High Street, NN12 8SN Timber orangery to rear**

It was resolved to support the above applications and SNC later approved them.

**S/2017/2197/FUL - Bloxhams Barn Weedon Lois Road Wappenham - Change of use, conversion and extension of an agricultural building to a residential dwelling**

It was resolved to support the above application (SNC had not made a decision at the time of writing).

**S/2017/2479/FUL -Spring Hill House Abthorpe Road Wappenham NN12 8ST -Conversion of stable block to two holiday lets**

It was resolved to support the above application and make the following comment: the PC noted that the proposal of render coloured white might be rather conspicuous and a more neutral colour would be preferable. (SNC had not made a decision at the time of writing).

**S/2017/2485/FUL -Spring Hill House Abthorpe Road Wappenham NN12 8ST - 4 stables and storage barn**

It was resolved to support the above application (SNC had not made a decision at the time of writing)

**Newsletter printing survey**

It was resolved to contribute towards the production of the paper copy of the newsletter, however the PC must have evidence to justify any spend of its limited resources, therefore we do need to establish how many people actually want a paper copy, and how many prefer to access it via email (it is also displayed later on our website [www.wappenhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.wappenhamvillage.org.uk)). I would be grateful if you would let us know your views before we make a decision, so we can reflect the majority view. There is

a tear-off slip at the bottom of this report: please fill it in and return it to Jane H or any parish councillor.

**Finally**

We are continuing to work on the village website in order for it to become the 'go to' place for up to date information about what is going on.

If you have any comments or suggestions about what you would like to see on there, or any event you would like to publicise, please contact Linda. Please always include a start and finish time for all events, as the calendar programme requires this.

I look forward to seeing you around the village over the coming weeks and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Alan L  
Chairman Wappenham Parish Council

**Newsletter Survey Form**

**I would like to retain the Paper copy of the Newsletter -----**

**I would prefer to access the Newsletter online -----**

**Name -----**

**Please return to Jane H or any Parish Councillor**

## CHURCH NEWS



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

Everywhere it seems that the countdown to the Festive season has begun again; before the lights from our firework celebrations have even completely faded from our night skies, they are replaced with the twinkling of Christmas lights.

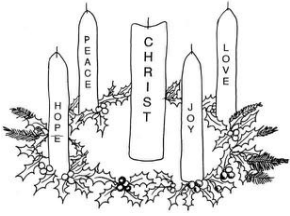
For many that signals the start of the traditional planning, buying and wrapping of presents for family and friends, and of course Christmas itself started with a present from God: the gift of a baby - born in a manger, destined to change the world. Jesus Christ.



While on earth, Jesus actually gave few material things to people, instead he gave gifts that were treasures of the heart, such as belief in self, inner healing, peace of mind, compassion, forgiveness, dignity and justice.

This loving presence lives on in each and every one of us, but it seems that it only really gets truly tapped into at Christmas, when we dedicate a whole season to “Peace on Earth and goodwill to all”.

So why not make the most of it!



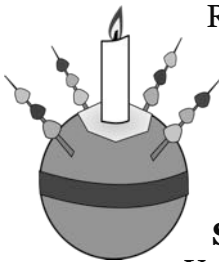
Christmas preparations start on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, when you are invited to join us at St Mary Magdalene Helmdon, as we begin our countdown to Christmas Night by blessing and lighting of all six of our Benefice Advent wreaths. This is a pretty spectacular sight and gets us in the

Christmas spirit ready for all our Christmas Services.

**On December 9<sup>th</sup>** we will be holding our popular **“Nativity in the Barn” at 3pm** at Manor Barn, Lois Weedon Rd, Wappenham (the same venue as last year). Come along to see the Nativity story told with real animals; grown ups can enjoy a glass or two of mulled wine and there are mince pies for everyone, including our donkeys!



Remember to wrap up warm!



On the Sunday **the 10<sup>th</sup> of December**, do come along to Church at 3pm to help make all the Christingles and make sure you pack yours with sweets ready for our **Candlelit Children’s Society Christingle service at 3.30pm.**

You might even find yourself inside our own giant Christingle!

The following week we have an Advent Communion at 11.15am.

On **Christmas Eve** we have our very popular **Carols by Candlelight at 7.30pm.**

**Midnight Mass** at the slightly earlier time of **11pm** is at **Syresham** this year, with a **9.30pm Christmas Night Communion at Helmdon.**



And on **Christmas Morning** we will be holding our traditional **11.15am Family Christmas Day Communion Service**.

Looking ahead to post Christmas, our New Year's Eve Communion is at Helmdon at 11am and on January 7<sup>th</sup> we will be at Lois Weedon (again at 11am) for our Epiphany celebrations. Lifts are available, just contact the Churchwardens.

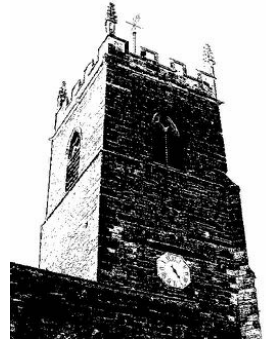
Back to Christmas: Wiz News will have details of village carol singing nearer the time and you are more than welcome to join us around the village as we sing.

So I'm off to dust off my Christmas Boots and twinkly lights, but I'm also off to pray that this year we may get a step closer to Peace on Earth, and that more of us will come to realise that Christ's gifts aren't just for Christmas but can be used again and again, and these batteries never run out!  
Amen!



***Reverend Carole***

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



I am delighted to say that work will begin to repair the flight of steps up to the belfry in January 2018. We had been hoping to start this autumn, but the stonemasons asked for a later date. They want to get on with some outside jobs while the weather is not too bad. Ours is an indoors job and by January they will be ready for that! Hopefully by the next edition of the newsletter we will have some photos of the progress. And by spring 2018 we will be able once more to walk up the tower. Much better than the 'river' of worn stone that is there now. A huge thank you to every one of you in the village who has made this possible. A memorial list of your family and loved ones' names you wish to remember will then go up on the wall. Ideas for what this might look like are welcome!

Jane M

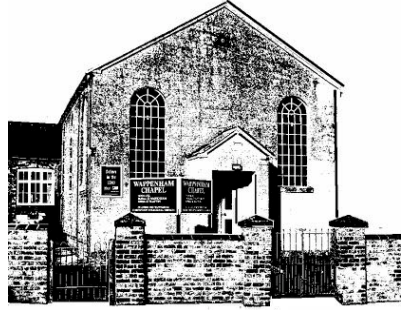
On behalf of members of the committee:

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

### **The Gift of Life**

Christmas is upon us once again. It's the time of year that most of us would do almost anything to be able to spend some time with our families and enjoy giving and receiving gifts from one another. We spend weeks preparing for the day and live in the hope of being able to give something that will be useful and appreciated by our loved ones. But how many of us spend just a fraction of our time reflecting on the gift of life that Jesus Christ came into the world to give us? Yet surely, this is what Christmas is really all about!



In his book “Written in Blood”, Robert Coleman tells the story of a little boy whose sister needed a blood transfusion. She had a rare blood type that she shared with her little brother. The fact that he had recovered from the same disease two years earlier meant that the chances of success were good. The doctor tried to explain the situation to the little boy carefully, pointing out that without the transfusion his sister would die. “Would you be brave and give your blood to your sister?” the doctor asked. The boy hesitated for a moment. His lower lip began to tremble. Then he forced a smile and said, “Yes, for my sister I will.” The two children were wheeled into the hospital room – The girl, pale and thin; the boy, robust and healthy. He smiled at his sister, and then he just watched as the blood travelled out of his body, down the clear plastic tube. Eventually his smile faded, and as he lay there feeling weak he looked up at the doctor and said, “Doctor, when do I die?”

It was only then that the doctor realised that the little boy thought that giving his blood to his sister meant giving up his own life. Yet because of his great love for her he was prepared to pay that price.

We are touched by such stories and would understandably be moved to tears if the siblings appeared on, say, “The Pride of Britain Awards”. Yet that is exactly what God has done for us when he sent his Son into the world to be our Saviour. The big difference, of course, is that the Bible tells us that it was while we were “ungodly, sinners, enemies of God and hostile towards him” that Christ died to give us the gift of life. While he loved us enough to die for us, we certainly didn’t love him. And that is why Jesus Christ is the “indescribable gift”. It’s because he meets our greatest need. As one writer has put it, “If God had perceived that our greatest need was economic, he would have sent an economist. If he thought that our greatest need was entertainment, he would have sent us a comedian. If God had seen that our greatest need was political stability, he would have sent us a politician. And if he had perceived that our greatest need was health, he would have sent us a doctor. But he knew that our greatest need involved our sin, our alienation from him, our profound rebellion against him, and our death; and so he sent us his Son to be a Saviour. ”

Over the Christmas period we will be looking some more at what the Bible actually tells us about the Christmas story. You would be most welcome to come and join with us.

## **Chapel Life**

Wappenham 10.45 am-Studying Mark's Gospel

19/11/17. Parables of the Kingdom	Mark 4:1-34.
3/12/17. Variable Responses to the Gospel	Mark 4:1-20.
10/12/17. What You Do With What You Hear	Mark 4:21-25
17/12/17. Kingdom Growth	Mark 4:26-32
24/12/17. A Christmas Cracker	Psalm 98.
31/12/17. Priorities for The New Year	Haggai 1.
7/1/18. "They don't make them like they used to"	Haggai 2.
14/1/18. This is Hell on Earth	Mark 5:1-20.
21/1/18. Healed with a Touch	Mark 5:21-34.
28/1/18. The Little Girl He Raised	Mark 5:35-43.

Sunday School for the children. All children are welcome to join with us at 10.45 am. 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

5pm – Christmas Carol Service – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at Wappenham Chapel

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

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

Pastor Trevor T

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# Christmas

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## What's on this winter

- 29<sup>th</sup> Nov Pub night 5-11pm (Village Hall)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Dec Nativity in the Barn 3pm (Manor Barn)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Dec Christingle Service 3.30pm (St Mary's church)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas coffee morning 10-12 (Village Hall)
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas carol service 5pm (Chapel)  
Carols by Candlelight 7.30pm (St Mary's)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Dec Family Christmas Day Communion service  
11.15am (St Mary's)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan Coffee morning 10-12 (Village Hall)
- 26<sup>th</sup> Jan Pub night 5-11pm (Village Hall)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Feb Coffee morning 10-12 (Village Hall)
- 9-10<sup>th</sup> Feb 'Little Red Riding Hood' (L Weedon Village Hall)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb Pub night 5-11pm (Village Hall)
- 9<sup>th</sup> June Safari Supper
- 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Jun Beer & Music Festival (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)