



The Grapevine

THE NEWSLETTER OF HAMPTON LUCY, CHARLECOTE AND LOXLEY PARISHES

ISSUE 58

APRIL 2004

Loxley Parish Council

On Wednesday, 21 April, Loxley Parish Council is holding the annual parish meeting at the school, commencing at 7.30pm. It is hoped that there will be as good an attendance as in previous years. The Parish Meeting is an occasion when viewpoints can be expressed and comments, criticisms and suggestions can be put forward and discussed in open forum. This year, our speaker will be Mr Steve Patalong, a representative of the Countryside Agency. His topic will be 'Parish Plans'. We are hoping to embark on a parish plan and doubtless his comments and advice will be very useful. As well as our 'regulars', it is hoped that we shall see many of the newcomers to our community. So do keep the evening of 21 April free and come along and join us. We look forward to seeing you there!

Easter Teas

The Afternoon Teas in Hampton Lucy on Monday, 5 April will be in our usual format from 3 to 4 p.m., but with an Easter flavour. We should like to offer an open invitation to all who would like the chance to meet friends and neighbours, to enjoy a chat, on a regular or a casual basis, for a few minutes or for an hour. There is no obligation, no cost (just very small voluntary donations welcome), simply an opportunity for a friendly get-together and we guarantee a welcoming smile! DR

Clean-up in Hampton Lucy

A reminder that a working party will be cleaning and decorating the village hall on Saturday, 3 April from 9.30am onwards. If you are able to give any help it will be much appreciated. Tea and coffee will be on tap but please bring your own overalls.



Cycle Rides in the Countryside

Do you enjoy cycling through the beautiful Warwickshire countryside? If so, you should come and join one of the monthly cycle rides from Hampton Lucy to a village pub, organised each month by Tim Bugg (Tel: 842353). The first ride is on Sunday, 25 April, to Aston Cantlow, starting at 11am from in front of Hampton Lucy Church. The pace is very gentle, and the routes are very scenic, along quiet roads, so do come along and join us! Future rides will be posted each month in *The Grapevine*. However, it is worth noting now that there will be a longer cycle ride on Sunday, 20 June (10am start), in aid of the Hampton Lucy Church Millennium Appeal. TB

Upper Avon Navigation

There is now a looming possibility of our river being dredged and engineered to make way for 14ft-wide powered boats going back and forth between Stratford and Warwick. A well-attended meeting was held in Hampton Lucy village hall on Tuesday, 2 March to co-ordinate opposition to this plan. Almost 70% of Hampton Lucy parishioners expressed their opposition in the recent village survey. The County Council Scrutiny Committee will meet in June to decide whether or not to support the navigation plan. The public are invited to send their views to: Regeneration Projects, Avon Navigation, PTES, PO Box 43, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4SX. You can obtain a form either from Alan Scaife (Tel: 841105) or by downloading it from www.warwickshire.gov.uk/avonnavigation Alan Scaife can also lend (or give) you the minutes of the Hampton Lucy meeting. The project will be discussed at the WCC Stratford Area Committee at 4.30pm on Wednesday, 12 May in Stratford. You can speak there for three minutes by prior arrangement with Martin Gibbins (Tel: 260150). AS

The Saint James's Singers

The Saint James's Singers will perform Handel's *Messiah* in the Levi Fox Hall in Stratford-upon-Avon on Sunday, 4 April, at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Elizabeth Hunter (Tel: 840329) and on the door for £15 and £10 with a £5 concessionary ticket for children and students.

PARISH LETTER



Do you believe in God?

This was one of the questions *The Courier* posed to me recently in an e-mail interview. It's an unusual question for a vicar - I must confess that most people assume I do! But as we come once again to Easter it is a question which is worth asking anyone. Because our Christian faith hinges completely on the events surrounding the death of Jesus of Nazareth and the rumours of his resurrection.

Whatever our final answer, the question about what happened that weekend is the most important question we will ever address. If it was all a fraud or a misunderstanding then we can ignore it and get on with life as best we can, doing our best by ourselves and others.

But just suppose it's true. Just suppose Jesus not only died (and the evidence for that bit is quite convincing), but also rose from the dead, then the effects should be life changing. And *that's* the two-fold reason I believe. Firstly, no-one has ever come up with an alternative adequate explanation for the empty tomb. If you think you have one, then try it out on me - my contact details are on the back. But as far as I can see, the resurrection of Christ from the dead is at least as plausible as the other

scenarios. But secondly, I have also seen how an encounter with the risen Christ has changed people's lives. Sometimes it's quite dramatic, sometimes quiet and gentle. Often it brings healing and hope.

I have been privileged to be in a small way part of an Alpha course run in Warwick in the last year. It's just one way of finding out more, but I have seen lives changed and I have watched as God has been at work and continues to work here and now.

What if you were asked the question "*Do you believe in God?*"? Would you know what your answer would be? Whatever your final answer, it is vital you explore it. It's a matter of life and death - yours and His.

May I wish you all a happy Easter in the name of the Risen Jesus. SE



PARISH NEWS

Annual Church Meetings

You are warmly invited to attend the Annual Church Meetings which are to be held as follows: Charlecote - Thursday, 22 April in the Charlecote Village Hall at 7.30pm, and Hampton Lucy - Tuesday 20 April at 7.30 pm in the Hampton Lucy Village Hall. The Loxley meeting was held on 23 March. Everyone is welcome - do please come and join us. CP

Confirmation

There will be a course for young people interested in confirmation starting on Sunday, 25 April at 7.30pm at the Vicarage. We will follow a six-week course called START, with videos, discussion and other activities. Those who then decide they would like to be confirmed will have an extra session discussing confirmation, and a rehearsal nearer the time. Please let Sarah know if you're interested and haven't yet told her. This will give me an idea of numbers, but if you forget, please feel free to turn up on the first evening. **NB.** The date of the confirmation has changed to Sunday, 27 June, 3.30pm at St Mary's Warwick. This is due to Bishops Anthony's move to Hereford. SE

Easter Services

Palm Sunday (4 April)

8.30 Charlecote - Holy Communion
10.00 Hampton Lucy - Palm Sunday celebration with 'Resurrection Rock' performed by Hampton Lucy School
6.00 Loxley - Palm Sunday service

Maundy Thursday (8 April)

7.30pm Hampton Lucy - Communion with Oken Singers

Good Friday (9 April)

10.00 Hampton Lucy - All age worship
2.00-3.00 Loxley - Meditation at foot of cross
7.30 Charlecote - Good Friday Service

Easter Day (11 April)

9.00 Loxley - Holy Communion with hymns
10.00 Hampton Lucy - All age Easter service
11.00 Charlecote - Easter Communion with Festival Singers
6.00 Hampton Lucy - Easter Holy Communion

From the Registers

17th Feb		
Funeral	Harry Wilkins	St Nicolas's, Loxley
23rd Feb		
Funeral	Marion Boddington	St Leonard's, Charlecote
8th Mar		
Interment	Esme Dare	St Peter's, Hampton Lucy

Loxley School

It seems no time at all since the new school year started in September, and here we are, two thirds of the way through it! Loxley School has had quite a busy Spring Term. In addition to the ordinary curriculum there have been pancake races down at the Manor and cross-country races at the Croft School. As part of the Indian culture studies, a visit to a Hindu temple was arranged. The Juniors took a trip to Leamington Spa to have look at the Victorian aspect of the town. The swimming gala was a most enjoyable event and the children took great pleasure in entertaining their mothers at the Mothers' Day service in Loxley church. There was a fund-raising "non-uniform" day on 26 March in aid of the Shakespeare Hospice. The Friends of Loxley School organised the annual Easter Egg Hunt during the last few days of term. The Friends also organised a "Stars in their Eyes" evening and a couple of quiz nights (for adults) too. Many thanks for all the hard work the Friends do in aid of School Funds. So, at the end of this busy Spring Term, best wishes to children and staff at both Loxley and Hampton Lucy schools for a happy and restful Easter break. RM



Music to Inspire

The Friends of Charlecote Church are delighted to announce a concert by the Stratford-upon-Avon Chamber Choir at St. Peter's Church, Hampton Lucy, at 7.30pm on Saturday, 8 May. Tickets are £10 per head from Ian Thorpe (Tel: 840564).

On top of the English Heritage grant of just over £300,000, the Friends have raised £46,500, but still need £56,500 more to repair the spire, so let's keep up the effort. The Dinner Club is still going well, having raised around £3,000 so far: not bad for enjoying ourselves. There's still time to get another round in before we mix everyone up again for the summer. Please call Gill King (Tel: 841491) if you want to join in or to set up something.

Hampton Lucy School

Building work for the new classrooms is being delayed by about six weeks due to prolonged investigations by Severn Trent. Once again the children will be performing Maypole Dancing throughout the afternoon of May Day Bank Holiday at Charlecote Park. You may hear music after school on Monday afternoons when the children will be practising for this event. Three groups of children performed at the Stratford Chamber Music Festival on Thursday, 18 March: the 'Clariflutes' consisting of Christina Cowley, Emily Smith, Rosie Ward and Christopher Mason, 'Year 6 Swingers' consisting of Stephen Rigby, Jessica Ashton, Rosie Ward, Christina Cowley and Bethan Richardson, and the 'Hampton Lucy Quadbikes' consisting of Jessica Ashton, Daniel Mason, Siobhan Bartley and Katie Baldwin. Spring Term ends on Friday, 2 April and Summer Term begins on Monday, 19 April HH

Fund-raising by the Lions

When Santa's floats came around at Christmas, local villagers were very generous with their donations and the Lions will soon present a cheque for £3500 to the British Retina Pigmentosa Society. Also, Santa's appearances at the Wyevale Garden Centre raised almost £1400 for the Air Ambulance.

Future fund-raising events include 'Easter Bunnies' in local pubs, the Annual Raft Race down the Avon on Sunday, 20 June, and the Rural Show at Wellesbourne watermill on Sunday, 11 July. If you want to participate in any of these events or to help in their organisation, please phone either Max (Tel: 841567) or Peter (Tel: 01926 624174).

Anyone for Tennis?

Friends of Charlecote Church will hold a 'Friendly Doubles Tennis Tournament on Saturday, 10 July. More details from Jackie (Tel: 841760) and in the next *Grapevine*.



A Musical Evening

Saturday, 24th
April, at 7.30pm

An evening of 18th-century music will be performed in the church of St. Peter ad Vincula, Hampton Lucy in support of the Church Millennium Appeal.

Tickets, inclusive of wine, cost £7.50 (adults), £6 (concessions), (entry free for accompanied children) and can be obtained from Carol Pagett (Tel: 840233).

Hampton Lucy and Charlecote WI

It was pleasing to have so many members and their friends enjoying the expertise of Pam Goddard demonstrating how one can provide a delicious evening meal in half an hour. Tuna pâté; pork fillet in a mustard sauce; cointreau-drenched pancakes were on the menu. Delicious smells accompanied a lively and entertaining evening. Highlight Wednesday, 7 April in your diary - our 85th birthday party. Friends are welcome too. A buffet supper, wine and a group of musicians will hopefully make this a memorable evening. The fund-raising tea party held on Monday, 8 March was a great success. Very many thanks to everyone who came; your tea contributions and the support for the 'bring-and-buy' stall helped to raise £91 which we shall send to Yorkshire Tea for their project to buy equipment for the disabled. Please remember that there is a tea in Hampton Lucy's village hall every fortnight, on a Monday afternoon. Check *The Grapevine* for the details. HS

Plant Sale

The Shipston Home Nursing Trust is organising a plant sale at the Townsend Hall, Shipston on Stour on Saturday, 15 May. If you can offer help or need more information, please phone Rebecca (Tel: 01608 674929).



Church Services APRIL 2004

Apr 4th (Palm Sunday)	Charlecote	8.30	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	Hampton Lucy	10.00	<i>All age worship, 'Resurrection Rock' with Hampton Lucy school</i>
	Loxley	6.00	<i>Evensong</i>
Apr 8th (Maundy Thursday)	Hampton Lucy	7.30	<i>Communion with Oken Singers</i>
Apr 9th (Good Friday)	Hampton Lucy	10.00	<i>All age worship</i>
	Loxley	2.00	<i>Meditation at foot of cross</i>
	Charlecote	7.30	<i>Good Friday service</i>
Apr 11th (Easter Sunday)	Loxley	9.00	<i>Holy Communion with hymns</i>
	Hampton Lucy	10.00	<i>All age worship</i>
	Charlecote	11.00	<i>Easter Communion + Festival Singers</i>
	Hampton Lucy	6.00	<i>Holy Communion</i>
Apr 18th	Charlecote	8.30	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	Loxley	11.00	<i>Family Communion</i>
	Hampton Lucy	6.00	<i>Holy Communion</i>
Apr 25th	Hampton Lucy	8.30	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	Charlecote	11.00	<i>Matins</i>
	Loxley	11.00	<i>Matins</i>
	Hampton Lucy	6.00	<i>Evensong</i>

Diary – APRIL 2004

Thu 1	Loxley WI meets at The Manor, 7.30pm. Peter Lees will tell us about his mediaeval house.
Fri 2	School term ends
Sat 3	Hampton Lucy Village Hall clean-up operation from 9.30am. All helpers welcome
Mon 5	Afternoon Easter Tea at Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 3-4pm
Wed 7	Hampton Lucy and Charlecote WI holds its 85th birthday party in Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 7.00pm.
Thu 8	Charlecote Christian Fellowship meets at 3pm. Thoughts for Maundy Thursday by Marjorie Pollard
Thu 8	Maundy Thursday Service at St Peter's, Hampton Lucy with the Oken Singers, 7.30pm
Thu 1,8,15,22,29	Trotters Toddlers Group meets in Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 1.30-3pm
Mon 19	School term begins
Mon 19	Afternoon Teas at Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 3-4pm
Tue 20	Hampton Lucy Annual Church Meeting in Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 7.30pm
Wed 21	Loxley PC Annual Parish Meeting at the school, 7.30pm
Thu 22	Charlecote Annual Parochial Church Meeting in Charlecote Village Hall, 7.30pm
Sat 24	A Musical Evening in Hampton Lucy church, 7.30pm
Sat 24	A Carousel Dinner will be held to generate funds for Charlecote Village Hall
Sun 25	Cycle ride to Aston Cantlow from Hampton Lucy church, 11am
Sun 25	Farewell to Bishop Anthony in Coventry Cathedral, 3.30pm. All welcome
Sun 25	START Confirmation Group begins at the Vicarage, 7.30 - 9pm
Thu 29	Three Parishes Prayer Meeting at the Vicarage, 7.45pm

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Connections

The Revd. Sarah Edmonds
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THE GRAPEVINE

- **Articles** on paper, disk or by e-mail to:
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- **Diary items:**
Carolyn Thorpe, Simmonds Barn, Charlecote
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