

The Grapevine

THE NEWSLETTER OF HAMPTON LUCY, CHARLECOTE AND LOXLEY PARISHES

ISSUE 72

SEPTEMBER 2005

Testing Electric Blankets

Unsafe electric blankets are the cause of many house fires each year, and elderly people are particularly at risk. Warwickshire County Council's Trading Standards Service is offering to test electric blankets free of charge to all 'Over 60s' in Warwickshire. The tests will take place at several venues including Stratford Fire Station on Monday, 10 October; Leamington Library on Tuesday, 11 October, and Shire Hall, Warwick on Wednesday, 12 October. Tests will be conducted by appointment only and bookings will be taken on a first come, first served basis. The number of appointments is limited so call Freephone 0800 413332 to book an appointment and book early to avoid disappointment. The Freephone number will be staffed between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday and an answerphone service will operate at all other times.



After four years of hard work by all the friends and congregation of Charlecote Church, restoration of the spire and west rose window began in August.

The work is planned to finish in early spring 2006.

Harvest Celebrations

In Loxley. We are again collecting gifts of tinned foods at our Harvest Thanksgiving service on Sunday, 25 September at 11am. These will be distributed to needy families by the Leamington Christian Mission. As we think about 'Making Poverty History', please remember those in this area who need our support. "God loveth a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians, 9). MEP

In Charlecote. This year, Harvest Festival will be celebrated in Charlecote over the week-end from 23 to 25 September. On Friday, 23 September there will be a Harvest Supper in Charlecote Village Hall. Tickets, £7 (£3.50 for schoolchildren) from Carolyn Thorpe or Susan Lampitt. Everyone is welcome. The church will be decorated with many beautiful flower arrangements and will be open to visitors all week-end. There will be Village Hall Teas on Saturday, 24 and Sunday, 25 September and the climax of festivities will be Choral Evensong with The Festival Singers in St Leonard's on Sunday. CT

In Hampton Lucy. Our popular harvest supper will be on Saturday, 1 October at 7.30 pm in the village hall. This will follow a short traditional service in church (for those who can make it) with belting hymns, scattering fields, ploughing seed and reflective bits. The supper is advance ticket only and will follow the usual traditional lines with excellent cuisine and 'Three's Company' to provide the entertainment. (There are only two of them!). We are always short of tickets by the end of September so please book yours early to avoid sitting in the gents. Tickets will be £5 in Hampton Lucy currency and are a bargain with an optional service thrown in. Notices will appear shortly advising whereabouts of tickets, or see Diana Robinson.

Charlecote Neighbourhood Watch

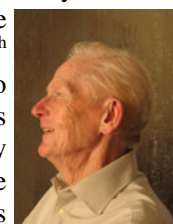
By now, all residents of Charlecote will have received information about the latest, most effective crime prevention scheme SMARTWATER. There will be a presentation by our local Crime Prevention Officer at Charlecote Village Hall on Tuesday, 13 September at 7.30pm. He will explain how 'Smartwater' works and answer questions. Please come if you possibly can, as we want as many households as possible to participate to give our community maximum protection. Helen Hoggarth - Chief NHW Co-ordinator (Tel: 840916).

Charlecote Village Meeting

The next Village Meeting will be on Tuesday, 6 September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. IT

Geoff Cowperthwaite

Geoff Cowperthwaite, having retired as Hampton Lucy Church Treasurer and on the occasion of his 80th birthday, received so many cards and gifts from Hampton Lucy villagers that he asked to use this opportunity to thank them all sincerely for the many kindnesses which made his birthday such a very memorable occasion.



Our Schools

Possibly the "9 o'clock bell" will not be heard but our two schools re-open for the 2005/6 school year in September. Best wishes for a happy and successful year to pupils and staff of both establishments.

PARISH LETTER



I took it personally...

For the first time in many years, when the terrorists struck London on 7 July, I felt like a Londoner. After the immediate concern for friends and family who may have been there, I was angry. How dare they hit **my** city? And then in the days and weeks since, we have all shared the pain of those injured and bereaved and have asked ourselves, "What would drive someone to kill themselves in order to kill others?"

Of course there are no easy answers. Perhaps they were

brainwashed, perhaps they felt alienated from British society. Perhaps they have issues with our foreign policy, or perhaps they subscribe to an extremist view of Islam. No doubt there is truth in all of these, but we are still puzzled.

And alongside the questions lies the fear that it might happen again, that it is unpreventable, and that our very way of life is being threatened. To a greater or lesser degree, we are all affected, just like those many families who have suffered in similar suicide attacks in the Middle East in recent months and years.

So what are we to do? How can we confront such hatred with love, as Christ asks us to? Is that humanly possible? It is hard to know where to begin, but perhaps one way is to build bridges between communities and within communities. Of

course, we are aware that most Muslims also condemn such attacks. But perhaps, like me, you don't know many people of other faiths, and have little knowledge of how they think and live.

In the New Year, we will be having another supper discussion, this time looking at Islam, in an attempt to try and understand our common ground and our differences. In the meantime, let us pray not only for the victims of such attacks, but also for the Muslim communities near us who may also be feeling threatened at this time. There are real differences in what we believe, but the challenge is to begin to understand each other whilst living with the tensions of those differences. Our discussion in February will play a part in that, so keep an eye out for details.

Every blessing, Sarah Edmonds



PARISH NEWS

Loxley Church says 'Thank you'

Evensong at Loxley on Sunday, 4 September (6pm) will be a special service where we say thank you to all those who helped with the Strawberry Fayre last July. The service will be followed by Pimms and refreshments, and everyone is welcome to come and join us as we worship in the beautiful setting which is St Nicholas' Church.

Harvest Festivals

Loxley and Charlecote churches will be celebrating harvest this year on 23 to 25 September. The Loxley service will be the popular Harvest Festival, and the church will have been decorated by the school and others. Charlecote is holding a Harvest Supper on Friday, 23 September; the church will have a mini Flower

Festival with teas all weekend, culminating in a service at 6pm on Sunday, 25 September where the Festival Singers will once again join us and lead the musical worship.

Hampton Lucy harvest is the following weekend. The traditional village harvest supper will be preceded by a service in church (see notice), and the school will join in for a family Harvest Festival on Sunday, 2 October. We do hope you will be able to join us to celebrate at one or more of the services.

Offa House Programme

Offa House in Offchurch is the diocesan retreat house. It offers a variety of day and residential courses. The Autumn programme www.offahouseretreat.co.uk includes the following:

Sunday, 11 September, Sunday Focus. *Bring me to life* with Rev. Roger Morris. "My spirit's sleeping somewhere cold, until you find it there and lead it back home" Roger is in his mid 30s, is married with two young children and is Director of Parish Development and Evangelism for Coventry Diocese.

Monday, 26 September. *Christian Identity: self and self-fulfilment* with Canon Roger Spiller. Roger is Director of the Forum for Ministry in Coventry Diocese.

Saturday, 29 October. *Healing is your Touch.* Holistic Day with Bernadette Hynes SP. A day to explore how God touches our lives through the elements of nature. Aromatherapy oils will be used in the context of prayer and reflection and Holistic therapies will be available. Bernadette is a Roman Catholic Sister of St Paul, trained in nursing, counselling, spirituality and holistic therapies. SE

SUMMMER IN HAMPTON LUCY



The Jazz Picnic

The Village Hall Committee decided to be adventurous this summer by organising an outdoor event - a Jazz Picnic on Friday, 8 July. More than 150 people of all ages turned up and enjoyed superb music on a balmy July evening. It was good to be together as a community, enjoying each other's company, and we were joined by many friends from Charlecote, Alveston and further afield. Thank you all for your support and for the help freely given by so many people but especially the Dene River Jazz Band for the very enjoyable music and Bomford's for the toilets. The Village Hall Committee.

Hampton Lucy Wins Gold

Hampton Lucy was given a gold award in the Warwickshire Best-Kept Village competition (small villages section). This despite knee-high vegetation on the verges, which the judges took to be a novel ecological approach, but which in truth was due to neglect by the District Council. Much of the credit is due to our Village Enhancement Group, but congratulations are also due to all the villagers who did their bit to brighten up our environment. AS



Trail Blazers

Sixty five people, including 19 members of the Maries family, crowded into Hampton Lucy Village Hall on Saturday, 30 July for the launch of the 'Charles Maries Trail'. Charles Maries, who was born in Hampton Lucy more than 150 years ago, became famous for introducing many plants to Britain from China and Japan. The Village Enhancement Group has spent the last two years planting some of them in public spaces around the village. The Trail included these sites, the churchyard where many of Charles's family are buried and also the Victorian school room where he was taught. Charles developed his interest in plants while at Hampton Lucy Grammar School. The headmaster at that time was the Reverend G. Henslow and he later became the Royal Horticultural Society's Professor of Botany. Dr David Gray OBE, the present-day Director of Horticulture for the RHS, launched the Trail. Afterwards, everyone returned to the Village Hall for a strawberry cream tea.

Loxley Strawberry Fayre

The ninth of July saw Loxley *en fete* for the annual Strawberry Fayre. Goods collected, stalls set out, The Hall gardens looking splendid and the crowds arrived. As usual, the strawberry and cream teas were greatly appreciated. The organ recital in the church was well attended and all-in-all it was a super afternoon. To date, the profit on the afternoon stands at almost £1996. Thanks are due to those who helped in any way before, during, and tidying up after the event, and especially to Mr and Mrs Gregory Hood for hosting the afternoon. RM

More Scams

Householders are warned to beware of bogus charity collectors working door to door throughout the county. Householders wishing to give to genuine charities should check first that the caller represents a genuine charity by checking for a charity number. If in doubt, we suggest taking the clothing to a charity shop or clothing bank.

Hampton Lucy and Charlecote WI



Members' night on Monday, 4 July went well. The hall looked pretty, the food was delicious and Debbie Wilde's explanation and demonstration of Tai Chi was most enjoyable. Thanks to the members for the hard work needed to make such a successful evening. September will be a busy month for us. The annual outing to Broad Camden and Brockley, Mill Dene Gardens is on Thursday, 8 September. The monthly meeting on Wednesday, 7 September will be a hands-on Christmas Decoration Class in Charlecote village hall. Then we act as host for the Federation's Warwickshire Villages visit on Friday, 16 September. However, most exciting is the visit to the Prince of Wales' garden at Highgrove on Monday, 26 September. We have much to look forward to and enjoy. HS

From the Registers

10 July	Baptism	Louis Myers	St Leonard's, Charlecote
10 July	Baptism	Adam Chidgey	St Nicholas's, Loxley
16 July	Wedding	Richard Rajkowski and Debbie Stublely	St Peter's, Hampton Lucy
23 July	Wedding	Jon Darlington and Sally Johnson	St Nicholas's, Loxley
23 July	Wedding	Will Fradgley and Georgina Hunter	St Peter's, Hampton Lucy



Church Services SEPTEMBER 2005

Sept 3rd (Saturday)	Charlecote	5.00pm	<i>Compline</i>
Sept 4th	Charlecote	8.30	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	Hampton Lucy	10.00	<i>Family Service</i>
	Loxley	6.00	<i>Evensong with Pimms (see notice)</i>
Sept 10th	Charlecote	5.00pm	<i>Compline</i>
Sept 11th	Loxley	9.30	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	Charlecote	11.00	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	Hampton Lucy	6.00	<i>Evensong</i>
Sept 13th (Tuesday)	Hampton Lucy	2.00	<i>Praise and Play</i>
Sept 17th	Charlecote	5.00pm	<i>Compline</i>
Sept 18th	Charlecote	8.30	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	Loxley	11.00	<i>Family Communion and baptism</i>
	Hampton Lucy	6.00	<i>Evensong</i>
Sept 24th	Charlecote	5.00pm	<i>Compline</i>
Sept 25th	Hampton Lucy	8.30	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	Loxley	11.00	<i>Harvest Festival</i>
	Charlecote	6.00	<i>Harvest Evensong with Festival Singers</i>
	Vicarage	7.30	<i>Jigsaw Youth Group</i>

N.B. There is no evensong at Hampton Lucy on Sunday, 25 September

Diary – SEPTEMBER 2005

Thu 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Trotters Toddlers Group meets in Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 1.30
Mon 5	Afternoon Teas at Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 3-4pm
Tue 6	Charlecote Village Meeting in Village Hall, 7.30pm
Tue 6	Hampton Lucy PCC meets in Village Hall, 7.30pm
Wed 7	Hampton Lucy & Charlecote WI meets in Charlecote Village Hall, Handmade Christmas Decorations, 7.30pm
Wed 7	Loxley PCC meets at The Hall, 8pm
Thu 8	Hampton Lucy & Charlecote WI outing to Mill Dene Gardens, Blockley
Thu 8	Loxley WI meets at The Manor, 7.30pm. Jan Warner will tell us about "Survival of the Fittest"
Sun 11	Cycle Ride to Lawsonford, begins from Hampton Lucy church, 11am
Mon 12	Loxley Parish Council meets at the school, 7.30pm
Tue 13	Presentation of 'Smartwater' by local Crime Prevention Officer, Charlecote Village Hall, 7.30pm
Tue 13	Joint Church Wardens' Meeting at the Vicarage, 8pm
Wed 14	Hampton Lucy Parish Council meets in Village Hall, 7.30pm
Thu 15	Three Parishes Prayer Meeting at the Vicarage, 7.45pm
Mon 19	Afternoon Teas at Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 3-4pm
Fri 23	Loxley School Harvest Festival
Fri 23	Charlecote Harvest Supper in Village Hall
OCTOBER	
Sat 1	Harvest Supper in Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 7.30pm

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Connections

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THE GRAPEVINE

- **Articles** on paper, disc or by e-mail to:
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