

COLLINGTREE NEWS

September 2013

NEW TRICKS FOR OLD CHURCHES

Traditional attitudes and assumptions that were once taken for granted are disappearing.

Our culture is changing and Christian Churches have to change with it – fast.

That doesn't mean changing the message, which is timeless and sacred, it means changing the methods through which a church connects with the people of its parish.

Parish churches were originally, the centre of their community. The chancel was reserved for worship but the nave was used for many purposes including drama, elections, public meetings and school classrooms. It was the Victorians at the height of the religious revival, who reclaimed the whole of church building for purely sacred purposes. In the last 50 years many churches have started to see their building as a practical asset in connecting with local people who may not want to come inside for worship. In some rural areas the church is the only focal point as local schools, post offices, shops and pubs disappear.

The Church of England has long accepted that a church building can have a variety of uses as long as its primary purpose as a place of worship remains and there is no conflict with Christian teaching. Some churches are already being used as libraries, outreach post offices, extra school classrooms and concert halls.

Contrary to what many people believe, the responsibility for maintaining and repairing each church lies with the local incumbent and each Parochial Church Council. There is no guaranteed state funding and the Church of England has no central funds. So 'Use it or lose it' is the watchword.

A Grade 2 listed Church in St Alban's was faced with closure. By keeping the chancel for worship and opening up the nave for community uses, it has turned itself around. The pews have been taken out, a wooden floor put in and a small kitchen and toilet installed at the base of the tower. The local primary school now uses it as their hall. It provides a venue for a play-group, youth group, IT learning, festivals and concerts. The changes have made it the physical centre of the village as well as the spiritual and social centre too.

St Columba's has made a promising start. With the help of the recently formed 'Friends of St Columba's' fundraising group, many improvements to the building have been made – including cushioned seating for the pews to make them more suit-

able for events such as 'Words & Music' and some of the musical events that are planned.

But the PCC wants to go further in making the building more flexible and is exploring possible options.

In the end it is for Collingtree parish to decide what is best for its church. Each generation is only the custodian of a building that has been around for 900 years – which is why the views of everyone in the parish who values St Columba's, are important.

Options for a more 'Open Church'

Subject to the agreement of the Church Authorities and obtaining the necessary funding, Collingtree PCC are considering possible changes to the facilities within St Columba's.

- Creating space at the rear of the church by replacing some pews with stackable chairs.
- Use of space by community groups for meetings, Coffee mornings etc.
- Moving the Font to the front of the church for better visibility at Christening services and creating more space at the rear.
- Installation of a Served Cabinet (possibly in the Bell Tower) to contain a small sink unit and storage for crockery.
- Installation of a toilet at the rear of the church. The location to be dictated by plumbing requirements and as agreed with the Diocese.

Your Views

If you have any comments that will guide the PCC in developing its proposals please send them to:

PCC Secretary. Peter Skinner. 'Lynton' Barn Corner, Collingtree
768394 Email : p.skinner837@btinternet.com

Alternatively you can give your comments on the 'Just Collingtree' website via link: www.justcollingtree.co.uk/contact

ST COLUMBA'S +

Harvest Family Service

10.30am - Sunday 22nd September

At the service, together with Collingtree Primary School, we will be collecting donations of non perishable household items for donation to the Northampton Foodbank, More details: www.northamptonfoodbank.co.uk

Harvest Supper

7.30pm Monday 23rd September

In the Village Room we will be serving Cottage Pie with Salad followed by Apple Pie - all homemade. We will also appreciate donation of items for the Foodbank. Donations of wine and /or fresh garden produce, will be auctioned. Tickets from Ann Marsh 766060 or Irene skinner 768394



Church Wardens

John Green 6 Watering Lane 763468
Peter Skinner 'Lynton' Barn Corner 768394

Deputy Warden

Chris Wright 8 Watering Lane 761930

Services for September

1st September

6pm Evening Prayer

8th September

9am Parish Communion

15th September

10am Morning Praise

22nd September

10.30am Harvest Family Service

Church Flowers

14th September

Altar and Memorial flowers to be checked and freshened.

September 21st - 10am Harvest Flowers

As many Flower helpers as possible would be appreciated to decorate the church.

SALCEY BENEFICE MINISTER: REVEREND MIKE BURTON 862284

	Ashton	Courteenhall	Hartwell	Roads
1st September	9.30am Morning Prayer	9.15am Parish Communion	10.30am Family Service	10.30am Lighthouse 6pm Songs of
8th September	10.30am Sunday School	10.30am Morning Prayer	10am Morning Praise	10.30am All Age Service 6.30pm Benefice Youth Group
15th September	10.30am All Age Service		9.15am Parish Communion	10.30am Morning Praise & Sunday School Club
22nd September	8.15 Holy Communion	10.30am Harvest Festival Service	10am Morning Praise	9.15 Parish Communion

10.30am 29th September Benefice Communion at Ashton



Choral Evensong

With the Watling Singers

6pm Sunday 6th October at St Columba's

"Adapted from the monastic hour of Vespers, even the word 'Evensong' is poetic and seems to chime in perfect harmony with England's seasons. Autumn's melancholy, early evening light; the merry crackle of Winter frost."

All are welcome - Please join us

VILLAGE ASSOCIATIONS & SOCIAL GROUPS

Allotment Association

On Sunday 11th August, members and their families enjoyed a superb Summer Buffet at the allotment gardens. The sun shone and the birds sang. The event was once again organized by Rob, Kendra and Emma Brodie.

For details of plot availability, contact Graeme Joll 767277

Neighbourhood Watch

The NW Coordinator is Fay Tennet on 765742. The Safer Communities Team number is 0300 111 222 or if urgent on 999

Milton & Collingtree Women's Institute

With holidays over, the WI meets on September 12th at 7.30pm in Milton Malsor Village Hall. Speaker will be Renee Watt, her subject entitled "Fun on a Chair", Competition "A Unique Cushion".

October 17th, 7.30pm in Milton Malsor Village Hall, the WI will be hosting a recording of 'Gardeners' Question Time' by BBC Radio Northampton, chaired by Johnny Amos.

Tickets, £5.00 per person, include refreshments and can be obtained from:

Brenda Jenks, 858866; Sheila Charlton, 859133; Ann Marsh 766060.

Medicine Collection

Weeks commencing:

2nd September

Shirley Flight 764433

9th September

Irene Skinner 768394

16th & 23rd September

Jane Thompson 761968

30th September

Shirley Flight 764433

If you would like to help with collections, please contact: Coordinator: Shirley Flight 764433

SPORTS CLUBS

Cricket Club

During August the club has won all its Sunday games, recording a loss only in the midweek 18 over a side game against Castle Ashby. Dan Harris has made centuries against Gt. Houghton and Horton making him only the third club player to get three centuries in a season. Neil Battison took 5 for 21 off 8 over's against Horton and Mark Underwood took 5 for 33 against Gt. Houghton. During September the club is 'on tour' to Tobago before completing its final three games against Eagles, Blakesley and Bugbrooke.

For further details please contact Karen Hopkins on *kahopkins66@yahoo.co.uk* or Mark Underwood on 07834518760

Pub Skittles

The Skittles season gets underway with a home fixture on the 5th September against the George pub Tiffeld. The team are looking forward to more success this year coupled with the most important enjoyment factor. It may be difficult to emulate the achievements of last year but with a new table at the Walls, the team will be do its best. *To get involved call Mark Underwood 07834 518760*

Tennis Club

The A team is now in the top division, a great achievement for a village club that only entered the league in 2009. Congratulations to Matt Joyce, Ian Nicholas, Phil Johnson, James Isaksen, Will Horner and Maarten Round - New members are most welcome and full details of competitions and facilities can be found on the club website:

www.collingtreetennis.co.uk

Or call Geoff Kershaw on 761331

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS PARISH CLERK: TESS TAYLOR 07729784653 tessajtaylor@icloud.com

It is with great sadness that we have heard of the sudden death, on 25th August, of Parish Councillor Mary Brown. Mary was loved and respected in the parish and was also a member of the Friends of St Columba's Committee. Our thoughts are with Michael and the family.

Planning Matters (Toms Close) After the Parish Council meeting at which the developer attended to explain plans for two blocks of semi detached houses on the south - western corner of Toms Close - no decision has yet been made. It is understood that the plans are being amended.

Planning Matters (Golf Course development) Bovis are holding a public exhibition of their latest proposal/application

on **Thursday 12th September at Wootton Community Hall, Curtlee Hill, Wootton.**

The exhibition will run from 3.30pm to 6.30pm and it is suggested that those interested attend this event if they can.

The Parish Council will then hold its own Public Meeting on this on Wednesday 18th September at 7.30pm in the Village Room.

The purpose of this meeting will be to gather local views to inform the response to be made by the Parish Council

Street Lights - Parishioners are reminded that any matter concerning street lights can be raised with the Parish Council or with the Parish Council contractors E.ON on 01604 493743. Each lamp is numbered and having the number available will help.

Dog access slider - Barn Corner

This has been interfered with yet again. This time someone has taken the third one and put the second one back but cut out in the shape of a cartoon dog. Quite a prank but unfortunately, the sharp edges were very likely to injure a dog and so it has had to be removed. It would also have let out any livestock.

Please make any contact with the Parish Council through the Clerk, Tess Taylor, contact numbers above. Minutes of all meetings are placed in the Parish Council notice - boards and email versions can be obtained from the Clerk.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 11th September 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Room.

Parish News is produced by Collingtree Parochial Church Council, on behalf of community groups within the parish.

The financial support of the Parish Council, and the Women's Institute is gratefully acknowledged. We also appreciate the support of our regular Sponsor, Central Foods.

If you have a local community or charity event to promote contact:

Compiler/Editor

Rod Sellers

01604 769407

Email rod.sellers@virgin.net

Visit the only website dedicated to Collingtree Village and Parish

<http://justcollingtree.co.uk>

Parish Notices

- "Following the sudden death of our daughter Kerry, Stewart and Wilma McArthur would like to thank all our friends in the village for all their kindness and support through this very difficult time"
- *Winter Flu injections - Nurse Geraldine Parish has agreed to hold a 'Flu Clinic' in Collingtree for eligible patients of Roade and Blisworth Surgeries. As in previous years this will be at the home of Joanna Edmunds at 4 Barn Mews and will be from 3pm until 5.30pm on Wednesday 9th October. No appointment is necessary and it will be 'first come, first served'.*
- *The Collingtree Painting group is once again meeting in the Village Room at 10am on Thursday mornings. Whether an experienced artist or a complete beginner, new members are always welcome. Call Agnes Barfoot on 762389*

Northampton South Expansion

The Strategic Development Plan that could allocate 1,000 houses on land between Collingtree and East Hunsbury (SUE No.5) has not yet been reported on by the Planning Inspector.

There will be further hearings in October and his report is expected in December. Ahead of this, Bovis are expected to submit a planning application to NBC in early September and they have arranged a Public Exhibition of their proposals.

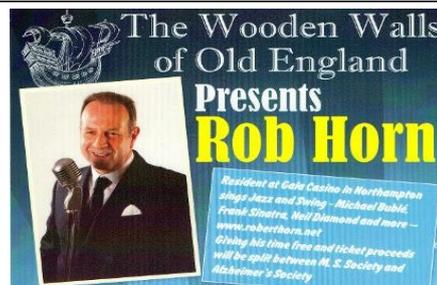
Wootton Community Centre

Curtlee Hill

September 12th 3.30pm - 6.30pm

See also Parish Council notes on page 3 for details of a special Public meeting in Collingtree Village Room

For more background on the proposals
Visit www.HCRA.co.uk



The Music & Canapés night at the Wooden Walls was packed out on Bank Holiday Sunday, for an evening of live 'swing' music. Rob Horn gave his services free and the event raised over £600 for Alzheimer's and MS charities. Sue Blackman introduced new Chef Christian Burgess and thanked everyone for their support whilst waiting for essential electrical work to be carried out in the kitchen. **The good news is that work starts on the 2nd September. The pub will then close on 30th September for further refurbishment and reopen on 3rd October with a new kitchen and a new chef!**

Bookings can be made at the pub or on 01604 760641
Thank you for your patience

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