

COLLINGTREE NEWS

December 2014

*Visit the only website dedicated to
Collingtree village & parish*

www.justcollingtree.co.uk



Village Church For Sale !

Since 1960, 1,700 Anglican churches have been mothballed, closed or sold off. To survive a parish church must 1) raise funds to maintain the building structure 2) raise thousands of pounds to pay its contribution to the Anglican Church nationally 3) attract a big enough congregation and users of the church to make it viable and, vitally, 4) find the volunteers to provide the ongoing stewardship (Church Wardens PCC members etc) to hold the whole thing together.

Despite being 900 years old and the much loved heart of the village for generations—St Columba's is struggling on all these fronts. Although it is hard to imagine Collingtree without its church—it has no 'divine right' to survive when so many others are failing. As well as a place of worship, a church can be many things.

A meeting place, a concert hall, a classroom, and for many people (regardless of faith), the Parish Church is a symbol of our English identity. There are now more Mosques than Churches,

For St Columba's the problems are many. Worshippers are fewer, Diocese costs have risen to £15,000 a year, long serving wardens and officials are retiring and fewer people have the time or inclination to take on all the essential tasks. But all is not lost, there are glimmers of hope for the future—all it takes is people.

In 2011 a new 'Friends' group was formed in Collingtree to raise funds for repairs and improvements to the church fabric and the group continues to help in this vital work.

But keeping the building secure, heated and well lit is not enough. It needs to relate to the community it serves, it needs to be alive with events and activities that are new, different and vibrant, but that are still consistent with Christian values.

Perhaps you have ideas, perhaps you can help with the day to day tasks—small or large. Perhaps you might even consider assisting with the work of a Church Warden ! If you feel you can help in any way, to ensure that the village church survives for the next generation —*then please see the 'Want to help' panel on the next page.*

ST COLUMBA'S +

Want to help ?

On page 1 we highlighted the problems facing St Columba's and the challenge to keep our ancient church at the centre of village life.

If you can help—even in a small way—with ideas and some of your time, then contact us in the following ways:

Contact any of the Church Wardens listed in the adjoining column.

Contact 'Collingtree News' on 769407

Come along to the next PCC Annual General Meeting in April (details in the next Newsletter)

**Church Wardens**

John Green 6 Watering Lane 763468

Peter Skinner 'Lynton' Barn Corner 768394

Deputy Warden

Chris Wright 8 Watering Lane 761930

Services for December**7th December**

6pm Evening Service

14th December

6pm Carols by Candlelight

21st December

10am Christingle Service

**24th December Christmas Eve**

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

SALCEY BENEFICE SERVICES MINISTER: REVEREND MIKE BURTON 862284

Ashton 7th December 9.30am Morning Prayer— 14th December 10.30am Sunday School - 21st December 10.30am Carol Service 24th December 11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

Courteenhall 7th December 9.15 Communion—14th December 10.30am Morning Prayer—21st December 3.15 pm Carol Service 25th December 10am Parish Communion

Hartwell 7th December 10.30am All Age Service—14th December 10am Morning Praise—21st December 6pm Carols by Candlelight 28th December 10.30am Benefice Communion.

Roade 7th December 10.30am Lighthouse—14th December 10.30am All Age Service - 21st December 10.30am Morning Praise 6pm Carols by Candlelight—24th December 3pm Christingle Service.—25th December 10.30am All Age Celebration & Communion.

Church Flowers Rota**29th November - 6th December**

Selina Smith (Altar) Elizabeth Anderson (Memorial)

13th December

As many Flower Ladies as possible are needed at 10am to decorate the Church for Carols by Candlelight and Christmas

20th December

Joanna Edmunds Ann Marsh

27th December - 3rd January

Pamela Gosling (A) Gil Berry (M)

The Air Ambulance Service has sent its thanks for the donation made in memory of Barbara Jones.

Queries to Joanna Edmunds 761759 or Ann Marsh 766060

Medicine Collection Rota**W/C 1st & 8th December**

Ted Anderson 763264

W/C 15th December

Helen Pearce 07590 037090

W/C 22nd & 29th December

Shirley Flight 764433

For anyone in Collingtree who has difficulty in getting to Roade or Blisworth Surgeries, help with collecting prescriptions can be a lifeline. If you can help contact: Coordinator: Shirley Flight 764433

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVENT IN COLLINGTREE**Sunday 7th December****2pm until 4pm**

Start your festive season with a visit to an **Art Exhibition & Sale** in Collingtree Village Room. There will be a wide range of pictures by Art Group members. Many of the pictures are for sale and ideal as Christmas presents.

Afternoon teas will be available.

Also, then pop along to St Columba's Church and enjoy a **Display of Christmas Trees** all decorated by local community groups.

VILLAGE ASSOCIATIONS & SOCIAL GROUPS

Collingtree Allotment Association

Now is the time to consider taking on a plot. With the weeds in retreat and a frost to break down the soil, this is the season to clear the decks and get ready for a fresh start in the Spring.

For details of plot availability, contact Martin Grosse 762700

Milton & Collingtree Women's Institute

The last meeting of the year will be on Thursday 11th December at Raynsford House, Milton Malsor. It is our Members' Christmas Party from 7.00 to 10.00pm. Please remember a plate of sweet or savoury food for the buffet table and, if possible a small Christmas decoration for the tables.

More details from Ann Marsh 766060

Collingtree Art Group

The Art Group meets at 10am every Thursday (during term time) in Collingtree Village Room.

Exhibitions of our work are arranged from time to time and for details of our Exhibition and Sale on Sunday 7th December—please see previous page.

To find out more call Agnes Barfoot on 762389 or drop in one Thursday.

SPORTS CLUBS

Pub Skittles

A fantastic month so far with four consecutive victories for the team, including one over Towcester which is the first time we have managed to do so.

Four fixtures left before the half season break including two really tough away fixtures at Bugbrooke and Gayton but confidence is high with good contributions from the whole squad.

To get involved call Mark Underwood 07864 51876

Cricket Club

A very successful annual awards dinner was held on 21st November attended by players, family and friends.

The awards for 2014 were as follows:

Batting & sixes - Dan Harris. Bowling - Mark Underwood. Fielding & Ducks - Kevin Hopkins. Most Improved - Andy Deeming. Dropper - Tim Butler. Champagne Moment for a Hat Trick - Ashley Smith and Clubman of the Year - Grant Jones.

Looking forward into 2015, nets will start in January, more details in the next Newsletter. The AGM will be held in February with the new season to start in April.

Anyone interested in joining the Club - please contact Karen Hopkins 07787786094 or Mark Underwood 0786451876

Tennis Club

The Annual Northampton Tennis League Dinner was held at the Marriott Hotel in October and Collingtree Club was well represented with a dedicated table. The highlight of our evening was the trophy won by our A Team for winning the Men's Winter League Division 2, which was presented to Matt Joyce.

More details: www.collingtreetennis.co.uk

Boxing Day Football

The annual match between the North & South will kick off at the Recreation field at 10.30am to raise funds for the Mercy Corps for children in need. Refreshments after at the Wooden Walls. If you would like to play call Alexander Booker (07738 440767) Ben Booker (078757 30696) Scott Howard (769858)

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

PARISH CLERK: TESS TAYLOR 07729784653 E: collingtreeparishcouncil@gmail.com

Ash Lane Traffic Calming. The scheme was to be discussed further at the Parish Council meeting on 11th November but the Northants County Council liaison man was unable to attend.

A proposal has been put to Northamptonshire Highways for a 20 mph limit in Ash Lane, ideally without road humps, and the possibility of an additional flashing speed sign. A request for a pedestrian crossing with protective railings for the east of the crossroads has also been included. This will now be discussed at the next meeting on 7th January 2015. At the last meeting the precept for next year was reduced to £12000 but this still allows money to add to the street calming funds that will be held over.

Golf Course & Greenfield Development The revised version of the Bovis planning application has been submitted, and may be decided at the Northampton Borough Council Planning Committee Meeting on 16th December. The application numbers are N/2013/1035 and N/2013/1063 and parishioners should make their comments directly to Northampton Borough Planning Department.

Howden Proposals An additional consultation meeting was held on 24th October at the Hilton Hotel and leaflets were delivered to houses in the village. A Mr Graham Mellers attended the last meeting of the Parish Council on behalf of the developing agents and answered questions or took comment from a good number of parishioners who were there.

Some changes have been made and other points were put to Mr Mellers for his response. The impact of the proposal in terms of visual detriment, pollution, vastly increased traffic and 24 hour noise remains considerable. The Parish Council will object to this strongly when any planning application is made but parishioners should read the comments of Cllr Phil Larratt on page 58 in the latest edition of the recently delivered Link magazine.

Parish Council Clerk This position is becoming vacant in the near future. Anyone interested in this part-time, paid position should contact the present Clerk as below or the Chairman on 01604 764723

Next Meeting: 7th January 2015

'Collingtree News is produced and delivered to every household each month, at no cost to the parish.

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

Compiler/Editor

Rod Sellers

01604 769407

Email rod.sellers@sky.com

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Parish Notices

- Kerri Platt would like to say 'a massive thank you to everyone who supported the Afternoon Tea to raise funds for the Daisy Garland Charity. It was a wonderful afternoon and we raised a total of £631. We could not have done this without the amazing support of friends, family and the people of Collingtree village.'
- Church Warden Peter Skinner led an unusual Family Service on 23rd November. It featured a blessing for family pets who attended (with their owners) and was greatly enjoyed by all.
- On Friday 5th December, Collingtree Primary School will be holding a Christmas Fayre in the main hall of the school. It will run from 3.30pm until 5.30pm and everyone is most welcome to come along and join us.
- The Christmas Fayre organised by the PCC in Collingtree Village Room on 15th November raised a splendid £700 for church funds. Grateful thanks to everyone who put the event together and all who came along to support it.
- Watch out for details of firelight Carol Singing in the courtyard of the Wooden Walls around 8pm on 18th December.

The Wooden Walls of Old England

Christmas and New Year at the Walls

Our Christmas menu will be available from 1st December and our opening hours over the festive period are displayed in the pub.

We have our monthly quiz on 14th December and a disco and buffet on New Years' Eve, tickets for which are £5. Please book early as numbers are limited.

01604 760641

Village Room Hire

Collingtree Village Room remains the only public meeting place in the village. It is equipped with comfortable seating, a stage, disabled access and a spacious kitchen. To enquire about hiring contact:

Helen Pearce

7 High Street, Collingtree Tel: 07590 037090

helen2504@sky.com

Planning Watchdog

There are several major planning proposals in the pipeline that directly impact upon Collingtree.



The Bovis application to build 1000 houses on farmland near Collingtree has been with NBC for 12 months and is expected to go to the Planning Committee very shortly. Meanwhile a major new report from CPRE has revealed that nationally, there is space for over 1m homes on brownfield sites (mainly in the south east) without building on greenfields. Details on: www.HCRA2013.co.uk

It appears that the only inward investment Northampton seems to attract is yet more warehouses. Those warehouses already going up around Northampton, will be dwarfed in size by the proposed Howden's Distribution Centre alongside J15. At 2.2m sq ft, it will be the biggest in the world and six times that of the Pro Logis development now going up behind the Filling Station on the A45. A full planning application to South Northants District Council is expected before the end of the year and there is already strong opposition from surrounding parish councils including Collingtree, Milton Malsor, Roade, Wootton and Quinton. As the decision will be made by South Northants DC, it is to be hoped that local Northampton Borough Councillors Jonathan Nunn and Michael Hill and County Councillor Phil Larratt, will also oppose the plan on the grounds that the impact of traffic and pollution will mainly affect NBC electors.

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