



The Chishills

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CHURCH BELLS

The five bells were lowered from the bell tower at the beginning of February and were displayed in the Church for a short time so that they could be viewed. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to get close to the 350-year old bells that most of us would otherwise never have been able to see. On 2nd February a coffee morning at the Church included access to see the bells and was very well attended. There was even a school party from Chrishall School, which was closed for the morning so that the children could all come and see the bells! Phil Maynard did an excellent job of hosting the event, explaining the workings of these wonderful church bells to all those who attended.

The five bells of St Swithun's left on the 3rd February for a total renovation. The picture shows them lined up ready to be loaded onto the lorry. The one nearest the camera is the largest weighing in at just over half a ton and made in 1841. The other four, decreasing in size, were made in 1686 in the reign of James II - only 20 years after the Great Fire of London. Every part of the bell fixtures and fittings, apart from the ancient wooden frame on which they are mounted, will be replaced. When they come back in mid May they will be accompanied by the brand new bell which was cast and given to us last year. The plan is that our super new ring of six will be ready to ring for the Jubilee in June.

Please note that none of this work is paid for from church funds, but from our own fundraising, grants and donations. There are several ways you can help. Please contact Phil Maynard (pm@maynardprojects.co.uk) or visit the Just Giving (justgiving.com) and search for **greatchishillbells** (all one word).



**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
DANCE & DRINKS EVENING**

LIVE MUSIC from 'THE ELDERLY BROTHERS'
BAR - NIBBLES

Friday 18th March 8pm - midnight
Gt Chishill Village Hall

Tickets: £10 in advance - £12 on the door
Tel: 837272 Email: iwp.parishoffice@gmail.com
All proceeds to St Swithun's Church Fund



BRIAN AND JANET CROUCH

60 years ago, on a very wet and windy 10th March 1962, Janet, from Great Chishill, and Brian, a lad from Barkway, were married at St Swithun's Church. They have spent the whole of their married life in Great Chishill, contributing in many different and varied ways to the village and touching many lives. The past few years have been challenging for Janet and Brian and I am sure that many of us would wish to send them our love and congratulations.

CHURCH SERVICES

St Swithun's

Sunday 13th March
Family Worship 10.45 am

Sunday 27th March
Common Worship with Holy
Communion 10.45 am

United Reform Church

Sunday 6th March
Evensong 6.00 pm
led by Reverend Sue Fender

Sunday 20th March
Morning service with
communion 9.30 am
led by Reverend Sue Fender

SLOE GIN COMPETITION

The 2022 sloe gin competition was judged on the 24th February and the winners were celebrated at a party in the village hall on 26th February. Unfortunately this newsletter had already gone to print by then, so I will report the results in the April newsletter.

THE ICKNIELD WAY

As you drive out of Great Chishill along New Road you cross a bridleway just before you reach Barley Road. This is the Icknield Way, one of the "four highways" of medieval England. It is an ancient trackway that runs all the way from



Norfolk to Wiltshire. Near here it follows the chalk escarpment along the Chiltern Hills. It is one of the oldest roads in Britain, originating before the Romans occupied the country. The name is Celto-British in derivation, and is probably named after the Icenii tribe (of Boudicca fame). The earliest mentions of the Icknield Way are in Anglo-Saxon charters where it was spelled *Icenhilde weg* and *Icenilde weg*, a likely link to the Icenii.

The Icknield Way was one of four

Royal highways which appear in the literature of the 1130s. Henry of Huntingdon wrote that Ermine Street, Fosse Way, Watling Street and Icknield Way had been constructed by Royal authority. The Laws of Edward the Confessor gave royal protection to travellers on these roads, and the Icknield Way was said to extend across the width of the kingdom.

Crossing six counties, the Icknield Way Trail is a 170 mile (274 km) walking route linking the Peddars Way National Trail in Suffolk with the Ridgeway National Trail in Buckinghamshire, which in turn links with the Wessex Ridgeway. It has been a recognised regional route for walkers since 1992.

STEPHEN WINTER

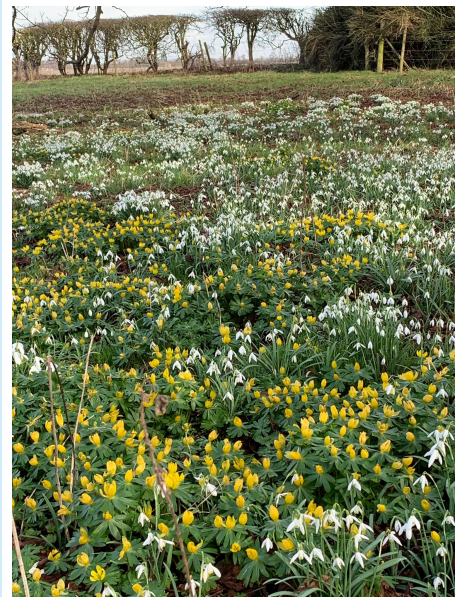
I would like to extend a warm welcome to Stephen, who has moved into Maltings Lane, coming from Harston. Stephen runs a technology company in the medical and consumer sectors.

He enjoys long countryside walks which, he tells me, was the main motivation to move to such a lovely area and he is very much looking forward to meeting the community.

SNOWDROP WALK

Thank you to everyone who helped or came along to the BELL RESTORATION PROJECT fundraising event on 12th February.

A chilly but sunny day, and those who came were rewarded with lovely displays of many different varieties of snowdrops, their whiteness offset beautifully by the yellow of the aconites. Tea, coffee and hot soup was available to help against the cold. In total it boosted the funds for the project by just over £500.



GREAT CHISHILL ANTIQUES & VINTAGE FAIR

We will return to the Village Hall on Sunday 6th March 2022.

Doors open at 9 am – 4 pm.

With tea room offering homemade delights including luxury cakes. £1 admission fee, children free.

CRAFTS ON THE HILL

Many thanks to all who helped make the Craft Fair such a lovely day. The total takings were £561.60. After expenses were taken out it left £221.60 for each of the Church Lights fund and the Windmill fund. An anonymous donor put in some money for the church lights and this donation, together with the money raised at the Crafts Fair, paid for the lights to be made safe and for a new light too. Many thanks to John Crawley for organising this.



THANK YOU

I and my family would like to say thank-you for all the wonderful flowers, cards and words of condolence which we received after the passing of my husband, Martin Woollard, on the 14th January after fighting cancer for 18 months. We have lived in the village for 35 years and counted ourselves so lucky to have made so many friends during this time. Martin served on the Parish Council as well as being Chairman of the Village Hall committee.

Cilla Woollard



BIN DAYS - MARCH

Tue 1	Blue
Tue 8	Black
Tue 15	Blue & Green
Tue 22	Black
Tue 29	Blue & Green