

The LITTLETONS LINK



Middle Littleton Tithe Barn

July & August 2010

www.southlitleton.org.uk

Church Services for July

4th

Middle
South

The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

9.30 am Children's Eucharist

11th

Middle
South

The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

9.30 am Parish Eucharist

18th

Middle
South

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

9.30 am Parish Eucharist

25th

Middle
South

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

9.30 am Parish Eucharist

August

1st

Middle
South

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

9.30 am Parish Eucharist

8th

Middle
South

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

9.30 am Parish Eucharist

15th

Middle
South

The Blessed Virgin Mary

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

9.30 am Parish Eucharist

22nd

Middle
South

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

9.30 am Parish Eucharist

29th

Middle
South

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

9.30 am Parish Eucharist

September

5th

Middle
South

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

9.30 am Children's Eucharist

In addition to the Services listed opposite there is an opportunity to worship **every Sunday** at St Andrew's Church, Cleeve Prior at the **11 am Parish Eucharist**.

If you would like an opportunity to worship on a weekday, or are unable to come to a service and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or would like the Vicar to call, then please ask : The Revd Richard Evans,
The Vicarage, Main Street, South Littleton, Evesham, WR11 8TJ
(01386) 830397 email: father.richard@tesco.net □

Copy for inclusion in the **September edition**

Before Wednesday 25th August to the Vicarage please
father.richard@tesco.net

CHRISTIAN AID

An excellent total of £826.82 was raised in South Littleton. This is a splendid result and we are very grateful to everyone who donated and also to the small group of volunteers who collected. The money goes towards many needy projects in widespread parts of the world.

Rolling Calendar

Fri 9th Jul 7.30 Tennis Club Quiz Night Littleton Bowling Club
Fri 16th Jul 6.30 Party in the Park Cleeve School Playing Field
Sat 18 Sep 2 - 4 Action for Children Cream Teas The Haven,
Cleeve Road
Fri 24th Sep McMillan Coffee Morning Village Hall
Thu 30th Sep Bretforton Silver Band Concert
7.30pm St Nicholas Church

South Littleton Parish Council Meeting- May 2010

The Annual Meeting: Reports were received from the Chairman, County Councillor, District Councillor, Tennis Club, Bowling Club, Allotments Association, Footpaths Officer, Village Hall, Junior Football Club, Traffic Working Group, Open Spaces/ Play Area Group, and finance

Parish Council Meeting

Street lights: The contractor has confirmed that a single light could adequately replace the two, soon to be removed lights on Bennet's Hill, subject to approval by Highways.

Youth Bus: This is now operating and a request has been made for a time slot for South Littleton.

Open Spaces: Following complaints from residents of tree prunings being left on verges, it was decided that a trailer for the tractor should be purchased.

More signs will be placed around the children's' play area to remind dog owners to clean up after their dogs. The Council agreed that the health of residents was the first consideration and if the situation did not improve, they may consider banning or restricting dogs in some way.

The Tennis Club: It was agreed that that a new light could be installed to illuminate the entrance to the club, but the club would have to fund it themselves.

Play Area: The South Littleton Playground Action Group is now established, a bank account set up and monies already collected/donated totalling £3898.82 will be transferred. Grants are being investigated and applied for.

.Council Vacancy: Details have been posted on the notice boards, with a deadline prior to the June meeting, when a decision could be made.

Fun Day: Councillor Bailey gave a progress report on the preparations for this village event on June 19th. A donation of £50 was given by Mr & Mrs R Gibson. Parish Councillors are to run the raffle and the 2 Bouncy Castles, and all Councillors will donate a raffle prize. There will be a final meeting for anyone interested on

Thursday 27th May at the Scout Hut.

Roberts Lane; Roof top Housing has resurfaced part of the area. We are still awaiting a reply about ownership of the 'top' half of the road.

Christmas Event: It was proposed and agreed that the parish would hold an event and it would be discussed at future meetings.

Next meeting:

Thursday 17th June 2010 7.30pm at the Scout Hut.

North and Middle Littleton Parish Council

June 2010 Meeting

Regarding the raw sewage being discharged into the stream at North Littleton it is understood that the Environment Agency have taken steps for a system to be put in place to stop this happening.

War Memorial. There is an update regarding this in a separate article in the Link.

Rural Housing. A draft survey was agreed and this will take place in the near future.

Planning; Shernal Brook Farm. It is understood that this application was being recommended for refusal.

Kanes Foods. An update from Wychavon District Council is still awaited.

School Lane (road condition). A letter had been received from Worcestershire County Council stating that it was unlikely re-surfacing work take place in 2010/2011. Councillors expressed concern regarding this and Worcestershire County Council are to be contacted again.

VAS. It was agreed not to proceed with this.

Grit Boxes. A letter had been received from Worcestershire County Council with suggestions of how these could be used in the future. Information to be circulated for councillors comments at the July meeting.

Neighbourhood Watch. Information had been received that a recruitment drive was to take place in the parish.

Excess Water at Fish and Anchor. Following Worcestershire County Council being informed of this notification has been received that they are to inspect and carry out any necessary repair work to the drains. Clerk - Marion Brighton Telephone – 01386 832906

Next parish council meeting scheduled for July 21, 2010 at 7pm in Littleton village hall.

ACTION for CHILDREN

Cream Teas

AT

THE HAVEN, CLEEVE ROAD
MIDDLE LITTLETON

ON

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH
2.00pm to 4.00pm

Stalls of Cakes and Produce, Books and Plants

Proceeds for “Action for Children’s fine work among disadvantaged children

WAR MEMORIAL – NORTH AND MIDDLE LITTLETON

You may not be aware that there is a War Memorial to commemorate the war dead in St Nicholas Churchyard.

Even if you are aware of this it may be some time since you stopped to look at it. Over the years the Memorial has become part of the scenery until, eventually, a time has been reached when no-one living in the villages can remember it being erected or who paid for its erection. Research through past editions of the Evesham Journal revealed that it was erected in 1920. It was reported as follows:- “The brave and glorious dead of North and Middle Littleton will be memorialised on Sunday by the unveiling of a war memorial which has been erected in Middle Littleton Churchyard. The memorial consists of a cross in Portland stone and stands ten feet high. It



comprises three steps, surmounted by a plinth upon which are placed the names of the fallen. From this springs an octagonal shaft bearing a moulded cap and cross.

The plinth bears the inscription:-

“North and Middle Littleton War Memorial. In memory of our brave and glorious dead. 1914-1919. “

Then appear the following names:

“Frank Ballard, Charles Hubert Coley, Jack Emms, Ronald Masters, George Read, John Thomas Spiers, James Spiers, Albert Cecil Wheeler, Alfred Harrison.”

The memorial is from a design by Mr H. E. Dicks, who presented it to the committee without cost. The work has been excellently carried out by Messrs. W, and H. Gardiner of Evesham. The unveiling ceremony will be performed by Com B M Eyres Monsell, M.P. at 4 pm."



Ninety years of weathering has had an effect upon the surface and lettering, although the monument is still structurally sound. Built from Portland Limestone, uneven erosion of the surfaces has left corrugations and exposed fossils which stand proud to the surface. It is time for some restoration work to be undertaken. Now the question arises as to whose responsibility it is to look after the monument. The Royal British Legion constitution as a Trust does not allow Legion money to be spent on war memorials. The Church authorities have no responsibility for it, although it stands on church land. So, who is responsible? The answer is probably the people who had it erected but, since these people are now dead and no provision was made for maintenance, there is no nominated carer. The Parish Council of North and Middle Littleton has decided to accept responsibility for the Memorial so now there will be a continuity of care.

The Memorial does need some restoration work particularly in the re-incising of the lettering, but also restoring the surfaces to their original state. The cost of the work would be between £1000 and £2000 depending upon the scale of the work undertaken. Efforts have been made to obtain a grant from the War Memorials Trust but the work that

the Council wishes to undertake



Middle Littleton (Cheques made payable to North and Middle Littleton Parish Council)

does not meet with the Trust's requirements for providing a grant.

Since our War Memorial is an essential part of the history of the villages, the Parish Council thinks that there may be people in the villages who would wish to make a contribution towards the cost of the renovation. Without some financial support it is unlikely that the Parish Council will agree to finance a complete restoration.

It would be nice to think that the Memorial would be renovated in part from public subscription. If you feel that you could support this by making a donation, however small, please send your donation to Marion Brighton, 20, School Lane,

Littletons' Wednesday Club.

May 12th The attendance for this meeting was quite disappointing. Luckily, Mr. Eden used a couple of tables for his bee keeping displays so the hall was filled up a little bit more. He began by dressing in his beekeepers protective clothing, stressing the importance of not having anywhere for the bees to get through. He once had a small opening where he had not closed a zip at his neck and bees got inside, resulting in about 15 bee stings. He has special knee protectors, gloves which he secures with elastic bands (kindly dropped by the post man). A productive queen bee can lay 3,000 eggs in a day. Worker bees, the smallest in the colony, are immature females. They live for 28 to 35 days and the average worker makes just one twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.

Colonies of billions of honey bees have died worldwide since 2006, killed by a mystery condition which has baffled scientists. Their loss is a major threat to crops and human food production. The threat to the honey bees has encouraged new members for the British Bee-keepers Association.

They welcomed 5,000 new members last year, an increase of 50% The President said that those who want to take up bee-keeping must be aware of the work that goes with it. Anyone who has stood next to a bee-keeper when he opens a hive and sees 50,000 bees will know what a shock it can be.

The mysterious decline of the bee population has been reported across the world, including Europe, the U.S. and Japan. In an attempt to boost numbers in Britain, queen bees from the Isle of Man are to be sent by post to colonies throughout the U.K. Colonies on the Isle of Man are thriving thanks to the ban on importing foreign bees since 1987, which has prevented the spread of disease.

It was very surprising to hear how much is involved in bee-keeping. The products of keeping bees include candles, polish, honey and many types of mead. There were some jars of honey for sale the colour and consistency varying according to where the bees had collected their pollen. (My husband can recommend honey from the rape) We were warned that the weight in the jars of honey in supermarkets can be less, BUT the price remains the same. We have noticed that haven't we ladies?

May 26th. Today, members and friends, paid a visit to Oakham Treasures which is just off the M5 at Portbury, Bristol. It consists of historic stores, farm museum and a farm shop. The brochure says it's "A truly historic experience!" It is a trip down memory lane. A priceless collection giving a real snapshot of the way we used to live. Items are display vary from butter churns to bubble gum, food stuffs to fire helmets and stockings to story books. As well as rows of antique display cabinets which are packed from top to bottom there are several fully-stocked themed shops, including sweet shop, pub, grocery store, haberdashery, chemist and hardware store, featuring original counters, cabinets AND tills!

There are over 100 tractors and farm implements, some having been restored to their former glory, John Deere, Allis Chalmers, Titan - from 1919 Fordson to a 1976 Massey Ferguson. There was an American fire engine and tender pump dating back to 1920.

The farm shop has been in the family since the early 1900s. It has a well stocked butchers department selling beef, lamb, pork, venison, poultry, sausages, burgers and bacon and stock cooked meats, cakes, cheese, bread, vegetables and dairy produce. The cafeteria catered for light lunches, teas, coffees and snacks.

Come and see us - come rain or shine!

"One trip just isn't enough"

"I was instantly transported back to my childhood- it's amazing to see things I ate, drank and played with when I was 10!"

These were comments made by previous visitors.

The coach left Oakham Treasures at about 3pm. and called in at Blooms garden centre for a cuppa and a bit of retail therapy. The day proved to be an enjoyable one and there are certainly many memories of bygone days. Well worth another visit perhaps!

June 9th Although the date for the garden party had been brought forward, it was still an unfortunate one as far as the weather was concerned.

Luckily, it was possible to make the decision of setting up in the village hall well in advance. Unfortunately, the change of venue did not give the pupils from Littleton School enough time to entertain our members but there were quizzes and puzzles supplied to stretch the "little grey cells". There was background music as Marion tested the new system in the hall. The refreshments were laid out buffet style for members to help themselves.

We would like to thank members and friends who donated cakes for our stall at the Fun Day on Saturday June 19th. Although the weather was a lot cooler than last year and there was a chill breeze, we sold out and made a total £70. Many thanks!

The outing to Weston-Super-Mare on June 23rd has been postponed until July 21st because Weston is in the same process as Evesham with the refurbishment of the sea front. Also it is hoped that the pier will be re-opened by the time of our visit.

Future Programme.

July 7th Maurice Andrews will give an illustrated talk on his investiture at Buckingham Palace.

July 21st Postponed annual outing to Weston-Super-Mare. Leaving Evesham 9am Departing Weston 4.30pm. (Fingers crossed)

August 4th Joyce Payne will give us an insight to life as a Royal dress-maker.

August 18th A visit to Hop Pocket Craft Centre, Herefordshire. Coach leaving Evesham 9am Returning 4pm.

There is a Tinsel & Turkey 5 day break being arranged at the Rutland Hotel, Torquay December 7th at a cost of £180. We have enough people booked already, to bring the cost, per person to £170. There is still availability if anyone is interested. For more information please contact me on 831095.

Eileen Meads.

The Bishop of Ebsfleet's Pastoral Letter

Looking at Ruins...

AT THIS time of year monastic ruins are often in my mind. There is the Walsingham Pilgrimage in the Abbey Ruins, the site of Walsingham Priory. Then there is the Glastonbury Pilgrimage, celebrated amidst the ruins of another famous Abbey. On holiday this year I visited Castle Acre Priory in Norfolk. Catching up at last with Hilary Mantel's brilliant novel, *Wolf Hall*, my holiday reading, I was more than aware of the suppression of 800 monasteries by Thomas Cromwell, in the late 1530s. What Cromwell encouraged Henry VIII to believe was that what belonged to the Church really belonged to the State. He was to be Head of the Church, and the Crown the rightful owner of the Church's lands, properties, and treasures. I can't help reflecting that, nearly 500 years later, national support for the Church is in the hands of the Church Commissioners for England. That fund is no longer large enough to provide stipends and pensions for the clergy. Not only that, but parishioners are asked as well to support the fabric of parish churches up and down the land. There are handsome grants, to be sure, but individual worshippers are often asked for fund-raising help with the bell-tower, the lighting, the organ, the roof, or the steeple. Other countries have other stories: here the State maintains church buildings, there funds are raised by a church tax. Sometimes the problems are not financial at all. Parts of Scandinavia have well-maintained churches, well-paid clergy and church officials – salaried organists and youth leaders in quite small places – but almost no interest is shown by the general public in church-going. You value what you pay for.

It seems to me that we badly need a 'new deal' in this country. We need to look again at what Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell did to the Church. If the buildings truly belong to the State, then let the State look after them. Nowadays, it probably means that they should be shared by the Christians whose inheritance they are and used and managed ecumenically, freeing up quite a number of mostly indifferent buildings to be sold on or developed. Meanwhile, let the Church concentrate on paying for what it alone can do: the formation and deployment of ministers, the pastoral care of God's people, the worship of the Church, its liturgy and evangelistic outreach. Let everyone who shares in, and benefits from, this work consider once more the invitation to half-tithe net income. That invitation, originally from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, recognises the need for us to be generous in other directions too. It recognises the help that Gift Aid brings in repaid tax. It leaves us

with a well-supported clergy, a well-supported mission, and 95% of our take-home pay intact for personal and family use. A half-tithe, 5% of 'take-home', is impossible for some, but a drop in the ocean for others. And, whatever the future holds, the continuing life and work of the Church remains compelling, urgent, and - because it gives glory to God - beautiful too. The beauty of holiness.

May God bless you as you seek to discern and obey his will.

+ *Andrew Ebbsfleet*

An evening out for free

What? You cry. Nothing's free! Well, live and learn! How? Come along to Badsey Recreation Club on a Tuesday evening and find out.

We offer you a game which is endlessly fascinating which will:-
Enable you to make new friends

Get you away from the TV and/or the computer

Give you something you can share indoors with your kids - remember them?

Stimulate teamwork and communication skills for youngsters

We will teach you to play in half an hour! No age limit.

All you need is a pack of cards; and we will even give you them (it's that word "free" again. Where will it end?)

I'm afraid it will end! We are offering 4 sessions at no cost. After that, if you just want to play at home that's the end. If you want to come and play that little bit better and get out of the house we would charge you the exorbitant sum of £1.50 (the room has to be paid for somehow!)

We have a reputation for how friendly we are

We have ample safe parking - no charges

Cheap beer if you want (I'm afraid you do have to pay for that!)

We start at 7.00 but, if you can't arrive by then, come when you can.

What a remarkable deal!

Like the idea but want to know more? Phone Colin Payne on 01386 833887 - you won't regret it . What have you got to lose?

PS We would like advance notice of your intentions please.

We can't do this with less than 4 people.



Women's Institute

The meeting was opened as usual with the singing of Jerusalem. The minuets duly read and signed. The new table cloth was then presented and placed for members to see the work executed by Hazel Hunter and Joyce Payne.

Thelma Lightwood received a voucher this month for achieving 100 points.

The president June Lloyd then congratulated the skittles team on achieving page '6' status in the Worcestershire WI News for at last winning a skittles match. Val Witts had entered a photo of the group in their new green WI skittles tea shirts. Well done girls.

The Littletons WI was the recipients this year of the group bursary and members were asked if they would like the money spent on a daytime workshop. Subject to be decided if given the go ahead.

Members were also reminded of the garden party on the 10th of August to commemorate 60 years of the membership's existence. It will be held in June Lloyd's garden and past officers have been invited.

The speaker for this month was Beverly Hayden from the Citizens Advice and Age Concern. She gave an informative talk about all the benefits that are available if only people would ask. It is her job to assist people to claim their entitlements. In some cases she has found that a client's income could be increased quite significantly.

So don't be shy ASK! Hazel Hunter gave the vote of thanks.

For social time June regaled us with a lengthy but interesting and amusing report on her visit to the AGM in Cardiff. This months competition was won by Mo Simmons and Jean Bayliss was second with June third.

Our next meeting will be an 'Open Meeting' on the 13th of July and the speaker will be Mrs Sonia Hooper and her subject is 'Filming with Dogs'. Don't forget 7.30pm, village hall, visitors welcome.



Evesham Sea Cadets – We Need YOU !

The Sea Cadet Unit – TS Explorer, based in the old social club building adjacent to UNIPART (our major sponsors) provides training with a Nautical theme to nearly 50 Local Lads and

with ages between 10 and 18.

We sail at AZTEC water park, Croft Farm in Tewkesbury, Row on the river and canoe in many locations throughout the UK.

Other activities in the summer include Expedition training and many cadets are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards. In the winter months we focus on indoor teaching, with subjects as diverse as seamanship, marine engineering, signals first-aid and catering.

Evesham Cadets have also sailed on Square Rig sailing ships and learned power boat handling skills at HMS Raleigh and other Naval establishments, one of our top cadets has even learned to fly! Though the Sea Cadet Corps, founded way back in Victorian times follows the traditions of the Royal Navy we are no longer supported by them and are an independent charity, raising all our own funding to support a hectic schedule which we believe gives superb training in water sports but also in critical life skills. We believe our training programme helps young people through a key phase in their development and gives a purpose and self discipline the equal of any youth organisation.

As an all volunteer organisation we need your help ! In particular we are looking for someone with financial skills that could join the management team and take over the Treasurer role but if you have fund raising skills or indeed any skill you think may be of value to us and our cadets please do come along any Monday or Thursday between 7 and 9 30 pm and talk to us.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

What is Neighbourhood Watch?

The function of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is to bring together members of local communities in partnership with the Police and other agencies to reduce and deter crime.

NHW members are usually in a better position than police to notice unusual activity. Increasingly NHW is engaging in “crime reduction” measures, such as property marking and distributing crime reduction advice.

What is a NHW scheme?

A NHW scheme consists of a “scheme co-ordinator” (a member of the public who agrees to act as a focal point of the group) and a number of member households (usually about 10-15 households). If a notable incident occurs the scheme co-ordinator is contacted via email or phone. They then inform the other members of their scheme with a view to reporting any potentially useful information to the Police.

NHW works!! There have been many occasions where useful information has been provided to Police and on several occasions has led directly to arrests.

How can I get involved?

If you would like to know more about starting a scheme in your part of the village, please contact **Adrian Symonds** on **01905 331046** or email **adrian.symonds@westmercia.pnn.police.uk**

FUN QUIZ NIGHT – FRIDAY 9TH JULY

Littletons Tennis Club are pleased to announce that we are holding a fun quiz night at Littleton Bowling Club on Friday 9th July starting at 7-30 pm.

Questions are pitched at enjoying a good night out rather than at competing on Mastermind although there will be prizes for the winning team and also a booby prize.

Teams can be up to a maximum of 6 people but don't worry if there is only one or two of you we will arrange "buddying up" on the night if need be.

Cost of entry is £5 per person which includes a generous supper added to which the bar prices are very reasonable!

To enter please contact either Ruth Thompson on 01386 832417 or Graham Lawrence on 01386 831024 as early as possible but no later than Tuesday 6th July to allow for efficient catering.

Graham Lawrence

BIDFORD & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

June 2010 meeting

The Black Death

Bidford suffered badly from the Black Death; its population fell from 460 people to fewer than 200 in just a few short years. This was similar to the rest of Britain where almost half the population died, a better outcome than for the rest of Europe! However Salford Priors, which was a woodland settlement, may have been totally unscathed.

The Black Death is still with us today in developing countries, but people have better immunity and now that medicine has discovered its cause is a viral infection of the Lymph system, there is treatment available. However the situation was very different when the disease arrived in Europe in 1346. Frequent droughts, bad winters and wet cold summers had contributed to crop failures over 40 years. Famine had already killed 10% of the population and most

people were already weakened by poor nutrition and absence of protein, so had little resistance.

The disease first arrived in the Midlands in the Spring of 1349 and returned another three times over the next 20 years. Transmitted by fleas carried on rats (flea bites were a routine event) and by droplets from people sneezing the illness led to death within 6 days. No-one had any idea about how the disease spread. It was painful and blackened areas bled - hence the name. In many places there was no-one to bury the dead and most of the priests who ministered to the dying also succumbed.

For the survivors life eventually became better. Shortage of labour meant that working people could obtain better incomes, the wool trade developed and prosperity brought better nutrition.

There is an outing to Hellens Manor on July 11th with a few places remaining available.

Enquiries to the membership secretary

Brian Brasenell on 01789 773298



CLEEVE PRIOR GOLF SOCIETY

The Society had its first outing playing eighteen holes at the Droitwich Golf Club on the 21st May.

Fifteen Members played a Progressive format with the winning team of Neil Betteridge, Mike Bratt and Mike Markam scoring a creditable 76 points. Longest drive was achieved by Les Bratt and nearest the pin was Ron Taylor. Droitwich presents a challenging and interesting course and it was presented in great condition helped by wonderful weather on the day. In the evening we were joined on the clubhouse balcony by some of the partners, following which we had a very enjoyable meal. Our next outing is to Redditch Golf Club on Friday 25th June. If you are interested in joining us please get in touch.

John Arkell, Captain

01789773814

cleeve prior pre school

Are you aged between 3 and 5?

Do you like to have fun with other kids?

Come and join us and we can play, paint, sing, dance, build and create.

We even have a club to help us when we start BIG school.

cleeve prior pre school

Ask mummy or daddy to call or email us for more info.

tel 07979 322 091

email cleevepriorpre-school@live.co.uk

Party in the Park

at Cleeve Prior School



Friday 16th July

6.30pm start

Barbeque

***Cash* Bar / Refreshments**

Super Raffle Prizes

Everyone most welcome

All proceeds go to Cleeve Prior School