



The Grapevine

THE NEWSLETTER FROM HAMPTON LUCY, CHARLECOTE
AND LOXLEY PARISHES

November 2010

Issue 124

Forty years on!

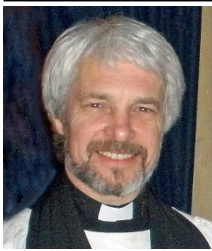


(photograph by Graham Barclay)

Ali Speller and Rev'd David Jessett, accompanied by Tass Smith, churchwarden (on the left) and Chris Speller

Forty years ago, Ali and Chris Speller had been married for three years when he was appointed as vergers of Hampton Lucy church. That village of 1970 is barely recognisable today. Many of the picturesque but dilapidated thatched cottages that stood then have since been demolished and replaced. The village shop, that most sociable of meeting places, is also no more. But perhaps the most notable change has been in employment. The village grew up as an estate village to house the Charlecote estate workers. Both Ali and his father worked for Clyde Higgs, the principal employer in those days, and Ali continued to do so until the dairy closed. He then changed careers and became a technician at Mid-Warwickshire College, joining the commuting ranks of those of us who lived here but worked outside agriculture. The church has also seen massive changes since then. In 1970 the Coventry Diocese employed 375 clergymen, whilst today there are just over a hundred men and women clergy. Ali has

served with three rectors and, after John Corke's retirement in 1994, three priests in charge of multiple parish groups. It took a year to make Church Lodge habitable for them to raise their family there. The church itself was also in a fairly poor state, boasting a single five amp socket outlet as the only source of power. Over the years, many of the improvements that we now take for granted can be attributed to Ali's influence. One incident, among many, illustrates Ali's dedication beyond the accepted responsibilities of a vergers. When a valuable antique was stolen from the church, he toured the local antique shops and recovered the church property himself without recourse to Scotland Yard! Such dedication characterises Ali's approach to his duties. St Peter's Church and Hampton Lucy have been the richer for having Ali and Chris in the village and Ali acknowledges he could not have done the job without her. **PJR**



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The Parish Letter

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Dear Friends,

I was on a flight recently. There was an air steward making his way down the aisle with drinks, stopping at each passenger. I could hear his broad London accent and sharp wit which was entertaining people, if they cared to listen. When he reached our seats, I asked for a mineral water. "Ice with that, Madam?" I thought for a while and replied, "Mmm, yes please."....."Lemon, Madam?" I thought again, pictured a lemon and said "Yes!" He gave me long look and said, "Yes, we have it *all* here, Madam." I realised then that my responses had been disproportionately enthusiastic! For a moment, I wanted to explain but he was on his way and it would have sounded absurd anyway.

You see, we were just coming back from eight days in the desert. I'd forgotten about ice cubes and the possibility of them. I'd forgotten about the vivid yellow of lemons and the sharpness they bring to chilled, sparkling water. It was a minor miracle in a plastic cup.

After landing, the sensory overload continued when we stopped at a motorway service station. As we stepped out into the rain, I couldn't help staring at a row of fountains squirting water up into the air and wondering why they were there at all?

And, why was all the food so BIG? The restaurants were full of people eating burgers the size of dinner plates. As we drove on, the number of trees and the amount of greenery was almost unbearable. There was just so much of everything.

The desert is quite the opposite. Your needs become few and urgent - water, nutritious food, even in minimal quantities, and shade. And the landscape is stark with a sky of an intense blue that points to infinity; sand sloping and stretching out as far as you can see; mountain range after mountain range of rock formations 550 million years old; a searing sun and an occasional breath of wind. And, in that sparsity, as you sit, look and listen, you become aware of an utter, eternal stillness. As one writer puts it "... the stillness which encompasses all things."

What was clear, coming back home, was that "the stillness which encompasses all things" is just as present here. We just have to push our 'plenty' aside to perceive it.

With love and blessings,

Cathy



News from the Parishes

A complete list of church services, including those at Barford, Wasperton and Sherbourne, is displayed on the notice board in your church.



Commemoration of the Departed

On Sunday, 7 November, there will be the opportunity to remember our loved ones departed at services in Barford or Loxley. These will be occasions where we can give thanks for them and remember them before God. Names of particular individuals can be read out. Please contact either Revd David Jessett at rectory@barford.org.uk telephone 01926 624238, or Peter Morris, Churchwarden at Loxley, telephone 470084. The services will be held in St Peter's, Barford, at 3.30pm and in St Nicholas', Loxley, at 6pm.

Rev'd D. Jessett

Thanksgiving Service

On Sunday, 10 October, a service of thanksgiving was held in Charlecote Church for the life of John Corke, vicar of Loxley and Charlecote and Rector of Hampton Lucy, 1980-1994. John is remembered with affection for his friendly and approachable manner, his devotion as our parish priest and his courage in adversity.

SL

Charlecote Parish Meeting

The next Charlecote Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16 November at 7.30 pm in Charlecote Village Hall. All are welcome. Please come along from 7.00pm for a pre-meeting drink and chat.

VL

From the Registers

St Leonard's Church, Charlecote, Wedding:	25 September	Simon Carter and Joanne Mudd
St Peter's Church, Hampton Lucy, Weddings:	21 August	Matthew Thackwell and Charlene Aston <i>(Correction from the October issue with our apologies)</i>
	25 September	Giles Conway and Felicity Wyatt
St Nicholas' Church, Loxley, Baptism:	19 September	Barnaby Hood and Valentine Brown

Calling all bridge players!

Do you play bridge, or have you played in the past and would like to get back to it? You'll know how absorbing it can be and Wellesbourne Bridge Club would like to welcome you, preferably with a partner, to join them for duplicate bridge on Monday evenings in the St. Peter's Church Hall, Wellesbourne. Our standard is what might be called intermediate and we enjoy a social atmosphere so don't be afraid to give it a try! If you are interested, please call Martin Weetman on 01789 841018. If you wish to learn to play bridge, the Dene Valley U3A offers a course for beginners. MW

Hampton Lucy Harvest Supper



Joe, Archie and George

Shhhh..... Don't tell anyone but the annual Harvest Supper, held in the village hall on Saturday, 9 October, was a great success. Kay Graham, referred to as the team Obergruppenführer by our erstwhile Master of Ceremonies Peter Rodgers, and ably assisted by her enthusiastic team, treated us to a tasty supper of soup, sausage and mash and vegetables and a delicious dessert of trifle. The evening was kick-started with a welcoming glass of cider and an overture of three pieces played beautifully on the violin by Joe, Archie and George, pictured here after their performance. Rev'd David Jessett offered the opening and closing grace. Guests brought along their own drinks and, probably as a result of that, the hall soon developed the general hubbub of people enjoying themselves. Peter officiated with the customary quiz, and, despite some heckling from the floor, managed to fend off the usual protests and maintain order and a reasonable level of

decorum. What a lovely tradition it is and our grateful thanks go to all those involved in the organisation, cooking and serving during the evening, including young William who nobly helped with the washing up. But keep it under your hats. The village hall can only seat a limited number! AJW

Charlecote Church



The soft October sunshine showing off the splendid new tiles on the main roof of St Leonard's Church

Charlecote Park gatehouse



The Tudor gatehouse at Charlecote Park shrouded in

....and the work goes on

The repair and restoration of the roof and decorative stonework of St Peter's Church, Hampton Lucy, is also nearing completion, under the careful guidance of Stephen Oliver, the church architect, and the skilled hands of Stuart Gartshore, the project foreman, and his team. Stuart is pictured here next to just one of the complex pieces of carved stonework that they have renewed at the eastern end of the chancel. Roof timbers have also been replaced and the roof of the apse is now ready for its lead-work. Stuart and his colleagues from Croft Building and Restoration Ltd clearly take great pride in their work, having worked on many fine buildings both locally, such as Charlecote Church, and nationally, including the two cathedrals in Birmingham and the White Tower in The Tower of London. St Peter's is obviously in good hands! AJW





Wellesbourne & District Lions Club News

Planning is now well under way for this year's Christmas floats. We have had an excellent response to our appeal for local charities to join in the fun this year. Santa will be out and about between 6pm and 8pm on weekdays between 6 and 17 December. I am hoping to give you the full schedule in the December edition. Please make a note in your diaries to join the Lions for Christmas Carols at 6pm on Friday, 26 November, when the Christmas lights will be switched on in Wellesbourne shopping precinct, and also 6.30pm on Monday, 20 December. Please note also that there is a change of date for the 'Afternoon of Entertainment' for senior citizens in the district. This will now take place on the afternoon of Saturday, 6 November. Please contact Lion Vic Horton on 01926 640329 for more information. The event will be held in Kineton but transport will be provided from other parts of the District. The Mini Prom Concert hosted by the Lions Club in September, was a great success. It was a terrific evening with an excellent turnout and early indications show that over £1,000 was raised which will be used to support Myton Hospice and other local charities. "Thank you" to everyone who supported the event.

AS



Hampton Lucy and Charlecote WI

At our October meeting, held in Charlecote Village Hall, members were entertained by Mo Emmans speaking on the "Social History of a Travelling Pedlar". Wearing peasant-style dress, handmade in Arran wool, Mo regaled us with amusing and sometimes gruesome tales of life among the lower classes in the Middle Ages. We learned the ancient origins of many sayings still in current use. In September we enjoyed a successful visit to the recently restored Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. The Group Meeting at Ashorne was well attended with refreshments provided by Hampton Lucy and Charlecote. The Speaker, Sir Andrew Hamilton, gave a fascinating talk about the First World War and the involvement of his grandfather in the Christmas Truce which took place in the trenches. The next meeting on Wednesday, 3 November, at Hampton Lucy will be our AGM. Members are reminded to submit their nominations to the Committee by the end of October.

CP

Loxley Bonfire and Fireworks

The Loxley Bonfire and Fireworks Night is back at Loxley Hall by popular demand and by the kind permission of Mr Peter Gregory-Hood on Saturday, 6 November from 6pm. As this event grows in popularity each year the Friends of Loxley School would like to ask for assistance from anyone who could make themselves available that night to help in any way, such as with stewarding, or who may be able to supply equipment such as generators and lighting. There is no admission charge but donations towards the cost of the fireworks would be much appreciated so that we can continue to run this as a free entrance event. Please contact helen.chidgey@btinternet.com or telephone 470678 for more information. We look forward to seeing lots of you on the night.

HC

Charlecote Park

Memories of the BBC Antiques Roadshow, with nearly 3,000 people and many interesting items coming to Charlecote, will be awakened when the programme is broadcast next April. The Deer Park Safaris in October were much enjoyed, enabling visitors to get to see the annual rut in action and to get a lot closer to the animals than is normally possible. Conservation work on the gatehouse is now well under way, see the picture on page 3, and, weather permitting, should be completed in about 4 months. Throughout the winter, apart from 24/25 December, the grounds will be open daily from 10am till 4pm, and during November and December some parts of the house will be open at weekends between 12pm and 4 pm. Following a wide consultation involving several hundred people over a number of weeks, it has been decided that dog walking will NOT be allowed in the park. The Sculpture Trail, with nine quirky animal sculptures by local artist Stephen Charlton, is also bringing a smile to visitors' faces. (Look out for the hula-hooping hares!) On 13 November a special raffle will be held at the Park, raising money for the Croome Court conservation work, with the top prize of a Morgan sports car. Finally, don't forget all the Christmas goodies, from cards to puddings and presents, on sale in the shop. For further details please contact Charlecote Park on 470277.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/charlecotepark



One day only **DESIGNER SALE**

Friday, 5 November, 9.00 am - 7.30 pm

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10% of your purchases will be donated to SHN

CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR

Wednesday, 10 November, 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm

Thursday, 11 November, 9.30 am to 4.00pm

Ettington Community Centre, Rogers Lane,
Ettington - CV37 7TA

Entry: £3 includes coffee or tea and biscuit

On sale: mulled wine, mince-pies and lunches

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www.localcutflowers.co.uk

Hampton Lucy website:
www.hamptonlucy.net

The Notice Board

The Loxley website:
www.loxleyvillage.com

The Grapevine is published in colour each month. To view the colour edition visit either the Hampton Lucy or Loxley websites, or request an e-mail copy

Loxley Fireworks and Bonfire Night

Loxley Hall

Saturday - 6 November - 6pm onwards

(by kind invitation of Mr Peter Gregory-Hood)

Admission free but donations very welcome!

Food and drinks available

Details on **470678** or helen.chidgey@btinternet.com

(All proceeds to Loxley School)



Charlecote Wine and Wisdom Evening

Friday, 26 November

in the Village Hall

7.00pm for 7.15pm

£10 per person, (£8 concessions)

including wine and nibbles

Details and entries - Heather Gopsill - 840244



An audience with
THE WELLESBOURNE CALENDAR GIRLS
hosted by comedian **Alan (J.T.) Carr**

SATURDAY, 13 NOVEMBER at 7.30pm

St. Peter's Church Hall, Wellesbourne

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Further details at www.acureonline.com

Proceeds to The James Whale Fund for Kidney Cancer

Hampton Lucy Coffee Morning & Bring and Buy

Saturday, 27 November, 10 am – 12 noon

in

The Village Hall

**Admission £1.50 includes coffee or tea
and a home-made mince pie!**

In aid of Hampton Lucy Church Restoration Fund

Hampton Lucy Skittles Night

Saturday, 20th November, 7.00pm

in the Village Hall

Fun for all ages

Fish & chip supper available

(please book your food when buying tickets!)

**Tickets: Adults £2, Children £1, from the
committee or call 841155. (Fish and Chips extra)**



CHARLECOTE VILLAGE BOOKS

Fascinating books on the history, geography, and people of Charlecote are available to borrow from Beryl Penn in return for a modest donation to village hall funds. (841487)

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Sunday: 12.00 noon to 10.00pm

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Christmas Day - 12pm to 3.00pm

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www.theboarsheadhamptonlucy4food.co.uk

Contact details

Grapevine copy by the **10th of the month**

with a contact telephone number please, to:

Jeremy Whyman, 9 The Langlands, Hampton Lucy

CV35 8BN. Tel: 01789 470911

e-mail: grapevine46@btinternet.com

For advertising contact: Jackie Williams, Tudor Cottage, Hampton Lucy. Tel: 01789 841155. e-mail: jacwil@btinternet.com

Police: Community Police Station: **01789 842114.** e-mail: wellesbourne.snt@warwickshire.police.uk

Website newsletter with regularly updated local information: www.saferneighbourhoods.co.uk



Church Services

7 Nov	The Third Sunday before Advent			
	8.30am	Charlecote	Holy Communion	BCP
	10.00am	Hampton Lucy	Family Service	
	3.30pm	Barford	Commemorate the Departed	
	6.00pm	Loxley	Commemorate the Departed	
14 Nov	Remembrance Sunday			
	10.50am	Charlecote	Remembrance	Leaflet
	10.50am	Loxley	Remembrance	Leaflet
	6.00pm	Hampton Lucy	Remembrance <i>with The Festival Singers</i>	Leaflet
21 Nov	The Feast of Christ the King			
	8.30am	Charlecote	Holy Communion	BCP
	10.00am	Hampton Lucy	Come and Worship	
	11.00am	Loxley	Matins	BCP
	6.00pm	Hampton Lucy	Evensong	BCP
28 Nov	The First Sunday of Advent			
	9.30am	Loxley	Holy Communion	BCP
	11.00am	Charlecote	Holy Communion	CW
	6.00pm	Hampton Lucy	Evensong	BCP

For your diary - November

Mon 1	Afternoon Teas , Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 3.00pm to 4.00pm
Tues 2	Keep Fit , Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 7.30pm to 8.30pm
Wed 3	Tai Chi class , Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 9.00am to 10.00am
Wed 3	Hampton Lucy and Charlecote WI AGM , HL Village Hall, 7.30pm
Fri 5	SHN Charity Designer Sale , Darlingscote, 9.00am to 7.30pm, (see page 4)
Sat 6	Flu Vaccination Clinic , Wellesbourne Surgery, 9.00am to 6.00pm
Sat 6	Loxley Fireworks & Bonfire Night , Loxley Hall, from 6.00pm (Notice Board)
Sat 6	Lions Club Senior Citizens Afternoon of Entertainment , Kineton (see page 4)
Sun 7	Commemoration of the Departed , Barford and Loxley, (see Church Services)
Tues 9	U3A Meeting , St Peter's Church, Wellesbourne, 2.00pm for 2.30pm start
Tues 9	Keep Fit , Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 7.30pm to 8.30pm
Wed 10	Tai Chi class , Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 9.00am to 10.00am
Wed 10/11	SHN Charity Christmas Gift Fayre , Community Centre, Ettington (See page 4)
Sat 13	An Audience with The Wellesbourne Calender Girls , 7.30pm, (Notice Board)
Tues 16	Keep Fit , Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 7.30pm to 8.30pm
Tues 16	Charlecote Parish Meeting in the Village Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm (see page 2)
Wed 17	Tai Chi class , Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 9.00am to 10.00am
Thur 18	3 Parishes Prayer Group , at Janet and Duncan Fairfax-Lucy's home, 7.30pm
Sat 20	Hampton Lucy Skittles Night , the Village Hall, 7.00pm (Notice Board)
Tues 23	Keep Fit , Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 7.30pm to 8.30pm
Wed 24	Tai Chi class , Hampton Lucy Village Hall, 9.00am to 10.00am
Wed 24	Hampton Lucy Parish Council Meeting in the Village Hall, 7.30pm
Fri 26	Wine and Wisdom Evening , Charlecote Village Hall, 7.00pm (Notice Board)
Fri 26	Lions Club Christmas Lights Carol Singing , Wellesbourne Precinct, 6.00pm
Sat 27	Hampton Lucy Coffee Morning , HL Village Hall, 10.00am (Notice Board)
Sun 28	Christmas Fayre , The Boar's Head, Hampton Lucy. (call 840533 for details)

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