

## S. Leonard's Church

**Vicar:** Revd Frank Coleman 01767 315578

**Assistant Priest:** Revd Janet Humphries 01767 220365

**Reader:** Emma-Dawn Farr 07825 636901

**Reader:** Bernie Parsons 01767 315285

**Churchwardens:** John Scott 01767 627322  
Sally Pool 01767 316239

**Sunday Service:** 9:00 am Parish Eucharist

### The Parish Website

Just to remind everyone that we have a parish website where you can find all sorts of information about what the Parish Church and various events and activities within the Benefice. Take a look! [www.ivalsouthbenefice.co.uk/](http://www.ivalsouthbenefice.co.uk/)

### September Rain Ends Great Match

Old Warden met Mike Marshall's XI for the 60th time this Saturday. Marshall's were led by Captain David Sills, a Warden stalwart who seems to play better after being fed a nice picnic lunch, served with a spot of Chablis. Marshall's won the toss and batted on a dry flat track. Marshall's were dismissed for 202 in 39 overs, Alec Jordan top scored with a brilliant 73 (11 fours and a huge 6). Needless to say the players enjoyed a fine tea, but the sunny skies of the Marshall's innings were replaced by dark clouds that threatened, but never quite delivered the rain they promised. The rain finally came and halted play, with Warden on 121 for 5. Someone used a smart phone to great effect and the result, under the Duckworth Lewis method, was declared as a tie. About the right result to a fine match. **M.O.T.M.** A Jordan 73 runs. He won a bottle of Champers and a shift at the Hare and Hounds. **Ben Dove**



**NEW MEMBERS NEEDED**

The Oddfellows is a 200 year old organisation looking forward to the next 200 years. We would love to welcome new members.

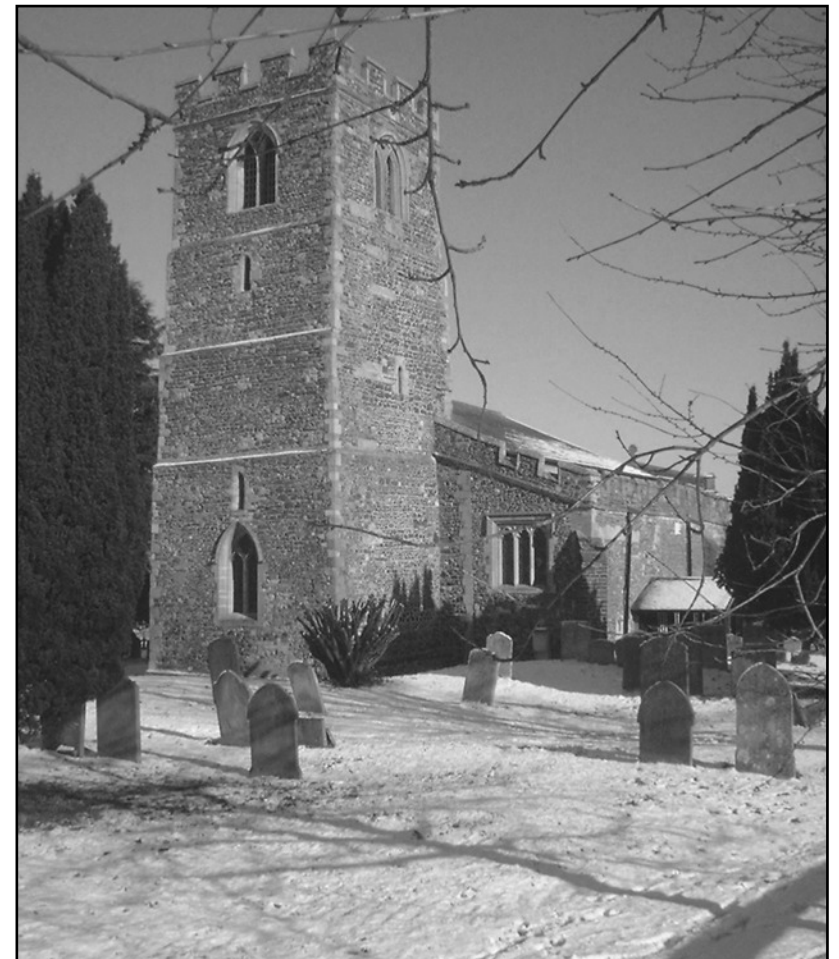
We offer a range of financial and social benefits to members, and have active branches in Hitchin and Biggleswade.

Please visit [www.oddfellowsbedsandbucks.co.uk](http://www.oddfellowsbedsandbucks.co.uk) to find out more, or call Sue on 07971 853881.

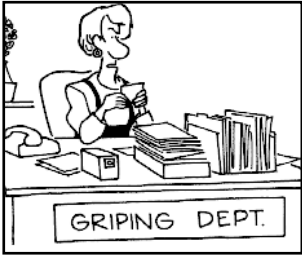
Clerk to **Old Warden Parish Council** Tel:01767 626379  
[www.oldwardenvillage.org.uk](http://www.oldwardenvillage.org.uk)

# OLD WARDEN NEWS

## CHRISTMAS EDITION 2011



Produced by the Church of  
S. Leonard for the  
Community of Old Warden



## Views From A Vicarage

**T**he past provides the context within which we live our lives. Whether it is that decision that we made ten minutes ago or events that happened five hundred years ago and which have shaped the society that we live in, we are conditioned by what went before.

For the Jewish people of the time when Jesus was born, their turbulent history meant that once again they found themselves occupied by the army of another country, Rome, and this changed every aspect of their daily lives. Alongside this they also believed that their history was the product of their relationship with God. What happened to their country, what happened to them as individuals, was a reflection of the favour or otherwise of God. A thousand years before, their greatest king, David, had defeated all their enemies and established Jerusalem as their capital city. His son, Solomon, had built the Temple. These were the glory days and it had all been steadily downhill since then. Their tradition told them that one day God would send the Messiah to them. He would free them from occupation and establish a new kingdom which would be even greater than the one that David had ruled. For this they prayed fervently, hoping that the hated Romans might be driven out during their lifetimes.

A hope for a better time to come; a hope for a new and different world. I suspect we all have times in our lives when this is exactly what we hope for. Each year at Christmas we take our celebration of the birth of Jesus to be a sign of this new hope, of new possibilities for each one of us. His birth all that time ago is still for us a reminder of how things might be better. What we have to learn to do though, is to make what happened two thousand years ago part of our present. If the birth of Jesus is only an event that we duly commemorate each year, but remains firmly rooted in the past as a happy memory, a time to enjoy ourselves with our families and friends, then it will have very little lasting impact on our lives.

What Christmas truly tells us is that the new age, the new world, have happened already and that they are amongst us now. A new way to live our lives, new values to guide us, an example to try to follow, which shows us that, no matter what sadness and problems come our way, this new life can be lived, all of these are open to us now. Jesus' birthday is a reminder of this, because all the dreams and hopes come true and are fulfilled in Him. Christmas has truly come! Don't leave it in the past as something to be remembered, make it the centre of your life every day.

The next Social will be **A MUSIC QUIZ** on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Again details from Rod 01767 627569 Bring your own drink and snacks. It is hoped that former Jam Man Andrew will be doing a come back as Quiz Master. **MORE TEAMS TO ORGANISE !!**

### SuperFast Broadband For Old Warden

In the New year we will have an opportunity to be part of a rural SuperFast Broadband Upgrade supported by Central Beds, Central Government and BT. £3M will be invested during 2012 for areas not currently within scope for the BT Infinity services. Central Bedfordshire Council will be shortly launching a campaign for residents and businesses to register their demand for next generation services - via council website and press release.. This has yet to happen so keep an eye on the village notice board and the Info Kiosk for more information . When this information appears and you need any assistance in registering, please contact Andy on [andyjdne@gmail.com](mailto:andyjdne@gmail.com) or 01767627323.



### Ploughing Competition At Shuttleworth College

A Ploughing Competition was held at Shuttleworth College on Sunday 2 October that saw the land turned by over 50 ploughmen.

Biggleswade Young Farmers organised the event which attracts attention from the farming communities of Bedfordshire and beyond. The ploughmen drew lots for plots of land and competed in classes for conventional and reversible ploughs, using modern, classic and vintage tractors.

The competition, in its 49th year, is one of the main events of the Young Farmers' farming calendar. There was a special display of heavy horses ploughing the land, as it is in days gone by, while agricultural dealers gave demonstrations of the most modern equipment.

A Corn and Root Show had samples of the best grain, hay, vegetable produce and sales of home cooked goods. And local Young Farmers Clubs took part in an "It's a Knockout" type competition.

The ploughing competition took place on Sunday 2 October at King Hill Farm, Shuttleworth College, Old Warden Park, Biggleswade, SG18 9EA.

Shuttleworth College offers a wide range of land-based learning courses, including Agriculture. To find out more see [www.shuttleworth.ac.uk](http://www.shuttleworth.ac.uk)

means to them and why they are choosing agriculture and horse management studies to take them into careers in the countryside.

Shuttleworth College thanks Phil Lack of BBC 3CR for his interview to be aired on the Breakfast Show in November.



### Old Warden Cricket

Old Warden Indoor VI took on Cople on Sunday with Billy 'Whizz' Wheeler coming in for a debut. The rest of the team consisted of two Ahmeds, two Doves and a Sarney. Big Daddy Dove opened with Jonny Bumfluff, and these two, backed by all the fielders, kept the Cople openers quiet. There was a mix up with the batters in the third over, and Jonny swooped in for a run out, Dove Junior was also bowling well, his 3 over spell only costing 23 runs (1 wide). Billy took to indoor cricket bowling immediately; he only gave one wide away in a fine spell of tight bowling that only conceded 27 runs. We were well on top, with Ash getting a wicket, but the Cople middle order started to charge the spin, and hit a few boundaries that pushed the score to over 100 with an over left. Ben Dove came back on and bowled a magnificent last over costing three runs and containing a wicket as Cople set Warden 105 to win. Big Daddy Dove had career best figures of 3-0-10-1. Cople made it easy for Warden as they bowled fast and loose, learning nothing from the miserly Warden bowlers they gave away 47 runs in extras. A packed house may well have begun chanting "easy, easy," but take nothing away from the Warden batters, they all played the sensible way and the win was never really in doubt as Clueso Khursh and Jonny Bumfluff saw us home with plenty of balls to spare. That's three out of three now, and with all the lads who play contributing well, Warden could yet win a few more.

**Ben Dove**

### Old Warden Cricket Club Annual Dinner Awards

**Batting:** Ben Woodcock. **Bowling:** Stevey Lee **Catches:** Steve Howell **Edward Bennett Award:** The Dove Family **Players Player:** Jonny Dove **Presidents Award:** Billy Wheeler **Alan Theed Award:** Jonny Dove **Fantasy League:** Jane Dove

The Dove family needed a wheel barrow !

The next Cricket Club Social will be a General Knowledge Quiz on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2012 Licenced Bar Bring your own snacks. Details and to book a table please phone the Quiz Master **Rod Ives** 01767 627569

### Village Hall News

At the November meeting the Treasurer and booking agent reported that the bookings were coming in for next year for weddings and caravan clubs. It was decided that the Queen's Jubilee should be celebrated with a traditional British Tea Party. The exact details and date would be fixed at the January meeting. Ideas please from villagers !!

Wishing you a very joyful Christmas on behalf of everyone in the ministry team.

Very best wishes

Mark Chuan

A rectangular announcement box with a red and green holly leaf border. The text inside is centered and reads:

**CHRISTMAS AT S. LEONARD'S**

We would be very pleased to welcome you, your family and friends to our Christmas Services this year.

**Sunday 18th December**  
3:00pm Parish Carol Service

**Sunday 25th December - Christmas Day**  
9:00am Parish Eucharist

**Sunday 1st January 2012**  
9:00am Parish Eucharist

### Remembrance Sunday

There were a number of circumstances that made the Old Warden Remembrance Service different this year to what it has been in the past. For the first time in perhaps 30 years Revd Alan Bliss was unable to take this service due to illness. For my colleague and I, this was the first time that we had been to Old Warden on this day and consequently we had no previous experience of this service. We endeavoured to learn what had happened before and we tried to make it as it had always been. It has been mentioned to me that there was an unpublicised change to the starting time of the service. I must report that there was no change to the time of the service, nor in the arrangements for the service to start. The service has always started at 10:45am with people gathering at the War Memori-

al; this was not something new. Generally, in the past, people, have either gone straight to the War Memorial or gathered in the Village Hall first, as happened this year. The vast majority of the people who attended the service were in place when the service began. I spoke to a number of people, both in preparation for and after the service, who confirmed this to me. This is the general pattern for Remembrance Services. Exactly the same happens at Ickwell Green for the Remembrance Service there. Everyone meets on the Green at 10:15am and then processes to the War Memorial for a start at 10:30am. The timing of these events can never be precise. As I'm sure everyone will appreciate, there is much more to a Remembrance Service than simply the two minutes silence. The only change that took place this year was that we played a recording of the Last Post and Reveille at the Memorial. The silence took place before 11:00am, as it did (and always does) at Ickwell. This was not our intention, but because we had not taken this service before, we were uncertain of timing, nor did we realise that people actually came just for the silence at 11:00am. Having discussed this matter subsequently, trying to learn from our experience this year, it seems that we will start the service five minutes later next year to try to get the silence to coincide with 11:00am, although, to avoid confusion, the time for people to gather will remain at 10:45am as it has always been. I would like to apologise to anyone who was inconvenienced this year, for any distress caused, it was certainly not out intention, as we tried very hard to keep the traditional pattern of the Old Warden service as it has been established over many years.

### **Repair To Mausoleum At Old Warden Church**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has been asked why they, and others in the Parish, should pay for repairs to the Ongley Mausoleum at the NE part of the churchyard.

There are three main reasons :

1. We have not been able to trace any direct descendants of the Ongley family who lived at Old Warden Park from 1700 to 1872 who might pay for repairs.
2. The 18th Century building is Listed Grade 2 and provides an attractive feature at the northern entrance to the village. Local, (and wider opinion), is that it would be a great shame if it was allowed to fall into a state of disrepair
3. Several church and other charities have been approached for financial support without much success to date but we are still trying to get help with funding. We do thank the Parish Council, the John Warren Foundation, groups and individuals who have helped to raise almost one third of the total cost of £6816.

Other fund raising is a planned : a scrap metal collection from parishioners during December and January - will you help? If you have small, (preferably!), items of scrap metal in your garage or garden shed you want rid of ; telephone or email me (01767 627322 or [johne.scott@btinternet.com](mailto:johne.scott@btinternet.com)) and we will collect at a convenient time.

The PCC has permission from the Diocese and Central Beds. Council to do the work. It has

agreed to start as soon as possible to ensure the building is weatherproof before the winter.

We look forward to your support for the project and thank all for their help.

**Sally Pool /John Scott  
Churchwardens**



### **A Christmas Corker**

Looking for Christmas inspiration? Now you can raise a glass to Bedfordshire, find an unusual gift, and support one of your local charities – with an award-winning local wine!

The wine is the fruit of the labour of volunteers and students who have been working at Warden Abbey Vineyard, situated between Old Warden and Cardington. It's the first vintage since the vineyard was taken on by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) and Shuttleworth College last year in an ambitious project to make it Bedfordshire's first community vineyard.

BRCC want to celebrate Bedfordshire through the vineyard's wines. The debut wine is called the Reformer as a bow to famous Cardington resident and prison reformer John Howard, who is featured on the label. The name also links the vineyard's medieval origins as part of Warden Abbey, dissolved under the English Reformation, and its latest "reformation" as a vineyard for the local community.

Already a medal winner (The Reformer won a commendation at the International Wine Challenge), only a limited edition of 1200 bottles were made, and all bottles are individually numbered. They will be sold at a number of special events throughout the year, priced £11.99/bottle, with discounts for volunteers.

In the run up to Christmas, you can drop into the BRCC offices in the Old School, Cardington to taste and buy the wine at the following times:

**Taste and buy, with festive nibbles:Thursday, 8th December 2.30pm – 6.30pm**

**Taste and buy:Friday 9th December 10.00 am – 2.00pm**

**Saturday 10th December 11.00am – 1.00pm**

Special gift-wrapped and presentation bottles will also be on sale, along with the BRCC calendar. The project is still looking for volunteers and community groups who want to be involved. To get on our mailing list for news, or if you are interested in joining as a volunteer– please email [info@wardenvineyard.org.uk](mailto:info@wardenvineyard.org.uk), phone 07981 113714, or visit [www.wardenvineyard.org.uk](http://www.wardenvineyard.org.uk)

### **BBC Special At Shuttleworth College**

The countryside is making a comeback with a huge increase in the number of young people applying to study Agriculture at Shuttleworth College.

Interviewed by BBC Radio 3 Counties, students gave their views on what the countryside