March 2005

WHADDON NEWS

EASTER DAY

CHURCH SERVICE
With our new Vicar
DONALD McFADYEN
An Easter Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 27 March
9.15am
in St Mary’s Church

&

EASTER EGG HUNT
Calling all children
Come to church on Easter Morning
Sunday 27 March at 9.15 am

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt in the Churchyard after the service

ALL WELCOME

Coffee Morning
In the church
Saturday 23 April
(St George’s Day)
10.00 am
St Mary’s, Whaddon
All Welcome

WHADDON WHITSUN WEEKEND 2005
Saturday 14 May
Folk evening in the Village Hall from 8 pm
Ceilidh dancing
folk singing
folk music session

Sunday 15 May
Procession through the village
For further details see inside.
The Licensing of Reverend Donald McFadyen took place on Tuesday 8 February at St Mary’s, Whaddon. Almost exactly a year after we said goodbye to John and Vicki Armstrong, the Parochial Church Councils of Bassingbourn and Whaddon have selected our new Vicar. In this case, Donald has been licensed as Priest-in-charge. The difference in name is only technical and the special service, held in the packed church, was full of dignity, tradition and celebration.

After a welcome from church people, representatives from the local community also welcomed Donald, since his role as Anglican parish priest is not only to nurture the faithful, but also to care for the whole community.

St Mary’s PCC looks forward to you all getting to know Donald, his wife, Melanie and their family over the next weeks. We are sure that you will have this opportunity even though we have to adjust to only having our Priest part time! Donald’s post is only half-time for Bassingbourn and Whaddon together.

Both our two parishes have enjoyed significant growth in church attendance in the past few years and have community at heart. We were looking for a person with strong leadership and pastoral skills to encourage more growth and enable more people to come to know Jesus and in Donald, we are sure that we have found the right person.

St Mary’s PCC

A few words from the Reverend Donald McFadyen:

I’m thrilled to be able to write to you as your new ‘Vicar’, and really look forward to meeting you, around the village or at church, and getting to know you. To give you a bit of a head start, let me tell you something about me. I’m married to Melanie, and have four children, ages ranging from 15 to 5. Although we started married life in London we moved to Cambridgeshire 8 years ago, and feel very at home in this rural community. (To celebrate coming to live here we’ve just invested in half a dozen chickens.) At Christmas I finished a term as acting chaplain at Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge, where I’ve also been doing some research. I love music, and play drums in a jazz sextet.

My hope for the church here is that it will play its part to the full in developing the community life of Whaddon. If you’ve not yet had much to do with the church can I encourage you to give it a try? Easter is coming up, and on Easter Sunday we’re having a service at which you’d be really welcome, and which we’re trying very hard to make accessible for all ages. The egg hunt afterwards may have some appeal too…..

Look forward to meeting you,

Donald.
During Holy Week:

**Monday 21 March to Good Friday**

The church will be open from 7pm with a short service from 7.30pm.

Just pop in for a moment of quiet reflection, in preparation for celebration at Easter.

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**EASTER DAY**

Sunday 27 March

**CHURCH SERVICE**

9.15am in St Mary’s Church

Followed by

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

All Welcome

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**Coffee Morning**

Saturday 23 April

(St George’s Day)

10 am in the Church

All Welcome

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**SERVICES**

From March Service times will be:

- **First Sunday**  9.15am Morning Prayer
- **Second Sunday** 9.15am Communion
- **Third Sunday**  6.00pm every month
  Holy Communion
- **Fourth Sunday** 10.00am Family
- **Fifth Sunday**  9.15am Communion

After Easter don’t forget ....
The regular Family Services at 10am on the last Sundays of the month
24 April, 22 May, 26 June

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**Saturday 7th May**

starting 7:30pm

**Helen Shapiro Gospel Outreach** at
St Peter & St Paul’s Church
Bassingbourn,
where Helen will be sharing her faith
in word and song.

Tickets £5.00 per person.
Contact 01763 244714.

Tickets also available from
Tony Gardner 29 Bridge Street.

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**A note for your Diaries:**

Whaddon Church Fete is on 16 July 2005
WHADDON WHITSUN WEEKEND 2005

SATURDAY 14 MAY
Folk evening in the Village Hall from 8 pm
Ceilidh dancing
folk singing
folk music session

If you enjoy dancing, come and join us. If you have an accordion or a penny whistle waiting to be played, dust it down and come along. No experience is necessary.

Refreshments will be provided.

For more information, contact Helen Strudwick
telephone: 207434; email: hms12@cam.ac.uk

SUNDAY 15 MAY
Procession through the village

This will be your first chance to hear the Whaddon Whitsun Song for many years.

The procession will be accompanied by morris dancers from far and wide.

Details of the route of the procession and the timings will be circulated closer to the date, so you can plan where to meet it.

TSUNAMI APPEAL
The January Quiz night at Whaddon Golf Centre raised £120.00 for the above fund.

The quiz nights are held every month during the winter season and prove to be very popular.

WELCOME TO WHADDON
Welcome to Andrew and Deborah who have moved back to Bridge Street with their two sons Oliver and Luke.

ANIMAL CRACKERS
A reminder that Animal Crackers will be held on Sunday 12 June, 11am – 4pm.

Event planning is well under way and we will once again be looking for lots of help from villagers to make the event a great success.

If you would like to help out then please let us know. All offers of help to set up, run stalls, deliver leaflets etc will be appreciated, no matter how small the commitment.

Please call Ken & Di Charles for more information on C. 207213.
Petersfield School, Orwell – forthcoming events:

- **Quiz Evening:**
  Saturday 19th March, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Includes fish & chip supper and licensed bar. Tickets are £6 per person and are available in advance from the school office (call 207382).

- **Car Boot sale:**
  Saturday 14th May in the morning. £5 per pitch. Barbeque & bouncy castle. See village notice boards for details nearer the time. Start clearing out the attic!

- **Summer Fete:**
  25 June. This year’s theme will be ‘Marvellous Machines’. The school is looking for any unusual machines to display on the day. If you have an unusual machine (Sinclair C5, 10 tonne truck, etc) and would be prepared to bring it along for the children to see, we would be interested to hear from you! Contact Anne Newberry on 207555.

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**Compost for Cambridgeshire!**

The Cambridgeshire Master Composter Programme is recruiting more volunteers this year!

The Programme is run by HDRA Consultants in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council and all District Councils. Now in its fourth year, the Programme aims to promote home and community composting by training volunteers to work as Master Composters. Volunteers are required to provide a network of local, friendly advice and support to people who already compost and those who want to start.

If you have an interest in environmental issues, enjoy encouraging other people and have a little time to spare, why not join our friendly network of volunteers in promoting home composting?

Anyone over the age of 18 can become a Master Composter; you don’t need to be an expert composter (or be composting at all) or have any community group experience.

As a volunteer you will receive training in home composting and related environmental issues. All training expenses will be paid for; you only need to provide your time. Once the training has been completed, you will be expected to spend 30 hours over the following year promoting home composting. Upon completion of the training and 30 volunteer hours you will be awarded the title Master Composter and be invited to receive your certificate at an award ceremony.

For further details please contact

Penny Holmes

HDRA Consultants

Ryton Organic Gardens

Coventry CV8 3LG

email pholmes@hdra.org.uk
tel 02476 308202
fax 02476 308225

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

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<thead>
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<td>Parish Council</td>
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<td>7th May</td>
<td>Helen Shapiro Gospel Outreach</td>
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<td>14/15th May</td>
<td>Whaddon Whitsun Weekend</td>
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<td>16th May</td>
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<td>12th June</td>
<td>Animal Crackers</td>
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<td>2nd July</td>
<td>Village Barbecue</td>
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<td>16th July</td>
<td>Church Fete</td>
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March 2005

An ‘ESSE’n’tial Night Out

Ladies!

You are invited to attend a Fashion Party to be held at ‘Esse’ Sheene Mill Retail & Therapy in Melbourn on Friday 15 April at 8pm. The evening is being held to raise funds for the Children’s Liver Disease Foundation. You will be able to relax and enjoy a glass of wine whilst taking time to look around the shop and the beauty spa. Some of the outfits on sale will be modelled during the evening. There is no obligation to buy, however, Sally Woodman has kindly agreed to donate a percentage of sales of clothing, accessories and beauty products to the CLDF. We are asking for a donation of £5 per ticket, which will be given entirely to the CLDF. Entrance will include a glass of wine, nibbles and a very civilised ladies night out!

Tickets available from Anne Newberry on C 207555 or Helen Slater on 01763 242963.

The Children’s Liver Disease Foundation is a registered charity (no. 1067331) raising funds to support children with serious liver disease and their families. It is the main source of funding for research into this life threatening condition. CLDF is celebrating 25 years in 2005, 25 years of fighting to stamp out childhood liver disease. Significant knowledge today can be attributed to work funded by CLDF.
Following the survey on the future of the **Village Hall** back in the Autumn, discussions have focussed on what to do with the hall now to ensure that it is a safe building and meets current legislation requirements. The safety work on the chimney has now been completed and the Management Committee are dealing with other requirements, such as the risk assessment. A package of agricultural land adjacent to the old Methodist chapel has been offered for sale to the Council, as a possible site for a new village hall and sports field. It has also been agreed to put the village hall on the market to ascertain its true value. The Development Committee cannot move forward with regard to funding of a new hall or purchase of land until this value is known. A planning application has now been lodged for a change of use to enable this process to begin.

**Plans for a development of six low cost houses** together with photographs illustrating possible styles have been received from the Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association. The Council have studied the plans and will pass back comments to the Association. It has been agreed that the best site for the development is at Church End corner. A public meeting is planned with the Association to enable parishioners to look at and discuss options for the site. The Council reminds anyone who has an interest for housing in the scheme, must put their name on the Council Housing List.

**Road drainage** around the village has been on every agenda over the Winter months. The ditches at Church End corner have been dug out and the drain in the area has been pressure hosed. The drainage at the top end of Bridge St. has been improved by placing a channel across the road. A second channel was not thought necessary. Despite recent work on the persistent overflowing drain opposite Ridgeway Close bus shelter, the problem has still not been solved. A further letter will be sent to Cambridge Water to ensure that they know the problem still exists.

The **village precept** for 2005/2006 has been set at £7,500. The Council will be looking into replacing the bus shelter at Ridgeway Close, during 2005/2006. The refurbishment of the village sign will be funded from the Reserve Account. Recent correspondence has indicated that the number of houses to be used for the precept has been revised to 212 and not the original stated figure of 228. This now means that we will receive less money in 2005, than originally planned for.

**Byway 22** which leads from the end of Bridge Street into the adjoining parish has been causing concern around the village because of the removal of much of the adjacent vegetation and also its overuse by motor vehicles. The track has become a quagmire of mud and can no longer be enjoyed as a quiet country lane. Both Whaddon and Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth Parish Councils are working together to find a solution to improve the byway and its use.

The **safety** of the Bridge Street/Church Street junction has been discussed with Highways Department, and various ideas put forward with a view to make the junction safer for motorists. Even though one suggestion for a ‘kink’ in the road to encourage drivers to slow down was agreed as a good option, Highways will not do the work in the current year as no money is available. The scope of the work will be investigated for next year.

It is also believed that we are unlikely to get a 30 mph limit through the village in the near future, as most schemes are costly, and therefore only a limited number can be completed each year.

The Council is pressing ahead with the design and setting up of a **Whaddon Village Web-site**. The launch of this will be tied-in with the purchase of new computer equipment and software for the Clerk to Council.

Remember that Whaddon Parish Council open meetings take place every 3rd Monday in the month. Check those notice boards for agendas and minutes.
Parish Council

In June 2003 following an extensive period of consultation, the office of the Deputy Prime Minister published a document headed ‘The Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme’. Its aim in England is to enable Parish Councils to work more closely with others in the delivery of local services and to better represent their local needs. Its principle aim is to provide a benchmark minimum standards for Parish and Town Councils across the country. The Government wants local Councils to show their residents that they are capable of operating in an ethical way and that they are able to represent their interests effectively.

To obtain quality the Council must submit an application form, together with supporting evidence to the local Accreditation Panel. The quality status criteria requires the council to show that it is representative of the whole community, communicates with its residents and is properly managed and responsible. There are 7 mandatory tests to complete.

Whaddon Parish Council has applied for Quality Status. Our Clerk, Mrs Yvonne Albery, has started the process in obtaining ‘The certificate in Local Administration’ awarded by the University of Gloucestershire. Secondly a Committee of 6 parishioners along with 2 Councillors has been set up to produce what is called ‘A Village Plan’. The Village Plan will be a document assessing the current and suggested future requirements of the village. The Parish Council is already meeting many of the mandatory and discretionary requirements of the Quality Criteria Status. We will keep you updated.

The Council has embarked on an ambitious programme for the coming year 2005/2006. Foremost in the programme is the provision of Affordable Homes for Whaddon Families. It is vitally important that would-be applicants for the homes get their names now on the District Councils Housing List. The Village Hall will be energetically pursued, Replacement Bus Shelter at the top end of Bridge Street, and improving the road junction top end of Bridge Street/Leyhill Farm area. The Criteria requirements for Quality parish Council status and the Village Plan will all be pursued with vigour.

EJ Webb
Chairman

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<th>Whaddon Parish Councillors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr E J Webb</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>01223 207564</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs C Byatt</td>
<td>V-Chairman</td>
<td>01223 207429</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms M Goddard</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>01223 207358</td>
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<td>Mr P Neale</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>01223 207706</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr N Strudwick</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>01223 207434</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. A Milton</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>01223 207105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr C Fisher</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>01223 208947</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Y Albery</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>01223 207458</td>
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Dog walkers and owners.

Recently several Parishioners have complained that dog owners as well as visitors are not removing their dogs’ faeces and disposing of them safely when walking their dogs through the village and on the Public Rights of Ways. Quite often these faeces are left on verges opposite dwellings. Apart from being unsightly and disgustingly smelly if trodden in, they can also cause permanent blindness especially to young children. There are now more children in the village than there has been for many years. It is an offence in law not to remove faeces and to dispose of them safely, the penalty being a fine of upwards of £100. Most dog owners are responsible people; there are also those owners who don’t care.

Advice will be sought on what can be done legally to encourage those who don’t care to change their ways. The real answer is for everyone who walks dogs to be more ‘Community Spirited’ and to clean up behind their dogs at all times.

Please help.

TW
THE POST OFFICE

The modern postal service began in 1840 but records tell us that in 1864 Royston was the nearest office to the village. By 1883 in Whaddon William Hicks was named as receiver of letters arriving from Royston at 9am & 1pm and dispatching letters in the early evening. The nearest money order & telegraph office was at Bassingbourn.

By 1896 & again in 1900 William Hicks was designated as sub-postmaster receiving and dispatching letters but the nearest money order & telegraph office was still in Bassingbourn. In the 1901 census Letitia Hicks was named as postmistress.

The following photograph (a) is almost certainly where the post office was situated at the turn of the century. It was taken definitely before 1909 as there is no parish room. The post box is on the right side of the cottage.

The next PO recalled by older villagers in their childhood during the 1930s was in the left hand cottage of the pair in Church Street opposite the recreation ground. This was run by Emily Pearce, mother of Grace who later taught in the village school.

Later it was accommodated both in the home of Stanley Oliver on the corner in Bridge Street actual date uncertain (b) during the war and in the home of Mr Oliver’s son at 53 Bridge Street.

Stanley Oliver delivered the post around the village for nearly 40 years first on a cycle and then in a grey Ford Prefect. He continued to drive this car until his death in 1980 when he suffered a blackout whilst driving and ended in a ditch on the Meldreth Road.

The next PO was accommodated at the home of Ted Webb’s parents where it was run by his sister Maisie until her marriage. When Maisie and her husband moved in to Springbanks, a bungalow built in the 1950s, she ran the Post Office from a lean to at the side of the bungalow(c).

From Bridge Street it moved to the home of Ann and Leslie Brandon in 1974 in Meldreth Road (the premises of the old Queen Adelaide).

It continued there until Ann’s retirement in 1990 and was then housed in the bungalow next door, the home of Bill and Rene Lamont.

It is now carried on in a part time capacity in the Golf Centre on Thursday morning.
**THE WORKHOUSE**

On the Baldock Road, Royston, overlooking the Heath was to be found the Workhouse. Called the Union and viewed with fear by the residents of Royston and surrounding villages, it was to survive nearly 140 years until its demolition in 1971. In its later life it was called Heath Lodge and was also known as The Spike.

Until 1834 the only social service available for the alleviation of distress of the poor had been administered by individual parishes.

[Whaddon’s expenditure on poor relief rose from £55 in 1776 to £170 in 1803 when 16 adults and 14 children were relieved. It fell to £90 in 1815 when only 6 people were relieved and rose again to £300 in 1820 fluctuating each year until it again reached £300 in 1830].

The view of the government was that the situation was out of hand. There were too many layabouts living on the rates and too much idleness. The solution was to make any help an uncomfortable and unpleasant business, so that poor people would feel better off if they did not apply for relief at all. As a result parishes were amalgamated into unions administered by a Board of Guardians. These boards could utilize the combined income from the poor rates to build and run workhouses. In 1835, Royston along with 27 parishes in Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire were amalgamated to form the Royston Union to be accommodated in a new workhouse for 244 people. Opposition from the parishioners involved was considerable and they descended upon Royston to try to demolish this new building. It was eventually erected at a cost of £6,744 and opened in 1836. Alfred Coningsby represented Whaddon for many years on the Board of Guardians who met weekly to discuss the running and finance of the workhouse, the numbers obtaining relief and their health and welfare.

Life inside the workhouses was harsh and tasks of work were expected in exchange for board and lodging such as picking oakum, tilling ground, stone breaking; tasks very much more onerous than ordinary labour, so that the poor would not be tempted to continue it longer than necessary. The effect of this decision to give relief only within the workhouse, was to create a bitter hatred and loathing for the system which lasted well into the twentieth century.

However revelations of very harsh conditions in some of the workhouses during the 1860s led to gradual improvements and some Out-Door relief was allowed. Nevertheless, within the workhouses the sexes were separated, uniform worn and strict discipline maintained and the fact remained that they came to symbolise an ultimate degradation, the loss of any status within society. By the later years of the nineteenth century it is possible to find reports in the *Royston Crow* of attempts to make life tolerable with special meals and activities at Christmas provided by charitable acts of the local dignitaries.

The children were a special cause for concern and outings were provided and efforts made to allow them to attend local schools. The introduction of the Old Age Pension in the first decade of the 20th century was greeted with relief by the elderly, allowing them to avoid entering a workhouse.

The *Royston Crow* regularly had advertisements for tenders to provide food for the workhouse - a small extract from the advertisement follows:-

- **BEST SECONDS BREAD** (one day old) at per 4lb loaf
- **BEST SECONDS FLOUR**, at per sack
- **GOOD OX BEEF** (without bone or shin) in pieces of not less than 4lbs. weight at per stone of 14lbs
- **Fore quarters MUTTON** (whole), at per stone of 14lbs.
- **Beef and Mutton for the officer’s table**

The Contractor must deliver the articles contracted for free of expense and at the times, places and in the quantities ordered......