Mothering Sunday
SUNDAY 26 MARCH
FAMILY SERVICE
in the church
10 am
EVERYONE WELCOME
Calling all Dads and Youngsters
“Come and help make posies for Sunday”
On Saturday 25 March

Coffee Morning
in the Church

SATURDAY 1ST APRIL
10 am
Gifts of ‘Bring & Buy’
Cakes, Raffles etc
gratefully received
ALL WELCOME

EASTER DAY
SUNDAY 16 APRIL
SUNRISE SERVICE
6 am
in the paddock at
Karen & Pete Conningsby’s
Drinks and hot cross buns
ALL WELCOME

EASTER COMMUNION
9.15 am
in the church
EVERYONE WELCOME
especially children as the service will be
followed by:

EASTER EGG HUNT
in the churchyard

Whaddon Whitsun Weekend 2006
3rd June
Folk evening
4th June
Village procession
For further details see inside
MY FIRST YEAR AS YOUR VICAR

Just over twelve months ago I knelt in St Mary’s Church in front of the Bishop of Huntingdon and was given the responsibility before God of sharing with him the pastoral care of the people of Whaddon. It was a deeply moving and humbling moment.

Neither I nor anyone else knew what lay ahead. Over the last twelve months I’ve certainly experienced times of wonderful celebration and friendship in the village – the Morris dancers arriving on Whit Sunday and singing and dancing their way through the streets and the church, and the fun of the church fete in the summer stand out particularly in my memory. But as it’s turned out this last year has been tough for Whaddon, marked by great sadness for many people. It’s been my privilege to share in some of those times of deep sorrow with you, and I’ve been amazed by people’s courage and kindness, their ability in the midst of tragedy to carry on. It seems the very best of human beings emerges when life is hardest: people in our community find new levels of friendship as they reach out to help each other.

Christianity doesn’t claim to protect us from tragedy and sadness, but it does say that in the midst of that sadness God is a comforting presence on which we can rely. That presence isn’t so much ‘head knowledge’ as ‘heart knowledge’, and it’s often most real to us through other people, their friendship and care – their love.

Ultimately that’s what the church in a place needs to become, not so much a building open on Sundays for services of worship, vital though that is, but a community of people that love each other. It cannot be separated from its surroundings because it’s in amongst them:

Whaddon church cannot be separated from Whaddon village.

I realize that for some people that is not how it feels. The church can seem foreign and remote, rather than a place of humanity and warmth (though the new boiler helps!). But those with responsibilities in the church at Whaddon, both I and others, long for it to be close to the lives of those who live in the village, a source of peace and joy that is open to everyone.

Perhaps you have dreams and ideas for what the church might be and what it might do. If so please let me or the church wardens Karen Conningsby and Tony Gardner know.

In the meantime we are starting Lent, the forty days of preparation for Easter. Some of us may have decided to give things up for Lent. Let me tell you about something you might want to take up. On three Wednesday evenings during this time - March 8th and 22nd, and April 5th - we are going to meet in the Vicarage in Bassingbourn, 7.30 - 9.30pm, to read parts of the Bible together. It’s open to everyone, and you’d be welcome to some or all of the evenings. It’s not for experts, it’s for enquirers. If you’re interested in looking at what the Bible says to us please come and join us. Many of us have found its words deeply comforting and inspiring.

As I begin my second year as your Vicar I realise that I have no idea what the next year holds. But I’ve found over this last year that the Bible points us to the One who is ultimately our source of hope and wisdom, and loving life together – and all of us need that.

Donald McFadyen
The Vicarage, Bassingbourn
(01763) 244836

NEW COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY OFFICER

Mark Taylor has recently joined the team at South Cambs District of Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service. He is looking forward to getting out and about to try and ensure safety from fire in our community.

DURING HOLY WEEK

MONDAY 10 APRIL
TUESDAY 11 APRIL
WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL

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

Just pop in for a moment of quiet reflection in preparation for celebration at Easter
WHADDON WHITSUN WEEKEND 2006

Following the success of last year’s Whaddon Whitsun Weekend, we’ll be celebrating again this year, with a few variations on last year’s format

SATURDAY 3 JUNE

Folk evening in the Village Hall from 7.30 pm

Ceilidh dancing
Folk music
Refreshments

Come and join in!

SUNDAY 4 JUNE

Whitsun procession through the village with the Devil's Dyke Morris Men and White Rose Morris Men

Your chance to hear the Whaddon Whitsun song and watch some great dancing

Want to join in?
If you would like to learn the song, or learn to dance, we will be holding a workshop on the afternoon of Saturday 22 April. All ages welcome.

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

POPPY APPEAL

Last year’s collection, organised by Sandy Fisher, for the British Legion Poppy Appeal, raised £188.36.
Thank you to the collectors and all who contributed.

OBITUARIES

Cliff Waldman
Sadly we have to report the death of Cliff Waldman, age 26 years, who died suddenly in December. He will be greatly missed by family and friends. Our deepest sympathy goes to Sarah with their son Asa and to other family members and friends.

Rosemary Cross
It was with much sadness that we heard of the death, in January, of Rosemary Cross aged 74 years. Rosemary had lived in Whaddon for about 45 years and will be sadly missed by her family and many friends and we extend our sympathy to them all.

Further details of Rosemary’s life will be in the next newsletter.

Village Handyman

The Parish Council is advertising for a handyman to carry out small jobs in the village, including the Village Hall. The position will be self-employed with a rate of £8.00 per hour. Interested persons, male or female, should contact Councillor Ted Webb (01223 207564) or the Clerk, Mrs Yvonne Albery (01223 207458)
Whaddon Parish Council News—some recent items from the monthly meetings

The information from the Parish Plan survey clearly indicated that the Village Hall should be retained and both the Parish Council and the Management Committee are moving forward on that basis. There are plans for the hall to be connected to the main sewer and other projects including outside lighting, new hand dryers and disability access improvements are being investigated. Various events are planned for 2006 and details of these will be circulated when confirmed. The wall next to the hall is also being investigated because of concerns with cracking to the structure.

The Council was concerned with a re-routing proposal for the bridleway in the area of the proposed affordable homes in Church Street. The decision was made by Highways and County Farms and the Council are not happy with the proposed change because of problems with access for farm machinery. Highways have been approached to reconsider options. The Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association will know at the end of February if funding for the project has been granted. It has been confirmed that of the six proposed houses two would be ‘equity share’ and four would be for renting. The Council has also sought clarification with the rules on who qualifies for the affordable homes. The Council will not support the scheme unless it can be confirmed that Whaddon residents, however long they have lived in the village, have priority in obtaining one of the homes.

The SCDC will not be paying for the footpath lighting after April 2006 as part of their reductions in service following capping by central government. The Council has decided not to pay for the 6 footway lights at Ridgeway Close and New Farm Caravan site, and therefore they will be switched off.

The Parish Precept was voted for in three parts: Part 1 of £7032 to administer and keep Whaddon in good order. Part 2 of £3950 for purchase of litter bin and Picnic bench, together with bus shelter repairs. Part 3 of £4000 allocated for Village Hall improvements. The total sum set was agreed at £15,000 and this represents an approximately 100% increase in the amount required by the Council for 2006/2007. It represents an increase in the Council Tax element for a Band D property from £35.37 a year now to £68.81. Further information can be read on the village notice boards.

The misuse of Byway 22 is now being carefully monitored by the Council. All parishioners are asked to note any incidents or misuse of this byway by non-permitted vehicles, and to report such incidents to a Parish Councillor. If photographic evidence, can be obtained, then so much the better.

The Village Sign is to be renovated because of flaking varnish. It was suggested that a proper wood treatment should be applied because of the nature of the wood.

Concerns have been expressed with the damage occurring to the grass verges in the village particularly at the top of Bridge Street. All vehicle users are asked not to park on these verges which are very unstable during the winter months. Measures to prevent such parking are being investigated by the Council.

The next open Parish Council meeting will be held at the Village Hall on Monday 20th March. All are welcome.
Dear Parishioner,

Those of you who attended the January 06 Parish Council open meeting will recall that Councillors debated and fixed the Parish Precept for the coming financial year 2006/07. The Precept is of course the amount of money the Parish Council needs to administer and keep the Parish in good order. The District Council collects it as part of the Council Tax. Details of the Parish precept and how it was arrived at have been published on all of the Parish notice boards.

For several years now the Village Hall has been the subject of much discussion and controversy. This year with the advent of the Parish Plan, now in the final staged of completion, the subject has become much clearer. The basis of the Plan relied on the replies to the questionnaire that every household in the Parish received, approximately 83% replied. Many interesting answers and suggestions were made. Questions concerning the Village Hall returned a majority percentage for the building to be retained, repaired and improved. The Parish Council has taken this as a clear mandate to do just that. The proposal was put at the January 06 meeting and by majority vote was approved. The Plan Document is in print at this time and will be delivered to you when available.

The first phase of the Village Hall project will begin in the late spring of this year 2006. This involves connecting the Hall to the Public Sewer, at an estimated cost of £12,000. The Parish Council has applied for Grant Aid to South Cambs District Council for the project. The Village Hall Management Committee will be contributing £6,000, the balance will be provided by the Parish Council. The existing Septic Tank system has failed.

The Parish Council and the Management Committee are negotiating the services of an architect/surveyor to advise on necessary priority repairs and also desired improvements. With the advent of this and an overall estimated costing of the project the Parish Council will seek out the best and most cost effective means to finance the project. For this phase the Parish Council have submitted a figure of £4,000 into the 06/07 precept.

The Management Committee would welcome suggestions from Parishioners on ways to raise funds for the Village Hall. Offers of help would always be accepted. The more funds that can be raised or donations given, however small or large, would be welcome. The added bonus here would be the reduction these funds would make to the Council Tax.

You have made clear your desire, through the Parish Plan, for the Village Hall to be retained, repaired and improved. Seriously, give us your help to make it happen, we cannot do it alone.

Best wishes
Ted Webb
Chairman, Whaddon Parish Council

Whaddon Village Hall

In response to the Parish Council’s application for Grant Aid to connect the Hall to the Public Sewer, the District Council has awarded a Grant of £5000 to the Parish Council. The Grant has been awarded subject to conditions that the Parish Council will have no problems in keeping. Further, the District Council has hinted that future works could be considered for aid if required. A very encouraging start to the Hall’s repairs and improvements programme.

Whaddon Parish Council

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<tr>
<th>PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr E J Webb</td>
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<td>Mrs C Byatt</td>
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<td>Ms M Peyton</td>
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<td>Mr P Neale</td>
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<td>Dr N Strudwick</td>
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<td>Mr L Ginger</td>
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<td>Mrs Y Allbery</td>
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**Waste Collection Changes**

Nearly a quarter of South Cambs villages will see a change to their waste collection arrangements from early April.

To cope with the growing number of new houses in the district, and the associated increased demand for refuse and recycling services, we have needed to introduce a new refuse freighter. To integrate this new freighter into the collection rounds 21 villages will experience a change in either the day of the week they have their bins/box emptied, or a change in the colour of the collection i.e. a green collection box may change to a black collection day, or both.

The collection day for Whaddon will change from Thursday to Friday commencing on Friday 7th April which will be a black bin, green bin and green box collection.

Further information may be found in the South Cambs magazine, phoning 0845 450063 or by visiting www.scambs.gov.uk

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**Sewage Problems in Bridge Street**

On Saturday 28th January 2006 the Public Sewer Pipe system under the road in Bridge Street was totally blocked. The blockage created a total backup starting at approximately opposite the Fountain at the entrance to Bridge Street and back towards the bottom of the Street. Anglia Water was called and with the use of a high pressure system removed the blockage. This article is a reminder to all that the Sewage system can only take a certain type of waste and should be used with thought and care. It is a very essential part of every day life. Although there was no immediate charge for the call out Anglia Water, the cost will be reflected in every Water Bill in the Parish.

TW.

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**Independent4Age**

Independent4Age is a charity that has been championing independence for older people for more than 140 years. Their main aim is to enable older people in financial difficulty to live independent lives with dignity and peace of mind.

Of the thousands of older people Independent4Age supports, most face their troubles alone. The network of over 1000 volunteer visitors keep in touch with the older people that we help and tell us if they have any specific needs or concern.

Applicants must:

- Be over 65 (or over 40 and permanently unable to work)
- Be resident in the British Isles
- Have income and capital (or savings) below set limits.

They can provide:

- A regular extra income for life
- Financial help in times of crisis
- Equipment to aid independence
- Nursing and residential care
- Help with home care fees
- The friendship of volunteer visitors
- Clothing and household linen

For more information contact the Care Officer on 020 7605 42002
Chemex Development in Barrington

If you value living and working in South Cambridgeshire, you should be concerned about the proposed huge expansion of the cement works at Barrington. Cemex will be submitting a significant planning application to Cambridgeshire County Council in late February.

The expansion of the site will incorporate the following proposals:

- New kiln five times the size of the present one and 5 times the amount of cement production compared to now.
- An increase in toxic emissions and pollution with the burning of different types of fuels, some of which are not burned at present.
- A new chimney twice the height and width of the present one and situated closer to the top of the ridge.
- 100’s of lorry movements per day along the A603 via a new road to be built north of the site to join the A603 near the speed camera and Barton junction.

In Whaddon it is recognised that we do not suffer significantly from the pollution from the chimney because of the prevailing wind direction. However our neighbouring villages will be affected by this massive increase in pollution. Whaddon will be affected by the change to the landscape of South Cambridgeshire and the view to the new chimney. The main concern is with the increase in lorry movements of materials, which will seriously affect an already over used road system in this part of the world. It is unknown whether there will be an effect on the already heavily congested A1198, past Whaddon. Any small increase affecting this road would be catastrophic for residents and drivers using Whaddon.

To keep up to date what is happening log on to the Cemex website at www.cemex.co.uk or the County website at www.cambridgshire.gov.uk/environment/planning

Write to Cambridgeshire County Council, your MP Andrew Lansley or let your Parish Council know your concerns.

We will discuss plans as they unfold at the Parish Council meetings. We do plan to present a Parish Council view to County Council on the Planning

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CamShare

Car driver seeks car driver to share commuting costs...

The average Cambridgeshire car commuter could save £1000 per year by car sharing. Cambridgeshire's on line car share database, is now live at the following organisations:

- Barclays Bank (Vision Park, Histon)
- Cambourne Business Park (all companies)
- Cambridge Business Park (all companies)
- Cambridge Science Park (all companies)
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Cambs Police HQ & Huntingdon Police Station
- defra (Cambridge office)
- East of England Development Agency (EEDA)
- Govt. Offices for the East of England
- Huntingdonshire District Council
- Luminus Group
- South Cambridgeshire District Council
- University of Cambridge

Go sign up, search and save money!

Go direct to www.camshare.info

For more information contact:
Travel for Work Partnership
tel: (01223) 712429
e-mail: info@tfw.org.uk

CamShare – Helping you get there
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20th March  Parish Council
26th March  Mothering Sunday
1st April    Coffee Morning
16th April  Easter Day
22nd April  Whaddon Song/Dance Workshop
24th April  Parish Council
15th May    Parish Council
20th May    Newsletter Deadline
3rd/4th June Whaddon Whitsun Weekend
19th June  Parish Council
1st July    Village BBQ
15th July  Church Fete

DEADLINE

Deadline for the next newsletter will be 20th May 2006. This will include details of summer events. Other items of village interest are always very welcome.

Please remember that Village Advertisements can now be placed subject to the conditions given in the last Newsletter
Contact Joan Pascoe C. 208062

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police:
Cambridge.          01223 358966
Huntingdon.        01480 456111
C.A.B.              01763 238020

Hospital:
Addenbrooke’s      01223 245151
Royston            01763 242134

Services:
Cambridge Water     01223 706090
Anglian Water.     08457 145145
Electricity Emergency 0800 7838838

Transport:
National Rail      0845 484950
Stagecoach         01223 423578

Village Hall Booking:
Wendy Paton        01223 207703

Council:
Housing repairs    0800 0851313
Pest control       01223 443145
Refuse collection  01223 235468

Councillors:
County : Linda Oliver  01223 718199
District : Nigel Cathcart 01763 243637
David McCraith      01763 248249
Parish:
Ted Webb           01223 207564

Doctor:
Orchard Surgery Melbourn 01763 260220
Royston Health Centre 01763 242981

WHADDON GOLF CENTRE
01223 207325
OPEN: 8.30 ‘til late
MORE THAN GOLF
BAR
COFFEE AND
SNACKS
FOOD
VILLAGE SHOP
PAPERS MILK BREAD
JUST ASK US TO ORDER

WHADDON GOLF CENTRE
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JUST ASK US TO ORDER
Whaddon’s Own Photographer

Cecil in 1924 aged 27

The ground and a hut to carry out the business was provided by Wimpole Hall and built by its estate workers. It was situated on the Meldreth Rd in the field next to the allotments adjacent to Home cottages; the site is now occupied by bungalows.

He was responsible thereafter for most of the photographs taken in the village including the one shown below. As well as his photography, he did the village paper round carrying the papers round in two panniers on his bicycle, a difficult task for him and he could often be seen pushing his bicycle. The young men of the village used his hut as a meeting place in their leisure time. He died sometime after the Second World War.

A photograph of where Cecil carried out his business has come to light thanks to a former resident of Whaddon, Mrs Joan Harper (nee Mayo) who used to live in Bridge St and later Home Cottages. Fortunately she was also able to provide the names of three of the five workmen, two of whom were her father and grandfather. Thanks also to Sylvia Pardoe for providing the information on Cecil.
PALMER TRUST

You may have heard of the Alfred John Palmer Trust but what actually is it and how did it originate?

Around the turn of the twentieth century, Mr Alfred John Palmer and his wife Mary owned and farmed Hoback Farm. Mr Palmer was also a business man and he owned Palmers Stores in Ealing, West London. As a result they became quite wealthy. He went to Ealing every day, his coachman taking him to Meldreth Station every morning and bringing him back from there every evening. The house, lawns and greenhouses were beautifully kept and a large staff was employed both inside and out.

Mr and Mrs Palmer were very generous to the villagers and there were reports of their activities in the Royston Crow. The whole village was saddened when Mr Palmer passed away in April 1901, aged 60. The farm was looked after by his brothers, Ernest and William, for Mrs Palmer until she left the village and went to Ealing, in 1910. She passed away in 1927 aged 89 and was buried alongside her husband in Whaddon Churchyard. The grave can be seen on the south east of the church.

Mrs Palmer left some Malaysian Rubber Shares to the A J Palmer Trust and the income from these was to be used to buy coal each Christmas for needy widows in Whaddon. It had been a custom for the widows of the village to collect fallen wood from the churchyard to keep themselves warm throughout the winter. (Remember this was before the days of central heating, social security and in most cases husband’s pensions). Also whilst collecting wood they would keep the graves neat and tidy, a matter of some importance to the people of the village then. In addition 10/- was paid each year to someone to look after the Palmers’ grave. The first recipient was Harry Jacklin, her coachman, and the last recipient was a lady called Emma Hills, nee, Jarman. She was born in a cottage which used to stand where numbers 1 and 3 Bridge Street now are. After her marriage in the 1920s, she and her family lived in one of the council houses in Bridge Street. She would regularly walk to the church to clean and tend the graves. The 10/- was stopped when she was no longer able to carry out her task.

The value of the shares when bequeathed was £200. The general fund was administered by appointed trustees in the village and yielded an interest of about £6. In these early days this was a considerable sum and would have made a significant improvement to a widow’s comfort; in 1976 nine widows received about £1.50 each. However, over the years, the purchasing power of the interest diminished and this, coupled with the rising price of coal and the advent of electric heating, proved to be too much for the fund. The Charity Commissioners gave permission for the capital to be re-invested so that it grew along with the interest and for the money to be paid in cash to ‘needy’ widows so long as it was used towards the cost of fuel. The fund still exists today, 79 years after Mary Palmer’s death. The details of the distribution of the money around Christmas is obviously confidential but people fulfilling the criteria are offered a small payment. Some people do not need it and some people donate it to charity.

A Treat

A report from The Crow of July 27th, 1900 illustrating one of the Palmers’ generous acts towards the villagers.

The annual School treat was given at the delightful residence of Mr and Mrs A J Palmer on Friday, July 20th. Everything that was possible to gladden the hearts of young and old was in evidence in profusion. In addition to the abundance of good cheer provided, there were galloping horses, coconut shies, quoits &c, &c to amuse the young men and maidens, old men and children who were gathered round their generous hosts for whom a volley of cheers was given at the close of a delightful day.

[The use of language in this extract is absolutely typical of the style of newspaper reporting in the early 1900s]

SJR February 2006