

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 34 No. 3

April 2011

## THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL



On 5 May there will be the opportunity to elect a new Parish Council, the current one having been in place for the last 4 years, a number of us having served for 8 years and one member for 12.

Being a parish councillor is just one of the infinite number of ways to contribute to village life. However, it is probably the only way that does not require any **particular** skill or ability. All that is required is a bit of common sense, having

some free time (including one Monday evening each month) and having the interests of the village at heart. Well, you do also have to be over 18 years old on 5 May 2011.

It is also true that jobs come up which the Council and councillors can find challenging, but that adds to the interest and should not be off-putting. As the election is being held before the Localism Bill has become law it is not possible to see what powers the Government will be putting in the hands of the new Council, but the prospect of greater responsibility should mean that more residents are keen to either sit on the Council or at least watch its activities with greater interest. (**Editor's Note:** see also Richard Webber's piece on Localism on page 12)

Anybody who thinks that it is time that they did a stint should have chat with any of the existing councillors (see below). Nomination papers are available from the VWHDC at Abbey House, though I (Daniel Scharf; tel. 01235 531107) do have some for the first few to express an interest. Don't think that you can safely rely on there being enough other volunteers to fill all the available places (i.e.11) or to require an election.

As members of the retiring council we would like to thank residents for not placing un-meet-able demands on the PC over the last 4 years and for their patience and tolerance where we might not have entirely realised your expectations. All are welcome to attend the AGM on 7.00pm 4 April at the Caudwell Day Centre.

From: **Daniel Scharf (chairman)**, Heather Morrison (vice chair), Naomi Broomfield, Donald Bruce, Robin Butler, Julian Fowler, Jenny Pooley, Richard Webber and Richard Williams.

## EASTER AT ST PETER'S



**Palm Sunday 17 April, 10am**

*Palm Praise at Ten in Church*

**Maundy Thursday 21 April**

7.30pm in Church – Service of the Word with Holy Communion,

**Good Friday 22 April** – meet at 10am at Drayton Baptist Chapel, OX14 4JA, for Family Worship on the Green, followed by a Procession to St. Peter's Church and Hot Cross Buns.

12noon–3pm St. Peter's Church open for private prayer and guided devotion

**Easter Day, Sunday 24 April 8am**

Holy Communion and the Ministry of Healing.

10am Family Sung Eucharist, the Ministry of Healing and an Easter Egg Hunt

## UNDER 18s FOOTBALL

The end of the 2010/11 season is finally in sight with just 2 games left. The away fixture, the home game having ended in a frustrating 3-3 draw, is against local rivals Milton on Sunday 13th March.

Our final game is at home, on 27th March against league leaders Summertown. Our recent emphatic 4-2 win over Botley has left us in third position in the league and two more wins will secure that and make the battle for second place very interesting. We have the top goal-scoring record in the league, it would be fantastic to hold onto that title at the seasons end.

Training will make a welcome move in April, from Tilsley Park back to the Drayton Recreational Ground, and will continue into the summer to prepare for our 6-a-side tournament at Summertown on Sunday 19th June, where we hope to retain the winners title and bring more silverware back to the clubhouse.

As the current season draws to a close, questions begin to arise over the next season, with the assured loss of 5 players; 4 due to age restrictions, one to relocation, and with several players struggling to commit to training and match schedules because of work, education, other hobbies and family commitments. We find ourselves needing to sign more players - strikers in particular - if we are to continue fielding a side week after week.....

From **Richard Seamark**; concluded on page 7



### Also in this issue:

- P3: Royal Bun Flight
- P6: DAMASCUS to the Cop Shop
- P7: The Beautiful Game goes on.
- P8: Ten Times a Success
- P11: Reservoir Ruled Out.
- P12: Localism Explored.



## DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Ever wondered what YOUR Parish Council does?  
Or met YOUR councillors?

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## ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

7.00pm on MONDAY 4th APRIL 2011  
at the CAUDWELL DAY CENTRE

Followed by the Parish Council Meeting.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Your chance to speak;  
your chance to vote

# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Chronicle** will be the **May** issue:

Editor: **Tony Holmes, 53 Whitehorns Way (531180).**

Distributor: **Shirley Thomas, 48 Henleys Lane (531626),**

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 8 April 2011**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 11 April**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 29 April 2011**

## Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
June	16 May 2011	27 May 2011
July	13 June 2011	24 June 2011
Aug	18 July 2011	29 July 2011

## NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions to and advertisements in the Chronicle are most welcome. Please be sure **always to include your name**, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number. Without names we will usually not print an item at all.

**However, please also note** that the editor has to ensure that each Chronicle fits exactly into an even number of printed pages. The editor therefore reserves the right to place, edit, shorten or even reject contributions as required to achieve this.

A contribution or advertising request can be sent to us in one of three ways:

1. The best is by **email** to **editor@draytonchronicle.net**. Your contributions should either be embedded in your email as **plain text** or attached as a **rich-text** or **Microsoft Word** document!

Requests for advertisements should not be emailed to the editor but to **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**. Please note that they eventually need to be in Word format, 9cms wide and, for a single block advert, about 4.5cms high

Please head your email and label any attachments with a name distinctive to you, not just 'Chronicle'. Also, make sure the editor or advertising manager acknowledges your email within a few days.

2. If you cannot send your contribution by email, send us a **good quality paper version**, using fairly large, **simple** black typescript, without underlining on white paper, A4 or smaller.

3. Finally, we do accept **hand-written items**. However, in this case **please write the names of people and places in capital letters**. This does save a lot of mistakes.

Paper contributions should either be placed in the Chronicle letter box (outside Vickery's shop on Drayton Green) or posted to Vickery's at 5 The Green, Drayton, Abingdon, OX14 4JA.

After the deadlines listed at the top of this page, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and then only if emailed or delivered directly to the **Editor's** house by the Wednesday following the Monday deadline.

## ADVERTISING RATES

Charge for a single Block Advert (about 9cms x 4.5cms)

----- Number of Inserts -----

Advertiser Category:	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£5.00	£14.00	£25.50	£48.00
Non-Drayton Resident	£6.00	£17.00	£31.50	£60.00

**Double-size** adverts are charged at **twice** the above rates.

**All advertising MUST be paid for up-front, either in cash or via a cheque made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle' and placed in the box at or sent to Vickery's.**

If you wish to discuss your requirements please phone **Stephen Fearnley**, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager, on 531347 or email him at **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**.

# CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon Promoter

## RESULTS OF THE MARCH LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	1403	Mrs. Broad, 7 Steventon Road	Judy Henman
£20	1487	Mr. Buckland, 39B Steventon Rd.	Jackie Walker
£15	1765	G. Lonsdale, 248 Steventon Road	Julie Lonsdale
£10	1174	Mr. Arrowood, 32A High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	2264	Mr. Flower, 91 Drayton Rd, S.C.	Claire Soper
£10	0505	Mrs. Brock, 39 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	1496	Mrs. Drew, 76 Steventon Road	Jackie Walker
£10	2419	J. White, 2 Eastway	Teresa Burnage
£10	2156	N. Jackson, 10 Marcham Road	Karen Jackson
£10	1549	A. King, 45 Steventon Road	Janet Dale

The winning tickets were drawn by staff at Vickery's from the 2184 tickets sold

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## YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

May I, through the Chronicle, say thank you so much to everyone for the lovely cards I received during my stay in hospital and for the many welcome visitors. A very special thankyou to my dear friend Sheila for all her help and caring!

Sincerely,

*Gill Akers*

Dear Editor,

May I use the Chronicle to send congratulations to Eileen Broad on her 90th Birthday on the 19th April!

With love from all your family, Eileen!

Have a lovely day ! XXX

*Liz Broad*

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank everyone who has us contacted regarding the safety of our son David, who lives in Japan. We had contact with him immediately after the earthquake, before he was going to higher ground in the Komono Mountains. He is now back home and we are able to keep in touch via "facebook".

We have spoken to him recently and, living 100 miles south of Tokyo, albeit on the Pacific coast, he and his family are still O.K. However, they are still experiencing very regular tremors which keep them on their toes – the car is ready and packed should another emergency arise.

Once again, thank you for all the emails, phone calls, etc. It is very comforting to know that so many people care.

*Daphne and Geoff Samworth.*

⇒ The authority has set up a £600,000 fund to which communities can make bids for start-up funding towards the costs of setting up community-based arrangements for service provision they may wish to undertake in their local area. This can include, but does not have to be restricted to, taking on responsibility for libraries and youth facilities that the Council can no longer afford to fund itself, having had substantial cuts to its budgets as a result of withdrawals from grant funding from Central Government.

The Big Society webpages also invite communities to think about the provision of day opportunities for older people and community transport schemes and there is a section on buying or leasing and taking on the running of former Council buildings. In order to consider providing help through the Big Society Fund, the Council will require a viable business case from communities. The Council is preparing to work closely with local people to advise them on the process of putting together such a document.

To view the Big Society webpages go to:

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/portal/publicsite/councilservices/big\\_societyfund](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/portal/publicsite/councilservices/big_societyfund)

### PROMOTING the VALE

**Trudy Godfrey**

#### A Call to Writers, Poets, Artists and Photographers!!!

We need your help! We set ourselves the ambition of producing a tourism book to promote the Vale that is filled with contributions from local people. This book will be a compilation of poems, articles and imagery (photographic and illustrations) donated by you - members of the Vale public - to represent life in the Vale and showcase all of our wonderful natural and historic assets. We would very much appreciate your written and photographic contributions towards this. We hope that this book will be stocked by many good bookshops and will be used by residents, visitors and tourists, highlighting what is unique about the Vale of White Horse.

All entries must be received by Tuesday 30th November. These can be emailed to: [economic.development@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:economic.development@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) or posted to Trudy Godfrey, Vale of White Horse District Council, Abbey House, Abbey Road, Abingdon, OX14 3JE.

If you have any questions, please email us at [economic.development@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:economic.development@whitehorsedc.gov.uk), giving your contact details and any specific questions.

## NOTICE BOARD

### ROYAL WEDDING BUN FLIGHT!

**Kay White**

#### What and where?

To celebrate the marriage of H.R.H. Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton, Abingdon Town Council have organised a bun throwing ceremony from the top of the County Hall Museum in the Market Place. 4,000 currant buns will be thrown to the waiting crowds below. Recent bun throwing occasions have witnessed bun throwers using novel ways of propelling the buns including the use of tennis racquets and catapults.

This year they will need to throw a little further to clear the scaffolding, as the County Hall Museum is currently being renovated as part of a £3.5 million HLF project.

#### When?

6pm, Friday 29th April 2011

#### Why?

The tradition of bun throwing from the top of the magnificent grade-one listed County Hall on significant royal occasions can be traced back to the Coronation of George III in 1761. Originally 500 penny buns were distributed to the townsfolk. Since then, royal weddings and significant anniversaries have been marked in this unusual way. In 2002, buns were thrown to mark H.M. the Queen's Golden Jubilee and in 2006 as part of the 450th anniversary of Abingdon's town charter.

**Do come and join us to witness the spectacle on a unique occasion!**

### OXFORDSHIRE'S BIG SOCIETY INITIATIVE

Oxfordshire County Council has officially launched its Big Society website pages and its Big Society Fund. The Council says it is keen to work with communities to create an environment locally in which it is as easy as possible for communities to do things for themselves. ⇒

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**Curate** Revd Rosie Bruce.....525284  
**Churchwardens** Mrs Sue Harris .....848361  
 Mrs Val Cross .....535183  
**Choir Director** Jo Burn  
**Organist** Robert Legg

## REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (Common Worship - Traditional)  
 10.00 am Sung Eucharist (CW), except 3rd Sunday when there is a non-Eucharistic Praise Service  
 Mon - Fri 8.15 am Morning Prayer (CW) in Lady Chapel  
 Thurs 9.30 am Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel.

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Wed 10.30 am Pebbles (term time only) *Church Room*  
 Monday 7.45 pm Bell Ringing Practice *Bell Tower*  
 Fridays 7.00 pm Choir Practice (2nd Friday) *Church Room*

## EASTER SERVICES

See Rosie's letter opposite and advert on front page.

## CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Tues 5th 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*  
 Subject this month to the availability of the church room due to building work

## CHURCH REGISTER

### Funeral:

17th March Miriam Annie Andrews

## YOU STAY - WE PRAY: APRIL

3rd April to 16th: Lockway; Whitehorns Way  
 17th to 23rd: Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close  
 24th to 30th: Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill



## LETTER FROM ST PETER'S

As the time for celebrating the Easter story approaches, it is good to consider the meanings that lie behind the symbols and traditions that surround Easter. The symbol of the cross is perhaps the most obvious, but why is it so important to Christianity?



The cross is just a symbol today, that has become common place; on flags in public places and as jewellery. It is easy to forget what the cross actually represents. A Roman person living around 2,000 years ago would be horrified to see someone wearing a cross around their neck. For them the cross was then a picture of torture and public disgrace, so a cross would certainly not be used as a decorative ornament.

How can Christians view Jesus' death as anything other than tragedy? His crucifixion was not an accident. It was the murder of an innocent man. Jesus saw his approaching death as part of the work God had given him to do.

The symbol of the cross is at the heart of our relationship with God. However it shows up humanity in the worst possible light. The cross represents more to us than the truth about ourselves; it also represents the truth about God's love. Jesus was prepared to die for us on the cross in order that we might be forgiven and loved despite our failings. By his resurrection Jesus shows us we need not be afraid. The cross is a symbol both of our need for God's help and his amazing response to that need.

During April there will be a number of special services which will explore the message of Easter and the meaning of the cross as a Christian symbol:

- 17th April; Palm Sunday: 'Praise at Ten', a retelling of the Easter Story especially suitable for children and adults alike.
- 21st April; Maunday Thursday: Holy Communion following Jesus in the Garden
- 22nd April; Good Friday: 10.00am Family Worship at the Baptist Church including refreshments afterwards.
- St. Peter's Church will be open between 12.00 -3.00pm on Good Friday for personal prayer and meditative activities around the church.
- 24th April; Easter Sunday: All Age Worship at 10.00am celebrating the good news about what God has done!

Rosie Bruce

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# BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Secretary: Mrs Jayne Henderson.....Tel. 522161

## REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

11.15 am Presently only one morning service per month.  
A Family service on the first Sunday  
6.00 pm Evening Service. Traditional format.

**EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME**

## LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

High Street, Milton  
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

**Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409**



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## FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 3.00 pm to 4:30 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times. The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next two dates are 5th April and 3rd May. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

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to discuss your requirements with us

## RIGHT EMPLOYMENT

**Pat Athawes**

Might you be interested in becoming a trustee of a local charity? Right Employment is looking for additional trustees. The charity finds employment for people who have a learning disability. Its unique feature is that, having found suitable employment, the client is supported by an employment consultant until both employee and employer are happy with all aspects of the role. A good example is young people with Autism often find it difficult to find suitable jobs and when/if they do, there is little support for them but Right Employment gives that support.

If you have any experience of or interest in fund raising, you would be particularly welcome, but anyone who feels they can make a contribution would of course be most welcome.

Website: [www.rightemployment.org](http://www.rightemployment.org)  
Contact: Pat Athawes 834153

**Mrs Suzy Willis**

MCSP HPC AACP

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# DAMASCUS / YOUTH PAGE

## A VISIT TO THE COP SHOP:

By Caly Nadin, Jesse Mills-McGowan,  
Sarah Comley and Lauren Strong

On the 22nd of February the police gave up their time to take us to the police station in their riot van. We went on a tour around the police station and saw its facilities. We arrived at the police station in a riot van because PC Keith Morton and PCSO Sandra Syphas picked us up at the village hall at around 6:15 pm.



The police station was a good laugh and we didn't feel weird around the police officers, in the police station the police split us into two groups and each group did separate things but met up half way through and swapped activities. We did a range of different things, such as: observed the CCTV cameras in the major towns for example Didcot, Abingdon, Wantage etc. We also went into custody and looked at the new and old cells, PC Keith Morton explained to us the dangers of the cells and we got a sneak peek at some active cells. We were shown the exercise yard which doesn't look fun in any way shape or form! After that we all came together and went upstairs and looked around a bit at the neighbourhood watch and forensics area. Finally at the end of the evening we had a little look in the confiscation room and finished the evening off with a spot of tea and some hot cross buns.

We would like to thank the police officers on behalf of the Damascus Drayton youth group.

The litter pick and this tour has developed our relationship with the police and by getting to know each other we have more respect and we feel we can trust the police and we hope they trust us too. We believe that our strong relationship has made our lives/jobs a lot more enjoyable and easier.

We hope that we will build up relationships with other police officers, by taking part and inviting them to different activities.

## MAHINDA SASANAPALA:

Interviewed by Conor Painton and Mike Milton.

**Editor's Note:** Mr Sasanapala is the owner and shop keeper of Drayton's Danes/Mace newsagent and grocery shop

Q) *What do you think is special about living in a rural community?*

"When I lived and worked in London, I did not know all of the people, not even half of the people from my community. In Drayton you recognise the same faces, generally everybody knows everybody. I think this is key."

Q) *Over the years what changes have you seen in rural community life from your experience of living in Drayton?*

"I have not lived here very long. All rural communities are changing, developing. These changes can be both good and bad."



⇒ Q) *Please tell us about any favourite activities, sports or past times that you are interested in?*

"I love Cricket. I love to watch it. My interest when younger was to study hard and work hard."

Q) *Do you have a favourite place in Drayton?*

"I like Drayton as a whole, but to be honest whilst here I don't get to leave the shop too often. When I do get away, I like to walk along the river in Abingdon, It is nice to just walk and forget about everything."

Q) *Do you have any positive advice for the young people in the village?*

"Be positive. I started from scratch so why can't you. Keep trying. The first time you may fail, the second time you may fail, the third time you may fail. But maybe the fourth time you will win."

Q) *Can you remember a something memorable from your teenage years?*

"The turning point in my life was when I went to senior school; I had been living in a village and got a scholarship to go to school in a town."



and supported by the local parish and parochial church councils.

LOTTERY FUNDED

**CHAMPION**  
RECRUITMENT



## DRAYTON YOUTH ZONE

Naomi Broomfield

Youth zone has been well attended in recent months and we know the numbers will increase when the clocks go back and the lighter evenings are with us. If you are interested in attending please come along and meet us and see what we are up to.

Youthzone runs on Monday evenings at Drayton Village Hall from 6pm till 7.30pm. It is open to all young people who are in school years 6 to 10. Cost is £1 per week (parental form to be completed on first visit). For further information please contact Naomi on 532248

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# THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

## UNDER 18s FOOTBALL

Richard Seamark

Continued from page 1

.....fielding a side week after week.

Whether we continue next season also depends on FUNDING - covering winter training ground charges, registration fees and kit replacement. This is vital and we are looking for in the region of ~£2000 to cover this. I started this team 2 years ago to give the teens of Drayton something to do, my own 2 sons included, which would give them a sense of community, personal achievement and hopefully to see them go on to men's football within Drayton FC. We have become a very successful side and with many of our players now also playing for the mens 1st team and reserves this may seem to be the right time to fold. However, I still have a number of players who are keen to continue for the remaining season as Drayton FC U18's in Youth Football.



If you are looking for a team to play in or if you are able to assist us in funding please contact me on 07919 111982 to discuss.

**Drayton FC are collecting Tesco's vouchers.** This will benefit all teams (U10s, U11s, U18s, Mens Reserves and 1st team.) Vouchers can be handed in to the clubhouse on match days (Saturday afternoons and some Sunday mornings and afternoons) or posted through my door at 42 Abingdon Road (next to the shop).

Many thanks.

## DRAYTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Paul Evans

Drayton FC is coming to the end of what has proved to be a very challenging season. For those of you that are unaware, we lost the whole management team and most of our players at the end of last season. We were, at one point, in danger of only running one men's team on a Saturday. But we have come through this very difficult period, and are still alive and kicking.

In fact, there have been some big achievements to boast about, the biggest one being the introduction of several players from our under 18's squad into men's football. We hope these players will remain with the club and push on to bigger and better things during the coming years. The club is run by a small group of loyal helpers on a voluntary basis, but for us to continue to grow we would like some new blood in the club.

With this in mind we will be holding our AGM in The Pavillion at Lockway on Tuesday 26th April at 7.30pm. We welcome anyone who wishes to become actively involved in the club, young or old, male or female, all we ask is for positive thinking people, who are reliable and enthusiastic.

### A quick update on the progress of our teams:

Both men's teams are involved in relegation battles as we speak, but hopefully there are enough games remaining for both teams to retain their status in Division One and Division Three of The North Berks League. The Under 18s could finish in the top three if they win their two remaining games. Both the Under 10s and Under 11s should achieve mid table positions. May I remind you, over 75% of the players playing for our three youth teams are either residents of Drayton or attend Drayton CP School.

As you will see in later Chronicles we are holding an Open Day/Family Day at The Rec on Saturday 2nd July, from midday onwards. There will be various activities for the children based around football, golf, netball etc, as well as face painting and an inflatable. Aunt Sally and Welly Wanging will also be available for the not so young. Drayton FC will be open to serve beverages, and burgers and hot dogs will be available. The day is not meant as a money making event, just an excuse for a get together and a bit of fun for the whole village.

If there are any clubs/groups/societies, from within in the village, wishing to be involved by way of a stall, activity or display, please contact Paul Evans on 01235 203108 or at Evans42@ntlworld.com.

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## ALL AROUND

### DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

Following the many comments we have received since completing our production of 'Ten Times Table' by Alan Ayckbourn, it is pleasing to report that our choice of play was quite a hit, much enjoyed by all who came along to join us for a fun night out. All our audiences were very responsive to the humorous situations and their laughter gave us great heart. We are very grateful to Annie Sheppard, who stepped in as director to help us out, and to an extremely-stretched production team - stage, lighting, sound, prompt, publicity etc.

We really would welcome new blood into the group, in all departments, across a large age range to allow us to extend what we can offer. Just recently we have been encouraged by some junior interest shown and are now considering future options, looking towards a possible production in the autumn. Please do give our chairman (200350) or me (531558) a call for more information if you would like to consider joining us.

In the meantime, we thank all those who have just given us much-appreciated help and support, including special thanks to Vickery's store for acting as our village box office.

**Editor's Note:** Drayton Players always do a great job, but 'Ten Times Table' was one of their best. I especially liked our district councillor, Richard Webber, playing his wife's (Katherine's) 'mad brother' - if you can understand that. He was an hilarious combination of Captain Mainwaring and Basil Fawlty.

See also Judy Henman's tribute opposite: ➔

### TEN TIMES TRIBUTE

Judy Henman

Anyone who needed a pick me up during winter's cold, bleak weather should have supported Drayton Players in their hilarious production of Alan Ayckbourn's 'Ten Times Table.'

A committee of ten met to decide on the focus of their yearly summer festival. The meeting deteriorated as characters talked across each other, deciding at last on 'The Massacre of the Twelve' as the chosen theme! Our attention was riveted!

Several meetings followed where characters showed their differences and idiosyncrasies. The group split into two factions and when the big day came the massacre was almost re-enacted. All characters threw themselves into their parts and the hall erupted with laughter. The local characters from our village did us proud!

Anyone not there missed a treat - don't miss out next time. Well done Drayton Players.

### W.I.

Shirley Thomas

Our speaker this month was Catherine Hitchens, a retired Registrar who gave a talk on birth's, marriages and deaths, focussing mainly on genealogy and the detective work required in tracing families. The meeting then turned to the serious business of our A.G.M. and although the core of our Committee was re-elected we were also delighted to welcome three new members on to the Committee who we feel sure will inject some new ideas.

Our thanks to Brenda Malin for hosting a very enjoyable coffee morning. We have lots of outings to look forward to and for the second year, several members will do a walk on April 9th at Blenheim, on behalf of the NSPCC. Next month we are entertaining ourselves with a 'Swish' evening, the swapping of jewellery, scarves and handbags.

### DRAYTON WIVES

Gwen Price

Our meeting in February was a get together at lunch time in the village hall. The committee prepared a lovely meal of jacket potatoes with very tasty fillings and a salad. The tables were graced by Spring flowers, beautifully arranged by Margaret Watts. Thanks to all who made it an enjoyable event.

#### Dates for your diary in April:

Mon	11th	COFFEE	Brenda Janice, Christine
Wed	13th	WALK	Steventon to Milton and back, led by Josie Midwinter
Mon	18th	WHIST	Pam Lacey
Wed	27th	MEETING	The Falklands by R& J Hadland

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## SEQUENCE DANCE CLUB

**Brian Stimpson**



**Mavis Hays**

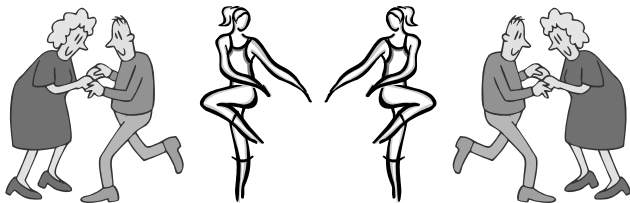
Drayton Sequence Dance Club recently celebrated its 25th Anniversary.

The occasion was marked with a very successful Dinner Dance on Saturday 12th March, the music being provided by well known dance musician, Chris Housley.

The Club has run successfully since its foundation by local residents Mavis and Fred Hays. Together with friends, they began in a small way, holding dances in a local school. This soon became very popular and a thriving club was formed, meeting on Thursday evenings at Drayton Village Hall.

Sadly, Fred has now passed away and Mavis was unable to attend the Dinner but tributes were paid to them and they were fondly remembered by all those present.

Our regular Thursday dances are to CDs but we have a special dance, to live music, on Saturday 9th April. There are a few tickets still available and anyone interested can contact me on 01235 531701.



## BOWLS CLUB

**Rollup**

We have a little to catch up with this month, having held three internal competitions since our last notes.

In January we held 'The Wally Weightman Triples' and, going through to play the final, Tony Mullins, Anna Bartlett and Avril Holmes will play Olive Brown, Graham Lacey and Bryn Jones. The February competition was 'The Henry Bunce Handicap Pairs', played out on the day, and the winners were June Hyde and Bryn Jones, who beat Barbara Carter and Avril Homes in what was a very close match. This was a new format for this competition and was well received by all those taking part, and well organized by Jane and Josie. The March competition was 'The Beryl James Triples' and going through to play the final on 4th December will be Jack Mitchenson, Jan Cook and Eileen Long who will play Tony Wright, Freda Bray and Marjorie Strachan.

The next competition will be 'The Doreen Jones never-won' trophy, which is open to all members who have not won a singles tournament, and this will take place on 17th April. Some good news is that 'The Wasps' won the county afternoon triples league with a game to spare. Congratulations to all the members of the team, this being successive wins for 'The Wasps' having won the league last year, albeit with some changes to the team from last year's. 'The Hammers', who were in contention at the half way stage, had a poor second half and ended up in mid table.

The club will be entering two teams in the 'The Wantage and District Summer Triple League' and this will be getting underway early June.

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

**Pearl Stanbridge**

Grateful thanks are extended to all supporters of our Easter Draw; also to the ticket sellers and generous donors of prizes.

The next committee meeting will be held on Easter Draw Night, Monday 21 April at 7.30 pm.



## WOODEN SPOON RECIPE

**Lois Rennels**

Recipe No. 38 (from March 2003)

### Chicken and cranberry curry:

4 skinless boned chicken breasts, oil for frying, 1 large onion (skinned and chopped), 1 level tablespoon flour, 1½ level tablespoons curry powder, 2 level tablespoons tomato paste, juice of 1 lemon, 185g jar cranberry sauce, ½ pint water, ½ level teaspoon salt, 3 whole cloves, 1 bay leaf

Cut the chicken into 1inch pieces. Heat the oil in a large frying pan and seal the chicken. Remove from pan.

Slowly fry the onion until golden brown.

Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the flour, curry powder, tomato paste, lemon juice and cranberry sauce; stir well.

Gradually add the water, stirring continuously. Return the pan to the heat and bring to the boil stirring.

Add the salt, cloves and bay leaf.

Return the chicken to the pan

Cover the pan and simmer for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Discard the cloves and bay leaf.

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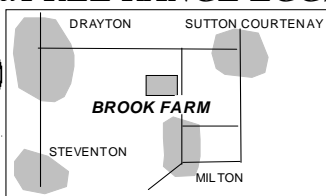
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# MORE ALL AROUND

## BABY AND TODDLER GROUP **Vicky Cotterell**

We would like to say a big hello and welcome to our new friends that have joined us recently on Thursday morning – it's great to see new faces. We are going to have to make our baby area bigger.

For the older children we have enjoyed playdough and meeting up with friends. We will be busy making things for Mothers' Day and Easter goodies soon.

Thanks as always to Joy for our lovely snack and tea and coffee.

We do end our session with singing and it would be lovely if more could stay till the end and join in with us.

Toddlers is on Thursday 9.30-11.30 during term time in the village hall, please call Vicky 07779 243290 for more information or just turn up!

## PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUPE **Debbie Bargasu**

We would like to welcome the new children who will be joining us after half term. We hope they have a great time at Preschool.

Our topic for this term is Travel and Movement. Following observations from last term, we discovered the children's love of transporting items from one place to another. We will be observing what happens when water is poured onto a water wheel, whether items sink or float, how we can make ramps and guttering, to see how cars travel fast and slow. We will also be trying to crawl through, balance, use ball skills in simple obstacle courses.

We will once again be collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids 2011 vouchers. They will be available until 31st May. These are a great way for us to obtain new equipment and toys which the children love. Tesco for Schools and Clubs has also started. The collection boxes will be just inside the door at Preschool and all vouchers are gratefully received.

Do you have a child who is approaching 2 1/2yrs. We are happy to put younger children onto our waiting list. Please do keep supporting us, the children have great fun and are always learning new things. Please contact Preschool on 01235 536094 for a welcome pack or to visit.

There is an easy way to help our fundraising, if you order goods via the internet, you can register at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) You choose a charity (we are on the list) then when you buy online from major companies like Amazon, Next, Play.com, Churchill Insurance, AA, Ebay and The Book People. They give a percentage to us at no extra cost to you.

Term 4 ends – Fri 8th April

## SCHOOL REPORT **Ana Mesias**

### School news ...

Ever wondered how maths is taught in school these days? Our first parent's workshop on addition and subtraction techniques was very informative (and not at all scary!) There will shortly be another parent's workshop run by a maths specialist on multiplication and division. Look out for the date – well worth going to.

What about school dinners? Can you remember what they tasted like? We have started family school lunch days where parents can join children for a nutritious school dinner. The first family lunch with parents of children from Robins class was a resounding success, enjoyed by parents and children alike.

Good manners week – children have been rewarded for remembering their manners and being generally polite and helpful to each other. This seems to have encouraged some very well mannered behaviour which seems to be continuing beyond the specific week.

The performing arts club have been working hard on their first production which they will be putting on in April – Wind in the Willows. This involves children right from the very youngest to the oldest in the school.



⇒ All the children will have a chance to demonstrate their talents in our Red Nose day talent show. There will also be a performance from the 1st Drayton Big Band.

The whole school will be attending an Easter Service at St Peters on 8th April

The children can now look forward to their Chocolate hour at Easter and will be having special celebrations for the Royal Wedding. Watch this space for more exciting events to come.

### Sporting events...

Congratulations to children in Morland House who came first in the Jump Off skipping challenge recently and well done to everyone as this raised £118 for the British Heart Foundation.

Children from Drayton School are always keen to participate in sporting competitions with other schools, often competing against much bigger schools but always willing to give it their best. Well done to the footballers from years 3 and 4 who took part in the recent Oxford United Under 9's football tournament. Good luck to those taking part in the High5 Netball tournament at Fitzharrys School.

### Classroom news ...

**Robins** are continuing their topic of "To infinity & beyond". They will be thinking about Superheroes and writing their own superhero stories.

**Ravens** (year 1 & 2) are learning "All about us" and at the moment are looking at lots of ways of keeping themselves healthy. So lots of healthy eating and healthy living ideas for them.

**Red Kites** (Year 3) are continuing their Viking topic culminating in their much anticipated Viking day. However when not learning about Vikings, in science they have been learning about the human body, and in particular teeth. In art they have been looking at patterns.

**Kingfishers** (Years 4 & 5) are continuing to learn about India and have a visit to a Mandir (Hindu Temple) in Reading to further their studies in this area.

In PE they have been learning and practicing Maypole and Morris dancing.

At time of writing **Eagles** (year 5 & 6) class had just returned from their week-long trip to Yenworthy. The weather seemed to be just right for them this time. A couple of highlights according to the children were going through waterfalls, and time on the beach building fires and climbing through tiny holes in rocks (too small for Mr Lambert!) They all returned safely though and it seems a fantastic time was had by all.

**FODSA** (Friends of Drayton School Association) now has a full committee of volunteers – thanks to Melissa for taking on the role of Chair. However new members are always welcome to come and add their ideas.

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# GARD CELEBRATES

Nick Thompson

## We have a result at last!

The outcome contained in the Inspector's Report following the Thames Water Plan Public Inquiry could not have been much more satisfactory for GARD and all opponents of the reservoir. It seems appropriate to provide the details as the press and media have been selective.

The Secretary of State for DEFRA published the report by Inspector Wendy Burden on the Thames Water Plan on 1st March. She accepted the Inspector's conclusions, which were that the plan was not fit for purpose and did not meet the statutory requirements under the Water Industry Act. She said that the measures Thames Water proposed to adopt were not fully justified by the evidence the Company submitted.

The Inspector concluded that changes to the plan were needed including:

- Deletion of TW's premise of 'long term risk' associated with future, unknown, sustainability reductions. (By including these the Company had inflated the demand figure).
- Deletion of all programmes with the objective of meeting that long term risk. (This means deletion of the 100Mm<sup>3</sup> reservoir proposal).
- Inclusion of a wider range of feasible options. (This means Severn-Thames Transfer schemes, re-use of treated effluent, and a smaller reservoir).
- Changes to be made to the methodology for programme appraisal to bring it in line with good industry practice, with a clear description of the process set out in the plan.
- Use of a sensitivity analysis to cover the potential for future sustainability reductions and identifying a choice of options from the feasible options list to meet the different levels of sustainability reductions.
- The Inspector also believed that the minimum necessary, should the Secretary of State take a pragmatic approach, would be for Thames Water to demonstrate a security of supply and revise its programme appraisal to identify a new preferred programme for the London and South west Oxfordshire water resource zones. (This means they must delete the proposed reservoir and identify a range of alternatives).

**The massive reservoir proposal is therefore ruled out for the immediate future.**

GARD has played a major part in opposing Thames Water's flawed plan. At the Public Inquiry last summer GARD was represented by an outstanding QC, using the evidence of two nationally acknowledged expert water resources witnesses. Their evidence clearly demonstrated that the need for the reservoir had not been proved, and that if the need for a large additional water resource arose in future there were cheaper, quicker and less environmentally damaging alternatives to the reservoir which the company had not properly considered.

In addition to GARD's evidence, the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England), Oxfordshire County Council, the Vale of the White Horse District Council presented well-prepared environmental cases against the plan, and the Environment Agency stated that the Thames Water demand figure was overstated by wrongly including assumed sustainability reductions (reduction in the permitted abstraction from the Thames for climate change and the environment).

The Secretary of State's ruling means that Thames Water must now rework its plan to meet a much smaller deficit, and investigate fully and objectively several alternative longer term water resource options. It seems from the evidence and outcome that in making their original plan Thames Water's owners regarded their water customers' interests as secondary to those of their shareholders. ➔

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## DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber



### Localism:

A couple of weeks ago my council sent me to London to meet with representatives of District Councils all over the country. The key speaker was Greg Clarke MP, Minister for Localism. I confess I had not heard of him before, but having struggled to understand Eric Pickles' and Grant Schapps' explanations of what exactly "Localism" was, I was

hopeful that I would learn something.

My first impression of Mr Clarke was that he was very clever, very well-informed and very persuasive. I liked him instantly. I have to confess that I rather hoped he was a Liberal Democrat and was a bit disappointed to learn that he was from the other half (or three quarters?) of the Coalition Government. But hey, my lot is supposed to be in coalition with his lot and here, at least, was someone who reeked competence and who was able to explain what Localism was and why it was so important and so revolutionary.

Transferring power downwards to local people is something most of us would support. Educating people at the top (for example NHS Ministers and Civil Servants) for the need to release power was a major undertaking, Mr Clarke explained; so too was educating local people out of the idea that there would always be some overpowering superior authority dictating what should be done and how it should be done and, that under localism, local people really would have the power to achieve things.

Many of Mr Clarke's audience were concerned that small numbers of eccentrics and activists with crazy planning ideas would be able to push them through too easily under such a system. Not so, argued the Minister. The Local Plan (devised by the Local District Council) would remain King. All ideas would be assessed against the Local Plan by an independent adjudicator. If clearing that hurdle, the planning ideas would go to a local referendum which would make the final decision. And who would pay for the referendum? Central Government, Mr Clarke assured us.

I have no doubt I have much still to learn, but what the day did for me, was to make me begin to realise that all layers of Government need to reassess what they are there for. As each layer releases some of its former powers and allows such powers to move downwards, we could arrive at a system where local people really do have some power and really can make a difference. Under such a system, middle layers of Government would be doing much less and hence spending much less on their own administration. The money would flow down with the power.

Not convinced?

I am still thinking about it too. But at least, the Minister has got me thinking.

### Local Elections May 2011

One thing I hope that localism might do for us, is to stimulate some interest and participation in Local Politics. Too often in local elections, what determines their outcome has little to do with local politics or local politicians. What we think of the Coalition, of Mr Cameron, Mr Clegg, or Mr Milliband, student fees, Westminster expenses, or Libya – none of it *should* effect the way we vote. This May, our District and Parish elections will be held together with The Alternative Vote Referendum.

With all this going on, I worry what the deciding issues will be in this May's local elections. Please let's try to make them local issues! If you need to contact me call 534001 or email me at [richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto:richard.webber77@ntlworld.com)

# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Williams

## Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2011:

Some more information this month on traffic issues!

Laura Hutchins, who is Area Steward for the Vale of the White Horse, attended the meeting on behalf of OCC Highways Dept. Laura spoke briefly about her role, and explained that Highways and Transport are currently involved in various maintenance activities throughout the Vale. Following two successive very cold winters, it is not surprising that repairs to potholes and other frost damage, in some cases bad enough to require major resurfacing, are high on the list of priorities. It is recognised that members of the public are often in the best position to know about particular problems in their area, and to that end, if anyone is aware of issues that may affect public safety on the highway, including potholes, but also flooding, vegetation that could cause a hazard, and damaged or missing road signs, they are invited to contact 0845 3101111, or E-mail: [highwaysenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highwaysenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk).



Laura explained that a number of teams have been set up within the county, each one corresponding to a District Council area, and headed by an Area Steward. Laura's Vale team consists of four Local Highways Representatives. The LHR for the Abingdon Area (which includes Drayton) is Chris Softley. Laura added that a small budget of £50,000 is available to install dropped kerbs, short lengths of new footway, improving drainage, and extending kerbing for short distances. If anyone feels that this type of project would improve safety for a number of people in their area, they should contact Chris Softley on the Highway Enquiry Number.

Still on the subject of road safety, progress on the eastern end of the High Street has been mixed. The Parish Council appears to have secured in principle a commitment from the Highways Dept. to repaint the worn red strip and 30 sign on the road surface to make it more obvious, and also to erect a 'Caution- pedestrians crossing' sign at the entrance to the village, although, as Jenny Pooley has suggested, ideally there should be 2 signs, one facing in each direction. The Rooks Nest path has proved more of a problem, as the proposed steps down to the road would be on private land, and therefore do not come under the jurisdiction of Highways. The PC will continue in its efforts to have steps installed, but it turns out (not for the first time) that what seems to be a straightforward task turns out to be more complicated in practice.

Daniel Scharf has written on the front page about the elections for the Parish Council, but I would just reiterate that the present Councillors are reaching the end of their current period in office, and that new elections will take place in May. However, these will be no more than a formality if only 11 people, or fewer, stand for election, there being 11 vacancies on the Parish Council. Although in one way, it is obviously easier to stand if you are confident you will not be challenged, it clearly would be more democratic, not to mention indicative of 'localism' in action, for candidates to have to compete for election (imagine if all MPs were to be elected unopposed!). At the least, we should aim to get a full complement of Parish Councillors, as this would very definitely be a case of 'More equals better'

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 4th April 2011. I would also remind everyone, especially in view of the previous paragraph, that this meeting is the occasion of the Annual Parish Assembly, so do please come along to the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane and meet your councillors and find out what the Parish Council does. The Assembly starts at 7pm, followed by the Parish Council meeting.

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# DRAYTON DIARY

## FOR APRIL

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise  
(To book Drayton Hall call Ann Webb on 531418)

**Regular Events are listed opposite**

Fri	1	10.30 am	Painting Group – also 8th, 15th & 22nd	
Sat	2	10.30 am	Dancing Class – also 9th, 16th & 23rd	
Mon	4	7.00 pm	Parish Assembly Followed by the Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Sat	9	7.00 pm	Sequence Dancing	
Mon	11	9.15 am	<b>Chronicle Lottery deadline</b>	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	<b>Chronicle copy deadline</b>	<i>Vickery's box</i>
Sun	17	all day	Bowls	
Tues	26	7.30 pm	Football Club AGM	<i>The Pavillion, Lockway</i>

## VILLAGE CARETAKER (Contractor) REQUIRED

*30 hours average per month*

Contractor required for litter picking/general maintenance. Own tools and insurance cover needed.

Contact the Parish Clerk on 07909176061 or email  
draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk for further details

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## REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

### MONDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
5.45 pm	Beavers (Boys / girls, 6-8 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
6.30 pm	Youth Zone (except Bank Holidays)	
7.00 pm	Scouts (Boys / girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.00 pm	Junior Table Tennis (until 8.30 pm)	<i>School</i>
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.30 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.45 pm	Drayton Drop In (except Bank Holidays)	
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	<i>St Peter's</i>
8.00 pm	Senior and Social Table Tennis	<i>School</i>
8.30 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	

### TUESDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday)	<i>Church Room</i>
3.00 pm	Junior Netball (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
6.00 pm	Ladies' Netball (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis	<i>School</i>

### WEDNESDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 15 min)	<i>Haywards Rd</i>
11.20 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>The Cross</i>
11.45 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 15 min)	<i>Lyford Close</i>
2.00 pm	Whist – now each week	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (last Wednesday)	
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.15 pm	Brownies	
6.15 pm	Cubs (Boys / girls, 8-9 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>

### THURSDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
	followed by lunch club and afternoon session	
9.00 am	Foot Clinic (First Thursday)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
9.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group (in Term)	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	W.I. (2nd Thursday)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701	

### FRIDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
7.00 pm	Choir Practice	<i>St Peter's</i>

### SUNDAYS

8.00 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's</i>
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (Praise Service 3rd Sunday)	<i>St Peter's</i>
11.15 am	Family Time	<i>Baptist Church</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Worship	<i>Baptist Church</i>



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