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The Rectory, Brookbridge Lane, Datchworth,
SG3 6SU tel: 01438 817183
e-mail: team.vicar@welwyn.org.uk

Team Rector: Rev'd Dr David Munchin, 1 Ottway Walk,
Welwyn, AL6 9AS tel: 01438 714150

Parish Office: Weekdays 10 - 12 noon tel: 01438 840964
Clergy Surgery: Saturdays at St Mary's 10.00—11.00 am

Reader: Mick Simmons tel: 01707 334805
e-mail: michael.simmons53@ntlworld.com

Churchwardens: Mrs Pete Johnson, 11 Jonathan House, Little
Hardings, WGC, AL7 2EL tel: 01707 332579

Mr Mike Kersey, 7 Pennyfathers Lane,
Welwyn, AL6 0EN tel: 01438 716817

Parochial Church Council:
Hon Secretary: Mrs Mary Gregg, 20a Hertford Road, Tewin,
Herts AL6 0JY, tel: 01438 717544
Hon Treasurer: Mr Graham Spring, 25 Digswell Park Road,
WGC, AL8 7NW tel: 01707 375499

Bell Tower Capt.: David Hall, 01707 884274

Useful Phone Numbers

Bridge Cottage Surgery, Welwyn	08448 151413
Castlegate Surgery, Hertford	08448 151224
Hanscombe House Surgery, Hertford	01992 582025
Wallace House Surgery, Hertford	01992 550541
Watton Place Clinic, Watton-at-Stone	01920 830033
Tewin Stores & Post Office	01438 717929
Tewin Memorial Hall	01438 717581
Tewin Pavilion	01438 715020
Burnham Green News	01438 798112
Rose & Crown Public House	01438 717257
Plume of Feathers Public House	01438 717265



January 2013

Tewin Magazine



Price 60p



Tewin Village

The front cover picture for this inaugural issue is the signpost on Lower Green commemorating the Millennium and welcoming visitors.

Beautifully designed it depicts this rural village perfectly incorporating its unique architecture, wildlife, river Mimram, flora and fauna that make Tewin a lovely place in which to live.

The front cover theme running through all subsequent issues of the Tewin Magazine will be of Tewin and its rural setting... from animals to views, buildings, history, school and much more.

I hope you enjoy reading your 'Tewin Magazine'.

Foreword

Welcome to the first issue of the Tewin Magazine.

For many decades Tewin's St Peter's Church has been producing a magazine, at first primarily containing news about Church matters, but increasingly including contributions from Tewin's local groups and organisations, including the Parish Council.

I have some personal knowledge of the earlier years of the Parish News, as I remember distributing copies to households in Harwood Close in the early 1970s.

The format of the magazine has remained much the same since that time, but the needs and habits of Tewin's residents have changed somewhat over the years.

The Church came to the conclusion that the Parish News in its current format was not meeting the needs of the whole of Tewin. The Parish Council was approached for its views and agreed to sponsor the first issue of a new style magazine, known as the Tewin Magazine, to be delivered to all Tewin's households.

I hope that you will find the Tewin Magazine a useful source of news and information about local activities and will continue to subscribe to it in future.

Kristina Lawson
Chairman, Tewin Parish Council

Dates for your diary this month

Wed	Rose & Crown	9.00pm	Quiz Night
Thur	Lower Green	9.25am	Footpath walks of Tewin
Thur	Memorial Hall	1.30-4.30pm	50+ Club
Tues 1 st	Digswell Hall	Various times	'Cinderella' Pantomime
5 th & 6 th	Memorial Hall	10am-5pm	Vintage model railway show
Mon 14 th	Memorial Hall	7.30pm	THACS AGM
Mon 21 st	Memorial Hall	7.45 for 8pm	'Screen on the Green'

Views expressed in the '*Tewin Magazine*' are not always those held by the Parish Council or by the Parochial Church Council

Editor	Nicky Hadley	tewinparishnews@gmail.com
Hard copy	Mary Gregg	20a Hertford Rd, Tewin
Distribution	Sue Whitbourn	01438 798221



Friends of Tewin

We hope you enjoyed our annual 'Carols around the Christmas Tree'. We will let you know the amount collected for Shelter next month.

The F of T Annual General Meeting 2013 is to be held at 8pm on Monday 11th February 2013 in Tewin Memorial Hall. Our Vice-Chairman, John Sheridan, is standing down this year but happy to say we have someone who is willing to take on this position with the thought of myself also retiring in 2014. Please come along to the meeting and hear more.

The Senior Citizens Lunch has been arranged for Wednesday 20th February 2013 also in Tewin Memorial Hall. You will receive your invitation very soon, so please reply as soon as you can. Also please encourage anyone who has not been before (as long as they are over 60 and live in Tewin) and let us know if they cannot get out for any reason and need a meal delivered to them.

A Happy New Year to you all.

Linda Crawford, Chairman, Friends of Tewin

Tewin Memorial Hall Supporters Club

Registered Charity no. 308158

Results for the **November 2012** draw

- 1st £63 J Barker, Grass Warren
- 2nd £38 N North, Upper Green
- 3rd £13 V Newman, Cannons Meadow
- 3rd £13 B Evans, Queen Hoo Lane

Membership forms from Lisa Bove [Tel 798546]
or lisa.bove@btinternet.com
Tewin Stores or any member of the Hall Committee

Introduction

After around 50 years of the Parish News in A4 style, the Tewin Magazine launches as an A5 booklet. But it is intended that the change should be in more than appearance and that this magazine should be more useful and informative to a wider range of people in the village of Tewin. Of course, to achieve that, we need your help and involvement, not least to tell us what it is useful to you to have within these pages.


Over the years, the Parish Council have looked at ways of communicating easily and economically with all households in the village. To achieve this, the old Parish News needed both wider coverage of the circulation and more space for Council news. Drafts of the Tewin Magazine have been submitted to the Council and it is hoped to satisfy as much of these requirements as possible. The Council has been most helpful in this venture, not least in their sponsorship of this first edition as mentioned in the Chairman's 'Welcome'.

The present plan is to take a limited amount of paid advertising in the following months. Meanwhile we would like to carry profiles of businesses, clubs, societies and other activities. If you feel such free coverage might help your organisation and be of interest to the village, please let us know.

Kall kwik are our regular printers for the Tewin Magazine. Our great thanks to them for all their help and advice in the production of the new magazine. Particular thanks to them for their generosity in offering sponsorship for an issue of the magazine. Please see their contact details below.

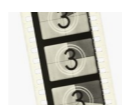
We look forward to welcoming many more of you as regular subscribers; and wish you all a Happy New Year!

Nicky Hadley, Editor.

 Welwyn Garden City, has been pleased to help with the re-design of the Tewin Magazine in its new A5 format. For all your printing & design work, contact the 'Sales Team' at 36a Howardsgate, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6BJ on 01707 393991, or e-mail sales@kallkwikwelwyn.co.uk



**'Screen on the Green' Tewin presents
Monday, 21st January at 7.45pm,
Tewin Memorial Hall**



'Kolya' 1996, Cert 12, [105mins]

... an Academy Award winning Czech film starring Zdenek Sverak, Andrei Chalimon and Libuse Safrankova.

The film follows a concert cellist, Franta Louka, in Soviet-occupied Czechoslovakia; he is a confirmed bachelor and a lady's man. After losing his place in the state orchestra, he must make ends meet and so reluctantly agrees to an arranged marriage with a Russian woman. This sham marriage quickly turns out to be more that Franta has bargained for, when he is left looking after her five-year old son. Described by critics as "witty and funny" and "a can't-miss crowd pleaser", this winner of Best Foreign Language Film 1996 is one not to miss. **Please note: film is subtitled**

Doors open at 7pm for tea/coffee and biscuits - included in the price. Sweets, soft drinks, ice-cream and snacks will be on sale, or bring your own wine - and glasses please!

Tickets £4, from Tewin Stores
or reserve on line from sotgtw@hotmail.co.uk



**The BASSETT - LOWKE Society
Vintage Model Railway Show**



Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th January 2013

10.00am - 5.00pm

Tewin Memorial Hall , Lower Green, Tewin

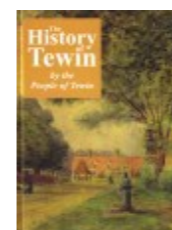
Admission Adults £2.50, Children £1.00, under 6's free



For further information ring
Peter Beale 01438 717323



The History of Tewin Book



Three years ago we launched our very own village history book, which the History Book Group is pleased to see still attracts interest and sales. Before publication, and with the book launch, our sales totalled 534 books.

Since January 2010 we have sold a further 229 books, mostly through Tewin Stores. Books have also been sold through book shops in Hertford and The Book Shop in the Howard Centre, WGC (25), Tebbutt's (2), Hertford Museum (5), Tewin Bury Farm Hotel (3), and village events – Open Gardens (1), THACS show (3), and the Classic Cars show (3). Taylor Wimpey has recently bought 17 for the new houses at Carrington Grange. And finally Mike Clark at Tewin Orchard has sold 15, either at the door to visitors or on-line. Overall, we have sold 763 books to date. We all know that these books have gone far and wide, and even across the world.

We paid all the bills and repaid loans to get the book published long ago. All profits have been donated to the Tewin Memorial Hall funds. So far we have given them £6,500 and expect to hand over a further £500 in the next six months.

What does the History Book offer? For just £22.50 you will receive a 264 page hard-back book full of fascinating information about the village, including 490 photographs and illustrations, the majority in colour. It covers the history of Tewin from 500,000 years ago to the present day. You can buy it from Tewin Stores or via the website: www.tewinorchard.co.uk . Alternatively, please phone Linda Adams on 717385, or Jean Canton on 717395.

Linda Adams, on behalf of the History Book Group:-

Elizabeth Wilson (Chairman),
Linda Adams, Mary Gregg, Ben Roberts,
Jean Canton, Patrick Holden, Lilian Southgate,
Michael Clark, Rosemary Nodder, and the late John Lee.



ISABEL HOSPICE — Welwyn Hatfield
Forthcoming events supporting your local Hospice

Any queries please ring Gill Macdonald on 01707 382500



Tues 1st January: 'Cinderella' Pantomime by Digswell Players
Digswell Vilage Hall AL6 0AT; performance times vary

A donation from the proceeds will be made to Isabel Hospice.
 Tickets cost £8.50, £5.50 for under 16's, less 50p per ticket if purchased before Christmas. Box office 0845 2090 100

Sat 2nd - 24th Feb: daily from 12:00 onwards 'Snowdrop Gardens' Bennington Lordship, Nr Stevenage, SG2 7BS

A donation from the proceeds will be made to Isabel Hospice. Free parking, Refreshments available. Sorry No Dogs. Adults £5, concessions £4 (not Sundays). Under 16 £2, Under 12 Free

Sat 9th February: 7.30 for 8pm; 'Party Night' at North Mymms Memorial Hall, Welham Green AL9 7PG. Tickets £17.50 including supper. Bring your own drinks and glasses. Tel 01707 658531.

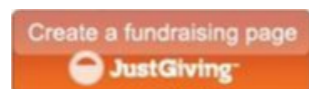
Sat 23rd Feb - 2nd March: 'Iceland Winter Volcano Trek'

Discover the frozen lava fields, volcanoes and glaciers of Iceland on this 5 day trek. Afterwards enjoy the delights of Reykjavik such as the Blue Lagoon thermal baths! Minimum sponsorship for Isabel Hospice is £2700. Please contact Emma Lippiatt on 01707 382547

Sat 16th March: 17.00-22.00; 'Sunset Swim' Haileybury College

Join us for a Sponsored Sunset Splash and individuals take on the challenge to swim a mile in an hour ... or as a team to complete the 4 mile challenge!
 Entry £12 per adult, £5 per child. Register for a place and allocated swimming time. For more information please contact Katie Robertson on 01707 382500.

Sat 30th March: 'Social Dance' at Newgate Street Village Hall, SG13 8RA. For tickets and information please call John Hankins on 01707 873894.



Tewin Stores

Manager:
Bev Barraclough 01438 717929

Thank you for supporting your local shop over the Christmas period. We had lots of orders for Turkeys as well as other products.

The shop looked particularly festive this year with its new lights purchased by Friends of Tewin and its decorated shelves etc. enticing you, we hope, to purchase extra items.

We are again having problems manning the shop over the festive season so please check the times we are open from now until after the New Year.

I do not have the names of the people who won the raffle prizes to date, but will let you know in the next issue of the Tewin Magazine.

Some people have asked if they can leave a 'Christmas Box' for their 'paper boy' and 'the lady who collects the prescriptions and delivers the medicine'. We are willing to collect any monies for these good people at the shop and pass it on in the New Year.

Thank You.

Happy New Year to you all.

Acrylic Classes in Tewin Pavillion

We have set up regular classes in the beautifully renewed Pavillion. Do join us on Monday mornings from 10am to 12 noon. Classes cost £9 each, and you only pay for the sessions you attend. You need your own equipment but can join the project based classes at any time. Please get in contact for details.

Details available on 01992 581769

or

www.deniseallen.co.uk contact@deniseallen.co.uk

Tewin Parish Council



PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 4th February 2013 at 7.45pm in Tewin Memorial Hall.

Agenda:

Please notify the Clerk at least one week before the meeting if you wish to suggest items for discussion at the meeting. The agenda is published on the Notice Board outside Tewin Stores 3 working days before the meeting. All Parishioners are welcome to attend and are invited to make comments at the start of the meeting.

Minutes:

These are displayed at Tewin Stores, Tewin Memorial Hall, at the bus shelter at the top of Desborough Drive and on the website www.tewinvillage.co.uk. The minutes are not published until approved and signed at the subsequent meeting.

Newsletters/Meeting Dates:

These are published on the website www.tewinvillage.co.uk

Queries:

 Please contact:

Chairman, Kristina Lawson Tel: 01438-717256

Clerk, Caroline McFarlane Tel: 01438-798969

E-mail - caroline.mcfarlane@virgin.net

East Herts District Councillors - North Ward:

Cllr Michael McMullen Tel: 01920-463430

East Herts District Councillors - South Ward:

Cllr Linda Haysey Tel 01992-582151

Herts County Councillor:

Cllr Bryan Hammond Tel: 07909 002624

Police Community Team – 01707-354192 - For non-emergencies.

Highways Fault Line: 0300 123 40 47- For reporting potholes etc

East Herts District Council: 01279-655261 or www.eastherts.gov.uk

- For reporting smoke & noise nuisance, fly-tipping, flyposting, dead animals on the road, stray dogs, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles, Environmental Services, Environmental Health, Pest Control, Waste Services, Planning Tree Preservation Orders, Parking Warden for parking offences.



The Scout Hut,
Lower Green, Tewin,
Herts, AL6 0LB
Tel: 01438 716132

Email: tewinunderfives@hotmail.com

Web: www.tewinunderfives.com

Coming up to Christmas, the children are all very much looking forward to Santa's visit! We have had some fun and festivities at Under Fives, with a craft morning where parents were invited to join in making a big Christmas display and a fabulous mess with glitters!

Looking ahead, after a relaxing Christmas break, we will have sadly said goodbye to Sarah Storey, our dedicated leader, who will be sadly missed. We wish her well in her new role at a day nursery closer to her home. With this sad news, comes a fresh beginning where we will be welcoming Melissa Ford, who will be stepping up to take her place, bringing with her lots of new and exciting ideas.

From January we are very full, with very little spaces left for new coming children, and due to demand we will be starting Friday lunch club, from January.

We are also looking forward to our up and coming event 'the quiz night' due to take place on Friday 1st March 2013 at 7:30pm. This promises to be a great, fun filled event, and will hopefully raise some much needed funds for the pre-school. Tickets will be available in February.

The committee would like to say a big thank you to all our dedicated staff and parents who continue to support our growth within the village.

To all, a very happy Christmas and joyful New Year.

Claire Penstone-Smith
Chair person

THACS - TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

Monday 14th January 2013 – THACS AGM, presentation of Tewin Society Award and a talk on English Orchards

The twelfth **THACS** AGM takes place at Tewin Memorial Hall on Monday 14th January 2013 at **7:30pm**. (Please note the earlier start time, changed from the usual 8:00pm)

The presentation of the Tewin Society Award will start the evening and this will be followed by the AGM. There will then be refreshments (including wine) followed by a talk from a guest speaker.

The AGM will include the Chairman's and Treasurer's report for 2012, the election of the officers and other committee members for 2013 and a preview of events for 2013.

The talk following the AGM will be '*Biodiversity in a bottle; the story of the traditional English Orchard.*' It will be given by David Curry, Chairman of Management Group, Hertfordshire Orchard Initiative. This initiative was launched 14 years ago in Tewin Memorial Hall, so there is a strong local connection.

This is an important meeting for **THACS** and all members are urged to attend. Non-members are very welcome but not be able to vote.



The Tewin Society Award

The nominations have been submitted. The evaluations have been done. The winner has been selected.

If you want to find out who won the award this year and why, then come along to the announcement and presentation at Tewin Memorial Hall at 7:30pm on Monday 14th January 2013 (immediately before the **THACS** AGM).

Ray Keppler
Chairman of the Tewin Society Award Committee



Christmas Tree & Carols

The Parish Council would like to thank Friends of Tewin for all their time and effort in arranging the beautiful Christmas tree this year and the Carol singing event.

Precept

In accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Council it was unanimously agreed at the 12th November Parish Council meeting that the precept should increase by only £700 to £27,000 for the next financial year commencing 1st April 2013.

Upper Green

The Parish Council would like to thank all the volunteers for their time and effort to help plant the 65 saplings donated by the Woodland Trust on the western boundary of Upper Green. These saplings comprise Oak, Hawthorn, Hazel, Birch, Rowan and Blackthorn and Tewin Parish Council would like to thank Margaret Knight for looking after the saplings and her valuable advice. The Parish Council would also like to thank **THACS** and Friends of Tewin who have kindly provided the funding for the necessary equipment.

Public Sewers

At the beginning of November the public sewer running through Muspatts Farm collapsed and was repaired. The Thames Water representative advised that there is not a shortage of capacity in the area but that it is what is flushed down the toilet that causes the problems.

Their recommendations are that only water, toilet tissue and waste water goes down into the sewer. All other items such as sanitary products, nappies, and wet wipes should be disposed of in the bin. Fat and oil from cooking should be left to cool and can be disposed of in the bin or mixed with seeds and nuts to make a feeder for the birds.

Chemical solvents, engine oils and paint should be taken to a local refuse site and medicines to a pharmacist for safe disposal. The Seven Acres site is not connected to the public sewer yet. All rain water goes into the bore holes put in at the beginning of the build.

Friends of Danesbury & Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital

A Very Happy New Year to you all

Christmas is traditionally the time for giving gifts and this year Danesbury and QVM Hospital did rather well.

How many of us found a new vehicle in our Xmas stocking? This gift arrived in plenty of time for the holiday and has been well used since it drove into our car park. The pressures on the patient transport service too often overwhelm the system, which results in long delays and frequent cancellations leaving patients and their carers not knowing what to do.

Some time ago the Friends agreed to fund the purchase of a specialist vehicle costing over £20,000. Simple matters are always somewhat more complicated than they appear but having settled all the details the vehicle is now in daily use. Patients at both Danesbury and QVM Hospital will ensure that it does not stand idle.

Danesbury's other gift was a new reception and the transformation is startling. On the day of completion one NHS visitor thought that they had come to the wrong building! The look on people's faces let us know that our money has been very well spent.

As well as gifts there were traditional celebrations with entertainment and festive fare for those unable to be in their own homes at Christmas. We are delighted we helped bring a little cheer into the patients' lives.

We look forward to 2013 knowing that it will be a year of change in the Health Service and we are confident that with the help of all our supporters we will be well placed to play our part.

Friends of Danesbury & QVM Hospital
School Lane, WELWYN AL6 9SB
01438 840514

E-mail: danburyqvm@btconnect.com
or visit www.danesburyqvm.co.uk

Welwyn Floral Group - 2013 Programme

6th February AGM + Sandra Barker - 'Willow'

6th March Lionel Clark - 'A Touch of Glass'



We meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month in The Civic Centre, Welwyn at 7.30pm

Visitors and new members are always welcome

Operation Christmas Child Tewin Shoe Boxes to Swaziland

Again Tewin responded with great generosity to the 2012 Operation Christmas Child Appeal. 202 boxes together with bags of soft toys etc. left here on Friday 23rd November. Those collecting were amazed at the amount of boxes stacked up in the hall and commented on the weight of them. Each box, so carefully wrapped with your gifts will soon be a child's whole Christmas experience and only connection with the outside world in the orphanage or institution that life has placed them in.

I do thank you on behalf of 'Samaritan's Purse' for all the efforts you have made in creating these boxes and a big thank you to all those who spent hours knitting woolly hats and gloves for inclusion in the boxes.

When the Spring collection of shoes arrives in the shops in the new year do call in shortly before closing, say on a Saturday night, and ask for some shoe boxes before they get recycled. It is difficult to find a suitable box in the winter months.



Jackie Beadle
Caverswall, Queen Hoo Lane, Tewin, AL6 0LT
01438 798247
www.samaritanspurse.uk.com

New Plan to improve the River Mimram

Plenty of projects planned to improve the River Mimram are about to start. Improving the quality of this rare chalk stream, the wildlife and our accessibility to enjoy it. From Jan 23rd see what's happening at www.beaneandmimrampartnership.org

The Friends of the Mimram, in conjunction with the Herts Middx Wildlife Trust have developed a Catchment Management Plan to improve the river quality and help meet EU Water Framework Directive guidelines. This is being presented as a dynamic website which will evolve as the projects come to fruition. The projects have been developed in consultation with other local conservation groups, parish councils, Welhat Borough Council, HCC and the Environment Agency.

One of the projects will start in Singlers Marsh this winter. Chalk streams should have crystal clear water flowing over gravel. After years of low flows, silt has built up to 2 feet deep in the river at the top end and trees overgrown keeping out the sunlight preventing vegetation growing. So HMWT have managed to obtain some funding for an Environment Agency plan to dig out the silt from a section of the river opposite the Vineyards, replacing it with gravel, while also pollarding some trees to let in the light. The Friends of the Mimram will also clear some of the scrub away from the river bank and maintain a footpath along the river so that we can enjoy it. Meanwhile the Friends will also continue the work near Singlers Bridge to narrowing the river slightly to increase the flow and achieve the same effect.

If the trial is successful it will be extended upstream when more funds become available.

Details on: www.friendsofthemimram.co.uk/improvements.html.

All this assumes there will be water in the river – but we will have to keep on lobbying to achieve that.

Latest news on: www.friendsofthemimram.co.uk/campaign.html

David Cheek, Friends of the River Mimram



Headteacher: Mrs A Simpson
email: admin@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk

Tel: 01438 717378

Our News, December 2012

It is always hard to decide which of the school terms is the busiest but I think this year, so far, our autumn term wins hands down. It might prove evident if the events were listed...so

- We collected 60 shoeboxes for the Samaritan Purse! Well done us and thank-you to all the parents that helped their children to take part in this important giving opportunity.
- Our Year Three pupils performed exceptionally at the Athletics Event at Woodstone park on Nov 23rd
- The school Book Fayre was a great success especially with all stock half price! Thank you to those who manned it.
- The Tea Dance initially arranged for December 6th had to be postponed but please look out for the new date to be published in the New Year.
- The school's Family Disco was the Rave of the Year, enjoyed by all and thanks to those who made it all happen!
- On December 7th Ladybird Class went to Willows Farm and saw the real Father Christmas !!!! (They must have all been very good children!)
- The Christmas Nativity Play performed by Ladybirds and aided by Max Davies, Tara Groombridge and Connie Marshall was just simply wonderful! Well done Miss Fairhall – a first in her teaching career so far and a hard act to follow.
- The Year 1, 2 & 3 Christmas play was also a great success and many thanks go to their teachers but also to Mrs Haslam who accompanied all the songs on the piano.
- Christmas lunches have still to be eaten, but we are confident the kitchen staff will pull out all the stops as they do every year.
- A drama company has yet to visit school and perform a pantomime for all to enjoy.
- Class parties are still to be enjoyed...as no doubt they will be.
- Christmas Carols around the tree on Tewin Green have still to be sung, but will no doubt be all the better for the children's angelic voices.
- On December 20th lots of you offered to help the children make

- their individual Christingles, thank you so much.
- The Christingle Service – led by Dragonfly Class has yet to take place, but without doubt, it will be both well-attended and a thoughtful, spiritual close to the term.
- Building progress...progresses, and we all watch with interest.
- And...don't forget the St Peter's Children's Workshop Saturday 22nd December from 2-4pm.

May I remind you that Rev. Susannah Underwood leads our Worship every Wednesday in school at 10.25 and everyone in the community is warmly welcome. There is always the pleasure of the children's delightful singing and an opportunity to join together in prayer.

Many people have helped in many different ways to make the children's Christmas time at school an especially happy one. Please accept grateful thanks from us all, and we wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

The Staff Team



Proposed dates for 2013

**Welwyn Team Men's Breakfast
Saturdays 26th January**

18th May,

20th July,

2nd November,

in New Church House - 8.00 for 8.15am

Speakers and subjects will be announced
as soon as details are available.

But in the meantime

Why not put the dates in your 2013 diary **now**?



St Peter's Church
was floodlit on Christmas Eve

In ever loving memory of
Irene, Duncan and Jim Fish

From Geraldine, Graham, Gemma &
Susannah

St Peter's Church bells will be rung

on Monday, 31st December

in memory of Kit & Bert Fernee

Tony & Mavis Haggar

Charities: a generous response from St Peter's

As has been our recent custom, we invited representatives from two carefully selected charities to visit St Peter's during 2012. Both gave most interesting presentations about their work which evoked a very generous response from those present.

The first visit was from 'Mercy Ships' in May and the second, 'Stevenage Street Pastors', in November. The congregation was invited to support the charity through the cash collection on that day and by using Gift Aid envelopes, suitably marked with the name of the charity.

The response to both presentations was very pleasing, and with the benefit of anticipated tax recovery on the Gift Aided donations, each charity benefited by about £250.

We shall be planning further visits in 2013 and hope that the response will be equally generous because so many charities are currently suffering from a significant drop in financial support in the present difficult financial environment.

Graham Spring, Treasurer.



Churchwarden's Notes

After the last issue went to print we had the Christmas Market. We are very appreciative of the tremendous efforts of Clare Rawlins and Nick Whiting and their team of helpers. Once again a great result was achieved in spite of the appalling weather.

Many congratulations to David Rawlins and all those who took part in the Herts and Beds Historic Churches Hike 'n Bike fundraiser. St. Peter's had the second highest sponsorship income in our area and for the second year raised £800 towards fabric maintenance in our churches.

We were pleased to have Knightsfield school visit us in December. As part of their Religious Studies programme they came to see the church: Susannah talked to them about the liturgy and symbolism involved in worship.

Those of you familiar with the churchyard may have noticed that two of the three Lime trees received attention last month. The one near the bonfire is hollow and was top heavy, so considerable growth has been removed to minimise the danger of branches breaking off and damaging the red brick wall. The tree near Lady Ann Grimston's tomb was rotten in the middle. This material has been removed along with growth that could have overshadowed the Sabine family vault: this being the site to which we hope to move the Sabine Memorial from its present position in the porch.

The only service to take place before the print deadline was the Carol Service. It was wonderful to see the church so full. We thank Rosemary and the choir for their huge contribution on this memorable occasion. There is still more to come. We look forward to seeing you at the Carols on the Green, the Crib Service, Midnight Mass and Family Communion on Christmas morning.

We wish you all the very best for the coming New Year.

Pete and Mike

Vicar's letter

I love Professor Brian Cox. Partly it is because of his floppy fringe, sparkling eyes and his 'I'm everyone's friend' smile. But that aside I also love him because he recognises mystery.

In his book *The Wonders of the Solar System* he describes what it felt like to witness the Aurora Borealis, the Northern Lights, while filming a science programme for the BBC. Referring to an ancient legend about the mysterious lights in the night sky— where they are said to be the spirits of women he writes:

'Just after midnight the aurora came... They came gently. Sheets of colour drifted slowly then suddenly broke off and danced Impossibly fast... and as I turned to camera I realised that I didn't care about the physics of what I was seeing. My reaction, composed sitting at my desk in Manchester, was worthless in the face of Nature at its most magnificent. The Sami had it right... it is made of majestic mournful dancing spirits trapped in the Arctic night.'

From time immemorial the night sky has been a vehicle for spiritual experience and yearning. King David is recorded in the Psalms as pondering the majesty and vastness of the Universe and calling out to God:

'When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?'

Psalm 8:3-4

On Sunday 6th January the Church celebrates Epiphany – as we remember the Magi who, studying the night sky, set off on a quest to discover the mystery that the stars would lead them to. Their star-gazing led them to find a small child. I wonder as they knelt before him whether they recognised his hands as being those which had flung the stars into space in the first place.

It is mysterious – but a sense of mystery is what sets us apart as human beings. Human beings which were designed to look up and be stirred to set off on a journey of exploration. I wonder this year if you do that – where you may be led?

Susannah

Date	6 th		13 th	20 th		27 th
Day	Epiphany		Baptism of Christ	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany		4 th Sunday of Epiphany
Service	Holy Communion	Choral Evensong	Holy Communion	Family Service	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
Time	9.30am	6.30pm	9.30am	11.15am	6.30pm	9.30am
Officiating	Susannah U'wood	Mick Simmons	John & Margaret Cotton	Lucy Dallas	Tom Gladwin	Susannah Underwood
1 st reading	Isaiah 60; 1-6	Isaiah 60; 1-9	Isaiah 43; 1-7	John 2; 1-11	Isaiah 62; 1-5	Nehemiah 8; 1-3,5-6,10-11
2 nd reading	Eph 3; 1-12	John 2; 1-11	Acts 8; 14-17		1 Corin 12; 1-11	1 Corinthians 12; 12-31a
Gospel	<i>Matthew 2; 1-12</i>		<i>Luke 3; 15-17, 21-22</i>		<i>John 2; 1-11</i>	
Server	Pauline		Trevor		David	
Intercessor						
Reader	Janet Gladwin	Pauline Brown	Mavis Haggar	Mary Gregg	Nick Whiting	Elaine Fowler
Sidesmen	Karin Shaw & Graham Spring	Ivor & Linda Williams	Mavis Haggar & Karin Shaw	Janet Thompson	Linda Adams & Keith Barnfield	Di Bradley & Pauline Brown
Coffee	Janet Gladwin		Anna Clark	Sheila Feakes		Elaine Fowler
Flowers						
Cleaner	TBA		Di Bradley	Linda Crawford		Vicky de Naeyer

Baptisms

Weddings

Funerals

15 th December	Patricia Margaret Ashman
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Service of Said Evening Prayer is held every Monday at 5pm

You are assured of a warm welcome at St Peter's for any of our services whether you are a regular church-goer or not. Do come and join us.

