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Totteridge and Terriers News

Issue 43

T&T NEWS

Spring 2018



Picture © DW 2018

St Francis Church

Canon Tony Dickinson is leaving after 23 years ministry at St Francis Church, Terriers. See Page 18 "Thank You and Goodbye".

See inside for all your community news from Totteridge & Terriers.....

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Events & Information Diary

Wednesday 14th March

Wycombe Wenches W.I. Meeting 8pm Totteridge Community Centre "Dewey Eyed Wenches". Saving Wycombe's old photos by Mike Dewey.

Thursday 29th March

Terriers Evening W.I. Meeting 7:45pm Cedar Park School, Hazlemere Guest speaker Sandra Hurst talks about "Everyday life in an Indian Village".

Wednesday 11th April

Wycombe Wenches W.I. Meeting 8pm Totteridge Community Centre "Rocky Wenches". Geology of High Wycombe with Jill Eyres.

Saturday 28th April

Grand Jumble Sale at Hazlemere Community Centre, Midday to 1:30pm.

Buckinghamshire's Saxon Prince, United Reformed Church High Wycombe

A talk by Leslie Webster. Organised by the High Wycombe Society. 2:30pm

Thursday 3rd May

Terriers Evening W.I. Meeting 7:45pm Cedar Park School, Hazlemere Tonight's meeting is the annual Resolutions Meeting and Taster Evening.

Wednesday 9th May

Wycombe Wenches W.I. Meeting 8pm Totteridge Community Centre "Thoughtful Wenches". Our annual W.I. Resolutions Meeting.

Sunday 20th May

Deadline for articles, news & events for the summer edition of T&T News.

Priestfield Arboretum Open Day, Stoney Lane, Little Kingshill 10:30am-4pm

Admission £2. Guidebook available.

Thursday 7th June

Terriers Evening W.I. Meeting 7:45pm Cedar Park School, Hazlemere Guest speaker Peter Hague talks about "Yorkshire Food and Traditions".

Remember to let us know your events for the diary. Between printed editions we can include your events on our web site diary.

Totteridge and Terriers News

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T & T News is published four times a year in March, June, September and December. We aim to get the magazine distributed by mid month of issue. In order that we can achieve this deadline we need your articles and advertising as early as possible. Our deadline for the summer 2018 edition is 20th May.

We thank all our advertisers and contributors for their support. However T & T News cannot endorse any product or service contain within this magazine. You are advised to check details of all goods and services offered. All contributions are excepted in good faith and opinions expressed are not necessarily that of the editor or T & T News.

That's about it...Join us again in June 2018. In the meantime you can catch up with the latest news on the web at:

www.tandtnews.org.uk

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WELCOME TO T&T NEWS

Hello,

Welcome to the spring 2018 edition of T & T News.

A I write this editorial is certainly feels far from spring with a decided chill in the air. However, the lighter evenings are beginning to appear and hopefully the warmer days will soon follow. The garden is still looking a little bare with the spring flowers yet to appear as a result.

Inside this edition of T & T News you will find all the latest news plus some forthcoming events that are taking place locally. We will add extra events where we can on our web site so keeping checking for the latest information. Importantly let us know your news and events.

After 23 years we say goodbye to Cannon Tony Dickinson who is leaving St Francis Church to work in Genoa. He will be licensed by the Archdeacon of Italy on St Patricks Day , 17th March to serve at the Church of the Holy Ghost. We wish him well in his new role.

Happy reading until next time and don't forget to visit our web site at www.tandtnews.org.uk

David Winterburn, Editor



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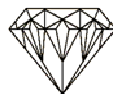
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TEAM MANAGERS & HELPERS WANTED

With more players joining we now have over 40 young players at our Saturday morning 'mini' training sessions down the Rye, we could really do with more 'coaching' help and possibly volunteers to introduce new age groups to provide football to a greater cross section of the local community.

In this position you would manage the team affairs – arranging and leading training sessions, liaising with opposition managers and parents to arrange matches, setting up and instructing the team on match days, reporting results and attending a monthly club meeting.

All coaching & manager positions are voluntary and a FA Level 1 coaching certificate is desirable but not essential as the club will subsidise the cost of training to the right person.

Sport helps children develop in many ways, learning key skills for life such as team work, communication and problem solving whilst providing a fun and challenging environment to maintain their fitness levels. Our qualified FA coaches are there to ensure that the children develop their skills at their own pace and have the satisfaction of putting them into practise against players of their own age.

We also in need of referees to officiate our 'home' matches, again the club is willing to subsidise training costs in return for availability to the club; this could be a good introduction for a younger person into refereeing.

If you are interested in joining please contact Peter Jemmett by email peterjemmett@aol.com or call the appropriate team manager:

Under 10's – Khalid Machmoun 07834 586786

Under 11's – Frank Milligan 07506 564169

Under 12's – Tak Aziz 07838 579217

Under 13's – Oliver Witney 07706 888441

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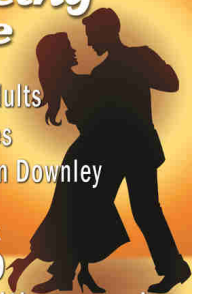
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TEAM NEWS

It has been a tough first season playing 11-a-side for our Under 13's team who find themselves sat second from bottom in division 3 with 7 games left to play. Despite a poor run in the league, they did record a couple of excellent results in the cup beating Downley Dynamos Colts and Beaconsfield Town Colts.

During the course of the winter, a fair few matches have been postponed due to the conditions, but never-the-less, our mini teams continue to make excellent progress. Both our Under 11's and Under 12's play 9-a-side football and have adapted to this format really well. The Under 11's after a mixed start have settled really well and are now on a run 3 consecutive wins while the Under 12's have continued where they left off last season and have remained undefeated in all but one of their 13 matches played to date.

NEW TEAM

With player numbers increasing in our younger age groups, we are pleased to welcome Khalid Machmoum who will break away the younger players to form a new Under 10's team. Khalid will be taking his FA level 1 coaching certificate later this month in preparation for next season. If you have an 8 or 9 year old son or daughter eager to give football a try then please contact either Khalid or Oliver (see details below).

The Under 10's will play small sided football. Mini football takes the format of two small sided games played simultaneously against an opposing club of two teams (A v A & B v B and then A v B & B v A), the results are incidental with the main emphasis on learning football skills.



Wycombe Wenches WI

Wycombe wenches celebrated the Christmas season in style, our December meeting involved a Christmas Cracker making experience, working along to music and enjoying festive fayre. We then enjoyed an amazing evening out at the Red Lion in Great Kingshill for our

Christmas Dinner, the food, company and service were superb.

Our January meeting saw us working off the Christmas overindulgences as Stefania Stokes led the Wenches in a Zumba experience followed by Ginny Burgess speaking at our February meeting on Health and Well Being, explaining the importance of caring for the biome in your gut and the impact it has on your health.



The "Additional Activities" enjoyed since the Christmas break have included an Italian themed Supper Club evening hosted by a member, where eleven Wenches tried a wide variety of tasty Italian dishes both bought, and home-made. The book club met to review Rachel Abbott's debut novel "only the innocent" and sixteen Wenches attended an amazing evening at Wendover Garden Centre where Ubiquitous Theatre presented a Murder Mystery evening entitled the "Wedding Reception".

As we look forward to lighter evenings our Spring programme involves

14th March "Dewey eyed Wenches"
Saving Wycombe's old photos, Mike Dewey

11th April "Rocky Wenches"
Geology of High Wycombe with Jill Eyres

9th May "Thoughtful Wenches"
Our annual WI Resolutions Meeting

Our "Additional Activities" this quarter will include a trip into London to see "The Witness" by Agatha Christie, a "Have a go session" rock climbing at Wycombe Leisure Centre and a visit to the Hearing Dogs centre at Saunderton.



Finally, we decided that this year our WI would focus on regularly supporting our local Women's Refuge. Our aim is to work closely with the support workers and each month donate items that meet specific gaps in their wish list.

If any local women are looking for something new and exciting to try please do come and join us at one of our meetings. There is no obligation to join but hopefully we can tempt you to do so. Spring is a great time to explore new activities and I promise you a very warm welcome. We are a friendly group of people to meet up with, share friendship, laughter and much more.






We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm in Totteridge Community Centre. Contact me by phone, through our website Wycombewi.weebly.com, or our Facebook page wycombewencheswi.

Warm wishes,

Helen Speakman 01494 473190
President of Wycombe Wenches.

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News in Brief

Rennie Grove is asking local people to help fund an additional Healthcare Assistant to support its nursing team. A donation of £25 would fund a 2 hour respite visit and a donation of £51.80 5-days travel keeping more families together for longer. A donation of any size would be much appreciated.

To fund another Healthcare Assistant will cost £24,330 and make a real difference. If you can help this latest campaign then visit: www.renniegrove.org/eyesandears or call 01442 890222.

Jenny Provin, Chief Executive has announced her retirement. She has led the charity which specialises in providing 24/7 hospice at home care and a range of living well day services for five years. Her last day will be on Tuesday 13th February and she will be succeeded by Stewart Marks who was formally Hospice Director at Sue Ryder's Duchees of Kent and Nettlebed Hospices.

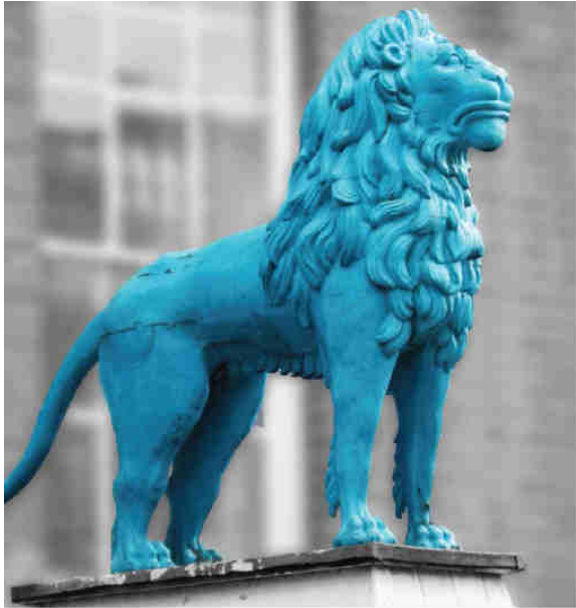


Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust wins bid to continue school immunisation service. Public Health England has awarded Buckinghamshire NHS Trust the contract to continue delivering a school-based immunisations service after this was put out to tender late last year. The Trust's successful bid means the current dedicated team will continue to offer immunisations, including the flu and meningitis vaccines, to children in the 220 primary and 70 secondary schools in the county.

Child Bereavement UK - Mary Berry is helping raise awareness of #MakeforMum in the run up to Mothers Day. Mary is a patron of the charity which supports families and educates professionals when a child grieves and when a child dies.

Mothering Sunday falls on 11th March this year but you can hold your own #MakeforMum event whenever it suits you best. From creating a special meal, making tea, baking, making candles or cards, holding a fundraising event you are invited to join in. Share your pictures using the #MakeforMum or text MUMS02 £10 to 70070 to donate and make areal difference. For a free fundraising pack call the fundraising team on 01494 569048 or e-mail:

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Highcrest celebrates being top of school sixth form league table

Staff and students at The Highcrest Academy are celebrating being number one in the sixth form league tables for schools in Buckinghamshire for progress made between GCSEs and A-Levels.

New figures produced by the Department for Education put the academy in High Wycombe at the top of the county league for school sixth forms, in tables which compare performances across the country.

Highcrest's sixth form progress rating of 0.47 – also known as a value-added score - outstripped that of all the other upper and grammar schools locally in 2017. Progress was measured between the end of Key Stage 4 (GCSEs) and the end of students' A-Level studies.

The academy was also given a 'well above average' rating for A-Level results performance which puts it in the top 5% of all sixth forms and colleges nationally.

Delighted Assistant Headteacher Paul Shaw, who ran the sixth form until this year, said: "We could not be happier with the results we have achieved over the past few years and this latest set of figures just shows what a talented bunch of staff and students we have at Highcrest. Last year, we had the second highest progress rate in Key Stage 5 for the whole of Bucks, so to go one better is fantastic and shows a real level of consistency."

Mr Shaw said 89% of all A-Level grades last year were C or above which is 12% above national average.

"Results have improved year on year for the past four years which is fantastic," he added.

"These figures could not come at a better time for us because we will be moving into our new sixth form block in September 2018 and will be able to take applications for more students."

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From Westminster to Wycombe - Steve Baker MP

Along with other MPs in Buckinghamshire I regularly attend meetings with the providers of local NHS services, including the chief executive of the Hospital Trusts and GPs. At our January meeting we discussed pressures on the hospital over the winter period. The hospital's contingency plans have shown it was prepared to cope with the additional numbers of people presenting at A&E over the last few weeks, although the hospital administrators recognised people did have to wait longer than they would have liked at times. Whilst I was at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, I asked to look around a new facility which has been built to improve the way ambulances handover patients to the emergency team. The new facility had only been open for a few days when I visited, but I was told it had already made a difference and allowed patients to be treated more promptly and effectively.

I know the doctors who commission NHS services are always looking for patients and the public to help shape health services. In the past healthcare services have often focused on activities but more emphasis is now being put on outcomes. The new Outcomes Framework has been written by a small team of patients and public volunteers with relevant experience, and these outcomes will be used to help design services in the future. The NHS is also looking at ways to improve the way the NHS deals with medicines and with discharge from hospital. A further study involves the local Clinical Commissioning Group which is working with the charity Macmillan Cancer Support to look at cancer services on a project entitled 'Living with and beyond cancer'. A survey has been set-up to find out which elements of cancer services are working well and to discover if new support should be provided. They would like to hear from those currently undergoing or have undergone treatment or who have cared for someone with cancer. If you would like to comment on any of these surveys, please go to the Let's Talk Health Bucks website at www.letstalkhealthbucks.nhs.uk/

Another issue I know is of concern to local people is housing. I am pleased that the Government is trying to tackle our national housing crisis; the housing budget has been doubled and new initiatives have been introduced including the Government's most recent proposal to allow some limited building upwards on existing developments provided it is in keeping with other buildings in the area. Although these are national schemes I am also interested in how we build a range of homes that meet local housing need here in Wycombe and I have written to the Leader of Wycombe District Council about this. I have also recently met the senior teams from our local social housing associations and looked around some new build properties and sites for development. In particular, Red Kite has some innovative plans for new business models and developing more homes in the Wycombe area, and I am hopeful these will help local people to remain living in the town where they grew up. Local residents can view the plans in detail on Red Kite's website at www.redkitechousing.org.uk.

If you would like to get in touch with me, please email: steve.baker.mp@parliament.uk. If you despair of bureaucracy and would like my help with a particular issue, please phone my constituency office on 01494 448408.



Cabinet Recommends £5 Band D Council Tax Increase

Wycombe District Council's share of the council tax paid by residents is expected to increase by £5 for an average Band D property for 2018-19. The cabinet agreed the increase at their meeting on Monday 5th February to recommend the change to the full council.

For a Band D property this means the payment goes up from £131.99 to £136.99, an increase of 3.8%. The estimated other increases are:

Bucks County Council	£1,291.04	5.99% increase
Police & Crime Commissioner	£ 182.28	7.05% increase
Bucks & MK Fire & Rescue	£ 62.70	2.99% increase
Parish (average)	£ 47.68	7.1% increase

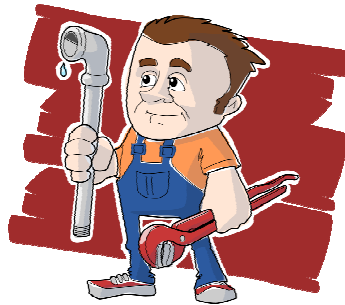
WDC which collects the Council Tax on behalf of the five authorities and charges one of the lowest in England and the lowest in the county.

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Butterfly House appeals for residents to volunteer

Have you not quite lived up to that New Year's resolution you made way back in January? Are you feeling guilty about failing to carry out the good deeds you promised you would do in 2018? If so, South Bucks Community Hospice has an easy answer to help both you as well as people with life-limiting conditions.



The hospice is reaching out to residents of the Totteridge and Terriers area asking them to volunteer - either at Butterfly House in Kingwood Park, High Wycombe or at its shops in Bourne End and Hazlemere. The campaign to recruit new volunteers is being spearheaded by Mimi Harker OBE, former Mayor of Amersham and immediate past Chairman of Chiltern DC.

Mimi, who is a patron of the hospice, said: "If you have never volunteered before or are looking for another role, and would like to see what it is all about, what a great place to start. "Not only are you surrounded by an amazing team of staff to support you, but there are so many roles you could volunteer for - from running reception, to helping in one of the shops, tending the garden, working in the kitchen, driving patients back and forth or getting involved in one-off events."

People with only limited time on their hands need not worry. "If you only have a couple of hours to spare, that's fine," said Mimi. "Those hours will be incredibly valuable if, for instance, they are spent greeting people as they come through the door at what can be an incredibly stressful time. "No special skills are needed - just enthusiasm, commitment and perhaps a love of chatting and spending time with others, although there are plenty of behind-the-scenes roles too. We welcome applications from a wide range of people."

Mimi is the hospice's volunteering ambassador and to show her commitment, she volunteered in both the Bourne End and Hazlemere shops at the end of January. She added: "There is such a wide variety of work to do there, and it's so fulfilling to know you are making a difference to others. My heart literally lifts when I work with an organisation such as Butterfly House, especially when I can see the impact my work is having and how many people are benefiting from my tiny contribution. "If you have any time at all, just give us a go. If the first role you try isn't what you expect it to be, you can try out so many different others."

To find out more, email volunteers@sbhospice.org.uk or call 01494 552761

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Buckinghamshire's Saxon Prince The Burial at Taplow






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Priestfield Arboretum Open Day

Priestfield Arboretum, Stony Lane, Little Kingshill HP 16 ODU

Open Day Sunday 20 May 10.30 – 4pm. Open to the public for the first time this year, this private collection of rare & specimen trees welcomes tree enthusiasts, families and friends to see the wide variety of trees young and old in a delightful 6 acre woodland setting. Managed & maintained by dedicated volunteers, happy to share their love for this special place with free guided tours throughout the day.

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Contact Coralie Ramsey 01344 774620 or email curator@priestfieldarboretum.org.uk

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What's Going on in Girlguiding?

All our Guiding groups have been really busy both before and after Christmas. Brownies have made Christmas decorations and celebrated Thanksgiving, Canadian Style. One group visited the Works in High Wycombe to find out about how ice cream is made including sampling the sundaes!

Several end of term parties had to be postponed because of snow, but happened in the New Year instead, however one Guide unit held a successful Christmas sleepover which incorporated a trip to London including visiting Guide headquarters, the Science museum and going ice skating.

Some Brownies and Rainbows had a film night in their pyjamas while others went Bowling. The Senior Section (Rangers) went ice skating at the open air rink in Windsor. There was also a Division trip to see the Pantomime Snow White in Aylesbury.

Groups have also raised money for charities including Children in Need and are supporting a previous leader in fundraising in her new role working for Youth for Christ.

Badge work is still popular with Brownies doing their home safety and writers badges in their units with some girls visiting Guide Headquarters in London to do their Science investigator badge. Our programme is being relaunched soon, so units have been trying out sample activities including D.I.Y which proved very popular.

One of our new leaders shared her experience so far -

Since joining the 1st High Wycombe Guides as a leader (in training) in March I've really got to know the girls and loved being part of what they do. So far, they have spent an evening with the Chiltern Rangers, making bird boxes and bows and arrows, (and firing them!), also achieving some more Go For Its (group badges) in Glamorama, Healthy Eating and Globalistic. Ella told everyone about her trip to Switzerland, as part of her Baden-Powell badge, as well as organising crafts, food and teaching us a Swiss dance. We also had a visit from the Gang Show gang, who told us all about what they do and taught us a dance which would feature in the show at the end of March. As well as all this, the girls have managed to spend time doing promise activities, to remind them of why they go to guides and on the 1 November, 6 girls (including myself) took their promise during a very special outing to Rush trampoline park. So, it's been a busy few months, and I can't wait for the next few! [Gina Morrell](#)

Guiding is fun and if you would like to come and join us as a leader or supporter please get in touch with Terrie Smith terrie103@btinternet.com or Julie Plummer jplummer1@btinternet.com or visit the National Web site www.Girlguiding.org.uk/interested

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Roll up; roll up, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls prepare to be entertained this summer at the home of iconic British cinematic history – Pinewood Studios. Come and immerse yourself in an evening of live music, themed performances, capped off with the highlight of the evening Hollywood's recent blockbuster 'The Greatest Showman'.

The evening will start with live performances from the Bucks, Berks & Oxon (BBO) 20 piece Big Band performing music from the musicals. Concession tickets apply to those who are; Over 65, registered with a disability or a registered carer.

Money raised from this event is in aid of Scannappeal who purchase life saving and life changing medical equipment for Wycombe, Stoke Mandeville and Amersham hospitals.

Local Church information for Totteridge & Terriers



St Francis Church

Located on Amersham Road in Terriers. Regular Sunday services at 8am (Holy Communion) and 10am (Parish Communion). Regular parish activities include Knit, Craft and Natter each Wednesday at 11am. Messy Church at 4pm on the 3rd Sunday of each month and Keep Fit on Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. A Christian Aid lunch is held each Friday at 12:45pm during term time.

Totteridge Baptist Church

Located on Hillary Road, High Wycombe, HP13 7RA Regular Sunday service at 10:30am. Clubs and groups include Beavers, Cubs, Genesis Club for Y1-6 and Youth Club at ESYC for Y7+.

Tel: 07800 - 750678

St Andrews Church (C of E)

Located on Hatters Lane, High Wycombe HP13 7NJ. Services are every Sunday at 9:15am & 11:15am.

Tel: 01494 - 529668

St Wulstans Catholic Church

Located on Hollis Road, Totteridge, HP13 7UN Regular Masses both on Sunday's and at other times during the week.

Tel: 01494 - 438300

St Augustines Church (Catholic)

Located on Amersham Hill, High Wycombe There are regular Masses on Saturday's, Sunday's and during the week.

Tel: 01494 - 523969

Totteridge Mosque

(Wycombe Islamic & Mosque Trust Limited)

24 Totteridge Road, High Wycombe, HP13 6EB Tel: 01494 - 513440

Also Muslim Education Centre at 4 The Parade, Totteridge Drive

Tel: 01494 - 522786

Wise (Wycombe Islamic Society)

St Marks Close, High Wycombe, HP13 6GN

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INSPIRING WOMEN

Terriers Evening W.I.

At the November Annual Meeting a new committee took office under the Presidency of Carole O'Neill. We look forward to a varied and interesting year.

Our December meeting formed the beginning of the Christmas season for us. We were delightfully entertained by the male voice choir, Bucks Voices who, with their excellent accompanist performed a number of songs, old and new. They had begun the meeting by leading our singing of "Jerusalem", a moving few minutes. This was followed by a buffet provided by the committee, well up to the standard we have come to expect.

January and the New Year began with Rosemary Hillyard telling us the story of two boys, her grandsons, who have Type 1 diabetes. The description of the effects of the diagnosis on the day to day life of the boys was a revelation to most of us. Along with some discussion of developments in treatment and research we were left understanding a little more of the condition.

In February "An Actor's Life" was described to us by Jeff Rozelaar who painted an amusing picture of how he came to acting. His anecdotes of life behind the scenes when filming for example were both eye-opening and amusing.

Future meetings are as follows:-

- March 29th "A Taste of Iceland" with Sheila Keating
- May 3rd Resolutions Meeting and a Taster Evening
- June 7th "Yorkshire Food and Traditions" with Peter Hague

We meet at 7.45pm in Cedar Park School, Cedar Avenue, Hazlemere and are always glad to welcome new members.

For further information contact Margaret O'Connor on 075026 12093

Your local County Councillors

Terriers & Amersham Hill

Arif Hussain

E-mail: arhussain@buckscc.gov.uk

Totteridge & Bowerdean

Chaudrey Ditta

E-mail: cditta@buckscc.gov.uk

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Web Site at: www.wycombe.gov.uk
and follow the links to "Find your
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Drawing Group
Tues 3:15-4:45pm
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To enjoy... The Tuesday Morning Coffee Club

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Above all, there has been the regular routine of worship and prayer, through which the life of the congregation is sustained and the life of the whole parish, whether church-going or not, whether believers or not, undergirt. There has been the joy of watching people come to faith and of sharing the first stages of their journey, and the immense, painful privilege of accompanying people through sickness to death and entrusting them to the love and mercy of God. To name them all would take up more space than is available in this edition of T&T News. I will therefore end with the simple prayer and act of commitment made by the great 20th-century Secretary General of the United Nations, Dag Hammaskjöld:

“For all that has been, thanks. To all that shall be, yes.”

Tony Dickinson

Regular parish activities:

Sunday services at 10.00 a.m. Communion services **Wednesday at 10.00 a.m.**

“**Knit, craft and natter**” each **Wednesday at 11.00 a.m.**

Messy Church at 4.00 p.m. normally on the **third Saturday** of each month

Communion services on Saints’ days and other holy days (details on the parish website: www.terrierschurch.org.uk).

Keep Fit for the not-so-active in the church hall at 3.00 p.m. on **Tuesday afternoons**.

Christian Aid Lunch in the church hall at 12.45 p.m. each **Friday** (term-time).

The **Walkers United** group meet on the **first Saturday** of each month from February to November for a walk and a pub lunch. Details on the church notice-board.

The monthly **working parties** keeping the church grounds tidy on the morning of the **second Saturday** of each month (weather permitting) from around 9.30 a.m.

Special Services for Easter

Friday, 30th March – Good Friday

10.00 a.m. – Messy Good Friday (*in the Church Hall, with craft activity and messy play on an Easter theme and a short act of worship*)

2.00 p.m. – The Last Hour *led by* The Ven. Guy Elsmore, Archdeacon of Buckingham

Sunday, 1st April – Easter Day (Easter 1)

10.00 a.m. – Parish Communion for all ages *led by* The Revd Dr Phoebe Swart



Spring at St Francis' Church

Thank you and goodbye

By the time you read this I shall have left St Francis Church after 23 years ministry in Terriers and Totteridge. As some of my readers may know, I had imagined that at some time in the spring or summer of 2018 I would be moving into retirement. God, however, had other ideas. In the summer I was head-hunted by the Diocese in Europe to become the first resident chaplain in the

Italian port city of Genoa for more than twenty years. My last Sunday at St Francis was 25th February, and my last service there was the mid-week Prayer Book Communion on 28th February. I shall be licensed by the Archdeacon of Italy to serve the Church of the Holy Ghost, Genoa, on St Patrick's Day, Saturday, 17th March.

So from now on other names will be appearing on the notice-board outside the church building, at least until my successor is appointed. Until s/he is licensed the day-to-day running of the Church will be in the hands of the Churchwardens, who can be contacted via churchwardens@terrierschurch.org.uk. Enquiries about christenings, weddings and funerals, about the times of services, or about booking either the church hall or the church building should be directed to the church office, which can be contacted on (01494) 462911 or via the parish website (www.terrierschurch.org.uk). Thanks to colleagues in other local churches and local retired clergy, the pattern of services at 10.00 a.m. on Sundays and Wednesdays will continue. Unfortunately it is not possible to say at this stage whether or not the early (8.00 a.m.) Communion services on Sunday will continue. Please keep an eye on the website for up-to-date information.

I have enjoyed my time here in High Wycombe, and would like to take this opportunity of thanking all who have contributed to the running of the local church during the past quarter-century, all who have supported events at St Francis during that time, from our Christmas Market to our children's concerts (at present, sadly, in abeyance), and those, of all faiths and of none, who have taught me more about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Thanks, too, to the regulars at St Francis for their patience at my occasional absences on diocesan business.

There have been moments of high drama: the "bomb plot" in 2006 and all that followed it, the discovery of what turned out to be a murder weapon in the Vicarage hedge while searching with the children for a lost ball. There have been moments of deep sadness: the sudden death (far too young) of Fr Michael Williams and the more recent departures of Carol Crofton, Val Jones and Paul Beniston, three faithful servants of God who died too early. In recent years there has been the joy of seeing the church building restored and its internal lay-out transformed – work which is still in progress – the challenge of finding my way around the new developments, at Kingshill Grange, Milton Place, and Kingswood Park, and the excitement of the first steps towards a partnership with a parish in Sweden. There have been fruitful encounters, with Catholic brothers and sisters at St Wulstan's and with Totteridge Baptist Church, with the Muslim Education Centre in Totteridge Drive and, more recently, with the mosque at Bowerdean Crossroads.

CHAMELEON SINGLES GROUP



We ended 2017 with our annual Christmas events in December and our pub night on the last Friday of the month. As in the past we held two dinners for the festive season, one at lunch time and an evening dinner dance at Hazlemere Golf Club. Both events were well attended and enjoyed by all. A few members even went to both so you can see good food is always a driver!

At the end of January we hold our AGM evening. This is very much an informal event held at the monthly pub night. We reviewed events over the past year to see which worked well and perhaps one or two that didn't for whatever reason. It was also a time to look forward to the New Year and get some ideas for our events over the spring and summer months. The ideas I am pleased to say flowed and it looks like we will have a full and varied programme over the next few months. Ideas included Horse Riding, Bowling, River Trips, Craft Fairs, a Farm Visit, Theatre and at home take-aways. Now how is that for variety which along with our regular events there is sure to be something for everyone.

Some events run monthly such as the Friday Lunch Club for which in February we went to the recently opened Spindle and Thread in High Wycombe. We are also regular visitors to Dusty's Blues Club in Holmer Green usually attending a live music event once a month. We also go to the theatre, cinema, comedy evenings, and various other events and trips out throughout the year. As the milder days of spring approach once again we will be doing more in the great outdoors with walks, trips and days out.

All our events are open to new members with the Pub Night a great place to meet up. You would be very welcome to come along and join on the last Friday of the month at The Crown, Amersham Road, Hazlemere from 7:30pm. There is food available if you wish to skip the cooking at home and many members take that opportunity!

If you are single, 40 – 60's, looking for a great social life and new friends then why not give us a try? There are no strangers at Chameleon, just new friends to be made. We have several local people from Totteridge, Terriers and surrounding areas and you would be very welcome too. To find out more call our membership secretaries Terrie on 01494 – 445816, Joyce on 01494 – 817895 or e-mail: info@chameleonsingles.org.uk. You can also visit us on-line at www.chameleonsingles.org.uk for more information or connect with us through Facebook.



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Your Community.....Your Organisations

Men in sheds

Men in sheds is a place where men of all ages can come along and take part in activities similar to what they would do either at home or in the garden but with the bonus of like minded men providing good company. A typical "Shed" provides materials, equipment and tools too.

NAG's (Neighbourhood Action Groups)

A NAG is an initiative set up to deal with key issues identified by the community. The group is co-ordinated locally by Thames Valley Police. Typically NAG's consist of residents including young people, district and parish Councillors, representatives from the business community, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and the local Policing team.

Scouts, Guides & Sports Clubs

There are several local groups and clubs you can join locally. All are run by volunteers for the benefit of young people although of course in the case of sports clubs there are those that cater for adults too. Some are local while others may involve travelling a little further across High Wycombe.

NHS Retirement Fellowship

The Wycombe branch meets on the second Wednesday of every month except August and December at Holmer Green Village Centre 2pm to 4pm. Annual Subscription is £15 plus £2 entry each month attended to include tea and biscuits. New members welcome. Joy Kay 01494 815209 / 07931 307598.

Nine O'clock Swim

A small friendly, enthusiastic but non-competitive group of swimmers. The group hires the pool at Woodrow High House Tuesday's and Friday's 9-10am. New members are welcome. For info e-mail: nineoclockswim@gmail.com

Seniors Social

If you are looking to meet other Seniors Social provides a day service in a fun and relaxed environment at Micklefield Community Centre. Sessions take place Monday to Thursday between 9:30am and 3:30pm. For more information call 07598 - 506492.