

## Coffee Morning



The Coffee Morning on 24<sup>th</sup> September raised £351.35. There were also demonstrations of flower arranging – and the chance to try for oneself. Here is Trixie Wraith with the arrangement she made.

## Back to Bucks

In order to accommodate holiday plans, the bellringers' annual outing was held a little later this year, on 15 October; nevertheless we managed to pick a reasonably warm and dry day.

Once again we visited some of the villages north of Aylesbury, starting at Quainton where we had a "lock-out" last year. Whether it was worth the wait is debateable, but for me it was interesting because last time I visited this church (in 1971) there were only 5 bells in the tower. There are now 8.

Our next church at Waddesdon, featured a very unusual ring of 6 steel bells. These are rather an acquired taste although they certainly sounded better than I remembered following a re-tuning by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in 1995. A little research shows that there are only 17 churches with steel bells in the world (16 in the UK) and at only 9 of these are the bells usable.

Nether Winchendon originally had bells in 1640, with two of them having been recast more recently including one which was recast by John Briant of Hertford in 1796. This tower, a ground floor ring of 5 bells, features an unusual cobbled stone floor which is also on a slight slope.

Time for a tea break and to meet fellow ringers from Bishops Stortford who were also on an outing in the same area and following us at Nether Winchendon while we moved on to our next tower, Dinton. Another unusual ring (6 bells), originally cast in 1682. The main unusual feature of this tower is that the bells are rung anti-clockwise. To explain: in most towers when ringing starts and the bells are in Rounds (descending scale), one observes the ringer to the right to determine when to pull. At Dinton, it is necessary to look to the left which caught out some of our party but is fairly quickly assimilated. Anti-clockwise rings are more common than steel bells; however, there are only 282 in the world (with all but 6 being in the UK).

The final tower of the day was Marsworth (6 bells), another fairly old ring, restored in 1995 by Taylors of Loughborough. These are rung from a balcony at the back of the church. The ringers here are to be congratulated for having used part of the old wood bell-frame to make the railing at the edge of the balcony.

As always we had the great pleasure of the company of friends old and new, and finished with a meal in *The Angler's Retreat* in Marsworth. Once again the organisation was in the hands of Jill Reeves and Andrew Case and we would like to thank them for all their efforts. We also thank the incumbents at the various churches where we rang as well as those fellow ringers who turned out to unlock doors and let us in.

*Alastair Stracey*

## Litter Pick

On a brighter than forecast Saturday morning in September, 13 members of All Saints turned out to remember Denise Dilley with a Litter Pick in her memory. As many of you know, Denise felt so strongly about the carelessly discarded litter in and around Hertford that she set up the Litter Pick Group last year and even successfully lobbied local businesses to clear up litter carelessly discarded on their property.



The Council requested that we blitz the Pinehurst Estate and we collected over 30 sacks of litter – mainly food wrappings, coffee cartons and drinks bottles! Several residents came out to say thank you and one, Nicola Gilbert, even delayed her shopping trip to help us. We were also very pleased to have Councillors Ruffles and Poole help with the litter pick. Mayor, Mrs Sally Newton, also came along to encourage us in our task.

Just 10 minutes before the remaining 6 people finished our litter pick a large black cloud deposited a heavy shower upon us. For a moment I could almost hear Denise egging it on!

*Janet Oldham*

## **Wanted: Small Shrubs or Flower Bulbs**

If you have any unwanted small shrubs or flower bulbs to spare, perhaps you would like to donate them to All Saints Churchyard. Briefly; we would like to fill up the flower border surrounding the West and North side of the Church, in order to leave less space for the weeds to grow!

We are also trying to organise a small group to keep this area tidy so, if you have just one hour per month spare, we would love to hear from you.

*Janet Oldham*

## **Quiz Evening**

Following the superb evening that so many of us enjoyed at the Harvest Supper, we have decided to brighten up the approach of winter with a Quiz Evening on 19<sup>th</sup> November in St John's Hall. There will be good food and fun for everybody, so put the date in your diary and see the Churchwardens for tickets. You can make up a table of 8, or join together with new friends on the night. The evening will start at 7pm and children will be most welcome.

## **Christmas Bazaar**

Our Christmas Bazaar will take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 10am until 2pm in St John's Hall. This is a great opportunity to reach out to the local community and we would ask you all to consider running a stall or a sideshow so that we can really fill the hall. If you have any novel ideas please feel free to talk them over with us, and encourage your friends to come along and support the family of All Saints.

Please help us to raise funds, and prepare for your Christmas celebrations. Donations of gifts, books, cakes, toiletries, tombola prizes, toys etc. will be most gratefully received and can be left at the back of the Church or given to the churchwardens. Refreshments and lunches will also be available.

Also coming soon, tickets will be on sale for a special All Saints' Christmas Grand Draw.

## **Christian Aid Walk 2012**

This is advance notice that next year's Christian Aid Walk will take place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

All Saints' will once again be manning the starting checkpoint at Chauncy School. Please put this date in your new diary and come and help us, walk or do both!

Thank you.

*Rosemary Bolton*