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## CHAPEL FACES UP TO CLOSURE CHALLENGE

Great Chishill's United Reform Church is making plans to respond to the threats posed by falling congregations and the loss of key supporters. After 40 years, Mike and Rosemary Livings, the church's long serving Secretary and Treasurer, are moving to Great Shelford. Organist Francis Collinge has also announced her retirement, and there are now real fears that the Chapel may not be sustainable.

### PROFILE

Angus Gent and Avril Gruselle, the current secretary and treasurer, have announced a drive to raise the profile of the Chapel and its schoolroom and garden. This year's Bluegrass concert and the Harvest Supper, says Angus "has made us realise the room is ideal for small parties of all ages, and it can be hired at a generous rate." In addition to the fortnightly services, which will be re-scheduled so as not to clash with services at St Swithun's, there are plans to introduce a library in the Schoolroom, and and to run a monthly supper evening. Other ideas film nights, music nights, exhibitions, talks and reflective services. Responding to concerns about safety, lighting at the entrance will be improved, and local people are encouraged to enjoy the tranquillity of the chapel's lovely garden, where many relatives of current villagers are buried.

### RESPECT

In a leaflet to all residents, Angus wrote: "Mike and Rosemary have given 40 years of devoted service, and as a matter of our huge respect we feel very strongly that it would be wrong to simply close the Chapel without exploring ways to increase the use of this most charming and useful building. It would be a real shame to lose it. If you have any ideas on how we can use this valuable space I would be delighted to hear from you".

## PUDSEY BEAR PAYS FLYING VISIT

Not long after breakfast (or before it for some of us) on 17 November Children in Need's flying rickshaw flashed through Great Chishill on the last day of its 470 mile route carrying Pudsey from Jedburgh to London. Piloted by six challenged young people, the Rickshaw Challenge has so far raised over £3.5m. While it would be untrue to say the village turned out en masse, Great Chishill still gave the brave riders a hearty welcome and added quite a few £££s to the total collected. The Newsletter's crack team of



### CHRISTMAS WREATHS

A choice of 6 different wreaths to order from Tess at [tessgent@gmail.com](mailto:tessgent@gmail.com)

01763 838941 / 07721398642

In aid of St Swithun's Church Appeal



## CRAFTS IN THE BARN

SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10am - 4pm

LYNCHETS FARM, NEW RD, GREAT CHISHILL

CRAFTS AND GIFTS MADE BY LOCAL CRAFTS PEOPLE

Teas and cakes, Hot Dogs

### CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE

Donations for the St Swithun's Restoration fund and the Windmill Fund.

Telephone: LINDSEY 01763 838897 for enquiries / Stalls.



expert photographers succeeded in capturing the shot above. We think that's Matt Baker on the bike, and Olivia from Edinburgh who is profoundly deaf, riding the rickshaw. You can still donate to Children in Need by going to [www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk](http://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk).

**BORN IN A STABLE**

Royston and District Choral Society's Christmas Concert in Royston Parish Church on December 17 at 7.30 will be a candlelit evening of family carols and choral favourites including works by Rutter, Britten, Joubert & Willcocks. Organist Michael Smith and J50 Brass will feature, under the baton of Royston's maestro, Andrew O'Brien. With mulled wine, mince pies, and audience participation, this concert promises a sensational start to Christmas.

Tickets £12 (concessions £9, school students £1) from:  
 ❖ Pop-up ticket office at Royston Parish Church Tuesday evenings 7.15-7.45; Choir members; Saffron Walden Tourist Information, or online – <http://bit.ly/RCSDec2016>

**Carols at Great Chishill**

Sunday 18 December, 6pm at St Swithun's  
*with mulled wine and mince pies*

**VILLAGERS TURN OUT FOR PARISH REMEMBRANCE**

Icknield Way Parish's annual Service of Remembrance took place on Sunday 13 November and was well

attended, with nearly 100 people filling the road at the war memorial. Great Chishill's ringers sounded half-muffled bells to summon villagers to the service, led by Simon Bailey, National Chaplain to Horseracing.



**Senior Citizens**

**Festive Tea**

**Great Chishill**

**Village Hall**

**Thursday 15**

**December**

**at 3.30pm**

**(No charge!)**

**Please contact Janet**

**838301 if you would**

**like to come**



Children's Christmas with fun & games from Stripey Wipey, party food and a very special visitor!

Sunday 11th December 3 - 5pm  
 Gt Chishill Village Hall

Free to all pre and primary school age children in Heydon, Gt & Lt Chishill. Book your place by 1st December with Emily 836257 or Islay 838194

The Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Stefan Butlin, starting and ending two minutes' silence at 11 o'clock. This remembrance was particularly poignant as the month marks the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, in which 4 young Great Chishill men died. Representatives from each parish read out the names of the fallen, and a service was then held in the village's Congregational Church. Members of the congregation enjoyed tea and cakes in the church Schoolroom after the service.

**VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CARDS**

There are still some packs of Great Chishill cards available. Contact Judy Saunders 838571.

**BIN COLLECTIONS**

	<u>Black</u>	<u>Blue &amp; Green</u>
DEC	2	
	9	16
	23	31 (Sat)

**FOUND** - a set of 3 keys, on 15 November at the crossroads. If you think they might be yours, please contact Sue on 838179.

**Women's Institute**

20 December 7.30pm

Village Hall

**Christmas Party**

(Hoping Santa will call!)

Visitors welcome! Call Angela 837353