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**Articles for the November/December 2021 edition (includes Christmas!) should be sent by October 20th**

**to the Editor at 92 Station Road, Tempsford.**

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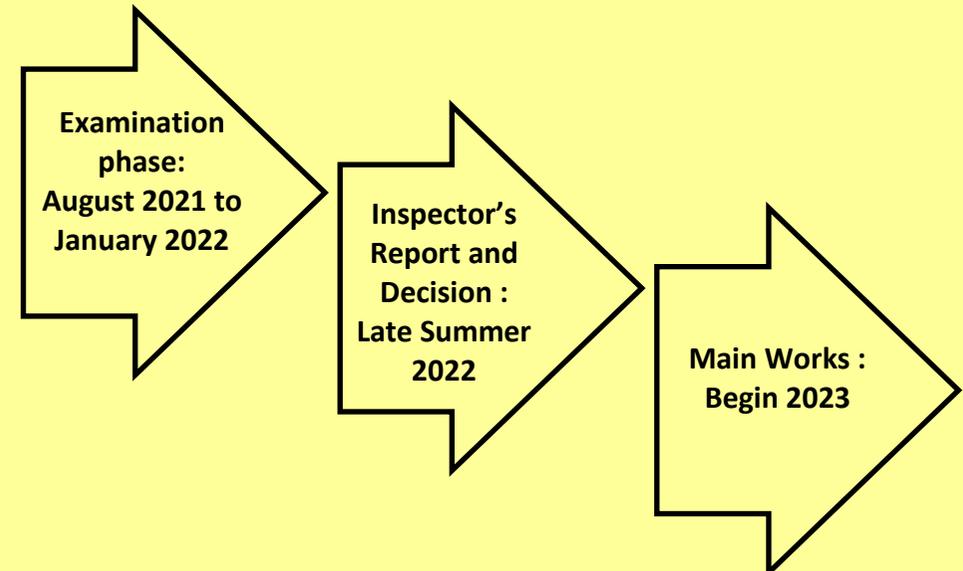
# TEMPSFORD TIMES

Issue 89  
Sept/October 2021

The village magazine of Tempsford, Bedfordshire  
[www.tempsford.org](http://www.tempsford.org)



## A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements : Next Steps



**MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 21**

## TEMPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

NAME	POSITION	ADDRESS	PHONE
Adrian Besant	Chairman	92 Station Road, Tempsford, SG19 2AY	01767 640873
David Sutton	V-Chairman	Gannock House, Church St. Tempsford SG19 2AN	01767 640419
Chris Bettles	Councillor	44 Church Street, Tempsford, SG19 2AN	01767 640194
Steve Cooney	Councillor	69 Station Road, Tempsford, SG19 2AX	01767 640968
Simon Fraser	Councillor	29 High St. Gt Barford, MK44 3JH	01234 871659
Tina Goddard	Councillor	42 Station Road, Tempsford SG19 2AX	01767 641053
<i>vacancy</i>			
Linda Collins	Clerk	69 Station Road, Tempsford, SG19 2AX	01767 640968

### CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE WARD COUNCILLORS

Contact details: Adam Zerny [adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk)  
Tracey Wye [traceywye@icloud.com](mailto:traceywye@icloud.com)

### THE SUNFLOWER STORY

Have a look through these pages and see how many sunflowers you can find, - they are just a few of the wonderful Sunflowers appearing throughout the village this summer. A big thank you to you all for joining in and sharing your pictures.

See how many more you can find!

“A LITTLE TASTE OF COMMUNITY LIFE”

*Elizabeth Knott*

## BIGGLESWADE SANDY LIONS CLUB (CIO)

Life seems to be returning to something approaching normal. We are now meeting face to face on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. The Second Vice District Governor Lesley Spence spoke to us about ROAR which asks children aged 7 to 11 years what would they change to make the world a better place? They work together in small teams to agree their project, make a model and present their findings to their peers who judge them. The winning team goes on to represent the school in regional and hopefully national finals. We have sponsored three schools in the area so wait for the results.

We will be at several fetes this year although only one looks definite which is Gamlingay Show on 18<sup>th</sup> September. I shall be on two stalls, Potton View Care Home and Lions. Someone suggested that I should have my face painted as half Lion and half Black Swan, so watch this space.

During lockdown we have been busy helping wherever we can. I have already mentioned ROAR but that is not the only project we have been doing. Message in a bottle and message in a wallet have continued apace as have the collection of spectacles. Please do remember to recycle your old spectacles at one of the points shown on our website [www.bsliions.org.uk](http://www.bsliions.org.uk). We have also made small donations to various local needs.

We would like to welcome you to one of our meetings on the first or third Wednesday of the month. So that we can make sure you are met and properly looked after I would suggest that you ring one of the numbers on our website which are 01462 814693 or 0345 833 9749. I hope to see some of you at one of the shows or fetes. Please do make yourself known to us.

John Bennewith  
Public Relations Officer  
Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club (CIO)



From  
VANESSA BIGGS  
Church End

## LOCAL MP MEETS TEMPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Richard Fuller, MP for North East Bedfordshire, visited Tempsford on Thursday 26th August to meet with the Parish Council. Discussions included the village's many concerns including the route and building of the East-West Rail, and the work in progress on the Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet extension to the A428.



Richard Fuller with the Chairman near the old station.  
(photo by Steve Cooney)

They visited Church End to show how the A1 divides the village, and then Station Road to view the proximity of the proposed railway and station. Discussion of the community life of the village, the amount and causes of the traffic in Station Road, and housing development within the area raised many questions.

Mr Fuller asked to see the area near the old station and he showed a concerned interest in its issues. He promised to look into the choices of route of the East-West Rail and its effect on Tempsford, and to meet again in Tempsford with residents at a public Parish Meeting.

# Sheldon

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## STUART MEMORIAL HALL

The Hall is now fully open and taking ongoing bookings. We will continue to provide the Hall in clean condition and it will be sanitised twice a week. However, the latest Government guidance puts the onus on hirers to ensure the safety of people attending their class/event. We will continue to provide hand sanitiser and wipes and we advise people to continue checking in with their mobile through the QR code on the door. We will also retain the Covid emergency kit in the kitchen. In order to keep the Hall Covid secure we strongly recommend following the steps outlined on our website on the 'Hire' page.

The Hall held its AGM on July 20<sup>th</sup> and it was disappointing that only two non-committee members attended. Tracy Hiron and Brian Harrison had retired from the Committee but were re-elected and Kay Quinn, who had been WI representative, was elected, along with Steve Ward. Laura Godfrey has now joined the Committee as a co-optee so we now have eight members. We are still allowed two more co-optees so anyone wishing to join us would be most welcome.

Kay Quinn is working with a small group to start a 'village club' with events which would be open to all. For more information on this, please refer to Kay's article elsewhere in this edition.

The Museum re-opened on 1<sup>st</sup> August and Steve Cooney and his team plan to be open on the first Sunday of every month going forward.

Unfortunately, Tempsford WI has now folded. This is a great shame because it has been a stalwart of the Hall for many years. I will not go into the reasons here but, suffice it to say that a number of other local WIs have folded too.

We are planning to install broadband in the Hall and have placed an order for installation of the equipment. This should not only be



### **AROUND THE VILLAGES**

It's good to see neighbouring areas tackling the restrictions and regulations imposed by the pandemic, and local events being organised once again .

#### **Blunham and District Gardening Club.**

The Gardening Club committee are pleased to say that the village hall is now open and meetings can resume starting on Tuesday 7th September at 7.30 pm. This will be a social evening where friends old and new can catch-up after such a long time. The speaker for the 5th October meeting will be Corrine Price talking about the History of the Swiss Gardens. Refreshments will be served at both meetings. Visitors are welcome. For any further information contact Brenda 01767 640623.

#### **Blunham Community Cinema, Village Hall MK33 NN.**

The committee are pleased to announce that the film nights will resume. **Friday 24th September.** This is a special evening with a **free glass of fizz** to celebrate. The opening film will be **'We bought a Zoo'** (PG) starring Matt Damon and Scarlett Johansson. The story is set in Southern California, as a father moves his young family to the countryside to renovate a struggling zoo.

**Friday 29th October 'Red'** (Cert 12A) starring Bruce Willis and Morgan Freeman. When his peaceful life is threatened by a high-tech assassin, former black-ops Agent Frank Moses reassembles his old team in a last ditch effort to survive and uncover his assailants.

Both films start promptly 7.30 pm doors open 7pm. **Entry by ticket only.** Adults £5.00. Children £3.00. Family (2A + 2C) £10.00. Sweets, Drinks, Ice cream and Pop-corn are available. For tickets or any further information contact 07783 046020. Covid guidelines may be in force.

The end of season 2020/2021 concluded with an awards evening to recognize the players' standout achievements.

The winners were:  
Craig Spindler as Clubman of the year;  
Cam Neale as both Player and Players' player of the year;  
Liam Watts as top scorer;

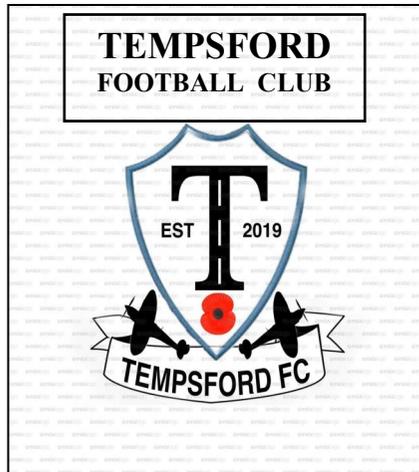
Conor Seaman for Goal of the season, and Chris Jenkins for most assists (the Kevin De Bruyne award).

Over the past few months we have been in pre-season training, and have played various friendlies to get us ready for the coming campaign.

We have had a mixed bag of results both for the 1st team and the reserves, but the important thing is that we are gelling as a group. Despite having two sides, we have a 'one club' mentality : consistently good performances from anyone in the reserves will be awarded with a promotion to the 1st team, and vice-versa.

The season will start proper in September, and fingers crossed it will actually end as it should this time around (third time lucky!). As always we encourage you to show your support by coming to watch one of our games, or by following us on social media.

Up the Tempsford!



useful for existing users but we hope that it might be attractive to businesses who might want to run 'off-site' days in the Hall. We will publicise it when everything is ready to go.

We very much hope now that it will not be necessary for the Government to impose further lockdowns or restrictions and that the Hall will remain open for the foreseeable future.

Brian Harrison, Chairman, Hall Committee

[b.harrison46@btinternet.com](mailto:b.harrison46@btinternet.com)  
[www.tempsford-stuart-memorial-village-hall.co.uk](http://www.tempsford-stuart-memorial-village-hall.co.uk)

### **St Peter's Harvest Festival**

It is our Harvest Festival on 26th September at 6pm, please join us for our celebration of all things Harvest, followed by a Harvest Supper.

### **ST PETER'S FLOODLIGHTS**

If you would like the flood lights put on for any occasion, the cost will be £10 per night, please contact Gloria on 01767 640050



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## CONGRATULATIONS

to Richard and  
Katy Infield  
on their marriage on  
17th July 2021  
at St Mary's Church,  
Everton

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

**@ Knotts of Tempsford**  
**Tingeys Farms, Station Road, SG19 2AY**

**Friday 24th September**  
**11am—2pm**

**Cakes and Raffle Donations Welcome**

## TEMPSFORD'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Tuesday 14th September 7.30pm  
at the Stuart Memorial Hall**

All members of the parish are invited to be part of Tempsford's Annual Parish Meeting being held on Tuesday September 14th at the Stuart Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

As a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, no Annual Parish Meeting was held in 2020, and only as restrictions have now been lifted, have we been able to arrange this year's meeting.

An Annual Parish Meeting is usually held to discuss the life of our parish, but we all know that because of the pandemic the usual activities and organisations have struggled to survive.

Thus the meeting will be a short occasion when we will be pleased to hear any plans you may have for recovery or new ideas for activities within the village, and any general ideas and comments.

The Parish Council will meet later the same evening in which it will carry out its usual business and discuss matters raised in the Annual Parish Meeting.

I look forward to a useful and encouraging meeting for us all.

*Adrian Besant  
Tempsford Parish Council Chairman*

## TEMPSFORD W.I.

Tempsford W.I. has decided to close. Mrs Sue Wooldridge was at the helm for 36 years. Without Sue we would never have survived. Was it Covid or had it just run its course we will never know! What I do know is we spent many, many happy evenings with very good speakers, cups of tea and fun and laughter making lovely memories for us all. Thank you Sue and all fellow committee members and members. Almost £800 has been sent to County should anyone wish to restart a W.I. in Tempsford. This will be held for three years.

*Betty Russell*

## WELL DONE!

Some of the older residents of Tempsford may remember Tessa Whittaker, neé Veazey who was born in the Police House in May 1961. She has celebrated her 60th birthday by walking the end-to-end trail from Land's End to John o' Groats with her husband Andy who is 62 years.



They started on April 18th and finished on July 14th doing 70 walking days and covering 1287 miles. Quite an achievement for 60 year olds!

*Pat Veazey*

# TEMPSFORD MEET-UP GROUP

A new community social club open to all adults  
Held Bi-Monthly in Stuart Memorial Hall

**INAUGURAL MEETING**  
**7pm, Saturday 30th October 2021**

**Halloween theme with free food & drinks**

Come along and see what we're all about.  
Let's connect and show our community some love  
Opportunity to sign up for different activities eg.

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Demonstrations.  
Some day-time

Laughter,  
good conver-  
sation,

Your ideas  
welcome

Reconnect with  
your community

**Do something different. Help make  
Tempsford a vibrant community. Get out of  
the house, join in & meet the village**  
Contact Kay: 07970 385354

## A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements - the Next Steps

The scheme entered the examination stage for its Development Consent Order (DCO) application on **Wednesday 18 August 2021**. This will last for 6 months.

You can follow the scheme throughout the examination period. All documents and submissions will be available to read on the Planning Inspectorate website.

The Planning Inspectorate has notified Highways England that **further hearings about the application will take place on 22, 23 and 24 September 2021**, as well as an accompanied site visit on **21 September 2021**.

Highways England looks forward to hearing from you. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to get in touch at [info@a428.co.uk](mailto:info@a428.co.uk) You can also find out more about the scheme by watching our new project video on the A428 [website](#).



strapped at the moment. Several of the other posts are rotten. Decided to remove the gate post and get new posts for the fencing. To contact fencing company. Some of the benches donated by Kier are not in good condition and should be taken away. **Children's Centre Service** – will be in Station Road – posters will be displayed in notice boards and on the website, also on Facebook.

**Cemetery:** The Clerk had sent the Biggleswade Town Council our cemetery fees for the audit. The rotten tree in the Churchyard has now been taken down and disposed of.

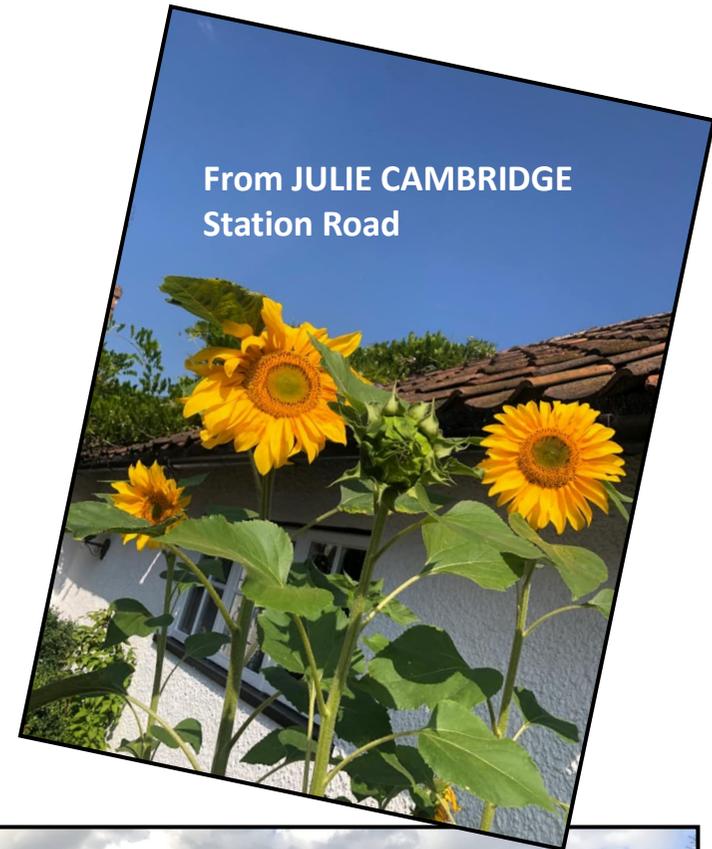
**Annual Parish Meeting/Village event:** The Council should have an Annual Parish Meeting – the decision was made to include it in the next Council meeting in September.

**Queens Jubilee Beacon** – Decision made to have a village event for everyone next June to combine it with the Queens Jubilee. Cllr. Sutton offered the beacon to be on his land.

**Festival at Anchor** – had been cancelled by Central Bedfordshire Council on safety grounds.

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 19.30 hrs., at the Stuart Memorial Hall.

*Linda Collins : Clerk to the Council*



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**Church Steward: Stephen Gosling,**

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Commissioner.

**Central Beds Councillors** – No CBC Councillor was present.

**East West Rail:** Cllr. Fraser wanted to explain about the Charity Field regarding it being in the area of EWR railway development. The public meeting organised by the Parish Council was held to view the EWR maps of proposed routes and it was a reasonable turnout. However, it does seem that CBC want the railway to follow the route that affects Tempsford, Roxton and Great Barford. This is mainly so they can build houses nearby. The villages could protest at CBC headquarters if anyone feels that they are willing to do so. Our MP has also protested against the route CBC want and asked EWR to come see what affect it would have on this area.

**Planning:** CB/21/02961/Full. Although Councillors were not opposed to the side extension, they were not happy with raising the height of the roof of the house as it would be out of keeping with area. As Cllr. Donnelly was our Planning Councillor we need to find someone to take that position to help and advise the Council. Clerk will ask JD for any notes he has from the planning course he attended.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** A written report from the N.P. Chairman read out. Another resident had sent an email to the N.P. Chairman, as people are wondering what is happening regarding the plan, there seems to be no progress and residents are concerned they have not been kept up to date.

**Finance:** Invoices were presented for payment and approved. Bank Reconciliation was reported by Clerk. Cllr. Fraser had attended a Finance course and felt it was useful. Cllr. Sutton also attended a new Councillor course.

**Playgrounds:** Church St. play area – The Clerk had arranged for a fencing company to quote for a higher fence to prevent footballs going into neighbouring gardens as they had been frequently lately. Councillors thought it was a lot of money to spend on this project. The solution decided after discussion was to move the goal post away and leave one goal post at the far end of the field. The football club had said that the posts were not standard posts for football, so could not be used in League sense. Station Road play area – the gatepost has rotted at ground level and is *continued over.....*

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES.

The following is a summary of the main points of discussion at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012. Full copies of the Minutes are available on the village website [www.tempsford.org](http://www.tempsford.org) or from the Clerk.

**Present:** - 5 Councillors. Clerk and 1 member of the public.

**Apologies:** Apology received from Cllr. Goddard as she has had to self-isolate.

**Declarations of Interest:** None were received.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Minutes of the virtual Annual Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> May were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Casual Vacancy process:** The Chairman recorded the resignation of Cllr. J. Donnelly and expressed the Council's appreciation and thanks for the work he had put in as Councillor and Vice Chairman for some of the time. Clerk explained the process that the Council would now take. As 10 names had not been presented to the Officer for an election a Notice of Co-option is to be posted on the Parish Notice Board and website etc. Applicants need to complete a form explaining their interest and experience and send it to the Clerk.

A Letter of Thanks was sent to James Donnelly expressing thanks from the Council for his work on the Council.

**Public Session:** A member of the public questioned the rabbit problem at Gannock Castle as he had received no replies from CBC. The Clerk had not either. She would chase them again. The resident asked if any grants would be distributed to the village this year. It was explained a grant could not be given just to finance the running of a club it had to be for something specific. The Football Club had been awarded a grant from another source, but this was to level the ground. It was pointed out that Church St. playing area is for all children not just to be used for football.

**Police Report:** The Chairman had as yet received no data information on the traffic movements in Station Road from the monitoring device erected by the police there. Cllr Goddard will join the PCC virtual meeting that is being held in September with the New

## WELCOME BACK TO THE TEMPSFORD MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

### EXHIBITIONS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2021

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5<sup>th</sup> 2021  
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#### **“OLD TEMPSFORD FAMILIES”**

A selection of previously unseen photographs  
Of Old Tempsford Families, which have been  
donated over the past few months

.....  
SUNDAY OCTOBER 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021  
2PM TILL 5PM

#### **“OLD NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES”**

A selection of newspaper cuttings from our  
museum newspaper archive, relating to Tempsford Village  
with articles spanning the past century or more

.....  
ALSO ON DISPLAY WILL BE VARIOUS PERMANENT  
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## **WILD TEMPSFORD – SPARROW SPECIAL**

GUY ANDERSON CONTINUES HIS SERIES OF NOTES ON THE WILDLIFE WE SEE AND CAN APPRECIATE IN OUR VILLAGE

Working from home in our Station Road house for the last 18 months has been made much more enjoyable by following the antics of our local House Sparrows outside the window.

### **Your classic ‘little brown bird’.**

Not spectacular, no gaudy plumage, no crests, plumes, tail streamers, or other feathery extravagance. But entertaining to watch. They are always up to stuff - investigating, poking about, seeing what’s edible and what’s not. Sparrows are clever – much smarter than your average Greenfinch. You can see them working things out, learning from each other. One finds something interesting to rummage around in, and soon they are joined by a gang, all sticking their beaks in.

### **They are also wary**

A soft musical trill alarm call from one and instantly they all go quiet and dive for cover. Vanishing into a hedge, like a shoal of tropical fish hiding almost the coral. Then you know a cat, sparrowhawk, or sometime just a scary human, is about.

Tempsford seems to suit House Sparrows well. Our garden has held up to 80 at any one time, but the true number of individuals coming and going must be much higher and into the hundreds. Putting out bird food certainly helps but I think the real key here is the mixed farming and varied garden, hedge and woodland habitats that surround our houses.



‘PCS’ an adult female House Sparrow. She was caught and fitted with a metal ring in our garden in June 2020. Caught again, and the PCS ring added in July this year. Where will she spend the winter, and will she survive to nest again next spring? You might be able to help me work it out.



Juvenile sparrows – recently fledged from a nest box on our house, snoozing while waiting for their next meal to be brought in by a busy parent.

Photos by Guy Anderson

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### **Just the right food**

Livestock farming in particular provides a nice range of tasty insects – the grassland, dung, and around the animals themselves. Sparrows need this protein-rich food to rear their chicks, as well as seeds to provide basic energy needs. Like us, they do best when a varied diet is available. We are lucky here, many areas in England – both rural and urban – have lost their sparrows. Often in places where that variety of land use had gone, and is now simplified to either all arable, or all dairy farming, or all urban space with little native greenery. Sparrows – and many of their avian relatives – like a mix.

### **Following what they do**

I am interested to follow the lives of some of our local sparrows, and as a licensed bird ringer, I am privileged enough to be able to do this. I have started to use special rings this summer which have engraved letters on them – see the photo of 'PCS' on page 17

Each bird has a unique code. With binoculars and a bit of patience, you can read the codes on the ring, especially if you have a conveniently placed bird feeder visible from a window. If you see one of these bird and manage to read the code (always 3 letters) I would love to know which bird, where and when. Please drop me an email ([guyqaa@gmail.com](mailto:guyqaa@gmail.com)). I wonder if any of the sparrows that visit our garden at the east end of Station Road ever get as far as Church End? That's quite a trek for a House Sparrow – they don't go in for long migrations. But I bet a few make it to the west side.

So keep an eye on your feeders over the autumn and winter and see who might turn up. It is much more fun than actually doing any work from home.

*Guy Anderson*

**ST PETER'S PARISH CHURCH,**  
Church Street, Tempsford  
Priest in Charge: Rev Graham Buckle  
The Rectory, Park Lane, Blunham  
01767 640412

### It's all God's Creation

Today I visited the 66th Roxton Flower Show, and what a wonderful array of flowers, vegetables and crafts it was. Among all the individual flowers and vegetables were the flower arrangements, cakes, desserts, preserves, paintings and photographs. In a small village there are so many talents, gifts and examples of hard work.

We don't always find out what our neighbours and members of our communities can do, and we might be surprised. Growing prize - winning flowers and vegetables takes hard work and skill, just as flower arranging, painting and photography require an artistic eye to see what is possible; angles and perspectives etc.

We have such beauty around us in God's creation, and although it was created in perfection, humankind has diminished its environment to the extent of placing some species into near extinction. By the same token we can enhance its beauty by our artistic gifts as they can be displayed in such a way that our appreciation can be increased.

Whichever way you like to enjoy the created world, it is important that we preserve it for future generations. We have been given such wonderful resources which feed and sustain us in our daily lives. Similarly, we have the God-given knowledge to find ways of preserving and resourcing the things we use for our daily way of life.

Some of the things we do not always celebrate are the gifts of knowledge, wisdom and thought. Some of these gifts have brought about the COVID vaccine which protects us in these current days, and hopefully in the days to come.

All of us are reliant in some way or another on the wonders of invention and creative thinking, and we must ensure that we give thanks to God for these as much as we do for the gift of resources in his creation. As we approach the time of Harvest Thanksgiving, may we include all of what God has given us; the seen and the unseen!

With Christian love  
Rev Graham

### NOTICES

St Peters Church Services in September and October 2021:  
please check "The Riversmeet Recorder" for service times and dates.

#### For Private Prayer:

St Peter's Church Tempsford will be open on Wednesdays from 10am till 11am for private prayer.

#### Days and times for the rest of the Benefice:

Blunham: Wednesday and Sunday afternoons: 2pm — 4pm

Gt Barford: Tuesday and Saturday afternoons: 2pm—3pm

Roxton: Monday and Friday afternoons: 2pm—3pm

Handwashing and sanitising facilities are in place in each of our church buildings, and all necessary precautions for social distancing have been taken in accordance with Government guidelines.