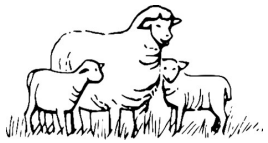
Campton & Chicksands Parish Council Newsletter

December 2026 / January 2027



Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 3rd December at 7pm and
Thursday 7th January at 7pm
in Campton Village Hall or via Zoom

C&C Good Neighbours
Starts Friday 4th December
See Page 2 for details

Coffee and Chat
Friday 4th December 10:30am - 12 noon and
Friday 8th January 10:30am - 12 noon
at All Saints Church, Campton



Bellringing at All Saints Church
Various Dates
See Page 7 for details

Welcome to the Campton & Chicksands Newsletter
published by the Parish Council
www.camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk
If you have any news or views you wish to share
please contact the Editor, Liz Bishop - details on back page

C&C Good Neighbours – Here to Help!

From **Friday, December 4th**, our new Good Neighbours group for Campton and Chicksands will be up and running!

We are here to help you, or someone you care about, whenever we can. Please call **07570 753 387** to see how we can help with everyday things, whether it's a lift to appointments or to the shops, walking the dog, feeding the cat, helping with small repairs, gardening, or simply popping in for a chat. We have a long list of what we can offer so just ask and we'll try.

So, please don't be shy about asking. You will know most of us anyway and we are happy to help out.

Our group is for **anyone** in Campton and Chicksands who could do with a friendly helping hand.

C&C Good Neighbours – Here to Help!

Dog Fouling Notice

Councillors have noticed an increase in dog fouling on the recreation ground. This is an area used both by a football team and also a considerable number of children after school, it is both inconsiderate, a risk to health and an environment pollutant.

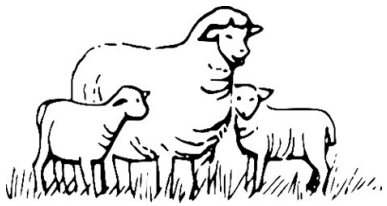
Dog faeces contain a mixture of bacteria, viruses and parasites that can easily be transferred to humans through direct contact or contact with soil. Children are particularly vulnerable as they often play in the areas where dogs walk. Dog faeces also have an environmental impact as it can end up contaminating soil and water and have an impact on pollution upsetting the ecosystems.

Dog owners have both a legal responsibility to clean up after their dog (you can be fined for not doing so) and a social responsibility to clean up after their pets to ensure everyone can enjoy the public space. As the recreation ground has a sports pitch it would be a shame if a small number of visitors who are responsible for this anti-social behaviour meant that the Parish Council had to consider a dog on lead only policy.

Please just clean up after your pet to ensure everyone can enjoy the space.

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council

The Parish Council (PC) held their most recent meeting on Thursday 5th November 2026. It doesn't seem possible that we are reaching the end of the year already. Can I take this opportunity to wish all of our residents and their families a very Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.



Ward Councillors were able to update Councillors with the below information:

BEST have put forward a proposal to change the intake at Samuel Whitbread School from being only year 9 to staggered over two intakes in year 7 and year 9 to accommodate children in both the two and three tier systems. The Campton intake will remain the same at 26 pupils; the mobile classrooms will be upgraded.

CBC have disagreed with Central Government changes to planning, alongside 5 other authorities, and have responded to Government on this basis. The monitoring officer is preparing a paper that will be presented to the Scrutiny Committee before Full Council outlining the response proposal. The PC have written to the Director of CBC outlining support. The DMC for November has been cancelled.

Devolution discussions are ongoing. CBC maintain that they would like to be grouped alongside Northampton regions to ensure there is a fair representation of rural areas within the group.

The last green waste collection is scheduled for 25th November 2026. There will then be no collections for 12 weeks until end of February 2027.

Works to the bridge at the River Hit will be delayed until possibly September 2027. CBC are awaiting confirmation from UKPN as to whether there are cables beneath the surface before works can be planned and then scheduled.

CBC Consultation for Call for Sites has now been completed and 30,000 responses were received; this is the highest response any Local Authority has received for a consultation. They will soon be going back out to consultation to decide on the criteria for choosing sites. We will keep you updated when we have more information and the timeframe is confirmed.

The gates to the Recreation Ground, the village bench and noticeboard in the centre of the Village have all recently been refurbished. We would like to thank the resident who volunteered and carried out the work for us.

C&C Parish Council cont.

The Local MP visited Campton recently. Between 40-43 residents attended the meeting, plus two from Hitchin and three from Shefford. The following issues were raised:

1. Increase in traffic in the area.
2. Concern about the traffic coming through the village due to diversions.
3. Concern over water supply in the future due to developments & Universal Studios
4. Concern over possible housing development in the village, particularly the 260 homes. MP said he would continue to oppose it. His view was that large developments were better, such as the Tempsford site. He blamed CBC for not progressing this development.
5. The state of some of our roads. Again, the MP blamed CBC saying Central Government had given them extra cash to solve this problem.
6. Various issues related to Universal Studios.
7. Hitchin resident wanted to know when people who travel to London would be able to use Oyster cards.
8. A Shefford resident raised the issue of self-build homes and how developers were not following the rules.
9. Cllr Booton raised the issue of local democracy and Local Councillors not being able to call in planning applications.

6600 poppies were hanging down from All Saints Church tower in Campton for Remembrance Day. The display contained all the names of the people from the Parish who died in conflicts since 1914. On Saturday 7th the church was open for visitors to see further poppy displays and information boards about those who lost their lives. In addition there was organ and piano music, bell ringing, raffle and refreshments were served. The Parish Council would like to thank all those who have helped in any way towards this wonderful achievement.

Just a reminder that it is that time of year again when hedges and trees that have grown well over the summer need cutting back. If you have trees and hedges on your land that run alongside footpaths, could you, please check if they are infringing on the pathways and if they are could you please cut them back? With so many parked cars in the village it is dangerous for those needing to use wheelchairs, scooters or pushchairs to walk in the road if the pathway is not clear.

Cllr Booton will be stepping down from his role on the Parish Council in April 2027. Cllr Booton has done a tremendous job as a Councillor and has really made his mark on the village for the benefit of the residents. He will be missed on the Parish Council and leave a huge space which Cllrs will try to fill. We will need to recruit a new Councillor at the May 2027 elections. If any of you would like to learn more about the role or would like to be considered please do get in touch.

C&C Parish Council cont.

Residents are welcome to join meetings via video link, please email the clerk with at least 24 hours' notice and a link will be sent to you. Meetings will continue on the first Thursday of the month during 2027, with the exception of May when the meeting will be on 13th May due to elections taking place.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Thursday 3rd December 2026, 7pm in the Campton Village Hall.

Clerk to the Parish Council, Tammy Medley

01908 505558 / 07955 521174 / clerk@camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk
https://camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk/



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DECEMBER WINNERS:

1st (£35) - No. 86 - J Turner
2nd (£25) - No. 114 - K Robinson
3rd (£15) - No. 158 - J Cook

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JANUARY WINNERS:

1st (£35) - No.85 - A Baker
2nd (£25) - No. 88 - K Donovan
3rd (£15) - No. 46 - J Loveless

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DECEMBER BONUS WINNER: - No. 43 - W Langley

Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club

It's that time of year again and who does not like a wreath for your door? At this time of year there is a lot of evergreen foliage with colourful berries to make a striking homemade creation, many of which can be found in your gardens and in local woodlands. A wreath represents a festive welcome to friends and family. It is believed that the circle represents the wheel of the year and reassures us that the darker days of winter will come to an end.

But don't just restrict yourself to wreaths when harvesting these winter ingredients, the same components can be used for stunning table centrepieces either in a bowl with a central pillar candle or as a living table runner, bringing the colour and vibrancy of nature indoors.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone on 4th January 2027 at 7:30pm at Campton Village Hall to pay your subscriptions for the coming year. I can also take payment per session.

P.S. Struggle to dispose of your Christmas tree? Use the recycling scheme operated by Sue Ryder with collections from your door for a small donation. Reserve your booking by 3rd January by emailing stjohns.events@sueryder.org

Maryika - Tel: 01462 851729

News from the Pews

Christmas often seems to come as a moment of respite from "real life". We sing and play the carols in churches, schools and supermarkets that transport us back to one night in the little town of Bethlehem, when stars shone brightly, and the angels sang as the Virgin Mary gave birth to a son and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

It is wonderful, in our hearts and minds, to go to Bethlehem to see the age-old promises of God fulfilled:

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Isaiah 7:14

To go in our hearts and minds to 'see' God come in flesh - to a chorus of Angels - to Mary and Joseph and the Shepherds and the Wise Men. And we imagine the miracle of his coming with bated breath, and reverent awe and wonder.
But the world around his coming had much in common with troubles and tensions of our own. He came to a world that needed… but did not necessarily welcome a saviour. We watch as he came to the innkeepers who had to shut the doors of their already full hotels and who missed the moment. He came to Herod, who received news of him with anger and murderous threats!

He came then - and He comes to us still - young or old, male or female, wealthy or poor - whoever we are - whatever language we speak - wherever we live in the world…

When I look around me, I thank God that "he loved the world so much that he sent his one and only Son." John 3:16. As we celebrate his coming, I hope and pray that we will all go into 2027 praying for the peace and justice of heaven to touch and to heal us and our troubled world. Wishing you a joy filled Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sunday 6th Dec	11.15am	Holy Communion. Advent 2
Sunday 13th Dec	11.15am	Morning Praise. Christingle Service
Sunday 20th Dec	11.15am	Holy Communion. Advent 4
Thursday 24th Dec	6pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
Friday 25th Dec	10.30am	Christmas Morning Communion
Sunday 27th Dec	10.30am	Holy Communion in St Michael's Shefford
Sunday 3rd Jan	11.15am	Holy Communion. Epiphany
Sunday 10th Jan	11.15am	Morning Praise
Sunday 17th Jan	11.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday 24th Jan	11.15am	Morning Praise
Sunday 31st Jan	10.30am	Benefice Communion in All Saints

Rector: The Revd Roni Goodman 01462 339962 / 07533 376880
The Rectory, Church Road, Meppershall, SG17 5NA ronigoodman@gmail.com
Website: https://churchofallsaintscampton.com/
Church Warden: Beth Sullivan Ash 07523 079507

News from the Tower

Remembrance weekend, with the Cascading Poppy Drape from All Saints church tower, was fantastic and Campton ringers rang for the start of the Saturday. We half-muffle the bells at Remembrance by using leather muffles tied on one side of each of the bell clappers. This produces alternate loud and soft sounds from the bells, giving a mournful effect in keeping with Remembrance. The muffles are fitted manually by Neil Francis - our thanks to him.

Our band of ringers is looking for new recruits, and we'd love to welcome you. Bellringing at All Saints is a part of parish life. New learners help keep this long-standing tradition thriving for future generations. You don't need musical experience - just curiosity and a willingness to try something new.

If you'd like to see what's involved get in touch and arrange to come along to one of our Tuesday night practices 7.30-9pm. You'll be very welcome. Contact me, John Loveless, on 07803 206161, or email jloveless5040@outlook.com

Visiting bands of ringers:

- Saturday Dec 5 - Peal, Coventry Diocesan Guild - 9.45am to 1.15pm approx
- Sunday Dec 13 - Beds Young Ringers practice - 2pm to 4.30pm approx
- Sunday Dec 27 - Peal, Cambridge area ringers - 1.45pm to 5.15pm approx
- Monday Jan 18 - Peal, Biggleswade area ringers - 9.45am to 1.15pm approx

What's On at Campton Village Hall

Monday: Yoga @ 9:30am with Rick (all abilities welcome, 07535 676319 or nunnrick071@gmail.com £10 for single credit or £50 for 6 credits over 8 weeks) and Taekwondo with Sam @ 6pm
1st Monday of the month: Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club @ 7:30pm
Monday/1st Tuesday: Bounce Fitness with Emma @ 7:30pm
Tuesday/Wednesday: Campton School of Dance lessons
Wednesday: Full Bottle Fitness with Tina @ 9:30am
1st Thursday of the month: Parish Council monthly meetings @ 7pm
Thursday: Bounce Fitness with Emma @ 6:30pm on Thursdays
Saturday: Even more Bounce Fitness with Emma @ 8:30am on Saturdays

Improvement of fire safety infrastructure by installing a new concrete path leading to the side fire exit which will enhance safe evacuation, particularly during wet conditions.

Please get in touch if you would like to hire the hall to host your event! One-off hire charges are from £13 per hour for residents of the parish.
Contact us at camptonvh@outlook.com

Campton and Chicksands Remembers



Thank you to everyone who gave their support on 7th November at All Saints Church, it was a tremendous turnout.



We raised £1207.19 for the Poppy Appeal and £414.61 for All Saints Church

A special thank you to all involved from making poppies, decorating All Saints Church, ringing bells, working on the history displays, setting up the event, making and serving refreshments, donating and running the raffle, and the clearing away at the end.

The biggest thank you is to Daria, who, without her vision, inspiration and drive this cascading drape of poppies would just be balls of wool. Thank you.



Items for the next Newsletter must be submitted to the Editor, Liz Bishop, no later than 15th January 2027 for the Feb 2027 edition
Email: candcnewsletter@gmail.com