

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES:

Methodists. Morning Service at 11 a.m.
Society of Friends. Meeting at 11 a.m.
Parish Church. 1st Sunday 8.30 Holy Communion
2nd & 3rd Sundays 10.30 Holy Communion
4th Sunday 3.30 Evensong.
Sunday School - weekly at 11.30 a.m.

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- 1st Upholstery Class - Village Hall.
2nd Candlemas. Holy Communion 7.30 p.m.
3rd P.T.A. Folk Evening 8 p.m.
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- 7th Friendship Club. 'A Year in Australia.'
Village Hall.
8th Upholstery Class.
Ash Wednesday - Holy Communion 7.30 p.m.
10th Holy Communion - 7.30 p.m.
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- 14th W.I. Mrs. T. Malcolm of Chipping Norton
Theatre.
Leo Club. Mrs. N. Marten - 'Save the
Children Fund.' 7.30 p.m. Friends Hall.
15th Upholstery Class.
17th Holy Communion 7.30 p.m.
Horticultural Society. Valentine's Dance.
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- 21st Friendship Club. Mrs. Wright on Kenya.
22nd Upholstery Class.
24th Holy Communion 7.30 p.m.
25th Ridgeway Theatre presents "RELATIVELY
SPEAKING."
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- 26th Parish A.G.M. after Evensong.
27th Leo Club. Guy Woolfenden. Friends' Hall
7.30 p.m. - 6 -

Received
30/1/78

SIBFORD

SCENE

NUMBER 11

FEBRUARY 1978

This month we have two accounts of Sibford from widely different points of view. One is a picture of the commercial life of the township in the 1880's, compiled from entries in a Kelly's Directory of the period shown us by Mr. Bill Johnson. The other is the work of a eight year old who has recently come to live here. What does she pick out but the friendliness and the focal points of the pond and the school? I wonder if a child ninety years ago would have mentioned just those same things.

Sadly, last month's appeal for help with the Youth Club has been fruitless, so the Club will have to remain closed until a suitable leader is found. Offers to Mrs. Joan Shields or any other member of the Management Committee.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING

The Village Hall Committee has been very fortunate in securing The Ridgeway Theatre, a touring company of players, to present Alan Ayckbourne's highly successful play, RELATIVELY SPEAKING, on Saturday, 25th February. Watch out for posters later, but book the date now.

CHURCH NOTES

Lent begins this month and there are a number of weekday services to note:-

2nd (Thursday) 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion for Candlemas.

8th Ash Wednesday. 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

10th, 17th & 24th (Fridays) 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

Sunday services will be as usual, but on the 26th there will be a shortened Evensong at 3.30 p.m., followed by the Annual General Meeting in the Village Hall.

TRAVELLERS' TALES

The Friendship Club is ranging far and wide this month. On February 7th they will be hearing from Dr. and Mrs. Agnew about their experiences in Australia. And then on the 21st they fly off to Africa, when Mrs. Wright will speak about her recent visit to Kenya.

THE LEO CLUB

February brings two distinguished speakers. On Tuesday, 14th, Mrs. Neil Marten will be speaking on the Save The Children Fund, and on Monday, 27th, Guy Woolfenden, musical director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, will be talking about his work. Both events are in the Friends' Hall at 7.30 p.m. and all ladies are warmly invited.

TINKER, TAILOR

The Sibfords in the 1880's boasted no less than thirty tradesmen and fifteen farmers, according to a Kelly's Directory of Oxfordshire of the period.

The entries make interesting reading, classifying the villages as 'townships,' and giving populations of 431 for Sibford Gower and 267 for the Ferris. To serve these communities there was an impressive array of craftsmen: a stone mason, a marble mason, a shoe maker, a fly proprietor, two shop-keepers, a baker, two machinists, two butchers, a plumber, three carpenters, two carriers, three blacksmiths, a tailor, a land-measurer, a hairdresser, a haulier, a beer retailer, a miller and Joseph Manning, who combined the arts of baker and carpenter. What size village would be needed to support such a variety of trades today?

Interestingly enough, the gentry who are listed seem mostly to have faded away, while many of the 'commercial' families still flourish. Names like Lamb, Poulton, Sabin, Manning, Payne and Woolgrove are no strangers.

Communications were not neglected either. Three carriers to Banbury were operating, all on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. From the Gower, Reubin Sabin would take you to The Fox, or John Harris to The Plough, while from Sibford Ferris, Henry Lines ran a service to The Waggon and Horses.

The post arrived at 9 a.m. in the Ferris and 9.15 in the Gower - but only on weekdays - and was dispatched at 4 p.m. & 4.15. Hardly different from today - and whatever happened to the Sunday post? In one respect we are much better off now: the nearest money order office was at Hook Norton!

A NEWCOMER TO SIBFORD

When I first came to Sibford I found that the village was much smaller than the previous village I lived in, which was in Lancashire.

I made some friends the day I moved in and the people are very friendly in the village.

I like to walk down to the duck pond to feed the ducks, and I like school because there is all exciting things to do, like woodwork, sewing and pictures.

Elizabeth Abbott (aged 8).

++++ WE'd like to hear the views of other children too. Why not let us know about the things you enjoy, or the things you most dislike? ++++

FOLK EVENING

The P.T.A. is putting on a Folk Evening with Cheese and Wine refreshments on Friday, 3rd March at 8 p.m. in the School. There will also be a raffle. Tickets will soon be available, and we do hope that you will support us.

The cost will be £1 per person. Come along for a very enjoyable evening.

VALENTINE'S DANCE

The Horticultural Society is holding a Valentine's Dance on Friday, 17th February. Tickets at £1.00 a head will soon be available from Committee Members.

W. I.

February seems to be Sibford's theatrical month. The W.I. on Tuesday, 14th, will be having a talk by Mrs. T. Malcolm of the Chipping Norton Theatre.

We are also reminded that there's an opportunity for ladies to be active on their own account at the Upholstery Classes to be held each Wednesday in February in the Village Hall.

SMALL ADS. CIRCULATE SIBFORD FOR A PENNY

A WORD

MAXIHIRE. Self-drive Austin Maxi hire at mini rates. Swalcliffe 522.

WANTED TO BUY. Old wash basin and jug set, or basin only (chipped acceptable) for use of elderly guest unable to manage stairs. J. Pye, Friends Cottage, Sibford Gower.

SIBFORD SCENE.

EDITOR. Jennifer Austing, 6, Barley Close. Tel. 358.

PRODUCTION. Jean Evans, Keith Hicks, Timothy Winbush.

Material for March issue by Monday, 20th February, please.

Many thanks to all those who answered our last appeal for delivery help.