

Martin's Christmas past

Have you ever wondered what Christmas must be like in a different part of the world? To find out, *The Bridge* went to speak to Martin Mwinyibakari, who is spending a year as a Careforce worker at St. Andrew's Histon. Martin comes from Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania.

Readers of *The Bridge* will be familiar with many aspects of a Tanzanian Christmas. The shops are very busy in the approach to Christmas, and food can become very expensive - as much as double the normal price. Christmas trees (both real and artificial) can be seen everywhere, decorated with sparkling lights. Gifts are exchanged, particularly when you visit someone, and the Christmas meal is the most important meal of the year. But don't expect turkey, stuffing and plum pudding. Christmas dinner in Tanzania is pilau rice mixed with spices, some people are able to afford chicken to go with it. After the meal it is traditional to go for a walk along the beach, dressed in your new clothes. In December it is the middle of summer, so it is pretty hot on the beach! Nevertheless you might have to run for cover as it is also the middle of the rainy season.



What of the church at Christmas? The church building is decorated and the Christmas morning service may last for up to three hours. There are specially prepared songs and people stand up to thank God for what He has done in their lives over the year. Tanzanians are very keen on hospitality and many families will invite others to join them for dinner. Martin says that in the 10 years he has been at his church he has only once been at home for Christmas dinner!

As we approach Christmas, Martin is wondering what Christmas will be like in Histon. What will he remember in years to come?

If you have any comments about 'The Bridge' please contact the Vicar or the Church Office (Tel. 232255)

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Histon and Impington Trek 2000

In the last edition of *The Bridge* we recommended HIT2000, a rare opportunity to walk across farmland not normally open to the public. *The Bridge* congratulates the



The Bridge congratulates the people who took part and the Histon and Impington Millennium Walk Group who organised this successful event. The full walk was 6.5 miles, taking some 2

hours for the fit (and longer for the less so, or for those who wanted to linger over the views). The majority of the walkers took their time chatting to old friends and catching up on village news. One lad ran the route in 50 minutes.

This great community get-together could not have taken place without the support of the local landowners, sponsorship by "Millennium Awards For All" and the months of work put in by the organising committee. The registration staff processed an average of one walker every six seconds (10% of the villages' population!). Twenty five marshals, plus ATC officers and cadets, safely guided the 670 walkers across open farmland.

One highlight for the walkers was the view afforded from the top of Barrow Hill across the fens to Ely and back towards Impington and Histon. The refreshment marquee proved a popular spot with all those who returned to the start, the vast majority of whom earned their gold star for completing the course. The Red Cross reported the odd blister to treat while the minibus patrol had an uneventful afternoon (once they located the "lost parent"). The Infant and Junior Schools used the Trek as a sponsored event and raised around £88 towards environmental projects.

The glorious weather helped make it a wonderful day that will be remembered with great pleasure by all who took part.



A fuller report with more pictures can be read on the Parish Council web site <http://www.camcnty.gov.uk/partners/parish/histimp/hit/hit2000.htm>

THE Bridge

FREE

News, Views, Comment from around Histon and Impington

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Christmas 2000

Brookside or Castaway?

While many parts of the country have been badly affected by the recent storms, in Histon and Impington we have not been cut off or flooded out. Older readers will remember the severe East Anglian storms of 1953 when Cottenham Road was flooded and the houses and pub opposite the Green were damaged.

Our whole community is encircled by water. One land drain comes from King's Hedges, around the Infant School, Baptist Church and War Memorial. The second comes from Mill Lane and Orchard Road. Both flow in culverts under Water Lane to The Green. As The Brook, they go beside the Kortens building, behind the Library, under the Church Halls, across Park Lane, past the Manor House and eventually into the old West River at Westwick.

Despite these two major land drains feeding The Brook, the increases in the flow of water have so far been within its capacity. South Cambs DC is responsible for maintaining 220 miles of drains, like these which protect our villages. Much of the time we take their services for granted, but last summer when hundreds of fish were killed by pollution we were glad of their help. By this spring the water had recovered and eels, pike and a family of swans are back in residence.

Most of the year we are fortunate that The Brook is the picturesque heart of our community.



Festive Torte



This is a great recipe to make for an informal group meal over Christmas. It will serve between 8-10 people and is best eaten warm, with a green salad.

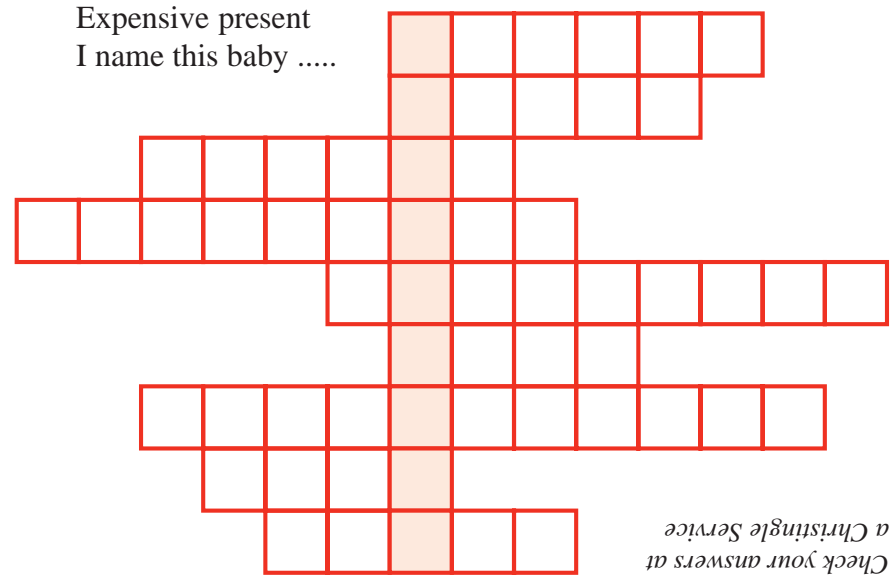
- Flan case:**
 10oz (225g) plain flour
 4oz (100g) butter/margarine
 1oz (25g) lard
Filling:
 2 medium onions
 1oz (25g) butter
 4oz (100g) white breadcrumbs
 1 tbs. dried parsley
 1lb (500g) minced pork
 4oz (100g) chopped streaky bacon
 1 egg
 6oz (150g) grated cheddar cheese
 one pack of puff pastry
 pepper and salt to taste

- Rub the fat into the flour and add sufficient cold water to bind to a smooth dough. Roll out the pastry and use to line a 10 inch flan dish. Place foil in the bottom and bake the pastry blind for about 10 mins at Gas 6 (400° F / 200° C). Remove the foil.
- Melt the butter in a pan and add the finely chopped onions and bacon, cook over a gentle heat until very soft. Stir in the breadcrumbs, parsley, beaten egg and seasoning.
- Season the minced pork and place in the base of the flan, then layer on the grated cheese and top with the onion and bacon stuffing.
- Roll out the puff pastry into a large circle slightly than the top of the flan. Lightly dampen the edge of the cooked pastry with cold water and lay on the puff pastry to form a lid. Seal the edges and trim off the excess. Brush the pie top with beaten egg and bake for 15 mins at Gas 7 (425° F / 210° C), then turn the oven down to Gas 3 (325° F / 170° C). Cook for a further 40-45 mins.

Puzzle Corner

Complete the following clues in order. Hidden in the answers is the audience to the first ever Christmas Concert.

- This room wasn't empty!
- Seasonal berry
- Not a cot but a ?
- Friendly face at the end of the journey
- After Advent
- Where the wise men left
- No such decorations for the baby's room
- Expensive present
- I name this baby



Check your answers at a Christmas Service

Give God your Christmas presence

The tutu was hung up on a peg in a corner. Left there ready for a TV personality to wear for the Christmas special. Though it was made to measure, it didn't look as if it would fit him. Outside the studio the Christmas trees were waiting to go on set and the other decorations were in boxes ready to be unpacked. Somehow it all looked out of place, after all it was the middle of July. We were there to watch a children's game show being made. After two weeks solid filming the series was nearly finished, two more shows and that was it. The last show to be recorded was the Christmas special. Hence Mark's tutu hanging in the dressing room!

In the shops all the magazines are appearing with their festive covers and inside the seasonal articles. All written months ago. The planning and preparation probably started just after Christmas last year. That's how the media works. It has to.

You and I don't have to plan so far ahead but nevertheless we do have to prepare. We have to think through what has to happen between now and the day, start buying presents, order the turkey, make lists and then... make more lists. If it's not planned, then more often than not, it won't happen. How many men fail to plan ahead and at the last moment rush out to buy something for their partner? Planning ahead is important.

So, this Christmas what are you planning? Are you thinking about coming to church? Maybe, if you can manage it or if you can fit it in? You need to plan it in like anything else. Write the dates and times down, plan other things around that and this Christmas give God your Christmas presence at St. Andrew's.

See you there! *Hugh M'Curdy*



Christmas Diary			
Histon			
Sun	Dec 17 th	10.30am	Nativity Play
		6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Sun	Dec 24 th	6.00pm	Christingle
		11.00pm	Midnight Communion
Mon	Dec 25 th	8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Christmas Spectacular
Impington			
Sun	Dec 10 th	4.00pm	Christingle Service
Sun	Dec 17 th	4.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
Sun	Dec 24 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
		11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Mon	Dec 25 th	9.30am	All Age Communion – A Service for all the family
Joint Event			
Sun	Dec 31 st	11.00pm	Village Lantern Procession

Mind the GAP



After Christmas GAP will be celebrating its first birthday. Not the shop in town, but God's Amazing People – the after school Christian club at Histon Junior School. Around 25-30 children meet there on Mondays to learn more about being a Christian. A whole range of activities take place including games, drama, stories, craft, puzzles and quizzes.

This term we have been learning about the books of the Bible; their names and how God speaks to us through the stories and events recorded. We have re-enacted battles from the book of Joshua, made instruments and sung songs from Psalms, played a board game based on the life of Esther, made scrolls with Old Testament verses, acted parables, discussed New Testament miracles and ...

The emphasis in the club is on learning through fun, using the noisy games and quiet thoughtful prayer. The children have an opportunity to understand how important a relationship with God can be to their lives.

Sparklers is a similar group for year 2 at the Infant School on Tuesdays, and many children who enjoyed Sparklers join GAP when they come to the Juniors.

Both groups are run by Christians from our local churches. For GAP information, call the Church Office (see details elsewhere in *The Bridge*).



Histon Feast

Histon Feast AGM
 Wednesday 24th January 8.00pm
 Recreation Ground Pavilion

Feast 2001 charity application forms call 232514.

Last chance to buy
"Photographic Memories of Histon and Impington"

compiled by Eleanor Whitehead for the Village Society. A unique souvenir which will not be re-printed. Price £8.99 from Histon Post Office, Jane's Frames or Derek Frost, 2 Pages Close.



