

BOLTERS FARM  
CHILSON  
CHIPPING NORTON  
OXFORDSHIRE  
OX7 3HU



## **NEWS FROM SHORTHAMPTON & CHILSON JANUARY 2016**

My dog (Teabag) and I make an almost daily pilgrimage to Shorthampton from Chilson (3,750 steps!) and this year, as part of the 'Living Churchyard' initiative, I am keeping a monthly record of what is actually growing at Shorthampton. Today, 24<sup>th</sup> January - the big clumps of snowdrops at both ends of the churchyard are just beginning to come into their own. There is also an abundance of naturalised primroses and the old winter cherry is also attempting to flower, though these trees do not seem to have a long shelf life in this area. The Ashes Garden stones are now installed at the lower end of the churchyard and look very appropriate for such a rural setting. Back in the autumn we had a Churchyard tidying day, when quite a few ancient graves were completely re-discovered by a small, but mighty, team of volunteers. Hopefully this might become an annual occurrence. Some of the heavier work involving a chain-saw will be undertaken by a tree surgeon in the next month or so.

Throughout all this wet weather, we have been keeping an eye on the roof at All Saints, thinking we had got away with it, until the recent spate of heavy rain when once again, the tell-tale signs began to show up above the 'Doom' painting. By the time this letter goes out, both the architect and roofers will have tried to source the leak. We hope the solution is as simple as a new piece of flashing and that the money we raised through selling Christmas cards of The Madonna of the Clay Birds will go some way towards covering the cost.

The track to Chilson is still pretty good and if you are passing, the LES CROSS memorial stone has been installed up by the village noticeboard. For those of you who didn't know him, he built and re-built nearly all the walls around here!

Amanda Cooper (and Teabag)