

## Bishop Colin Visits Fifield

When a Bishop comes to the United Benefice it is usually for the induction of a vicar or a confirmation service at one of the large churches; so when Bishop Colin readily accepted an invitation to return to Fifield with



well as the choir - in excellent voice - and the church was almost bursting at the seams. The six Churchwardens (two from each parish) were there with their ceremonial staves - a relic of the days when a bishop might need protection - and

Idbury, the smallest of the three parishes, it was, we felt, a definite honour. St. John the Baptist's Church, Fifield was chosen and, as no-one can remember when the church was quite so privileged, members of the Fifield congregation accepted the challenge with enthusiasm. The pews and brass had an extra polish, and the ladies who do the flowers excelled themselves, choosing colours which would complement the Bishop's vestments. The small regular congregation from the two villages was joined by members of the Shipton and Milton congregations, as

Bishop Colin, in spectacular gold cope and mitre, was guided to his place in the Chancel.

As well as taking the service, the Bishop also blessed and re-dedicated the recently restored windows and in his sermon stressed the importance of maintaining the fabric of the building not just for the present but for whatever need it might fulfil in the future. Afterwards he mingled with the congregation.

It was a day that will long be remembered in Fifield.

**Pat Yaxley**

## Don't Forget St Mary's Church Fete!

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August**, noon onwards on **Shipton Village Green**

A Noah's Ark theme, there will be an animal mural to be coloured in by the children. Many stalls on the village green, food and drink and a wide variety of children's games. In the church there will also be continuous music, exhibitions, children's quizzes, trips up the tower, tea and cakes.

If you have any books you can contribute to the book stall please leave them, preferably in boxes, in the garage of Salisbury Place, Church Street, Shipton (first house on the left going towards Shipton church) Thanks!

## Stop Press: Shipton Cricket Success

In the npower Village Championship National Round 2 on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July, Shipton beat Wembdon by 133 runs. Wembdon won the toss and chose to bowl. Shipton got 272 from five wickets, with Steve Bates making 93. In reply, Wembdon were all out for 139 with Paul Hemming taking five wickets. Shipton are now into the quarter-finals.