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PARISH LINK

Serving the villages of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade for 37 years





Revd. Nicola Lenthall
The Vicarage
Clayhall Road
Kensworth
LU6 3RF

Tel: (01582) 872223

Dear friends and parishioners

“Don’t look, Mum!” cried my twelve year old daughter while driving through Dunstable. Of course, I looked – is there any mum who wouldn’t? – only to see a giant advertisement with the words ‘Christmas is here!’ and three very Christmassy coffee-related drinks which are now available at our local ... (fill in the gap).

“I told you not to look,” said the daughter, who has to manage a bit of an all-thing-Christmas-related embargo from October on in the Vicarage; where Christmas is planned, both practically and in terms of extra services, months in advance, and then laid down again until we are well through Advent.

But it got me thinking. I could argue, that given that I am writing this on November 11th, Christmas is manifestly not here; that if we are bombarded with all-things-Christmas wherever we go for the next forty-four days, then we will all be fed up by the time it gets here.

On the other hand, the advertisement got it more right than perhaps they know, or I grumpily and initially suspected. Christmas is here; it is always here, because in it we celebrate the birth of Jesus, which carries God’s promise that he will always be with us – through joy, sorrow, celebration, pain, our struggles and our delights, through the weeks and months we are grieving, or in the moments of overwhelming happiness, expected or unexpected – in fact through everything which life throws at us, God is with us. And he knows what it feels like, because he is human.

That is the message of Christmas. So maybe we should all ‘look’, and discover, that whatever the time of year, God is with us. Christmas is here.

With my love and prayers for a happy Christmas and a blessed New Year for all of you,

Nicola Lenthall

KENSWORTH CHURCH PRAYERS: in December our special prayers will be for everyone associated with Kensworth School, and all families and carers. In January our prayers will be for the residents of Poplar Road, Maple Way, Green Lane and Elmside. If you would like a particular prayer to be said, please contact Dorothy Blackburn (872670).

KENSWORTH PARISH CHURCH: 1st December, the first Sunday in Advent, will be celebrated in a joint event by the North Chilterns Group of Churches. This will take place in St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray, at 6pm, and is a performance by the Linslade Singers of Part 1 of Handel's Messiah and Rutter's Magnificat. Entrance is £12.50. If you would like to attend, but find it too costly, please contact Nicola (872223).

Our regular celebrations of Christingle, the Carol Service and the Crib Service will be part of our Advent path to the joyful celebration of Christmas (details on page 16). Midnight Mass will be held in St Mary's, Studham this year and there will be no service in St Mary's, Kensworth. The church will be decorated on the mornings of Friday 13th and Saturday 14th. If you would like to help, please contact Penny Brown (603837) for details.

If you are interested in carol singing in the village, contact Jim Putterill (872436).

In January the Church celebrates Epiphany, or the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus, on the 6th.

Choir News: the choir practises on Fridays, 6pm – 7pm in the Church in December, and in the Church Hall, Clayhall Road in January. There will be the Christmas Carol Service at 4pm on 15th December. The choir will be joining the Three Villages Choir for Midnight Mass at St Mary's, Studham. If you would like to join, please contact Mike Palmer (524183 or medpalmer@gmail.com), or Nicola (872223 or revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com). We also welcome instrumental players to help accompany us on occasions.

Sunday School: the Christingle Service will be held on 8th December, and the Crib Service will take place on Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December at 3pm. All ages welcome! The January Sunday Schools will be held on 12th (for all young people), when they will learn about the Baptism of Christ, and on the 26th there will be a Family Communion, led by Nicola.

If you would like your child to join Sunday School, or if you want to be a helper, please contact Katherine Huggins (607841) for details.

Messy Church: there is no Messy Church in January. The next one will be on Friday 14th February 2020. More details in the February issue.

AROUND ABOUT STUDHAM

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Church prayers: In our cycle of prayers, in December we shall be praying especially for our Studham Church of England Village School – for all the staff and for the children and their families – and in January for all the residents of Woodland Rise. If you would like a particular prayer to be said, perhaps for a special person or event, please contact the Churchwarden, Meg Bender (872967 or meg.bender4@btinternet.com).

This year's **Christingle Service** is on Sunday 15th December at 10.30am. Thanks to the children of Studham Village School, who have once again kindly agreed to assemble the Christingles. There will be a Christingle orange for everyone and we shall light the candles to remind us that God is ever-present as the light of the world. The collection will be donated to the Children's Society, to support their important work with vulnerable children. Everyone is warmly invited to share in this joyful, family-friendly service, and to stay afterwards for refreshments and the celebration of all the December birthdays.

Our **Christmas Eve Carol Service** on 24th December is at 4.30pm and with preparations for the festive period now complete, it will be an enjoyable opportunity to hear the Christmas message through traditional readings and carols. Christmas Day will be welcomed in with a celebration of Midnight Mass at 11.15pm on 24th December, this year at Studham.

The first **Children's Church** of the New Year takes place on Sunday 19th January at 10.30am. The children and young people will be thinking about the day's Gospel reading from St. John, which calls us to love God and to tell other people about Him. After the service, everyone is very welcome to stay for refreshments and the celebration of the January birthdays.

Advance Notice: the church's **Annual Wine Evening** is planned for Saturday 28th March 2020, 7.30pm at Studham Village Hall. Please put the date on your calendar. More details will follow in the New Year.

RED LION QUIZZES



Tuesday 3rd December and Tuesday 7th January.

Quizzes in the Red Lion are on the first Tuesday in the month, starting at 8pm. All proceeds go to the Village Hall. Why not put in a team? It is a great night and only £3 a head entry. There is a raffle and food is available – but remember if you want the curry – you need to order (call Garry Ellis on 872530)! Rounds remain the same as usual and

for those who like to “swot up”, Alphabet for December is G, January H, and Music for December is M, January N! Good luck and see you there!

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LUNCH is on 5th December at 12.30pm. It is a ticket-only event – please contact Isobel Randall (872552) to see if any tickets have been returned.

The **January Village Lunch** is on Thursday 9th January at 12.30pm in the Village Hall. Come along to celebrate the New Year! Enjoy a two-course meal and coffee or tea for £6. The menu will be: roast pork with apple sauce, lamb hot pot, huntsman's chicken or breaded fillets of sole, with a choice of pudding and tea or coffee to follow. All for £6. Offers of help to Isobel Randall (872552) or Pam Ward (872406).

CAROL SINGING round the Park Homes will take place on Wednesday 11th December from 6.30pm – meet at the entrance. Volunteers of all ages are very welcome. Also join us in singing carols round the village on Tuesday 17th December – meet at Chapel Farm at 7pm. The collections will go to the Children's Society. If you can't come along to sing, feel free to join in with the carol sung at your door! Further details from Pam Ward (872406).



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE in the church on Sunday 16th December at 9am. Everyone, especially children, are welcome to come along to examine your orange, light its candle and sing the Christingle songs. Funds raised from the collection go to the Children's Society.

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

The church will be decorated for Christmas on Saturday 21st December at 9.30am. All are welcome to help decorate the Christmas tree, or arrange the flowers, or set up the nativity scene. Contact Anne Weir (873425).

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: the Annual Carol Service at 6pm on Christmas Eve is the traditional nine lessons and carols, together with handbell ringing, readings and distribution of gifts and light refreshments. At 9.30am on Christmas Day we welcome people from all three parishes and beyond to celebrate the birth of Christ.

CHURCH PRAYERS

Our prayers in December and January are especially for the people connected with Studham School – children, staff, parents and governors. If you have any personal prayer requests, contact the Rector or write them on the Church prayer tree.

NEW YEAR'S EVE: Whipsnade bellringers will be ringing out the old year and ringing in the new at midnight. Why not come and join us and listen for the bells?

WHIPNADE EXTRA AND CHRISTMAS SNIPPETS

WHIPNADE VILLAGE HALL

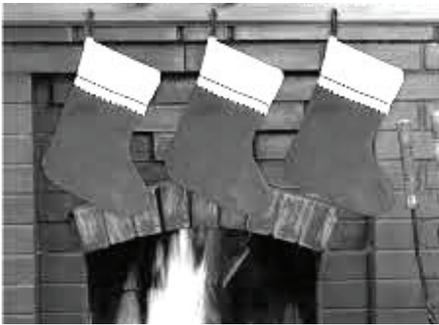
On Sunday 1st December, our **Christmas Craft Fair**, 10.30am – 3.30pm. Craft stalls stocked with locally made gifts and original Christmas accessories – wooden, knitted, beauty – as well as jewellery, handbags, Christmas cards, wrap, decorations etc. Light refreshments will be available and the Christmas Draw will be made. Everyone welcome. Proceeds towards Whipsnade Village Hall Maintenance Fund. Further details from Carole Chant (873417).

WHIPNADE GREEN

Scrub clearance continues on Sundays 8th December and 12th January from 10.30am. We meet on The Green near Dell Farm. More helpers are most welcome to clear the scrub and have a big bonfire! Bring your picnic, soup provided. More information from Charles Frost (871417).

* * * * *

WHERE DO CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS COME FROM?



No one is really sure, but a story is told of St Nicholas, a bishop who lived in the 4th century, who may have started the custom by accident. St Nicholas was from a wealthy family, and of a generous heart. As Christmas approached one year, he wanted to help a poor family whom he knew, but he did not want them to know it was him. So he climbed up on their roof on Christmas Eve and dropped some coins down the chimney.

The next morning the coins, to the great surprise of the family, were found in the stockings of the ladies, who had hung them to dry by the fire the night before. Every year after that they put their stockings out, in the hope that some more money would fall into them. They told the story of this amazing appearance to their friends and neighbours, and the custom caught on.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Ever wondered where many of our Christmas traditions come from? A surprising amount of our modern Christmas celebrations can be traced back to the well-loved story of 'A Christmas Carol', by Charles Dickens.

So, for instance, in 'A Christmas Carol', Christmas is a family day, with a family-centred feast. In a home decorated with holly and candles, the characters enjoy a roast turkey, followed by Christmas pudding. They give their loved ones presents.

And all the while outside, there is snow and frost, while church bells ring, and carol singers sing, and hope for mulled wine. In 'A Christmas Carol' there is even a Father Christmas – in the shape of the ghost of Christmas Present.

STUDHAM EXTRA

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH



We are a friendly village group, with the aim of playing a small part in preserving our village heritage by raising money for the maintenance of Studham's oldest building.

Many thanks to those who supported our **Call My Bluff wine evening** in November, especially to bluffers, Denis Davison, Isobel Randall and Frank Alston. We enjoyed a very lively evening's entertainment and almost £600 was raised.

Also helping to raise money is our **100 Club** – Gerry Blackburn and Anne Spriggs were the lucky November winners.

The **AGM** of The Friends of Studham Church will be held on Thursday 9th January in the Church starting at 7.30pm. Your support will be much appreciated and rewarded with a glass of wine!

To find out more about the Friends, the AGM, or to join the 100 Club, please contact John McDougal (e-mail john.mcdougal@btinternet.com or call 873257).

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON

As the days become shorter and Autumn turns into Winter, it means there will be no work party during the month of December; just the very best and warmest wishes to all over the coming Christmas and New Year period.

The first work party in the New Year will be on Saturday 18th January. All are welcome; no better way to start the New Year!

On East Common, we will be trimming the laid hedge on the southern boundary to ensure that the hedgerow will eventually form a continuous dense habitat for nesting birds, and a corridor for other animals. We will also trim a 1-metre wide strip along the north side of the concrete track as a means of preventing the bushes intruding on to the road, which forces vehicles to drive on the opposite verge.

Please come and help out – especially as good exercise will help to remove any extra weight gained during the Christmas holiday period! All tools will be provided, as will lunch. We meet at the War Memorial on West Common, opposite the Red Lion at 10am.

For further information, please contact Denis Davison (872650 or e-mail denis@den-jen.co.uk).

LOCAL NEWS

FIFTY YEARS OF MUSIC-MAKING IN KENSWORTH

In 1969, Sunday School was run by Margaret Putterill, Dorothy Blackburn, Pat Culley and Penny Brown in Kensworth School Hall. It was attended by around forty enthusiastic children, but the music was not great! Jim Putterill was asked to help. His Salvation Army background meant that he was used to conducting choirs and overseeing musical activities of all types. Under his watchful eye – and baton – music began to thrive as never before. Carol services, carol singing, pantomimes, music halls, concerts – so much fun! Something the village had never seen before.



The pantomimes became a yearly event, which – starting with Dick Whittington, written and produced by Jim – performed to sell-out crowds. The huge cast (including a very pregnant Margaret as Dick Whittington's cat!) was dressed by Dorothy and Polly, and many others assisted with lighting, props, ticket selling and Front of House.

Jim started the church choir with a group of children – mostly his own and their friends. As they grew up and left the village, others joined, so the choir has continued up to this day. Music enhances every aspect of the Church year and an impressive library of church music has built up. The choir sang in the Church of St James, Garlickhythe, in the City of London, every year for many years, and has performed in many other venues, including St Albans Abbey. Many budding pianists and organists have gained confidence under Jim's guidance. Some names still resound around the ancient walls – hard to realise they are no longer with us: John Maynard, Mark Holland, Heather Edwards, Tony Brook, Gwyneth and Gillian Ford. Many others still serve the church in their music-making. Jim's unstinting and tireless work has brought so much to the village over the last fifty years and the village is truly grateful. Thank you, Jim!

PARISH LINK AGM

Come along to Kensworth Church Hall on Saturday 1st February for the AGM of the Link magazine. Meet the team, share your views and have a cuppa. 10am.

LUTON AIRPORT CONSULTATION

It's the last chance to have your say on proposals to build a new second terminal at the airport – the consultation closes on 16th December.

Visit www.futureluton.llal.org.uk.

OLDEST ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE

Did you know that it is a family in Wiltshire, the Parkers, who claim to own the world's oldest artificial Christmas tree? It was bought in 1886, and it is still put up every year!

COMMUNITY NEWS

FOODBANK

Please remember those less fortunate than ourselves over the festive period. The Foodbank particularly needs tinned food – soup, meat, vegetables, fruit – and long-life milk, puddings and fruit juice. Donations can be left in any of the churches, the major supermarkets or contact Nicola (872223).



From Mike Pittam

We are very grateful to all our supporters and donors who helped us to surmount the crisis in food supply in the middle of the year. We remain very busy, and harvest donations have helped replenish our stocks. We anticipate that our workload will increase in the New Year.

We are currently looking for volunteers to work in the warehouse on Monday afternoons or evenings and to support a van round of the major supermarkets on Friday evenings. Our Warehouse Manager will need to retire shortly on grounds of ill-health, and we are therefore looking for an active, enthusiastic, possibly recently retired, person to take on the management of our warehouse.

Please continue with your generous donations, and if you are interested in any of the above volunteering opportunities, please contact me (info@dunstablefoodbank.org.uk or on 07874 200056).

BIN COLLECTIONS

You should have received a leaflet about refuse collections over the Christmas and New Year period. Please recycle all your Christmas cards, wrapping paper and cardboard packaging. Don't forget you can recycle your reusable textiles, small electrical appliances and household batteries separately. For more details, or if you have mislaid your leaflet, please visit: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/recycling. Garden waste collection (green bins) will be suspended between Monday 9th December and Friday 28th February inclusive.

2019 POPPY APPEAL

Very many thanks to the collectors and everyone for their generosity to the Remembrance appeal. We have recently been notified that the three villages raised £4,650 in 2018, including gift aid. Over the last 10 years we have raised over £39,000 for the Poppy Appeal – a brilliant total for our small communities, thank you. The 2018 national total was over £50,000,000; a great effort.



(photo of Studham Act of Remembrance courtesy of Bill Bowman)

CHURCH NEWS 1

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes will be starting in January for a confirmation service in the North Chilterns Group in June. If anyone is interested in being confirmed, or finding out more about it, they should contact the Revd. Nicola Lenthall (01582 872223 or revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com).

BEREAVEMENT CAROL SERVICE

For those who have been bereaved, either recently, or in years past, Christmas can be a very difficult time for a number of reasons, so this year the churches are again organising a quiet carol service, '**Light out of Darkness**', with a chance to light a candle and have some remembering time. This is on Sunday 8th December at 2pm at St. Mary's Kensworth, followed by light refreshments.

NORTH CHILTERNERS GROUP

NCG representatives are: Derek Spriggs (Studham, 873468), Dorothy Blackburn (Kensworth 872670), Deirdre Brook (Kensworth, 01525 852557), Isobel Randall (Whipsnade, 872552) and Bola Fola-Caleb (Whipsnade, 07733 223988).

The annual **Talking Point**, held on 17th October, was a huge success this year. Two fascinating speakers, Dr Max Baker-Hytch and Dr Calum Miller, from the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics, showed archaeological and documentary evidence from the time of Christ. The general comment was, "Can they come again?"

Handel's "Messiah" will be performed on 1st December at 6pm in St Mary's church, Eaton Bray, as part of the church's 800th anniversary celebrations. Tickets are £12.50. See your NCG representative for more details or to book a seat.

We are hoping to organise next year's **NCG outing** to Coventry – this will be a one-day trip on Saturday 6th June. Book the date now – more details to follow.

FOLLOW THE STAR

Based on the success of #FollowTheStar in 2018, the Diocese of St Albans has announced that the national Advent and Christmas campaign will continue with #FollowTheStar in 2019 and 2020! Sign up on the Diocesan website.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Baptism	3 rd November	Freddie Chilcot	Kensworth
R.I.P.	26 th October	John Aldridge	Kensworth
	31 st October	Phyllis Smith	formerly of Studham
	4 th November	Victor Hall	Whipsnade
	5 th November	Carol Horton	Studham

CHURCH NEWS 2

STUDHAM METHODIST CHURCH

December:

Sunday 8 th	10am	Mr Len Fowler	
Sunday 22 nd	3pm	Rev. Stuart Dyer	Carol Service
Wednesday 25 th	9.30am	Miss Linda Hillier	

January:

Sunday 12 th	10am	Mr John Farrow	
Sunday 26 th	10am	Rev. Stuart Dyer	Covenant Service Jointly with St Mary's, Studham

We welcome you to any of the above services. Please note the change of time from 10am to 3pm on Sunday 22nd – because we are not holding the Christmas Tree Festival this year, there will not be as many trees, but there will be at least one! Our Christmas Morning Service is also open to all ages (and we are happy for children to bring a present that they cannot be parted from!).

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

All services are at 10.30am:

December:

1 st	United Service led by Mr Shepherd Kombo. All welcome. Refreshments
8 th	Holy Communion led by the Reverend Wallace Edwards
15 th	United Service at Edlesborough led by Rev. Nigel Bibbings
22 nd	Worship led by Mr Peter Baker. All welcome. Refreshments afterwards
25 th	Christmas Day Service led by Mrs. Elisabeth Bibbings
29 th	United Service at Eaton Bray. Worship led by Mr Peter Baker

January:

5 th	Worship led by Mr Peter Baker
12 th	Worship led by Mr Geoff Best
19 th	United Covenant Service, with Holy Communion, led by the Reverend Nigel Bibbings
26 th	Worship led by Mr John Enejo

There will be **no Growing Together** meetings until March.

FOR THE CHILDREN

First Steps is on Friday 13th December and Friday 10th January at 2pm in Kensworth Church Hall, Clayhall Road.

Messy Church: none in **Kensworth** in December or January. The next one is on Friday 14th February. **Studham** – Friday 17th January at Studham Methodist Church from 3.15pm.

KENSWORTH EXTRA

CHURCH SHOP: the shop, in the Church Hall, Clayhall Road (behind the Vicarage), is open 2 – 4pm on Wednesdays and 10am – 12 noon on Saturdays. All kinds of treasures are available – come and have a browse!

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH: for all services, see page 15. The Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 7th, 10.30am – 12 noon. Come and enjoy the crafts and foods, and buy some Christmas presents! There will not be a coffee morning in January – the next one will be on 1st February. We wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and New Year.

KENSWORTH DROP IN CLUB: everyone is welcome to ‘Drop In’ at Kensworth Village Hall every Thursday 9am – 11am for tea/coffee and biscuits (soft drinks and crisps for children). Enjoy a chat and games and get to know the locals! There will be a holiday break after 19th December – next meeting 9th January.

KENSWORTH LADIES’ CLUB: the December Christmas Lunch is being held at Harper’s, Pepperstock, on 4th December. It is fully booked. The January meeting will take place on Monday 6th in the Church Hall at 7.30pm, when events for the next year will be planned. All ladies welcome.

FRIENDS of KENSWORTH CHURCH: the New Year Quiz will take place on Saturday 1st February at 7.30pm. Cost, including supper, is £7.50, but please bring your own drink. To book a table or individual places, please contact David Manton (01438 831184 or david.manton@aol.co.uk). Winners of the Monthly Draw Club will be announced in the next issue.

KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL: we will be holding the ‘Christmas Fayre’ at the hall on Sunday 1st Dec from 1 – 4.30pm. There are lots of stalls with a variety of Christmas items for sale, as well as children’s activities and a visit from Santa with gifts for young children. Mulled wine and mince pies are available, as well as coffee and tea. Do come and join us for some festive fun.

There is also the **Christmas Bingo** on Friday 6th December, with lots of prizes, a raffle and refreshments, including mince pies. It is a fun evening for all ages and helps to get you in the festive mood. Doors open at 7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start.

There is no **village walk** in December – the next one is on 11th January. Meet at the Village Hall car park for 10am, followed by a gentle walk around the villages.

Our next meetings are on 4th December and 8th January. If you would like to join the committee, please come along, as we are always looking for new members with new ideas. We warmly welcome Danielle Cove to the committee, whilst saying thank you to Margaret Putterill, who has resigned.

NEWS QUIZ

How well did you read the News this year? Try this quiz and find out...

1. What is a Gilet Jaune?
2. The famous fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld died this year leaving his £150 million fortune to Choupette. Who or what is Choupette?
3. In March an aeroplane left London City airport with flight number BA3271 to Düsseldorf. Where did it land?
4. Volodymyr Oleksandrovykh Zelensky won the Ukrainian Presidential election in April. What was his job before the election?
5. There was a serious fire at Notre Dame in April. Who wrote a book in 1831 about the cathedral and to draw attention to the restoration it then needed?
6. What is Pteridomania? The Victorians had it.
7. Blackpool Tower celebrated its 125th anniversary in May 2019. What landmark inspired it?
8. Which former member of the cabinet was named after a battleship?
9. Which country has coins nicknamed loonie and toonie?
10. What were sea-siders advised to stare at to stop them stealing chips?
11. What would you use a French press to make?
12. Which person has the following titles in other languages? (all one person); Leading Star, The Son of the Big Boss, The Helper of the Cows, The Sun Looks at him in a Good Way.

Answers on page 27.

SMILE LINE

(With apologies to Nicola!)

Just as the Vicar began her Christmas Eve service, the electricity in the church failed. The wardens found some candles and placed them around the sanctuary. Then the Vicar re-entered the pulpit, shuffled her notes, and muttered, "Now, where was I?"

A hopeful voice called out, "Right near the end"!

STUDHAM EXTRA 2

BINGO

Wednesday 4 th December	7.30pm	Studham VH
Wednesday 18 th December	7pm	Studham VH (Christmas Party Night!)

Please note that doors will open half an hour earlier on 18th December. Usual format – but perhaps (!) a couple of unusual games? All are welcome.

We do not hold Bingo during January or February as some of our players travel some distance to be with us and the weather is not always kind! We will therefore re-commence on Wednesday 11th March 2020.

STUDHAM PLAYING FIELDS

Please contact the Playing Fields if you would like to use the space for a function or activity – Paul Hocking (pdhocking@btinternet.com or tel: 07500 849280).

Would all those who walk their dogs through the Playing Fields, please keep them on a lead whilst in the grounds and remember to clean up after them. Dog faeces can be dangerous to the health of young children as well as being ‘anti-social’ to those using the sporting facilities.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The Sports & Social Club will be open during the Festive Season. For further details on opening times, please call in and read the notice board.

Saturday 21st December sees **2Tone** entertain us for the evening. Please note that this is a ticket-only event and the Club will be closed to members from 7pm. A few tickets are still available at the bar.

Tuesday 31st December is a free event to welcome in 2020 and all are welcome to join us. **John Knowles**, singer, will be entertaining us throughout the evening. You probably know his brother, Nick, from TV – but we don’t think he will be there!

SCRABBLE

Our small but enthusiastic Scrabble Group meets at 2pm every Tuesday afternoon at Studham Village Hall – the weather (13) may be wet (8) and chilly (14), but we can assure (6) you of a warm welcome (14).

WI

Thursday 5 th December	7.30pm	Studham VH	Members only Birthday Meal
Thursday 9 th January	7.45pm	Social Evening: Studham Methodist Church	

December sees us enjoying our 101st Birthday Meal, which is for members only. However, our first meeting in January, a Social Evening, will be held on Thursday 9th in the Methodist Church at 7.45pm and all ladies are welcome to attend.

Reminder: all subs for the year will be due (£43) – all non-members pay £4 entry.

KENSWORTH SCHOOL NEWS

KENSWORTH C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY and PRESCHOOL

Some of our year 5 and 6 children, along with children from Totternhoe CE Academy, have just returned from a very enjoyable time at the Christian Youth Enterprises Sailing Centre near Chichester. The children threw themselves into all the activities and were kept busy with sailing, rafting, tunnelling, archery, kayaking and team work on the assault course. There were great first time experiences for many of the children, as well as being away from home for three nights! They showed lots of resilience, surprised themselves and impressed the adults with their bravery and 'have a go' attitudes.



(photo shows pupils enjoying the Christian Youth Enterprises Sailing Centre)

As part of their theme of saving our world, our Year 1 children wrote to the Prime Minister with their concerns about recycling and the environment. They were very excited to receive a letter back commenting on their ideas and outlining some of the Government's initiatives and interesting facts about what has been achieved so far.

This term, children created poppies for the school, as well as writing prayers for our Remembrance Collective Worship, attended by David Moreton from the Diocese of St Albans. The prayers had been written into artwork in the style of Ben and Hannah Dunnett, depicting poppies and praying for remembrance and for peace.

For RE, Cherry Class were also visited by Reverend Nicola, who came to talk to them about her role as a vicar and the different jobs that she has to do throughout the week. She also answered lots of their questions, and they enjoyed finding out more about her and her family.

Don't forget: we still have our battery recycling box in school. Please drop in any used batteries for us to dispose of safely.

We wish all our friends a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Kensworth School Parent Teachers' Association asks for your support:

Thanks to all who worked so hard and supported our afternoon tea and quiz in November. More details in the next issue.

If you would like to offer help/fundraising ideas, please get in touch with us via e-mail (kspta@outlook.com) or contact Gina Owen (07506 722 053). We always welcome new members.

MORE STUDHAM

STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL

Tender papers are now being issued for the floor replacement work. This means that we are moving on to getting our new floor. The hall continues to be used by the regular hirers. It is popular for family parties, social events and meetings. The modern kitchen is an important feature of the hall.

The trustees thank the users of the hall for their support during the inconvenience of having extra protective covering over part of the floor. All best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The next meetings of the Parish Council are on 2nd December (6pm) and 6th January (7pm). If you have any questions for the Council, or would just like to hear what we do, you are most welcome to attend in the Committee Room at the Village Hall.

Our new website is up and running (same address - www.studhamparish.co.uk, but a bit more modern). If you would like to receive e-mails from us, please register via the Clerk (clerk@studhamparish.co.uk) or through the home page link. Please note that the e-mail sent asking for re-registration is not a scam! It was us – and we do need to have a response either way, please. Under GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) we need to confirm your acceptance once a year. The e-mail address news@studhamparish.co.uk was, and will be, our usual subject link so you know it is us.

There is a new way of reporting problems with lights and roads through the CBC portal on their website. However, this does not send a report to the Parish Council so we cannot follow this up on your behalf. We have therefore set up a new e-mail address (lightsandroads@outlook.com) and ask that all faults are reported to it. You may still go through the Portal, just let us know in the e-mail that you have done so.

We are responsible for several salt bins located around the village. These are manned by volunteers who have access and spread the salt on roads and pavements when required. (Please note that this is not for private use, or for use on any private property). If you would like to become one of these volunteers, please let us know (via the Clerk). We need to know your address (so we know which bin is your nearest) and whether you are home during the week or just weekends (so that we can work out rotas etc.). The more volunteers, the less onerous the task!

We hope that you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please be safe if you are driving, or, if you are going away, please make sure that your neighbours are aware so that they can keep an eye on things.

KENSWORTH EXTRA 2

KENSWORTH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

On Sunday 1st December in the Village Hall from 1pm – 4pm. Various stalls offering Xmas gifts; tombola; Santa; raffle; Xmas wreaths & decorations. Sing carols & festive tunes; mulled wine and mince pies. Also children's corner.



KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

CCTV: we have approved a local contractor to replace the current system at the Village Hall and also install additional cameras, which cover the recreation ground and play areas.

Allotments: if you haven't received your allotment renewal yet, please contact the Clerk. We have a lot of new allotment enquiries, and once we have contacted all the outstanding plot holders to see if they wish to renew or not, we will then contact new enquiries to allocate plots.

We are hoping to arrange an allotment clean-up day shortly. If you're able to help, please contact the Clerk.

Defibrillator: we have kindly been donated a defibrillator and are in discussions with the Village Hall, as this would be the ideal location for it. Are there any local electricians who would be able to help with the installation of this, please? If so, please contact the Clerk – we are keen to get it installed as soon as possible.

Meetings: our meetings are held in the Village Hall on the second Thursday of every month, except August. Meetings start at 7:30pm. Please visit our website or look at the noticeboard on Common Road, in front of the Hall, to view the agenda, a week before each meeting.

As 12th December is the same day as the General Election and the Hall will be in use, we will meet at the **Methodist Church Hall** on Common Road. Our January meeting (9th) will be held as usual in the Village Hall.

Kensworth Parish Council would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2020.

PILATES

Come to Pilates in Kensworth Methodist Church Hall from 11.30am till 12.30pm every Wednesday. Open to everybody, men and ladies, and not just Kensworth residents; nothing too strenuous; with a very caring local lady instructor. £5 per session.

STUDHAM AGAIN

STUDHAM TENNIS CLUB

We are delighted to announce we are offering free annual Junior Membership (with every full adult member) and annual Family Membership from £75.

Junior and adult tennis coaching takes place every Saturday morning between 9am and 11am (juniors 9am – 10am, adults 10am – 11am). All are welcome – non-members £6 per session, members £4 per session. Our coach, Megan, is also available for private individual or group lessons. Please contact her (07826 855 388) for more information. Family social play takes place on a Saturday between 2pm and 4pm.

For information on coaching or joining the club, contact Andrew Jones (andrew.jones@expressvending.co.uk or 07833 111 682/www.studhamtennisclub.co.uk).

STUDHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL



The events keep coming thick and fast at the school. First up was our Harvest Festival, which was so well attended by parents that we will have to move it to the church in future years. Many thanks to Mrs Walsh who designed our harvest display. The Salvation Army will benefit from the donations.

Hot on the heels of the Harvest Festival was our Diwali day and we were delighted to welcome the ambassador from the Hindu temple in Luton. We had a fascinating talk and learned that Diwali is the five-day Festival of Lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. The festival, which coincides with the Hindu New Year, celebrates new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

We have lots planned over the next few weeks, including Children in Need Day, our Choir's Christmas tour, the pantomime and of course, the Christmas plays.

CARPET BOWLS

The Club meets at 7pm on Thursdays (except the first Thursday in the month) and dates are 12th and 19th December, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th January. We are a small friendly group and new members are most welcome, or just come for a taster. Contacts are Pat Thorne (872751) or Des Salmon (872082).

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SMILE LINE

Q. If athletes get athlete's foot, what do astronauts get?

A. Missile toe.

LOCAL NEWS 2

DUNSTABLE CITIZENS ADVICE

We are looking to engage a volunteer treasurer to join us. A background in finance or accountancy would be advantageous in what is a varied, hands-on role, from ensuring timely payment of accounts and salaries, maintaining day to day accounts and producing reports for the Trustee Board. We are also seeking new trustees to join the Board and need more volunteer advisers to help people with a wide range of problems including debt, benefits, housing, employment and family matters. Volunteers receive free training with all expenses paid.

If you can commit five hours per week and have a desire to be involved within the local community, please contact training@dunstable.cabnet.org.uk or call 670003.

DUNSTABLE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

On 10th December at 7.45pm in the Methodist Church Hall opposite Wilko in Dunstable. "Dancing through Literature" - this is for members only. The January meeting on the 14th is a talk on the life of Bedford-born (1843) Colonel Frederick Burnaby who, as well as many military exploits, took up the new craze of hot-air ballooning and travelled the world. Visitors welcome £2.

NATIONAL TRUST

South Beds Association: Our winter programme continues on Monday afternoons at 2.30pm in the Grove Theatre. Refreshments will be available after the talks.

2nd December: Hugh Garrod – a further history talk about Dunstable.

6th January: Ann Ledger, a City of St. Albans Tour Guide gives an interesting talk.

Dunstable Downs Gateway Centre:

On weekends throughout December, plus Monday 23rd, enjoy **Breakfast with Santa** in the Gateway Cafe.

Walk off those excesses with our two **guided walks** on Boxing Day and New Year's Day, both starting at 11am.

For all events, call 03442 491895 to book or for more details.

CHRISTMAS GALA CONCERT

Caritas Harmony Ladies' Choir

8th December at 6pm

St Mary's RC Church, West Street, Dunstable

Tickets £10 (under 12s free)

For tickets and information visit www.caritasharmony.co.uk

Or call Jackie Howe on 01582 599520