

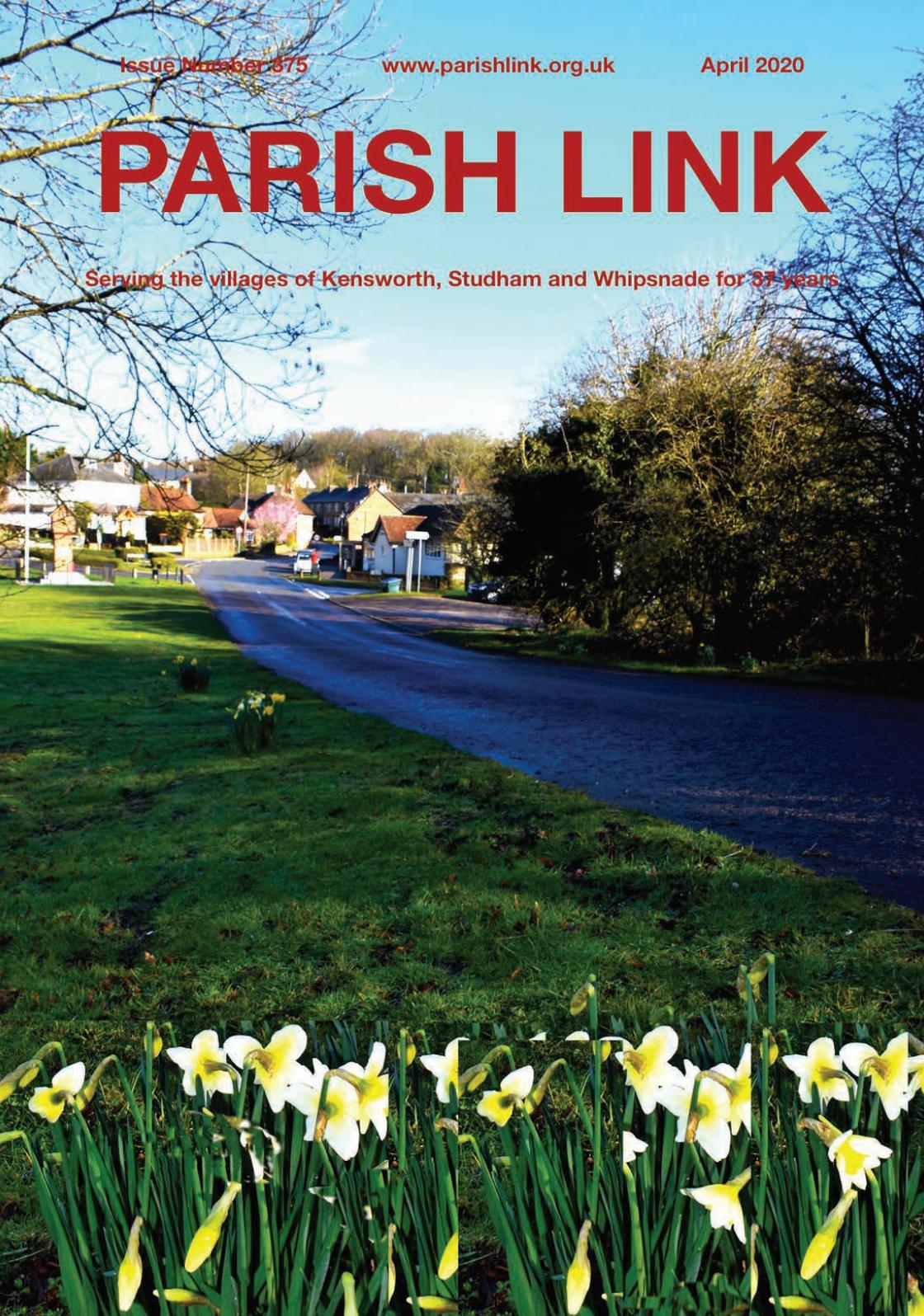
Issue Number 375

www.parishlink.org.uk

April 2020

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

‘Guide me, O thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but thou art mighty; Hold me with thy powerful hand.’

Dear friends and parishioners,

I have started this letter afresh several times this month – and begun again as every day has brought change to our daily lives and the lives of those we love. Recently the Church of England made the decision to suspend Sunday and mid-week services, although we shall be endeavouring to keep church buildings open where possible for people to think and pray. I am also here, as always, for those who need care and pastoral support, and alongside this please do make sure you and your neighbours are aware of our new villages support group (details on page 13). There will also be regular church e-mails – do sign up by e-mailing revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com, and also posts on ‘Kensworth Studham Whipsnade Parish Churches’ Facebook page.

In this different and strange situation in which we find ourselves, it is more important than ever to live, learn and love: living will be different, we will have to learn new ways of being and doing, and loving will be revealed through our actions towards others, through our response to our neighbour in need at the time of crisis.

This feeling of being in new territory – outside the norm – brought to mind the feeling of loss and isolation which the first disciples must have had in the darkness of Good Friday. For them the possibility of the new life of Easter was unimaginable. For many of us a return to anything like normality may at the current time also seem unimaginable. Yet we are walking together through this strange new land, we are together and we are held in the hand of God, whose promise of new life beyond the darkness still stands – in fact it always stands and always will. We are held in his love.

With my love and prayers, this coming Eastertide and always,
Nicola

Note from the editor, Fiona McDougal, and from Nicola.

The shape and substance of this magazine will be changing over the months to come: all information will be as accurate as we can make it at the time of going to press. It will be necessary for you to confirm events with the individuals and organisations concerned. We will try to give as many updates as we can in between publications on our website www.parishlink.org.uk

KENSWORTH CHURCH PRAYERS

In April our prayers will be especially for the residents of Common Road, from Hollicks Lane to Isle of Wight Lane. If you would like a particular prayer to be said, please contact Dorothy Blackburn (872670).

KENSWORTH PARISH CHURCH

Following on from the guidance from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, there will be no services in churches and cathedrals of the Church of England for the foreseeable future.

Messy Church: there is no Messy Church in April.

The Church Shop will also be closed until further notice.

KENSWORTH CHILDREN

Spread the Good News: notice to all children: on Thursday 9th April Kensworth Church will be giving out Easter eggs - to ensure social distancing, would all children please come to 194 Common Road in their own time to collect an Easter Egg from the box outside the door?

FRIENDS of ST MARY'S, KENSWORTH

The winners of the March Draw were Caroline Rice and Louise Costa-Sa. Please note, the Caritas Concert in June has been cancelled.

KENSWORTH CLUBS & EVENTS - CANCELLATIONS

Kensworth Ladies Club, the Drop In Club and the Carpet Bowls are all closed for the foreseeable future. The Bollywood Evening in June, the Flower & Veg Show in September and the associated Quiz in July have all been cancelled. Kensworth Baby & Toddler Group is closed until further notice. The new contact for the group is Kate Starkey 07702 402278.

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

We are sad to announce that due to the nationwide restrictions caused by the Coronavirus, for the time being our church is not gathering for worship on Sundays. However, we continue to be very much open for business in many other ways. We are thinking of, praying for and supporting all members of our community, particularly those who are themselves vulnerable and/or self-isolating at this time. If there is anything that we can do to be of help to you practically, or if you have a need and would like us to pray for you or your family, please be in touch with our Minister, Rev. Nigel Bibbings on 01525 872026.

We have a faithful God who loves and cares for each one of us, who we are confident will see us through this time of great turmoil.

May he bless and keep you safe.

AROUND ABOUT STUDHAM

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Church prayers: in April, all the people of Dunstable Road, Southern Way and Bell Farm Close will be especially remembered in our prayers. 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).

Church Services: following on from the guidance from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, there will be no services in churches and cathedrals of the Church of England for the foreseeable future.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Thursday 23rd April has been postponed.

Annual Wine Tasting: regrettably, the St Mary's Annual Studham Wine tasting due to be held on 28th March was postponed. After 25 successive years and with all this year's wines already bought, we very much hope we can continue this tradition later in the year. More details as soon as we have them and thanks for your understanding.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

Thank you to everyone who has recently renewed their 100 Club membership. The money raised allows us to play a small part in preserving our village heritage by helping with the maintenance of Studham's oldest building. You also have a chance to win with a £50 first prize and £10 runners up each month. February's lucky winners were Don Grozier and Isobel Randall, whilst in March's draw, John Hanna scooped the jackpot with Diana Wingfield as runner-up. To find out more about the Friends or to join the 100 club, please e-mail john.mcdougal@btinternet.com or call 873257.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON

In the wake of government advice, Central Bedfordshire Council, which owns the Common, has recommended that all volunteer groups such as ours should cease joint work parties, at least until the end of April. This is so we can all contribute to slowing the spread of the virus.

This should not prevent you – if you are able to – from going out to enjoy fresh air and the coming of spring on the Common, with the recommendation that you keep a safe distance from others to avoid potential infection. Safe distance = two metres, about three paces, away from others.

SOAPBOX DERBY

Due to current events, the Studham Soapbox Derby will not be taking place this year. We hope to re-instate this event next year.

WHIPSDNADE INCLUDING OLDHILL WOOD

Church prayers: in April our prayers will be especially for the people of Oldhill Wood and Byslips Road. If you want any special prayers you can request them through the Rector or the churchwardens, or you can write them on one of the prayer tree leaves in the church and hang them on a branch.

Whipsnade Village Lunch temporary cancellation: we were sorry that the Village Lunch was cancelled in March. The team have decided not to re-start it for a few months. We are looking forward to seeing as many as possible when we have our reunion! We will try to make it a tempting menu. Watch the next Link for further details.

Knit and Natter: Knit and Natter got off to a good start, with 9 people turning up for knitting, chatting and refreshments in the church. We were very proud of our two participants who learned to knit for the first time! Because of the Coronavirus we will be taking a break now. Thanks to Jo King who had the idea and contributed the equipment.



Sunday School: We are delighted that the Sunday School has made a new start, with children attending at 9am on the second Sunday of every month. Meeting in the new vestry, they enjoy practical sessions on the theme of the church's message for the season, then join the adults to display what they have done and have refreshments. All primary aged children are very welcome when we resume.

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)** on Thursday 30th April has been postponed.

The **Friends of Whipsnade Church** regret that their quiz night is postponed until further notice. Please keep an eye open for further news.

WHIPSDNADE FETE: due to be held on 13th June, is postponed until, we hope, the autumn. If anyone would like to spend some time thinking up activities for an autumn fair, please contact Kim Brown (872015) or Isobel Randall (872552) with your ideas. You would cheer us up in this difficult time!

* * * * *

Thank you to those who sent kind comments about last month's magazine cover. Thanks to Les Randall for this month's photo of Studham.

KENSWORTH EXTRA

**KENSWORTH
MAY
FESTIVAL**

**12
20 20**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH
SUNDAY 3RD MAY 2020
STARTS: 11.30AM**

**FESTIVAL AND CROWNING OF THE
MAY QUEEN
CELEBRATING 800 YEARS!**



**BEER & WINE TENT MORRIS DANCING
BBQ RAFFLE BRIC-A-BRAC CAKE STALL
PONY RIDES OPEN BELL TOWER FUN & GAMES**

**CHURCH SERVICE 10.30AM
12.15PM DOG SHOW**

**HAVE YOU GOT THE BEST-BEHAVED DOG? THE DOG WITH THE
WAGGIEST TAIL?**

PROCEEDS TO LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATION, MAINLY ST MARY'S CHURCH AND
KENSWORTH SCHOOL

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITIONS

As part of the Kensworth May Festival on 3rd May (see above), we are staging a fun art show/photography competition - all pictures will be hung in the church!

For children/teens, we will have the theme '800 Years' Old'. Age ranges: 0-5; 6-10; 10-12; 12-16: we welcome any interpretation of this, noting that St Mary's Church, and therefore parts of the village, are well over 800 years old! Feel free to let imaginations run wild - the wilder the better!

For adults and any teens over the age of 16, it will be a photography show/competition, with the theme: A Worm's Eye View.

Please leave the pictures in the church porch on Saturday 2nd or early on Sunday 3rd May - any queries, please ring Annabel (07793 844077).

STUDHAM EXTRA

STUDHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL

We have all been involved in a really exciting Science Week with lots of visiting speakers. We have seen lots of mosquitos and had a talk from a vet who worked for NASA. We have had a scientist who invents new medicines and another who works with life-saving equipment for very young or sick babies. The week finished with a chemist from Birmingham University who, amongst other things, blew up a great big container of gas.

Talking of things science related, our new Tech Club has had a brilliant first half term. Our Year 3s and 4s are getting to work with all sorts of technology, not just computers.

Our new sports clubs are also going well and, during the half term, we hosted a sports camp. This was so successful that we have agreed for another to be run from the school during the Easter Holiday. These are not restricted to Studham pupils, so please contact the school if you would like to attend the next one.

STUDHAM TENNIS CLUB

We are offering free annual Junior Membership (with every full adult member) and annual Family Membership from £75. Our new membership year starts on April 1st.

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 £7 per session, members £5 per session. Alternatively, you can block book for the term to achieve a saving!

Our coach, Megan, is also available for private individual or group lessons. Please contact her (07826 855388) for more information. Family social play takes place on a Saturday between 2pm and 4pm.

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

STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL

We were saddened at the passing of **Andrea Maxted**, a Village Hall trustee. Andrea has been a trustee for several years and, prior to that, was always a staunch supporter of the Village Hall and community groups. Andrea will be sorely missed.

Coronavirus

The hall will be closed during the emergency. We will contact hirers when good news is received. Our thanks for everybody's support and understanding.

CORONAVIRUS NEWS

MESSAGE FROM NICOLA

Following on from a letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, there will be NO Sunday or midweek services held in the parish churches or cathedrals of the Church of England. Where possible we will keep buildings open for private prayer.

All of you remain in my prayers – and I will still be here to serve you all and to minister to you; to offer practical support and help and love. If you need help or can offer help, join our group; Studham, Kensworth and Whipsnade Coronavirus Response Group, details of which can be found on page 13.

Please keep checking the Parish Link website for further information. May God bless us and hold us all through these times, may we care for one another and pray for those in need.

Nicola

THE BISHOP'S CORONAVIRUS GOLDEN RULES

Not official advice: read and heed that here – but this is food-for-thought about our attitudes.

Golden Rule One: each one of us can think about how we can protect and support our neighbours. So much of the public rhetoric is sowing fear about the danger of other people. So, taking all the official precautions, offer help and reassurance to others – and don't demonise anyone or any group.

Golden Rule Two: think about who may be suffering more than me. For those of us who are healthy there is much less to worry about but the elderly, the housebound and those with chronic health conditions may be very anxious. There's nothing like a friendly voice to offer solace when someone is worried. A smile can bring cheer, even on the phone. If you visit, follow all the official precautions or don't go.

Golden Rule Three: don't give into panic and start hoarding food. There is plenty to go around, so practise the Christian discipline of sharing. Ask your neighbours what they need and do your best to help them get it.

Golden Rule Four: live today to the full. None of us ever know what the future holds. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6. 25 – 34), Jesus challenged his followers to live each day fully and not be afraid. Every time we are tempted to give in to fear we need to make a conscious choice to respond in trust and openness.

And, along with just over half the adults in the UK, don't forget to pray. Dear God our Shield and our Defender, guide and protect my neighbour in this time of health emergency; deliver them from all harm and may your love and care ever grow in this place. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen

Studham, Kensworth and Whipsnade (SKAW) **Coronavirus Response Group**

In our villages, local organisations are joining together to support all those who may need help in the current health emergency.

Many of you are already helping friends and neighbours. However as the crisis deepens, there will be more people needing help, and therefore we need more who can offer it.

Initially SKAW CRG is compiling a list of those who are vulnerable, and of volunteers that would like to help.

Please contact us if:

- You would like to volunteer
- You are self-isolating
- You are over the age of 70
- You have a limited support network
- You have underlying health issues that may put you at higher risk
- You are concerned about a neighbour

Please note, your data will be held digitally during this current health emergency and will be shared only with those involved with SKAW CRG. Your information may be shared with volunteers and/or health organisations should the need arise. Once your data is no longer required, it will be destroyed in a responsible manner.

Please register your details
01582 873447 / 872597
gnstudham@hotmail.co.uk

Further local updates on:

www.parishlink.org.uk

www.studhamparish.co.uk

Facebook: Studham Village

Facebook: Studham Villagers

Facebook: Spotted Kensworth

Facebook: Kensworth Studham Whipsnade Parish Churches

Village noticeboards

Nextdoor App

STUDHAM EXTRA 2

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

In the light of current government advice to reduce interaction between people due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we have decided to cancel our April and May meetings and to postpone the Annual Parish Meeting for the time being.

Our grateful thanks go to all those who helped clear the village of debris from the recent storms Ciara and Dennis. We live in a beautiful village and we appreciate the assistance of all those who help us keep it that way. Thanks also to those who attended the 'drop-in' for the School Corner consultation.

STUDHAM SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUBHOUSE – TEMPORARY CLOSURE

On Friday 20th March, the Government announced that clubs, pubs, cinemas, restaurants, theatres and gyms should close from normal closing time that day. The Clubhouse is therefore closed until the Government advise that it is safe for it to reopen.

Mark Horton, Chairman

STUDHAM CLUBS & EVENTS - VILLAGE HALL

You will have seen (page 11) that Studham Village Hall is closed until further notice. This means all clubs and events usually held in the Hall are also postponed until further notice.

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 07500 849280).

NORTH CHILTERNERS GROUP

Regrettably both the AGM and the trip to Coventry have been cancelled.

TIME FOR A SMILE

- This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our children's minister, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- Baptisms: after Easter, the North and South ends of the church will be utilised. Children will be baptised at both ends.
- Coming up: Theological Open House. We discuss thought-provoking topics. Your opinions are hardly welcome.
- Next Sunday Mrs Brown will sing a solo at the morning service before the vicar preaches on the subject of 'Terrible experiences and how to survive them'.
- Players picked for St Andrew's darts team will be pinned to the board on Thursday.

KENSWORTH EXTRA 2

KENSWORTH C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY and PRESCHOOL

It has been go, go, go at Kensworth this term. Our Year 6 children began their Archbishop of York's Youth Trust Young Leader Award sessions, kindly funded by the Diocese of St Albans. The children are thinking about the qualities of good leaders and are working at challenges to help others at home and in the community.

Our Years 4&5 children have begun their Sports Leader award and are already, after the first session, leading games for younger children on the playground. The whole school has begun using 'Kagan' strategies for collaboration in the classroom. Whether it is a 'Rally Robin' or a 'Quiz, Quiz, Trade', the children are having fun and are wholly engaged in the activities.

Lots of our parents attended our first 'Watch Me Learn' sessions. The children really enjoyed having their adults in the class, taking part in the lessons with them. Thank you to everyone who came along; hope you enjoyed it too!

A big thank you to everyone who sent in the 'Books for Schools' tokens from The Sun. Unfortunately, we did not collect enough to receive the whole collection of books on offer. But The Sun very kindly sent a selection of free books anyway. The children and staff made a fantastic effort on World Book Day with some fabulous and very creative costumes. The children chose to represent the authors or books they have been reading and studying in school, as they have really enjoyed them.

Kensworth School Parent Teachers' Association: our Afternoon Tea, scheduled for Saturday 25th April, has been postponed until later in the year.

WHERE DOES APRIL FOOLS' DAY COME FROM?

On 1st April many of you may be planning to play pranks on your friends and family. That's because it's 'April Fools' Day', when we all get to play the joker! There is surprisingly little known about the origins of April Fools' Day. Here are some theories of its origin:

In Europe: the earliest European records about 1st April are from France and Holland in the 1500s, so some now believe that it was this tradition that spread to Britain. It is actually known as 'April Fish Day' in some areas of Europe. The French for 'April Fool' is 'Poisson d'Avril' – April Fish! People think this is because there are a lot of fish in streams and rivers around 1st April, and they are easy to catch - foolish fish!

It soon became a tradition to play tricks on people on April 1st. It is still common, in France particularly, to attach a paper fish to somebody's back on April Fools' Day, and to give chocolate fish as gifts.



KENSWORTH & STUDHAM NEWS

KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL

Following the problem with the British Gas bill in January, which is now resolved, the Committee were pleased to receive a refund of £2,000. The erroneous postcode which caused the problem has now been replaced. Royal Mail agreed that, if we had a secure post box, there could be an official postcode. This is now **LU6 3RJ**.

We are taking part in a ten-year survey, organised by ACRE (Action with Rural Communities), to provide information on the hall itself, and the organisations that use it. This will show how important the hall is to the village.

The Committee discussed actions needed for a safeguarding policy, and a training course was completed. A draft policy for the protection of children and vulnerable adults is being completed for the committee to review at the next meeting.

The next Village Walks are to take place on 4th April and 9th May. Please meet in the Village Hall car park at 10am.

The next Committee Meeting on Wednesday 1st April has been cancelled.

The Committee are still looking for a volunteer to act as Treasurer, and also someone to take over the role of Booking Clerk in the summer. We desperately need volunteers to work on the Committee in order to keep the hall going. If anyone is interested in either of these roles, please come along to the next meeting.

STUDHAM MAY FAIR

It is with deep regret and sadness that we have made the decision to cancel the Studham May Fair. The safety of our community is paramount and as such it would be irresponsible of us to continue with planning this event.

However,... amongst all the sadness right now, we still wanted to have some positivity in our community and raise much needed funds for our charities. So we have decided to continue to run with the Grand Draw and Wine Wheelbarrow Raffle!

The Grand Draw will still take place on the 16th May – more details to follow. Please show your support and buy raffle tickets! These will be sent to you virtually, or if you do not have access to email they will be posted to you directly. For both raffles please contact Liesa Coates (liesa.coates@in2global.com/873447/07887967881) to purchase tickets.

Grand Draw £1 per ticket

Wine Wheelbarrow- £2 per ticket

We have a fabulous wheelbarrow full of wine – perfect for those of you who are self-isolating! To donate wine bottles please contact Sheila Russell (872952 / sheila-russell55@gmail.com) who will organise collection.

JOHN WARD

John, who sadly died on 17th March, was a stalwart of both Studham and Whipsnade, having had the rare experience of being the chairman of both Parish Councils.



An expert Civil Engineer, he used his knowledge to advise on health and safety in local churches. For nearly forty years he maintained the beauty of the Tree Cathedral by regularly cutting its extensive area of grass. Whipsnade Green, the Church and the churchyard all benefited from his care over many years.

John was a regular member of Whipsnade church, representing it at different times on the North Chilterns Group Council and the Deanery Synod. His talent extended to cooking the delicious roast at the Village Lunch. Villagers and church members appreciate his contribution to the community and offer their sympathy to Pam and the family.

KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Defibrillators: we are pleased to announce that a second defibrillator is now installed at Kensworth Methodist Church. We wish to thank them for their assistance.

Annual Parish Meeting: this will be held on Thursday 9th April at 8.15pm at the Village Hall. The meeting is open to all members of public and we will award grant cheques to local groups and organisations and present the 'Villager of the Year' award. Refreshments afterwards: we look forward to seeing you then.

Great British Spring Clean: this event will be in conjunction with Kensworth CE Academy this year on Wednesday 1st April, from 1pm.

Toddler Group: we are aware that the Toddler group is very low in numbers. It runs from 9.30am Wednesday (term time only) at the village hall. £2 first child and £1 for additional children. (Currently suspended, see page 7).

Neighbourhood Plan: we are looking for residents to join the Neighbourhood Plan Committee. Please e-mail the Clerk if you are able to help.

Clerk Vacancy: following Maxine's resignation, we are looking to recruit a new Clerk. Councillors will be sad to see Maxine leave and wish her well. If you are interested in this position, please contact either Maxine or Chairman, Pat Mitchell, (e-mail cllrmitchellkensworth@gmail.com) for further information.