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July/August 2020

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Elisabeth Bibbings
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Lay Worker for Kensworth Methodist
Church

Dear Friends,

“When can we get back to normal?”

These words must have been on many people’s lips this year so far. My son, a sports fanatic, has been bewailing the loss of the Tour de France, the Euro 2020 football tournament, the Formula 1 season so far and the Wimbledon Championship. Others are missing the chance to go to a summer music festival, or family celebrations, or even away on a holiday.

It has been obvious that when “normality” resumes, it will be much changed from the old ways. We have seen how flying wherever we want whenever we want, has polluted our skies and our atmosphere. I have revelled in the clear blue of the May skies over our house, which is normally under Luton Airport approach. We have seen how nature has thrived in having less humanity about, and how the quiet roads have meant more people actually taking note of birdsong for the first time. Do we want to go back to “normal” now we have seen what an alternative looks like? I wonder.

Of course, we are glad to see shops re-opening, Whipsnade Zoo and other places able to welcome visitors again, though under altered circumstances. It is time though, to think about what life could look like in the near future.

What about our neighbourhoods? Are we going to stop smiling at people in the street or helping the housebound or shielding elderly, when we “get back to normal”? Are we going to keep silent about injustices like racism or environmental abuse?

The Christian church (of any denomination) has also been thinking about what “getting back to normal” might look like. I noticed a poster outside the Dunstable Community Church – **“The Church hasn’t closed – it’s just changed!”** (i.e. gone online).

The Church has not closed. We may not be there every Sunday morning with the doors open and the sound of organ or worship band able to be heard, but we are there on YouTube or Zoom, we are still praying – and a lot of people are finding that sitting in your lounge with a coffee and listening to what your local minister (or one from a church you’ve never been to, in a different part of the country or the world) has to say, is actually comforting and supportive in these strange days. The Church has been growing nationally in terms of people “attending” worship virtually.

If you would like to join with us on Zoom at 10.30am each Sunday please e-mail us (at revdnigel@gmail.com) and we will arrange for the appropriate link to be sent to you.

Keep safe and keep well,

God bless,

Elisabeth Bibbings



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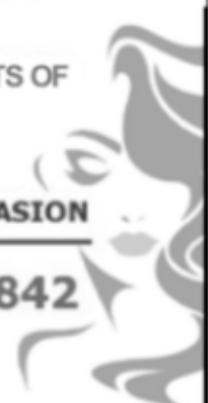
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Rector:
Revd. Nicola Lenthall
872223

Lay Minister:
Dorothy Blackburn
872670

KENSWORTH

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Churchwardens | Richard Gurney | 07985 150376 |
| | Barrie Huggins | 607841 |
| PCC Secretary | Joanne Cook | 0779 908 8864 |
| Church Music | Revd. Nicola Lenthall | 872223 |
| Bell Ringers | Polly Frazer | 873143 |
| Sunday School | Katherine Huggins | 607841 |
| Flowers | Joanne Cook | 0779 908 8864 |
| Neighbours Scheme | Community Scheme | 07919 081473 |

STUDHAM

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Churchwarden | Meg Bender | 872967 |
| PCC Secretary | Gill Harris | 603806 |
| Tower Captain | Angela Blackburn | 663756 |
| Children's Church | Derek Spriggs | 873468 |
| Flowers | Margaret Maddox | 873225 |
| Emergency Transport | SiGNS | 07563 135895 |

WHIPSNADE

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|--------|
| Churchwardens | Isobel Randall | 872552 |
| | Martin Rees | 873117 |
| PCC Secretary | Joan Bailey | 872318 |
| Church Music | c/o Pam Ward | 872406 |
| Tower Captain | Pam Ward | 872406 |
| Sunday School | c/o Isobel Randall | 872552 |
| Flowers | Anne Weir | 873425 |

THE PARISH LINK www.parishlink.org.uk

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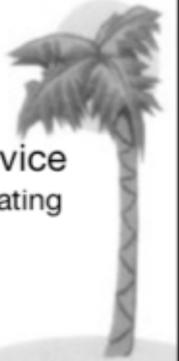
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We moved into a new warehouse outside Leighton Buzzard 12 months ago. This will cost approximately £20,000 annually. We are looking for cheaper warehouse accommodation, ideally much closer to Dunstable / Houghton Regis, from March 2022.

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For foodbank queries please contact Mike Pittam on 07874200056 or at info@dunstablefoodbank.org.uk

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NEWS FROM SKAW Corona Virus Response Group

As lockdown eases, we are all finding our new norm, and many of our volunteers will need to return to work so we will all need to find our new normal. If you are receiving help from a volunteer currently and are now starting to venture out to the shops, please do let your volunteer know so that the pressure is off a little so that they can find time to tend to other commitments. All this said, I really do hope that you have all discovered new friendships and will stay in contact and perhaps the help will become a two-way thing!

As our volunteers start to go back to work, we will be migrating the services over to the Good Neighbours Scheme – let me tell you a little more!

Good Neighbours Schemes

There is a scheme in both Kensworth and Studham and we would really love to be able to get one up and running in Whipsnade. The aim of the scheme is to provide residents with short term or temporary help through a network of local volunteers. In the absence of a normal support network - such as friends and family – the scheme can help with the following:

- Helpline for general advice or contact information;
- Provide company if you are feeling lonely;
- Provide prescriptions to be picked up and transport to doctor and hospital appointments.

Services are offered free with the exception of giving lifts, for which the driver is compensated for their running costs, and we encourage donations to the group to help the funding of the insurance, phone costs and small activities that we organise for the elderly in our community.

We are very much in need of volunteers in all the three villages so that when we migrate the services over from the SKAW Corona Virus Response group to the Good Neighbours schemes we will be able to manage demand.

In the first instance, if you would like to become a Good Neighbours Volunteer, please contact me and then I can either pass you on to Kensworth, come up with a plan for setting up Whipsnade or talk to you about the Studham group.

Once we are ready to migrate the services over, we will let you know in further communications.

Liesa Coates

Tel: 01582 873447

E-mail: gnstudham@hotmail.co.uk

WHIPSNADE

PRAYERS FOR JULY AND AUGUST: we will be praying especially for the people who live in Bushey Close and the Village Hall field, and those who care for the Village Hall and Windy Sayles. If you have any requests for prayers, please contact the Rector or churchwardens, (contact details page 5).

OPENING THE CHURCH: the church is now open during the day if you want to go in and sit quietly. We want to keep you safe – please remember to keep your distance from anyone else, and to use the chairs or pews which are marked. There are facilities for sanitising or washing your hands.

If you want to use the readings or prayers that have been laid out for you, there are laminated copies that can be left behind (these are wiped with disinfectant every day) or paper copies for you to take away.

We are looking forward very much to having services again in the church, but we know that we have to take things carefully. Watch the website for updated news.

THE CHURCHYARD: the churchyard is looking as lovely as ever with an abundance of wild flowers. We hope you will enjoy going to see it, and perhaps sitting peacefully on one of the benches. Contact Pam Ward (872406) if you are interesting in helping to maintain it.

If you drive to the church, please park on the grass rather than the turning area, by the gate, which is intended for official cars, e.g. by hearses for funerals.

WHIPSNADE VILLAGE LUNCH: we are all missing meeting our friends at the Village Lunch. We hope to re-start as soon as we can. Look out for details on the website, but we will also find other ways of letting you know.

WHIPSNADE VILLAGE HALL: at our recent AGM it was decided that we need to recruit new members to the committee. This is mainly due to the fact that Jenny Saunders retired as a committee member after 20 years' service. Again, we would like to thank Jenny, who, with her late husband, Terry, and their family, were involved in various fund-raising events and maintenance of the hall.

If you have a keen interest in what goes on in Whipsnade village and feel that you could offer your services in any way, please contact Carole Chant (873717 or e-mail carole.chant@sky.com).

Parking at the hall: a mesh covering will be laid onto the grass in front of the hall within the next few weeks which should make parking easier. Please remember to park facing downhill.

KENSWORTH

KENSWORTH CHURCH PRAYERS

In July our prayers will be especially for the residents of Common Road, from the start to the Methodist Church, including Wick Hill; in August we shall be praying for all who live in Bakers Lane, Woods Close, Grove Place, Dovehouse Lane and Malms Close. If you would like a particular prayer to be said, please contact Dorothy Blackburn (872670).

KENSWORTH PARISH CHURCH

The good news is that, following the easing of lockdown measures, church buildings may be open for private prayer. Unfortunately, due to security issues, St Mary's cannot be left unlocked and unsupervised, so for the moment the church will just be open on Sundays from 2pm – 5pm; anyone who would like to come in for a quiet time will be most welcome. Hygiene measures are in place and social distancing will be observed for people not from the same household or 'bubble'.

The church services continue to be streamed online – very grateful thanks to Nicola for her inspiring work. Notices of these and other parish items are to be found in the replacement Pew Sheet, KSW WorshipLink, which relates to all parishes in the benefice. For details and queries please contact Nicola (revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com or 872223).

Kensworth Evening Prayer Group continues in individual households on Tuesdays at 4pm. Contact Jim Putterill (872436) for details.

In the **Church Calendar**, notable dates in the summer are: 25th July, St James the Great (see below); 6th August, the Transfiguration of Christ; 15th August, the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary.

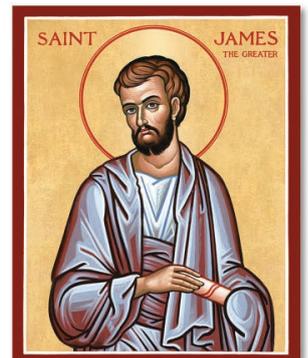
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* * * * *

ST JAMES THE GREAT

Jesus, fresh from His baptism and fired with His new calling, bursts into Galilee. Coming upon four fishermen working on the shore of the lake, He says to them, 'Follow me'. Without further ado or even a second thought, they abandon what they're doing (and in the case of two of them, James and John, leave their poor old father alone in the boat with the hired crew), and set off with Jesus, they know not where. That is how Mark's Gospel records the recruitment of four of the apostles of Jesus.



STUDHAM

ST MARY'S CHURCH



It's good news that after the long lockdown, the church building is open again for individual private prayer. Visitors are asked to comply with the latest government guidance, to sanitise their hands and maintain the required social distancing. And following the government announcement on 23rd June, we shall be able to meet for Sunday services in the not too distant future; once we have received guidance from the Diocese about the necessary hygiene and social distancing precautions, we will put together our detailed

plans and update everyone through e-mail, this website and the 'A Church Near You' website.

Meanwhile, the weekly e-mail WorshipLink from the Rector, Revd. Nicola Lenthall, is enabling us to enjoy 'home church' and we also appreciate Nicola's on-line services at 10am each Sunday (Nicola Lenthall Youtube channel) – happily, they will continue even when services in church become possible.

Irrespective of the arrangements for our services, our annual cycle of prayers for the residents of Studham continues. In July we shall be praying especially for everyone in Swannells Wood and in August, the focus of our prayers will be the people of Church Road, Church Close, Church Mead and Red Lion Cottages.

Thank you to all those volunteers who during the lockdown have so kindly kept a watchful eye on the medieval church building; happily nothing has been amiss. There has also been a lot of mowing, strimming and weeding in the churchyard and it looks wonderful. The very dry weather in May did not encourage the growth of the wild flowers in the newly designated patch, but happily the more recent rainfall has really helped them to thrive.



Barbara Johnson has been closely observing growth in the patch and has already identified a great diversity of ten flowering plants – Bird's-foot Trefoil, Mouse-ear Hawkweed, Ox-eye Daisy, Red Clover, Common Speedwell, Wild Carrot, Ribwort Plantain, Self-heal, Daisy, Lady's Bedstraw and Betony - which have attracted bees and butterflies (see above Small Copper Butterfly in the churchyard).

SPORTING ACTIVITY

STUDHAM SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUBHOUSE – RE-OPENING 4TH JULY

It is with great pleasure that, following the recent Government announcement, the Clubhouse will re-open on 4th July. Initially the weekday opening will be at the earlier time of 4pm. The opening hours will therefore be:

4pm to 9pm Monday to Friday and 12 to 9pm on Saturday and Sunday.

These will be kept under review in the light of demand.

Mark Horton, Chairman

SPONSORED BIKE 'N HIKE BEDS & HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

A Very Different Bike 'n Hike – 12th September 2020 The Bike 'n Hike is the most important fundraiser for the Trust and is key to enabling it to continue to give grants for the care and repair of churches and chapels. Half of the sponsorship money goes to churches with participants and, this year, with the churches closed for so long, it is even more important. Churches have lost income from services and other fundraising events and buildings deteriorate when not in use.

This year there will be a Bike 'n Hike but it will be different to keep everyone safe. The Bike 'n Hike is open to everyone, whether church-goer or not, bikers, hikers and other visitors, whether by car, mobility scooter or horse. The objective for participants is still to visit as many churches and chapels as you can and obtain sponsorship for your efforts.

Because of the Covid19 pandemic:

- we are not asking for churches to be open
- we are not asking for someone to be there to welcome
- there cannot be any refreshments
- toilets may not be available
- there will be no Register of Visitors
- participants will sign their own sponsorship forms

Sponsor forms will be available from the following:-

Kensworth – Jane Bedlington (871139),

Kensworth Methodist – Anita Shury (872117)

Studham – Meg Bender (872967)

Studham Methodist – Chris Smith (872989)

Whipsnade – Roger Kendrick (413564) or Pam Ward (872406)

Choose your own route to call at as many churches as you wish. A splendid way to raise money for your church.

KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

On behalf of Kensworth Parish Council I would like to thank all those who have joined with Studham and Whipsnade residents to form a very successful Coronavirus Support Group, who have been supporting over a hundred residents in the three villages. The number of volunteers is considerably more than the number of vulnerable residents who felt in need of support. The volunteers have been contacting people to ensure that they were coping well, organising food collections from local supermarkets, delivering newspapers and collecting prescriptions. What this demonstrates is a strong community spirit which has also been visible within the rest of the community. We should all be very proud that we have managed to help so many people and got to know many more of our neighbours than we knew before the pandemic.

I would also like to thank our wonderful vicar, Revd. Nicola Lenthall, who has kept who has kept up the support for our churches in the three villages in very difficult circumstances, but we are all enjoying the online services.

The Parish Council have been able to make use of new technology and have had two 'virtual' meetings, using the Zoom application, which has meant we have been able to complete most of our normal activities dealing with local issues. The Council does not meet in August, so unless something urgent comes up we will not be meeting until September, when it is hoped we can have a face-to-face meeting, depending on Government guidance.

We hope that you all stay safe and well. We pass our deepest condolences to the families who have lost a loved one through this dreadful virus.

Pat Mitchell, Chair

FLY-TIPPING CONCERNS

As we ease out of lockdown, the tidy tips are open, but only by appointment. Very unfortunately, it seems that some irresponsible people are not bothering to make appointments, but just dumping their rubbish in local lanes. This is against the law and a danger to the environment. If you have waste to get rid of, please just book online at centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/xfp/form/175 to make an appointment.

If you see anyone fly-tipping, or come across any unlawful waste, please contact Central Bedfordshire Council (**0300 300 8302** or **customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk**) to report it. You will have to give your name, address and a contact number but these are strictly confidential.

WHIPSNADE PARISH COUNCIL

Hurrah for our Volunteers!

Now that lockdown restrictions are beginning to ease, our pandemic emergency volunteer support group, "SKAW", which covers the three local parishes, is changing (see earlier). Our very great thanks to Liesa Coates, her team and all the volunteers and helpers who have provided support over the last fourteen weeks. They have really been amazing, working away quietly in the background helping with shopping, collecting prescriptions and other essential tasks, and for just being there if someone needed a friendly chat – all things, of course, that are hallmarks of 'Good Neighbours'.

All SKAW's activities are now to continue for the time being as part of the local Good Neighbours Schemes (GNS) which Liesa also organises across Kensworth and Studham. But "What about Whipsnade?", I hear you cry! Fear not - our good neighbours and hopefully many of the Covid volunteer network are not going anywhere and Liesa has said she would like to hear from anyone in Whipsnade Parish who would like to get involved in forming our own GNS to meet the needs of our residents.

Please contact Liesa on (873447/872597, e-mail: gnstudham@hotmail.co.uk).

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th July at 7pm. Owing to government advice for individuals who are shielding, this meeting will again be held via internet videoconference platform 'Zoom'. Please see notice boards nearer the time of the meeting for joining instructions.

Ken France, Chair

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

Our aim is to play a small part in preserving our village heritage by raising money for the maintenance of Studham's oldest building. In the current circumstances our main fund raising venture is the 100 Club. There's a £50 first prize and £10 runners up each month - in June these prizes were won by Cris Wheeler and Pam Rumfitt. To find out more about the Friends or to join the 100 Club, please e-mail john.mcdougal@btinternet.com or call 873257.

PARISH LINK

Thank you to a reader (former Studham resident who now lives in the USA) for a donation of £60. If you would like to make a donation to help with the costs of the Parish Link, contact Treasurer, Les Randall, on 01582 872552 or e-mail: lesrandall@btinternet.com, or send a cheque (payable to Parish Link) to 14 Holywell Road, Studham, LU6 2PA.

Sales and announcements for the next issue of the Link to Advertising Manager, Mike Bailey (mjbailey1@btinternet.com or phone 872318 or send to 42 Woodland Rise, Studham LU6 2PF). Cost 25p per word and cheques made payable to "Parish Link" please.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SALES

Annual General Meeting of The Studham Playing Fields to be held on Thursday 23 July at 6pm

Due to the pandemic, there will be no physical meeting. Any resident of Studham Parish wanting to vote at the AGM must request a form of proxy, stating their address, from the Secretary, Paul Hocking, by: E-mail: pdhocking@btinternet.com, or post, 47 Woodland Rise, Studham, LU6 2PF. Formal notice of the AGM is set out below. Proxies must be received by the Secretary no later than 6pm on Tuesday 21 July, 2020.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of The Studham Playing Fields is to be held on Thursday 23 July, 2020 at 6pm to deal with the following:

1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM held on 24 June 2019.
2. To accept the Chairman's and Treasurer's reports.
3. To approve the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020.
4. To accept with thanks the resignation of Treasurer John Bassil.
5. To confirm that the existing Members of the Committee shall remain in office for the coming year and to approve the appointment of Allan Wright as Treasurer.

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| Central Beds Cllrs | Kevin Collins 417933 & Eddie Perry 873909 | | |
| Police | Control Centre (01234) 841212 or Crime Stoppers (0800) 555111 | | |
| Church Friends | David Manton 01438 831184 | John McDougal 873257 | N Craig 07792 567537 |
| School Head Teachers & Pre-School | Mrs O Bates 872336 | Mr P Burrett 872337 | |
| Toddlers Groups | Kate Starkey 07702 402278 | Heather Wright 872118 | |
| W.I. Secretary | | Chrys Smith 872989 | |
| Village Hall | Lynn Bradley 873981 | Des Salmon 872082 | Samantha Burr 07921 761730 |
| Studham Sports and Social Club | Steward – Club House – | Steve Hawes 07768 872871 872137 | |
| Friends of Studham Common | | Geoff Shute 872732 | |
| Methodist Church (Hall Bookings) | Norman Willis 872312 Doris Folds 968149 | Inga West 872138 | |
| Kensworth Good Neighbours Scheme | 07919 081473 | | |
| Good Neighbours Scheme SiGNS | | 07563 135895 | |
| Neighbourhood Watch | Caroline Streek 872410 | Richard Hodge 873630 | |
| Local History | Julia Holder 873465 | | |
| Carpet Bowls | Geoff Stafford 872554 | Pat Thorne 872751 | |
| Cricket Club | Duncan Wingfield 872743 | Robert Thorne 873015 | |
| Tennis Club | | Andrew Jones 07833 111682 | |
| Beavers | ~~~~~ | Caroline Constantine 873331 | ~~~~~ |
| Cubs | ~~~~~ | Helen Thingsaker 861620 | ~~~~~ |
| Scouts | ~~~~~ | Steve Coleman 01525 220858 | ~~~~~ |
| Longrove Campsite & Group Contact | | Paul Rushmer 873388 | |



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