

PARISH LINK

Serving the villages of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade for 39 years





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

Tel: (01582) 872223

Dear friends and parishioners

One of the most precious and important parts of my role is to take funerals, and in our three parishes burials as well, in our own three beautiful and peaceful parish churchyards. It is quite unusual to have three churchyards which are still open for burial and interment of ashes. Many people find it surprising to know that they are kept looking so beautiful by a small group of very committed volunteers, to whom I am very grateful; unlike civic cemeteries, we don't have 'staff'! We would love more help with this work, which benefits the whole community, and if you could offer an hour a week or fortnight, I know it would be appreciated by more than just myself and the churchwardens.

Many people enjoy our churchyards – partly due to them being on public footpaths – and the Parochial Church Councils of each church are very pleased that they are so well-used; for contemplation, for exercise and for dog-walking. If you are interested in helping out, please drop me an e-mail or leave a message on my answerphone. As with any task this is getting to be more of an issue as those who have been doing so much for so long become less physically capable of doing it.

The past eighteen months or so have been a very difficult time for so many of us, especially those of us who have lost loved ones during the time of Covid, whether or not directly from the virus itself, and the chance to be able to care for those who have experienced so much loss through being able to offer services locally, has been very important. To be able to maintain this into the future is something that the churches in which we worship will continue to hold as important in the years to come. In the coming months, as we approach Christmas, there will be a service of carols and readings to remember those we have lost, 'Light out of Darkness', at St. Mary's Kensworth on Sunday December 12th at 2pm. All are, as always, welcome.

May God bless us with his love, this month and always.

Nicola

The cover photo is courtesy of Belinda Neasham. The poppies were produced by the Studham group of knitters and crocheters who used to meet in the Red Lion until lockdown. During lockdown they made over 1000 poppies and made this curtain near the War Memorial to emulate the Tower of London display.

WHIPSNADE INCLUDING OLDHILL WOOD

Prayers: our prayers in November are for Remembrance, and for all who have lost a loved one in the past year. If you have any prayer needs, put them on a leaf on the prayer tree in the church, or make a request to the Rector or the churchwardens.

Giving to Charity: this is a vital part of our church's Christian life. During October we donated a collection in church to refugees from Afghanistan being cared for in Luton, a total of £120, for which the Luton churches have sent their thanks.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal received £185 from the Harvest Festival and £168 from the village lunch, a total of £353. Thanks to all generous donors. Thanks also to those who donated gifts of fresh produce and other goods that were displayed at the service and later distributed to friends, to Knoll House and to the Food Bank.

Every November the church charities committee selects seven charities, each of which receives a donation from its funds before Christmas. We try to spread our choice between local, national and global organisations, dealing with the needs of children, the sick and hungry and those in need of spiritual support. If you have a special charity please feel free to suggest it for consideration to Les Randall, Church Treasurer (lesrandall@btinternet.com or 872552).

Village Lunch: on Thursday 11th November in the Village Hall at 12.30pm. For £6, enjoy a two-course meal – as usual there will be four choices of main course and a selection of puddings. Everyone is welcome, and there is no need to book. Just come along and enjoy the company! There will be a raffle and bookstall.

Bookings for the Christmas Lunch, to be held on Thursday 9th December, will be taken at the November lunch. Because of the need to cater for the correct number of people, the 3-course Christmas Lunch is ticket only.

Craft And Natter: the group re-started in September – the next get-together will be on Tuesday 9th November from 2-4pm in the church. Bring your own project to knit, sew or crochet, or we can help if you want to learn something new. Easy patterns, equipment and wools are available to start you off. Contact Jo King (07943 565555) for more details. No need to book, just come along.

Remembrance: because of the timing of Sunday services in the 3 villages, the Act of Remembrance is at the 9am church service on 14th November. Everyone is welcome, as always; do come along and take part in this important event.

Macmillan Coffee Morning: thanks to everyone who came to the coffee morning in September. Over £500 was raised for Macmillan. Well done, everyone!

Sunday School re-started successfully last month, many thanks to Glenda Cox. The next one will be on Remembrance Sunday.

KENSWORTH NEWSROUND

KENSWORTH PARISH CHURCH

Our prayers: in November we shall be praying for everyone who has lost a loved one in the past year. If you would like us to pray for someone special or, perhaps, a significant occasion, please contact Dorothy Blackburn (872670).

Church services: for all services, see page 14.

Remembrance Sunday this year is on Sunday 14th November. The United Service will take place in the Methodist Church at 10.30am. Please make a special effort to take part in the traditional ceremonies, as last year we were restricted to just a brief open-air service. There will be no service at St Mary's.

It is pleasing to announce that **Advent and Christmas activities** will take place as normal this year. We are also delighted to see the return of the choir for the service on the first Sunday of each month. We want lots of new singers; all ages and voices are welcome. We are also trying to find a pool of people to play every Sunday to accompany hymn-singing. You don't need to be an organist; piano playing is fine! If you're interested, please contact Revd. Nicola Lenthall (872223 or revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com).



As is the case with most churches, our **income** since the start of the pandemic has fallen, in spite of loyal parishioners who pay by standing order, and all the truly wonderful and imaginative fundraising events that have taken place. If you can help to contribute in any way, please contact the Vicar.

Harvest Festival: how lovely it was to be able to hold our Harvest Festival as normal on 26th September. Huge thanks to everyone who helped decorate the church so beautifully, brought gifts of produce and provided refreshments. Over £130 for the Bishop's Appeal and £45 for Keech Hospice was raised, and a large amount of food was donated to the Dunstable Food Bank.

Kensworth Evening Prayer Group: on Tuesdays at 4pm, BCP Evening Prayer is said in individual households at 4pm. For details, please contact Jim Putterill (872436).

Church Fundraising Bazaar: do come and have a browse in the Church Hall on Wednesdays, 2 - 4pm and Saturdays, 10am – 12 noon. Cash only. Sorry we can't accept large items of furniture, clothing or electrical goods. Please make sure anything you wish to contribute is clean and not broken!

AROUND ABOUT STUDHAM

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Church prayers: November is a time of remembrance, praying for family members and friends we have lost and especially for those who have lost a loved one in the last year. If you would like a particular prayer to be said, please contact the churchwarden Meg Bender (872967 or meg.bender4@btinternet.com).

Remembrance Sunday, 14th November: happily, we are able to return to our pre-pandemic pattern of worship. There will be a service of Remembrance at the church (LU6 2NW) at 10.30am followed immediately by an Act of Remembrance and the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial on West Common.



Children's Church: children and young people will be warmly welcomed to the service on **Sunday 21st November**. Through their special activities, which include fun with crafts and music, they will consider the words of the Lord's Prayer "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" and how his will can be done in our day-to-day lives. After the service everyone is warmly invited to stay for refreshments and to celebrate the November birthdays.

Kids' Club: the first session of the newly formed Kids' Club will be on **Friday 3rd December** from 3.30pm to 5.30pm at the church. The theme will be "Getting Ready for Christmas"; there'll be lots of fun and the activities will focus on what Christmas is really all about. Cold drinks and biscuits will be provided on arrival and there will be a hot dog dinner about 5pm. Parents and carers are very welcome to stay. Contact Meg Bender (see above) for more information and to book a place.

An **informal carol singing** event will take place in church on **Sunday 5th December at 2pm**. Please come along and sing some of the carols we missed singing last year! Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Everyone is very welcome.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

October's winner in the 100 Club was Ged Norris, who wins £50. The runner-up, Emma Mulder, has kindly donated her prize of £10 back to the Friends.

You can find out more about The Friends, and how we raise money to help look after the fabric of the village's oldest building, on our website (<https://friendsstudham.wixsite.com/website>). To join the 100 Club for £1 per month, or if you have some fundraising ideas to share, then please contact John McDougal (john.mcdougal@btinternet.com or call 873257).

MORE KENSWORTH NEWS

OPEN AFTERNOON FOR RECEPTION 2022

Kensworth CE Academy is delighted to be able to invite prospective parents whose child is due to start school in September 2022 to the school for an informative tour of the setting. Our Open Afternoon will take place on Thursday 18th November commencing from 2pm – 3.30pm.

As part of the tour, you will see classes being taught from Reception through to Year 6, and you will meet our Reception team and see our Forest School outdoor learning environment.

If you would like to come and visit, please contact the school office on 872336 or e-mail office@ken.dsamat.co.uk.

KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Christina Jones e-mail:clerk@kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/07387 789897

Website: www.kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Welcome new Councillor and new Clerk/RFO: we are pleased to welcome Emma Kerby as Councillor. Emma was co-opted in as Councillor at the October meeting. We are also pleased to welcome our new Clerk/RFO Christina Jones, who joined us on 20th September, taking over from Nicola Sewell.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Committee: join us in planning the village celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, 2nd June 2022. We are seeking volunteers to join the Jubilee Celebration Committee. Help us make a unique and fun event for all Kensworth residents. Contact the Clerk for more information.

Allotments: allotment tenants will have received their renewals during October for year October – September 2022. We have a small number of vacant plots; if you would like a full or half plot, contact the Clerk for more information.

Recreation Ground Improvement Committee: we continue to work on our plans to improve the recreation ground with the updating of existing playground area and the addition of new facilities. We need volunteers to join a committee to help drive ideas and plans forward. Help us make a lasting change for Kensworth! Contact the Clerk for more information.

New Councillor needed: we are still looking for a new Councillor to fill a casual vacancy. If you have a passion for your village, and believe you have something to offer the community, please contact the Clerk.

Parish Council Meetings: all Parish Council meetings are open to the public and have resumed as face-to-face meetings held from 7.30pm at Kensworth Village Hall, The Chilterns, Kensworth LU6 3RJ. **Next meetings:** 11th November, 9th December.

SCHOOL NEWS

KENSWORTH SCHOOL

We were delighted when our local MP, Andrew Selous, spent a morning with us. We were also joined by our new Chair of Governors as well as the CEO of our Trust and Mrs Mackenzie-Skea, headteacher at Studham School. Our Year 6 learning ambassadors were proud to take the lead in showing all our visitors around the school: they saw learning in action in the classrooms and out in the school grounds.



Andrew took part in our collective worship that day and talked to the children about this month's value, 'generosity', which of course was demonstrated by his visit – being generous by taking the time to visit us! The visit finished with an opportunity for our oldest children to ask questions. There were some thought-provoking questions and he rose to the challenge.

We have also enjoyed our harvest service led by Revd. Nicola. We were delighted to be able to invite parents to join us for the first time in a long while. The service started in the school hall and then ventured into the Forest School and Pencil Garden, where families joined together for an eco-walk. Children found pieces of nature to bring back to the Harvest table.

Enquiries to Headteacher, Steph O'Neill, (872336) or e-mail: office@ken.dsamat.co.uk.

STUDHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL

We thoroughly enjoyed teaming up with Kensworth CE Academy to take part in the Whipsnade Tree Cathedral Service and look forward to more joint adventures in the very near future!



Thank you to Revd. Nicola Lenthall for allowing us to use the church for our Harvest Festival; it was so lovely to have our school community together in one place for this celebration. Our children performed exceptionally well as did our newly formed choir headed by Mrs Copeland.

As we move beyond half term and the run-up to Christmas, we look forward to seeing many of you and sharing our learning. Please ask us about how we CARE! As always at Studham Village CE Academy, we are 'Caring to Learn and Learning to Care'; everything we do is underpinned by Challenge, is Aspirational, makes us Resilient and is Engaging.

To join our school/pre-school, please contact us (872337 or e-mail us at school@studhamschools.org.uk).

LOCAL

POPPY APPEAL 2021

Please support the Poppy sellers when they call or come to the stall at the Gateway Centre. The Royal British Legion is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and, as always, they need our support for the wonderful work which they do. If you prefer to send a donation direct to the Poppy Appeal you can send your donation via BACs to:-

Account: RBL POPPY APPEAL; **Sort Code:** 30 11 75; **Account No.** 01937121

District Reference: : EAD01

Or you could send your remittance to poppyappealpayments@britishlegion.org.uk.

There will be a Garden of Remembrance in each of the churchyards to place small crosses to remember loved ones. Last year our three villages raised over £4,000; many thanks for your support.

Volunteers to help with the stall this year would be very welcome; contact Local Poppy Appeal Organiser, Pam Ward (872406).

ECO-CHURCH

Food is a complex topic which we deal with every day; it can be hard to simplify into easy green steps to follow when family preferences, time and cost all come into the equation. We need to try though, as globally, food production is responsible for about a third of all greenhouse gas emissions which drive global warming. How many of the tips below do you already do? Could you try and do one more this month?

6 Tips to improve your food:

1. Buy local to support local businesses and reduce food miles. Try to support your local butcher where you will have less food packaging, use fewer food miles and eat better quality meat.
2. Try to avoid waste. The average family wastes £60 a month on food waste and this contributes to increased greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Try having **a more 'plant-rich' diet overall:** finding ways to get more vegetables, fruit, pulses and whole grain foods into our diet can be good not only for our health but the health of the planet as well. You could try having a meat or dairy free day each week. Keep trying with your 5-a-day.
4. Try and buy food with less packaging. Make sure you recycle the plastic on the food you buy.
5. Make ethical choices if you can when you shop: buy Fairtrade items, free range chickens, organic meat and avoid buying products with palm oil in them. Try doing more baking at home.
6. Choose sustainably sourced fish. Look out for logos such as the blue Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) mark on products.

CHURCH NEWS

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

We are delighted to report that the Kensworth chapel has re-opened with a Harvest Festival. The church positively sparkled, and there was a good display of food to go to the Foodbank, as well as the traditional sheaves and flowers. It was great to sing together again and share drinks, biscuits and news after the service. The United Remembrance Day service will be at the Methodist chapel this year and the preacher will be the Reverend Nigel Bibbings.

Services for November:

14th 10.30am United Remembrance Day Service Led by the Rev.Nigel Bibbings
 28th 10.30am Morning Worship Led by John Enejo

STUDHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Linda Hillier is our Pastoral Contact. If anyone has concerns they would like to discuss with our Minister, Rev Stuart Dyer, please let Linda know (01582 872860) and she will make necessary arrangements.

We currently meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and all are welcome to join us. On weeks when face to face services are not held, there are Zoom services available. If you would like details of these please contact Linda Hillier.

November Services:

Sunday 14th 10am Rev. Dyer Holy Communion
 Sunday 28th 10am Mr. David Williamson

CHURCH CALENDAR

Monday 1st November is All Saints Day;

Sunday 28th November is the First Sunday in Advent;

Tuesday 30th November: St Andrews Day. Best wishes to all our Scottish residents!

ST ANDREW, PATRON SAINT OF SCOTLAND

Andrew was born in Bethsaida in Syria, but when he met Jesus, he was living in Capernaum in present day Israel. Like his brother Simon Peter, he was a fisherman. Andrew, along with Peter, James and John formed the inner circle of Jesus' twelve apostles. Andrew was a disciple of St. John the Baptist prior to becoming a follower of Christ.

So how did he come to be Scotland's Patron Saint?

Historical accounts show that he travelled widely, spreading the Gospel, though we don't know every place he visited. One legend claims that he actually came to Scotland and built a church in Fife, where St Andrews is now, and pilgrims came there from all over Britain. Another states that, after the death of Andrew, several of his relics were brought to Fife by St Regulus, of Greece, around the 4th century. Whichever is closer to the truth we shall probably never know; however, it is these links that explain why Andrew is now the Patron Saint of Scotland.

WHIPSNADE NEWS & NATIONAL TREE WEEK

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING and CRAFT SALE with RAFFLE

Come and get into the Christmas spirit at our craft fair and coffee morning at Whipsnade church, to raise funds for the church, on Friday 3rd December from 10.30am. More information from Jo King (07943 565555).

WHIPSNADE GREEN SCRUB CLEARANCE

Last month's was cancelled due to heavy rain. We will continue on Sunday 21st November from 11.15am. Meet on The Green near Dell Farm. We need more helpers and it is great fun; come along and see for yourself. Wear stout footwear and gloves. Soup provided. More information from Charles Frost (871417).

WHIPSNADE CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

On Saturday 20th November between 10am and noon. All welcome to help to tidy the churchyard for winter. Details from Pam Ward (872406).

WHIPSNADE TREE CATHEDRAL ANNUAL 'LEAF SWEEP' DAY

On Sunday 28th November; please meet in the car park at 10.30am to 3.30pm; we need lots of hands to help rake up leaves and tidy up for the winter. Come along with stout shoes and gloves, we'll provide the tools and soup. There will also be a special oak tree planting in the afternoon. Pam Ward (872406) for more details.

WHIPSNADE VILLAGE HALL

The committee is delighted to let you know that we are holding an online Christmas Fair again this year. It is up and running now and will finish on 18th December. Keep an eye on the Whipsnade Village Hall Facebook page for further details or e-mail chantcarole@gmail.com or amethystmoons18@gmail.com. If you would like to have a 'stall', contact us on our Facebook page (or at chantcarole@gmail.com).

BIKE 'N HIKE

Congratulations to Pam Ward, Bola Fola-Caleb and the Whalley family, who took part in the annual Bike 'n Hike, raising nearly £800 for the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust and our church restoration fund. Well done, and thanks also to the people who manned the church on 11th September.

* * * * *

NATIONAL TREE WEEK is the UK's largest annual tree celebration, marking the start of the winter tree planting season (November to March each year). This year, it runs from Saturday 27th November to Sunday 5th December. It is a good time both to celebrate your current trees, and to plant more trees. You don't have to necessarily hug a tree to prove your appreciation; there are plenty of other ways to support them. Visit:

<https://treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/seasonal-campaigns/national-tree-week>.

MORE STUDHAM NEWS

CARPET BOWLS

2pm Thursdays In The Village Hall

We are a friendly mixed group and new members will be made welcome. No experience is necessary and no equipment is needed. It is an opportunity to relax and at the same time have some very modest exercise. Contact Pat (872751) or please just come along.

SCRABBLE

2pm Tuesdays In The Village Hall

New players are welcome to a small friendly group. Did you know that Scrabble was the most looked-for board game over lockdown? Why not come and try the real thing, with real opponents? Contact is Mary (alan.must@churchclose1pluscom) or just come along.

STUDHAM TENNIS CLUB

The tennis season is now well and truly underway and we offer free annual Junior Membership (with every adult member) and annual Family Membership from £75.

Coaching is now back underway alongside our Cardio Tennis – a fun, fitness class based on the game of tennis. Junior and adult tennis coaching takes place every Saturday afternoon between 2.30pm and 5.25pm (adults 2.30pm – 3.25pm, cardio 3.30pm to 4.25pm and juniors 4.30pm to 5.25pm). All are welcome.

Our coach, Megan, is also available for private individual or group lessons. Please contact Megan (07826 855 388) for more information.

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

STUDHAM QUIZ

On Tuesday 2nd November at 8pm in the Red Lion.

The rounds will be 1: Sport and Recent News, 2: School Days (all the things you learnt at school – and have forgotten!), 3: Alphabet (all answers start with N) 4: Entertainment (anything that entertains), 5: Anything we couldn't fit in the previous rounds! and 6: Music, (all start with the letter V!).

Please ring the Red Lion (872530) to book a table, (and order food if required). See you there!

SMILE LINE

At a drinks party at a wealthy golf club, the conversation turned to the subject of ancestry. "Of course, we trace our family back to coming over with William the Conqueror," observed one lady with satisfaction. She turned to a second woman, who was new to the club, and asked, "What about you dear? Can you go back very far?" "Not very far," came the reply. "You see, all the early family records were lost in the Flood."

PARISH COUNCILS

WHIPSNADE PARISH COUNCIL

Going, Going, Gone! – Electricity pylons.

The pylons carrying the high voltage electricity cables across Whipsnade Downs for so many years have now gone, replaced by new cables running underground. Partly down to age, partly for safety and partly for aesthetics to help beautify the wonderful Downs, it was time for them to go. Some might argue they were a blight on the landscape, but they did their job for fifty years carrying current to power our lifestyles. Oddly, they will be missed.

Tidy Green

In late September, Whipsnade Green finally received its annual ‘hair-cut’ and the whole area of the common is now looking very tidy. Thanks to local farmer, Andy Cornthwaite, who undertook the work, paid for by the Zoo.

The **next meeting** of Whipsnade Parish Council will be at 7.30 pm in Whipsnade Village Hall on Tuesday 9th November. All welcome.

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Contact details: clerk@studhamparish.co.uk.

Our next meetings are on Monday 1st November at 7pm and Monday 6th December at 6pm in Studham Village Hall. All are welcome.

2022 will see year-long Platinum Jubilee celebrations for the Queen including an extended bank holiday, from 2nd to 5th June. We are looking for members from all organisations within the village, or residents, to form a committee to ensure that we celebrate this joyous occasion. If you would like to be part of that committee, please contact the Clerk with your details. If you don't want to be part of the committee but have some ideas for celebrating the event, again, please let the Clerk know.

If you are a new resident to Studham and have not yet received a welcome pack, please let the Clerk, or any Parish Councillor know. If a property near you is “up for sale” and about to change hands, please let us know so that we can get this service back on track.

If you wish to report a broken street light or pothole please use “FixMyStreet”. All we ask is that you let us know that you have done it so that we can follow it up. You may do this through the Clerk.

Lastly, as we have repeatedly said, it is owners' responsibility to cut hedges bounding footpaths or roads. If you are one of these landowners, please be responsible and cut your hedges – you are causing others a great deal of difficulty when walking around the village.

FRIENDS of ST MARY'S, KENSWORTH

We look forward to welcoming as many people as possible to our **AGM** in the church at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th November. A brief business meeting will be followed by light refreshments. We hope to recruit more members to the Committee; the work is not onerous, and we want to raise funds to help with the maintenance of this wonderful old 12th century building.

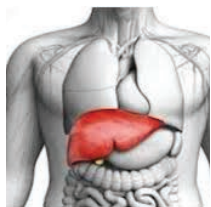
Another date for your diaries: it's great to be able to run our **Annual Friends' Quiz** again! It will happen on Saturday 5th February 2022, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. More details in the next issue.

FAMILY PICTORIAL QUIZ FUNDRAISER FOR KENSWORTH CHURCH

Many of you enjoyed my Benefice Walking Quiz, now it's time for a Pictorial Quiz to do at home. It is suitable for all ages: some are easy and some are quite a challenge! Each quiz is £3.50. Work out 50 place names from the British Isles, and one song title from the picture clues.

Here is an example but don't look for that one - it isn't there!

E.g. Liver



Pool



E-mail

Jane Bedlington (jane.bedlington@btinternet.com) or text your details (07796 015292) for a copy of the quiz. BACS details will be sent or pay by cash.

DON'T SPOIL OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE!

During lockdown, many of us came to appreciate the lovely countryside that surrounds us, and enjoyed the peace and ever-changing landscapes we could see. There are so many little roads, lanes and walkways that you can lose yourself in, and watch the wild flowers, hedgerows, farms and woodland; also, if you're lucky enough, wild animals and birds.

Unfortunately, there are those who thoughtlessly desecrate all this. There are the fly-tippers, too lazy and careless to dispose of rubbish responsibly, damaging the lanes and verges with ugly piles of discarded goods, a danger to traffic and wildlife. Some even manage to collect money from well-meaning people who think they are paying for it to be sent to the tip. If you wish to use such a service, check their credentials carefully and only give your rubbish to someone you trust. Remember **you are responsible for your rubbish!**

What to do if you see someone fly-tipping? See Part 2, next month.

STUDHAM EXTRA

STUDHAM PLAYING FIELDS

Sports activities have now returned to normal up at the playing fields with a successful cricket season just completed and a new football team joining us for the winter season. Tennis, of course, continues full pace! There is still space for more football – so we'd be very interested to hear from you!

If you have any questions or would like any more information about the facilities and opportunities for sports up at the field, or would like to hold an event at the playing fields, please contact the Studham Playing Fields Secretary, Paul Hocking, on pdhocking@btinternet.com.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 4.30pm to 9pm, Saturday and Sunday 12noon to 9pm. If you are not yet a member, then why not call in and see what we are all about? We look forward to meeting you.

BINGO

Wednesdays 3rd and 17th November at 8pm in Studham Village Hall. Doors open at 7.30pm for 'Eyes Down' at 8pm. Everyone is most welcome.

WI

Thursday 4th November 7.15pm Studham Village Hall

Mince Pie Tasting (bring your own liquid refreshment).

At our November meeting we are taste-testing mince pies ready for Christmas! Why not come and see which comes top of our poll? The selection will include pies from high-end and low-end supermarkets as well as those 'in-between', and although we will be judging on taste rather than cost, we have been surprised before!! There will be a raffle. Come and join us, you will be made most welcome.

STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL

Government support funding and a grant from the National Lottery has enabled some long-needed refurbishment to take place. Internal doors have been cleaned and varnished, external doors painted and new safety signage fitted. All work is by local businesses as we always source locally, including for the completed floor replacement.

The AGM was postponed and we hope that this did not cause any inconvenience. It will now be at 10.30am on Monday 5th November. It is an open meeting and an opportunity to meet the volunteers who run your Village Hall. The hall will be well-ventilated with seating appropriately spaced. No pressure, but we would welcome help in managing the hall. Contact Des for any further information (872082/desstudham@btconnect.com).

FOSC & KENSWORTH VH

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON

Our AGM is on 12th November at 7.30pm in Studham Village Hall; Bob Hook of the Greensand Trust will give a talk on 'Swifts, the Devil's Bird'. See our newsletter and website for further details. Our next work party will be held on 20th November .

It is our busy time of the year where we spend time cutting back and clearing the summer's growth of bracken and grass while trimming back around the hazel plantings, the laid hedging and gorse. This takes place on all parts of the common and we will assess before the work party where our efforts should be best deployed. We meet at the War Memorial outside the Red Lion Pub at 10am; all are welcome. Please contact work party operation manager Bob Wilkin (bob@afromosia.com or 871268 or 07796 446031) for further information.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FOSC FOR WINNING THEIR 14TH CONSECUTIVE GREEN FLAG AWARD!

KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL

Ad hoc **bookings** from people outside the area are increasing; word is spreading about the good facilities and reasonable prices. We have a few more regular hirings including: Ballroom and Latin Dancing classes, Little Glow for babies and Body & Mind Yoga classes. We hope that groups offering more services for the youth of the village might come forward.

We are still employing a local company to do the **Covid Cleaning** of the hall, to reassure hirers that we are making the hall as safe as possible. Maintenance work is ongoing and the annual PAT (Portable Appliance Testing) work is due in November, checking and certifying all the electrical appliances and wiring. Electric wiring in the stage area will be brought up to standard, to enable everyone to use the stage once again. A leak in the roof will be repaired shortly.

The **Committee** needs more people, as we are likely to lose two members in the next few months and we need some younger people to help keep the hall running. The Drop-In Club has resumed every Thursday from 9am – 11am. It is timed to welcome parents/carers after taking children to school, and people of any age, to meet together. Do drop in for a cuppa, games and chat. Toddlers are very welcome, catered for with toys and healthy snacks.

The **Village Walks** start from the Village Hall car park each month at 10am, lasting approx. 90mins and finishing with coffee: the next one is 6th November. If anyone has any queries, please e-mail: joanneacook@yahoo.co.uk.

The next Committee meeting is on 3rd November at 7.30pm. **Reminders:** Christmas Bingo on 3rd December, and the Christmas Fayre on Sunday 12th.