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PARISH LINK

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





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Dear friends and parishioners

Touch ended up being one of the things which was removed from my ministry for many months over the course of the pandemic; and one which I often felt the lack of most strongly. Not to be able to shake people's hand as they leave a service, not to be able to put my arms round the shoulders of those weeping at a funeral, not to visit someone in their home and make a cup of tea for them, not even to be able to pass a child something to hold for me in a school assembly...

It's been tough and it's brought home to me something of which I am conscious but which sometimes I forget: that God became one of us in Jesus, and as a human baby Jesus was held in someone's arms, that he grew up into a trade as a carpenter which is physical and which uses the hands, that as his ministry grew he used his hands to heal and that it was the hands of others which nailed him to the cross, and loving hands which took him down.

Touch is everywhere in the story of Jesus, from the birth in the stable onwards. The promise of the manger and the cross is that God holds us in all our pain and grief and joy. The promise of the new life brought through birth and the empty tomb is one which invites us to join in ourselves, to bring that new life and love to others. This Christmas, wherever and however we celebrate, let us be grateful for all those who have shown love to us, and for the great love of God which underlies it all.

What we have needed is here.

Skin-to-skin contact, the Word made flesh.
 Shared breathing sustains and does not deny life, as the wind of the Spirit moves over the water of creation, as a baby takes his first breath and cries.

All our longing, all our pain and all our joy
 Held in Mary's arms.

Held in the outstretched arms of the one on the cross.

What we have needed is here.

The Word made flesh.

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

Nicola Lenthall

Our prayers: in December we shall be praying for the pupils and staff in 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 us to pray for someone special or, perhaps, a significant occasion, please contact Dorothy Blackburn (872670).

Church services: for all services, see page 16.

Coming up to what we hope will be a heartwarming Christmas for everyone: lots of Christmas activities are happening once more:

- On Sunday 12th December there will be a Messy Church Christingle Service, starting with breakfast at 10.15am: fun things to do for every age as we celebrate the approach of the Nativity of Jesus;
- On 12th December at 2pm there will be a service of carols for the bereaved;
- The annual Carol Service will take place at 4pm on Sunday 19th December;
- The Crib Service will be held on Christmas Eve, Friday 24th December at 3pm.

All ages are welcome at all these services!

NB: Midnight Mass is a Benefice service at St Mary's, Studham, this year, and on 30th January the Benefice service for Candlemas will also be at Studham (see page 16).

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.

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! Please see article on the history of Kensworth Church Hall on page 24.

Kensworth Evening Prayer Group: Jim Putterill regrets that, due to his failing eyesight and other issues, the group will be suspended from Advent Sunday until a review after Christmas. Members of the group thank Jim for his inspiring leadership, and wish him well.

There is a service of Choral Evensong broadcast by Radio 3 every Wednesday at 4pm, repeated on Sundays at 3pm, and daily BCP services can be found online at daily.commonworship.com.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, STUDHAM

Church prayers: in December we shall be remembering in our prayers all the families in the parish and everyone - the children, the teaching and non-teaching staff and the governors - at our Church of England Village School. In January our cycle of prayers begins again and we shall be praying especially for all the residents of Woodland Rise. If you would like a special prayer to be said, please contact the Churchwarden, Meg Bender (872967 or meg.bender4@btinternet.com).

Advent and Christmas: we're delighted this year we can again host a full range of Christmas events at the church, something for everyone to enjoy. But we've heard that some people, including those who have lived in the village for years, don't know where the church is. The postcode is LU6 2NW – it's not difficult to find!

Kids' Club: the newly formed Club for children and young people will meet for the first time on Friday 3rd December from 3.30pm until 5.30pm. Focussing on the theme 'Getting Ready for Christmas', the activities will include assembling the church's nativity scene and creating a large mobile of stars for the church's porch; refreshments will be provided on arrival and a hot dog supper will be served at about 5pm. Parents and carers are very welcome to come and join in the fun. Please contact Meg Bender (see above) for more information and to book a place.

Carols, coffee and cake: this informal carol singing event will take place in church on Sunday 5th December from 2pm until approximately 3pm. Please come and enjoy the carols we missed last year and stay for light refreshments afterwards.

Studham School Christmas service on 17th December at 9am: it will be a pleasure to welcome the children and their families for their annual Christmas service.

Christingle Service: this joyful family-friendly service is on 19th December at 10.30am. Thanks to the children of the School who are assembling the Christingle oranges; there will be a Christingle for everybody and we will be lighting the candles as a reminder that God is always with us as the light of the world. The collection will be donated to the Children's Society to support their important work. Refreshments will be served and there will be a celebration of the December birthdays.

Carol and Crib service on Christmas Eve at 4.30pm: the busy period of Christmas preparations will be over! Please come and enjoy the real meaning of Christmas at this traditional celebration of carols and readings.

Christmas Holy Communion: Midnight Mass will start at 11.15 pm on the 24th.

The New Year: our cycle of services starts again as advertised on page 16. Please note, Children's Church will meet within the service of Holy Communion on Sunday 16th January at 10.30am.

ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH

Prayers: in December and January we will be praying for the children of the village, and for the staff, children, parents and carers of Studham Academy. If you want prayers to be offered for anyone important to you, contact the Rector or churchwardens, or visit the church and put a prayer on a leaf on the prayer tree.

Christmas Craft Fair: come to the church on Friday 3rd December between 10am and 12 noon, to enjoy teas and cakes with the opportunity to buy crafts made by members of the Knit and Natter Group.

Knit and Natter: the group will meet in the church for company, refreshments and shared crafts on Tuesday 14th December, 2pm – 4 pm. Patterns, materials and support for beginners are available, or bring along the project you are working on. The January meeting is on Tuesday 11th.

Whipsnade Christmas Lunch: on Thursday 9th December at 12.30pm in the Village Hall. This is a ticket-only event. Tickets are £10 for a four-course Christmas meal, and must be bought in advance from Les Randall (lesrandall@btinternet.com or 872552). At time of writing, there are still a few tickets available. Please let us know if you prefer a vegetarian meal or if you have any allergies.

January Village Lunch: on Thursday 13th January at 12.30pm in the Village Hall. Come along for a two-course lunch with your friends – choose from roast lamb, cottage pie, hunter's chicken or smoked haddock in cheese sauce, followed by a hot or cold dessert and tea or coffee.

Christingle: the traditional service of Christingle will be held on Sunday 19th December at 9am. Christingles will be made in the church from 9.30am onwards on Saturday 18th December, everyone is welcome.

Sunday School: last month, the children made beautiful poppy fields which were put on the altar as part of the service. Sunday School meets again in the church during the 9am service on Sunday 12th December and again on 9th January.

The church will be **decorated for Christmas** on Wednesday 22nd December, starting at 10am. More helpers would be very welcome: contact Pam Ward (872406).

WHIPSNADE GREEN SCRUB CLEARING

This is on Sunday 5th December and Sunday 9th January; meet near Dell Farm at 10.45am. The scrub has grown a lot this year and we need lots of help, please, to clear the brambles and scrub. Everyone welcome, soup provided. Contact Ken France (872375).

STUDHAM EXTRA

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

The Friends of Studham Church raise money to help look after the structure of Studham's oldest building – and in the last month have made a substantial donation for essential repairs. So, we need to keep raising funds – with the 100 Club being a major contributor. November's winner was Sally Cload, who wins £50, whilst runner-up John Hanna receives £10. To join the 100 Club for £1 per month then please e-mail: john.mcdougal@btinternet.com or call 873257.

You can find out more about The Friends on our website: <https://friendsstudham.wixsite.com/website>.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON

As the days become shorter and Autumn turns into Winter, it means there will be no work party on the Common 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 15th January. All are welcome; no better way to start the New Year! The work will include any tasks not completed from last year's list as well as trimming and re-laying the hedge on the southern boundary of East Common. This will ensure that the hedgerow will eventually form a continuous dense habitat for nesting birds and a corridor for other animals. If you wish to join us we meet at the War Memorial on West Common, opposite the Red Lion at 10am.

For further information see our monthly newsletter or contact Bob Wilkin (01582 871268 or e-mail Bob@afromosia.com).

STUDHAM VILLAGE CofE ACADEMY

We ended our first half term with a healthy food tasting and Smoothie Bike fun afternoon. Our children chose their fresh ingredients and then had to pedal the bike to mix their smoothie! Great fun was had by all and workouts were rewarded with delicious, unique fruit smoothies.



This half term we have had many events happening in addition to our learning. We marked Remembrance Day on 11th November; the children made poppies using many different art styles and techniques. We raised money for Children in Need by wearing spots galore!

We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas services, singing, performing and fun activities, all safely, in December.

We would love to welcome you to our school. Please contact the Headteacher, Sarah MacKenzie-Skea (872337 or e-mail: school@studhamschools.org.uk).

KENSWORTH NEWSROUND

FRIENDS of ST MARY'S, KENSWORTH

The Friends are pleased to announce the return of their Annual Quiz, to take place on Saturday 5th February in the Village Hall. This is always a popular evening and, with social distancing in mind, tables of maximum 8 people will be available. As usual, a buffet supper is included but please bring your own drinks. Timing is 7.15pm for a prompt 7.30pm start.

The contact for tables, individual places or any other information is David Manton (01438 831184 or david.manton@aol.co.uk). Cost is £10 per person, payable on the night.

KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is getting a lot of bookings from outside the area, as people make enthusiastic comments about the hall on different social media websites, which is resulting in lots of ad hoc bookings for family parties. We were fully booked for all the weekends in November and the regular hirers were getting back to normal bookings. We still have some space available for regular events and hope that these might include events for younger residents.



December is quieter as clubs and groups take a Christmas and New Year break, but we do have the **Family Christmas Bingo** on Friday 3rd December at 7.30pm; doors open at 7pm. Contact Sylvia Inns (07831 538682) for details.

Our **Christmas Fayre** is on Sunday 12th December 1pm – 4.30pm. Look out for the notices around the village. We have lots of stalls and activities for children, as well as meeting Santa! Do come along and join us for mince pies, mulled wine and some Christmas Carols.

The new **Village Hall website** (www.kensworthvillagehall.com) is now up and running and we are adding lots of photos and up-to-date information. New bookings are now coming in but the old website will continue for a short period.

There is no Village Walk in December, but there will be a walk in the New Year on 15th January at 10am from the Village Hall car park, weather permitting, with coffee afterwards in the Village Hall.

The next meetings are at 7.30pm on 1st December and 5th January. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Caritas Harmony Ladies Choir and supporting Buchinate Brass Ensemble are holding a Christmas Gala Concert



at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Dunstable, on Sunday 12th December. All proceeds will be donated to Prostate Cancer Research UK. Doors open at 5pm for the purchase of refreshments. Tickets are £10 and under-12s are free. Visit www.caritasharmony.co.uk or call Jackie Howe (01582 599520).

HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS EVE?

It has its own customs, the most popular of which is going to Midnight Mass, or the Christ-Mas. This is the only Mass of the year that is allowed to start after sunset. In Catholic countries such as Spain, Italy and Poland, Midnight Mass is in fact the most important church service of the entire Christmas season, and many people traditionally fast beforehand. In other countries, such as Belgium and Denmark, people dine during the evening, and then go on to the Midnight Service.

The British are behind some countries when it comes to exchanging presents: in Germany, Sweden and Portugal the custom is to exchange on Christmas Eve. But the British are ahead of Serbia and Slovakia, where the Christmas tree is not even brought into the house and decorated until Christmas Eve.

Yule logs are not so popular since the decline of the fireplace, but traditionally it was lit on Christmas Eve from a bit of the previous year's log, and then would be burned non-stop until 12th Night (6th January). Tradition also decreed that any greenery such as holly, ivy or mistletoe must wait until Christmas Eve until being brought into the house.

THE ADVENT RING

Many churches have an Advent ring as part of their Christmas preparations, and some people have one at home as well. It is usually a ring of greenery with four candles round the edge and a larger one in the centre.

For each Sunday there is a specific theme and a watch word:

Advent 1	The Patriarchs	Awake
Advent 2	The Prophets	Be Glad
Advent 3	John the Baptist	Return
Advent 4	The Virgin Mary	Prepare
Christmas Day	The Christ	



So, during Advent we follow the pattern of God's redemption through the Old Testament and into the New and are challenged to prepare spiritually for the wonderful gift given to us at Christmas. Each candle is a light for our path through Advent.

VOLUNTEER ADVERTISING MANAGER NEEDED FOR THE LINK

The role involves: keeping the list of advertisers up to date; compiling and sending the 'Sales and Announcements' page to the Editor monthly; being the contact point for all advertisers and liaising with the printer for new ads/amendments to existing ads; issuing renewal notices to advertisers in July/August.....and keeping the Editor, and especially the Treasurer, happy! For more information, contact current Advertising Manager, Mike Bailey (mjbailey1@btinternet.com/872318).

WHIPSDNAE PARISH LINK CORRESPONDENT

Our current correspondent, Pam Ward, has decided to take a much-earned rest from this role – more about her tremendous contribution in the next issue.

We are very grateful to Jane Wright and Jo King who have agreed to take on this role jointly – Jane will be the contact point and her details are: janewrightfrom1963@gmail.com or call 07903 019188.

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES CHARITY

The Christmas Card shop that has run for many years from the United Reformed Church in Harpenden has not been able to open this year due to the impact of COVID restrictions. However, cards are available through the CFGC website (www.cardsforcharity.co.uk) where it is possible to search by Charity and /or type of card.

REMINDER TO EVENT ORGANISERS

Please contact Les Randall if you are organising an event and would like it listed on the Events Diary Page of our website (www.parishlink.org.uk). See Les' contact details on page 5.

BODY TONE AND STRETCH CLASS

This twice-weekly friendly group class has been taking place on Studham Common since lock-down. Classes take place on Zoom when the weather is inclement. Classes with Ros (personal trainer level 3) are 9.30am to 10.30am on Mondays and Wednesdays at £7.50 per session. For further information contact Ros (rosjaffa@gmail.com or phone 07805 419685).

SEASON'S GREETINGS

We wish all Parish Link readers a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year and thank you for all your support throughout 2021.

ECO LIVES: FASHION AND CONSUMPTION

It's Christmas time again! Gifts, overeating, buying too much, things we don't need, that new 'must-have' item, Boxing Day and New Year Sales – will it ever stop? We often don't think about the care and maintenance of our clothing, or whether we'll ever wear that costume bought for the themed Christmas party again.

Instant availability of needless products has made us numb to the effects that our consumerism has on the planet and people. There is much to learn from history that can be re-introduced to today's society. The campaign of 'Make Do and Mend', introduced during WW2, forced people to use what they had to repair and update their clothing. It's about being 'proactive'.

Some suggestions to help alter your lifestyles this Christmas and New Year:

- wear the same Christmas jumper – no one remembers!
- push up that dress with a new scarf.
- watch a 5-minute YouTube video to learn how to mend a hole in trousers, shorten a dress, change straps – a few alterations and you have a new outfit!
- secret Santa between one family – no need for loads of presents.
- shop with care; consider delivery airmiles and carbon footprint.
- ask a friend if you can swap clothes.
- leftover food – make decent stock from bones (far tastier than a stock cube) or bubble and squeak from vegetables. Only buy what food you need.
- Try a 'seitan roll' – ask me for the recipe or use the internet for non-meat alternatives.

Written by Jennifer and Jane Bedlington (jane.bedlington@btinternet.com).

Addendum to October Parish Link ECO CHURCH – Cycling

The nights are getting darker earlier and the sun is low – wear a reflective bright jacket/gilet/straps and put your lights on. SAFETY FIRST!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will be starting early next year 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).

NORTH CHILTERN'S GROUP

All the parishes in the North Chilterns Group are delighted to report that normal events have started again. Group plans for 2022 are particularly special, as it is the 40th anniversary of the Orders in Council that inaugurated the NCG. During these years the existence of this body has protected our churches and parishes from attempts to amalgamate them, move boundaries and close buildings. Look in future magazines for details of celebrations.

CHURCH NEWS 2

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

Services for December:

Sunday 12th at 10.30am: Celebration of Holy Communion for Advent
Led by the Reverend Jenny Spouge

Saturday 25th at 10am: Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ
Led by Peter Baker

Services for January:

Sunday 9th at 10.30am: Morning Worship Led by Chris Berry

Sunday 23rd at 10.30am: Morning Worship Led by Geoff Best

All are welcome and there are light refreshments after the services.

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 (872860) and she will make necessary arrangements.

Services:

December:

Sunday 12th 10am Miss K Crew.

Saturday 25th 10am Miss Linda Hillier. All are welcome and children may bring a present to show.

January:

Sunday 9th 10am Rev. S. Dyer Holy Communion.

Sunday 23rd 10am Mr Swanston.

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.

FIRST STEPS is on Friday 10th December and Friday 14th January at Kensworth Church Hall in Clayhall Road at 2pm.

There are currently over 70 online worship services at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRoQ3YB9ywTtcFdEt0vmgQ>.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS:

Baptism	24 th October	Oliver Dolan	Kensworth
	7 th November	Orla Hayes	Kensworth

Marriage	23 rd October	John Harte and Anne Kennedy	Kensworth
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R.I.P.	12 th October	Yvonne Chambers	Whipsnade
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KENSWORTH EXTRA

KENSWORTH C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL and PRESCHOOL

The second half of the Autumn term at Kensworth was so much fun. It started with the formation of our brand-new School Council, which is made up of representatives from each of the classes. The children have been busy seeking views and ideas from their classmates and voting on the ones they would like to act on in order to make improvements to our school. We have enjoyed a rather special Remembrance Service too, when children gave readings and read poems before taking part in a period of reflection.

Our school clubs have really got going over the last weeks and months – from book club and games club to the more creative art club and Strictly dance club. The latter is run by one of our parents, Mrs Benoy, who is a professional Latin and Ballroom dance coach, and is one of our more popular clubs! If any readers are interested, she also runs a beginners' Ballroom and Latin class for adults in Kensworth Village Hall on Monday evenings.

Christmas will be celebrated in style at Kensworth and promises to be even more enjoyable after the restrictions of last year. The children have been practising carols and will be taking part in the annual Dunstable Torchlight procession, enjoying the pantomime in the local Grove Theatre and ending the term with a very special family service at St. Mary's Church led by Reverend Nicola.

With season's greetings for a peaceful and happy New Year from all at Kensworth CE Academy.

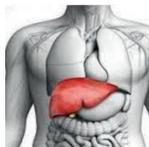
Enquiries to the Headteacher, Steph O'Neill (872336) or e-mail: office@ken.dsamat.co.uk.

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.

KENSWORTH PC

KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Christina Jones; email: clerk@kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Website: www.kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk.

CCTV – Village Hall

The cost for two replacement cameras is having to be found after 2 cameras were broken, probably by footballs. Please – no kicking footballs in the VH car park or immediately around the building itself.

Allotments

If you would like a plot in Kensworth, please contact the Clerk for information.
NB: A polite notice to please follow up outstanding payments from any of our existing tenants who are still to complete their tenancy renewal payment.

Parish Council Meetings

Next meetings: 9th December 2021, 13th January 2022.

From 7.30pm, at Kensworth Village Hall, The Chilterns, Kensworth LU6 3RJ.

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COVID BLUES

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree;
I'll sanitise the doorknob and make a cup of tea.
I won't go down to the sea again – I won't go out at all;
I'll wander lonely as a cloud - from the kitchen to the hall.

There's a green-eyed yellow idol to the north of Kathmandu,
But I shan't be seeing him just yet, and nor, I think, will you.
While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay,
I'll make my bit of supper, and eat it off a tray.

I shall not speed my bonny boat across the sea to Skye,
Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.
About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go
To see the 'Keep Out' posters, or the cherry hung with snow.

And no, I won't be travelling much within the realms of gold,
Or go to Milford Haven; all that's been put on hold.
'Give me your hands' I shan't request, albeit we are friends,
Nor come within a mile of you, until the virus ends.

(Anon)

[Sent by Elisabeth Shelley]

STUDHAM EXTRA 2

W.I.

Thursday 2nd December Members only Christmas/Birthday dinner
Thursday 6th January Fun and Social Evening 7.15pm Studham Village Hall

At our November evening we tasted 3 mince pies from 3 different supermarkets. The winner was Aldi, closely followed by Asda, with Waitrose taking 3rd place. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

December is our 102nd birthday and we will be celebrating with a members-only dinner. In January we will have a fun and games evening, with time set aside for sorting items from the trunk which need to be archived.

STUDHAM PLAYING FIELDS

The playing fields are there for everyone in the village to enjoy – but please do not allow your dogs to foul the grounds. Please also keep off the cricket square.

If you have any questions or would like any information about the facilities and activities available, or would like to hold an event at the playing fields, please contact the Secretary, Paul Hocking (pdhocking@btinternet.com).

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 4.30pm to 9pm, Saturday and Sunday 12pm to 9pm.

If you are not a member, then why not call in and see what we are all about? We look forward to meeting you. Why not buy one of our Christmas Raffle Tickets - only £1 and you could win £50! The draw will take place on 19th December at 2.30pm.

BINGO

Wednesdays 1st and 15th December at 8pm in Studham Village Hall. The 15th is our Christmas Party. Doors open at 7.30pm. Whether you are new to bingo, just taking full advantage of the fact that we are no longer 'locked-in', or an old friend looking to renew your bingo skills – everyone is most welcome. We do not meet in January, but will restart on Wednesday 9th February.

QUIZZES

Tuesday 7th December 8pm Red Lion.
Tuesday 4th January 8pm Red Lion.

We look forward to seeing you for the quizzes and, to give you a chance to “swot up”, the rounds will be 1: Sport & Recent News, 2: School Days (all the things you learnt at school – and have forgotten!), 3: Alphabet (all answers start with O), 4: Entertainment (anything that entertains), 5: Anything we couldn't fit in the previous rounds! and 6: Music, this month is Disney! Please ring the Red Lion to book a table (and order food if required). See you there!

DONT SPOIL OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE (part 2)

Dial 999 if you see somebody fly-tipping and give as much information (make/ colour & registration number of vehicle, location) as possible. To report a fly-tip, go to the 'Fix my Street' web page, phone CBC (0300 300 8302) or e-mail customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk. If you find any evidence, photograph it and, if you see a name/address on anything, report it to CBC, who will follow up with a view to prosecution.

CBC also have a Community Safety Partnership called 'Safer Central', who work in collaboration with other partner agencies such as the police & the fire brigade. Bedfordshire Police have a dedicated Rural Team who support farmers and landowners who suffer criminal activities, such as organised crime thefts, nuisance off-road bikes or wildlife crimes.

We can all help to look after our beautiful countryside by reporting suspicious behaviour or criminal activity. Your information will provide the statistical evidence to prioritise policing in our villages.

WHIPSNAD E PARISH COUNCIL



The next meeting of the Council will take place in Whipsnade Village Hall on the evening of Tuesday 11th January, 2022 at 7.30 pm. Public question time is at the start of each meeting. For any further information about the work of the council or to raise any concerns, please e-mail the clerk (helenmatthews1@outlook.com) or phone the Chair, Ken France (872375).

MORE STUDHAM

STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL

At our recent AGM we had a change of seats. Chrys Smith is now Chairman, and Lynne Smith (no relation by the way!) is Vice-Chairman and Booking Secretary. Des Salmon is Treasurer, with Tony Goodeve responsible for invoicing. Jean Pigden is part of the Steering Group looking to future re-development of the Hall, Felicity Cornelius is Minute Secretary and Simon Maxted is currently Trustee without portfolio. We are always happy to welcome others who would like to be a Trustee; the work is not onerous and we have around 4 meetings a year. If you would like to join us, please let either Des (872082) or Chrys (872989) know.

Our regular users include carpet bowls (2 groups), tap dancing, bingo, playgroup, scrabble, WI and the Parish Council, but there is room for other groups who would like to meet in larger surroundings. Hire rates are very reasonable. Please contact Lynne Smith (bookingstudhamvh@gmail.com), who would be pleased to pass on all the information required.

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 Thorne (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 going well – and we offer free annual Junior Membership (with every full 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 – 4.25pm and juniors 4.30pm – 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 PARISH COUNCIL

The next meetings will be on Monday 6th December at 6pm in Studham Village Hall and at 7pm on Monday 10th January (due to the Bank Holiday). Members of the public are welcome. Contact details: clerk@studhamparish.co.uk.

2022 will see Platinum Jubilee celebrations throughout the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and around the world as communities come together to celebrate The Queen's historic reign. An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, will provide an opportunity for communities and people to come together to celebrate the historic milestone. We are looking for members to form a committee to ensure that Studham celebrates this occasion. If you would like to be part of that committee, (or would even like to Chair it), 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 streetlight or pothole please use "FixMyStreet". Just put "fix my street" into the browser and create an account, then follow the instructions to complete. All we ask is that you let us know that you have done it so that we can follow it up.

Lastly, may we wish all parishioners a very Merry Christmas and we offer a hope that 2022 will be a year we can remember for all the right reasons.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

We would like to thank all those who assisted with traffic control at the Remembrance Service at the war memorial in Studham this year.

SANTA SLEIGH

The Rotary Club of Dunstable, with the support of Deakin-White Real Estate, will be organising the Santa Sleigh again this year and will be visiting Kensworth and Studham on the evening of Sunday 12th December. There will be no door-to-door collection but donations can be made at <https://wonderful.co.uk/pay?ref=/1038038>. For more information visit www.santasleighDRC.co.uk.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF KENSWORTH CHURCH HALL



It is over 80 years since the old 'Hut' was built by the Ministry of Health as a 'temporary structure' on part of a field that belonged to Kensworth School across the road, used as a playground (there was less traffic then!). It was designated as a 'Rest Centre', probably for evacuees and the Home Guard during the Second World War.

In 1946, the Church purchased the building from the Ministry for £50, with the proviso that it would be used as a canteen for school meals, leased by Bedfordshire Education Authority (BEA). Negotiations took a long time and the canteen was finally ready in 1949. Anyone who attended the school between then and the early 80s will have fond memories of school dinners there!

In March 1962, the annexe at one end of the canteen was licensed as the Chapel of St Edward for worship. St Mary's Church at that time had no electricity, only oil lamps and a boiler, which were very labour intensive, so services in the winter months were held in the Chapel.

In 1965, the lease was extended, resulting in BEA paying a rent of £150 per annum to the PCC, which contributed enormously towards repairs at St Mary's.

By the early 80s, the increase in traffic meant that the hall was no longer safe to use as a canteen by the school, which was modernised and expanded with new facilities. The hall lease expired, and it was used solely as a church hall. The church by now had electric heating and light, so the annexe was no longer needed for worship.

In 1984, the united Benefice of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade was created, and the empty field by the church hall, still owned by the church, was an ideal site for the new Vicarage.

In 1987, Heather Woods and Dorothy Blackburn proposed using the annexe as a bring and buy charity shop, open on Wednesdays and Saturdays and staffed by volunteers. This has become a familiar part of village life, and it helps to pay for the upkeep of the hall and also the church, and other charities as the need arises.

In winter, if the weather is bad, some church services are held in the hall. It is used regularly for functions by various groups. So the 'temporary structure' has lasted a very long time!

Silent Night

This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as “Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht” on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.

Silent	Night	Loved	Carol	Austria
First	Sung	Stille	Nacht	Heilige
Christmas	Eve	Father	Joseph	Mohr
Young	Priest	Organist	Midnight	Mass
Melody	Single	Bing	Version	Third

