

PARISH LINK

Serving the villages of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade for 40 years





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Dear friends and parishioners,

As I write this, thousands and thousands of people are standing in a queue along the banks of the river Thames. It's late at night and there is an autumnal chill in the air. Yet, there they stand, waiting patiently to pay their condolences and have a last moment next to the coffin of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. When approached by the press, the reasons they give for being there are many, but what I've heard most often is gratitude for the Queen's long long years of service, and somehow a sense of 'ownership' – **our** Queen.

In my role I have had to swear allegiance to the late Queen and her successors a number of times. As head of the Church of England she was technically my boss; but her strong Christian faith meant that both she and I would acknowledge that our ultimate ruler and guide is the God of love. On many occasions she spoke with calm clarity about the fact that she could only do what she did in the belief that God holds us and gives us the strength to go on. Yet this understanding extended beyond her own faith and encompassed others. As she put it, the life of Christ "is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none."

I, like the thousands in that queue, am grateful to her. I am thankful for her gentle, deep-rooted, tested faith about which she was not afraid to talk, and for her life of service. I pray that she, like all those who have died, will be enfolded in the loving arms of the God who is love itself, and that her service will encourage us to serve others, in all the communities where we live and work and care and love.

With my love and prayers,

Nicola Lenthall

The cover shows Lily Durham who designed the front of the programme for the Kensworth Flower & Veg show. She is holding a framed copy of the design and is with Andrew Gibbons from Ashtons Estate Agents, sponsors of the show. For more photos, see page 20.

KENSWORTH CHURCH PRAYERS

Our prayers for you: if you would like a particular prayer to be said, e.g., for a loved one or a special event, please contact Dorothy Blackburn (872670). In October our special prayers are for those who live in Common Road, from Dovehouse Lane to Hollicks Lane.

KENSWORTH PARISH CHURCH

The Bishop of Bedford, Rt. Reverend Richard Atkinson, will take part in the Messy Holy Communion on 9th October (see below).

In October we celebrate the (approximate) foundation of the church building in the 12th century. There is evidence of an older church building below the present one, so there has been a place of worship on this site for at least 900 years.

Sunday School/Messy Church: there will be a Messy Holy Communion on 9th October, preceded by breakfast for everyone at 10.15am. All are very welcome to attend. If you would like your child to join Sunday School, or if you want to be a helper, please contact Katherine Huggins (607841) for details.

Choir News: the Choir will accompany the sung service of Holy Communion on 2nd October. If you would like to join, please contact the Rector (872223 or revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com). We also welcome instrument players.

Church Feast Days:

13th October: St Edward the Confessor. He designated the Parish of Kensworth in the 11th Century. There is a little shrine to him in the chancel.

28th October: St Simon and St Jude

Bring & Buy Bazaar: this is held in the Church Hall, Clayhall Road (behind the Rectory); open 2 – 4pm on Wednesdays and 10am – 12 noon on Saturdays. All kinds of treasures are available – come and have a browse! (Unfortunately, we cannot sell electrical goods, clothing or large items of furniture). Please make sure items for sale are clean and unbroken. Cash only.

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

For all services, see page 15. The October Coffee Morning is on Saturday 1st, 10.30am – 12 noon. Come and enjoy delicious tea/coffee and cakes and friendly chat.

KENSWORTH DROP IN CLUB

Everyone is welcome to 'Drop In' at Kensworth Village Hall every Thursday 9am – 11am for tea/coffee and biscuits (soft drinks and crisps for children). Enjoy a chat and games and get to know the locals! We also have outings.

WHIPSNADE INCLUDING OLDHILL WOOD

PRAYERS FOR OCTOBER

This month we will be praying for the people living in the houses from Chiltern Cottage to the Zoo, and along Dagnall Road. If you have any special requests for prayers, you can hang them on the prayer tree in the church, or contact either the Rector or the churchwardens.

SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, Whipsnade church has been able to send £205 for the relief of the people of Pakistan following the disastrous floods.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Harvest Festival is on Sunday 2nd October at 9am in the church. On Saturday 1st in the morning, the church will be decorated. If you can come along and help you will be very welcome! Also it would be lovely to receive gifts of fruit, vegetables and tinned or packet goods that will be used to decorate the church and then distributed to local people or donated to the food bank.

During the Festival Service we will be invited to bring up offerings of food to be placed in the chancel or at the altar rail. Please come along to the service, and, if you wish, bring some goods to participate in the giving.

HARVEST LUNCH

The October lunch at 12.30 on the 13th in the Village Hall – the Harvest Lunch. All proceeds will be donated to the Bishop of St Albans' Appeal (see page 14).

Do come along and enjoy for £7 a three-course lunch followed by tea or coffee: harvest soup, with a choice of roast pork with apple sauce, chicken kiev, beef casserole with dumplings or salmon en croute.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School, led by Glenda, met in September and learned what Jesus said about the importance of finding the one sheep that had been lost, showing how we are all important to God. Their model sheep were delightful! They will meet again during the 9am service on Sunday 9th October – all children are welcome!

KNIT AND NATTER

Tuesday 4th October in the church from 2pm – 4pm. Come along with your knitting, crochet, embroidery, or simply yourself, to enjoy an afternoon of good company.

WHIPSNADE VILLAGE GET TOGETHER

On Tuesday 18th October at the Village Hall from 2pm – 4pm. Refreshments and a raffle will be available. Come along for a chat or to play cards and dominoes with old and new friends.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Church prayers: in our annual cycle of prayers, in October we will be praying especially for our two pubs, for local businesses and for the residents, staff and visitors of Knoll House. If you would like a special prayer to be said please get in touch with the churchwarden, Meg Bender (872967/meg.bender4@btinternet.com).

Harvest Festival is on Sunday 2nd October at 10.30am. Once again, thanks to the generosity of village organisations, the church will be beautifully decorated with flowers, produce and foodstuffs, which will be donated to the Salvation Army and Dunstable Foodbank. The collection will be sent to the Bishop of St Albans Harvest Appeal (see page 14). After the service there will be an informal 'Bring and Share' lunch. Everyone is very welcome.

Hallowe'en is looming large! The **October Kids' Club and Children's Church** will focus on the more exciting things that follow on from Hallowe'en. Come and find out more! Kids Club is on Friday 14th October from 3.30pm until 5.30pm and Children's Church is on Sunday 16th October at 10.30am. Join us for a special treat of fun, food, crafts and games together including the celebration of the October birthdays on Sunday 16th. Please book a place at Kids' Club by contacting Caroline Child (872779/cjhitchman@hotmail.com).



After the long break during the pandemic, social events are back!

The Wine Evening returns on Saturday 8th October, 7.30pm at the Village Hall and is a joint event with the Friends of Studham Church. Tickets at £25 are all sold but contact John McDougal to go on the waiting list (873257/john.mcdougal@btinternet.com).

A Quiz Night is being held on Saturday 19th November at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. John McDougal is recruiting the teams; so please contact him (details above) for your tickets, which at £10, include a fish and chip supper.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

Thank you to those who have booked for our Wine Evening on Oct 8th (hosted jointly with the PCC, see above) – this is now sold out. I'm sure it will be a fun evening and also help bolster our funds to help maintain the oldest building in the village.

We also run a monthly 100 Club draw. Congratulations to Deirdre Brook, winning £50 in the September draw, and to the runner-up, Geoff Lee, who received £10.

STUDHAM 2

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Our next meeting will be in Studham Village Hall at 7pm on Monday 3rd October; all members of the parish are welcome to attend. There will be a Parish Surgery at 10am on Saturday 8th October. There are also plans to hold an evening of defibrillator training but the date has yet to be finalised. Keep an eye on the website and noticeboards for details. If you would like to be advised of meetings and other issues by e-mail, contact clerk@studhamparish.co.uk to be added to the list.

We have been looking to make a "Memory Book" of pictures, reports, poems, anything that will allow future generations to see how we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee, and in light of recent events, we would extend this to any remembrances of Queen Elizabeth II. Please send your photos (with names of people shown), comments, poems, your remembrances, etc. to studhamplatinumjubilee@hotmail.com by 31st October.

If you have recently moved into our Parish and have not yet received your Welcome Pack, please contact the Clerk who will arrange this for you. The pack contains information on the amenities and activities in the local area.

Now is the time to check if your hedge is causing a hazard outside your property – growing across a footpath or into a road. Please be considerate and cut it back.

Finally, we would remind you of a quick way to record Highway issues to CBC. It is called 'Fixmystreet' and can be accessed on CBC website. We do ask that you let a Councillor know what you have reported – only so that we can chase it up for you.

STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL

Our regular users include carpet bowls (2 groups, Thursday morning and afternoon), Mums and Tots, (Tuesday morning), Scrabble, (Tuesday afternoon), table tennis (Friday Morning), Parish Council (first Monday evening), yoga (Tuesday evening), bingo, (every other Wednesday evening), W.I. (first Thursday evening), tap dancing, (other Thursday evenings), and Gong Therapy on alternate Wednesday evenings. There is room for other groups so if you would like to organise a group, hold a single meeting or become a regular user, then please contact one of the Trustees.

The Hall is an ideal venue for parties and hire rates are very reasonable. Please contact Lynne Smith, (bookingstudhamvh@gmail.com), who would be pleased to help.

We are always happy to welcome others who would like to become 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 Salmon (872082) or Chrys Smith (872989) know.

HONOURING THE LATE QUEEN 1



WHIPSNADE - on behalf of the Parish Council

It was with immense sadness that we received news of the death of Her Majesty and messages of condolence to the Royal family and tributes in her memory were placed on the Parish Council website and community Facebook pages on behalf of the Parish Council and all the residents of Whipsnade. Our Chair visited Central Bedfordshire Council Offices at Chicksands on Saturday 10th September to sign the book of condolence, which had been opened there. The flag at the Village Hall was flown at half-mast throughout the period of national mourning and, on Sunday 11th September, in accordance with long established tradition, a ceremony was held at Whipsnade Village Hall when the Proclamation of the new King was read. A two-minute silence was observed at the start of Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 13th September.



**THE QUEEN
VISITS
WHIPSNADE ZOO
IN 2017**

Gracious God, we give thanks for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth, for her faith and dedication to duty. Bless our nation as we mourn her death and may her example continue to inspire us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God save the King.

HONOURING THE LATE QUEEN 2

MEMORIES of the late QUEEN ELIZABETH II

As I am old enough to remember the death of her late father, I have some long memories of Queen Elizabeth II, brought back vividly when she sadly died on 8th September.

My first one was when she was still Princess Elizabeth. I was brought along to watch when she visited an agricultural show, and I was put on a concrete pillar to see her walk past. Although I was just a very small child, I noticed what a beautiful skin she had. She looked very serious at first, but suddenly her whole face lit up with that broad smile that we know so well.

Then I remember the day King George VI died. I was in a music class in school. The door opened and the Head came in – a rare event - to tell us the sad news. Later, we listened to the BBC one o'clock news on the radio and were sent home early. We had to get used to singing 'God Save the Queen'!

On Coronation Day, we gathered around a tiny black and white TV to watch it, and in the evening there were fireworks and community singing at the local golf club.

My most precious memory is meeting the Queen a few years ago, at a ceremony in St James's Palace, for a university anniversary. Still the lovely complexion, still the radiant smile, putting everyone at their ease.

The whole world has indeed lost a steadfast 'rock', who seemed to be immortal. We shall miss her, and give our sympathy and support to King Charles, who seems determined to follow her example.

Have to learn to sing 'God Save the King' again!

Deirdre Brook



***PROCLAMATION
OF KING
CHARLES III AT
STUDHAM***

ECO CHURCH

Eco Tips for Autumn in your garden and homes

1. It's time to add nutrients to enrich the soil for spring planting. Choose peat-free compost, mulch and organic fertilizer to add to your soil.
2. Install a water butt, if you haven't already done so, to collect rainwater for watering the garden.
3. It's time to pick up leaves; see if you can leave a small, quiet section in the corner of your garden for small animals in the winter.
4. Allow a section of your garden to become overgrown to allow some room for wildlife. Consider making a bird box, a bug hotel or a hedgehog home.
5. Enjoy the harvest, buy food locally and make some apple crumbles!

BIKE AND HIKE

Thank you to all who took part in the 'Bike and Hike' in whatever way, to support the work of Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust Fund and our local churches. More on this next month.

BISHOP'S HARVEST APPEAL

This year, the appeal is supporting vulnerable people in Mozambique, who have been traumatised and displaced by conflicts, and aims to help them rebuild their ability to earn a living.

CONCERNED ABOUT HARD TIMES AHEAD?

Come along to Markyate Baptist Church (MBC) Christians against Poverty Course (CAP) where you will find help, understanding, love and guidance in supporting you with compassion and confidentiality through the mess that you feel you are in.

MBC's CAP trained money coaches, Alan and Lesley Poole, have been running courses since 2014 and have helped many people to work out a way to resolve their debt problems and find new hope for the future, and this year's free courses will run over three sessions in the Church Centre, situated on Buckwood Road, Markyate, AL3 8RU on the following dates:

10th, 17th and 24th November starting at 7.30pm until 9pm.

Further courses will be arranged subject to demand for places. Everyone is welcome and your confidentiality is ensured.

For more information call Alan or Lesley (01582 425123 or 07717 317914) or e-mail: poolealan2@btinternet.com or sign up at: capmoneycourse.org.

CHURCH NEWS

NORTH CHILTERN GROUP

Dorothy Blackburn – 30 Years A Reader!

At the NCG Annual service we celebrated the 30th anniversary of Dorothy Blackburn becoming a Reader in the church, which is how she has been able to take services. The photo shows her cutting her celebration cake after the service.



Dorothy and Gerry and their two small daughters arrived in Kensworth in 1973, and Dorothy immediately became involved in all the church activities. She served as Churchwarden and soon felt called to become a Reader. She was admitted formally at a service in St Mary's, Luton, in 1992, and has been a central part of community life ever since.

Throughout the years, Dorothy has been the continuity person, holding the fort during the interregnums (periods in-between vicars) and standing in if the Vicar is ill, on sabbatical or holiday. To say she is tireless is not to do her justice, because she has seldom missed a service or activity to do with the church. Over the years in which they've worked together, Nicola has often said that she couldn't manage without the help and support of Dorothy. In all this, she has had the loyal support of her husband and family, and the community in general, who regard her as a mainstay in the village. Huge thanks to Dorothy for everything.

Talking Point: on 4th October at 7.30pm in Eaton Bray Church. This will be a presentation, "Faith in Law", led by Rev. Jo Burke, Vicar of Flamstead and Markyate, who has been a judge working on employment tribunals.

40th Anniversary Service: Advance notice - on 27th November at 3pm in Kensworth Church - with an address by the Bishop of St Albans. More details next month.

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday services are usually at 10.30am

9 th October	Harvest Festival	Led by Mr Reg Phillips
23 rd October	Holy Communion	Led by The Reverend Wallace Edwards

Particulars of other services can be found on the chapel noticeboards.

STUDHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Linda Hillier is our Pastoral Contact. If anyone has concerns they would like to discuss with any of our Ministers, please let Linda know (872860) and she will make the necessary arrangements.

Services:

Sunday 9 th October	10am	Mr Robin McEwen	Harvest Festival
Sunday 23 rd October	10am	Rev Donna Fowler-Marchant	HC

WHIPSNAD 2

WHIPSNAD PARISH COUNCIL

Upcoming village activities & events:

Cyclo-cross on The Green.

We are pleased to again host a fixture from the South Midlands winter cyclo-cross league on Whipsnade Common in conjunction with Icknield Road Cycling Club. This will be on Sunday 9th October. Entry for those wishing to participate is on the day. Classes are available for competitors of all ages from eight upwards. This will be the third time the event has been held at Whipsnade. Do come along and support, or for the brave hearted to enter!

Winter scrub management programme

We are pleased to announce this year's scrub management programme on the Green. The group has met once already to prepare the cyclo-cross course mentioned above and the event itself replaces the October session. The next session will be on Remembrance Sunday 13th November, starting at 10.30 am meeting outside Dell Farm. We are specially looking for new blood, as the group has been doing this for over twenty years and some of us are getting on a bit! Great fun in the winter months – a good work-out before Christmas excesses and hoping for sharp frosty weather for our January and February sessions. Provisional dates, all to be confirmed in the Link, are 8th January, 12th February and 12th March.

WHIPSNAD CHRISTMAS

Whipsnade Church Christmas Fair: Friday 2nd December. 10am – 12pm.

Whipsnade Village Hall Christmas Fair: Saturday 10th December.

WHIPSNAD SEPTEMBER GARDEN PARTY

A huge thank you to Ben, Jane and Jo for their hard work and generosity in providing such a lovely garden party with luscious food and great entertainment. They succeeded in so many ways – most important by giving us such an enjoyable afternoon, and also by raising £1350 to be divided between Whipsnade church and Children's Diabetes. Everyone had a wonderful time!

(Jane and Jo would also like to thank everyone for coming along and give special thanks to Isobel Randall for her amazing array of cakes!).

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CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS!

Don't forget clocks go back 1 hour at 2am on the 30th October. This means we are on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) when it gets darker earlier in the evenings and lighter earlier in the morning. Proposals have been made several times to change the UK's standard time zone to Central European Time (CET). The argument is that such a change would improve business and transport links with other countries and might lower the number of road traffic accidents. Post Brexit - who knows??

STUDHAM MAYFAIR FUNDING SPOTLIGHT



Thanks to the generous donation of £250 awarded to SKAW Good Neighbours by the Studham May Fair committee, we have been able to organise 2 events this summer both to bring together our clients and also equip our volunteers with new skills. A garden tea party was held in Studham where some 25 were invited to attend. Clients from across the 3 villages attended, some who hadn't been out at a social event since the start of COVID. Joy was in the air, and so too the sun. The cakes were delicious and the event was brilliantly organised thanks to the Salisburys.

The second event enabled by the donation is a fundamentals first aid course which will be held in late September, equipping our volunteers with some invaluable skills. The invite has also been extended to those who would value these skills most across the 3 villages.

STUDHAM TENNIS CLUB

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. All are welcome.

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

For more information on coaching or joining the club please contact Andrew Jones (andrew.jones@selecta.com or 07833 111682/www.studhamtennisclub.co.uk).

STUDHAM PLAYING FIELDS

Sports activities are running at full pace at the playing fields, so if you are interested in joining any of the sports activities, please get in touch.

The Playing Fields are also available for other events and have previously hosted marquee parties, touch rugby tournaments, school sports and village events, including the May Fair and Jubilee celebrations. If you would like any further information or are interested in using the fields to host an event, please contact the Secretary, Paul Hocking (07500 849280).

Please remember to look after your dogs if walking on the playing fields and clear up all mess to protect sports users and children using the grounds.

KENSWORTH 2

KENSWORTH FLOWER & VEGETABLE JUBILEE SHOW 2022



Kensworth Village Hall was awash with colour on 3rd September, when the annual Show was held. Despite difficult conditions of late for gardeners, over 300 exhibits were displayed and attracted many compliments from those that crowded into the Village Hall for the presentations, which were made by Andrew Gibbons of Ashtons Estate Agents, who kindly sponsored the Show.

Not for the first time, Geoffrey Stafford walked away with the major awards as the Overall Winner and also for the Best Vegetables on display. Other winners included Emma Dick (Best Flowers), David Foster (Best Fruit), Catherine Porter (Flower Arrangement), Jenny Dries (Cookery & Craft), Anna Prosceinska (Preserves) and Ella Rice (Children's Categories).

The award for the Best Front Garden went to Helen & Dave Gingell, whilst Best Allotment Awards were given to Graham Lee and Sharon Hutchins.

The Committee would like to thank all the exhibitors, visitors and those providing raffle prizes, which all contributed towards another successful Show. We will shortly commence the planning process for the 2023 Show, and welcome anyone who might be interested in joining our small but friendly Committee. Any enquiries should be addressed to David Manton (david.manton@aol.co.uk).



FRIENDS of KENSWORTH CHURCH

All are very welcome to attend the Annual General Meeting in the church at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th October. There will be a brief business meeting followed by light refreshments. People of all faiths and none, who share an interest in the preservation of historic buildings such as St Mary's (approx. 900 years old), are warmly invited to join our group and support our fundraising events.

Our next event is the (postponed) Wine, Women and Song Christmas Concert, by Caritas Harmony, on Saturday 3rd December at 4pm. Please put the date in your diaries! Full details in the next issue.

BARN DANCE – Reminder: Family Barn Dance in Kensworth Village Hall on Saturday 15th October, 5.30-8.30pm, tickets: adults £17, children under 16, £8, family (2 adults & 2 children) £45. Ring Jane Bedlington (871139) to see if any tickets remain.

KENSWORTH & STUDHAM

KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Website: www.kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Please contact Christina clerk@kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/07387789897

Come and join the Kensworth Village Enhancement working party.

To help with new ideas and suggestions for improvements within Kensworth. You can have as much or as little involvement, whatever your time allows. By being part of the team, you will help bring some exciting improvements to Kensworth. Contact us...today!

Tenants of Kensworth Allotments

You are cordially invited to attend the next Parish Council meeting to share allotment news, concerns, or any other issues. This is on 13th October 7.30pm Kensworth Village Hall, The Chilterns, Kensworth LU6 3RJ

KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL

The Committee are pleased to announce two new regular bookings for the hall on Tuesday afternoons. The first is the Chilterns Art Club from 1-4pm - please do come along to see what they are doing! The second is a children's dance group called 'Dance Space' from 4.15-6.15pm.

The Christmas Prize Bingo evening is now confirmed as Friday 9th December and the Christmas Fayre is Sunday 4th December. The Committee are also arranging a Christmas Lanterns & Light event on Friday 2nd December.

We would like to give special thanks to Paul Rix of Squeaky-Clean Windows for cleaning the hall windows inside and out for free. The Committee are grateful for all the help and support we receive from local businesses.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 5th October at 7.30pm. All welcome.

STUDHAM SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

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

We welcome all visitors and new members. Please pop into the club to explore what we have to offer. We provide competitively-priced drinks and a good menu. The facility is also available for private events – with full bar service and food options if required. If you are planning an event, please contact us to see what we can offer. Membership fees are £23 for a family, £17 for single and £9 for concessions. All members should receive details of events etc, if you have not been receiving yours, please make sure that your e-mail details are up to date. If you wish to join us, we will be delighted to see you, just fill in an application form and pay at the bar with your next round.

SCHOOL NEWS

KENSWORTH Cof E PRIMARY ACADEMY and PRESCHOOL

It's hard to believe the speed at which the summer has flown by! However, that meant it seemed like no time at all that we were welcoming the children back for the start of the new school year. Our new reception children looked especially smart in their school uniforms and we welcomed lots of new children and families joining us for the first time in other year groups too.

The Kensworth school community were so sad to hear about the death of Her Majesty the Queen, and we joined together to remember Her in a special service led by Reverend Canon Nicola. She talked to the children and families about the values that the Queen showed throughout her life and how we can all grow these values in ourselves. The children have already learnt so much about the Queen during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and She continues to inspire them now.

We made the decision to postpone our planned Scarecrow Festival and Autumn Fayre, as it didn't feel right celebrating during a period of national mourning. However, the scarecrows are all ready and by the time this is published, hopefully we will have all enjoyed the many scarecrows displayed in the village!

Kensworth School Parent Teachers' Association

It was decided to postpone the PTA Scarecrow Festival & Fayre out of respect to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. A new date is TBC; all entrants will be contacted. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for further details or signs on the school fence.

STUDHAM VILLAGE CE ACADEMY

We at Studham School were all saddened to hear of the passing of Her Majesty The Queen. Our children wrote heartfelt messages to the Royal Family and have been following the historic changes as we have welcomed in our new King.



Our Autumn term has started with new topics, Harvest services and a trip to St Albans Cathedral.

We have continued to develop our outdoor areas and are pleased to announce the start of our new Forest School. Our aim is that our Forest School will inspire a deep and meaningful connection to the world and an understanding of how we, as learners, fit within it. We want our children to be healthy, resilient, creative and independent learners.

If you are interested in a place at Studham Village CE Academy for your child please contact Julia Oldham (school@studhamschools.org.uk/01582 872337).

CARPET BOWLS**2pm Thursdays in Studham 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 Studham Village Hall.**

New players are welcome to a small friendly group.

Contact is Mary Must (alan.must@churchclose1pluscom) or please just come along.

SENIORS TABLE TENNIS**10am – 12 noon Fridays in Studham Village Hall.**

All welcome to a friendly morning.

Contact is Des Salmon (desstudham@btconnect.com/01582 872082).

BINGO**Wednesdays 5th and 19th October at 8pm in Studham Village Hall.**

Doors open at 7.30pm for 'eyes down' at 8pm. Whether you are new to bingo, or an old friend looking to renew your bingo skills – everyone is most welcome.

QUIZZES

Quiz Night at the Red Lion on Tuesday October 4th at 8pm, so start swotting!

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 V); 4: entertainment (anything that entertains!); 5: anything we couldn't fit in the previous rounds! and 6: music, titles beginning B!

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

WI**Thursday 6th October at 7.15pm in Studham Village Hall.**

The talk on Women's Aid in our area was extremely enlightening and thought provoking; the level of donations was remarkable. Our thanks to all who donated.

Our October meeting will be a flower arranging demonstration from Jonquil Florists. We have had this speaker before, and we were all enthralled at how she could make such a wonderful arrangement whilst chatting and answering all our questions. To add to the delight – the arrangement(s) made on the evening will form part of a separate raffle, so you have to be there to win one!

WHIPSNADE TREE CATHEDRAL – A VOLUNTEERS DIARY

In early September, we started to clear the area just over the fence from the carpark. We strimmed away the stinging nettles and brambles and cleared it all away, along with years of leaf debris, fallen branches etc. Being the furthest point from the bonfire and composting area, it was quite a slog carting it all away!

It is this time of year that we start to think about the massive task of leaf-clearing. This year we have noticed quite a few of the trees have started to shed their leaves earlier than normal. This is because of the very dry summer, while the grass turns to straw and the ground to a dust bowl, trees start shedding their leaves. It is an emergency response to protect the tree from dehydration. They respond by closing the pores of their leaves to conserve water and therefore stop the process of evaporation.



Our bonfire area is now pretty full but due to the dry conditions, a bonfire is definitely out of the question. We are waiting for the National Trust and their tractor to shovel up our leaf pile from last year ready for the onslaught of this year's leaves. In November, we have a leaf sweep and any help is much appreciated, so keep an eye on this magazine for the date and come along with a rake, if possible, to help us with the great leaf sweep.

Also, come and say hello on Tuesday mornings 9am – 12pm.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON

The next work party on the Common will be on Saturday 15th October.

The work will concentrate on the Middle and East Commons, where we will be cutting and clearing bramble and bracken, where necessary, to reduce the available nutrient levels and create a variety of habitats for small mammals and birds.

Whilst on East Common we will start to plant the remainder of the whips (Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Rowan and Hazel) on the Common's southern boundary to infill gaps in the hedging areas. This will ensure that the hedgerow will eventually form a continuous dense habitat for nesting birds and a corridor for other animals.

Everyone is welcome, especially new members. We meet at the War Memorial on West Common, opposite the Red Lion at 10am; all tools will be provided. For further information, contact Operations Manager Bob Wilkin (bob@afromosia.com/871268).

'DESIRABLE STUDHAM'

Research by Estate Agents, Savills, showed Studham to be the most desirable countryside location in Bedfordshire, with Little Gaddesden claiming the crown for Hertfordshire. The research was based on house prices, lifestyle amenities and 'chocolate box' appeal.



SOUTH BEDS ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS

The October talk is on the 3rd at 2pm in the Salvation Army Hall, Bullpond Lane, Dunstable. Evan Willison will be speaking on "Tales from the Auction Room". Visitors are welcome.

DUNSTABLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meeting on 11th October at 7.45pm at the Methodist Church Hall, The Square, Dunstable – the talk is "The Real King Arthur; a Sixth-Century British hero". Professor Andrew Breeze shows evidence that Arthur truly existed and was killed near Carlisle in AD 537. He also discusses Dunstable's original Celtic name. Visitors are welcome to the meeting for a small fee.

CHILTERN WALKING FESTIVAL

The 10th Chilterns Walking Festival will take place between 15th and 30th October and will feature a programme of over 50 walks and events throughout the Chilterns. A chance to enjoy the autumn splendour, the golden beech trees and hedgerows bursting with colour. Also map reading courses, pub walks, local produce tasting, and historic garden tours. Visit website for more details.

AUTUMN WORDSEARCH FOR YOUNGER READERS (Words all appear in the text).

O	R	T	U	J	S	P	C	N	A	D	F	K
C	J	I	C	S	G	N	I	V	A	S	S	S
S	E	R	B	O	N	F	I	R	E	S	N	L
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S	U	Y	P	L	I	T	E	L	P	O	U	L
E	S	A	I	N	T	S	R	Z	C	M	T	H
O	F	R	E	S	C	A	R	V	E	S	U	G
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S	H	A	L	F	T	E	R	M	E	A	N	U
M	G	G	S	J	O	E	N	L	X	H	I	O
S	I	O	I	U	R	S	E	V	A	E	L	S
A	N	L	C	L	P	A	G	W	M	C	S	G
N	I	D	L	L	O	O	H	C	S	T	U	N

With October, autumn is underway – the leaves are turning gold, the chilly nights are closing in and the shops are full of Halloween things. Our ancestors were frightened of the dark and cold of winter, and feared that evil things might attack them. So they lit fires and wore frightening masks, to ward off evil spirits. But Christianity taught a much better way: it taught that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that when He died for us on the cross, He overcame all the powers of evil that there are. So we don't need charms to ward off evil, we just need to turn to Jesus in prayer. He will protect us from any power of darkness that menaces our lives. The Psalms say that He is our shield and protector!