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PARISH LINK

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



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Dear Friends and Parishioners

There is quite a lot of darkness in the Christmas story, mixed up with confusion, struggle, lack of comprehension, pain and poverty. That is, I think, what makes it real in the best sense of the word. Although there is undoubted joy at the centre, the truth of life encompasses both joy and pain, light and darkness: and so, the truth of God encompasses these as well.

This Christmas will be a struggle for many people, in many different ways. We tend to think the Christmas story is all about the 'awww' factor, but taken as a whole it is something even more profound.

God's choice was to be born in poverty, far from home; and not into a straightforward-seeming family situation but one on which the neighbours of the time probably commented. We often find love – or love finds us – where we least expect it. We have got used to finding baby Jesus in a stable, but if we really think about it, that is not where we would expect God to be.

This Christmas, however it is for you, trust that God comes to you in love, and that you will see or experience him in places where you might least expect.

In the darkness, light
In the pain, new birth
In the silence, the cry of a new-born
In loneliness, companionship
In the longest journey, the brightest star
In gifts given, the greatest gift received
In loss, knowledge that we are held

In the darkness, light
In Christmas, Christ

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

Nicola Lenthall

AROUND ABOUT STUDHAM

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Church prayers: in our cycle of prayers, in December we shall be praying especially for our village school, remembering the children and their families and giving thanks for the skills and dedication of the staff team. In January all the residents of Woodland Rise will be the special focus of our prayers. If you would like a particular person or special occasion to be remembered, contact churchwarden, Meg Bender (872967/meg.bender4@btinternet.com) or visit the church and put a leaf on the prayer tree.

We are looking forward to hosting all the wonderful Christmas events:

By popular demand, **'Carols, Cake and Coffee'** is back for a second year on Sunday 11th December from 2pm to 3pm. We are being joined by the children of Studham School for this informal get-together to sing popular carols and Christmas songs. Maybe you would like to request your favourite one during the afternoon? We shall end with a hot drink and some delicious cake. Everyone is very welcome.



Studham School Christmas service is on **Thursday 15th December at 9am**. It will be a pleasure to welcome the children and their families to St Mary's.

Christingle service: this joyful family-friendly service is on Sunday 18th December at 10.30am. Thanks to the children of the school who are assembling the Christingle oranges, there will be a Christingle for everyone. The collection will be donated to the Children's Society to support their important work with vulnerable children. Refreshments will be served after the service and we will be celebrating all the December birthdays.

A Carol and Crib service will take place on Christmas Eve at 4.30pm. All the Christmas preparations will be done! Please come and celebrate the real meaning of Christmas and enjoy the traditional carols and readings.

Christmas Holy Communion: details of Midnight Mass at Kensworth and the Christmas morning Holy Communion at Whipsnade are set out on page 16.

New Year services: our cycle of services will begin again (see page 16) and Children's Church will meet in church every third Sunday at 10.30am. The first date will be 15th January when all ages are welcome to join us! This will be a good time to be thinking of our links with special friends and how Jesus came to meet some new friends who were to become his special disciples. We hope to see old and new friends for our time together to enjoy some fun, music and interesting activities.

KENSWORTH NEWSROUND

KENSWORTH PARISH CHURCH

Prayers for You: in December our special prayers will be for everyone associated with 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 a particular prayer to be said, perhaps for a loved one or a special event, please contact Dorothy Blackburn (872670 or dorothy.godbod@outlook.com).

Church Calendar: our regular celebrations of Christingle, the Carol Service and the Crib Service will be marking our Advent approach to the joys of Christmas (details on page 16). Midnight Mass will be held here in St Mary's, Kensworth, and is a Benefice Service, joined by our friends from Studham and Whipsnade. Of course, everyone is warmly welcome to this and all our services.

The church will be decorated on Saturday 17th December at 10am. Helpers would be wonderful, as would donations of flowers. If you would like to help, please contact Jo Cook (07799 088864) for details.

In January, Epiphany, or the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus, is on the 6th. Epiphany will be observed in church on Sunday 8th.

Choir News: the choir will be singing at the Christmas Carol Service at 4pm on 18th December. You are all welcome to come along and enjoy singing carols, followed by seasonal refreshments.

If you would like to join the choir, please contact the Vicar (872223 or revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com). We also welcome instrumental players to help accompany us on occasions.

Sunday School: the Christingle Service will be held on 11th December; young people will be taking part in the Carol Service on the 18th, and the Crib Service will take place on Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December at 3pm. In January, there will be Sunday School on the 8th. All ages welcome!

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.

Messy Church: the December one is on Friday 2nd December after school. The next one will be on Friday 3rd February 2023. More details in the February issue.

BRING & BUY & RECYCLING CENTRE: this is held in the Church Hall, Clayhall Road (behind the Vicarage), 2 – 4pm on Wednesdays and 10am – 12 noon on Saturdays. **Cash only.** 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 that goods you bring for sale are clean and unbroken).

WHIPSNADDE INCLUDING OLDHILL WOOD

CHURCH NEWS

Whipsnade Church Christmas Coffee Morning

Knit and Natter stall, Christmas stall and raffle. Come and enjoy a coffee and cake. On 2nd December from 10am – 12 noon. All money raised going to the church.

Village Christmas Lunch: the Christmas Lunch is sold out! We're sorry if you've missed the chance to book for a delicious 4-course meal on 8th December.

The annual **Christingle Service** is on Sunday 18th December at 9am in the church. Christingles are given out to all and are used to share the good news of Christmas. Children are particularly welcome! The collection is for the Children's Society. If you want to make Christingles, do come along to the church on Saturday 17th at 10.30am to help out. Contact Isobel Randall (872552) for more details.

Carol Singing: this will be on Monday 20th December. If you would like to join us for carol singing round the Home Park, meet us at the Park Office at 7pm, bringing a torch, and sing with us to raise money for the Children's Society. Song sheets are provided! Contact Isobel Randall (872552) or Pam Ward (872406) for more information.

The **January Village Lunch** is on Thursday 12th January at 12.30pm in the Village Hall. A two-course meal with a hot drink for £7. We will have roast pork, venison pie, Mediterranean chicken or breaded sole in lemon sauce. Then a choice of pudding and tea or coffee to follow. Also the raffle!

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Whipsnade Village Hall Christmas Fair

Saturday 10th December 11am – 4pm. Come and browse our many stalls, including jewellery, painted flower pots, jams, chutneys, knitted baby clothes and many more.

Whipsnade Village Get-Together

On Tuesday 13th December at the Village Hall from 2pm – 4pm. Refreshments and a raffle will be available. Come along for a chat or to play cards and dominos with old and new friends.

Whipsnade Holistic and Well-Being Fair

We recently held our annual Fair at Whipsnade Village Hall and would like to thank all the stall holders, helpers and many visitors who made it such a success. We raised over £500 towards the upkeep of the Village Hall.

Whipsnade Village Hall Committee would like to thank everyone for their help and support this year. We wish you all a happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

WARM HUBS

"Warm Hubs" are places within the local community where people can be assured of finding a safe, warm and friendly environment in which to enjoy refreshments, social activity, information and the company of other people (for more information see the November Parish Link page 18).

In Studham there will be a Warm Shelter, Warm Refreshments, and a Warm Welcome to all those who wish to join us. Bring your knitting, your book, your friendship and we will provide the rest – even a jigsaw or two!

December

6 th	Tuesday	10am - 12 noon	Studham Methodist Chapel
12 th	Monday	10am - 12 noon	Studham Village Hall
20 th	Tuesday	10am - 12 noon	Studham Methodist Chapel

January

3 rd	Tuesday	10am - 12 noon	Studham Methodist Chapel
9 th	Monday	10am - 12 noon	Studham Village Hall
17 th	Tuesday	10am - 12 noon	Studham Methodist Chapel
23 rd	Monday	10am - 12 noon	Studham Village Hall
31 st	Tuesday	10am - 12 noon	Studham Methodist Chapel

A big 'thank you' to all those who have donated towards the refreshments and heating costs. It really is appreciated and gave us all a warm glow.'

WHICH IS CORRECT, CHRISTMAS OR XMAS?

Well, the answer is both really. Surprisingly, the shortened version of 'Christmas', ie the word 'Xmas', began as an abbreviation for church records and charts. X is the Greek symbol 'chi', which is the first letter of the word 'Christ'. Therefore, X stands for Christ. For the early Christians, most of whom spoke and wrote Greek, the word 'Xmas' signified 'Christ's Mass'. The shortening of 'Christmas' to 'Xmas' has been a common practice since at least the 16th century. The correct pronunciation for 'Xmas' is 'Christmas', the same as if the word was written out in full. Xmas is not "ex-mas"!

Some people are unhappy with the abbreviation, thinking that the letter X is a secular replacement and is crossing Christ out. However, this is not the case if it is used in the original context. Although there is increasing secularisation of Christmas, knowing the above, the X in Xmas can still remind us of the real reason for celebrating Christmas.

SMILE LINES

A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: "And what would you like for Christmas?" The little girl stared at him, open-mouthed with horror. *"Didn't you get my email?!"*

MORE KENSWORTH

FRIENDS of KENSWORTH CHURCH

A reminder that the Christmas Concert, Wine, Women & Song, by Caritas Harmony, will be held in St Mary's Church, at 3pm on Saturday 3rd December. Tickets £8 if you book in advance from David Jones (873242), or online 'Get Tickets' at www.caritasharmony.co.uk. Tickets on the door are £10. Tickets include a mince pie. Cash bar available, and raffle. It will be a delightful afternoon – see you there!

The Friends have been deeply saddened to hear of the death of Mike Sawyer, a founding Committee member. He will be greatly missed. On the same day another founder member died in Cornwall, Dr John Crarer. We send our deepest condolences to their families and friends. (See below and page 21).

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!

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH: for all services, see page 15. The December Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 3rd December at 10.30am – 12 noon. All welcome for delicious tea/coffee and cakes and friendly chat. There will be NO Coffee Morning in January. The next one will be on Saturday 4th February.

SAD LOSS of TWO KENSWORTH PEOPLE

On 3rd November, Kensworth lost two much-loved and respected members of the community, Mike Sawyer and Dr John Crarer.

Mike was the Chairman of Kensworth Village Hall Committee – see tribute on page 21. He was also a founder member of the Friends of St Mary's, and was on the Committee right up until the end. Great fundraising picnics were held in the Sawyer garden! Mike was also a helper at the Friday activities sessions for people with learning difficulties and disabilities at Basil Farm. Mike was the owner of a building firm and contributed to many charities. His wife, Raye, died a few years ago. Mike's funeral is at St Mary's, Kensworth on Tuesday 6th December at 11.30am.

By a sad coincidence, Dr John Crarer also passed away on the same day. He moved to Cornwall a few years ago with his wife, Doreen, to be nearer their family, but they kept in touch with many people and followed local events. Lots of people will remember John as a wonderful GP and friend. He, like Mike, was one of the founders of the Friends of St Mary's Church, and let his garden be used for fundraising activities.

It was a sad day for Kensworth, losing two leading personalities on the same day. We send our heartfelt sympathy to their families and friends.

MORE STUDHAM

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

The aim of the Friends is to raise funds to maintain the structure of the church – at over 800 years, it's the oldest building in our lovely village.

Our monthly 100 Club draw is an important source of funds. Congratulations to Sue Owen winning £50 in the November draw and to the runner-up Lynne Moxon, who received £10.

You can join the 100 Club or just find out more about the Friends on our website: <https://friendsstudham.wixsite.com/website> or call John McDougal (873257).

A date for your diary – Studham May Fair 2023. After the tremendous success of this year's May Fair, the committee are already working hard on next year's event. It will be on Saturday May 13th 2023 – save the date so you don't miss this great village day.

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. An opportunity to relax and at the same time have some very modest exercise. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

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 just come along.

SENIORS TABLE TENNIS

10am – 12 noon Fridays in Studham Village Hall.

All welcome to a friendly morning. Contact is Felicity Cornelius (872038).

RED LION QUIZZES

Tuesday 6th December at 8pm: 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 X, Y, Z), 4: entertainment (anything that entertains!), 5: anything we couldn't fit in the previous rounds! and 6: music, (titles beginning D).

Tuesday 3rd January: rounds as above except alphabet will be A and music, E.

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

A GREEN CHRISTMAS

ECO CHRISTMAS RECIPE

Are you thinking of a Vegetarian Christmas? Here is an alternative to turkey.

Veggie Christmas Roast (Seitan Roll)

Ingredients

270g canned cannellini beans (drained)
200g jar artichoke hearts in oil (squeeze excess oil off)
1 tbsp cranberries for Christmas
4 garlic cloves, crushed
28g (¼ cup) nutritional yeast
2 tbsp tamarind (or Worcester or soy sauce)
½ tsp black pepper
¾ tsp sage, parsley & thyme
120ml (½ cup) veg stock
265g (2 cups) Vital Wheat Gluten Flour



Method

Bread maker method:

The easiest way is to put it all in the bread maker tin and put it on a dough or pizza base programme. When it has finished kneading in the machine, lift it out and make it into a long roast-like log. Wrap in foil and bake.

No bread maker method:

If you want a smooth roll without bits then blend it together in a food processor. If you want a chunky roll then blend it together in bowl by squeezing it by hand. Form into a dough. Knead for 7 mins. Shape into a roast-like log (about 4-5" x 8"). Wrap in foil, bake.

Bake: OVEN 180-200°

35mins and turn for another 35mins. Leave for 20-30mins in foil. Cut in slices and serve with veggie gravy.

GREEN CHRISTMAS IDEAS

Wrap presents with kindness for the environment. Shiny foil wrapping "paper" can't be recycled and will go to landfill. Try wrapping in beautiful seasonal scarves or decorating reusable cloth bags, or with ribbons around newspapers. Also remember that glittery Christmas cards aren't recyclable and will end their lives in landfill.



DEFRA estimates you could wrap the whole of Guernsey with last year's discarded wrapping paper! Remember to recycle any paper used.

The Editor and Committee of the Link wish all readers, contributors, deliverers and friends very warm Christmas greetings and look forward to a healthy and successful New Year together.

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

All services are at 10.30am:

4 th December	Morning Worship	Led by Rev. Nigel Bibbings
18 th December	Carol Service & Holy Communion	Led by Rev. David Chapman
25 th December	Christmas Morning Worship	Led by Peter Baker (<i>subject to confirmation</i>)
8 th January	Morning Worship	Led by Rev. Wallace Edwards
22 nd . January	Morning Worship	Led by Mr John Enejo

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

STUDHAM METHODIST CHURCH

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

December Services:

Sunday 11 th	10am	Rev. Rachael Hawkins	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th	9.30am	Linda Hillier	

January Services:

Sunday 8 th	10am	Karen Crew
Sunday 22 nd	10am	Rev. Caroline Weaver

Although our own services are not being streamed, Zoom meetings are available from many of our Circuit Churches. If you would like details of these, or any of our other Zoom fellowship meetings, please contact Linda.

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

After a Covid-imposed gap of two years, the Christmas card shop has re-opened in the United Reformed Church, Vaughan Road, Harpenden, AL5 4ED until Friday 16th December.

The opening times are 9.30am – 4.30pm Monday – Friday; 1.30 pm – 3.30pm Saturday. All types of cards are on sale, as well as Advent calendars and candles, stocking fillers, wrapping paper, decorations and other festive gifts. Some of the charities Cards for Good Causes will be supporting this year include Diabetes UK, RNLI, British Heart Foundation, Alzheimer's Society UK, Epilepsy Action, MS Society and many more.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Website: www.kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Contact: Christina: clerk@kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel : 07387-789897

HANDYMAN / PERSON / CONTRACTOR

Required for general outside maintenance around Kensworth, regular hours available. Please contact the clerk for further details.

VILLAGE ENHANCEMENTS

A successful village enhancements meeting was held in November. The area for the Jubilee Garden will be cleared this winter and shrubs planted. The Diamond Jubilee Planters will be re-furbished and re-planted. There are plans to plant more bulbs next year along Common Road as well as some new tree planting.

There is much to do: please contact the clerk if you can help in any way.

Also welcome are your ideas for other possible village enhancements/improvements.

Next Parish Council Meetings: 8th December 2022 & 12th January 2023 7.30pm
Kensworth Village Hall, The Chilterns, Kensworth LU6 3RJ.

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The **next meetings** of the Parish Council will take place in Studham Village Hall at 7pm on Monday 5th December and Monday 9th January and all members of the parish are welcome to attend. There are also plans to hold an evening of defibrillator training but the date has yet to be finalized. It is likely to be in January/February 2023. Keep an eye on the website and notice boards for details. If you would like to be advised of meetings and other important issues by e-mail, please contact clerk@studhamparish.co.uk and ask to be added to the list.

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

2023 will be an **election year** for Studham Parish Councillors and Central Bedfordshire Ward Councillors, amongst others. If you have a yen to become a Parish Councillor, then please contact the Clerk, or our Chairman, Bob Wilkin (bob@afroformosia.com), who will be pleased to give the information you need to start your journey.

Finally, may we wish you a Merry Christmas and, even though you will be reading this in December, a very Happy and Prosperous 2023.

KENSWORTH CHURCH of ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY and PRESCHOOL

It's been a busy and fun second half of the Autumn term at Kensworth School. Hornbeam class led a very special Remembrance Service for the whole school, sharing readings and prayers and finishing with a reflective minute's silence.

We were also thinking of others when we enjoyed a 'Spotacular' Children in Need fundraiser, wearing spots to school instead of uniform. We have also been teaching the children about 'diabetes awareness' so we wore something blue to reflect this.

We held a very busy Open Morning in November for those interested in a Reception place for September 2023. We are aware that not everyone could make it, so we want to share the message that we are really happy to show families around at any time. If you are interested, please do contact the school office to book your place (872336 or by e-mail: office@ken.dsamat.co.uk). Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Kensworth School Parent Teachers' Association:

Things haven't slowed down for the PTA team since the Scarecrow Festival. We held a Pumpkin Disco for Years 1-6 before half term. The children (and volunteers!) had a wonderful time and there were some very impressive dance moves! Thank you to all who attended and helped; we raised £174.

The children have been busy creating festive designs which can be printed onto cards, wrapping paper and mugs, to name a few, for parents/carers to order. We shall update you in the next edition of how much this has raised.



A new regular PTA event we have started this November is a weekly Pre-Loved Uniform Sale, held each Wednesday at 3.30pm in the main reception foyer. We are very pleased to have purchased a toy kitchen for the role play area in Saplings Class, a sea life floor rug for Holly Class to sit on and we look forward to contributing towards the Panto trip in December – oh yes we are! At the end of January we shall be

having a collection from Bag 2 School, who collect unwanted clothes to help us raise money for the school. Leaflets will be sent out early January via School, but if you would like more info please contact us.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a big thank you to everyone who supports us and our events and wish you all a very Happy Christmas. Find us on Facebook or e-mail: kensworthacademypta@gmail.com.

WHIPSNADE TREE CATHEDRAL – VOLUNTEERS DIARY

It's leaf collecting time again! We start with the main bridleways and then turn our attention to the four chapels. The summer chapel is the most challenging with its large oak tree depositing a deep layer of leaves and bucketfuls of acorns this year. When the weather is dry and bright it is a satisfying job and great exercise.



This year, we are also starting to cut the laurel hedges at the same time, and when collecting the laurel cut-offs, we tend to separate these from the other leaves, as laurel leaves have a heavy structure and are very slow at composting. Laurel is an evergreen and gives structure and delineation providing the walls for the outer perimeter and internal chapel areas. It needs very little care and grows very well in challenging environments, especially under so many trees, but it benefits from yearly cutting. We must avoid cutting during the main bird nesting season, which tends to be between March and August, but we always check the laurels before we start for any signs of life hiding in there.

The new holly hedge on the north of the Christmas Chapel is starting to show signs of growth after some nurturing last year and there are lots of new berries.

Come and say “hello” or come along with a rake on Tuesdays between 9am and 12 noon.

SOUTH BEDS ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS

This month's talk is on 5th December in the Salvation Army Hall, Bullpond Lane, Dunstable at 2pm and features Colin Oakes talking about “Charles Dickens and Christmas”. All are welcome - visitors pay £3.

There is no meeting in January.

KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL

The Committee held their meeting on 2nd November. The Secretary received a call from the Chairman Mike Sawyer to say he would not be present as he was not feeling well. We were then shocked and saddened to hear that Mike had died in the morning of 3rd November. We offer the Sawyer family our deepest condolences on the sad loss of Mike at this very difficult time.

Mike had been Chairman of the Committee for 10 years, and, in that time, brought a wealth of experience from the building trade, with a huge list of contacts to help the Committee to make repairs and do maintenance of the hall building, and he has guided us with his knowledge and good advice.

The Committee owe him an enormous debt of gratitude - we hope that the family know how much we will miss him, as well as residents in the village and the Drop-In Club. We will have some big shoes to fill in the New Year, when we hope that someone from the village will come forward to be the Chairman of the Committee for the forthcoming years.



We are looking forward to the Christmas activities with the **Christmas Fayre** in the hall on Sunday 4th December from 12 noon until 4pm. Come and see Santa and visit all the stalls; refreshments available.

9th December sees our **Christmas Family Bingo** with prizes and refreshments from 7.30pm - doors open at 7pm.

The Lantern Festival being organised by several groups in the village will commence from the Village Hall at 6.30pm, on Friday 2nd December, with carol singing around the village.



During the winter months, Kensworth Village Hall will open as a **Warm Hub** on Friday afternoons from 1pm – 4pm, offering free soup with a roll, biscuits, coffee and tea. Don't sit at home in a cold house; spend a couple of hours chatting, playing cards or knitting with other residents from Kensworth and Whipsnade.

The **next meeting of the Village Hall Committee** is set for **Friday 13th January** at 7.30pm in the Committee Room. The date has changed due to some members of the Committee being on holiday. This will be an important meeting for the Committee, as we will have to select a new Chairman.

If you want to get involved in running the Village Hall, please come along to the meeting: we only meet every two months, so it is not an onerous task.

STUDHAM EXTRA

BINGO

Wednesday 14th December at 8pm in Studham Village Hall Christmas Party Night. Doors open at 7.30pm for 'eyes down' at 8pm. We will play such games as Capital X, and Christmas Tree and, of course, there will be a Santa's Sack.

We do not have bingo during January and February, so our next meeting will be Wednesday 1st March 2023.

WI

7.15pm Thursday 1st December will be our 104th Birthday at The Bell, Studham.

7.15pm Thursday 5th January – a fun social evening with a Chinese raffle! Don't know what that is? Well come and join us to find out! We would love to see you. Our November Taster Evening was a great success – although we were all a bit 'chocolated out' by the end. But eating chocolate stimulates your body to release "feel good" chemicals, like endorphins - doesn't it! Certainly seemed to work for us.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

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

See Club notice board for details of Christmas opening and December events.

We have bingo on Friday 2nd and a Christmas raffle.

We welcome all visitors and new members. We provide competitively-priced drinks and the facility is also available for private events such as parties, birthdays, wedding celebrations, etc – 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 family, £17 for single and £9 for concession. All members receive details of events via e-mail; if you have not been receiving yours, please make sure that your e-mail details are up to date by letting the bar staff know. If you wish to join us, Membership Application Forms are available at the bar.

STUDHAM PLAYING FIELDS

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

The playing fields are also available for other events; 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.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON

As the days become shorter and Autumn turns into Winter, it means there will be **no work party for the Friends 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 21st January. All are welcome; no better way to start the New Year!

The work will include trimming and re-laying the hedge on the southern boundary of East Common in order to ensure that the hedgerow will eventually form a continuous dense habitat for nesting birds and a corridor for other animals. In addition, we will be trimming a 1 metre wide strip alongside the concrete track in order to ensure bushes do not intrude onto the track, so forcing vehicles to drive onto the opposite verge.

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 Joan Stone (872444/e-mail geone.stone@gmail.com).

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 on 07826 855 388 for more information.

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

LAST POSTING DATES FOR CHRISTMAS

2nd Class delivery including signed-for:	Monday 19 th December.
First class and Royal Mail Tracked 48 mail:	Wednesday 21 st December.
Royal Mail Tracked 24:	Thursday 22 nd December
Special Delivery Guaranteed:	Friday 23 rd December

For more information and for overseas dates go to: <https://www.postoffice.co.uk/last-posting-dates>.

STUDHAM SCHOOL & VILLAGE HALL



Studham Village CE Academy would like to thank Green Watch of Dunstable Fire Service who visited us on 4th November. Our children learnt so much about what to do in a fire and what all the different pieces of equipment were used for. As you can see from our photo there were so many places where the equipment was hidden throughout the fire engine!

We joined in fundraising for Children in Need this year and had our own SPOTacular Pudsey Day together with a 'Kind-a-thon'. Our children were fantastic in creating 'random acts of kindness' that they then made available to all. Parents donated and then carried out the act of kindness they received.

Look out for our very own Studham Apple Juice! Mr & Mrs Horton donated some of their apple harvest and took them to be pressed and bottled. The children at Studham have designed their own label and advertising posters. We will update you with how the launch went next month!

We have a busy schedule of events coming up in December, with plays, pantos and festive fun. Take a look at www.studhamschools.org.uk for further information. Don't forget, if out walking and you like to collect sticks, you can drop them in our 'Studham Stick Drop' (just outside our school gates) for our Forest School activities.

If you have children between the ages of 2 and 9, and you would like to tour our school to see what we can offer, please give our school office a ring (872337) or e-mail school@studhamschools.org.uk, we will be delighted to show you around!

Sarah MacKenzie-Skea, Headteacher

STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL

Our regular users include carpet bowls, Mums and Tots, Scrabble, table tennis, Parish Council, yoga, bingo, gong therapy, WI, and tap dancing. There is room for other groups, for example: chess club, or book club, perhaps whist, or family games night. If you would like to organise any other group, hold a single meeting or become a regular user, then please contact one of the Trustees.

The Hall is ideal for parties and hire rates are very reasonable. Please contact Lynne Smith, (bookingstudhamvh@gmail.com), who would be pleased to discuss all the information required.

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

The Chiltern Society is looking for volunteers to help maintain the network of footpaths and bridleways in our Parishes.

In the first place we are encouraging all walkers, riders, cyclists, dog walkers and ramblers to report any issues that they find in using these paths. Issues might be missing or damaged signposts, obstructions/blockages, damaged gates or stiles etc. In Whipsnade we have a volunteer who walks all paths in the Parish every 6 months and reports any issues. It would be great to have people who would do this in Studham and Kensworth too.

Issues should be reported to The Rights of Way Officer at Central Beds Council (CBC) by using the online form. Go to CBC website – follow “Leisure and Countryside” then “Public Rights of Way” to find the reporting form.

We are also hoping to recruit a group of volunteers who would undertake path maintenance work. In some cases, this will be simple clearance using handheld tools. More difficult cases will require power tools. This work would be undertaken under the direction of CBC who will provide any necessary training and tools. There are groups in neighbouring parishes who undertake this work, but there is more work than they can cope with.

If you are interested in helping with any of the above, particularly path maintenance, please contact Mike Pittam (now Area Manager for the Chiltern Society Rights of Way Group covering Whipsnade, Studham and Kensworth) on pittammichael@gmail.com or on 07768831404 / 01582 872264.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS – DUNSTABLE DOWNS

The Nutcracker Breakout Trail – 2nd to 23rd December – 10am - 3pm, £3 per trail - no pre-booking required. An escape room inspired festive trail to find the stolen nuts taken by the evil squirrel! Follow the clues and solve the riddles and puzzles to claim your prize at the end.

Festive Friday Nights 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd December – late night entertainment and shopping from 5pm to 7pm, £5 per person, pre-booking required (0344 249 1895). Children under 3 are free and do not require a ticket. An evening with music, late night shopping; the Nutcracker Breakout Trail (above) and family craft activities available. Tickets include a glass of mulled wine for adults.

