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PARISH LINK

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



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Dear all

At the time of writing this, the weather is fluctuating between cold, wet and just plain grey. Soon winter will fall away, and spring will appear. Like a mysterious scratch card – its not that life was absent, it just got hidden. Language is bothering me at the moment. I am not even sure what to call these bits of the year that are neither Christmas nor spring; and which simply act as padding in the calendar. In the church these ‘gaps’ are referred to as ‘ordinary time.’ When you’ve celebrated every possible part of the Christian journey, the remainder is ordinary time.

I am sure that at first glance this just looks like a random rant, but I have a real affection for ordinary time. Life’s great roller coaster would be unbearable without the plateaux of peace when we can take a breath, read a book and finally get round to the laundry. Cliché suggests that we should take time along the path to smell the roses, but they are not even in flower yet. Now is the time to sit with a warm cup of tea and dream of the roses to come, the adventures ahead.

There is a lovely bible reading that says, **“Aren’t five sparrows sold for two pennies?^[a] Yet not one of them is forgotten before God.^[b]”** ⁷ **In fact, even the hairs on your head are all numbered. Do not be afraid;^[c] you are more valuable than many sparrows.’** (Luke 12:6-8) If we could trust that simple statement, maybe we could calm down and assume that just ‘being’ us was enough. Imagine not having all that pressure, of being free to be you? There is an ordinary version of all of us and it’s a comfortable place to be. Between changing the world, we need to be able to settle back into a consistent shape.

The film ‘About Time,’ suggests that we be much more aware of our ordinary days as we go through them. Instead of treating them as a burden, we seek all those special moments hidden amongst the banal. The passing smiles and glances, the little things we miss, the humour. It suggests we train ourselves to enjoy every moment regardless of how ordinary. So at the time of writing there is a bird sitting on the tree looking down on the new stems of daffodils breaking through the icy ground. The sun is easing through the grey sky and lighting a low mist over the fields. This ordinary day is still and calm. The dawn has come, and nothing is required except that we see it. God the artist painting a new world.

Andrew

WHIPSNAD E INCLUDING OLDHILL WOOD

ST MARY MAGDALENE

Prayers

This month we will be praying for those who work in the village – at the zoo, the Old Hunters Lodge, the farms, and those who are self-employed. If you want us to pray for someone, please contact the Rector or the churchwardens (see page 5), or write a request on the prayer tree in the church.

Roger Kendrick and John Weatherhead

The congregation of St Mary Magdalene were deeply shocked and saddened by the loss of two of our longest-serving members in one week in January. Both Roger and John were involved in the restoration of the church in the 1960s, and contributed hugely to the life of the church since then. See page 11.

The Village Lunch

Thanks and congratulations to the people attending the February lunch who generously contributed £105 to the fund for those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. The money has been sent along with the church's retiring collection throughout February.

The March lunch will be on Thursday 9th at 12.30 in the Village Hall. For £7, enjoy a two-course lunch with a selection of puddings and tea or coffee to follow. Choose your main course from: roast venison with red wine gravy, redcurrant sauce and roast potatoes, shepherds pie, Mediterranean chicken, salmon en croute. Remember the raffle! Have a browse through the books, dvd's and other items on offer in the bookcase beside the back door - their sale raises funds for the maintenance of the hall.

Mothering Sunday

At the Mothering Sunday family service on 19th March we will be distributing bunches of flowers to celebrate our mothers. These will be prepared on Saturday 18th at 2.30pm. You are very welcome to come along to help in the church vestry.

Advance notice: the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** is on 26th April. The new Parochial Church Council and churchwardens will be elected then. If you wish to join the PCC or become a churchwarden, contact PCC secretary, Joan Bailey (873218).

Knit & Natter

The group will meet in the church for company, refreshments and shared crafts on Tuesday 21st March 2pm – 4pm. Patterns, materials and support for beginners are available or bring along the project you are working on.

Whipsnade Churchyard working party

This will be on Saturday 4th March between 9.30am and 12 noon. All are welcome.

AROUND ABOUT STUDHAM

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Church prayers: in our annual cycle of village prayers, in March we shall be praying especially for everyone who lives in Holywell Road and Holywell Close. If you would like a particular prayer to be said, perhaps for a special person or event, contact churchwarden, Meg Bender (872967/meg.bender4@btinternet.com).

Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent, on 19th March. There will be a special family-friendly service at 10.30am in which the children and young people will be helping us with readings and prayers. We shall be thanking God for our mothers, and for all those who have mothered us, and will be expressing our thanks by giving small posies to everyone. The service will end with refreshments and the celebration of all the March birthdays. Not a regular church goer? No problem, everyone is very welcome.

Earth Hour: We are very pleased to be hosting on behalf of the Benefice this World Wildlife Fund global event on 25th March from 8.30pm until 9.30pm. More details are to be found on page 13.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

The Friends of Studham Church raise money to help maintain the fabric of our church which, at 803 years old, is by some way the oldest building in the village.

Many thanks to those who have recently renewed and, in some cases, increased your annual subscription to the 100 Club and welcome to a couple of new members. The winner of the February draw was Fiona McDougal with John Hanna the runner up.

For the first time since 2019, the popular Call My Bluff wine evening is returning, on Friday 14th April. This is a joint event with The Friends of Studham Common. 6 quality wines, light supper, an evening of humour and a chance to support two worthy Studham causes. Tickets £20 from John McDougal (john.mcdougal@btinternet.com or 873257).

STUDHAM WARM HUB

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. There will be a warm welcome to all those who wish to join us. Bring your knitting, your book, your friendship and we will provide the rest!

March	6 th	Monday	10-12	Studham Village Hall
	14 th	Tuesday	10-12	Studham Methodist Chapel
	20 th	Monday	10-12	Studham Village Hall
	28 th	Tuesday	10-12	Studham Methodist Chapel

KENSWORTH NEWSROUND

ST MARYS CHURCH

Our prayers for you: if you would like a particular prayer to be said, for a loved one or for a special occasion, please contact Dorothy Blackburn (872670 or e-mail: dorothy.godbod1@outlook.com). In March our prayers will include all the people who live in the Chilterns.

Church Calendar: all Sundays in March are in Lent: Mothering Sunday is the 19th March (see page 25), and we join with our Methodist friends in Kensworth Methodist Church (LU6 3RG) at 10.30am. Everyone is very welcome to all our services. 'Lady Day', or the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, is on 25th March (see page 14). There are two UK Saints Days in March: 1st March: St David's Day for Wales; 17th March: St Patrick's Day for Ireland.

Choir News: the choir will sing at Sung Eucharist (Holy Communion) on 5th March. If you would like to join, please telephone the Vicar (872223) or e-mail: revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com. Instrument players are also welcome.

Sunday School: Morning Service at 10.30am on Sunday 12th March will include Sunday School, with classes for both older and younger children. We shall be learning how Jesus is the water of life, and there will be crafts and activities. 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: this will be on Friday 17th March at 3.30pm in the Church Hall. The theme will be God's Blessing. All children are welcome, accompanied by a parent or carer; older children are very welcome to come and join in or help. Time for craft work, songs and story followed by a hot meal for everyone.

CHURCH BRING 'n BUY and RECYCLING CENTRE

In the Church Hall, Clayhall Road (behind the Vicarage). 2 – 4pm on Wednesdays and 10am – 12 noon on Saturdays. All kinds of treasures are available – come and have a browse! (We cannot sell electrical goods, clothing or large items of furniture – and please ensure that items for sale are clean and unbroken). **Cash only.**

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

For all services, see page 15. The March Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 4th. Everyone is very welcome for delicious cakes, coffee/tea and a chat.

KENSWORTH WARM HUB

In Kensworth we have been running a Warm Hub in the Village Hall, **every Friday** from 1 - 4pm (ish!). We are offering warm food and snacks and a warm welcome to all. Feel free to bring your dog along with you, or pop in when you are walking the dog. Or why not drop in on the school walk home and bring your children along. All very welcome.

MORE WHIPSNAD

TRIBUTES TO ROGER KENDRICK AND JOHN WEATHERHEAD

Roger Kendrick

Up to the week of his sudden death, Roger came to the church every Sunday with his wife Sylvia and his children to lead the bellringers. He was an expert ringer, well-known and respected in the bell ringing community. As tower captain, he had installed the church's present ring of six bells and looked after them ever since. During this time he trained many new ringers who went on to serve in towers all over the country. In addition he contributed to all our fund-raising and social events, notably the summer fete and the Historic Churches Bike and Hike.

Roger made a strong contribution to society. In his work as a chemist he cared for the environment, leading the removal of pollutants from the waste produced in his industry. After he retired, he became a school governor, chairing a governing body and was judged 'the best governor we have ever had'.

John Weatherhead

John, who died after bravely fighting a long and painful illness, was one of Whipsnade's best-known and most respected characters. He loved his many years working as head keeper of the elephants in the zoo, including providing guidance and support to keepers in other zoos throughout Britain and abroad. His written memoirs about his work with elephants sold well, and his talks on the subject were well attended.

Along with his wife Sheila, John contributed substantially to the life of the village, especially the church, for over 40 years. Even after he became ill, he helped with the maintenance of the church and churchyard, and also supported all of the social events. He was a good friend to many people in the village, and he will be very much missed.

WHIPSNAD VILLAGE GET-TOGETHER

Whipsnade village Hall on March 7th 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.

WHIPSNAD VILLAGE HALL

We will be celebrating the coronation of King Charles III on Sunday 7th May. More details to follow.

We will be holding a holistic and well-being Fair on Saturday 20th May at Whipsnade village hall between 11am and 5pm.

MORE STUDHAM

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Our **next meeting** is in the Village Hall at 7pm on Monday 6th March. There is also a meeting arranged for Saturday 18th March at 10am when the Village Hall re-build will be discussed. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 8.15pm on Monday 3rd April, following the normal Parish Council Meeting at 6pm. All members of the parish and the press are invited to all of the above.

If you would like to be advised of meetings and other important issues by e-mail, please go to the home page of the website to register or e-mail: news@studhamparish.co.uk, asking to be added.

If you have recently moved into our parish and have not yet received your **Welcome Pack**, please contact the Clerk (clerk@studhamparish.co.uk) who will be pleased to arrange this for you.

Parish Council Election – 4th May. It's election time and, with some existing members of the Council standing down, now is the time to consider if you could contribute some time to helping our community. Nominations need to be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council between 14th March and 4th April. If you are interested, either come along to our next meeting or contact our current Chairman, Bob Wilkin (07796 446031/bob@afroformosia.com) to find out more.

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 and have previously hosted marquee parties, touch rugby tournaments, school sports and village events, including the May Fair and Jubilee. 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).

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Please note that, in the wake of the energy crisis, the decision has been taken to close the Club on Tuesday and Thursday evenings until the end of March so our current opening hours are: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 4.30pm, Saturday and Sunday 12pm.

We welcome all visitors and new members. We provide competitively-priced drinks and we are also available for private events. If you are planning an event, please contact the Club Manager (Louise 07737 839596) to see what we can offer.

If you wish to join us, we will be delighted to see you. Membership application forms are available at the bar. A reminder that the annual renewal date for memberships is 1st April.

EVENTS IN STUDHAM



EARTH HOUR is an initiative led by the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF). It is one of the world's biggest grass-root environmental movements and aims to encourage people to make a small difference in tackling climate change and protecting nature. It began in 2007 in Sydney, when 2.2 million individuals switched off lights for one hour, marking the beginning of the Earth Hour movement. This has now gone global and more than 190 countries are taking part.

What are we doing in Studham, Kensworth and Whipsnade?

Invitation to: St Mary's Church, Studham

Time: 8.30pm to 9.30pm

When: Saturday, 25th March

Why: To celebrate and honour Earth Hour.

What: There will be poetry, singing, music, prayer, information on WWF 10 Point Challenge, stargazing and some sweet refreshments, all by candlelight.

What to bring: Wear warm clothes (heating will be off) and a torch for the paths.

If you can't join us at Studham Church, you could have an Earth Hour of your own by turning the lights and devices off at home, going for a walk, having a candle-lit dinner or watching a nature documentary such as Planet Earth.

See www.wwf.org.uk/earth-hour for more details and information about Earth Hour or contact Caroline Hitchman (cjhitchman@hotmail.com/872779).

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! YOUR MAY FAIR NEEDS YOU.

Existing and new volunteers, please e-mail us your details (mayfair.studham.derek@gmail.com) as we need your help from Thursday 11th putting up tents prior to the event on Saturday 13th May!!

We need donations for Preloved Stall, Tombola, Nearly New, Made in Studham, Booze Barrow, Raffle Prizes, Plants, & Cakes. Please call us Derek (07825 705380), Becky (07956 656794) or Jo (07815 120390).

MAY FAIR CHURCH STALL CHANGING TO 'NEARLY NEW – PRELOVED'

Following 14 years of service, Meg & Roger Bender are handing over running the May Fair Church Stall to Jo Majewska. The stall will be known as Nearly New – Preloved items.

If you have any household items, pictures, games, jewellery, clothes, bags, etc, please give Jo a call/text on 07815 120390 who will be happy to collect.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, KENSWORTH – CHURCH TREASURER

Our longstanding Treasurer, Barrie, is hoping to hand over the Treasurership enabling him to concentrate on his other role as Churchwarden. The Treasurer's responsibility is to manage the church accounts, and keep the accounts and databases in order, along with reports to the Parochial Church Council, which meets several times a year, and to prepare the accounts for examination every Spring. They also have to pay in money and pay the church bills, many of which are now online. If you have any financial or organisational background and are keen to help in this capacity, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Vicar, Nicola Lenthall (revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com).

KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL

Come along to Kensworth Village Hall on a Friday afternoon between 1pm and 4pm. Meet old and new friends, enjoy hot food and drinks while having a catch up, playing games or sharing your craft work skills. Everyone welcome.

It's celebration time again! We are celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III with a Fun Day on the recreation ground on Sunday 7th May 1pm – 5.30pm. Come and join us, entertainment for everyone: dog show, music, tasty food and drinks plus much more. If you are interested in having a stall, or offer any entertainment contact Sylvia on (07831 538682).

The Committee is still looking for new members, to help organise events that keep the hall running for all local organisations to use. We welcome anyone joining us for our next meeting on 1st March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room.

25th MARCH – LADY DAY (and your taxes!)

In Tudor England, the New Year began on 25th March, a day known as the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, or (Our) Lady Day. It was a feast day commemorating the day that the Virgin Mary was first told by the Angel Gabriel that she was carrying Jesus. It is, of course, nine months before Christmas Day, the day on which we celebrate the day Christ was born.

Lady Day was the first day of the calendar year in England until 1752, when the first day of the year was changed to 1st January and the Gregorian Calendar replaced the Julian Calendar which had become distorted from the solar calendar and become some 10 days adrift.

That year, 2nd September was followed by 14th September to make the correction. The Treasury, worried about losing tax revenues, changed the tax year to 5th April, later, in 1800 to 6th April, for the collection of taxes! (For your information, George II was King and the Prime Minister was the Whig, Henry Pelham). And that has marked the beginning of the tax year ever since.

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday services are usually at 10.30am:

12 th March:	Holy Communion	Led by Mr Martin Wallis
19 th March:	Morning Worship	Led by Mrs Hyacinth Taylor
26 th March:	Morning Worship	Led by The Reverend Nigel Bibbings

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.

Sunday 12 th March 10am	Rev. John Fellows	Chapel 57 th Anniversary
Sunday 26 th March 10am	Rev. Andrew Brazier	Holy Communion

All are welcome to join us.

CARBON FAST FOR LENT

The charity, Climate Stewards, have created a 40-day Lent plan called



Carbon Fast
for Lent

Carbon Fast to help you reduce your carbon footprint. Each week there is a different focus to help you reduce your impact on the natural world. You will have a series of challenges which you and your family can do. See www.climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast. This is a summary of the weekly overview for March:

22 Feb - 4 Mar ***Fast from Consumerism (Buy Nothing)***

- * Apart from essentials like food and toiletries, buy nothing
- * Before buying, ask yourself, do I really need this?

5 - 11 Mar ***Fast from Meat, Dairy or Desserts***

- * Go meat-free
- * Already vegetarian? Fast from dairy products
- * Already vegan? Give up desserts and sweets

12 - 18 Mar ***Fast from Cheese, Chocolate & Coffee***

- * These treats have a high carbon footprint
- * Cut out some of your favourite treats

19 - 25 Mar ***Fast from Long Showers and Tumble Driers***

- * Use a clothes drying rack
- * Take shorter showers

26 Mar - 1 Apr ***Fast from Driving***

- * Lift share, cycle, walk or use public transport for your commute

KENSWORTH C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY AND PRESCHOOL

We have been enjoying the early signs of Spring and are looking forward to watching our newly-planted Hornbeam hedge start to flourish. We had almost 100 bare-root plants from our application to The Queen's Green Canopy Initiative, which the children enjoyed planting, with the help of parents and grandparents.

We have a themed approach to our curriculum and the children have been busy learning about some fascinating subjects. The theme in Preschool and Reception has been Marvellous Machines; in Holly class (Years 1&2) the theme has been Magnificent Monarchs: the children have learnt about the British monarchy. In Oak class (years 3 & 4), a geographical focus themed Misty Mountains, Winding Rivers. They have learnt about the characteristics and physical processes of rivers. Finally, in Years 5 & 6 (Hornbeam class) the theme has been Sow, Grow and Farm, which included a visit to the allotments in Kensworth. We had a very enjoyable end to our first half-term with a Valentine's disco organised by our wonderful PTA.

Contact: office@ken.dsamat.co.uk; 01582 872336

Kensworth School Parent Teachers' Association

The PTA team are pleased to report that the wonderful creations the children made for Christmas raised £170.95. Thank you to everyone who placed an order and contributed towards this fundraiser. This term we have been selling hot chocolates each week, which has been a huge hit with the children. We have also had our first collection since Covid from Bag2School, which raised £80. The next one is booked for 14th June – if you'd like further details nearer the time, please drop us an e-mail at kensworthacademypta@gmail.com and we will make sure you receive a leaflet.

PEW OF STUDLEY

Studham resident of the last 20 yrs, Graham Magor, has recently written an adventure book which has been published and is available on Amazon. The book, 'Pew of Studley', is based in Studham and features St Mary's and local people.



Graham provides a synopsis: *"Pew is a smaller than average mouse who lives with his family in a quiet church on the outskirts of a village called Studley. When his sister Maizey is accidentally taken by a Puller (Bell ringer), it's a race against time for Pew and his 'one in a million' crafting friend Weed to rescue her.*

As they cross darkened woods and snowy commons, they are aided by a magpie called JJ, the Raven Congress and a Rabbit who runs an underground network. Trying to avoid Howls, ferrets and folk they must save Maizey from 'The Hall' where dark armies are massing and war is brewing".

Have fun trying to recognise some of the characters! Congratulations to Graham!

KENSWORTH DROP IN CLUB

All 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, if you are new to the village, get to know the locals! We also have outings.

KENSWORTH SPRING FESTIVAL

Please "Save the Date" for the **Spring Festival** at St Mary's Kensworth on **Sunday April 30th**. (This is what has previously been called the May Festival but is in April this year, as 30th is the closest Sunday to 1st May).

More details will follow but there will be the usual sideshows, stalls and games, a BBQ, the crowning of the May Queen and Morris dancing.

The event will follow the 10.30am service in church (so festivities will start at about 11.30am).



CYCLE to CHURCH

Would you like to sponsor a cycle rack planter as a donation, or in memory of a loved one? We would like to install two bike racks (planter style) at St. Mary's, Kensworth. This will enable people who are joining a church service, visiting the



graveyard or coming on a walk and linking with the footpaths through our graveyard, to lock up their bikes.

As an Eco Church we feel the planter cycle racks will take away the need for concrete and allow us to plant them with bee-loving plants. We are looking to initially buy two cycle planters, the cost is around £300 for each, and soil and plants will be extra.

Would you like to contribute, or to give money so that we can buy a cycle rack planter, either as a local sponsor or in

memory of a loved one? Please get in touch with Jane Bedlington (jane.bedlington@btinternet.com).

GRAVEL and GRATEFULNESS

Kensworth Church wish to thank past and present Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers for helping to keep the gravel around the church weed free. Many thanks to Mick Fullard of Butterfields of Luton for free gravel and David White for delivering it (also free of charge). This will help us maintain the perimeter of the church.

STUDHAM EXTRA

STUDHAM WI

7.15pm Thursday 2nd – Studham Village Hall - Annual Meeting

7.15pm Wednesday 22nd – Studham Village Hall – Group Meeting (OPEN)

Our February Quiz evening was greatly enjoyed by all who attended, and the results were really close! - just 1/2 point separating 2nd and 3rd.

This month is our Annual Meeting and to help things along, there will be cheese and wine, or fruit juice if you prefer.

On Wednesday 22nd March, we will be hosting the Dunstable and District Group Meeting, and the speaker will be our own Julia Opperman on the subject: "Women of the Ancient World". Entrance is £4 and raffle tickets will be on sale. This meeting is 'open' which means that all, including our men folk, are welcome to join us. There will be light refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there.

MARCH QUIZ NIGHT AT THE RED LION

Tuesday 7th, 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 c), 4: entertainment (anything that entertains!), 5: anything we couldn't fit in the previous rounds! and 6: music, (titles beginning g – it should be said that we ignore the words 'a' and 'the' at the beginning of a title!)! There is no fixed team size – so you can go solo or bring all the family; please ring the Red Lion (872530) to book a table, (and order food if required). See you there!

BINGO

We are back!! Yes, Wednesday 1st March is the first bingo of the year and we look forward to seeing you. You may not have joined us before or you may be one of our regulars, whichever it is we will be pleased to see you. Doors open at 7.30pm and 'eyes down' is at 8pm.

ALL IN THE MONTH OF MARCH:

- 300 years ago, on 8th March 1723, Sir Christopher Wren, English architect, died. Best known for designing St Paul's Cathedral;
- 70 years ago, on 19th March 1953 the Academy Awards ceremony (the Oscars) were televised for the first time;
- 20 years ago, on 12th March 2003 the World Health Organisation issued a global alert about a severe form of pneumonia (now known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome – SARS) that was affecting people in China, Hong Kong and Vietnam.

COUNCIL NEWS

NEWS FROM CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL

Green bin collections will start again on Monday 6th March so you can get out in the Spring sunshine to tidy your gardens and then get rid of the waste easily. Remember the following are not to go in the green bin:

– vegetable peelings – food waste – compostable or biodegradable bags and packaging – plant pots – polystyrene trays – turf – soil – rubble including tiles and decking – animal bedding – pet waste – general household waste – empty compost and soil bags.

For more information, go to www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Website: www.kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Contact: clerk@kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Elections are coming: make a change – to play an active role within the Parish Council, become a Parish Councillor – ask us for details. Parish Councillor nominations are open from 14th March to 4th April.

Plans for the new **safeguarding pathway** inside the recreation ground are coming along and expected to move forward in the coming months.

Work is re-starting in the new **Jubilee Garden** and will take shape shortly, along with the works to the flower planters along Common Road to make them ready for seasonal planting.

The **Annual Litter Pick** along Kensworth Village will be taking place on 11th March, 11am for 1 hour, meeting at the Village Hall car park where hi-vis jackets and some litter picker sticks will be available. Please come along and join in this local event.

The **Annual Meeting of the Parish** is on 13th April 8pm at the Village Hall. This is a meeting for residents to discuss and share matters of local interest. Grant awards and Kensworth Villager of the Year will also be announced. Refreshments will be available.

Residents are asked to please observe **parking regulations** to ensure road safety for all. This includes allowing 10 metres (32 feet) back from a junction before parking and avoiding unnecessary obstruction.

Next Parish Council Meeting:

9th March, 7.30pm, Kensworth Village Hall

GREEN VOLUNTEERING

WHIPSDNADE TREE CATHEDRAL – A VOLUNTEERS DIARY

So, we have finally completed the mammoth task of cutting the laurels and other hedges that form all the delineated areas of The Tree Cathedral – the birds that have all started their spring rituals can now start building their nests. All the cuttings and the fallen leaves are now being tidied up and if you are taking the footpath through to the Visitor Centre on top of the downs you will undoubtedly notice the huge pile of leaves and debris that will start to mulch down in the coming months. We are now spending time tidying the Easter chapel ready for the beautiful display of daffodils and cherry blossom that will soon be flowering.

Other work we are concentrating on is the pollarding on the willow trees in the far west corner of the site. This involves cutting back all the annual growth which in the case of these trees can be up to 8 feet. This means we can control the height and spread of the willows and also ensures vigorous and healthy new growth each year.



Again, this year we are persevering with the Viburnum hedge which borders the Christmas chapel. Last year, we managed to keep it free of Viburnum beetle by clearing the debris and fallen leaves from all the area underneath the hedge. This is where the beetles thrive if left and they appear in late March and lay their eggs in the foliage. The

larvae and adult beetle then attack the Viburnum and feed on the leaves quickly destroying the plants. Last year the hedge looked its healthiest for years, so we are determined to continue that this year.

Come and visit the Tree Cathedral this month and enjoy sitting in our chapels on our many animal-themed benches.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON

The next Friends' work party will be on **Saturday 18th March**, where we will be finishing any uncompleted tasks over the entire Common area from earlier work parties held during the last few months. This will ensure that the Common remains open and accessible to all. We meet at the War Memorial on West Common, opposite the Red Lion at 10am.

As the nesting season usually starts around the beginning of March, all necessary work will be carefully controlled to ensure early nesting birds are not disturbed.

But - if you are unable to volunteer or just wish for a pleasant night out, come along to our 'Call My Bluff' wine tasting evening, with six different wines along with a cheese and pate platter – 14th April at the Village Hall. Further details, see page 8.

For further information contact the work party co-ordinator Bob Wilkin (01582 871268/e-mail Bob@afromosia.com).

STUDHAM TENNIS CLUB

We offer free annual Junior Membership (with every full adult member) and annual Family Membership from £75. Coaching takes place 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).

STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 18th March 10am Studham Village Hall – update on re-build status.

Our regular users include carpet bowls, Mums and Tots, Scrabble, table tennis, Parish Council, yoga, bingo, Gong Therapy, WI and tap dancing. We have room for other groups, for example: chess or book club, perhaps whist, video games, table-top games, or just a family games night. If you would like to organise any of these, or 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.

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.

At a previous Parish Surgery, (pre-Covid that is!), we asked for permission to look into refurbishing/rebuilding the Village Hall to bring it more 'up to date' and improve the facilities. The Steering Committee has worked very hard on behalf of all and has now reached the stage where further discussion and input is required. To this end, a special meeting has been arranged for Saturday 18th March, 10am -12 noon; we look forward to seeing you all there.

SENIORS TABLE TENNIS

10am – 12 noon Fridays in Studham Village Hall

The Village Hall's newest group is expanding. It now needs another table tennis table so players of all ages can enjoy social competition and exercise. The Club would like to purchase a table, or use one on loan if needed. All welcome to a friendly morning. Please contact Felicity Cornelius (872038).

STUDHAM SCHOOL

STUDHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL

Our new outdoor classroom arrives this term!



The new addition to our Forest School area will be a fantastic space where we can learn, play and experience the nature that surrounds us. Teaching staff have attended Forest School training sessions where they have learnt to chop and whittle wood, build dens and use Kelly kettles to name but a few. They have written booklets, 'how to's', risk assessments and planned sessions. We are loving our Forest School sessions at Studham and can't wait to do more!

Our school PTFA raised a whopping £1950 at their recent Quiz Night! This money will be put towards resources for our Forest School activities. We would

like to thank all those involved in such a successful event.

The 'Grand Opening' of our Forest School.....Please look out for details and date coming soon as we would love to share this with our community!

Don't forget if you have been on a walk you can drop us off a stick or two in our 'stick store' located at the front of the school.

As Spring gets into full swing, so will our allotment area and whilst out in the village why not look out for our new 'Swap Barrow' that has been funded by the 2022 May Fayre. It is being built by some of our villagers and will be installed very soon! We will be looking to swap seeds and produce as the school year progresses! Thank you in advance for swaps and donations!

If you are interested in a place for your child (preschool to year 4, from 2 to 9 years old) contact the school office (872337 or e-mail school@studhamschools.org.uk) for more information. We look forward to seeing you during 2023.

Sarah MacKenzie-Skea, Headteacher

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 have some 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.

MISCELLANEOUS

MESSAGE FROM STUDHAM RESIDENT, KAREN WILKIN

I am collecting good quality children's clothing and shoes for ages 1-6 – all to be sent over to The Gambia next month – I shall personally distribute them to needy communities and nursery schools. This I have been doing since 2012.

In 2012, when out walking in The Gambia, I stumbled upon a run down nursery school - so I decided to step in and help. Sadly this is the case for many schools in the country where there are often crumbling classrooms, no sanitation and no resources – the staff working for free for the benefit of the children. Communities are generally extremely poor, with many having no running water or electricity and many children not going to school.



Since then I have built 2 houses as the owners both had theirs washed away in the floods. I have put good 4 nursery schools - repairing the buildings, instigating a curriculum, teaching the staff how to teach child-led lessons, providing decent toilets, providing mosquito nets, regular stationery and daily bread.

I rely on donations from friends and family and work slowly, slowly to achieve the end goal. To this end, I have also started shipping children's clothes, shoes and toys as above for the age group I teach. Usually I send boxes over every 2 months and then distribute them to the communities I know when I visit. Hence the plea for more items if anyone can help.

Thank you so much in advance. Please contact me on 07887-984401 or at wilkin@afroformosia.com if you can help.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

The date of Mothering Sunday changes each year in the UK. The date depends on when Easter is, but always will be the 4th Sunday of Lent – this year, March 19th.

During the 16th century, a tradition began when Christians would visit the church they had been baptised in, called their 'Mother Church', on the fourth Sunday of Lent. That's how it got its name.

At that time, it was common for children to leave home and get a job in domestic service. This would mean that they lived at the place they worked and were not allowed home very often. Mothering Sunday was a rare day off, when all children were allowed to go home and visit their Mother Church and their mothers. As they walked home, they would pick wild flowers along the paths and give them to their mothers. This led to the tradition of giving mothers flowers on Mothering Sunday.