

Issue Number 412

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December 2023/January 2024

# PARISH LINK

Serving the villages of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade for 41 years





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## **At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the guns fell silent.**

I sit writing this article at the end of Remembrance Sunday during which I have had the privilege of joining with many of you to reflect on the tragedy of human suffering in times of conflict. World War One was meant to be the war which ended all wars and the century which has followed on since then has been a painful reminder that this was not the case.

Conflict between humans is nothing new and has been with us since the beginning of time on many different levels. I was reminded of this recently when I was contacted by a University in Sweden who were undertaking some research and asked me some questions concerning the Rev Ivan Young, who was the Vicar of Kensworth during the mid-twentieth century. Talking about this to some of the parishioners one commented that Ivan would get quite animated when talking about the War, although it is often difficult to ascertain whether he was referring to WW1 or the medieval war between the Shepherds of Whipsnade and Kensworth over grazing rights and boundaries. If anyone reading this has any further knowledge on these disputes, I would be most interested to learn more.

However, whether it is a local dispute or a global concern, it highlights to us the very real need to pursue for all that makes for peace and as we turn from Remembrance and head towards Advent and Christmas, the world now, more than ever, needs the Prince of Peace. As Edmund Sears wrote back in 1849:

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring;  
Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife  
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hast'ning on,  
By prophet seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Shall come the time foretold  
When Christ shall come and all shall own  
The Prince of Peace, their King,  
And saints shall meet Him in the air,  
And with the angels sing.

May it be that this Christmas time will be a peaceful one for you all. **For his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**



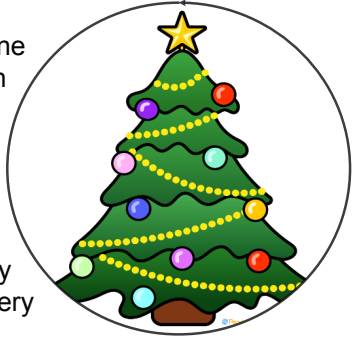
## WHIPSHADE INCLUDING OLDHILL WOOD

### CHURCH NEWS

In December and January, we will pray for the children of the benefice, and for the children, staff, and parents of Studham School. If you want prayers for a particular purpose, write a prayer on the prayer tree in the church or contact the churchwardens, Isobel (872552) or Martin (873117), who will add it to the Sunday prayers.

### Christingle Service

The annual Christingle Service, in which everyone receives a Christingle, and candles are lit to focus on the light of Christ, will take place in the church on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Adults and children are welcome to make the Christingles in the church from 9.30am on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>.



The church will be decorated for Christmas on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 11am. Extra helpers are very welcome. For details contact Ann Brinklow.

### Sunday School

Every second Sunday of the month (10<sup>th</sup> December and 14<sup>th</sup> January). The children meet in the church vestry during the 9am service for activities connected to Bible stories. Bring your children along for fun and friendship.

### Village Lunch

The Christmas lunch will be in the Village Hall at 12.30pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. This very popular event is by pre-booked £10 ticket and is virtually sold out. Contact Les Randall (872552) to see if there are any spares through cancellation.

### A Message from Isobel Randall

This will be the very last village lunch, as I am retiring due to ill-health, and no-one has come forward to take it over. That is, unless we find someone to lead it and several people to cook the main courses. Contact me (872552) if you want to know more.

Heartfelt thanks from me to the regular lunchers for their generous gift to me at the final standard lunch in November. I was very touched and amazed when it was presented to me – especially as I had burned the pie! What a lovely bunch of people you are.

### Church Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 10am until 12pm. Coffee, cakes, Christmas cards and paper and a great selection of Knit and Natter gifts. Come and join us for a coffee and enjoy the beginning of the festive season.

## AROUND ABOUT STUDHAM

### ST MARY'S CHURCH

**Repair work:** by the time this issue is delivered to you, the essential work to the church gutters should be complete and the scaffolding removed. The church will, once again, be open during daylight hours and visitors to the beautiful old building will be welcome. We are very grateful to the Friends of Studham Church for funding this important work and, as the major source of funding is the May Fair, we thank you all for your generosity which will ensure the church keeps dry during the stormy weather.

**Church prayers:** following our annual cycle of prayers, in December we shall be praying especially for all the families in the village and for everyone connected to our local school, Studham C of E Academy. In January, all the residents of Woodland Rise will be the special focus of our prayers. If you would like a prayer to be said, for a particular person or event, please contact churchwarden, Meg Bender (872967 or meg.bender4@btinternet.com). You are also very welcome to write your prayer on a Christmas star and decorate the Christmas tree at the front of the church with it.

We are looking forward to our **Christmas celebrations:**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm: by popular demand – Carols, Coffee and Cake returns for a second year. This is an informal sing-a-long of all your favourite Christmas Carols and songs and an opportunity to make requests. Everyone is very welcome to join in and to enjoy refreshments afterwards.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am is the annual **Christingle Service**. Many thanks to Studham School children who are making the Christingle oranges which will be given out during the service; everyone will receive a Christingle orange and the candles will be lit. The collection will be sent to the Children's Society to support their important work with vulnerable children. The service will conclude with refreshments and a celebration of all the December birthdays.

**Christmas Eve**, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 4.30pm: time to halt all the shopping and preparations! Please come and enjoy the traditional service of Christmas carols and lessons. Everyone is very welcome.

Christmas Eve at 11pm: welcome Christmas with our Holy Communion Service, all welcome.

In January, our normal pattern of services resumes and Children's Church will be on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 10.30am. As it's the first meeting of the New Year, new children are particularly welcome and parents or carers are very welcome to accompany their very young children. The children will be thinking about the first miracle of Jesus, when the wine ran out at a village wedding; how he turned gallons of water into really good wine. After the service everyone is invited to stay for refreshments and the celebration of all the January birthdays.

## KENSWORTH NEWSROUND

### KENSWORTH PARISH CHURCH:

**Prayers for You:** 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](mailto:dorothy.godbod@outlook.com).

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.

**Church Calendar:** our regular celebrations of Christingle, the Carol Service and the Crib Service will happen during our reflective Advent approach to the joys of Christmas (details on page 16). Midnight Mass this year will be in St Mary's, Studham. It is a Benefice service and people from all three of our parishes are warmly invited to share in this very special service.

We will decorate the church for Christmas at 10am on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Contributions of flowers and offers of help on the day would be much appreciated. Anyone able to do either should contact Jo Cook on 077990 88864 please.

In January, Epiphany, or the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus, is on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Epiphany will be observed in church on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Choir News:** the choir will be singing at the Christmas Carol Service at 4pm on 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com)). We also welcome instrumental players to help accompany us on occasions.

**Sunday School:** the Christingle Service will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> December; young people will be taking part in the Carol Service on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and the Crib Service will take place on Christmas Eve, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm.

In January, there will be Sunday School on the 14<sup>th</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup> December after school, with the theme of 'Christmas Lights'. There will be no Messy Church in January. Details of the February one will be in the February issue.

## FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

The Friends believe that, whether you are religious or not, the church is an important part of Studham's history and heritage. Our aim is to raise money to help maintain the fabric, but not the running costs, of this lovely building.

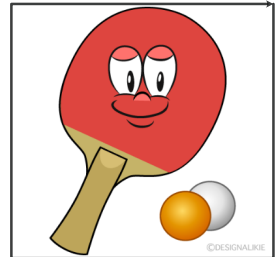
Congratulations to our November 100 Club winners – Keith Bailey, who wins £50 and runner-up, Liz Crane who collects £10. Thank you to everyone who has supported the 100 Club through the year – look out for the renewals notice which will be sent out early in the New Year.

If you would like to know more about the Friends of Studham Church or would like to join the 100 Club, then contact [john.mcdougal@btinternet.com](mailto:john.mcdougal@btinternet.com)/873257 or look at our website <https://friendsstudham.wixsite.com/website>.

## TABLE TENNIS GROUP

**9.30am – 12.30pm Fridays in Studham Village Hall**

We meet on Wednesdays between 10am and noon for some friendly coaching. Our Friday session runs from 9.30am to 10am for some singles to be played and 10am to noon for doubles. All welcome and we do stop for tea, coffee and plenty of chat and biscuits, all for £3 a session. If you are not sure it is for you, come along and meet the players and, if you time it right, the kettles may well be on!



## STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL SUCCESSION PLAN: APPEAL FOR TREASURER

As part of our succession planning we are appealing for an experienced person to join the trustees and shadow our Treasurer until the AGM in July 2024. Des Salmon has been in post for several years, and has previously chaired the trustees. Des' will continue as the lead for financing the proposed Village Hall rebuild.

The monetary amounts are modest with a turnover of £5/6000. The trustees meet 3 to 4 times a year. Duties include preparing routine finance reports for trustees' meetings, liaising with the Bookings Secretary for invoicing hirers, and preparing annual accounts for audit and filing the data with the Charity Commission. Please contact Des (872082/desstudham@btconnect.com) for more details.

## BINGO

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in Studham Village Hall

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in Studham Village Hall – Christmas Party

As usual, there will be no bingo during January or February. We look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

## **MORE WHIPSNADE**

### **WHIPSNADE VILLAGE HALL YOGA CLASSES**

Monday pre-natal yoga 18.00 – 19.00

Wednesday – dynamic yoga 18.30 – 19.30

Thursday – gentle chair yoga 10.45 – 11.35

£12 per session or £50 per 5 sessions.

Contact Sarah Jane on 07375 352890 or sarahjanehorn@gmail.com.

### **GRANTCHESTER AT WHIPSNADE VILLAGE HALL**

There was a lot of activity at Whipsnade Village Hall during the first week of November when the film crew for the Grantchester series 9 were filming another episode there. Series 8 has not been released in the UK yet, so they think it will not be on our screens until next Autumn.

### **THANK YOU ISOBEL**

The Whipsnade Village Lunch would like to say a huge thank you to Isobel Randall, who has been amazing in her dedication to cooking and serving the community every month for a very long time. Her organisation and cooking skills have been enjoyed by everyone. We all wish you well and will miss you. Thank you and happy retirement!

### **WHIPSNADE TREE CATHEDRAL – VOLUNTEERS' DIARY**

December and January are probably the quietest months for the volunteers at the Tree Cathedral. Apart from the mammoth task of cutting the miles of hedges and continuing with leaf collections, the main job is keeping the area tidy.

We started the month clearing the entrance outside of the Tree Cathedral, using brush cutters and strimmers, raking up the debris and then a long wheelbarrow walk to the bonfire area!

In a couple of weeks' time, The National Trust will cut down two Norway Spruce from the Christmas Chapel – one for the church, and the other for the Visitor Centre at Dunstable Downs. This is a tradition that has taken place for many years. We then plant two more Norway Spruce in their place and clear away any remaining branches ready for people to come and enjoy the Christmas Chapel in the centre of the Tree Cathedral.

After the main leaf sweep when we collected most of the fallen leaves, we are planning to use the mower to cut and break up the remaining leaves.

We are also looking at restructuring the leaf collection area to make it more efficient, probably having three bays at all different stages of composting, enabling us to use the leaf mulch in areas around the Tree Cathedral. A job for 2024! We volunteer on Tuesday mornings if you would like to join us.

## KENSWORTH EXTRA

**RE-USE CENTRE** (formerly the Church Shop). 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).

**KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH:** for all services, see page 15. The December Coffee Morning will be a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 10.30am – 12 noon. All welcome.

There will be NO Coffee Morning in January. The next one will be on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024. We wish everyone in our community a peaceful and joyous Christmas and New Year.

**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. We have our Christmas lunch 9am – 3pm on 7<sup>th</sup> December, and the Club will resume on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**BASIL'S CAFÉ:** the people of Basil's Farm, which is devoted to young people with learning difficulties, are running a café in Kensworth Village Hall on Fridays from 9am – 12 noon. Come and help this very worthy cause by enjoying their delicious coffee and cakes, with board games to keep you alert!

**KENSWORTH CHAT & SNACK:** Kensworth Village Hall: formerly the Warm Hub Chat & Snack – Friday Afternooners will finish for Christmas on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Back again on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 1pm – 4pm.

### **KENSWORTH SCHOOL PARENT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION:**

Kensworth Academy PTA will be having another Bag2School collection on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Perfect timing to have a post-Christmas clear-out of your wardrobe. Details of items accepted can be found at [www.bag2school.com](http://www.bag2school.com).

Please get in touch if you are unable to get your donations to school on the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> January and a PTA member will come and collect if you're in the local area. E-mail us at [kensworthacademypta@gmail.com](mailto:kensworthacademypta@gmail.com). Thank you.

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 [kensworthacademypta@gmail.com](mailto:kensworthacademypta@gmail.com)



## LOCAL NEWS

### **BIN NEWS**

**Kerbside collections of garden waste** are paused every winter across Central Bedfordshire. The suspension will take place for a 12 week period from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 until Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 inclusive.

### **Christmas revised refuse and recycling collection days:**

Normal collection Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December will be on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December;

Normal collection Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January will be on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

**Local Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)** will continue to stay open seven days a week, between 9am and 5pm, except on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day when they're closed. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, they will be open between 9am and 1pm. Don't forget ID proof that you are a resident of Central Bedfordshire.

### **MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST, WHIPSNAD ZOO**

Shared Access are working with O2 and Whipsnade Zoo to improve mobile coverage across the area.

At the recent Studham and Whipsnade Parish Council meetings, Shared Access presented their plans to build a new mobile phone mast on the southern boundary of Whipsnade Zoo to facilitate better mobile phone coverage across the area. Over the last year, Shared Access have been working with the Zoo and O2 to develop the scheme, comprising a 25m phone mast and associated equipment. Whilst this will initially be for the O2 network, there will be the opportunity for other mobile operators to join.

The improved coverage will enable local residents to have better access to phone services, and will bring benefit to local businesses who currently struggle with poor reception. The development will not only benefit the local community but also Whipsnade Zoo, who are actively looking for improved coverage across the site to facilitate their plans for a better visitor experience.

The planning application will be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council. Once registered, the Council will accept letters of support or objection in respect of the application. Anyone who wishes to make a representation on the proposals should write to the planning officer directly, once the application is registered. The e-mail address to use is: [planning@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:planning@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk).

For more information, contact [richard.morison@pegasusgroup.co.uk](mailto:richard.morison@pegasusgroup.co.uk).

**THANK YOU DAVE**

The congregations of our three churches are very grateful to the Reverend Dave Heather for his excellent leadership of our worship in the absence of Nicola on sabbatical. We recognise how hard he has worked for us and have greatly benefited from his thoughtful and enjoyable preaching. We hope that you can pause for breath now and we look forward to hearing much more from you in the future.

**KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH**

All services are at 10.30am:

10 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service	Led by Mr Geoff Best
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Holy Communion	Led by Rev. Nigel Bibbings
Christmas Day	Eaton Bray Methodist Church	Led by Rev. Nigel Bibbings
<b>9.30am</b>		

14 <sup>th</sup> January	Covenant Service with Holy Communion Led by Rev. Nigel Bibbings	
28 <sup>th</sup> January	Morning Worship	Led by Mrs Fiona Arscott-Smith

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

**STUDHAM METHODIST CHURCH**

Our Minister, Rev. Helen Roberts, can be contacted on 01582 713773 or at revhelen2015@gmail.com. Or you may wish to contact Linda Hillier on 01582 872860.

**December Services**

Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Local Arrangement
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10am – 12 noon	Warm Hub
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Rev. Roberts – Carol Service
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Rev. Roberts

**January Services**

Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10am – 12 noon	Warm Hub
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Local Arrangement
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10am – 12 noon	Warm Hub
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Joint Covenant with St. Mary's

('Local Arrangement' means members choose the readings and hymns)

Although our own services are not being streamed, services are available from one of our circuit churches. If you would like details of these or one of our Zoom fellowship meetings, contact Linda Hillier.

## MORE STUDHAM

### 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.

Sessions will be running as normal over Christmas and New Year.

### SCRABBLE

#### 2pm Tuesdays in Studham Village Hall

Please note that the Scrabble Club will not be meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 26<sup>th</sup> December or the 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

New players are welcome in a small, friendly group. Contact is Mary Must (alan.must@churchclose1.plus.com) or please just come along.

### STUDHAM WARM HUBS

The Warm Hubs in Studham are back! Monday or Tuesday mornings 10am-12 noon, alternating between the Village Hall and the Methodist Chapel – November through March.

The dates and venues for the hubs for the next 2 months are:

Day & Date	Venue
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Studham Village Hall
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Studham Methodist Chapel
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Studham Village Hall
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	No Warm Hub
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	No Warm Hub
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Studham Methodist Chapel
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Studham Village Hall
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Studham Methodist Chapel
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Studham Village Hall

### WI

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm at the Old Hunters Lodge - **Birthday Dinner**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 7.15pm in Studham Village Hall - **Social Evening**

In November, Studham WI enjoyed an interesting talk given by Studham resident Jill Lee, formerly a domestic science teacher, who then, was in the right place at the right time to become a 'Super Girl' for the freezer and frozen food company Bejam. She was there at the beginning of the industry; she progressed through her career to become Marketing Director with Iceland, after Iceland purchased Bejam. She regaled the meeting with stories of 'Encounters with the Great and Good'. One of her most amusing stories was about Princess Anne accepting pizza, fish fingers and chips for her then young children, after opening the 100th store in Reading!

## MORE KENSWORTH

### KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Website: [www.kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Contact: Christina: [clerk@kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kensworthparishcouncil.gov.uk): Tel: 07387 789897

**UPDATE - Bulb Planting – Village Enhancement.** A huge thanks to 'Team Daffodils' the group of volunteers (juniors and seniors) who completed the bulb planting in Kensworth. We purchased 1000 bulbs which have been planted between existing bulbs, adding to the many already there for spring flowering which we hope you all enjoy. We agree to purchase further bulbs next year; if you would like to see more planted, contact the clerk with your suggested planting locations.

### Allotments – Community Payback Team

Provided by the Probation Service, the working party has successfully completed a trial of works at the allotments, despite some challenging weather conditions at times. The Parish Council wishes to thank the team for the excellent works achieved. Further support from this team will be available again in the spring.

### UPDATE - Playground Redevelopment Survey

There has been a good response to the surveys and, once fully analysed, the information will form an important part of the next stage in the process and preparations for the grant funding applications. Thank you to those who took the time to complete the survey, which demonstrates the local community interest in this initiative.

### Defibrillators

Awareness training? Is anyone interested in knowing more? There are currently 2 in the village. The Parish Council is looking to raise awareness of defibrillators with everyone welcome to come along to a meeting at the Village Hall to learn more. Please contact the clerk if this is of interest.

### Crime Statistics – Motor Vehicles

Be aware, there has been an increase in the number of reported offences regarding theft/unauthorised taking of or interfering with motor vehicles over recent weeks. The darker evenings may play a part in these activities. Report all non-emergency offences to the Police on 101.

### Next Parish Council Meetings:

12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 & 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024, at 7.30pm Kensworth Village Hall.

### REMINDER: SAVE the DATE!

Barn dance for all ages, live ceilidh band and caller, 9th March 2024, 5.30 – 8.30pm with supper. In Kensworth Village Hall. Proceeds to St Mary's, Kensworth.



## STUDHAM PC AND NORTH CHILTERN NEWS

### STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Our **next meeting** will be at 7pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at Studham Scout Group HQ, Clements End Rd, Studham, LU6 2NG. Members of the press and public are welcome to attend. Parking is available and the meeting room is accessible.

### Mobile telecommunications mast, Whipsnade Zoo

Please see report on page 14 about this proposal. The PC is keen to support this important development.

### Defibrillators

The Parish Council defibrillator locations are at:

the postbox outside 5 Holywell Road; the Red Lion, Church Road; Studham Sports and Social Club, Clements End Road.

These are all in locked combination code cabinets. The 999 Ambulance Service can give the code to the caller. If far from the cabinet or unable to leave the casualty, the VETS (Volunteer Emergency Telephone System) can be called on 01582 383380 (Option 1 – Holywell, Option 2 – Red Lion, Option 3 – Sports and Social Club) to contact a volunteer who can go to the cabinet and take the device to the casualty. More information is included in the leaflet that has been distributed to every household.

If you would like to become a defibrillator volunteer, e-mail [clerk@studhamparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@studhamparish.co.uk) with: name, address, home phone and mobile number.

Please note that if your phone has a minder/block on before answering, the VETS system won't work with that, and you may not be able to volunteer if this is set up on your phone.

**Hedges:** a reminder to residents that they are responsible for ensuring that hedges and vegetation do not block footpaths, pavements and highways. The website 'Street cleansing, litter and road sweeping/Central Bedfordshire Council' has more information on reporting overgrown shrubs or hedges.

Next meetings are on Tuesdays 5<sup>th</sup> December and 9<sup>th</sup> January in the Scout Hut.

### NORTH CHILTERN GROUP NEWS

We are looking for a new secretary to help administer the group. The job is not arduous, just requires good admin skills. Please contact Nicola Lenthall (872223) if you are interested in helping.

After a successful Lent Course this year, we will be running another course next year, starting on 20<sup>th</sup> February with Rev. Stephen Burge exploring 'Angels'.

**Don't forget the Advent service** at St Giles, Totternhoe at 4pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

## STUDHAM EXTRA 2

### STUDHAM TENNIS CLUB

Paul Hobday is now our coach at the club. Paul is a level 4 (out of 5) coach with over 25 years' experience of coaching in the local area. He runs coaching sessions for adults and juniors of all ages and abilities on a Saturday afternoon during term times. Anyone can book either a course of coaching, or a weekly session. We know juniors enjoy playing sport with friends and family, so they can get a 33% discount if they sign up to a course with a friend or sibling.

More details can be found at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/StudhamTennisClub/Coaching>. Any queries to John Callender ([johnccallender@gmail.com](mailto:johnccallender@gmail.com)).

### FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON

As the days become shorter and the Autumn colours turn into cool winter tones, 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.

**However** – you may wish to attend our **Annual General Meeting** at the Village Hall at 7.30pm on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Wilf Powell of the Wildlife Trust will be giving an illustrated talk on 'Butterflies of Bedfordshire'.

The **first work party** in the New Year will be on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January. All are welcome. We will be 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. 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, website [www.foscomm.org](http://www.foscomm.org) or contact Joan Stone (01582 872444/e-mail: [geone.stone@gmail.com](mailto:geone.stone@gmail.com)).

### STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL

If you would like to organize a regular group in the hall, or make a single booking, please contact Lynne Smith ([bookingstudhamvh@gmail.com](mailto:bookingstudhamvh@gmail.com)) who will be happy to discuss your needs. The Hall is ideal for parties - rates are very reasonable.

The Warm Hub will alternate between Mondays at the Village Hall and Tuesdays for the Methodist Chapel but will both be 10am to 12noon. See page 14 for more details. All are welcome to come and join us.

We are always happy to welcome anyone 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.

## **STUDHAM EXTRA 3**

### **QUIZZES**

Quiz Night in the The Red Lion is at 8pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

The rounds will be: 1: Sport & Recent News; 2: School Days (all the things you learnt at school – and have forgotten!); 3: Alphabet; 4: Entertainment; 5: What's Left? Anything we couldn't fit in the previous rounds!; 6: Music 1960s-2020s (Christmas).

On 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 8pm the rounds will be: 1: Sport & Recent News; 2: School Days; 3: Alphabet (J); 4: Entertainment; 5: What's Left?; 6: Music 1960s-2020s (letter M).

### **STUDHAM PLAYING FIELDS**

Sports activities are running at full pace at the playing fields, with tennis and football in full swing. Tennis and the new Studham football team are open to new players so if you are interested in joining, please get in touch ([Studhamssc@icloud.com](mailto:Studhamssc@icloud.com)).

The playing fields are also available for other events and previously hosted many village events. If you would like further information, please contact Secretary, Tricia Harris (07354 844542).

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.

### **SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB**

Opening hours are: Monday to Friday 4.30pm, Saturday and Sunday 12pm ([Studhamssc@icloud.com](mailto:Studhamssc@icloud.com)).

Special evenings are in the pipeline, so watch the noticeboard for times and dates. Our Christmas Raffle tickets are now on sale, £1 per ticket, £5 per book. First prize is £50. The draw will be made on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm at the Club House.

We welcome all visitors and new members. We provide competitively priced drinks and the facility is also available for private events. Please contact Sarah Thorne to see what we can offer.

Subscriptions are currently: Family; £25; Single; £20; Concessions: £10. Please pay your subscriptions as soon as possible. They are an important element of keeping our club in the financial condition required for the future.

If you wish to join us, we will be delighted to see you. Membership application forms are available at the bar (and from Sarah Thorne).

**STUDHAM VILLAGE CE ACADEMY AND PRESCHOOL**

What another busy month! We are very much looking forward to our Christmas celebrations and our Christmas nativities and service at St Mary's.

This term our Preschoolers and Reception Class have been learning about Autumn and the change in season. They have created super firework pictures, Diwali lamps and of course their own poppies, and have used these for quiet reflection.

In Owl Class we visited Wardown Museum, Luton, where we learnt about toys and their history as well as helping a Victorian Housemaid with her daily jobs! We beat mats to clean them, mangled clothes to get the excess water out from washing, stoked and cleaned the fire, used a heavy iron to press the clothes, swept the floors and many other jobs! (Obviously we were supervised and the iron wasn't hot!)



Woodpecker Class visited St Albans Museum where we discovered everything Roman! It was great to handle the artefacts and it brought the Romans to life.

If you are interested in a place for your child (Preschool to year 4, from 2 years old to 9 years old) please contact the school office on 01525 872337 or e-mail [school@studhamschools.org.uk](mailto:school@studhamschools.org.uk) for more information.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the staff and pupils at Studham Village CE Academy.

***Sarah MacKenzie-Skea, Headteacher***

**25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY: BURNS NIGHT**

25th January, the anniversary of Burns' birth, is the night when thousands of Burns Suppers take place across Scotland and across the world – a tradition that dates back to 1802, a few years after Burns' death. The highlight is the parade of the haggis - often accompanied by a piper – followed by the recitation of Burns' poem *Address to a Haggis*. Oh, and everyone sings *Auld Lang Syne*. All accompanied by lashings of whisky.

Address to a Haggis (verse 1)

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,  
Great chieftain o' the puddin'-race!  
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,  
Painch, tripe or thairm:  
Weel are ye worthy of a grace  
As lang's my airm.



**KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL**

We continue to make improvements to the hall. Protection is fitted to walls/corners to protect the newly decorated areas. There are new curtains and a new hot water boiler in the kitchen. Outside security lights had to be replaced due to vandalism.

Bookings are very good until Christmas; they slow down in January but February and March are looking good. The new hire charges from 1<sup>st</sup> January are on the website and all regular hirers have been notified.

The Committee would like to thank a member of the community for their efforts in obtaining a donation of £150 from a well-known insurance company.

We have two events planned in December to raise funds for the upkeep of the Hall: the Christmas Fayre on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and Christmas Family Bingo on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. 🎄 For all you children 🧒🧒🧒🧒 out there, Santa 🧑🎅 will be in the Village Hall at the Christmas Fayre between 1pm and 4.30pm. He's waiting to see you!! 📺

The next Committee Meeting is Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm.

**KENSWORTH CHURCH of ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY and PRESCHOOL**

We held a wonderful Remembrance Service, in the grounds of the school. All the children showed great respect throughout. The children decorated poppies and wrote messages, which were displayed on the school fence. We believe these looked fantastic for everyone who passed by, to show that we will never forget.



As we write this, towards the end of Autumn term, the children are working hard and thoroughly enjoying preparing and performing their Christmas assemblies for their families. All the children are doing a great job and each and every one of them should be proud of their contribution, whether they are singing, acting, reading or preparing art work, and they are all incredibly supportive of one another. All the children and staff are looking forward to 2024 and the new learning and experiences to come!

If you are looking for a Preschool place, contact the office (872336 or e-mail [office@ken.dsamat.co.uk](mailto:office@ken.dsamat.co.uk)) to organise a visit to our wonderful school.

**For Kensworth School Parent Teacher Association news, see page 13.**



## MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES MORE ECO FRIENDLY!

*(With thanks to the WWF)*

- 1. Quality, not quantity:** When buying gifts think: less but better, putting time into picking a quality item that will last a long time.
- 2. Gift an experience:** This will reduce demand for physical resources. Bring people together by gifting your time or a pre-bought experience. You could buy tickets to shows, concerts or events. Make a restaurant reservation or give a gift card.
- 3. Think about materials:** Look at the materials gifts are made from and keep sustainability in mind. Ensure wood and paper gifts are made from recycled or **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)** certified materials.
- 4. Cut your food waste:** Try to cut any waste by planning ahead - be realistic about how much food you need and use up leftovers. Instead of clingfilm, use Tupperware, foil and greaseproof paper covers to keep leftovers nice and fresh!
- 5. Eat seasonally:** Make your shopping basket more sustainable by buying locally produced, seasonal products. Doing so reduces the energy spent growing foods out of season or shipping food to the UK. Visit [www.eattheseasons.co.uk](http://www.eattheseasons.co.uk).