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# PARISH LINK

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



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## **Dear new friends,**

Spring is full of new things and fresh shoots. I still feel my newness and this is my first Link letter. I am settling in as minister at Studham Methodist Church, having arrived in September. It was a great privilege to share with St Mary's and Studham CoE School for their harvest service in October during Revd. Nicola's well-deserved sabbatical, and I was able to be with the village for Remembrance Sunday. As is usual with Methodists, I work with several other chapels and their communities. Whilst in the oddities of boundaries a different minister works at Kensworth Methodist, Rev. Nick is already familiar to many.

Spring is also a sense of new life, the dormant trees bring forth new leaves, and the manse garden is unveiling a range of crocuses. It is in this season we mark Easter with the story of Jesus and his rising from the dead. Many years ago I spent time with a church in South Australia and what struck me was the experience of an Autumn Easter. The images of new life that I was familiar with were replaced with shortening days, and falling leaves.

The reality of the Easter story is more than the new life – expressed with spring chickens, lambs, and eggs. It is also the story of pain and grief, and the time of limbo between Good Friday and Easter Day.

Whilst not all come to festival times as moments of faith, but celebrating the joy (and the chocolate) of the occasion – maybe we also need time to recognise and allow time for the lower points in life, since they are as much a part of our journeys. And maybe facing the tough stuff makes the celebrations more significant.

Whatever Easter means to you – school holidays, chocolate eggs, children's events – may you have time to notice both the challenges and the joys of life.

***Helen***

## KENSWORTH NEWSROUND

### KENSWORTH PARISH CHURCH

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

### Church Calendar

**Easter Sunday** is on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Mothering Sunday** is on 10<sup>th</sup> March, in a joint service at St Mary's with our friends from the Methodist Church. Children will be presenting their mothers with lovely posies (and see below for Maundy Thursday Easter Eggs!)

**Palm Sunday** is 24<sup>th</sup> March.

'**Lady Day**', or the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, is on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**Holy Week:** for times of all services, see page 16.

Everyone is very welcome to all our services.

There are two **UK Saints Days** in March: 1<sup>st</sup> March: St David's Day for Wales; 17<sup>th</sup> March: St Patrick's Day for Ireland.

### Maundy Thursday Easter Egg Giveaway

Maundy Thursday celebrates when Jesus washed his disciples' feet and the Last Supper. There is also the tradition of the monarch giving small silver coins known as "Maundy Money" as symbolic alms to some lucky pensioners. We invite you to collect your Maundy Easter Egg on 28<sup>th</sup> March at 10am at 194 Common Road, Kensworth.

**Choir News:** the choir will sing at Sung Eucharist (Holy Communion) on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, at the Good Friday service on 29<sup>th</sup> March and at Easter Sunday on 31<sup>st</sup> March. If you would like to join, please call Nicola (872223 or e-mail: revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com). Instrument players are also welcome, to help accompany on occasions. All voices welcome, and ability to read music is not essential!

**Sunday School:** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March is Mothering Sunday: our Morning Service is at 10.30am when children will be giving their mothers lovely posies, so come and join in the fun! The Methodists will be there too.

Easter Sunday service (**N.B. at 11am**) on 31<sup>st</sup> March will be followed by our Easter Egg Hunt – don't miss it!

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 15<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm in the Church Hall. The theme will be 'Seeing is Believing'. All children aged 3+ are welcome, accompanied by a parent or carer; older children are very welcome to come and help. Time for craft work, songs and story followed by a hot meal for everyone.

## WHIPSNAD E INCLUDING OLDHILL WOOD

### WHIPSNAD E CHURCH

At the **Mothering Sunday service** on 10<sup>th</sup> March, we will be distributing bunches of flowers to celebrate our mothers. The posies will be prepared in the church on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm. All adults and children are welcome to come along to help assemble the gifts and enjoy refreshment.

The **Good Friday service** is on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, and is open for all children to make miniature Easter gardens for each of our 3 churches. Come along with a parent or other adult to hear a story, sing Good Friday songs, and help make a garden, then enjoy drinks and hot cross buns and biscuits – after washing your hands of course!!

This month, we are praying for the people who work in the village – at the Zoo, The Old Hunters Lodge, the farms and those who are self-employed.

If you want **prayers** for a particular purpose or people, write a prayer on the prayer tree in the church or contact the churchwardens (see page 5).

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held in the church on 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm with refreshments available from 7.15pm. Every church member or parishioner is very welcome to attend, for the election of churchwardens and parochial church council members, and for discussion of church events and activities.

**Sunday School:** every second Sunday of the month (10<sup>th</sup> March) 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.

**Churchyard Working Party:** come and join us on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 9.30am to 12 noon. Help us clear the churchyard ready for Spring. Coffee provided.

### WHIPSNAD E VILLAGE LUNCH UP-DATE

Unfortunately, there will be no village lunch in March. We are still looking for volunteers to help run it, which could be in the form of soup and rolls or soup and salad. It would just be lovely to get the lunch running again. If you are able to help and be part of the team, please contact Pam Ward (872406).

### WHIPSNAD E VILLAGE GET-TOGETHER

Whipsnade Village Hall on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March from 2pm – 4pm. Refreshments and a raffle will be available. Come along for a chat or to play cards and dominoes with old and new friends.

## AROUND ABOUT STUDHAM

### ST MARY'S CHURCH

**Church prayers:** in March we continue our annual cycle of prayers around the parish and will be praying for all the people of Holywell Road and Holywell Close. If you would like a prayer to be said, perhaps for a special person or event, contact churchwarden, Meg Bender (872967 or meg.bender4@btinternet.com).

**Mothering Sunday** is Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March. There will be an informal all-age service at 10.30am. We shall give thanks for our mothers and for all those people who over the years have 'mothered' us and show our gratitude by presenting everyone with a posy of spring flowers. We shall be serving refreshments after the service.

**Children's Church** meets on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am. It's Passion Sunday and the children will be looking forward towards Easter. After the service there will be refreshments and the celebration of all the March birthdays.

### Easter Services

**Maundy Thursday**, 28<sup>th</sup> March: at 8pm there will be a special service of Holy Communion in which we remember the Last Supper of Jesus. The service will be followed by a watch of prayer until 10pm.

**Good Friday**, 29<sup>th</sup> March: we shall be worshipping at the Methodist Chapel at 4pm.

**Easter Sunday**, 31<sup>st</sup> March: our service of Holy Communion will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and will begin at the earlier time of 10am.

**Studham Church working party:** please come and join us on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 10am until 12.30pm. We need to get done some cleaning jobs inside the church so that the beautiful old building looks its best for our busy months ahead.

**Studham's 27<sup>th</sup> Wine Tasting** is on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April at the Village Hall from 7.30pm. Seven fine wines will be served with a selection of pates and cheeses and there will be all the usual fun – a quiz, raffle and auction. Tickets at £25 are available from John McDougal (873257 or john.mcdougal@btinternet.com).

### FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

The Friends' aim is to raise money to help maintain the fabric, but not the running costs, of this lovely building. We've recently paid for repairs to the Church's guttering and downpipes – unglamorous but essential work.

The 100 Club is one of our fundraisers – thank you to new and existing players who have renewed recently. The February draw is late in the month to allow everyone to renew so the February and March winners will appear in the next Parish Link.

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 or 873257 or look at our website <https://friendsstudham.wixsite.com/website>.

## **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)).

## **BINGO**

**Wednesdays 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in Studham Village Hall. We are back!!**

Spring must be just around the corner, or perhaps it is because it is the Year of the Dragon but it seems an age since the last call of bingo, and as the saying goes: "Everything comes to he who waits", and we have waited long enough! So come and join us on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March for the first bingo of 2024. Doors will open at 7.15pm for 'eyes down' at 8pm. Entrance 25p, 6 tickets £4.50, and raffle 25p a strip (all donations to the raffle gratefully received). We look forward to seeing you there – 28 – don't be late!!

## **WI**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15pm in Studham Village Hall.**

What a wonderful talk from Annie Milne last month – she had us all enthralled with the challenges, disasters, and achievements of her life in catering. A fitting end to our series of talks from "Working Ladies of the Village". March is our Annual Meeting and all ladies are welcome to join us – we have a full evening planned with a round up from County, short quiz, and a reminder of the history of the WI from its humble beginning in Canada, to its role in the present day.

Our next theme of talks will be "Things that Bring us Joy" and first on the agenda will be our April Meeting, (Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>). Francis Carlaw, The Pearl Lady, will be visiting us again. More details next month.

## **QUIZ NIGHT IN THE RED LION**

**8pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

The rounds will be: 1: sport & recent news; 2: school days; 3: alphabet (all answers start with L); 4: entertainment; 5: what's left? Anything we couldn't fit in the previous rounds! and 6: music 1960s-2020s, (P). There is no fixed team size – so you can go solo or bring all the family. However, please ring the Red Lion (872530) to book a table, (and order food if required). See you there!

**KENSWORTH C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY and PRESCHOOL**

We have had some very wet and windy weather this year but that hasn't stopped our children from enjoying a range of Forest School activities. From fire lighting and cooking nachos with cheese to working out the best way to place a zip wire, we have been very impressed with their determination and problem-solving skills.

We are looking forward to hosting our book fair before the Easter holidays and give our children the opportunity to choose a selection of books to go into their classroom reading areas. Our Reading Café, which takes place fortnightly, is a very popular activity and gives our reception children the opportunity to read to our oldest children in Hornbeam class. The older children listen and support the reading and write comments in the reading records. They also enjoy choosing their own book to read to their younger partners and share a snack together.

As the year continues, our children will continue to participate in a variety of sporting activities with other schools. Hornbeam class started 2024 off with a dodgeball tournament in January at Houstone School in Houghton Regis, and a great time was had by all.

If you are interested in a place for your child (Preschool to Year 6, from 3 years old to 11 years old), please contact Mrs Rooney in our school office (872336 or e-mail office@ken.dsamat.co.uk) for more information or to book a visit. We look forward to welcoming you to our school soon.

*Sarah Dryden, Interim Headteacher*

**Kensworth School Parent Teachers' Association**

Thank you to everyone who donated clothes to our Bag2School collection, which raised £55. Contact us at kensworthacademypta@gmail.com.

**KENSWORTH BARN DANCE**

**Last chance to get your Barn Dance tickets:**

Family Barn Dance with Live Ceilidh Band and Caller  
with supper included.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 5.30 - 8.30pm at Kensworth Village Hall,  
Tickets: Adult £18.50 / Family 2+2 UNDER 16s £50/ Child UNDER 16 £8.50

Any profits to St Mary's Church Kensworth.  
Contact Jane for a ticket on jane.bedlington@btinternet.com  
or 07796015292

## TREE CATHEDRAL & TABLE TENNIS

### **WHIPSNADE TREE CATHEDRAL - a volunteer's diary**

We have finally completed the mammoth task of cutting the laurel hedges 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.

Unfortunately, through the very stormy weather, several large trees came down, so we have spent a considerable amount of time clearing areas of debris, and our bonfire area needs attention. You will also notice the large pile of leaves, which will start to mulch down in the coming months. We are also spending time tidying the Easter chapel ready for the end of the month, and the beautiful display of daffodils and cherry blossom.

We will be concentrating on pollarding 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 8 feet. This means we can control the height and spread of the willows and also ensures vigorous and healthy new growth each year.

Another job is the viburnum hedge which borders the Christmas chapel. We will be clearing beneath the hedge to try and prevent viburnum beetles from laying their eggs. This happens in late March and can be catastrophic, as they feed on the leaves quickly destroying the plant. We will also be planting more viburnum, to fill in any gaps along the hedge.

Come and visit the Tree Cathedral this month, and, if you fancy helping us, come and say hello on Tuesdays 9am – 12pm.

### **STUDHAM TABLE TENNIS GROUP**

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

Well, the idea of joining us for a cuppa went well and a new member came at half time and stayed to play, and returned the following week. We are a welcoming group of mature players with mixed abilities at table tennis. The coaching sessions held on Wednesdays 10am – noon are being well received, and the standard of play has definitely seen the benefits. Some players repeat what they are told when making the shots, some pick it up quickly, others take a little longer but the players persevere and want to improve – it is great to see the determination in their faces and the frustration when they can't do what they think they should be doing.

Feel free to come along and enjoy a cuppa or a game on Wednesdays (times above) or Fridays between 9.30am and 12.30pm — all are welcome. £3 a session including bat and ball use and of course a cuppa and biscuit.



**EVERY NEST HAS A PLASTIC LINING!**

You may be surprised to learn that birds are increasingly gathering pieces of abandoned plastic waste to build their nests. This is potentially dangerous to young chicks if they become entangled in the plastic. Plastic is also indigestible if accidentally eaten, and nests made from brightly coloured plastic make them more visible and the chicks more vulnerable to predators. For most species of birds, the nest has to keep the eggs both warm and dry, and plastic may be less effective at keeping its occupants warm and may prevent moisture from draining through, impacting hatching success.



We already know how dangerous plastic waste is to both sea and river creatures, but this new revelation is very disturbing. Although manufacturers and supermarkets are making progress with reducing the amounts of plastic used in packaging, we can all do our bit for nature by recycling, re-using and reducing our use of plastic as much as possible. So please spare a thought for wildlife by disposing of your plastic litter responsibly, to ensure it does not find its way into the natural world. (See also page 21).

**EARTH HOUR** 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 their 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 we are doing in Studham, Kensworth and Whipsnade?**

This year we are meeting at St Mary's Church, Kensworth, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March to mark this hour (8.30 – 9.30pm) by a short night walk from Kensworth Church and back, finishing off with refreshments at the church by candlelight. Led by an experienced and trained supervisor and keen walker, Jane Bedlington, we'll be listening to the sounds of nature at night, and stargazing if it's clear. All ages are welcome, but we ask parents and carers to stay.



**What to bring:** wear warm waterproof clothes and bring a torch.

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

See <https://www.wwf.org.uk/earth-hour> for more details and information about Earth Hour.

Contact Caroline for more information ([cjhitchman@hotmail.com](mailto:cjhitchman@hotmail.com) or 872779).

## CHURCH NEWS

### KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday services are usually at 10.30am:

10 <sup>th</sup> . March	Mothering Sunday	at St. Mary's, Kensworth Parish Church
24 <sup>th</sup> . March	Palm Sunday worship	Led by the Reverend Seung-Wook Jung

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

### STUDHAM METHODIST SERVICES

Our Minister is Rev. Helen Roberts who can be contacted on 01582 713773 or at revhelen2015@gmail.com. Or you may wish to get in touch with our local pastoral contact, Linda Hillier (872860).

10<sup>th</sup> March 10 am – Chapel Anniversary, Rev. Helen Roberts

24<sup>th</sup> March 10 am – Mr David Williamson

Good Friday 4 pm – Churches Together service at Methodist, Rev. Helen Roberts

Easter Sunday 10 am – Miss Linda Hillier

If you would like details of circuit churches' streamed services, or of Zoom fellowship meetings, please contact Linda Hillier.

We are also hosting the Warm Hub - see below.

### WARM HUBS

The Warm Hubs in Studham are nearly over for this Winter. Monday or Tuesday mornings 10am – 12 noon.

Dates and venues are:

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Studham Methodist Chapel
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Studham Village Hall
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Studham Methodist Chapel
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Studham Village Hall

**CARBON FAST** a 40-day Lent plan to help you reduce your carbon footprint. Each week there is a different focus to help you reduce your impact on the natural world. There is a series of challenges for you and your family. Scan the QR Code to find out more or visit <https://www.climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast>.



## MORE WHIPSDNADE

### WHIPSDNADE PARISH COUNCIL

The wet weather conditions over the winter period have provided a testing time for our road drainage systems. Fortunately, with the help of our local Ward Councillor, **Vicky Malone**, we have managed to get the attention of CBC's highways contractors to attend to the dangerous ponding, which occurred frequently in the middle of the village on Rosemary Cottage bend. After deep cleansing of both gullies and connecting drains, the system was given a clean bill of health by CBC engineers. Heavy downpours that have happened since the works were carried out appear to indicate success and we are re-assured that, in future, cleansing of the drains will be carried out on a regular annual schedule.

### New applications for Councillors

Our recent appeal for people interested in sitting on the Parish Council has been productive, but we are still looking to fill one remaining vacancy. So if you think that this might be you, please contact the Clerk ([Clerk@Whipsnadeparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:Clerk@Whipsnadeparishcouncil.org.uk)) or the Chair of the Council, Ken France (872375).

Our **next meeting** is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March starting at 7.30 pm in Whipsnade Village Hall. All welcome. This meeting will also incorporate the **Annual Parish Meeting** which will commence at 8.15 pm. Come along and have your say.

### ROCK NESS CONCERT 2024

As a tribute to Vanessa Hornby, a greatly loved and respected former Whipsnade churchwarden, her family are organising a concert in the church on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2.30pm – 4.30pm. All welcome. Refreshments will be provided and donations will go to the church and the Dunstable Food Bank.

### WHIPSDNADE VILLAGE HALL YOGA CLASSES

**Monday** pre-natal and vinyasa yoga 6pm – 8pm until 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**Wednesdays** – 6.30pm – 7.30pm until 13<sup>th</sup> March. Vinyasa yoga.

**Thursday** – gentle chair yoga 9.45am – 11.45am until 14<sup>th</sup> March, mum and baby & chair yoga.

£12 per session.

Contact Sarah Jane on 07375 352890 or [sarahjanehorn@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjanehorn@gmail.com).

### KNIT AND NATTER

The group will meet in the church for company, refreshments, and shared crafts on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2pm – 4pm. Choose your project, bring it along, and one of our many knitters will be there to help you along your journey to achieve amazing results.

## KENSWORTH EXTRA

### KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall continues to get bookings for the hire of the hall well into the year, and we are receiving some very good feedback and comments on the facilities.

Unfortunately, we are currently struggling with heating issues, which are taking some time to fix. Our heating company have been at the hall working on it, and we apologise to local regular hirers for the hall not being as warm as usual during the last month of cold weather. The Committee are working hard to resolve these latest issues, which is proving time-consuming for some members. We are always looking for new people to join the Committee so that the work can be shared.

The next Committee Meeting is on 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. If you have a couple of hours available for six meetings a year and time to help, please do come along.

We are hosting a Summer Fair on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July, If you would like a stall or would like to offer any type of entertainment, please contact Sylvia (07831638682).

### 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)

### Kensworth Villager of the Year – Nominations are now closed

Thank you for your nominations. This year's winner will be announced at the Annual Parish meeting. (\*\*see note below).

### Community Grants – Applications are now closed for this round

A number of requests have been received and those who were successful will be presented at the Annual Parish meeting. (\*\*see note).

\*\*Note: **Annual Parish Meeting** – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 8pm Village Hall  
Further details available early April. This meeting is for all residents of Kensworth.

**Replacement Trees** – 3 new Lime trees have been authorised to be planted along the recreation ground hedge to replace the diseased trees that had to be removed.

### Community Litter Pick – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March

10am to 11am - one hour only – please come along: help to make a difference to where you live. Meet at the Village Hall Car Park, 10am. Litter pick sticks and bags will be provided.

### Next Parish Council Meeting:

14<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm, Kensworth Village Hall.

## STUDHAM EXTRA

### GOODBYE TO POSTIE, ROBIN



The residents of Oldhill Wood in Studham have lost their amazing regular postie. He retired after delivering the mail for 18 years. They had a collection and raised £480 for him. This was given to Robin, the postie, at a celebration presentation in January this year. Thanks to Millie Mullen who organised the collection.

### STUDHAM SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Opening times are: Saturday and Sunday, 12pm and Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 4.30pm. Tuesday and Thursday evenings – the Clubhouse is currently closed and will re-open on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

Special evenings are in the pipeline, so watch the noticeboard for times and dates. All members should receive details of events etc. 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, or Sarah Thorne (Studhamssc@icloud.com) know.

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, wakes, music evenings, etc. If you are planning an event, please contact Sarah Thorne to see what we can offer.

Subscriptions are currently: family (parents and children under 18) – £25; single (18-64) – £20; concessions (students in full time education and those aged 65 and over) – £10. All will be renewable on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Please pay your subscriptions as soon as possible. Membership Application Forms are available at the bar and from Sarah Thorne.

### CARPET BOWLS

#### 2pm Thursdays in Studham Village Hall

We are a friendly mixed group and new members will be made welcome. No experience is necessary and no equipment is needed. It is an opportunity to relax and, at the same time, have some very modest exercise. Contact Pat Thorne (872751) or please just come along.

### SCRABBLE

#### 2pm Tuesdays in Studham Village Hall

All welcome. Contact is Mary Must (alan.must@churchclose1.plus.com).

## MORE KENSWORTH

### CHURCH RE-USE CENTRE (formerly the church shop):

Having a bit of a clear-out whilst spring cleaning? We can sell household items, jewellery, toys, books, DVDs, jigsaw puzzles and ornaments. Bring them to the Church Hall, Clayhall Road (behind the Vicarage). 2pm – 4pm on Wednesdays and 10am – 12 noon on Saturdays and browse what is on offer. (Unfortunately, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>. Everyone is very welcome for delicious cakes, coffee/tea and a chat.

### KENSWORTH DROP IN CLUB

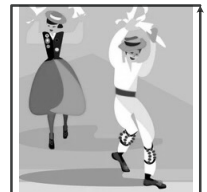
All are welcome to 'Drop In' at Kensworth Village Hall every Thursday 9am – 11am for tea/coffee and biscuits (soft drinks and crisps for children). Enjoy a chat and games and, if you are new to the village, get to know the locals! We also have outings.

### KENSWORTH CHAT 'N SNACK

Chat and Snack is a great place to come along on Friday afternoons (1pm – 4pm) to meet friends in the warm, chat away and enjoy a tasty snack. On Friday, Elaine and Steven from CBC dropped in for an informal chat and gave everyone some useful tips regarding scams and keeping safe.

### KENSWORTH MAY FESTIVAL

Please "save the date" for the **May Festival** at St Mary's, Kensworth on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.



### KENSWORTH CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY:

We are having a churchyard working party on the morning of Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, from 9am onwards. Please bring your gardening tools and help to tidy the churchyard ready for Spring. Refreshments will be provided. Any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

### THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March



Count your plastic for one week. Thousands of schools, households, community groups and businesses will be coming together to count and register their plastic waste. Use your phone camera on the code to register and take part.

## STUDHAM EXTRA 2

### STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL

The hall is in use nearly every day – sometimes twice or even three times a day! Our regular users include carpet bowls, Mums and Tots, Scrabble, table tennis, yoga, bingo, Gong Therapy, WI and tap dancing. If you want to join any of these activities, details are on the Contact Page or contact one of the Trustees and we will pass on your enquiry. We still have room for other groups; if you want to hold a single meeting or become a regular user, then please contact one of the Trustees whose details are displayed in the Village Hall. The hall is ideal for parties and hire rates are very reasonable. Contact Lynne Smith, (bookingstudhamvh@gmail.com), who will be happy to discuss your needs.

Warm Hubs are running until the end of March They will alternate between Monday at the Village Hall one week and Tuesday at the Methodist Chapel – see page 15. 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.

### STUDHAM PLAYING FIELDS

Sports activities are running at full pace, with tennis and football approaching their end of season matches and tournaments. The cricket season is fast approaching, but you can still put yourself forward for the team – if you are quick!! Tennis and the new Studham Football Team are also open to new players; if you are interested in joining any of them, please get in touch (Studhamssc@icloud.com) or call in the Clubhouse and leave your details.

The Playing Fields are also available for other events: if you are interested in using the fields to host an event, please contact the Secretary, Trisha Harris (871293). We are looking to host an "Activities Day" in June when you can see all the sports that are on offer and even participate!! Watch out for the date.

\* \* \* \* \*

### BUY ETHICAL CHOCOLATE FOR EASTER

Fair Trade Chocolate is important because it ensures equitable trade practices, promotes sustainable farming methods and improves the living conditions of cacao farmers. It addresses issues like child labour, farmer poverty, and environmental degradation, which are prevalent in conventional chocolate production.

Visit [www.fairtrade.org.uk/buying-fairtrade/chocolate](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/buying-fairtrade/chocolate).



## FRIENDS OF STUHAM COMMON & PARISH COUNCIL

### FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON

The next Friends' work-party will be on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March**, when we will be finishing any uncompleted tasks over the entire Common area from earlier work-parties. This will ensure that the Common remains open and accessible to all.

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.

Please note, everyone is welcome to the work-party especially new volunteers - please come and help out; all necessary tools, and a light lunch will be provided. We meet at the War Memorial on West Common, opposite the Red Lion at 10am.

### STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Our next meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 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.

**Co-option of new councillor – Chris Morrell:** we are pleased to welcome Chris Morrell as a new member of the council. Chris will be dealing with the CBC Grass and Verge Maintenance and Friends of Studham Common Liaison. There is currently one vacancy on the Parish Council and anyone interested can e-mail [clerk@studhamparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@studhamparish.co.uk).

**Annual Parish Meeting:** this will be held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April from 6pm until 8pm at Studham Scout Group HQ. This is a separate meeting from the Parish Council Annual Meeting and is an opportunity for the community to hear reports on community matters, from the PC, community groups and other organisations.

**Salt bins and winter salting:** the salt bins in the parish are replenished during the winter as and when required. If you notice a salt bin that needs refilling, and if you would be interested in volunteering to join the Studham Winter Salting Group, please e-mail the clerk ([clerk@studhamparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@studhamparish.co.uk)).

**Highways issues:** any highways issues can be reported to [www.FixMyStreet.com](http://www.FixMyStreet.com). Please e-mail the clerk with the details of the report.

**Fly tipping:** fly tipping can be reported on the CBC website 'Report fly-tipping or illegal waste dumping'. Please then e-mail the clerk with the details of the report.

**Waste collection:** a reminder that missed waste collections can be reported to CBC at 'waste and recycling/report a missed collection'. All waste bags, sacks and bins can be ordered online from CBC at 'order food waste bags, garden waste sacks or a bin' or tel: 0300 300 8302.



## STUDHAM SCHOOL

### STUDHAM VILLAGE CE ACADEMY



Spring is in the air! And at Studham Village CE Academy we are celebrating by caring in so many different ways. Our children are watching out for new growth around our school grounds including bulbs that were planted last year. We also played our part of the RSPB Big Bird Watch Survey as well as building habitats in our Forest School areas for our English wildlife to enjoy.

The children show they care in lessons too, working hard for their Studham Stars; many of our children have received or are very close to obtaining their Bronze Studham Star Certificates! Our Woodpeckers have been buddying up with pupils in Owl class and sharing their knowledge by helping with their Maths lessons as well as reading with the younger children.

The children and staff are working together towards our School Eco Flag initiative and have applied for grants to help build our very own weather station on school grounds. We are really enjoying looking into how we can harness our weather and perhaps even help to power the school in the future!

If you would like to share your knowledge, expertise or help with this or any other part of our school journey, we would love to hear from you!

If you are interested in a place for your child (Preschool to year 4, from 2 years old to 9 years old) contact the school (872337 or e-mail [school@studhamschools.org.uk](mailto:school@studhamschools.org.uk)) for more information and to make an appointment for a tour of our setting.

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

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### SMILE LINE

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, five-year-old Bobby was kept home from church with his grannie. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds and Bobby asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father explained. Bobby was aghast. "I don't believe it! The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"

### EASTER

Paschal, from Latin Paschalis, is an adjective describing either the Easter or Passover holidays. The **Paschal Moon** is the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which sets the dates for the Jewish Passover and the Christian Easter; Pace/Pasch may derive from the word Peace, *Pesach* in Hebrew; the French word for Easter is *Pâques*.

## LOCAL EVENTS

### 'Not so Horrible Histories!'

You are warmly invited to the oldest building in Kensworth, *St Mary the Virgin, (Church End, LU6 3RA)* for an evening of discovery with historian and broadcaster *Dr. Michael Carter* from English Heritage, recently featured on podcast and radio show *'You're Dead to Me'*.

Travel back to medieval times in our medieval building, still used for worship today, and dip in to the life and worship of our local ancestors.

We look forward to welcoming you on

Saturday April 20th at 7pm

Tickets from £15 conc. £10

**Call: 07793844077 or 0779908864**

To reserve your place  
(leave a message if not answered)



### **SOUTH BEDS ASSOC OF NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS**

The next meeting will be on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm when David Underwood will give a presentation on "Thatching and Conservation". At the Salvation Army Centre in Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable. Members £2, guests £4.

### **NT DUNSTABLE DOWNS**

In June, we are hosting our first ever heritage day! This aims to celebrate the Downs at work, rest and play throughout its extensive history. To add to our historical records and to help us celebrate our rich heritage, we need your memories...

On 14<sup>th</sup> March, we invite you to a coffee morning between 10am and 11.30am, to share your stories with us. We are particularly interested in memories relating to wartime, sport and agriculture but everything, and anyone is welcome.

Register your interest: 01582 5009200/dunstabledowns@nationaltrust.org.uk.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** the trail takes place between 29<sup>th</sup> March and 14<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30am to 4pm, with last entry at 4pm. Come along and explore the beautiful landscape of Dunstable Downs. Prices are £3 per trail which includes an Easter trail sheet, bunny ears and dairy or vegan and Free From\* chocolate egg. (\*Suitable for people with milk, egg, gluten, peanut and tree nut allergies).