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Dear friends and parishioners,

Has anyone else noticed that the range of things which you now get inside an Advent calendar has seemed to have expanded quite a lot? At my last search I found calendars with perfume, alcohol, hair grips, dog biscuits, socks, cheese (I suppose those last two could conceivably go together?!), not to mention good old-fashioned chocolate (and I know that there are a number of us who remember back even before the days of chocolate Advent calendars).

So, as well as being a countdown to Christmas, these have become a gift in themselves, little tiny moments of luxury. This could make me feel annoyed, as Advent for churchgoers is all about a time of preparation for the big moment, the festival time of Christmas. It's about prayer, reflection and stillness so that we can be ready for an important moment; just as Lent is a time of preparation for Easter.

But I don't feel annoyed, rather more as though these tiny moments can say something about the season we are approaching. At Christmas we see the divine becoming visible in the earthly. Jesus shows us God as one of us, the greatest gift, because it is in him and through him that God, as a vulnerable tiny baby, chose to show us love.

So those tiny gifts in the Advent calendars – yes, even the socks and the cheese! – can remind us that the tiniest of things, a newborn baby for example, can contain in itself the greatest of all loves. My prayer for you this Christmas, however you are feeling and whatever is going on in your life, is that you might glimpse the overwhelming love of God for you in at least one tiny moment.

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

Nicola Lenthall

*Thanks to Les Randall for the photo on the front cover – lets hope we don't have any snowy scenes like that this year!*



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## WHIPSNADDE INCLUDING OLDHILL WOOD

### CHURCH NEWS

**Prayers for December and January:** in December and January, we will be praying for the children of our village and children, staff, parents and carers of Studham and Kensworth schools. If you have a special request for prayers, you could write it on a leaf and hang it on the prayer tree in the church or give it to the Rector or Churchwardens.

**Carol singing:** on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, we will be carol singing around Whipsnade Home Park to raise money for the Children's Society. If you would like to join us, meet at the park office at 6.30pm. Please bring a torch.

**Decorating the church for Christmas:** we will be decorating the Christmas tree on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon. Coffee and mince pies provided.

**Christingle Service:** our annual Christingle Service is on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 9am. Christingles are given out to all and are used to share the good news of Christmas. Children are particularly welcome! The collection is for the Children's Society. If you would like to help make the Christingles, please come along to the church on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 9am. Contact Jane Wright for more information (07903 019188).

**Light a candle at Christmas:** come and join us at our services on Christmas Eve at 6pm and Christmas Day at 9.30am and light a candle for a loved one or in remembrance of someone special.

**Sunday School:** the children meet in the church vestry on December 14<sup>th</sup> and January 11<sup>th</sup> during the 9am service for activities connected to Bible stories. Bring your children along for fun and friendship.

**Churchyard Working Party:** we will be meeting on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January from 9am – 12 noon. Refreshments will be provided. We will be raking and collecting leaves. Come and enjoy some company and exercise.

**Whipsnade Church Jigsaw Library:** if you like doing a jigsaw puzzle, we have a library of puzzles in the church for you to enjoy. The church is open during the day, so come along whenever it suits you.

Thank you for the donations of jigsaw puzzles. We now have a good supply.

**Save The Date:** Whipsnade Church will be holding a quiz night on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April next year and we hope to welcome friends from across the three villages. Further details in the next issue.

## KENSWORTH CHURCH NEWS

**Prayers for You:** in December our prayers will be for everyone associated with Kensworth School, and all families and carers. In January our prayers will be for the residents of Poplar Road, Maple Way, Green Lane and Elmside. If you would like a particular prayer to be said, perhaps for a loved one or a special event, please contact Dorothy Blackburn (872670 or [dorothy.godbod@outlook.com](mailto:dorothy.godbod@outlook.com)).

**Church Events:** Advent (the Coming of Jesus) is a quiet, reflective time, with no flowers in church and purple altar cloths. Officially it ends with Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, but Christmas trees are allowed for Christingle (14<sup>th</sup> December) and the Carol Service (21<sup>st</sup> December).

The church will be decorated on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December from 10am, and we would be delighted to welcome anyone who can help. Refreshments will be provided, and please bring as many flowers and greenery as you can. Any queries, call Jo (07799 088864).

Please see p.16 for details of services. NB – Midnight Mass is a Benefice service and will be at St Mary's, Studham (LU6 2NW). All very welcome.

In January, Epiphany, celebrating the visit of the Wise Men, is on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Sometimes it is called Twelfth Night (12 days after Christmas). The Baptism of Christ will be celebrated on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

**Choir News:** the choir will be singing at the Christmas Carol Service at 4pm on 21<sup>st</sup> December. All are welcome to come along and enjoy singing carols, followed by seasonal refreshments and the drawing of the Christmas hamper raffle. If you would like to join the choir, please contact the Vicar (872223 or [revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com](mailto:revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com)).

**Sunday School:** the Christingle Service will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> December; young people will be taking part in the Carol Service on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and the Crib Service will take place on Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm. In January, there will be Sunday School on the 11<sup>th</sup> when we'll talk about the Baptism of Christ.

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:** Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December: no Messy Church in January.

**CHURCH RE-USE CENTRE:** 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! (NB: we cannot sell electrical goods, used clothing or large items of furniture. Please make sure that goods you bring for sale are clean and unbroken).

## AROUND ABOUT STUDHAM

### ST MARY'S CHURCH

**Church prayers:** in December our special prayers will focus on local children and their families, and particularly everyone at Studham School. In January the annual cycle of prayers begins again: we shall be praying for all who live in Woodland Rise. If you would like a prayer to be said, contact churchwarden, Meg Bender (872967 or meg.bender4@btinternet.com) or if you prefer, write your prayer and hang it on the 'prayer tree' in the church.

**Village Carols with coffee and cake:** everyone is warmly welcome to the Church on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm to enjoy some family-friendly, informal carol singing followed by some seasonal refreshments. Perhaps you would like to request your favourite carol?

**Christingle service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 10.30am:** join us for this family-friendly service. Everyone will receive a Christingle orange, kindly assembled by the children of Studham School. The candles will be lit to symbolise the light of Christ bringing joy and hope to the world. Everyone is very welcome to stay for refreshments after the service and to celebrate the December birthdays with birthday cake.

**Christmas Eve Carol Service 4.30pm:** everyone is invited to this service of traditional carols and readings. Shopping and preparations will be over! It will be a time to celebrate and enjoy the real meaning of Christmas.

**Midnight Mass, 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11pm:** this is a service of Holy Communion celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ into our world.

**Children's Church, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am:** the children and young people will meet during the Holy Communion service. Through stories and songs, they will learn more about Jesus and how important it is to love and follow him. After the service everyone is invited to stay for refreshments and the celebration of the January birthdays.

### STUDHAM METHODIST CHURCH (see also page 15)

**Heads up!** If you are having a clear out before Christmas, our "Giving Service" will be on 7<sup>th</sup> December. Items 'given' will be divided between the Salvation Army, DENS Hemel, NOAH Luton, (both of whom deal with the homeless and families who need a safe refuge), and Autism Bedfordshire. Everything is welcome – clothes: new, nearly new, well loved – even rags!, books, toys, games, new toiletries, bric-a-brac, even whatnots! Just bring to the Chapel either at 10am, if you want to join our service, or 11am – 1pm. Have a coffee and help us sort. We'll do the rest, taking things to the charities in time to pass round for Christmas.



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## MORE KENSWORTH

**KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH:** for all services, see page 15.

Our Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am to noon.

There will be no Coffee Morning in January. The next one is on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm: Kensworth Church of England Academy Christmas Celebration Service, led by the Reverend Canon Nicola Lenthall, Reverend Patrick Kandeh, M.A. and Mrs S Bowley.


**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.

**KENSWORTH CHAT 'n SNACK:** there is always a warm welcome for you on a Friday afternoon at the Village Hall between 1pm and 4pm. Enjoy a snack, tea, coffee and a chat with friends, old and new. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

## KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL – EVENTS

(See page 20 for Village Hall report)

### Kensworth Christmas Fayre

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December between 1pm and 4.30pm. Bring the family! Santa, face painting, glitter art, games for the children. There will be mulled wine and mince pies, cakes and burgers etc. for the adults. Great ideas for Christmas presents  for everyone on all the stalls.

### Date for your diary:

**Kensworth Flower & Vegetable Show Committee** have arranged a Valentine's Night Quiz for Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm. Once again, we will have the popular Dave Henderson as question master and the cost is still only £7.50 per person, but please bring your own drinks and food. So, if you're not intending to wine and dine your loved ones, come along for what is bound to be an enjoyable and educational evening.

To book tables (maximum 8 people) or individual places, please contact David Manton (07944 657635 or [David.manton@aol.co.uk](mailto:David.manton@aol.co.uk)).

**Save the Date!** 14<sup>th</sup> March: Barn Dance with live ceilidh band and supper in Kensworth Village Hall, in aid of St Mary's Church, Kensworth.

REMEMBRANCE AROUND THE VILLAGES



## **MORE WHIPSNADE**

### **THANK YOU TO THE OLD HUNTERS LODGE**

People of Whipsnade, especially those living on the Park Homes, would like to say a big thank you to John and Louise from The Old Hunters Lodge for all their kindness and support throughout the year. They are unsung heroes of the village and are very much appreciated by everyone.

### **WHIPSNADE VILLAGE GET-TOGETHER**

Come and join us on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January between 2pm and 4pm for tea, coffee, cakes and a good catch-up with new and old friends. Various activities go on in different weeks, including bingo and quizzes. There is always a raffle with plenty of prizes. Please come along and join us.

### **WHIPSNADE WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNING**

We run a coffee morning in the church every two weeks from 10am to 12 noon. In December we have our coffee morning Christmas lunch on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December and then we meet again in January on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>. Come along and enjoy a coffee and a chat.

### **WHIPSNADE VILLAGE LUNCH**

Our Christmas Village Lunch is on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 12.30pm. We are serving turkey with all the trimmings, followed by Christmas pudding and a selection of desserts and coffee and mince pies. We also have a live entertainer. The event is ticket only, which have now all been sold. There will be the usual raffle; any donations gratefully received.

If you have any dietary requirements or any questions, please contact Tracy (07889 387957 or e-mail: [tracy@stockdalemartin.co.uk](mailto:tracy@stockdalemartin.co.uk)).

We are taking a break for January and will be back on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

### **KNIT AND NATTER**

The group will be meeting in the church for some friendly chat, refreshments and shared crafts on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 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.

Thank you to everyone at Knit and Natter for the beautiful Remembrance display. The group knitted poppies a few years ago and this time knitted soldiers, nurses, and horses (see page 12), and we were given a beautiful picture painted by Daz Wilkins. They all stood proudly below the poppies on one of the windowsills in the church. Thank you to everyone involved.

## LOCAL NEWS

### POPPIES

Thank you so much to all those who helped by selling door-to-door, having static boxes, or doing a 2-hour session at the Gateway, Dunstable Downs. Monies have all been counted and, although the cash seems to be down slightly on last year, we will have to wait for the final figure as many used either cash machines or QR codes as payment methods.

### LUTON CHORAL SOCIETY

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Luton, LU3 1HA, we shall be performing a wonderful feast of music including Mozart's well-loved Requiem. Tickets £15, £12 (concessions), £5 (under 18) available on the door or at [www.lutonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.lutonchoralsociety.org.uk).

### CARITAS HARMONY LADIES CHOIR

**Christmas Gala Concert** – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm at St Mary's RC Church, West Street, Dunstable. In support of The Samaritans. Tickets available on the door or at [www.caritasharmony.co.uk](http://www.caritasharmony.co.uk).

Founded in 2003 as the first choir in the UK affiliated with a hospice, Caritas Harmony has grown from a small group of passionate singers into an award-winning ensemble of over 50 women of all ages. With roots in the legacy of The Luton Girls' Choir and a name that means "charity" in Latin, Caritas Harmony has always placed compassion at the heart of its music.

### PARISH LINK

The Parish Link AGM was held in November. The Editorial Committee was re-elected:

Deirdre Brook	Chairman
Fiona McDougal	Editor
Les Randall	Treasurer
Geoffrey Stone	Advertising Manager
Isobel Randall	Distribution Manager
Sheila Luck	Assistant Editor
Correspondents	<b>Kensworth:</b> Deirdre Brook;
	<b>Studham:</b> Sally Cload;
	<b>Whipsnade:</b> Jane Wright

We would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the year and wish all readers a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

If you would like to make a donation to help with the running costs of the Parish Link, please contact Treasurer, Les Randall (872552 or e-mail [lesrandall@btinternet.com](mailto:lesrandall@btinternet.com) or drop in to 14 Holywell Road, Studham).



## CHURCH NEWS

### STUDHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Our minister is Rev. Helen Roberts (713773 or revhelen2015@gmail.com).  
Or get in touch with our local pastoral contact Linda Hillier (872860).

#### Services and events:

##### December

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Rev. Helen Roberts	Giving Service
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Linda Hillier	

##### January

Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Local Arrangement
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Rev. Helen Roberts Joint Covenant Service HC

Those services which are 'Local Arrangement' means that members choose the readings, prayers and hymns. Our own services are not being streamed; services are available from one of our Circuit Churches. If you would like details of these, or of Zoom fellowship meetings, please contact Linda Hillier.

We have monthly Circuit Worship Services. Join us on Zoom at 6pm on 28<sup>th</sup> December led by Rev. Caroline Wickens, and 25<sup>th</sup> January for a Circuit Farewell Service for Deacon Sarah Wickett. Details from Linda Hillier.

### KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

All services are at 10.30am unless otherwise noted:

14 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Carol Service</b>	Led by Mr Stephen Poxon
15 <sup>th</sup> December	2pm	School Christmas Celebration Service
28 <sup>th</sup> December	Morning Worship	Led by Mrs. Christina Salmon
11 <sup>th</sup> January	Morning Worship	Led by Mrs. Fiona Arscott-Smith
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Holy Communion	Led by Mr Roger Owers

See noticeboards for further details.

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

<b>Baptism</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> October	Edward Kirby-Allsop	Studham
<b>R.I.P.</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> October	Patricia Thorne	Studham
	25 <sup>th</sup> October	Graeme Downing	Kensworth
	4 <sup>th</sup> November	Peter Brinklow	Whipsnade
	9 <sup>th</sup> November	Freda Hazell	Whipsnade
	11 <sup>th</sup> November	Bruce Turvey	Whipsnade

## **MORE STUDHAM**

### **FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON**

As the golden hues of autumn become the cooler tones of winter, it means there will be no work party for the Friends on the Common during the month of December; just the very best and warmest wishes to all over the coming Christmas and New Year period.

The first work party in the New Year will be on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January. No better way to start the New Year!

Work will be on East Common, where we will be trimming back the hedge on the southern boundary in order to maintain its line of growth, and reduce its height and re-weave and re-lay the hedge where necessary. This will ensure that the hedgerow will eventually form a continuous dense habitat for nesting birds and a corridor for other animals. We will also cut back bracken and scrub between the southern boundary hedge and the footpath, and lightly trim brambles on the west boundary – the conservation hedgerow. This will improve the hedgerow as a habitat for breeding birds, while preventing it from encroaching further onto the grassland.

If you wish to join us, we meet at the War Memorial on West Common, opposite the Red Lion at 10am. Everyone is welcome, especially new volunteers; all necessary tools and a light lunch will be provided.

For more information contact Bob Wilkin, Operations Manager (bob@afromosia.com or mobile 07796 446031).

### **CALL MY BLUFF WINE EVENING**

Once again, Studham Village Hall was full of tall stories and unbelievable truths for the annual Call My Bluff Wine Evening. A full house was entertained with laughter, fine wines and lovely food. Many thanks to MC, John McDougal, for organising the event; to the bluffers, Frank Alston, Mike Pittam and Olga Makarenko, and to Lynn Draine for organising the excellent food.

Almost £1500 was raised and shared equally between the Friends of **Studham Common and the Friends of Studham Church.**

### **SMILE LINE**

At Sunday School, the younger children were drawing pictures to illustrate a biblical story. The teacher was startled to see one little boy was drawing an airplane. "This is the Flight into Egypt," the little boy explained. "See, here is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. And this," he said, pointing to the figure in the front of the plane, "is Pontius. He's the pilot."

## STUDHAM EXTRA

### **A CELEBRATION EVENT FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS IN STUDHAM 7.30 p.m. on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December, Studham Village Hall**

If you volunteered in Studham during 2025, then you are invited to a social event to thank you and join other volunteers to celebrate the considerable efforts and achievements throughout the year.

RSVP Chris Morrell (07775 707500 or e-mail: 1chris.morrell@gmail.com).

### **FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH**

Thanks to everyone who came to the annual Call my Bluff wine evening organised jointly with the Friends of Studham Common. Not only a super evening, but almost £1500 shared between the two Friends' organisations.

Another fundraiser is the 100 Club – November winners were Anne Spriggs and Ian & Annie Milne, winning £60 and £10 respectively. In the December Christmas draw the prizes increase to £100 and £25 so best of luck!

As there is no Parish Link in January, the players in the 100 Club will receive their renewal notice before the next Link is published. Please renew – it is a great help.

More information on the Friends can be found on the website ([friendsstudham.wixsite.com/website](http://friendsstudham.wixsite.com/website)) or, if you want to join the 100 Club, please contact John McDougal ([john.mcdougal@btinternet.com](mailto:john.mcdougal@btinternet.com)).

### **STUDHAM TABLE TENNIS GROUP**

This delightful group has become a family since starting 3 years ago; we have welcomed new members and sadly said goodbye to some also. We meet every Wednesday and Friday at the Village Hall between 10am and 12 noon on Wednesdays and 9.30am and 12.30pm on Fridays.

We have a waiting list for new members wanting to join, so please e-mail ([twohappyfolks@btinternet.com](mailto:twohappyfolks@btinternet.com)) to be added to that list, giving details of playing experience, and to confirm you are over 18 and fit enough to play.

We offered, last month, to have an evening session if there was enough interest around the villages. So far only two people have come forward. In order to set up a suitable date in December or January, we need at least 8 people, so please e-mail if you are interested.

We all wish the three villages residents and families a very happy Christmas and a healthy 2026.

## KENSWORTH EXTRA

### **KENSWORTH C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY and PRESCHOOL Season of Compassion and Community**

This term our chosen value has been compassion – and it's heartwarming to see this reflected in our learning and our wider school life.

Compassion has guided our thoughts, actions, and relationships. In collective worship, we've explored stories of kindness and empathy, and in classrooms, children have expressed what compassion means to them through prayer, art, and storytelling. We've also reached out to our community through harvest donations and letters to local care homes, reminding us that compassion connects us all.

Our pupils have also been enjoying a rich variety of experiences:

- **Sporting Spirit:** children have proudly represented the school in tag rugby, football, and cluster sports festivals with neighbouring schools.
- **Forest School Adventures:** pupils in Oak, Chestnut, and Saplings classes have been outdoors through weekly Forest School sessions. These have offered opportunities to explore nature and develop confidence.
- **Partnerships in Learning:** we continue to work closely with other DSAMAT schools, supporting one another to enhance teaching and learning across our trust.
- **Festive Celebrations:** approaching Christmas, we're looking forward to our Christmas service at the Methodist Church, where families and friends will join us in celebration. We're also excited about our visit to the Dunstable pantomime.

With warm wishes, **Sarah Bowley, Headteacher.**

If you wish to know more, 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.

### **KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL**

The children all enjoyed an amazing Halloween party we put on in the hall. Lots of fun, spooky games and laughter, a great afternoon!

At a recent Committee meeting, the hire charge for the Hall was reviewed, due to the rising costs for utilities. A small increase to hire charges was agreed. This will apply from the 1<sup>st</sup> January, the details of which can be seen on our website ([www.kensworthvillagehall.com](http://www.kensworthvillagehall.com)).

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us in the last year: it's your Village Hall – help us to keep it going!  
Happy Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to all.

The next Village Hall Committee Meeting will take place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm. Why not come and join the Committee?



## KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

### **Kensworth PC Leads Community Effort to Plant 3,000 Spring Bulbs.**

Kensworth is set to bloom brighter than ever next year thanks to a dedicated team of local volunteers, who joined forces with Councillors to plant 3,000 spring bulbs throughout the village. The project, aimed at enhancing communal green spaces and bringing colour to well-loved public areas, saw residents of all ages taking part, including two teenagers who gave 6 hours of their time as part of their voluntary work for college.

The Parish Council expressed its gratitude to everyone who contributed time and effort. Special recognition was given to Cllr. Emma Kerby, whose significant contribution, organisation, and hands-on involvement helped make the project a success. Also appreciation to Cllr. John Worboys for his personal financial contribution towards the bulb purchase cost.

Come spring, the village will enjoy a vibrant display of flowers – a lasting reminder of what can be achieved when the community works together.



### **Community Grant Awards – round two**

We were pleased to be able to support three further grant requests and those went to: SKAW Good Neighbours Scheme £163, Kensworth Academy PTA £250 and The Royal British Legion £75.

We wish all Kensworth residents a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

### **Next Parish Council Meetings:**

11<sup>th</sup> December, 8<sup>th</sup> January and 12<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

## STUDHAM EXTRA 2

### STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

**Contact:** [clerk@studhamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@studhamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Next meetings:** 7pm on 6<sup>th</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 at Longrove Scout Site, Byslips Road, Studham, Dunstable LU6 2ND.

**Co-option of new Councillor:** we are pleased to welcome **Tejinder Dhaliwal** as a member of the Council. Tejinder will be dealing with the portfolio areas of School Liaison and Salt Bins.

**Parish Council Budget 2026/27:** we will be considering our budget for 2026/27 at our meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January: please e-mail with any ideas and suggestions on priorities and possible projects prior to that.

**Tampering with Parish Council property:** unfortunately, there have been a number of recent instances of tampering with the War Memorial Clock and defibrillator equipment. We take these incidents extremely seriously and will not hesitate to report them to the police.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year:** finally, we would like to wish all residents a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

### STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL

The Hall is ideal for parties and hire rates are very reasonable. Contact Lynne Smith, ([bookingstudhamvh@gmail.com](mailto:bookingstudhamvh@gmail.com)) who will be happy to discuss your needs.

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 Chrys Smith (07907 974091 or e-mail [smithlaws@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:smithlaws@hotmail.co.uk)) know.

### STUDHAM CHARITY BINGO

Wednesdays 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm Village Hall


Why not come along and join in the fun? Prices: entrance 25p, books (10 games) 75p each (£4.50 for strip of 6), raffle 25p strip. Free refreshments of tea, coffee and biscuit during interval.

December 17<sup>th</sup> will be our **Christmas Party** with special games to fit the occasion! There will be no Bingo during January and February so we will be starting again on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

## ECO LIVING & ST LUCIA DAY

**WORLD SOIL DAY – 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

### Soil is Life: Protect it, Nourish it, Celebrate it!




**WHAT IS WORLD SOIL DAY?**  
Every year on 5th December, people around the world celebrate World Soil Day – a day to recognise the vital role soil plays in our food, our climate, and our future. Healthy soil means healthy crops, clean water, and strong communities.

*"The soil is not dirt – it's a living world beneath our feet!"*

**WHY SOIL MATTERS TO OUR VILLAGE**

- It grows our grains, vegetables, and fruits
- It filters our rainwater and keeps our reservoirs
- It shelters insects, worms, and millions of microorganisms, it makes the land feir
- It helps store carbon, keeping our climate stable

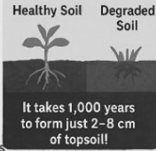


**THE PROBLEM – SOIL UNDER THREAT**

- Overuse of chemical fertilisers and pesticides
- Soil erosion from heavy rains or ploughing slopes
- Plastic and waste dumping on farmland
- Deforestation and overgrazing

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- Plant more trees
- Compost kitchen waste and food scraps
- Support local farmers using organic methods
- Reduce plastic use and reuse materials
- Spread the word about soil care



### DECEMBER LEGEND – ST LUCIA'S DAY

In the Scandinavian, or Norse, countries of Sweden, Norway, and Finland, the winter months are very dark. On 13<sup>th</sup> December, in honour of St. Lucia, a grand Festival of Light is held. One of the earliest Christian martyrs, St. Lucia was killed by the Romans in 304AD because of her religious beliefs.

According to Swedish legend, after Lucia's death, a ship carrying a maiden "clothed in white and crowned with light" appeared on the shore in the Swedish province of Varmland during a great famine. The maiden, believed to be Lucia, distributed food and clothing to the needy, thus endearing herself to the Swedish people.

In Scandinavian countries each town elects its own St. Lucia. The festival begins with a procession led by the St. Lucia maiden, who is followed by young girls dressed in white and wearing lighted wreaths on their heads and boys dressed in white pyjama-like costume singing traditional songs. The festival marks the beginning of the Christmas season in Scandinavia, and it is meant to bring hope and light during the darkest time of the year.

## **STUDHAM EXTRA 3**

### **STUDHAM VILLAGE CE ACADEMY**

What a busy time we have had here at Studham School in the last couple of months. As always, lots of learning and fun was had! Woodpecker class had the chance to delve into Roman life on their trip to Verulamium in St Albans; they knew an awful lot already but this really deepened their understanding! Owl class went to Wardown Park Museum to find out more about life then and now, focusing on toys and the household.

The children then got into the festive spirit by learning Christmas songs and carols and performing their fantastic Christmas plays. We are very much looking forward to the New Year and seeing what it has in store for us!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Spaces are limited but 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 (01582 872337 or e-mail [school@studhamschools.org.uk](mailto:school@studhamschools.org.uk)) for more information.

***Katie Flowers, Deputy Headteacher***

### **QUIZZES**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January      Both at 8pm in the Red Lion, Studham.

£3 per head to enter and £1 per strip raffle (5 entries). 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).

The rounds for December (with January rounds in brackets) 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 D (E));
- 4: entertainment (anything that entertains!);
- 5: what's left? Anything we couldn't fit into the previous rounds! and
- 6: music 1960s-2020's (only need the title and they all start with D (E)).

### **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 Geoff Duke (07786 663089) or just come along.



## MORE STUDHAM

### STUDHAM WI

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	7.15pm	Members Birthday Meal
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	7.15pm	Methodist Chapel

Our November speaker, Michael Barbakoff, did us proud with his talk about the women who worked at Bletchley Park during the war. It was really inspiring and prompted many of our members to ask for a trip to be arranged next year.

December will be our Members' 107th Birthday Party at the Old Hunters Lodge. Our January meeting will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> January. This meeting will be at the Methodist Chapel and will be a social evening, with light refreshments, and a Chinese raffle. Best description of this is a raffle mixed with musical chairs!! All ladies are welcome to come and join us.

### STUDHAM PLAYING FIELDS

Football is well underway, and tennis plays on an all-weather court so why not come and watch a game or two – enjoy good company with a cup of coffee and perhaps a bacon roll (available only certain times!), or just a glass of something and packet of crisps.

The playing fields are also available for other events; if you would like any further information, or are interested in using the fields to host an event, please contact Allan Wright (871495).

### SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

**Opening hours:** Saturday and Sunday 12 noon and Monday — Friday 4.30pm.

**Club Membership Subscriptions:** family (parents and children under 18) – £25; single (18 - 64) – £20; concessions (students in full-time education and those aged 65 and over) – £10.

Memberships are an important element of keeping our Club in the financial condition required for the future. Application forms are available at the bar.

Our **Grand Christmas Draw** tickets are now on sale from the Clubhouse or Committee members at £1 per ticket or £5 per book. First prize is £50 cash, plus lots of other prizes. Draw will be at 2pm on Christmas Eve.

The Sports and Social Club welcomes all visitors and new members. We provide competitively priced drinks and the facility is also available for hire. If you are planning an event, contact Vicky Roch (studhamssc@icloud.com) to see what we can offer.



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**YOGA CLASS:** Tuesday evenings in Studham Village Hall 7.30pm – 8.30pm All levels welcome. Please bring mat, blanket and water. Chair can be used. All proceeds to charity. Please contact Helen on 07581 132418 or [hc.thompson@me.com](mailto:hc.thompson@me.com).

**YOGA THERAPY:** are you stressed and anxious? Are you struggling with your menopause? Try a 121 Yoga therapy session with Helen. Contact [hc.thompson@me.com](mailto:hc.thompson@me.com) or 07581 132418.

**DUNSTABLE FOOD BANK:** we always need foodstuffs but especially long-life fruit juice; sweets/chocolate; tinned meat in sauce; jars of jam; pulses; instant mash; long-life milk; tea and carrier bags. Please leave items in any of the three village churches or take to the Vicarage.

If using the services of any of the announcements on this page or any advertisers in this magazine, please mention the Parish Link. *Advertisements in the Parish Link are in no way intended as endorsements by the editorial committee of the advertised product or service.*

**Sales and Announcements for the February edition should be sent by Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January to the Advertising Manager, Geoffrey Stone, at [localparishads@gmail.com](mailto:localparishads@gmail.com) or call 01582 872520. Cost £3 per line.**



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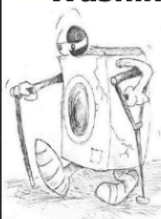
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