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PARISH LINK

Serving the villages of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade for 36 years





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 Methodist Minister for
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 Flamstead & Gaddesden Row

Dear Friends

It's not Christmas without CHRIST!

The season leading up to, and the day we celebrate on the 25th December, is not like any other day when friends and family come around for a meal.

People from all walks of life – of Christian faith or non – all recognise this day. Some with great relish, going all-out with presents, decorations and the food; others with dread when they think of the loneliness, or expense. Still some go through this season prayerfully and in worship, recognising that every time this date draws near, we are reminded of the gift of God in Christ taking our form and being born of woman in order to bridge the gap that sin had caused. Christ comes at Christmas to shine the light through the darkness that has overtaken the hearts and minds of people, to illumine the need for care and love for one another. The season of Christmas makes this possible as we are most generous during this time. We are likely to give more to charity and to those who ask than at any other time in the year. The spirit of giving, which Christmas encourages in all of us, speaks of the generous love God shows in sending Jesus to live and die for our transgressions.

During his life on earth, Jesus pointed people to a 'different' way of living – a way contrary to the inclination towards self. He taught that to be great means embracing a life of service – doing all that is possible to make a difference to the life of another. Jesus healed those who were cast out of society because of their illness and thus restored them into society. He restored sight to the blind in order to give vision to those he had been teaching about the kingdom. He dined with the rich and the poor in equal measure to show the inclusive nature of God's kingdom.

May we, who have heard the herald of the coming King, seek to make a difference to those who will be lonely this Christmas, to those who need food or clothes or toys in order to make this a special time. Importantly, let us show and tell of God's all-embracing love come down in Jesus.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas,

Mmasape

The front cover shows Parish Link Editor, Fiona, with someone who you may recognise!

WHIPSNADDE CHURCH

Tickets for the **Village Christmas Lunch** on 13th December at 12.30pm are sold out. If you wish to go on the reserve list, please contact Isobel Randall (872552).

The **January Lunch** is on Thursday 10th January at 12.30pm in the Village Hall. Come along to enjoy a two-course meal and coffee or tea for £6. The hearty winter menu is a choice from roast pork with apple sauce, beef casserole with dumplings or salmon with leek parcels, followed by a selection of puddings. Offers of help to Isobel Randall or Pam Ward (872406).

Carol Singing round the Park Homes will take place on Tuesday 11th December from 6.30pm – meet at the entrance. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Also, please join us in singing carols round the village on Monday 17th December – meet at Chapel Farm 7pm. Proceeds of collections will go to the Children's Society. Further details from Pam Ward (872406).

Christmas Sing-Along on Wednesday 19th December 6.30pm – 8pm.

What? Christmas Sing-Along with mulled wine and soup;

Why? Come and get ready for Christmas with friends to help support the fabric of the church;

Where? In Whipsnade Church;

Tickets? £5 per adult (children welcome), from Kim Brown (872015) or from the Friends of Whipsnade Church.

Christingle Service is in the church on 16th December at 9am. Everyone, especially children, welcome to join in the traditional distribution of Christingles. Funds raised from the collection will go to the Children's Society.

The church will be **decorated** for Christmas on Friday 21st December at 9.30am. All are welcome to help decorate the Christmas tree, or arrange the flowers, or set up the nativity scene. Contact Anne Weir (873425)

Christmas services: the Carol Service at 6pm on Christmas Eve is the traditional nine lessons and carols, together with handbell ringing, readings and distribution of gifts and light refreshments. At 9.30am on Christmas Day we welcome people from all three parishes and beyond to celebrate the birth of Christ.

New Year's Eve: the Whipsnade bellringers will be ringing out the old year and ringing in the New Year at midnight; why not come and join us and listen for the bells?

KENSWORTH NEWSROUND

KENSWORTH CHURCH PRAYERS: in December we shall remember Kensworth School in our prayers, along with all the families and carers. In January we shall say prayers for everyone who lives in Poplar Road, Maple Way and Elmside. If you would like a particular prayer to be said, please contact Dorothy Blackburn (872670).

KENSWORTH PARISH CHURCH: before Christmas Day is the season of Advent (the Coming), when Christians are in reflective mood, awaiting the arrival of the Messiah. Christmas is, of course, a joyful celebration of the birth of Christ in very difficult times for the Holy Family, but which they overcame to give such wonderful hope to all people. Some special services: the Christingle Service on 9th December, and on the 16th, there is the Carol Service, followed, as always, by refreshments. For the younger children, there is the Crib Service on the 24th, followed later by Midnight Mass for the whole Benefice.

On 27th January there will be a Family Holy Communion.

For details of these and all the services, see pages 16 and 18.

Choir News: the choir will be singing at Sung Eucharist on the 2nd, and of course at the Carol Service on 16th and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. In January the sung services are on 6th and 20th. The choir practises on Fridays, 6pm – 7pm in the church until December, then in January and February in the Church Hall, Clayhall Road. If you would like to join, please telephone Mike Palmer (524183); medpalmer@gmail.com, or the Rector (872223); revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com.

Sunday School: lots of fun activities for the youngsters coming up! Christingle on 9th December, the Carol Service on 16th and the Crib Service on Christmas Eve: all specially planned for young people to take part and understand the Christmas story.

In January, the Sunday School will be held on the 13th, when they will learn about the Baptism of Christ, and on the 27th there will be a Family Holy Communion for everyone.

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 Christmas Messy Church took place in November, and there is no Messy Church in January, so the next one will be on Friday 8th February 2019, at 3.30pm in the Church Hall.

CHURCH SHOP: the shop, in the Church Hall, Clayhall Road (behind the Rectory), is open 2pm – 4pm on Wednesdays and 10am – 12 noon on Saturdays. All kinds of treasures are available – come and have a browse! (Unfortunately, we cannot sell electrical goods, clothing or large items of furniture.)

AROUND ABOUT STUDHAM

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Church prayers: in December, we shall be praying especially for our village school and for all local families, and in January, we shall be remembering all the residents of Woodland Rise. If you would like a particular prayer to be said, perhaps for a special person or event, please contact Churchwarden, Meg Bender (872967 or meg.bender4@btinternet.com).

This year's **Christingle Service** is on Sunday 16th December at 10.30am. Please join us for this festive occasion; everyone will receive a Christingle orange and we will light the candles to remind us of God's ever-present light in the world. This will be followed by refreshments and the celebration of the December birthdays.



The **Christmas Eve Carol Service** is on 24th December at 4.30pm when we shall enjoy the Christmas message through traditional readings and carols. Everyone is very welcome. **Christmas Day** will be celebrated by a Midnight Mass service at 11.15pm, this year at St Mary's, Kensworth, and the Holy Communion for Christmas morning is at Whipsnade Church at 9.30am.

The first **Children's Church** of the New Year takes place on Sunday 20th January at 10.30am – new children will be especially welcome. The children and young people will be thinking about how the presence of Jesus changes our lives. Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments afterwards to celebrate all the January birthdays.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM CHURCH

We are a friendly group who aim to raise funds throughout the year to support the maintenance of the oldest building in the village, the church. Many thanks to those who supported our riotous **Call My Bluff Wine Evening**, particularly the bluffers: Isobel Randall, Denis Davison, Dave Meager and Frank Alston, who helped us raise over £700.

We held our AGM in November – thanks to those of you who could make it. Elected to the committee were: – John McDougal (Chairman), Eric Jacoby (Treasurer), Peter Gee (Secretary), Mike Bailey (Press Officer) and Eddie Perry.

We also run a **100 Club** which costs only £12 per year with £60 in prizes each month. Fred Moss and Nigel Wade were the lucky winners in November. We are looking for someone to run the 100 Club – to volunteer or just to join; please e-mail john.mcdougal@btinternet.com or call 873257.

LOCAL NEWS

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

Lynch Hill, Kensworth will be closed from junction A5183 to junction with Spratts Lane for patching and resurfacing on 4th and 5th December between the hours of 9am and 3pm. This will be lifted daily.

Any queries, contact Central Bedfordshire Council Highways on 0300 300 8049.

2018 POPPY APPEAL

Very many thanks to the collectors and everyone for their generosity during Remembrance. We have recently heard that the 3 villages raised over £3,607 in 2017, including gift aid. Over the last 10 years, we have raised over £39,000 for the Poppy Appeal – a brilliant total for our small communities. The national total in October was over £47,000,000; will it pass the £50,000,000 this year?

FOODBANK

At this time of year, please especially remember those who are less well off than ourselves and particularly those who rely on the Foodbanks. It's easy to give to the Foodbank – there are donation boxes in our three parish Churches or collection points in the major supermarkets. Specific needs are on their website (Dunstable. foodbank.org.uk).

CHRISTMAS GALA CONCERT

In aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

Caritas Harmony Ladies' Choir

also featuring

Beechwood Park School Chamber Choir

9th December

St Mary's RC Church, West Street, Dunstable

Tickets £10 (under 12s free)

For tickets and information visit www.caritasharmony.co.uk

Or call Jackie Howe on 01582 599520

BIN COLLECTIONS

The last collection for green bins will be Monday 3rd December and will then be suspended until March. The Christmas week collection for black bins and bottles will be on Saturday 22nd December instead of Monday 24th December.

MORE KENSWORTH

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH: for all services, see page 15. The **Christmas Fayre** will be held on Saturday 1st December, 10.30am – 12 noon. Come and find your special treats for Christmas. There will be no Coffee Morning in January.

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 LADIES' CLUB: the December outing will be a lunch at Harper's, Pepperstock, on Monday 10th December at 12 noon. To book and ask for lifts, please contact Shirley Hull (872351). The January event will be announced at the lunch.

FRIENDS of KENSWORTH CHURCH: The Friends of Kensworth Church will be holding their popular **New Year Quiz** in the Village Hall on Saturday 26th January, commencing at 7.30pm. Cost is £7.50 per head, to include supper but please BYOD. To book tables or individual places, contact David Manton (01438 831184 or david.manton@aol.co.uk). Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Another date for your 2019 calendar is Saturday 6th July, when the **Caritas Ladies Choir** makes a welcome return visit. Further details will be given nearer the time, but any enquiries to David Manton.

The winners of the Monthly Draw for November were Anthony Sinfield and Barrie Huggins.

The Friends extend their deepest sympathies to the family of John Maryan, who served on the Committee for many years, in addition to all his other voluntary activities.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Kensworth Village Hall

Sunday 9th December, 1.30 - 4.30pm

Come and join the fun for all the family – gift & craft stalls, Santa on his sleigh, carols with mulled wine at 4pm.

Please support your Village Hall!

STUDHAM 2

STUDHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Well done and thank you all. 2 years ago, the idea of rejuvenating a communications system in the village was launched. Now we have over 200 households taking part - a great result.

That still means that there are 300 of you who could still join. Remember if you have not asked to be registered (either by e-mail or paper), we cannot hold your details and you will not receive any of our messages. Every road in the village now has a street co-ordinator.



Contact us at studhamnw@gmail.com and we will send you all the details that you need to take part. Your details are kept securely and the messages to members are sent 'bcc' to preserve privacy. You can choose to be contacted by non-electronic means if you prefer.

Every one of us is targeted by online and phone scammers. We can keep you up to date on the latest trends aimed to separate us from our hard-earned cash. We are regularly seeing vehicles with false plates driving around the village. Passing on details of these is essential; we are the eyes and ears of the Police. Many Police arrests are partly due to information from us via our members.

Have a great season and a safe and crime-free 2019.

CARPET BOWLS

The Club meets at 7pm on Thursdays and dates are in the diary section (p.17). We are a small friendly group and new members are most welcome, or you can just come for a taster. Contacts are Pat Thorne (872751) or Des Salmon (872082).

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SOUTH BEDS ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS

On Monday 3rd December 2.30pm, a talk by Nick Hill entitled "Sands of Time (Leighton Buzzard Railway)". The story of one of the oldest and longest narrow-gauge lines with a collection of locomotives and rolling stock.

On Monday 7th January at 2.30pm, the talk is by Tony and Dr. Ann Giles on Mercy Ships, an international charity providing free health care and community projects to poor countries.

Both meetings are held in the Salvation Army Centre in Bull Pond Lane in Dunstable; guests welcome at £3.

COMMUNITY NEWS 2

JOHN MARYAN

Very sadly, we report the death of a much-loved Kensworth resident, John Maryan, on 3rd November. He moved to Kensworth as Postmaster in 1988 with his wife, Barbara, who also, sadly, passed away last March. Two years ago, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They came from Harpenden, where they still had interests, but they both immediately took a very full part in the life of the Kensworth community.



John was Churchwarden of St Mary's for many years, reluctantly retiring only last year due to poor health, and was a leading member of the Friends of St Mary's. Away from his Church duties, John was a founder member of the Kensworth Community Scheme (now the Good Neighbours Scheme), again taking a full part until very recently. In Harpenden, he remained a member of the Rotary Club of Great Britain, and was on the committee of the Harpenden branch of Mencap.

John's good humour, helpfulness and cheery smile will be very much missed by the whole community. Our deepest sympathy and condolences go to his family, daughters and grandchildren.

GILL NOYELLE

Gill Noyelle, who died recently, was the editor of the 'Parish Link' from the first edition in September 1982 until she retired and moved away from Kensworth, in 1990. When Gill moved to Kensworth she quickly got involved with the new format parish magazine (originally a Roneo A4 sheet) for our three villages. She had exactly the right journalistic experience, insisting on high standards and that deadlines were kept. So, with a small management committee, the Parish Link was born.



Initially, the monthly magazine was word-processed by local typists, then printed in Hemel Hempstead, the pages collated in Kensworth and then delivered to every household in the three villages, as it is today.

Gill set the standards which we maintain today but now we have computers, emails, printers, even some colour for the whole magazine. We are immensely grateful to Gill and the work which she did for our community. We extend our sympathy to her family.

ADVENT + JANUARY CHURCH SERVICES

WHAT IS ADVENT?

Advent is the season four weeks before Christmas in which we prepare for the coming of Christ. It begins on the Sunday nearest to 30th November. Its name comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming”.

The season of Advent was introduced in the middle of the sixth century. At first, the Advent season was determined as the six Sundays leading up to Christmas, later reduced to four Sundays by Pope St. Gregory the Great (591-604).

The season also celebrates Christ’s anticipated second coming. And because the season emphasizes both comings and not just his birth, it’s more than just a time to get ready for Christmas. It is a reflective, penitential season, although no longer associated with the strictness of Lent. Nevertheless, Advent reminds us that the question is not whether Jesus will come back to save us, but when.

A wreath with special candles is placed in the church on the first day of Advent. It represents the time between Adam and Eve and the birth of Christ, during which the world waited for the arrival of Jesus. One candle is lit each Sunday during Advent to signify the entrance of Christ, the light, into the world.

There are five candles, four coloured ones and a white one. They represent the preparation for the coming of the Messiah during Advent. The candle which is lit on the third Sunday represents joy, a day of rejoicing because it marks the midpoint of Advent. A white candle is placed in the middle of the Advent wreath. It is lit on Christmas Day and represents the birth and purity of the Christ child.

JANUARY CHURCH SERVICES

| | KENSWORTH | STUDHAM | WHIPSNADDE |
|---|--|--|-------------------------|
| 6 th January Epiphany | 10.30am Sung H.C. Traditional | 10.30am Family Service | 9am H.C. Traditional |
| 13 th January Epiphany 2/ Baptism of Christ | 10.30am Morning Service with Sunday School | 10.30am H.C. Traditional | 9am H.C. Modern |
| 20 th January Epiphany 3 | 10.30am Sung Matins | 10.30am H.C. Modern with Children’s Church | 9am Family Service |
| 27 th January Epiphany 4 | 8am H.C. Modern in Kensworth Church Hall 10.30am Family H.C. Service | 10am Covenant Service at the Methodist Church | 9am H.C. Traditional |

CHURCH NEWS

KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday services are usually at 10.30am:

- 2nd December: led by Rev. Nigel Bibbings
9th December: led by Steve Rogers
16th December: Carol Service led by Geoff. Best (refreshments afterwards)
23rd December: United Service at Edlesborough (no service at KMC)
25th December: time: see noticeboard: Christmas Day Service led by Peter Baker
30th December: United Covenant Service with Holy Communion led by Rev. Nigel Bibbings at Edlesborough (no service at KMC)

- 6th January 2019: led by Ian Horsler
13th January: Holy Communion led by Roger Owers
20th January: led by Martin Wallis
27th January: 10am United Covenant Service at Methodist Church, Studham (no service at KMC)

Growing Together – no meetings until Spring.
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

STUDHAM METHODIST CHURCH

- Sunday December 9th 3pm Rev. Mmasape Zihle Carols in the Trees
Sunday December 23rd 10am Linda Hillier

Sunday January 13th 10am Tony Higgins
Sunday January 27th 10am Rev. Mmasape Zihle

Our **Annual Christmas Tree Festival** takes place on 8th December from 10am - 4pm. Entry for trees in the festival is free, as is the festival itself, and there will be tea, coffee and lunches available all day. Sunday 9th will see a Carol Service at 3pm among the trees – like carol singing outside but in the warm! For further details of how to enter a tree, please e-mail: studhamchapel@hotmail.com.

FIRST STEPS

On Friday 7th December and Friday 11th January at Kensworth Church Hall in Clayhall Road at 2pm.

MESSY CHURCH

Kensworth: there is no Messy Church in Kensworth in January; the next one will be on Friday 8th February.

Studham: Messy Church has moved to Fridays, and the next one will be on Friday 18th January at Studham Methodist Church from 3.15pm.

STUDHAM 3

SCRABBLE

Our small but enthusiastic Scrabble Group meets 2pm every Tuesday afternoon at Studham Village Hall.

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|-----------------------------------|--------|-------------------|----------------|
| Thursday 6 th December | 7pm | Old Hunters Lodge | Birthday Meal |
| Thursday 3 rd January | 7.45pm | Village Hall | Social Evening |

A big 'thank you' to all those who have brought gifts and presents for the Refuge. They had to make 2 trips to collect as there were so many! The mothers and children really do appreciate the kindness and love that you have shown them over the past year and particularly over the Christmas period. It is a dark period in their lives that has been brightened by your thoughtfulness, support and understanding. January sees our members enjoying a "Social Evening" of games, chat, and friendship. We would be delighted if you would like to join us.

QUIZZES

Tuesdays 4th December and 8th January, 8pm at the Red Lion in Studham. Monies in aid of the Village Hall. £3 per head for quiz and raffle £1 strip (5 chances). Any size of team, food is available (but be warned you need to book the curry 'cos it sells out; ring Garry Ellis 872530). To whet your appetite, the 6 rounds in December will be: Sport and Recent News, School Days, Alphabet – all start V, Entertainment, Anything Else, and Music – title beginning D. January will be the same format but Alphabet will be W and Music E. Now you have no excuses – looking forward to seeing you.

FRIENDS OF STUDHAM COMMON

As the days become shorter and the season progresses, 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 19th January. All are welcome; no better way to start the New Year! The work is likely to include the continuation of hedge laying on West Common, in order to create a dense hedge for birds to nest in the future. This also provides a mixture of light and heavy jobs and a warm bonfire to clear the arisings!

Please come and help out – especially as good exercise will help to remove extra weight gained during the Christmas holiday period. All tools will be provided as will lunch; we meet at the War Memorial on West Common, opposite the Red Lion at 10am. For further information, contact Denis Davison (e-mail: denis@den-jen.co.uk or telephone 872650).

KENSWORTH 2 & JANUARY DIARY

KENSWORTH VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is facing rising expenses as there are several items to be repaired, and the boiler has to be replaced. We have received a generous donation from an anonymous local businessman, for which we are extremely grateful, and we are looking for other grants. We still await the initiation of the income from the Kensworth Men's Club, and trust it will be settled soon.

Three fundraising events in December:

- * Christmas Bingo will take place on Friday 7th December: doors open at 7pm, with festive prizes, tea/coffee and mince pies;
- * Christmas Fair on Sunday 9th December, 1.30 – 4.30pm (see notice on p.11);
- * New Year's Eve Disco, with Mandy and Craig: £20 for a family ticket covering two adults and two children, adults at £7.50 and children at £5, BYOD. It is a family fun evening, starting at 7:30pm and finishing at 12.30am. For tickets, please contact Lynn Lewis (873981)

The Village Walks will continue on 8th December and 12th January. Meet at the Village Hall car park at 10am for a walk lasting approximately 1½ hours followed by tea/coffee and biscuits in the hall. All are welcome to join the walk, especially parents with children and (well-behaved) dogs.

The December meeting of the Village Hall Committee is on Wednesday 5th December at 7.30pm; the January meeting is on 2nd January. We would like to wish all our hirers and users of the hall a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

KENSWORTH CAROL SINGING

People of all ages are most welcome to join our carol-singing: on Tuesday 18th December, starting at 6.15pm with warm drinks and nibbles in the Church Hall, Clayhall Road, and proceeding to The Chilterns estate, then on to the Old Hunter's Lodge, finishing at The Farmer's Boy. Proceeds in aid of a children's charity. The more the merrier – if you don't want to sing, you can help collect donations! For details, contact Jim Putterill (872436).

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JANUARY DIARY DATES

- 3rd Studham WI Social Evening, VH, 7.45pm (p.18)
- 10th Whipsnade Village Lunch, VH, 12.30pm (p.7)
- 15th Whipsnade Parish Council Meeting, VH, 7.30pm (p.20)
- 19th FoSC Working Party, War Memorial, 10am (p.18)
- 26th Friends of St Mary's, Kensworth, New Year Quiz (p.11)

1st February: Kensworth School PTA 1940's Vintage Afternoon Tea (p.23)

WHIPSNADE 2

WHIPSNADE VILLAGE HALL

A **Tea Party** was held on 10th November in Whipsnade VH to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to organise the event, and a special "thank you" to all the people who brought along personal memorabilia. It was interesting to see what part their Grandfathers, Great Uncles and other members of their families played in the war.

Saturday 1st December: **Christmas Craft Fair** – 10.30am – 3.30pm. Craft stalls stocked with a variety of locally-made gifts and original Christmas accessories. Light refreshments and Christmas Raffle. Everyone welcome.

Saturday 15th December – **Informal Christmas Party** 7pm – 10pm. Bring your own drinks and nibbles for a pre-Christmas get-together. Music and various board games provided. Tickets £2 each available from Carole Chant (873717).

WHIPSNADE TREE CATHEDRAL

Leaf Sweep on Sunday 9th December, 11am – 3pm. Meet in the car park. We need lots of hands to help rake up leaves and tidy up for the winter. Come along with stout shoes and gloves – we'll provide the tools you need and soup. Ring Pam or John Ward (872406) for more details, everyone welcome.

WHIPSNADE GREEN

Scrub clearance continues on Sunday 2nd December and 6th January from 10.30am. Meet on The Green near Dell Farm. Helpers welcome! Bring your picnic, soup provided. More information from Charles Frost (871417).

Access to Whipsnade Church: when the ground is very wet, please avoid driving across The Green to the church, by parking as near to the road as possible – that leaves access for the disabled. It is no longer possible to park at the entrance to the Park Homes because of building work.

WHIPSNADE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Council will be on Tuesday 15th January 2019 at 7.30 pm in Whipsnade Village Hall.

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TIME FOR A SMILE - BACK IN THE DAY

Remember when???

- Bread and jam was a treat;
- Tea had only one colour - black;
- Coffee was only drunk when we had no tea – and then it was Camp coffee and came in a bottle!

KENSWORTH 3 & NCG

KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

TC Feeds: the Council were saddened to hear of the fire at Dovehouse Farm. At the meeting, members of the public and Kensworth School PTA offered their help and the Parish Council have also offered their support.

Police: we would like to remind everyone that non-serious crimes and anti-social behaviour should be reported on 101. You may also report issues anonymously through Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

It is vital that crimes are reported for the Police to obtain a true reflection of issues that residents are facing and to focus resources to the village.

Bedfordshire Police patrol the village in unmarked cars; the Council have requested that more Police marked cars are also used to give assurance to residents and deter anti-social behaviour.

Play Area: we have approximately £9,500 held for the new playground project (£4,558.16 of which was raised by donations). Funding constraints have caused some changes to the original plans, but the main items will be put in place for the children's enjoyment. Quotation based on 4 items including installation, surfacing, inspections etc is approximately £26,000 + VAT.

It was agreed to proceed with a National Lottery 'Awards for All' grant application for £10,000. If this is successful, the remaining balance can be raised from the existing budget and further grants sought.

Village Hall: the Management Committee have some financial problems and low reserves. In addition to ongoing repairs and renovations, they needed to replace the Central Heating Boiler. It was agreed to grant £2,000 to enable them to carry out replacement of the boiler and to enable the hall to remain open and fulfil bookings.

The **next meetings** will take place in the Village Hall on 13th December 2018 and 10th January 2019.

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NORTH CHILTERNNS GROUP NEWS

Following last year's highly successful 'Sing in a Day' event, there will be a production of the musical 'Angel Voices' on 26th January. If you would like to take part, contact Derek Spriggs (873468 or e-mail: derekspr268@gmail.com) for details.

The annual outing next year will be a weekend in Norwich on the first weekend in June. These occasions, arranged by Jean Waldock, are very popular. Watch this space!

STUDHAM EXTRA

BINGO: on Wednesdays 5th and 19th December at 7.30pm in Studham Village Hall. The 19th is our Christmas party. There will be no sessions during January. Come and play bingo in friendly surroundings. £5 will pay your entrance, books and even a strip of raffle tickets! We would love to see you. Please note that bingo does not meet during January. After the party our next date will be 13th February.

STUDHAM PLAYING FIELDS: would all those who walk their dogs through the Playing Fields please keep them on a lead whilst in the grounds and remember to clean up after them. Dog faeces can be dangerous to the health of young children as well as being 'anti-social' to those using the sporting facilities, and remember that the football pitch is adjacent to the footpath.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

What a great night we had with 'Melvis' in November and we are hoping you think our December events are great as well.

First is **Quiz Night** with a fish & chip supper on Friday 14th December at 7pm (£5 per head entry including fish and chips). Please call in and register your team so that it gives us some idea of numbers to cater for!!

Then on Sunday 23rd there will be a **Christmas Sing-Along** from 3pm, with mulled wine, and the Grand Christmas Draw will be made. Tickets for the draw are available over the bar or from any committee member, £1 each or £5 a book. Keep your eyes on the notice boards for details of a "**Football Friendly**" on Saturday 29th December at 11am and also a **New Year's Eve Party** on Monday 31st from 8pm. Of course there is also our regular "**Tuesday Night Classic Poker**" for all levels of players. Why not come and learn or brush up on your technique?

Call in at the Club and see what other great events we have planned for the next few months, or just have a friendly drink and chat; the pool table and dart board are always available and families are always welcome.

STUDHAM VILLAGE HALL: it is a year since it was decided that the wooden floor needed replacing. £30,400 has been raised/pledged, including £5,000 from the Village Hall's own funds. There is still some way to go and fund resourcing is continuing.

Structural Engineers, David French Partnership, are managing the project. Contact Andrew Evans for technical details or tender documents (708014 or andrew@dfp.co.uk). The Trustees are grateful for the continuing support from users of the hall, and are trying to minimise any inconvenience.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

KENSWORTH C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY & PRESCHOOL

With only a few weeks until the end of our Autumn term, we are all feeling very festive at the school and looking forward to the Christmas fun. Over the past month the children have been busy with their class assemblies, showing their parents what they have been learning about over the term.

Sixteen children went to the **Christian Youth Enterprise Centre** in Chichester for three days, where they took part in kayaking, sailing, canoeing and tunnelling. Three words the children used to sum it up were: “awesome, epic, legendary”...I think they had fun!

The children will be performing their **Christmas productions** just before we break up. Reception and KS1 are doing “Little Blue Star” and KS2 “Pandemonium”.

On 14th December we will be holding our **Christmas Jumper day** to help raise funds for Save The Children. We are also having our festive roast dinner on that day, including brussels sprouts!!

Our last day of term is on 21st December and the children will be back, full of Christmas stories, on 7th January. Next term’s topics include Traditional Tales, The Titanic, Food, Glorious Food and The Aztecs.

All that remains from us at the school is to wish everyone in the parish a very happy Christmas and fantastic New Year.

For further information regarding the school, please contact us on 873226.

Kensworth School Parent Teachers’ Association asks for your support: The PTA would like to thank everyone for their support this year in helping us to raise much-needed funds towards resources for the school.

Save the date for a **1940s Vintage Afternoon Tea** to be held in the school hall on 1st February - sandwiches, cakes, tea and prosecco to be provided for a fee; full details to follow shortly.

Advance notice: our **Summer Fête and Dog Show** will be held on Saturday 29th June from 12 noon till 3pm. Watch this space for further details.

If you would like to offer any help or fundraising ideas, please get in touch with us via e-mail (kspta@outlook.com) or contact Gina Owen (07506 722 053). We always welcome new members.

NEWS FROM STUDHAM ART CLUB, SCHOOL & PC

STUDHAM SCRIBBLERS ART CLUB

On 12th December, 9th and 23rd January, and 6th and 20th February from 7.30pm to 9.30pm in Studham Village Hall. All standards are welcome. For more information contact e-mail: jebrown25@hotmail.co.uk

STUDHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL

Autumn has been a busy time in school with all sorts of activities. Our younger children have had a marvellous time making pottery models with a professional artist. I still have one of the pots I made in school so let us hope that these last as long.



All the children enjoyed dressing up for Halloween and in doing so they helped to raise funds for our Parent Teachers and Friends Association. The whole school came together for All Saints Day. The classes each chose a saint to study and at our assembly we had presentations on St Francis of Assisi, Mother Teresa and St Nicholas. This is the first time we had done a whole school day like this and it is something we are sure to repeat.

As Christmas closes in on us we have loads of fun things to do, including the Christmas play, the panto, Christmas Lunch and possibly a visit from Father Christmas himself.

Paul Burrett, Head Teacher

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mark Hansard, who has done all the work for the new path to the Memorial Clock, has informed us that he will waive his fee for this, and wishes it to be donated towards the costs of the Village Hall floor. On behalf of the village, we would like to express their sincere thanks to him for his very magnanimous gesture in doing so.

We have received a detailed proposal from CBC, regarding a new **footway** in Church Road. Please note: this is only a draft proposal. The details will be available to view on our website (Studhamparish.co.uk): please read it, and if you wish to comment in any way, please e-mail our Clerk (Clerk@studhamparish.co.uk).

Next meeting – Monday 3rd December, Village Hall at 6pm, and will be condensed: (well, it is Christmas!). The first meeting of 2019 will be on Monday 7th January, starting at 7pm in the Village Hall.

We would like to thank the Editor and Staff of the Parish Link for printing our sometimes-rambling reports, and all those who read them.

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to wish all Parishioners a Merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ FOR YOUNGER READERS

1. Which movie character's famous catchphrase is 'Bah Humbug'?
2. Can you unscramble the following word to reveal a famous Christmas song: NIJGEL LSELB?
3. Which of the following gifts did the 3 wise men not present to baby Jesus: a) Myrrh, b) Silver, c) Gold?
4. How many points does a snowflake have?
5. In what language is Santa known as Père Noël?
6. Which famous Christmas carol includes the lyrics: 'Star of Wonder, Star of night, Star with royal beauty bright'?
7. True or false: Christmas crackers were invented by a sweet maker from London called Tom Smith?
8. In which town, beginning with the letter N, was Jesus raised as a child?
9. What type of fruit tree is mentioned in the Twelve Days of Christmas song?
10. Can you unscramble the following word to reveal the region where Santa Claus comes from: PANDALL?
11. What part of a Christingle represents the world?
12. What is the missing word from the 'Let it Snow' Christmas song lyrics: 'Oh the weather outside is...'?

Answers on page 27

DUNSTABLE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The meeting on 11th December is for members only and tickets must be purchased in advance.

On 8th January, "Bedfordshire's Garden History", an illustrated miscellany of the county's garden heritage, ranging from the Waldon Pear mentioned by Shakespeare to the gardens at Stockwood Park. It is held in the Methodist Church Hall opposite Wilkinsons in Dunstable at 7.45pm. Visitors to meetings pay £2.

DUNSTABLE & HOUGHTON REGIS DISTRICT SCOUTS

Dunstable has around a thousand youngsters who want to be Scouts, Cubs or Beavers but at present only about 750 of them can be accommodated. So they are looking for people who can:

- help run a scout group in any way – occasionally or regularly;
- be administrators – secretaries, treasurers, chairmen;
- give practical help in any kind of property maintenance
- have life skills or sports skills they can share

Please ring Roger Pepworth (Chair – Dunstable & Houghton Regis District Scout Executive) for a chat and more information on 01582 538414 or e-mail him at roger.pepworth@hotmail.co.uk.