



PARISH NEWS

covering

SHILLINGTON, PEGSDON & HIGHAM GOBION



**SANTA'S FLOAT
IS COMING**

WE WILL BE COLLECTING FOR KEECH
HOSPICE AND ALL SAINTS CHURCH

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER APPROX. 16:30 - 19:30
MARQUIS HILL, UPTON END, GRAVENHURST

SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER APPROX. 17:00 - 20:00
HIGH ROAD NORTH, CHURCH ST, HILLFOOT, BURY END

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER APPROX. 17:00 - 20:30
PEGSDON, APSLEY END, HANSCOMBE END, HIGH ROAD SOUTH

All Saints'
Church
Shillington

Issue 169 – December 2023

Deadline for February 24 edition - Friday, 26th January 2024

PARISH COUNCIL

Speed: *The issue of speeding through the village continues to be a priority for the Parish Council. The newly reformed Speedwatch has our full support. New equipment, vetting, and training has now been completed. The aims are two-fold to provide our ward member Cllr Stephenson a good body of evidence to allow him to fight our corner with Highways for traffic calming Measures, and to help educate drivers that speeding through Shillington is not acceptable. New promised signage has been chased, and we are presently talking to Bedfordshire Police regarding enforcement and equipment.*

Community Grant for Village Hall: *Good News! the Village Hall has been successful in securing £18,219 from CBC for maintenance and building works.*

Street lamps: *Street lamp S17 High road, S2 Bryants close, S5 Upton End have all repaired. If you have a street lamp that is out please take the details from the sticker on the post - some will be marked as Parish Council, others may be marked Central Beds, or Grand Union. If you have a Parish Council owned street lamp that needs looking at please email the Clerk and she will then arrange an engineer to attend.*

Remembrance Service: *Thank you to all those who attended the service, the act of remembrance and the photo show. A special mention to: The Shillington Guides and Rangers, Brownies and Rainbows, Revd. Angus McCormick, The Congregational Church, Sally Stapleton, Lauren Darnell, Shillington Village Hall, WI, Andy Gibbs, Street Watch, Spitfires CC, Shirley McGrath, Sue Michaels, Liz Brewer, Michael O'Neill, wreath layers, Col. Andrew Wallis MBE DL.*

Assets of community value: *The Crown and Musgrave Arms Pubs, which had previously been registered under this scheme, have now been re-submitted for approval for the next period. As it is a new format we await confirmation to proceed with adding new applications.*

Footpaths and Potholes: *In the first instance please use the "fix my street" app to report issues, it is quite a powerful tool although it does have its limitations. If there is no response to your report then please contact the PC Clerk and we will chase for you.*

Defibrillators: *Both the 24hr accessible units in the village (Village Hall & Social Club) are now registered to "The Circuit" run by the British Heart Foundation. Whilst previously registered elsewhere there was an instance where the code was not given out by the ambulance service, this could have been down to multiple factors, but we thought it prudent to change to this service given its popularity as a national database. The unit owned by the Congregational Church is being checked to update/service and once suitable will also be registered on the circuit as "restricted access" on their behalf.*

Planning - Thomas' Meadow: *A new proposal for Thomas' Meadow was on the agenda in October, this time for eight self-build dwellings. Once again, the Bedfordshire branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE) provided useful advice. Councillors agreed that the reasons why they opposed the previous application for the site were still valid. The proposed site is an important ancient open meadow space, intrinsic in keeping Shillington a historic Bedfordshire "ends" Village. The site is outside of the settlement envelope and contrary to policy SP7 within the local plan. It would be damaging to the landscape and character of the area, contrary to policy EE5 and would significantly impact the historic environment within the conservation area close to the Grade 1 listed Church.*

For **all** Parish Council issues please contact:

Miss Lauren Darnell, Clerk to the Parish Council

45 Tiger Moth Way, Lower Stondon, Hitchin, Herts. SG16 6GN. ☎ To be confirmed

email: clerk@shillington-pc.gov.uk <https://shillington-pc.gov.uk>

ANNOUNCEMENTS / ITEMS / NEWS IN BRIEF



A huge **THANK YOU** to regular contributors, advertisers, sponsors and distributors of this magazine.

Your kind support ensures the continuity of the Parish News.
Best wishes to all readers and their families for a healthy, happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. **Sally S.**

MUSGRAVE CLOSING ON 8TH JANUARY 2024

for about 5 weeks for refurbishment. (CB/23/00748/FULL // CB/23/01079/ADV)



DATE FOR YOUR 2024 DIARY

SHILLINGFEST 24 - SATURDAY, 29TH JUNE

at **THE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS**

Stalls and sideshows from village organisations, charities and businesses; live music afternoon and evening; food stalls and BBQ; Inside and Outside Bars; display by Shefford Majorettes. More to be confirmed as plans develop.

Next planning meeting - Jubilee Room at rear of Village Hall (Social Club closed for refurb) - Wednesday, 31st January. If you would like to be involved please come along, or contact **Sally (07711 -504489)** to book your stall.

SHILLINGTON CARE

Do you need help with transport from Shillington?

We can get you to the surgery, hospital and collect your prescriptions.

Shillington Care is an informal group of people able to give help.

Give us a call and we will arrange for someone to pick you up and bring you back.

Initially, speak to **Liz** on **01462-711594** or leave a message.

If there is a delay on this number then call **07930-812940**



COMING SOON IN THE NEW YEAR:

A wildlife action group for anyone interested in improving the natural environment (biodiversity) in and around Shillington, our beautiful historic village.



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SHILLINGTON & GRAVENHURST

www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk



UPDATE

In order to get out of 'Vacancy' and appoint a new permanent Priest for All Saints' Church, Shillington we are advertising for our fourth round of recruiting, with interviews of prospective candidates on 17th January 2024. If we are successful it will be at least until mid-summer before the candidate is in post.

Fortunately we have had an offer from a Priest who is between posts and will assist us for two days per week on a temporary basis. His name is Rev. Dr. Simon Tibbs. He was licenced by the Archdeacon Dave Middlebrook at 9.30am on Sunday 26th November at All Saints' Shillington and he now has his parish work. Simon will be very busy as he is also supporting our three other sister parishes of Stondon, Arlesey and Astwick.

Simon grew up in Bedford, the son of the Vicar of All Saints' Church, Queens Park in the heart of Bedford. Simon has previously covered St Andrew's in Bedford and also lectured in scripture and theology in a number of Seminarians at home and abroad. His doctorate is in literature.

We are all looking forward to working with him, you will see him around the village, schools, social events and of course in Church. There will be some Sundays when Rev. Simon will not be with us and these Sundays will be covered by our visiting clergy who are doing a tremendous job.

Other activities like Bell Ringing, Choir and Bible study continue as normal.

The combined Churches 3C's (coffee, cake & chat) mornings held at the Congregational Church in Church Street, currently held between 10am and 12 noon each Monday will continue. All are most welcome, this is not a fund raising event.

In early October our Harvest Festival service, was followed by a lunch and the auction of donated produce towards the Bishop's appeal for the hungry.

If you need a member of Clergy, even with Rev. Simon in post during the Vacancy, please get in touch, in the first instance, with the Churchwardens (Dick & Liz Brewer ☎ 01462-711594).

Dick Brewer on behalf of **All Saints Church PCC**



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SHILLINGTON & GRAVENHURST

www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk



WHAT'S GOING ON

Main point of contact on church matters is now the
Churchwardens - Liz & Dick Brewer ☎ 01462 711594.
Rev. Dr. Simon Tibbs will lead services until a new vicar is appointed.

SERVICES:



- ✝ *Sunday 10th December will be our Carol Service at 6pm held by the Rev. Jane Wheatley.*
- ✝ *Our Sunday Morning Service is still at 9.30am mostly with Communion including Sunday (Christmas Eve) 24th December.*
- ✝ *On Christmas Day 25th December there will also be a Communion Service at 9.30am.*
- ✝ *On Sunday 31st December our morning service will be at 10.30am at the Congregational Church.*



ALL SAINTS CHURCH - SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Currently our Sunday School is not meeting, please contact Liz Brewer for more information.

200 CLUB – LUCKY WINNERS: (prizes 1st £50, 2nd £25, 3rd £10)

October 2023:

1st no. 199 – Rachel Foster 2nd no.077 – Graham Williams 3rd no. xxx – Tom Rainey

November 2023:

1st no. 147 – Katie Brettell 2nd no.019 – Trish Humphries 3rd no. 084 – Francesca Lovell

OTHER NEWS FOR 2023/24:

- * *Our Father Christmas float will tour the village on the evenings of Friday 15th December to Sunday 17th December, inclusive, weather permitting (see poster on front cover for details of tour).*
- * *Church Village Quiz on Saturday 7th March 2024 7.30pm in the village hall.*

Best wishes

Liz Brewer (Church Warden) lizbrewer313@gmail.com ☎ 01462-711594



December is always a busy month for everyone and it's just the same for Shillington WI.

Our speaker in October was David Duker and his talk was excellent. He told us the story of Battle of Britain pilot Victor Ekins (DFC) whose diaries, and other military memorabilia, had been put in a suitcase and stored in a garage!

Sandra Hare's workshop 'Fun with Flowers' in November was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Members took their beautiful creations home with them at the end of the evening.



We are looking forward to seeing the Christmas Lights at Wrest Park at the beginning of December and to displaying our beautifully decorated tree at the Christmas Tree Festival (December 1st - 3rd).

At our monthly meeting on the 7th, the Turf Tappers will be entertaining us ('A Christmas Celebration'). This musical sing-along duo is guaranteed to get us singing and our feet tapping! We are also looking forward to the WI Christmas Dinner at The Raven, Hexton.



We are in the process of planning our 2024 programme – we have some really interesting and entertaining speakers, along with many lovely events and outings, lined up for next year. Our first meeting of the New Year will be held on the 11th January. It will be a social evening with card games etc – it's also a great opportunity to bring along and share those unopened chocolates, biscuits and cakes left over from Christmas! In February we are welcoming Pauline Roby – Singing for Fun and Confidence.

The Walking Group is enjoying walks around our beautiful village; the walkers are definitely having to don hats, scarves and gloves now!



Our Supper and Lunch Clubs had a Turkish theme in November - they both went to different Turkish restaurants. The Book Club meet every month.

Our meetings take place on the first Thursday of the month in the Congregational Church at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are very welcome (£4).

For further information please contact:

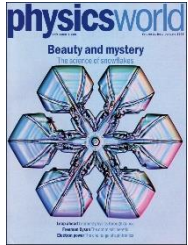
Julia Bruce, President ☎ **01462 712412** or

Liza Starling, Secretary - lastarling@outlook.com

THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST FOR A BETTER FUTURE

By Annie Palmer (WI Ambassador for Climate Change) anniejpalmer@hotmail.com

Last September, whilst sitting on a small ferry boat, I got into conversation with a fellow passenger. I knew the lovely gentleman's brain was in a different league to mine when, on seeing a rainbow, I exclaimed "Oh! That's beautiful!" and he said "The sun is at a (can't recall the number) degree angle to the Earth".



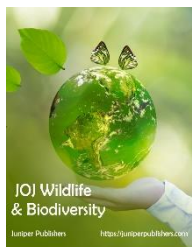
On the train home from Penzance the gentleman happened to be sitting across the way from me. I'd been doing puzzles for a couple of hours and had decided to give up as I was finding the Suduko one ('Easy' category) challenging. A voice cut through my thoughts; "Excuse me. Would you like to read my magazine?". I looked across the aisle at the man's smiling face and smiled back. "That would be lovely, thank you". He retrieved a magazine from under his iPad and handed it to me. It was Physics World. The titles on the cover included: 'Quantum metal. When the uncertainty principle goes up to 12' and 'Using muons to peer into volcanoes'. He looked so pleased that I hadn't the heart to hand the journal back.

The first article, 'Fractional quantum Hall state appears in ultracold atoms', was heavy going. Over the page, the next one had the title: 'Dancing peanuts'. This one sounded much more up my street. I never knew that when a peanut is dropped into a glass of beer it goes up and down (the nut, not the glass of beer. That would be worrying). A "beer-dancing peanut"! You live and learn. I wonder if a peanut dances in a glass of Prosecco - something to do at Christmas or New Year?



Another article was: 'How to think like a scientist' by James Kakalios, Distinguished Physics Professor at UMN. It mentioned climate change and made interesting reading. He said that lives have been transformed and enriched by science - scientists therefore find it disturbing that many people distrust or deny scientific evidence on climate change. People's views are often set in stone and they resist any new information that conflicts with their preconceived ideas.

Mr Kakalios said that scientists have been trained to be open to new information and to be willing to change their minds. He went on to say that it takes "sustained effort to learn to be your own harshest critic and to admit that something you took to be true is in fact not so". The essence of thinking like a scientist "can be summarized in one single question: What if I'm wrong? Asking this is all it takes to think scientifically" (MPs et al. please take note).



In October, I attended the WI's Climate Conference in Westminster and had a brilliant day. The Speakers included MPs (Sir Alok Sharma and Ed Miliband amongst others) and Directors, CEOs, etc. of many environmental organisations such as WWF and Buglife. I went to Breakout session 2: Tackling the biodiversity crisis. I pointed out that to tackle it one needs to tackle the causes of it - industrial farming and development destroying the countryside. With regard to development, we need houses but we do **not** need expensive executive ones, second homes, empty or substandard housing or investors buying properties for investmentand we don't need developers controlling the planning system to maximise profits and bonuses.

I'm writing this in November and my hope, wish and prayer for 2024 is, quite simply, peace. May your Christmas and New Year be full of peace and good will.

Annie x



WHEN I NEEDED A NEIGHBOUR

by Revd. Angus McCormick ☎ 01462-712096

Minister of Shillington Congregationalist Church

Such simple words or actions but which mean a lot

- ☺ Would you like some cake to take home ?
- ☺ Let me open the door for you.
- ☺ I'll bring your coffee to the table.
- ☺ A lovely smile.
- ☺ It's fixed !
- ☺ I'll bring your bin back.
- ☺ Thanks for a lovely time.
- ☺ Sorry, I got the date wrong.
- ☺ Would you like this blanket to keep you warm ?
- ☺ Will I put the tables away ?
- ☺ How is your partner ?
- ☺ Let me hold your hand.
- ☺ Would you like a hug ?
- ☺ What a beautiful day.
- ☺ Here take my umbrella .
- ☺ Tell me about your morning.
- ☺ Would you like to borrow those tapes ?
- ☺ Can I sit beside you ?
- ☺ Really enjoyed your company.
- ☺ And how are you ?
- ☺ Please stay for a bit longer.
- ☺ Would you like some help with ...
- ☺ That's fast enough for me.
- ☺ Remember
- ☺ Weren't the children great !

In times of counting the cost and many activities maybe we can reflect on personal encounters and simple acts of sharing thoughtfulness and goodwill, bringing peace in a small way.

Keep the hope of peace and joy alive as the days go by.

Every blessing, Happy Christmas
Rev. Angus



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWS

47 Church Street, Shillington

www.shillingtoncong-church.org.uk

SERVICES:

All services commence at 10.30am unless otherwise stated. Visitors always most welcome. Should you need to contact our Minister with any enquiries his telephone number is 01462-712096.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL:

Visit our Christmas Tree Festival over the weekend of Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd December. All proceeds for Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Opening times to view the displays (see poster on page 20):

- * Friday 3.30pm – 5.30pm
- * Saturday and Sunday 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Refreshments available over the weekend. Free admission.

BEDFORD FOODBANK:

Thanks to the generous gifts made by the local community of both goods and monetary donations, regular deliveries continue to be made to help those most in need. From January to the end of October over 20,000 people have been fed which is more than for the whole of 2022. The number monthly is now over 2,000.

Items currently in short supply:

Tinned Rice Pudding	Bottles of Squash	Tinned Meat
Jars of Jam	Long Life Fruit Juice	Bags of Rice - 250/500gm
Long Life Sponge Puddings	Tinned Fruit	Tea Bags – 40/80
Biscuits	Cereals (child friendly)	

FRIENDLY WELCOME SPACE:

We are continuing with our 'Friendly Space' and invite you join us for hot/cold drinks and biscuits, soup and a roll, enjoying a good chat, seeking company, bring along your own craft/hobby activity, or join in a board game. Please support this community project – all welcome. Open between 11.00am and 2.00pm every Monday.



SHILLINGTON MEN'S CLUB

(Now in its 18th year)

On the evening of the 11th October 24 members enjoyed a two course meal of either Fish & Chips or Sausages & Mash followed by Fruit Crumble or Sticky Toffee Pudding at the Three Horse Shoes at Norton. This was our first visit to this venue and probably won't be our last as the evening was enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks to Colin Smith for organising this event. Michael Bradley won the raffle.

On the afternoon of the 18th October 14 members enjoyed a Lunch Special at the Musgrave Arms. This is becoming a regular occurrence which is very popular with the members. Thank you to Michael Bradley for facilitating these Lunch events.



On Saturday the 21st October 8 members and 2 partners visited the Kempton Steam Museum for the "Steam Weekend". This turned out to be a great event, not only was the working steam engine magnificent, the building housing it was beautiful and a prime example of Victorian craftsmanship. The tour was very informative and we learnt a lot about the history of the site. Thank you to Michael Bradley for organising this fantastic event.

On the evening of 8th November 25 members visited the White Hart at Flitton and enjoyed a two-course meal of either a Bacon Chop with Parsley and Cider Sauce and Green Beans or Beef Bourguignonne and Mash followed by Sticky Toffee Pudding with Butterscotch Sauce and ice cream or 3 scoops of ice cream. This was a wonderful meal and went down well with the members. Brian Pettifer won the raffle. Many thanks to Colin Smith for organising this event.



On the 22nd November 18 members enjoyed a trip to the Farr Brewery in Wheathampstead. This is a micro-brewery built in the cowshed of a farm. On arrival members were given a pint of their choice from the brewery's extensive range. They were then taken on a tour of the brewery by the Head Brewer and were shown the different ingredients that go into the different brews. After the tour the members returned to the Brewery's "Tap Room" for another pint of their choice and a Fish & Chip meal. On leaving each member was given 3 bottles of beer to go home with. A big thank you to Michael Bradley for organising this very enjoyable trip.

The Committee would like to thank Colin Smith who is standing down from his role as Meal Co-Ordinator. He has done a wonderful job in this post and has introduced us to many new venues and negotiated some great deals. Colin you will be sorely missed!

At the moment members are looking forward to our Christmas Party at the Golf Club in Lower Stondon in December and our "Kick Off Party 2024" in January. The Committee would like to wish all members a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year 2024!

Future events:-

- * 13th December - Christmas Party - Lower Stondon Golf Club.
- * 10th January 2024 - Meal t.b.a.
- * 24th January - Lunch Social – venue t.b.a.
- * 31st January - "Kick Off Party 2024" - Congregational Church - 7.30 p.m.

Membership:

Current membership is 47 members. There are 8 elected Committee members who meet every 12 weeks to review and evaluate past events, plan future events and review the Club's Finances. The Club offers members a bi-monthly opportunity to socialise and enjoy friendly conversation and comradeship over a good pub meal and beverages or a visit to a place of cultural or historical interest. This is the essence of the Club.



New members are warmly welcomed, so any new residents to the village, please take the opportunity to embrace village life, meet local people and come along and see what the Club has to offer! Membership is £5 to join with an Annual Membership of £15.

Contacts:

<p>Events Co-ordinator - Michael Bradley (01462 711162) Email - michael894bradley@btinternet.com</p>	<p>Chairman – Kevin Johnson (01462 712768) Email – kevinjohnson360@msn.com</p>
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WIVES GROUP

Our September meeting was 'A Social Afternoon' where members could catch up with other members and talk about their summer holidays. We also held a 'Bring & Buy' Stall which was well supported and helped our funds. We were pleased to welcome a new member at our meeting. We concluded with Nibbles & drinks.



In October, one of our members Maureen gave a talk on 'A Brief History of Afternoon Tea' which she has researched well and illustrated it with pictures. This was followed with Afternoon Tea & a quiz about Tea.

At the November meeting we welcomed back Maggie Layton who got us all joining in with a 'Keep Fit' session. Maggie advised as she went along how people with knees, hip & shoulder complaints could help them in various ways by doing easier exercises.

Our last meeting will be in December when we will be having a traditional Christmas meal at The Orange Tree in Hitchin. We look forward to returning to our meetings on 11th January 2024 which will be a New Year's Party with a Buffet.



We wish everyone A Peaceful Christmas & A Happy New Year.

We will be looking for Speakers, Demonstrators, etc for our 2024/2025 session so if anyone in the village is available to offer their services we would be grateful.

Please contact **Pauline** ☎ 711711 or **Janet** ☎ 711402

REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BLAKE STEPHENSON

- November 2023 -

I always find this a reflective time of the year, as we remember our brave servicemen and women, and then head towards Christmas, wondering where another year has gone!



Some of my Parish Council colleagues gave me a little stick for not joining them this Remembrance Sunday. As Ward Member for three villages, I will be rotating my attendance. This year, I was pleased to join our friends in Gravenhurst for a lovely service in the Methodist Church, followed by wreath laying. I did join everyone in the Shillington Village Hall afterwards though, to enjoy a cuppa and a catch up, and it was great to see so many of you there.

Highways – I know this is a high priority for everyone, and in a recent council meeting I challenged the Executive about how they prioritise work. The 2023/24 plan didn't include much for our villages, and the planned footpath re-surfacing from Vicarage Close to Hanscombe End still hasn't started. I want us to be able to influence priorities more in future years, but disappointingly, I was told that the Executive will now be "data-led", rather than consulting those of us who live here. That hasn't stopped me from pestering about: road safety at Marquis Hill; speed limits; various road and footpath re-surfacing; and works required along some of our rights of way. I also have a motion at Full Council that, if successful, would require consultation and regular reporting on works. I will continue to work with the Parish Council and badger CBC for us, but please do also continue to log in the 'fix my street' app any issue you find, so the Council can't say it doesn't have the data needed to prioritise work.

Speed watch – I know that like me, many of you are concerned about speeding. It's an issue all over Bedfordshire. That's why I questioned our PCC about it at a recent Police & Crime Panel, where we were told the budget for watch schemes has doubled. Anyway ... I'm pleased speed watch is getting back up and running this month. I know that many of us would prefer to see more enforcement and traffic calming, and the data from speed watch will help us make the case. Please consider joining in if you can.

Elections - For me, 2023 has been dominated by elections. First, the Council Elections in May, and then a very long Parliamentary by-election. Leaflets have been coming out of everyone's ears, and I'm sure you agree that a break from canvassing is welcome.

And finally ... I hope you get to spend some quality time with friends and family during the festive period. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas!

Blake

SHILLINGTON SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

MEET AT

SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Monday afternoons – 2.00 - 5.00pm // Friday evenings – 7.15 - 9.15pm



It has been a busy few months at the short mat bowls club. Since returning after the summer break we have had 4 new members join the club. Welcome to Kevin, Tony, Pauline and Carrol we look forward to seeing your bowling skills develop over the coming months.

The internal triples league is in full flow, with close results being recorded each week. Club members have also been taking part in the Barnet and Wilstead leagues on a Tuesday and Thursday night.

We have had very good fortune at the County/National qualifier competitions, which have been played at the indoor bowls club in Stevenage. Congratulations to Julia Bruce, Toni and Bill Gearing for third place in the triples competition, second place in the mixed fours, and winners in the fours when joined by Neil Rixon. The final was won on the last end when the team managed a magnificent 5 shots, to win the game by 1. We wish them all the best of luck for the National competitions which will take place in the Spring of 2024.



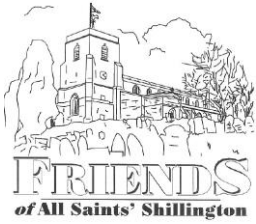
We are looking forward to our Christmas meal and would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Anyone interested in joining the club is welcome to come and have a try (for free) to see if they like it. We have spare sets of bowls available and you only need to have a flat pair of shoes with you to enable you to play. You can either turn up to the village hall on a Monday afternoon or a Friday evening, or if you prefer call or message Michelle (contact details below) in advance.

Experienced members provide support and guidance for new and developing players and members can join in with regular County playing and learning activities at the County venues in Hatfield and Stevenage.

For further information please contact
Michelle Conlon (01462 713426) conlonmichelle@sky.com
or Derek Lewison (01462 711504)

HOLDING ON..... TO OUR PRECIOUS CHURCH ON THE HILL



A very merry, healthy & peaceful Christmas to one an' all.



Village Christmas Tree



The Friends Committee have, again, provided a Christmas tree for everyone to enjoy. It will appear in the memorial gardens (next to the village hall) during the first weekend of December. Please come and help to decorate anytime during December by adding your own very personal bauble or decorative home-made piece. The tree will be taken down on January 6th so please make sure you retrieve your items before or on that date – thank you.

Vinyl 70's Disco

A FAB success! The village hall was packed with a vast range of ages and themed costumes bopping the night away. Shillington's very own Mark Johnson spun the discs (nothing techy here) for a memorable nostalgic evening raising an incredible £1460 for church maintenance funds.



Do you wanna help?



The Friends are always looking for new committee members to bring fresh fund-raising ideas or just swell the band of willing helpers. Our wonderful Chairman, Peter Lambert, is leaving the village in the next few months so this position will also be vacant. Current committee members have picked up many of Peter's tasks, but none are able to take on the position of Chair at this time. Please contact Peter direct on pglambert@fastnet.com for more information – thank you.

Look out on Facebook, Friends of All Saints Church, for our calendar of events for 2024 or check village lamp posts for posters.

A Very Happy New Year to one and all.....



If you would like to make a donation and receive regular updates on the work of

Friends of All Saints' Church, Shillington

THERE ARE 2 EASY WAYS TO PAY:

1. You can make a donation by cheque/post

I/we enclose a donation of £..... to Friends of All Saints' Church, Shillington for the current year.

Name

Home address

.....

email address

I would like Friends of All Saints to be able to reclaim tax on my donation (see below):

(Yes / No) (Please delete as appropriate)

Signed..... Date

Please return this form, signed, together with your donation, to the Membership Secretary of Friends of All Saints' Church:

Joy Robertson, 18 Vicarage Close, Shillington SG5 3LS

Or

If you'd prefer to pay online:

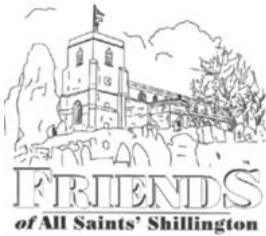
HSBC, Friends of All Saints Church, sort code: 40 24 20, a/c No. 71596985

How we can ADD 25% to your donation. Under tax legislation, the Friends can recover some of the income tax you pay on any of your taxable income. In allowing us to recover this tax, you must have paid, or be due to pay, an amount of income tax at least equal to that we will be able to reclaim on your donation, this being 25p for every £1 you give.

In order for us to reclaim this very valuable bonus to our income, you need do nothing at all except sign and tick the box above to confirm that you are a taxpayer. We thank you in advance if you are able and prepared to do this.

Alternatively, donations can be made via the QR code below.





ALL SAINTS ILLUMINATED

To celebrate or commemorate your special occasion please contact:

Catherine on **07710-823384**

or e-mail catherine.scleater@btinternet.com

It only costs **£25** to sponsor a whole week's illumination - a perfect way to commemorate a special family occasion or loved one's anniversary.

Sponsor	Message	From	To
Stuart & Gerry Michell	<i>In memory of our mum Nellie Michell, who loved this church.</i>	Sunday 22 October	Saturday 28 October
David & Fiona Howarth	<i>Donald MacKinnon – remembering your birthday on 31st October.</i>	Sunday 29 October	Saturday 4 November
David & Fiona Howarth	<i>John Howarth – remembering your birthday on 22nd December</i>	Sunday 17 December	Saturday 23 December
All Saints' Church	<i>Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and thank you to all the church lights sponsors</i>	Sunday 24 December	Saturday 6 January 24

SPONSOR A BELL AT ALL SAINTS'

The five bells of All Saints' Church have been an ever-present joyful sound in the village for hundreds of years. Robust though they are, they are complex 'machines' and do need occasional repairs. We are scheduling a programme of essential maintenance, and we need your help. We are looking for a generous sponsor for each of the bells each year.

We have four sponsors so far and would love (at least) one more; one sponsor for each of the five bells.

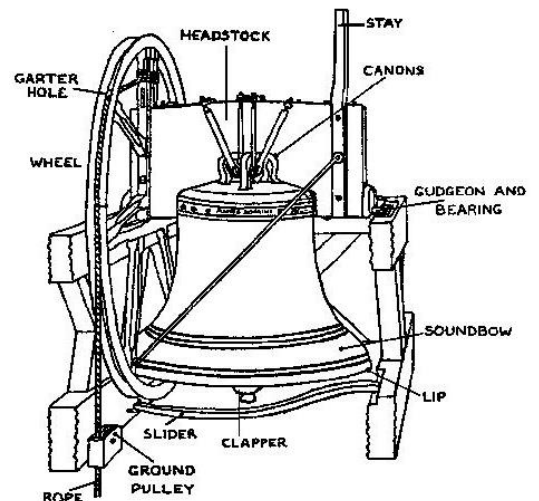
For a donation of £50 a year you will receive: -

- An entry on our Honours Board in the Church acknowledging your donation,
- A guided tour of the Church and the bell tower including (if you have a head for heights) a chance to 'meet' your bell,
- Free bellringing tuition (for life!)

You can sponsor a bell as: -

- An individual,
- A family,
- A business,
- An organisation,
- A unique gift – Perfect as a Christmas present!

For more information, please contact **Andy Gibbs**: bazwell2@gmail.com – **07922-017051**



FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR - Saturday, 28th OCTOBER 2023



A huge thank you to everyone involved in this amazing community event. A lot of hard work from the Social Club to set up marquees and fencing in advance. Volunteers on the night from 'manning' the gate, to security, to running food stalls (WI and Disco-Licious) and BBQ and both inside and outside bars. Great advertising

banners as sponsored by Tuckwells and Cllr. Blake Stephenson's community fund (well organised and thank you Gavin!). Special thanks to the PTFA selling Glo-sticks and 'Milko' for manning the raffle to set the fireworks off.

A great evening was had by a large proportion of the community. It looks like we have covered costs and made a small profit. Are we doing it next year? Yes looks like we are. Will advise date in next edition.

Winner of the Guy Fawkes competition was Drew-Lilly Tomlin, whose prize was a fantastic Halloween Hamper sponsored by "Wendy's Memorial Ribbons". Well done Drew-Lilly and thanks for entering....



MEMORIAL SERVICE - Sunday, 12th NOVEMBER 2023



A great service as always and well supported by our community. Led for the first time this year by Parish Council Chair – Cllr. John Hyde (with a little help from retired Chair – Mrs. Sally Stapleton).

This year Revd. Angus invited the Deputy Lieutenant of Bedfordshire - Mr. Angus Wallis (pictured) to join us and he spoke of his thoughts on remembrance. Interestingly he recognised a name on our memorial who had served in the same regiment as his grandfather.

As always Revd. Angus had great involvement for younger members at the service with a lovely story about our Dr. Macpherson and his wartime exploits. Thank you Angus, we thoroughly enjoyed it.....

Well organised and with residents' safety uppermost - due to health and safety concerns and detailed risk assessments now required, it was not possible to close the road off ourselves as we always have. Cllr. Hyde organised members from the Streetwatch Team and Spitfires Cricket Club, who did a great job keeping everyone off the highway – great work – thank you. Thanks to those who went inside the memorial garden. Apparently CBC require 12 weeks' notice for road closures, but Parish Council were unaware of this until it was too late. PC will apply for road closure well in advance next year.

A special thank you to our 'Bugler' Mrs. Sue Michaels – playing both 'Last Post' and 'Rouse' at the Memorial. Very poignant. Mr. Wallis was very impressed. Another thank you to Mrs. Shirley McGrath for organising the wreaths – probably the most we've ever had. And a final couple of thank you to Andy Gibbs for organising the old picture display of our veterans in the Village Hall following the service – great photos as always and slide show too and to the WI for welcome cups of tea and biscuits.

Well done Shillington.....

PLAYING FIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REFURBISHMENT OF SOCIAL CLUB



The Club will be closing on **2ND JANUARY 2024** for about 6/8 weeks for refurbishment project phase 1 (weather dependant).

The project will be split into 3 phases as there are not currently enough funds to be able to complete the entire programme (£82,106.00 + VAT) in one go. Our Chair (Gavin) has been chasing up on any suitable grants available and has had moderate success at the moment but larger pots of money are being pursued from CBC and others.

The Playing Fields Committee has contributed £20k (this from funds which were being saved towards the new community building which is no longer happening). Similarly Parish Council have also agreed to contribute £20k (again from funds earmarked for the new community building) and Social Club £20k.

Works to include:

- Replacement roof
- Electricals
- New bar area/removal of central pillar
- New cellar
- New kitchen area
- WC cubicles for Ladies plus disabled toilet
- Upgrading Gents toilets
- Flooring/tiling/carpets
- Loft ladder/hatch

If there are any folk interested in investing to improve a well-loved community building we would be pleased to hear from you. We can shout your generosity from the roof tops (plaque marking your investment) or accept secret donations (collection tin on the bar). Please contact Gavin (Chair of PF) or Sally (Secretary) for further information or if you would like to contribute.

We will keep you updated with any changes and re-opening date via Village and Social Club Facebook pages.

SHILLINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2023



This year the charity we are supporting is

Motor Neurone Disease Association

This is a disease which can affect anyone, with nerve weakness causing paralysis and eventual death. Average life expectancy after diagnosis is about 2 years and there is no cure.

Money raised at the festival will go for research.

The festival will take place from **Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd December**.
If you would like to enter a tree or display at the festival, you can choose any theme you wish.

It could be an opportunity to advertise your own group or small business. There is no charge to participate and you would be helping to support this vital charity.

Opening Times:

<i>Friday, 1st December</i> <i>3.30 to 5.30pm</i>	<i>Saturday, 2nd December</i> <i>2.00 to 5.00pm</i>	<i>Sunday, 3rd December</i> <i>2.00 to 5.00pm</i>
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- * Refreshments
- * Children's Tombola
- * Raffle
- * Admission Free



If you would like to know more,
please contact

Nola McCormick on 01462 712096.



SHILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB

CHRISTMAS DRAW AND AUCTION OF ARSENAL FIRST TEAM SIGNED HOME SHIRT

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2023 - 6.30PM



Christmas Draw tickets go on sale at the Social Club on 1st December, £1 a square.

Don't miss out on the chance to win cash prize and many more festive prizes.

All proceeds to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.



*All Saint's
Church Presents*

Christmas Fayre

**Saturday 2nd
December**

**Shillington
12:00pm – 3:30 pm**

Food served from 12:00pm

**Mulled
Wine**



Games

Stalls



Raffle



Let's Light up Shillington for Christmas with The Friends of All Saints' Christmas Tree



Come along and
hang your decorations
and lights on the tree
at any time from
2nd December
(*home made welcome*)

Light up/decorate
your windows
and garden too!

Our tree will be in the Memorial Gardens
by the Village Hall from
2nd December to 6th January



Our tree is provided by the friends committee and placed in the Memorial Gardens by the kind permission of the parish council



Please join us at
**SHILLINGTON
LOWER SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS
FAIR**

FRI 8 DEC

FROM 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM

Stalls, Food & Drink, Arts & Crafts, Kids games, Santa, and Christmas Raffle

Please contact
ptfashillington@gmail.com
for further information



Shillington Baby & Toddler Group

Every Friday 9.30am - 11.30am

Join us at Shillington Village Hall every Friday morning in termtime for play, crafts, sensory fun, singing, good company and a cuppa.

£3.50 per family (£3.60 for card payments) including tea/coffee & biscuits for adults and snack for the little ones.

**** NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM NEEDED ****

The current trustees are unable to continue running the group beyond December owing to work commitments. To avoid the group closing, we urgently need a new team of 3 or 4 people to run the group from January. Changing the day from Friday to Thursday may be an option, if that helps. If you are interested, please let us know asap, at the group or by email or Facebook Messenger. We'll put you in touch with each other and tell you everything you need to know!

Email: shillingtonbtg@outlook.com

Facebook: [@Shillingtonbabyandtoddlergroup](https://www.facebook.com/Shillingtonbabyandtoddlergroup)



PIXIES Pre-School



FOR LITTLE LEARNERS WITH BIG IDEAS!

Pixies Pre-School is run and managed by the school, we take children from 2 years until they start in Reception class, and we work closely to provide a smooth transition into school.

Children can start in Pixies class when they are ready to be in a pre-school environment.

We offer:

- ☺ A vibrant and fun classroom
- ☺ Qualified, dedicated, and experienced staff
- ☺ Fantastic outdoor area providing stimulating learning experiences
- ☺ We provide a range of imaginative and stimulating learning activities
- ☺ 15 & 30 hour funding

Come and see our fantastic new building. Tours are available, contact the school office.



Outdoor Explorers

Outdoor Explorers is our Monday morning adventure where we encourage all children to appreciate the natural world whilst developing their confidence, self-esteem and help create more independent learners inspiring our children about the great outdoors.

The sessions are run outside on the school field by our staff, come rain or shine.

Limited spaces are available.
Please contact the school office
for more information.

For more information, please contact us at:

Shillington Lower School

Greenfields, Shillington, Nr Hitchin, SG5 3NX

Tel: 01462 711637 Email: office@shillingtonlower.co.uk

www.shillingtonstondon.co.uk



SHILLINGTON CHILDMINDERS

Childminders provide safe, friendly home environments for children to play and have fun whilst gently learning through their play. We take children on outings to farms, play centres, splash parks, museums and libraries, as well as teach them life skills such as helping to do shopping, gardening and cooking.

We are individually registered to Ofsted, have public liability insurance, follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, undertake regular training including Safeguarding and First Aid and receive regular newsletters and bulletins from professional organisations.

We provide the children with opportunities to learn social skills and experience different play resources at baby/toddler groups and other settings. We are able to cover holidays and other absences for each other where possible.

Some of us are able to provide up to 15 hours of free childcare a week for eligible 2 year olds, as soon as care starts, in the same way that nurseries and pre-schools can. We are also able to provide the free sessions for all 3 and 4 year olds; at least 15 hours per week or up to 30 hours per week (for 38 weeks of the year) depending on parental eligibility and the childminder's policy. The free sessions normally start the term after the child's 3rd birthday. There may be additional charges to cover e.g. food and outings.

We each have differing childcare availability such as before and after school care, daytime childcare, overnight childcare, ad-hoc care or flexible care e.g. for shift workers.

Please contact us as below if you have any childcare requirements for now or the future:

Katie Brettell 07974-676089 katiebrettell@icloud.com	Laura Griffiths 07493-903621 lauralgriffiths820@gmail.com	Carli Mauger 07912-549931 carlimauger@gmail.com	Deb Pateman 07934-480446 debpateman@msn.com
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We have had a very busy start to the new academic year at Shillington, the new Pixies and Reception children have all settled well and we have begun to show prospective 2024 Reception families around. If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2024 it is not too late to book a tour with either Miss Woodham or Mrs Young. Please contact the office if you would like to have a look around, we would love to meet you and your children.

On 22nd December 2023 it will be Mrs Young & Parker's last day at Shillington Lower School. After 12 years she has decided it's time to move on and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work with children past and present and wish her the best of luck at her new school.

We have had extensive works carried out to the school since the summer holidays which has included a new roof, heating system and new windows throughout. The majority of the work has now been completed, however there will still be small ongoing works over the upcoming months.

The children thoroughly enjoyed pyjama day for Children in Need and the school raised £104.00 – thank you for all the donations.

Some of our school children accompanied Mrs Sue Young to lay a wreath on behalf of the school for Remembrance Sunday. We also held an assembly in school to explain to the children the significance of Remembrance Sunday.

In the run up to Christmas we have the PTFA Christmas Fair taking place on Friday 8th December 3.30pm – 5.30pm. Please pop down and support the PTFA in raising funds for the school. This term their funding has gone towards a new karaoke machine to play music to the children at lunchtime and some new football goals.

We have asked the children to donate to the Need project this year instead of writing Christmas cards, if any local residents would also like to drop items off, we are collecting in school and will be delivering to one of their hubs on Thursday 7th December. They have specifically asked for Mince pies and medium sized Christmas puddings for their Christmas food parcels.

On behalf of Shillington Lower School, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

“THE MIDWINTER GARDEN” by Donna Cameron

***Donna's Garden Designs* - ☎ 07833-670934**



I can't believe it is nearly Christmas, with everyone busily bustling around Christmas shopping and preparing festive treats for friends and family, delivering Christmas cards and wrapping presents. During this busy time I like to go in the garden and take a break from the manic preparations and gather natural materials to decorate my home.

Holly, Ivy and fir branches for the mantelpiece. Old man's beard looks effective too, interspersed or have a go at making a wreath for the front door to welcome visitors. Rosehips add a bit of festive colour, along with of course Holly berries. You could dry slices of Oranges too. Make a pot at the front door up to welcome visitors with a small

fir tree, Cyclamen, trailing Ivy and Violas. Adding lights in the garden at Christmas also adds to the festive cheer.

You don't have to spend lots at Christmas and it is much more personal to make your own decorations and of course more environmentally friendly. Also, you could use dried flowers and seed heads from the garden to decorate gifts, recently a customer received a birthday gift with some Poppy seed heads on and it was very effective. Of course Christmas trees too, if you can buy a potted one and bring in each year this is much more effective both financially and environmentally. Just remember to keep well watered.

The garden still offers many delights, although more subtle than in the summer it still has some gorgeous editions. An Evergreen that is easily overlooked the rest of the year is *Sarcococca confusa*, or Christmas Box. It has small, dainty white flowers with the most heavenly scent that fills the air on a winter's day. A must for the garden! Another highly fragrant shrub at this time of year is Winter Honeysuckle, *Lonicera fragrantissima*. It is more of a bush than trailing. It is well worth having.

Also of course, Christmas roses or Hellebores are gorgeous editions in pastels and whites nodding their heads. They look shy in the garden but if cut and heads placed in a shallow bowl of water then you can really appreciate their different colours and markings and makes a lovely centrepiece.

Last year it snowed just before Christmas and made the gardens look magical, just like Christmas cards. If we get a cold snap this year try and protect less Hardy plants with Horticultural fleece. Also another great tip is to knock off snow on plants to prevent cold damage, as this is how lots of plants were lost last year.

Throughout the holidays wrap up and get a mulled wine or a hot chocolate and sip it in the garden along with a warm mince pie. Look at the gardens beauty and slow down from the pace of modern life. If frosty, notice as the winter sun sparkles on grasses and seed heads. Simply magical as it glistens. Watch the birds flock in for food. Admire the little Christmas Robin surviving the harsh conditions. Keep a water supply and food out ready for them. My neighbour has started putting bird feeders out and the variety of birds we get in the garden is amazing. I enjoy watching them from my kitchen window and love it when we spot a new bird! A little Wren visited the other day. So remember to enjoy your garden in all the seasons.

Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas! Donna x

JOBS IN THE GARDEN FOR DECEMBER

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Protect tender plants with horticultural fleece * Insulate outdoor tap * Prune apple and pear trees not fan trained or espalier * Rake leaves and make leaf mould 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Prune vines, overgrown shrubs and climbing roses * Keep bird feeders and bird baths topped up * Don't turn compost in case animals are hibernating * Plant broad beans and garlic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Plant trees and shrubs * Cut stems of Holly, Ivy and Mistletoe and Fir cones for festive decorations * Plant Amaryllis * Plant fragrant shrubs to enjoy e.g. Sarcococca, Daphne odora and Winter Honeysuckle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Harvest sprouts * Enjoy paper white narcissus and Poinsettia * Plant bare root roses and shrubs * Weed beds

GARDEN HOUSE HOSPICE CARE – CHRISTMAS TREECYCLING FRIDAY, 5TH JANUARY – WEDNESDAY, 10TH JANUARY 2024

After all the Christmas festivities are over, we're on hand to take the hassle out of getting rid of your Christmas tree, and the good news is – we're coming your way!

We'll have a team out in **Shillington** collecting trees for recycling between 5th and 10th January in exchange for a donation to the Hospice. Book your collection in advance at www.ghospicecare.org.uk/event/christmas-treecycling 🌲



PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DECISIONS from CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL:

CB/23/02456/FULL – 10 Wilson Close
Single Storey rear and two-storey side extensions. **Granted 24/07/2023**

CB/23/02608/FULL – 17a Hanscombe End Road
Single storey rear and side extension and new bi-folds doors to rear.
Not proceeded with 21/08/2023

CB/23/02505/FULL – 31 Bury Road
Garage roof terrace with external steps. **Granted 04/10/2023**

APP/P0240/W/23/3319182 (CB/22/02520/OUT) – Land at 55 Upton End Road
Appeal dismissed 19/10/2023.

NEW/REVISED APPLICATIONS:

Applications considered at the November Parish Council meeting

CB/23/02764/FULL – 17 Upton End Road
Erection of a new detached dwelling with associated works. Demolition of existing detached garage, erection of replacement garage. **Comments only**

CB/23/03026/OUT – Thomas Meadow, Hillfoot Road
Outline Application: for 8 self-build custom homes with access and all ancillary works. All matters reserved except access and layout.
DO NOT SUPPORT Unanimous.

CB/23/03416/FULL – 17C Hanscombe End Road
Single storey rear extension. **SUPPORT, Unanimous.**

CB/23/03275/FULL – 126-128 Bury Road
Erection of detached two-storey sustainable dwelling together with a new vehicular access, parking and turning area, and associated private garden, landscaping and boundary treatment. **Do Not Support (6 for, 1 against).**

CB/23/03449/FULL – 20 Hillfoot Road
First floor infill extension with associated roof and internal alterations.
Support, Unanimous.

VILLAGE FACILITIES

SHILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB

Greenfields, Shillington ☎ 07826-518667 (Gavin)

Closed from 2nd January 24 for refurbishment



We would like to thank you all for your continued support throughout 2023. BIG THANKS to ALL the volunteers for their hard work in keeping the doors open. We look forward to the refurbishment works and to welcoming you back.

Look out for our Christmas Opening Times on The Social Club & Shillington Village Facebook Pages.

Current Opening Times:

- ★ Mondays: 7.30pm-11.00pm ★ Thursdays: 7.30pm-11.00pm ★
- ★ Fridays: 7.30pm-11.30pm ★
- ★ Saturdays: 12 noon - 8.00pm ★ Sundays 12 noon-8.00pm ★

Licensing Policy:

Children aged 16 and under are welcome with an appropriate adult until 9pm on any day we are open. *Social Club Committee*



SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

All enquiries please contact:
the **BOOKING CLERK** on ☎ **07376-682935**
e-mail: shillingtonvillagehall@yahoo.com

Large Hall - Stage - Small Meeting Room - Kitchen & Bar Facilities - Disabled Access & Toilet.

- ★ **Children's Parties** ★ **Discos/Dances** ★ **Meetings** ★ **Toddler Groups** ★
- ★ **Indoor Bowls** ★ **Exhibitions** ★ **Circuit Training** ★ **Karate** ★

The Car Park (when not in use by hall bookers) can be hired for events where village parking is limited.

The Village Hall Committee would politely request residents making use of the Car Park for overnight parking to please note (see booking sheet on Notice Board) that Hall Hirers take priority for parking for their bookings, if you could ensure you are not occupying the car park during these times.

Thank you ☺



THE FRIENDLY PLACE

(3 'C's)


From December 11th

Mondays, 11.00am to 2.00pm

At the Congregational Church, Shillington
Join us for tea, coffee, soup and a roll, cakes and friendly chat.
Bring your knitting, reading, games if you wish.
No charge but donations are welcome!

**Hosted by Linda & Trish of All Saints' Church and
Angus & Nola of the Congregational Church, Shillington**

**For more information you can call
Linda on 01462-711761 or Trish on 07754-760073**





Wanderbus, your Community Bus service based out of Meppershall, has received delivery of its new 73-plate bus.

The 2015 bus has been replaced after 8 years of service and we now have a brand new Fiat 16-seater bus built by Mellor Coach & Bus Company of Rochdale. This is the 5th bus Wanderbus has had built by Mellor's since the start of their services back in 1989.

Wanderbus is run entirely by volunteers and is OPEN to all passengers, the same as any other bus service, with destinations across Beds, Bucks, Cambs and Herts and fixed weekday routes picking up from the towns and villages around Shefford & Stotfold.



As from November 1st 2023 Wanderbus have joined the DfT Government sponsored scheme where anyone paying cash will be charged **£2.00 or less per single journey**. The scheme runs until December 2024. (This does not affect child fares nor bus-pass users).

This offers great value to get directly to Cambridge, Milton Keynes, Welwyn Garden City, St Albans, St Neots and all the more local destinations including Hitchin, Biggleswade (Centre & A1 Retail Park), Bedford and Letchworth.

Wanderbus also operates excursions throughout the year so watch out for the 2024 programme that will be launched early next year.

Wanderbus relies on 'numbers of passengers' for receiving reimbursement from County Councils for concessionary bus passes as well as any cash fares taken, so please support us as often as you can.

Call 0300 123 3023 or e mail thewanderbus@gmail.com for a timetable and come join the 'friendly service'.



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS



CBC's trading standards department has provided the following numbers, to assist residents in identifying doorstep cold callers, purporting to be from energy or water companies, and enable checks with these organization if any reason for concern.

British Gas	General Enquiries	0800 048 0202
EDF Energy	Customer services	0800 096 9000
National Gas	Emergency Service Helpline	0800-111-999
npower	General Enquiries (landline)	0800 073 3000
	General Enquiries (mobile)	0330 100 3000
ScottishPower	General Customer Service (landline)	0800 027 0072
	General Customer Service (mobile)	0345 270 0700
SSE	General Enquiries	0800 980 8831
Anglian Water		0800 145 145
UK Power Networks	To report or get info on power cuts Text POWER and your postcode to 80876 www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk	National number 105

Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford Bedfordshire, SG17 5TQ. (www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)	
General enquiries	0300 300 8000 (customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)
Highways/Emergencies on the roads (fallen trees, etc). 24-hour emergency team	0300-300-8049
Dog Fouling/animal welfare	0300-300-8302
Flooding	0300-300-8049
Planning	0300-300-8307
Recycling/Flytipping	0300-300-8302
Police (Emergency)	999
Bedfordshire Police (non-Emergency)	101
Bus Information	0870-608-2608 or 01234-228337
Shillington Services (Martin Brogan) <i>for washing machine repairs, etc...</i>	07975-944394
High Road Stores/Post Office	0345 722 3344
The Crown Inn.....	01462-711667
The Musgrave Arms (Giuseppe).....	07739-864634 / <i>pub</i> 01462-712789
The View (formerly Live & Let Live).....	01582-882555

Parish Councillors – contact details:

John Hyde 07799-537346	Gavin Jenkins 07826-518667	Liam Keene 07867-993393	Angus McCormick 01462-712096	Richa Mitra via the Clerk
Annie Palmer via the Clerk	Tracey Petrie via the Clerk	Blake Stephenson 0300-300-8526	Mark Thyne 01462-712201	Derek Turner 01462-712462



GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION CHANGES

The poster features a background of vibrant yellow and orange autumn leaves. In the top right corner, there is a green circular logo with the text 'Central Bedfordshire'. The main text is written in large, bold, white letters: '12-week suspension of garden waste collections'. At the bottom left, a green horizontal bar contains the dates '4 Dec 2023 - 23 Feb 2024' in white. In the bottom right corner, there is an orange circular graphic with the text 'Please Share!' in white, handwritten-style font.

**12-week
suspension of
garden waste
collections**

Central
Bedfordshire

4 Dec 2023 - 23 Feb 2024

Please
Share!

Kerbside collections of garden waste are paused every winter, across Central Bedfordshire.

The suspension will take place for a 12-week period from Monday, 4 December 2023 until Friday, 23 February 2024 inclusive.



THE SHAMROCK CLINIC



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INFO@SHAMROCKCLINIC.CO.UK



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VILLAGE CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 1-3 Congregational Church – Xmas Tree Festival – see poster on page 19 for more details
- 2 All Saints Friends – Xmas Tree in War Memorial Garden until 6 January.
- 2 All Saints Church – Xmas Fayre at the Church – 12 noon to 3.30pm
- 3 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 3 Congregational Church – Close of Xmas Tree Festival & Carols
- 5 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 8 Lower School Xmas Fair – 3.30pm to 5.30pm – see poster on page 23 for more details
- 9 Social Club – Live band – “MICE WITH GLASSES” from 9pm
- 10 Congregational Church Service – Mrs.Nola McCormick – 10.30am
- 10 Village Carol Service – All Saints Church, Shillington – 6pm
- 13 Men’s Club – Xmas Party at Stondon Golf Club
- 14 Wives Group – Christmas Meal at The Orange Tree, Hitchin
- 15 All Saints Church – Santa’s Float around the parish. See front cover for more details.
- 17 Congregational Church – Favourite Carols & Christmas Music – 10.30am
- 17 Social Club – Christmas Draw Day & Auction in Aid of MND – 6.30pm
- 24 All Saints’ Church Service – 9.30am
- 24 Congregational Church - Seasonal Music, Carols & Readings – 10.30am
- 25 All Saints’ Church Communion Service – 9.30am
- 31 Joint Service at The Congregational Church with All Saints, Gravenhurst & Stondon
- 31 Social Club – KYLIE TRIBUTE (adults only)

JANUARY 2024

- 2 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 5-10 Garden House Hospice – Xmas Tree Recycling (see page 30 for more details)
- 7 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 11 Wives Group – New Year’s Party – Congregational Church – 2pm to 4pm
- 14 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Peter Hyde – 10.30am
- 15 Playing Field Management Committee Meeting – Congregational Church – 8pm
- 17 Village Hall Management Committee Meeting – Jubilee Room – 7.30pm
- 21 Congregational Church Service – Mr. Richard Crane – 10.30am
- 28 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Catherine Booton - 10.30am
- 31 Men’s Club – Kick off Party 24 – Congregational Church – 7.30pm
- 31 Shillingfest Meeting – Jubilee Room – 8pm

FEBRUARY

- 4 Congregational Church Service – to be arranged – 10.30am
- 6 Parish Council Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 8 Wives Group – Demo “The Patterned Path to Freedom” – Kay Goddard – Cong.Ch. 2-4pm
- 11 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am

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