

PARISH NEWS

covering
SHILLINGTON, PEGSDON & HIGHAM GOBION

SHILLINGTON GOLD CUP



Place your bets!

Riders up!!

They're off!!!

**SATURDAY
7th MARCH**

7.30 PM

Village Hall

Grab your tickets
and join the action!

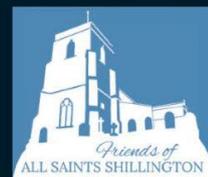
£10.00 includes
light supper

Licenced Bar

To reserve tickets email:
foass25@gmail.com or call

Andy - 07922 017051

Jackie - 07485 617556



Issue 182 – FEBRUARY 2026

Deadline for April edition – Friday, 20th March 2026

PARISH COUNCIL

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) is compiling a new Local Plan to guide development in years to come. In November, they asked Parish and Town Council to nominate up to 10 areas that are particularly valued by the local community and might be designated as Local Green Spaces. They suggested including village greens and playing fields, wildlife-rich areas, tranquil spaces and areas of historic or cultural significance. While CBC claims they wish to protect these for future generations, they stress that such designation would not prevent development from taking place.

The tight deadline for submissions did not allow time to hold public consultations and with a packed agenda for the December meeting, councillors gathered evidence from different parts of the village and discussed their merits online and in person. They identified many areas with strong credentials and assumed that residents would want to see places close to their homes included. They ended up submitting 17. When CBC have decided, we'll let you know which ones they have designated.

The conflicts between vehicles and other road users surfaced again. A member of the public attended the December meeting to make us aware of the potential danger facing him and his neighbours leaving Preslent Close and New Walk when their visibility is obscured by parked vehicles along High Road. As many appeared to be connected with DW Autos in High Road, he had spoken to the owner and asked him to find parking elsewhere. In January, a wheelchair-user from Church Street pointed out that with the pavement on Old Bells corner being narrow and lacking a dropped kerb, they had to access it at Bells Close which meant travelling along the middle of Hillfoot Road past parked cars. They asked if the yellow lines could be extended to the bus stop. Others had requested that 'Children Crossing' signs should be installed in this area. The Parish Council continues to pass these issues to CBC but with a tight budget for highways improvements, hopes of swift action are unlikely to be fulfilled.

Two long-awaited schemes are set to go ahead during the next financial year though. New drains and a pipe will be installed in Church Street to deal with the water that comes from a natural spring and, in Greenfields, the junction and paths will receive attention. Councillors regretted that work to replace a fire hydrant in Hanscombe End Road had not been done while the road was closed last year. This would require a new closure between the 10th & 12th of February and would be very inconvenient while Apsley End Road is still blocked.

The January meeting was the first to take place on a Thursday to allow Blake Stephenson, our Central Bedfordshire Councillor, to attend in person. His role as MP for Mid Bedfordshire has kept him away from our Tuesday evening meetings since he was elected in July 2024, although he had often submitted written reports. He was asked if he felt his role as an MP had affected his ability to represent the people of Shillington as a local councillor. He replied that he attended all full council meetings. It was also an advantage being an MP as it gave him more contacts. He pointed out that changes to the distribution of Government financial support to local authorities had left CBC with a £17 billion shortfall in its 2026-7 budget which would inevitably lead to a 5% rise in Council Tax, further measures to cut costs and increased charges for some services. He also told us that progress was being made to resolve the problems affecting residents of Sandy Heath Close where the developers had submitted a retrospective planning application to sort out an irregularity.

The Parish Council met for a second time in December to discuss their 2026-7 budget. Rising costs would lead to residents of a Band D property paying 4.2% more for the parish council's component of their Council Tax, rising by £2.42 to £59.67.

Also attending the meeting were the couple who are generously donating 6.3 hectares of planted woodland to the village. You can read more about this in a separate article (see page 10). Councillors discussed the three-yearly Tree Safety Survey that a qualified arboriculturalist had carried out recently. There are dead branches in several of the trees on the village green and a contractor will be engaged to remove them. One tree at the playing field that has suffered historic fire damage is showing possible symptoms of chalara (ash dieback) and will require monitoring. Fortunately, there is no sign of it in the other ash trees.

Parish Council meetings will resume in their usual Tuesday evening slots on 3rd February and 3rd March but the April meeting will be on a Thursday along with those in July and September.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / ITEMS / NEWS IN BRIEF

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 ☎ 01462-711594 or leave a message.
If there is a delay on this number then ☎ 07930-812940*



John Butler 22.11.42 - 22.8.2025

Diane would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and support over the last few difficult months.

Many of you came to help me celebrate his life on what would have been his 83rd birthday and I want to thank everyone who came along to make it such a memorable evening. Especial thanks to the bellringers who excelled themselves and filled the village with the joyous sound of our church bells and my friends who generously rallied round with food, helping hands and kindness.

And lastly Jo from Discolicious who made the most amazing sandwiches!

Royal British Legion collection for Shillington & Gravenhurst, 2025.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to Remembrance this year. The schools did exceptionally well and the total banked was **£1,849.34**.



There were bank transfers made for wreaths, and digital payments for poppies, which don't appear in this figure.

The service at the Congregational Church was memorable; well done, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, and everyone who attended.

Shirley McGrath (EAB29)

COMMUNITY EVENTS - DIARY DATES 2026

@ Memorial Playing Field, Shillington

☺ Shillingfest26 - Saturday, 27th June

☺ Fireworks Spectacular - Saturday, 7th November

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. ☎ 01462-713224

email: clerk@shillington-pc.gov.uk

<https://shillington-pc.gov.uk>



MEET THE VICAR !

**Wednesday, 11th February – 3pm to 5.30pm
Jubilee Room (rear of Village Hall)**

Come and meet Revd. Jenna & team from All Saints for tea and cake and a chat. All welcome.



All Saints Church

Gravenhurst and Shillington

www.allsaintsshillington.org.uk



Hello from All Saints Church!

February always seems to come around quickly after the excitement of Christmas and New Year. We make our resolutions in January and are looking out for signs of Spring. In the church calendar, particularly this year as Easter falls so early, we very soon find ourselves at Ash Wednesday and heading into Lent.

Lent has traditionally and through history, been a time when Christians are called to self-reflection, penitence (seeking forgiveness and righting oneself with God), self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter.

In the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked with ash with the sign of the cross at the beginning of this period of forty days, reminiscent of the time Jesus spent in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry.

This all might feel a bit at odds with our world and lives today which are often full, busy, often comfortable, and full of distraction. There sometimes just doesn't seem time to think beyond what we have to do or even cope with each day.

But we can be reminded in the story of Jesus in the wilderness, in all that he faced, of his steadfastness and that God never left him. It is a good reminder to us that anything we commit to do or change or reflect upon during Lent is done so within God's love.

That means that for everyone giving up something, for everyone committing to do something, for everyone thinking about Lent and for everyone not thinking about Lent, God's love is for you! So maybe as we head into Lent, have a think about how you might respond to this time and opportunity to pause and reflect.

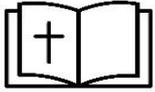
All Saints Church is open every day and everyone is welcome to come into the church to enjoy the space, a place of peace and prayer or join any of the services. We look forward to seeing you.

Revd Jenna Dearden

Email: revjennadearden@gmail.com

Mobile: 07708 666612





All are very welcome to services at All Saints in February and March!

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

- 1 February 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 5.00 pm Evensong
- 8 February 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 15 February 9.30 am Morning Praise
- 18 February 7.30 pm Ash Wednesday - Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes**
- 22 February 9.30 am All Age Holy Communion

SERVICES IN MARCH

- 1 March 9.30 am Holy Communion / 5.00 pm Evensong
 - 8 March 9.30 am Holy Communion
 - 15 March 9.30 am Morning Praise
 - 22 March 9.30 am All Age Holy Communion
 - 29 March **10.00 am Palm Sunday - Holy Communion**
- Joint service with the Congregational Church – At ALL SAINTS**

EASTER SERVICES at All Saints

- Tuesday 31 March 7.30 pm Sung Compline
- Friday 3 April 2.00 pm Last Hour at the Cross
- Sunday 5 April 6.30 am Dawn Service for Easter Sunday
- Sunday 5 April 9.30 am Easter Sunday Holy Communion

(See our notice board for more details of services happening across the Benefices)

EVENTS AT ALL SAINTS

All Saints QUIZ with Light Supper

Saturday 7 February 2026 at 7.30pm at Shillington Village Hall

Raffle on the night. Tickets £10. Please contact **Liz 07930 812940** or **Denise 07414 513683**.

Please see the Friends page for their forthcoming events.

200 CLUB WINNERS

DECEMBER		JANUARY	
1 st	£50 No. 152 Richard Brettell	1 st	£50 No. 100 Robyn Karslake
2 nd	£25 No. 023 Celene Robinson	2 nd	£25 No. 113 Samantha Crawley
3 rd	£10 No. 200 Michael Bradley	3 rd	£10 No. 147 Christine Ashwell

For further information contact: Tim Watson, 61, High Street Tel. 01462 711123



ALL SAINTS CHURCHYARD – ‘TOPPLE TESTING’: In January 2026 we completed ‘topple testing’ memorials (headstones) in the churchyard. A number have been identified as having some movement and need attention to avoid them being laid down in a future test. A list of the memorials will be placed in the porch of the church and on the website site by the end of January. Please do make contact with us should you need to give attention to your family memorial. If you are visiting family graves, please do have a look at the stability of your memorial stone to ensure that it remains safe. If you have any questions about this or are aware of any unstable headstones please do get in touch.

THE CHURCH LANTERN: (The lantern above the stepped entrance at the south-east corner of the churchyard). The church lantern is currently undergoing investigative work to see what is required to restore and maintain this lovely feature in the churchyard. The lantern is due to be removed shortly, so you may notice it has disappeared for a few months! Updates will appear on the Village Facebook page. The stairway continues to be lit at night as usual.



HUMOUR and HOPE

by *Revd. Angus McCormick* ☎ 01462-712096

Minister of Shillington Congregationalist Church

No doubt about many of us having times of worry or anxiety in our lives at any age or stage in our growing up; examinations, health issues, relationships, work... the list is endless. My own early anxieties were over leaving home to go to university for 5 years across the Irish Sea to Manchester which I had never been to. I didn't have the money to get back home at the end of the year and had to borrow it. What money I earned on Sundays preaching was mostly taken by the church headquarters.

Once home in the summer I got temporary work usually which I gave to my parents for my keep. Once or twice I was successful in college prizes to get an award with money. I remember with mixed feelings going to buy a pair of slippers after one such award! We had some great laughs about how little we had to live on and if we could afford to supplement the petrol money to a friend who had managed to buy a very unreliable second-hand car. We usually ended up having to push start it somewhere on our journey. We all hoped for better times...knowing we would never be big earners. No matter how well we did at our studies or even how many further courses we took in the end our salaries would be minimal. Sometimes there was sadness when a friend died because of a health condition and we supported each other and learnt more about hope in such circumstances. We would be helping people in all kinds of circumstances often without any additional training or resources.



Well of course we went our different ways none of us being able to choose to work near to any of our friends and usually many hundreds of miles apart. So many memories of happiness and laughter even through all the years of anxieties and challenges... that is usually what we called having strong differences of opinion in our work place. No protection from dismissal if your challenges were so great and I do know of those who were left jobless. No golden handshakes or bonus payments even after long and successful years of work just hopefully a personal satisfaction of work well done for the benefit of others.



Recently I have been much cheered by good humour and kindness and hope that has always been there in fact. Lovely bunches of daffodils given randomly by the generosity of David M to brighten up dark days and express love and kindness. Thank you, David. Laughter at which way to put the union flag up by the ever kind and helpful hand of Stewart! Such wonderful warmth and kindness from the **whole** team in the Friendly Space preparing and giving out soup, cakes and other delicious eatables. Lots of laughter about silly things at times and relaxing fellowship.

Of course, recently too, as I shared my need of another hip replacement and feeling sorry for myself with pain I had the perfect antidote when Rob E simply said Hip Hip Horrah ! Thank goodness for indoor bowls and the great people there.

So on and on it goes reflecting on the hope around us and those helping to share good humour when it is appropriate and those who are there when maybe no one else is restoring our hope in human goodness. I do love those dogs who like to chat with me and hold their owners back because they know what their priorities are! Long live those who know their priorities and share hope and good humour along the way. Watch out for those so called weeds coming up early and before you can sort them out.



Every blessing, *Revd. Angus*



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWS

47 Church Street, Shillington

www.shillingtoncong-church.org.uk

Led by God's love - welcoming all - serving our community

SERVICES:

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



FRIENDLY PLACE:

The Friendly Place continues on a Monday open from 11.30am to 1.30pm with soup and a roll. Everyone welcome to share company, chat and refreshments.

BEDFORD FOODBANK:

Thank you to the local community for the continuing support of the Bedford Foodbank which is much appreciated. Without the support of individuals, community groups and organisations the Foodbank could not meet the increasing need in Bedford and surrounding area. Total donations for 2025 amounted to 657.83kg, which provided 1,566 meals.

Items currently in short supply:

<i>Tinned Custard</i>	<i>Jars of Coffee</i>
<i>Tinned Potatoes</i>	<i>Long life Milk</i>
<i>Tinned Fruit</i>	<i>Long Life Fruit Juice</i>
<i>Tinned Vegetables</i>	<i>Shampoo</i>
<i>Bars of Chocolate</i>	<i>Deodorant</i>
<i>Pasta Sauces</i>	

Collections can be left at **1 Bells Close** or at **The Congregational Church** when open.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



A big Thank You to everyone who visited, helped or supported the Festival in any way to contribute to a successful week-end and raise the magnificent sum of £1,700.00 for the charity 'BRAINKIND'.

At our service on Sunday 11th January, we were pleased to hand over a cheque for £1,700 to Brainkind, the money raised at our Christmas Tree Festival. Fiona from Brainkind told of the kind of work the charity carries out for those with acquired brain injuries and other neurological conditions, and how the money would be used to help with their work.

On behalf of the members of the church I would like to thank everyone who supported our festival in any way to make this donation possible. Thank you to all those individuals and groups who entered trees or displays; to everyone who gave raffle and tombola prizes and those who bought tickets; to those who kept us supplied with refreshments, and the Book Club and Guides & Rangers who served them, but especially to everyone who attended the festival, making this great result possible.

Thank you all.

Nola McCormick, Shillington Congregational Church



It's February:

"Spring stands at the gate with her finger on the latch" (Patience Strong).

It's the New Year and Shillington WI was hoping to start it off with a fun Bingo Quiz evening. However, Storm Goretti threatened heavy rain and high winds so members thought it prudent to postpone it. The quiz will keep for another day or evening!

The weather behaved itself for Shillington WI's Evening of Festive Fun in December. Jo from Disco-licious provided us with an outstanding buffet and Lisa Garrity entertained us beautifully playing festive songs and carols on her saxophone. It was a brilliant evening which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Andrew Elliman is our speaker in February. In his talk: 'Against All Odds – a story of resilience on Mt Everest and the English Channel', Andrew will tell us about some of his amazing adventures which has inspired many and raised thousands for charity.



In March, Shillington WI holds its AGM. It will be followed by Andy Gibbs reading a few of his beautiful, uplifting poems. He will also show us some stunning pictures he has taken around Shillington while walking his lovely dog, Finn.

The Walking Club meets every month. We are so lucky in our village as we have so many footpaths – even during the wettest of weathers, walkers can find paths that aren't too mucky!

The Lunch and Supper Clubs are back to enjoying delicious meals at the many venues within a short distance of Shillington. Members are in the process of getting together to knit or crochet as many red poppies as possible for Remembrance Sunday.

Visitors are very welcome to our meetings.

For further information please contact:

**Liza Starling, President ☎ 07442-019089 or
Jacqui Turnbull, Secretary - shillingtonwi@gmail.com**

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

By **Annie Palmer** (*WI Ambassador for Climate Change*) Anniejpalmer74@gmail.com

I love long, hot, sunny days so February has always been my least favourite month of the year. It does, however, have the joy of anticipation in its favour as the evenings are drawing out and spring is on the horizon. It also has snowdrops! When the weather is miserable, these delightful plants make me smile.



Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) are known as the Fair Maids of February. *Galanthus* comes from the Greek for “milk flowers” and *nivalis* means “of the snow”. They are often thought of as heralds of spring, symbolizing hope and purity.

When we get those bitter, cruel winter winds that seem to go right through you, snowdrops just nod their delicate white heads in defiance and remain strong and undaunted. Considering how dainty they look, they are one very tough, resilient little flower. I could learn a lesson or two from them, though I might have an issue with “delicate” and “dainty” that’s definitely not me! I’m holding on to those thoughts of spring and hope and purity as I’m definitely not keen on the others that keep coming into my head. My concerns about climate change and biodiversity loss have been partially eclipsed by those of the awful goings-on in the world. It seems the planet’s being controlled by a handful of complete nutters (is that PC?) who don’t care about anything or anyone, except themselves. Listening to or watching the news has become a health hazard. A spot of mindfulness isn’t going amiss at the moment.

Recently, during intercessory prayers at the Holy Communion Service at All Saints’ Church, Peter asked the Lord to teach us to care and share. I prayed fervently (and continue to pray) that those with power and in power, who only know how to take and break, are taught to care and share.

Over the past eighteen months, it seems that a lot of people have put tackling climate change and biodiversity loss on the backburner. Concerns about these two interlinked crises have been eclipsed by what is happening in the world. I’ve been told a number of times that there’s no point tackling or worrying about global warming and loss of nature when the aforementioned nutters are destroying the planet quicker than climate change. This is alarming on so many counts. *“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning”* (Albert Einstein). *“We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated”* (Maya Angelou).

With regard to biodiversity loss, it was really good to read recently that a survey has shown that the majority of people with gardens are turning some of their lawn into flower beds, wildlife habitats and vegetable plots. It was also heartening to read that so many farmers are now working with nature instead of against it. They are going back to some of the old nature-friendly, and soil-friendly, methods of farming – it gives me hope when I hear about things like this.



“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness” (Desmond Tutu). *“We must accept finite disappointment but never lose infinite hope”* (Martin Luther King Jr). *“Once you choose hope, anything’s possible”* (Christopher Reeve).

Annie x

AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY FOR THE VILLAGE SHILLINGTON COMMUNITY WOODLAND

By Derek Turner, with support from Joe Olding & Graham Bellamy

In November last year a couple, who had planted trees in three fields off Upton End Road, contacted the Parish Council. Three councillors met them informally and they made an amazingly magnanimous offer. They wished to donate the site to the village on condition that it would be maintained for the benefit of wildlife and for residents to enjoy.

Here, we describe the area and explain what opportunities will be available for those of us who would like to get involved with looking after it.

Tree planting took place in March 2022 where a farmer had grown crops previously. The Woodland Trust supplied the plants, guards and labour under its 'More Woods' scheme. There were 6,500 trees and 2,900 shrubs featuring:



- 🌳 native trees that can become very large such as common oak, ash and beech
- 🌳 smaller trees including alder, field maple, rowan, willow, silver birch and wild cherry
- 🌳 species with edible fruit or nuts namely crab apple, sweet chestnut, walnut and hazel
- 🌳 shrubs rich in berries represented by dog rose, hawthorn, holly and spindle

The timing proved to be unfortunate as a hot, dry summer followed and only around half of the trees survived the blistering heat and lack of moisture. Subsequently, the owners and friends replaced many with new plants. The success rate now varies enormously across the site and is estimated to range from 10% in some parts to over 80% elsewhere.



Some trees and bushes have grown vigorously and already produced seed indicating that they will become a rich source of food for birds, butterflies and other creatures as well as providing shelter, nesting and roosting sites in years to come. Other trees have grown naturally from seeds that the wind and birds have spread from nearby trees such as oak, ash and field maple. As they all grow the woodland will become an increasingly important part of the local landscape and provide a shady site for us to visit on hot days. Loose dogs could cause havoc, particularly for ground-nesting birds and owners are requested to keep their pets on leads when passing or visiting the site.

The fields are adjacent to the grounds of Shillington Bury, which has an extremely long history. No trees were planted where there are likely to be archaeological remains, nor were any put in close to existing hedgerows and under power lines. A 'glad' was left in the large central field with a wide curving path linking it to the footpath. In these areas and in gaps between the trees, wildflowers are establishing naturally. We have spotted wild carrot, hedge bedstraw, self-heal, creeping buttercup, teasel, hoary ragwort, hard rush and various grass species.



Many tracks cross the site and suggest use by the likes of hares and muntjac adding further to the site's biodiversity. They can drink from drainage ditches that follow the internal field boundaries and join a larger ditch along the eastern side.



The current owners envisaged that the area would need little management in years to come but maintaining and adjusting tree guards and stakes while the trees are young and removing them when they are no longer required will be essential. We have identified other ways that people could get involved and which could enhance the site further:

- 🌳 Doing plant and wildlife surveys
- 🌳 Collecting tree and wildflower seeds locally and raising them in pots ready for planting out.
- 🌳 Carrying out additional planting and transplanting self-set trees and bushes to places where planted trees have died.
- 🌳 Periodically cutting vegetation in glades and areas not planted with trees to facilitate access and prevent tall vegetation from taking over and shading out small wildflowers.
- 🌳 Creating 'habitat piles' of vegetation in suitable places
- 🌳 Creating wet areas or ponds by excavating and embanking suitable areas, linked to ditches within the site
- 🌳 Landscaping the hardstanding area with suitable planting
- 🌳 Installing benches and picnic tables
- 🌳 Installing an information board
- 🌳 Mowing areas subject to acquiring suitable equipment, finding somewhere to store it and training of operatives
- 🌳 Organising or attending events (e.g. guided walks, open days).



The owners came to the Parish Council meeting in January to discuss this further. It is likely that the Parish Council will hold the deeds to the site as custodian trustee with a covenant not to ever sell it and to comply with the Woodland Trust's conditions. It would act as guarantors to a charitable trust, which is similar to the relationship it has with the Playing Field and Village Hall.

Trustees will need to be appointed and might include people interested in or with experience of land management, wildlife and conservation knowledge, running events, writing grant applications, keeping accounts, publicity and knowledge of the law. They will have to set up third party insurance and register as a charity, which will make it eligible to apply for grants to help with one-off costs.

The generosity of the owners in making this a village asset is truly astonishing. Volunteers have already begun helping in the woodland. If you would like to join them or keep in touch with what's going on, please contact Joe Olding joelding@shillington-pc.gov.uk

We will arrange an opportunity to take you around the site in April.

SHILLINGTON MEN'S CLUB

(Now in its 19th year)

<https://Shillingtonmensclub.co.uk>

On the 10th December 2025 we had our Christmas Party at the view in Pegsdon. Here 35 members tucked into a 3 course meal of traditional Christmas Fayre followed by copious amounts of red wine and real ale! During the festivities we were entertained by the alluring tones of singer Kerry George who added a very festive feel to proceedings and rounded off 2025 in style. Thank you to Stewart Rataj and Colin Hands for organising this wonderful event.



Our first meal of the year took place on the 14th January at our very own The Crown at Shillington. It was a good turnout and 36 members tucked into a 2-course meal of Beef Bourguignon and Dauphinoise Potatoes or Pasta Bake followed by Profiteroles or Apple/Rhubarb Crumble and Custard yum-yum!

During the evening we were entertained by local lass Lily Parsons who treated us to a wealth of tunes from her extensive repertoire, and culminating by the members joining her with their rendition of "You'll Never Walk Alone" and "American Pie". It was a memorable evening enjoyed by all. Andy Russell, Alan Little and Mike Harris were the raffle winners. A big thank you to Colin Hands and Stewart Rataj for organising this event.



On the evening of the 21st January 12 members enjoyed an evening of Whisky tasting at fellow member Andrew Elliman's house. It was a fantastic evening sampling the different Whiskys which were accompanied by Chicken, Hot Dogs and Beef Burgers provided by our perfect hosts Andrew and his wife.

Future events:

☺ 11th February - Kick Off Party @ The Congregational Church.

Membership:

Current membership is 59 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!

Annual Membership of £15.

Contacts:

Events Co-ordinator - Michael Bradley

(01462 711162)

Email - michael894bradley@btinternet.com

Chairman – Kevin Johnson

(07748-525233)

Email – kevinjohnson360@msn.com



UPDATE FROM OUR MID BEDFORDSHIRE MP BLAKE STEPHENSON

It may be February now, but this is my first column of 2026 so I'm still obliged to say Happy New Year! It's certainly been an extremely busy start to the new year down in Parliament working hard for the people of Shillington and the rest of Mid Bedfordshire.

In fact, January was a record month since my election in July 2024 for giving speeches and asking Ministers questions in the House of Commons. From standing up for jury trials and against digital ID to local issues with blood tests and improving financial education in schools, we are continuing to hold the Government to account. But I will continue to work cross-party where possible in the best interests of our local communities.

And Shillington even got a shout-out during one of my Parliamentary questions! I have been campaigning for the Government to retain funding for the Listed Places of Worship Scheme, as without it vital repairs to village churches could be put at risk, and I mentioned All Saints as one of those historic village churches.

You can find a video of that question on my Facebook page
[facebook.com/blakemidbeds](https://www.facebook.com/blakemidbeds).

Road safety in Shillington continues to be an issue high on my agenda with many of you continuing to raise it with me, specifically around Marquis Hill. I am continuing to raise this with the local council and police who are aware of my concerns.

Unfortunately, this is not just a problem in Shillington, and there are lots of villages across Mid Beds who have made me aware of similar issues. I have also been supporting the Parish Council raising highways defects with Central Bedfordshire and we are constantly pushing for improvement works.

As always, as our local MP I am here to support you so if you have an issue you need to raise with me, please contact **blake.stephenson.mp@parliament.uk**, or keep an eye out on my social media and website (**[blakestephenson.uk](https://www.blakestephenson.uk)**) for details of future public events.

SHILLINGTON SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

MEET AT

SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

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



We continue playing short mat bowls on Mondays and Fridays. The internal triples league over halfway completed and Bill Gearing's team holds a commanding lead. However, it's all to play for to get second place, and the current teams in contention are led by Julia Bruce, Tony Duke and Toni Gearing. Good luck to all the teams over the coming weeks.

At Hatfield the competition will soon be split into two divisions. Shillington Red and Shillington Black currently stand in 5th and 7th place respectively, with only 1 point between the teams and one game left to play in this part of the competition. The top 6 teams will play off division 1 and the bottom 6 division 2.

Some members have been taking part in the Hertfordshire County qualifiers, and we have had two teams qualify for the National triple competition at Melton Mowbray. Well done to Julia Bruce and her team, who narrowly beat Neil Rixon, Trevor Knight and Michelle Conlon to become Hertfordshire County Triples Champions. Wishing them all the best of luck for the national competitions.

Finally, we also had a club member - Julia Bruce - represent the club playing for the England Ladies' team at the British Isles Competition, which was recently held in Belfast. Julia was part of the rinks competition and England came second overall. Well done on this amazing achievement.



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.

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.

For further information please contact:

Michelle Conlon (☎ 07974-772702) conlonmichelle@sky.com

or Derek Lewison (☎ 01462 711504)



SHILLINGTON SPITFIRES CRICKET CLUB

Cricket never stops!

It might be the depths of winter, but there's still plenty going on behind the scenes at the Shillington Spitfires CC especially now most of us have finished sulking over the Ashes.

WINTER NETS: It might be cold, wet and foggy, but the team is currently spending every other Friday at Robert Bloomfield Academy practicing for the 2026 season. So far we've had a fantastic response, with more than 20 players blowing off the cobwebs and loosening up. Once a month we have also employed the services of coach Scott Davies of Boundaries Cricket. Scott's knowledge and instruction is already paying dividends. The sessions are open to everyone of any ability, so feel free to come along and join us for a bat or a bowl.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: With the introduction of our own pitch, the club has invested in lawnmowers, rollers and plenty of equipment for the season ahead. The Spitfires are looking for sponsors to ensure Shillington has a cricket club for many years to come. If you feel you would like to sponsor the team or know of a local business who might be interested in sponsoring the club, we have some very attractive packages on offer. You can contact the team on Shillington.spitfiresCC@gmail.com (or call **Dave** on **07855-782444**) and we'll be more than happy to explain the sponsorship packages on offer.



GROUND WORKS: The ground staff have worked hard laying 50 bags of loam and seed over the square in preparation for the 2026 season.

COME AND PLAY: And if you're interested in playing, we're an inclusive club and welcome anyone who wants to try - just get in touch. You can use the email address or phone number above or find us on Facebook and Instagram by searching for Shillington Spitfires.

AND FINALLY, A THANK YOU: We just wanted to show our gratitude for the support our little Cricket Club had in 2025 - it has been incredible. Thanks to The Social Club, Stonegate Pubs, Nandos, The Crown, Discolicious, Premier (the village shop), Dan The Pizza Man, JBL, Scott the Cricket Coach and everyone who donated prizes or bought tickets for the end of season raffle... £650 raised, which is a fantastic amount 🙌. Also huge thanks to our 2025 season sponsors, whose contributions are invaluable to a small club like ours:

- 🔪 FPM
- 🔪 AW Constructions
- 🔪 Ethical Wealth Project
- 🔪 Sasse

Everyone at the club is looking forward to a cricket-filled 2026.

PEGSDON VIEW



Hello, how're you enjoying your winter?

The shortest day and solstice has been and gone and I'm already noticing slightly lighter evenings. I don't enjoy bitter cold and short daylight hours, but I love how gorgeous the world looks when iced with frost. I love the delicate, pastel colours of the sky, and a bright and crisp still day.

Lighting my multifuel stove and curling up with my dog and a book, steaming cup of spiced tea in hand, is a favorite way to end my winter evenings too. I hope those of you who struggle in the winter months are also able to find moments of joy in the season and know that soon the worst will pass and we'll be seeing the signs of spring and lighter evenings.

The Pegsdon hills still get lots of visitors in winter, and such a variety of activities such as leisurely dog walks, birding, hill running and hiking. It's brilliant to see people enjoying the fresh air and nature this area offers. The Wildlife Trust volunteers have been out in some miserable weather doing a fantastic job clearing scrub and taking care of the land and animals.



Sadly the B655 continues to be problematic, there have been multiple serious traffic accidents since I last wrote, two resulting in property damage, but thankfully no lives lost.

All accidents continue to be in the same spot, we believe the road would be safer with a 30mph limit through Pegsdon and phased 40 up to national speed limit either side. At the very least road signs to raise awareness of the risk should be in place, but council inaction continues.



As I walked round the village today I noticed some snowdrops peeking through on the verges and in front gardens, spring really is just around the corner and I'll be back out in the garden soon pruning, tidying and getting ready for the warmer weather.

Till next time, *Caroline*.

WIVES GROUP REPORT

The Wives Group started their 2026 session with a New Year's Party. Members socialised together and enjoyed a buffet supplied by Val, Maisie, Joyce & Christine. Members took part in a belated 'Secret Santa' with members bringing a gift and taking another one home. It was a lovely meeting enjoyed by all

The Group asks if anyone with a Hobby, Talent or a Business would like to talk, demonstrate or display their products at one of our meetings from September 2026 to May 2027 on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Congregational Church 2-4p.m. Please contact Pauline on 01462-711711 to discuss this.

Also we would welcome any new members who would like to join us at any of our meetings that are mentioned in the Village Calendar.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

CB/25/02974/FULL - Red House Farm, 19 Upton End Road, SG5 3PG. *Application withdrawn*

DECISIONS FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

CB/25/00997/FULL - Land east of 55, Upton End Road

Erection of two detached dwellings, associated landscaping and new access: Variation to amend plans for new double garages with offices above. **GRANTED**

CB/25/02907- New Farm, Upton End Road, SG5 3PG

Erection of single storey side extensions, two-storey rear extension, installation of a new chimney stack, and alterations to fenestration including first-floor Juliet balcony and rooflights at ground floor level, new windows and doors. Demolition of side extension. **GRANTED**

CB/TCA/25/00422 - 27 Church Street, SG5 3LJ.

Works to trees within a Conservation Area: Trim back a silver birch tree. Prune plum and apple trees. **RAISE NO OBJECTIONS**

CB/TCA/25/00472 - 8 Elmhurst Gardens, SG5 3NE.

Works to trees within a Conservation Area: Pollard Acacia up to 4m. Pollard Robina up to 4m. Pollard Sycamore up to 4m. Fell, process, and remove Box Elder. **DECIDED**

CB/25/02910 - 89 High Road, SG5 3LT

Erection of an oak framed garage. **GRANTED**

CB/25/03184 - Former Pig Pen, Higham Road, Higham Gobion

Demolition of existing building and erection of a dwellinghouse. **REFUSED**

CB/25/02569 - 21 Greenfields, SG5 3NX

Erection of boundary wall around garden, with vehicle and pedestrian gates. Erection of outbuilding. **GRANTED**

CB/25/03255 & CB/25/03256/LB - 75 Church Street, SG5 3LJ

Erection of garden fence and gate (Retrospective) **GRANTED**

CB/25/03525/VOC - Land East of 55 Upton End Road, SG5 3PE

Variation of condition number 2 of planning permission CB/25/00997/FULL (Erection of two detached dwellings, associated landscaping and new access): Variation to amend plans for new double garages with offices above. **GRANTED**

DISCUSSED BY PARISH COUNCIL BUT AWAITING A CBC DECISION

CB/25/00308/FULL – Land between 30 and 48 east of Hanscombe End Road

Retrospective planning permission for the use of the land and buildings as 15 dwellings with ancillary outbuilding amenity land and highway. **Do not support**

CB/24/01379 - Land adjacent to F C Dawes and Son Ltd, High Road, SG5 3LL.

Erection of 9 dwellings. **Do not support**

CB/25/03424/FULL - Barn at Chalkley Bush Farm, Hanscombe End Road, SG5 3NB.

Conversion of a hay barn to a self-build dwelling and erection of new car barn and cycle store with solar panels to the roof of both buildings.

Do not support due to flood risk. Not convinced that the entrance road meets the space requirements.

CB/25/03855/FULL– 2 Apsley End Road, SG5 3LX.

Erection of a two storey rear extension, with Velux roof lights. **Support**

NEW APPLICATIONS

CB/25/03452/FULL - 137 High Road, SG5 3LU

Single storey rear extension

CB/25/03970/FULL - 19 Bury Road, SG5 3NY

Erection of a detached car port with home office above

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

All Saints' Snippets

The fascinating history of the Church is one of the reasons it is so important to keep working on its preservation. In the last Parish News, I referred to the collapse of the tower in 1701 and the legend of the bells.



That's certainly not the only bell related tale. It is said that Queen Elizabeth the First passed close to Shillington on one of her royal progresses. It was customary to ring the bells at each church she passed, but the Shillington ringers, we don't know why, failed in this task. Furious, 'Good Queen Bess' ordered the church doors to be nailed shut until the parish paid a large fine to make amends!

2026 Projects

In 2026 we will be undertaking an ambitious programme of repairs and improvements, beginning shortly with repairs and renovation of the lantern above the stepped entrance to the churchyard and the iron arch.

We also hope to complete: -

- Essential repairs to the leadwork on the roof
- Vital repairs and improvements to the bell chamber
- Repairs to several sections of external masonry
- Redecoration of the South Porch

Progress with projects can be seen on the Friends' website on the current and recent projects page: - <https://foas-shillington.org.uk/>

2026 Events

Income from our events is vital to our continuing work. Here's what we have planned for 2026. Hope to see you there:

- **Saturday 7th March** in the Village Hall. **the Shillington Gold Cup**, the return of the ever-popular fun-packed horse racing evening.
- **Thursday 30th April** – The Friends' AGM – all welcome
- **Saturday 11th July** in the Village Hall. **A Murder Mystery Evening!**
- **Saturday 19th September**. **A Sing-a-Long film night at All Saints**
- **Sunday 27th September**. **Teddy Bear Hunt at All Saints'**
- **Sunday Teas** each Sunday afternoon from May to the end of September, often enhanced by music and other activities.

Thank you for your support for our 'Church on the Hill'.

Andy Gibbs

Friends of All Saints' Church (bazwell12@gmail.com)

How you can support the work of the Friends

As ever, we are keen for more people to join our happy little band. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch. We are on the lookout for: -

- New Committee members,
- People who could help at events and activities,
- Bakers and helpers for Sunday Teas
- 'Specialists' who could help with specific projects, such as publicity, events management, fundraising or IT.

If you could help in any of these ways, would like to know more about what we do or would simply like to make a donation towards our work, please contact our membership Secretary, Jackie Fletcher on 07485617556 or email foass25@gmail.com



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
Dewick Family Sally, Andy, Shaun & Thomas	In loving memory of dad & grandad Ken who left us on 30 th January 2020 and mum & grandma Joan, who left us on 13th February 2018. Always in our thoughts xx	Sunday 8 February	Saturday 14 February
Pamela & Darren Bakewell	On the occasion of Julia West's birthday on 20th February. Missed and remembered every day. Love from Pamela, Darren & all the family.	Sunday 15 February	Saturday 21 February
Lisa, Gary, Jamie-Leigh & Grandparents	Owen West, you are sadly missed. Not a day goes by when we wish you were here with us. Love forever Mum, Dad, Jamie-Leigh and Grandparents xx	Sunday 22 February	Saturday 28 February
Lynn & Richard Harris & Family	In loving memory of Ann Hare. Remembering her birthday on 19 th March. Loved and missed so much every day. Remembered always xx	Sunday 15 March	Saturday 21 March



The Friendly Place

Winter schedule

From November 3rd

Mondays, 11:30am to 13:30pm

At the Congregational Church, Shillington

Join us for tea, coffee, soup and a roll and friendly chat.

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

We can give you a lift if you need transport



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



All Saints Church
Gravenhurst and Shillington



QUIZ NIGHT

WITH LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

Saturday 7 February



7.30 pm

at Shillington Village Hall

Tickets £10

For tickets, contact;

Liz 07930 812940

Denise 07414 513683



Bring your own drinks and glasses

SHILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB 

FREE STATE REVOLUTION



**SATURDAY, 28TH
FEBRUARY, 2026
9PM**



MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS, GREENFIELDS, SHILLINGTON, SG5 3NX

*Come and support your
Social Club.*

*Great Beer, Wines & Spirits
Served by an amazing team of
local volunteers.*

*Worth a visit for the banter and
a good gossip.....*

*Not forgetting SKY sports for all
the memorable (and maybe some
forgettable!) sporting action....*

Fynnius Fogg are back...

*....to help boost Village Hall funds
to refurbish this much loved
community building.*

*Don't miss the chance for a good
old boogie to memorable songs
from 1960s/70s.*

*Licensed bar by our lovely team
from the Social Club.*

FYNNIUS FOGG

SHILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL, SG5 3LL

SATURDAY, 11TH APRIL 2026. Doors open 7:00pm
Fundraising for Village Hall Refurbishments.

Tickets £10 - available from:

+ Mags 07743-009076 + Katie 07974-676089 +
+ Sally 07711-504489 +

Licensed Bar (Gav/Social Club) + Raffle



A nostalgic journey of live 60's & 70's pop music

**Fynnius Fogg - Bedford's oldest boy band
performing free of charge**

FUNDED
PLACES
AVAILABLE

PIXIE PRESCHOOL @ SHILLINGTON LOWER SCHOOL

OPEN DAY

WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH

9:30AM - 11:30AM

CALL - 01462 711637

OR

EMAIL - OFFICE@SHILLINGTONLOWER.CO.UK
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US



A nurturing, fun and
inspiring place for little
learners to grow

- Experienced, caring staff
- Stimulating activities indoors and outdoors
- Focus on early years development and school readiness

SHILLINGTON LOWER SCHOOL, GREENFIELDS,
SHILLINGTON, SG5 3NX
WWW.SHILLINGTONSTONDON.CO.UK



We may have had a cold and wet start to 2026 weather-wise, but the children bounded back into school with great enthusiasm. We welcomed Mrs Flack into her new role as Head Teacher. She has made a great start, enjoying getting to know the children, parents and members of the wider Shillington Community.

Rabbits Class are looking forward to their trip to Tring Natural History Museum this half term and Barn Owls Class have been practising like billy-o for the Young Voices Choir concert, which they will take part in at the O2 in February.

Squirrels Class have been learning to play the recorder, whilst Hedgehogs have been learning about life cycles. They had great fun exploring the lifecycle of frogs and butterflies.

Pixies are having a super time with their new equipment, which was kindly funded by the Early Years Team at Central Bedfordshire Council. Our new starters have settled in like ducks to water, and we look forward to welcoming more new starters after half term.

We are holding our next Pixie Preschool open day on Wednesday 11th March 2026. Please contact Mrs Woodward in the school office for further details.

Mrs Clark is enjoying baking and cooking with our Afterschool Club every second Thursday – the children of course, love tucking into their homemade wares at the end.

During the coming term, we have school trips and look forward to welcoming Reverend Angus and Reverend Jenna back into school to host assembly. Keep an eye out for the dates of our next coffee morning, we would love to welcome members of the wider Shillington community to join us.

A huge thank you to Mrs Pechey who came into school last half term to present an assembly on behalf of WASP. The children really enjoyed it and were delighted to be gifted a little tree sapling. We look forward to hearing and seeing how they grow over the coming months and years.

As always, a big thankyou to our band of trusted volunteers for their continued support. Their commitment and support with reading and school trips is invaluable.

We are taking lots of enquiries for the Pixie Pre-school. We offer spaces to children from 2 years and 9 months up until entry into reception. Spaces are beginning to fill up quickly, so if you are interested in a space, please contact Mrs Woodward in the school office. She can arrange a look around and help to complete the required forms.

At Shillington Lower we have our own Breakfast Club and After School Club. Breakfast Club starts at 7.45am and runs until 8.45am (£5.75). Our After School Club runs from 3.30 – 5.30pm, with options to collect children at 4.30pm (£6.00), 5.00pm (£8.25) or 5.30pm (£10.50). By arrangement, when a pre-schooler is ready and when nearing Reception entry age, access to wraparound is an option.

Shillington Lower School ☎ 01462-711637 email: office@shillingtonlower.co.uk
website: www.shillingtonstondon.co.uk



SHILLINGTON CHILDMINDERS

Looking for Flexible, High-Quality Childcare in a Home-from-Home Setting?

We are experienced, Ofsted-registered childminders offering safe, nurturing, and stimulating home environments where children can play, learn, and thrive. Through play-based learning, we help children develop important life skills and confidence at their own pace. Our days are filled with fun and enriching activities - including visits to farms, play centres, splash parks, museums, and libraries. We also involve children in everyday experiences like shopping, gardening, and cooking to help them build practical life skills.

We are:

- Fully registered with Ofsted
- Covered by public liability insurance
- Trained in Safeguarding, First Aid, and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework
- Kept up to date with best practices through regular training and professional bulletins

Children in our care enjoy opportunities to build social skills and explore a wide variety of toys and learning resources through baby and toddler groups and other local settings. We also work together to provide cover for each other during holidays and absences whenever possible.

*We are registered to offer **15 and 30 hours of funded childcare** for eligible children from 9 months old, just like nurseries and pre-schools. (Funding usually starts the term after your child turns 9 months). Additional charges may apply for meals 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.*

Get in touch today to discuss your childcare needs - whether you're looking for immediate care or planning ahead for the future, we'd love to hear from you!

Katie Brettell 07974-676089 katiebrettell@icloud.com	Carli Mauger 07912-549931 carlimauger@gmail.com	Deb Pateman 07934-480446 debpateman@msn.com
Anita Hare 07485-025775 anitahare@outlook.com	Laura Griffiths 07493-903621 lauragriffiths820@gmail.com	

SNOW DRIFTS & BLANKETS OF GOLD

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



This time of year I am willing plants on, desperate to see the many bulbs emerge that I planted in the Autumn. As friends know I couldn't stop planting them, I can't resist! Now the bare brown soil is just starting to show the fresh green shoots and the magic begins!

February is synonymous with of course the Snowdrop. They herald in the beginning of spring with their tiny white trumpets. On a dreary winter's day they are a most welcome sight, be it a small clump in your garden or in a woodland in huge drifts. They are symbolic that spring is coming with warmer, longer days.

Another flower that often accompanies the Snowdrop is the Winter Aconite.

It looks like a Buttercup and is from the Ranunculaceae family, living underground most of the year to pop up this vibrant yellow in February, giving splashes of colour on drab wintry days and spreading cheer.

They are best bought in the green and are vital early food for pollinators. Introduced in the 1500s to the UK and became popular in landscape gardens in the 18th century. They tolerate most soils and are relatively easy to propagate. They represent Hope, new beginnings and resilience. What more can we ask for!



Happy New Year!

Donna x

JOBS IN THE GARDEN FOR FEBRUARY

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Chit potatoes✦ Prune winter flowering shrubs once finished flowering✦ Divide Snowdrops✦ Prune Wisteria✦ Cutback Ornamental grasses✦ Sew Sweetpeas and hardy annuals and keep in cold frame or greenhouse. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ Dead head winter Pansies✦ Divide herbaceous perennials✦ Mulch beds✦ Feed and water birds✦ Water pots if dry✦ Place Dahlia tubers and Gladioli corms in the warm and light to start them off. |
|--|---|

VILLAGE FACILITIES

SHILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB

Greenfields, Shillington ☎ 07826-518667 (Gavin)

☺ Meat Raffle every Saturday with proceeds to the Club Refurbishment



CURRENT OPENING TIMES:

- * Mondays: 7.30pm-11.00pm *
- * Thursdays: 7.30pm-11.00pm *
- * Fridays: 7.30pm-11.00pm *
- * Saturdays: 12 noon - 11.00pm *
- * 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

Registered charity no: 300066

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.

Fund raising Clothing Collection Bank in Car Park.

- * **Children's Parties** * **Discos/Dances** * **Meetings** *
- * **Indoor Bowls** * **Exhibitions** * **Circuit Training** *

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

Thank you ☺



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
Highways/Emergencies on roads (fallen trees, etc). <i>24-hour emergency team</i> ...	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
Mobile Fish & Chip Van – Spartan's Feast.....	07707-787752

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	Shelby Long via the Clerk	Joseph Olding via the Clerk	Mark Thyne 01462-712201	Derek Turner 01462-712462

VILLAGE CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 1 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 3 Parish Council Monthly Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 5 WI – Guest Speaker Andrew Elliman – Congregational Church – 8pm
- 7 All Saints' Church – Quiz Night – Village Hall – 7.30pm
- 8 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 11 Men's Club - Kick Off Party - Congregational Church
- 11 'Meet the Vicar' – Jubilee Room of Village Hall – 3pm-5.30pm
- 12 Wives' Group – 'Motion is Lotion' – Maggie Layton – Congregational Church – 2-4pm
- 15 Congregational Church Service – Mr. Richard Crane – 10.30am
- 16 Shillingfest26 Meeting – Social Club – 8pm
- 22 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 28 Social Club – Live Band Free State Revolution from 9pm

MARCH

- 1 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 2 Playing Field Management Committee Meeting – Social Club – 8pm
- 3 Parish Council Monthly Meeting – Congregational Church – 7.45pm
- 5 WI – AGM followed by Andy Gibbs Poetry Reading – Congregational Church – 8pm
- 7 Friends of All Saints – 'Shillington Gold Cup' at the Village Hall.
- 8 Congregational Church Service – Revd. Angus McCormick – 10.30am
- 11 Pixie Pre-School Open Day @ Shillington Lower School – 9.30am-11.30am
- 12 Wives' Group – 'Name that Tune' with Mary – Congregational Church – 2-4pm
- 15 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Sandra Galton – 10.30am
- 18 Village Hall Management Committee Meeting – Jubilee Room – 7.30pm
- 22 Congregational Church Service – Mrs. Rachel Aucott
- 29 Congregational Church – joint Service with All Saints, Shillington – 10am
- 31 All Saints' Church – Easter Service – Sung Compline – 7.30pm

APRIL

- 2 Parish Council Monthly Meeting – Jubilee Room of Village Hall – 7.45pm
- 3 All Saints' Church – Easter Service – Last Hour of the Cross – 2pm
- 5 All Saints' Church – Dawn Service for Easter Sunday – 6.30am
- 5 All Saints' Church – Easter Sunday Holy Communion – 9.30am
- 5 Congregational Church – Easter Sunday Service at Pirton Methodist Church – 10.30am
- 9 Wives Group – birthday outing – afternoon tea - TBA.
- 11 Shillington Village Hall – Live Band - Fynnus Fogg from 7pm
- 30 Friends of All Saints' - AGM

The **PARISH NEWS** is a voluntary community paper produced by **Sally Stapleton**, published by **Lonsdale Print Solutions Limited (01933-233034)** web: www.lonsdaleps.co.uk and sponsored by Advertisers and Shillington Parish Council.

Views expressed in the articles and adverts do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Editor or members of the Parish Council.

☎ 07711-504489.

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www.shillington-hub.org.uk