

Vol 44 | No.10

FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

DECEMBER 2021



**LOVE YOUR
LOCAL NEWS**



A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the December issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

As yet another year draws to a close (where does the time go...), I would like to thank all the team on Spotlight magazine and all our contributors for giving up your time to help keep us going. Without you all it wouldn't be the magazine it is; such a wonderful reflection of our village.

I would especially like to thank Richard Pearson our Treasurer who is standing down after many years service. Thank you Richard for keeping the finances in good order and for your advice to help me with some tricky decisions over the past few years. Richard is handing over to our new Treasurer, Jon Bates, thank you Jon for taking on this role for the magazine. Last but not least thank you to Grant and to Emma who have had to step down from their roles this year due to other pressures in their lives. It has been a pleasure working with you all.

From all the team on Spotlight, wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year, and a happy and healthy 2022.

See you all again in February!!

Best wishes, Elaine



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Deadline for articles is 20th of the month

You can also read Spotlight online

www.clophillspotlight.co.uk

Come into the Garden

With Kate Gardner

We may be moving into the colder months, but you can add winter interest by using containers in your outdoor space. There are plenty of great plant options available from the garden centres so why not get creative and have a go at making something unique.



A basic principle for choosing the plants you need to create a beautiful container display is to have a “thriller,” a “filler,” and a “spiller.” A thriller plant gives the container height, either through foliage or flowers. They are placed in the back, as they are the tallest of the plants. Filler plants are of medium height and fill up the pot, while the Spiller plants are low height or spill over the edge of the pot. While it’s not always necessary to have all three, it’s helpful to know design rules before you decide to break them. Knowing the rules can help you decide when it isn’t necessary to follow it by the letter.

Evergreens are the name of the game for winter containers. Thankfully, evergreens aren’t limited to trees! There are evergreen shrubs, perennials, grasses, ferns, and vines so whether you want something formal such as a matching pair of standard bays or something softer, there are plenty of options to use.

The most important element for winter containers is the “thriller.” You can create height and interest through a variety of plants. Think Thuja, Box, Holly, Nandinas, Euonymus, Mahonia, Yew, and dwarf varieties of conifer trees like the Cypress or Juniper.

Another way to have a “thriller” in winter containers is to use various kinds of twigs or branches that give a texture, colour, and height interest. Many Dogwood varieties have red or yellow bark, Birch trees have interesting bark, and twisted branches can provide height as well as a textural element to containers.

Next are the fillers and you can go the annual or perennial route. Examples include pansies, violas, ornamental cabbage, Heuchera, Bergenia, Christmas Rose (*Helleborus Niger*), Lenten Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*), and Euphorbias. Small compact shrubs with good leaf colour or winter flowers or berries make great fillers. Spiller plants include carex, ivy and periwinkle (*Vinca minor* or *Vinca major*) and prostrate Rosemary.

At the most basic level, having one each of thriller, filler, and spiller can be a pleasant winter container. However, the more beautiful winter containers can have more than one variety of plant for each. The more variation in heights, colours, and textures, the more beautiful the winter container. You can also underplant with spring bulbs to add a contrast pop of colour. Crocus, grape hyacinths, snowdrops, winter aconites, dwarf iris and dwarf narcissi can be added as you put your container together.

Here are ideas that you could try. False holly with its variegated leaves, ornamental Kale and variegated ivy underplanted with lily of the valley. Dwarf spruce, lime green heuchera an ornamental cabbage and carex. A small holly bush and red twig dogwood branches, blue fescue, euphorbia, dark purple heuchera, a hellebore and golden carex.

Don't worry too much about whether it's perfect or not just try some plants together and see how they look. You can always swap them if they don't look right. That's one of the pleasures of container gardening, nothing is permanent!

Happy Gardening

Clophill Heritage Trust Update

We've had a great time recently with stalls at local events – first the amazing school fireworks night and then the village light switch on. Thank you to everyone who bought one of our homemade jams, chutneys, candles or beauty products; all of which are available to buy from The Eco Lodges.



Many of you will already know that we have a new Site Manager at The Eco Lodges; Izzy joins us from a background in animal care (as was tested in one of her first official outings to rescue Boris the cat from the church tower!). Izzy and her partner Dave are living on site so do say hi if you see them in passing.

It's lovely to have our Hive Studio available to hire again – in the last month it has been used for adults and children's yoga classes, flower arranging workshops, club meetings, baby showers and birthday parties! If you would like to hire the space or pop up and view, please get in touch with Izzy or Emily on 07935 911207 or info@ClophillEcoLodges.co.uk.

Volunteers: as we come to the end of the year, we would like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers. From Duke of Edinburgh students to our trustees and those who help us with a variety of jobs around the site, we couldn't run The Eco Lodges without you and the time you commit to us – so, thank you! If you would like to join our team of volunteers please get in touch – it's a great way to get outside and learn some new skills.

From everyone at Clophill Heritage Trust we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Covid-free New Year!

St Mary's School News

We can't believe we're almost through Autumn half term – it has flown by!

In our last update, we advised that Ofsted had visited us, we have now shared the final report with our parents. We are always incredibly proud of the work we do at St. Mary's and are delighted that Ofsted witnessed many of the wonderful things we do at school. As we shared with our parents; under the new Ofsted framework, all schools must now be inspected at least every 5 years (7 years in some exceptional cases). St. Mary's was last inspected in 2007 when it then became exempt from inspection in accordance with the previous Government guidance. However, under the new framework and guidance, previously exempt schools have been put back into the routine inspection regime. A great deal has changed at the school, in the education system and the wider world since 2007 – the educational climate and the Ofsted Framework are vastly different today to how they were in 2007 and, of course, we have also had the impact of Covid.19 over the past two years.

The outcome of our Ofsted inspection was very pleasing, especially considering the timing of the inspection at the beginning of the new academic year; and following the continued disruption of Covid.19. The inspection outcome reflects the challenges the school has faced as well as recognising those aspects we have prioritised. The Ofsted outcomes can be found on our Website <https://www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk/Ofsted/>.

Our FOSM (Friends of St Mary's) ran a hugely successful fireworks night, which sold out in advance. What an amazing evening it was. It was so lovely to see so many parents, carers and children at the event and I know everyone enjoyed the stalls, food and, of course, the brilliant fireworks display! We want to say a HUGE thank you to all the FOSM volunteers for a wonderfully organised and fun event.

On Thursday 11th November the children made us all so proud. We held a Remembrance Worship in school and then walked over to the war memorial in the church yard for the two minutes silence at 11 o'clock. The children were impeccably behaved, walking to and from church beautifully and all standing respectfully in silence—right from Acorn (nursery) all the way up to Oak (year 4) class! Thank you to Mr. Dunn too for coming to play the bugle for us.

This half term we have recognised Anti-Bullying Week (including children coming into school with odd socks) and Road Safety Week. Our school council have also arranged a fantastic fund-raising day for Children in Need. Amounts are still being added up and will be shared in due course.

Jake the School Dog:

Jake joined the school for Remembrance Day. He has joined in with time to talk sessions, and our Year 4 children really enjoy taking him for a walk around the school field at break times. He is also hearing readers, increasing his time in different classrooms. Jake has been particularly helpful continuing to support those in school who might have little wobbles during the day. Just a little time with Jake and all is well again :-).

Our Value for December is: **Commitment**

This is the quality of being dedicated to something, for example a cause, activity or faith. It is also known as a pledge or an undertaking. A commitment is never supposed to be broken. If it is broken; that means it was never a commitment but more of a pretention.

We will be thinking about commitment over the month and particularly considering how we can make personal promises and keep them. At home you may wish to discuss the commitments you hold as a family and what these mean for you. You may wish to think about how it might feel to break a commitment and how it feels to keep one.

Acorn Nursery news:

We've had a busy few weeks in Acorn Nursery. As part of our MySmile Accreditation commitment, we investigated and learnt how to brush our teeth correctly through discussion and hands on activities - even looking at how Peppa Pig brushes her teeth! We sent home toothbrushes and toothpaste.

We celebrated and explored Diwali (making diva lamps and rangoli patterns in rice), Remembrance Day (making our wooden poppies and going to the memorial at Church), World Science Day (discussing climate change and drawing our perfect earth), Anti Bullying Week (looking at the theme of kindness in our Jack in the Box Worships and joining in Odd Socks Day), Road Safety Week (where we learnt the Supercat 'stop, look, listen and think' rap) and Children In Need day (taking part in the activities provided by the school council).

With all of this going on, we've still found time for all of our regular learning opportunities such as Helicopter Stories, Cosmic Kids yoga and Dough disco. We have been looking at 'our 5 senses' and we used most of them when we went on a lovely walk up to the woods. We are privileged to have lots of wonderful nature so close to us and we all had a great time exploring - finding a fallen tree and creating our own stories as to what happened to it. Jake came too and it was the ideal opportunity to practice what we have been learning - from crossing the road safely to being kind and helping each other.

We currently have spaces available in our amazing Nursery Class and, as a reminder, **we now take children from 2 years old**. We accept 2-year-olds and 30 hours funding which can also be used for FunZone (before and after school club). There is no minimum session requirement, we offer mornings, afternoons and lunchtimes or any mixture of these. If you or anyone you know are interested in our Nursery offering, please email nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk.

Reflections – Clophill in December 1975

Continuing our series looking back at previous issues of Spotlight and Clophill Village life.....

By Julie Benson



Well, we are now in December and to welcome it, a lovely **cover picture**, but I don't know where it came from. Opening to page 1, I see that "Work on the warden housing scheme is now nearing completion and it is understood that new residents will be taking occupation of the flats in the very near future; we understand the site of the building will be known as **Beverley Court**."

Now, I am a great supporter of our Parish Council – and I see that "More parishioners than ever before attended the November

Parish Council meeting." Wonderful! Discussions included the 'Clophill By-Pass', the 'Village Hall' (planning permission for the extensions being granted), 'Public Transport' and 'A6 Trunk Lighting'. The **Village Hall Committee** noted that "Complaints had been received that the hall and its furniture were being left in an unreasonably dirty condition after hirers had left the building." It seems that while the hall was used every day of the week, there was no caretaker and hirers needed to be reminded about their responsibilities! The **WI** members enjoyed an illustrated talk by Mrs Clark about "her journey 'across Russia to Samarkand."

There is an account of the **Remembrance Service**. In 1975, wreaths were laid by "Mr. R. Herbert (Ex-Legion Committee), Mr G. Chisholm (Parish Council), Mrs W. Dawson (Conservative Association), Mr. R. Lucraft (Village Hall Management Committee). ...The remainder of the service took place in Church where the preachers were the Rev H.R. Cousins and Mr F.J. Oakley. The organist was Mrs F. Robinson. The Legion Standard was carried by Mr J. Herbert." (This is a lovely memory as Jack died recently.) There were thanks to the **poppy sellers** "who this year raised an all-time record of £80.23." The sellers included "Mesdames J. Doggett, B. Harris, S. Lammas, the Misses J. Ashton, R. Dyson P. Barker, D. Barker and Mr T. Sheppard." (Good work Tim!). Thanks were also extended to "Mrs Hughes of the Kindergarten School, Mrs Roberts and the children of Clophill Primary School (no 3 tier system yet), Mrs Gordon (Guider)".

Mrs Gordon was busy in November as she and ten **Guides** went to London, visiting Guide HQ and the Commonwealth Institute and also, "for the second year running, Clophill had won the District Shield in competition with companies from Ampt Hill and Maulden." Well done 1st Clophill Guides.

The **Methodist Church** held a "very successful Autumn Bazaar" when £242.50 was raised via many stallholders selling their wares – Vegetables, cakes, toiletries, groceries, sweets, mystery parcels and Christmas cards.

There are lists of prize-winners at both **St. Mary's Church Bazaar** (19) and the **Darby and Joan Christmas Draw** (63!) I see that at the former P. Chapman of Goodhall Crescent won a turkey and Mrs Sheppard of Jacques Lane took home some potatoes, while Stan Woodward was very lucky, winning both biscuits and chocolates! **Darby and Joan Club** winners also took potatoes home.

It is interesting to see the range of prizes offered, a tad different from today. Yes, there were bottles of wine, chocs, biscuits and a few toiletries, but a lot of sherry, a bottle of Dubonnet ('Du Bo - Du Bon - Dubonnet' - remember the advert?); whisky, a chicken (hopefully dead and plucked). Lucky T. Humphries of Maulden won a tea cosy, then there were towels, kitchen towels, a Pyrex dish, Christmas pudding and a chrome tray. I am sure all very welcome.

Then of course, ending Vol 9 No.10, there are various **Christmas events** advertised, Carol Concerts and Church Services. Spotlight 1975 ends with Helen Bradshaw being wished 'Many happy returns on your (st/th) birthday from Mum Dad and Willi'. What better way to end a year eh?

NOVEMBER

A poem by Cora Sheppard

Now autumn comes and with it many changes,
the splendour of summer trees and hedgerows gone
a blaze of colour painted through the woodlands,
the reds and yellows, browns and gold so strong.

Now comes chill so slight and yet you notice
as afternoons get shorter, turn to dusk.
Then falling leaves with dewy drop descending
and early frosts make warmer clothes a must.

The bonfires now send scented smoke a drifting
on hazy mist a-filtering through the trees.
The fallen nuts and acorns 'neath our feet are crunching,
aromas slight are carried by the breeze.

The woodland paths we knew with snowdrops peeping
are carpeted in fallen leaves so deep.
The bluebells now long gone are soundly sleeping,
their dormant sheets are buried safe to keep.

The changing fields with colours now of autumn
are ploughed and harrowed, turned to brown and clay.
All these not long ago were green - then gold
- it seems as if it was the other day.

The autumn fruits are gone and fronds are bare
in many country baskets carried home.
The round and juicy berries gathered in
and early birds have taken all their share.

Now leaves are falling fast as frost arrives,
the bare-like branches stretch with fingers wide
devoid of foliage, shape and beauty gone
and even friendly birds no longer hide.

So, once again the season turns around
forgetting early spring and summer too.
But still my favourite season, autumn time,
as winter slow, but sure, comes into view.

Season's greetings everyone,

What a busy term we are having, the children have been collecting the fallen leaves to turn them into compost for our allotments. They have been learning all about the processes they go through from collecting and transporting the leaves, to storing and rotting them down in our composting bins. The children have also been visiting the Community Allotment in the afternoons to help keep the weeds at bay. The allotment is doing well, if anyone would like to come up and harvest some vegies, please do. We have lots of purple chard and spinach ready, just help yourself.

Our Adventure Friday bunch walked down to the church on November 12th and made some poppy art from the red fallen leaves on the round, they played chase across the grass and helped string up their crochet poppies to hang from the tree branches. Some of our parents, children and staff then joined us at the church on Sunday for the Remembrance service when we laid our wreath, thank you to Ralph for his support.

The children have been testing out their maths skills balancing on the seesaws, working out who is heavier and how if they move across the plank, they can change the balance. There has been more painting going on: from trees to tigers, whatever inspires the children or sparks their imagination, they are always painting something they can see, from plants to people to painting the model tiger from the sand toys. Children are taught to observe, to look carefully and notice the details of things, they count the number of legs of the tiger, notice the colours of flowers and find ways to replicate the jumble of leaves on the trees.

It has been starting to feel a bit more like the old days with parents in helping to bake gingerbread trees for our stall at the village Christmas Lights switch on. Thank you to the Parish Council for inviting us to join this wonderful event, a great way to start getting people back together in our village. Our children and their families really enjoyed it too and we look forward to next year's event. Though this year we have been unable to do our usual nativity, we were invited by Methodist church for children to come dressed as any character and joined their on the spot 'Scratch Nativity'. Great fun, thank you Silas!

We have had a wreath making parent class, Christmas craft coffee mornings and evenings and have a Magical Woodland Walk organised for our children and their families...ending with a visit from the big man himself. We ho ho hope you have a wonderful Christmas with friends and family and will see you in 2022!





Clophill Village Hall

presents

Santa's Sleigh

5th December 2021 - From 16:30PM

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, and Santa is getting ready to visit his favourite village to spread some festive joy to the residents of Clophill!

This year, we'll be back to a full sleigh of elves collecting donations on the night which go towards the upkeep and maintenance of our fabulous Village Hall.

However if you prefer, you can still donate via our JustGiving page at [justgiving.com/campaign/clophillsanta](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/clophillsanta) or scan the QR code below and make sure to be ready and waiting for Santa as he follows the route below!

JustGiving

Scan this QR code with
your phone's camera





AMPTHILL
— & DISTRICT —
CHORAL SOCIETY

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Night of Miracles—John W. Peterson

with festive music and your favourite carols

Musical Director: Alan Childs

Soloists: Lucy Miller-White & Neil Ryden

Monday 13th December, 7.30pm

Parkside Hall, Ampthill

**Tickets £10 on the door,
includes a drink and a mince pie**



St Mary's Church, Maulden

Is holding the fifth

**CHRISTMAS TREE
FESTIVAL**

Saturday 11th December

and

Sunday 12th December

12 noon - 4 p.m.

There is no theme this year:

ANYTHING GOES!



**Entrance £4 adult
Children free!**



Prizes awarded for best trees

and Raffle drawn

at 4pm on Sunday.



***For an application form
and more information
tel: Anne 07505 516712***

Email: annepowis@hotmail.co.uk



All proceeds to St Mary's Church Fund

Clophill's Serving Survivors of WW1

By Sue Pearson

Continuing our series in celebration of Clophill's brave men who fought in and survived the first world war...

Thomas Pegg was a Private in the Rifles and then the Agricultural Labour Corps and lived on the High Street in 1918. He enlisted in May 1915 and was discharged in November 1918 having served in France. Nothing further is known about Thomas.

Walter F. Penwarden lived on The Green and was a Sergeant in the Signal Section of the Royal Engineers. He was awarded the Military Medal. Research indicates that, although he appeared on the missing voters register in 1918 for Clophill, he may have had little connection with the village. He was born in about 1887 in Battersea and was living at home there in 1911. He was an Electrical Light Wireman, which may explain his War occupation.

William Matthew Edmund Perkins lived at Mount Pleasant. He was a Gunner (Bombardier) in the Royal Garrison Artillery. He was the youngest son of William Henry and Emma Elizabeth Lammas/Lomas. He suffered from Trench Fever, being sent to Newcastle-upon-Tyne Military Hospital in July 1918. William married Hessie Fossit in the same year. He was born in Clophill in about 1890 and in 1901 was living in The Slade. By 1911 he is living (as a boarder) in Lincolnshire and, aged 21, is working as a Signaller on the Great Northern Railway, he continued working as a railway man until at least 1939. He died in Lincolnshire in 1977.

William Henry Pigrum – William enlisted in 1915 at Ampthill Park, he served initially with the 7th Bedfordshire Regiment and at the time of his medical discharge in 1919 he was a Private with the Labour Corps Home Service company. He had suffered with myalgia. Ampthill News reported in January 1918 that he was returning to the front and in May 1918 that he was in hospital, hoping to be well soon.

He was born in 1884 in Toddington and had lived and worked in Luton in later years as a Straw hat manufacturer. He had married Eliza Frost in 1907 in Luton. They lived in the High Street from at least 1914 to 1918. It is believed that William had a hat factory near the Rising Sun Pub. By 1919 the family had moved to Newmarket. He died in 1963 in Lincolnshire where he had worked as a hat renovator.

William James Pitts was a Private in the 867 Garrison Guard. He was born in Clophill in 1878. He lived at 7 Mount Pleasant, Back Street, although in 1911 he was a Greengrocer in Holloway. He married Nellie Matthews and they had 5 children. By 1939 was working as a Market Garden Labourer. He died locally in 1953.

Joseph Platt

Joseph was a Sapper in the Royal Engineers (Airline Section) who was originally from the Liverpool area. He volunteered in August 1914 and proceeded overseas the following year. He served on the front line in many parts of the Western Front and was engaged on important constructional duties. He was present at the Battles of the Somme, Cambrai, Arras and Ypres.

He was demobilised in March 1919 and received the 1914-15 Star, General Service and Victory medals. He lived at 11, the Strand, Clophill.

His daughter Doris was born in 1916 and married Jack Pitts, who lived with his family at Mount Pleasant. Doris said she could remember her father flying over Clophill in an aeroplane and waving to her.

Her father was based at RAF Henlow. As Joseph had been in the Royal Engineers, this may have been post-War. In 1939 the family lived in 11 Mill Lane and Joseph worked as a Fitter. He died in 1968.



Colin Watt has written a book entitled "**Clophill in the Great War**" which tells the story of the village and those who died and those who survived. Visit his website for details: bit.ly/307uLMM

Clophill United Football Club

So, the new season is well under way and as a club we welcomed the new U10's team who have joined us from St Mary's school. As a club our ethos has always been to give the year 4 team from St Mary's the opportunity to carry on playing football in the village as they left lower school to go to middle school.

That now gives us five teams ranging from U10 to U15.

It was a shame though not to see our eldest team move up another year; but the majority of the players decided to move on to pastures new. A lot of the players had been playing together since they were five years old.

As a club we asked our players to bring one non-perishable item to donate to a local food bank.

We decided to support 'The Need Project' a charity based in Stotfold that supports local families.

Kind Regards,

Clophill United FC.



Christmas @ Clophill Methodist Church

Saturday December 11th

Christmas Coffee & Croissants

from 10am
with stalls and
Christmas goodies



Carols and Scratch nativity 3pm

Come dressed as a
character from the
Christmas Story and
join in with our whole
village nativity play.
All ages included!

Christmas Sheep Trail

Find all the sheep
hiding around the
village and work out
the message they have
for us all.



Sunday 19th December 3pm

Community Carol Service in the church
Come along and sing your favourite carols.

CLOPHILL COMMUNITY CARE

07791 773705

Clophill Community Care – CCC – has been in operation in our lovely village for the past 16 years. It comes under the auspices of the BRCC (Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity) and comprises a group of wonderful volunteers who respond to requests for help – usually for transport to medical appointments; perhaps to collect prescriptions, but could be for help with tuning televisions, light gardening, furniture lifting or even a lift to a ‘just to get out’ local destination - from the residents of Clophill. There are many folk who already know of our existence, but if you don’t – and you need practical help then please phone us, or if you know of anyone else in the village who needs help, please pass our contact number on to them.

We do ask for a small contribution – currently £3 to local destinations or £5 to Bedford or Luton (Gooseberry Hill - £6 hospital) for return journeys.

We also run Thursday Leisure Club – TLC – in St. Mary’s church on a Thursday afternoon from 2pm for a couple of hours or so. It gives a chance to get out, have a chat, a cup of tea and a biscuit or two, do a jigsaw, have a game of Scrabble or Rummikub, that kind of thing. It’s for all ages, so, if you fancy a couple of hours to socialise, do come along. (Here we suggest a small donation of £1 to cover the heating and refreshment costs).

The next Parish Council meeting is
Tuesday 11th January, 7:45pm
in the Clophill Methodist Church



Take out an annual ad in Clophill SPOTLIGHT

Black & White per year

One-sixth	£58	H 31 x W126 mm
One-quarter	£75	H 92 x W 61 mm
One-third	£88	H 61 x W 126 mm
Half-page	£123	H 92 x W 126 mm

Please email our Advertising Manager

ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk

St Mary's Church News



We were stunned and saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of one of our staunchest members, the much-loved John Langdon, on Oct 27th at the age of 86. The church was packed with friends and family for his funeral on Nov 22nd. Several people gathered afterwards at his favourite watering hole, The Stone Jug, to wish him “bon voyage” and to celebrate a life well lived.

November has been a busy month. Following a second lively Family Praise Service in the morning of Nov 7th many people came to an All Souls' Service in the afternoon to remember family members who had died in the past few years. This was followed by tea and cakes and a chance to reminisce. It was much appreciated by all.

On Nov 11th we gathered at the War Memorial with the whole of St. Mary's School to honour the men who gave their lives in the two World Wars. The children behaved impeccably throughout and especially in the silence. On Remembrance Sunday more than 100 people attended the service which was led by The Archdeacon. Many more gathered outside for the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial for the 2 minutes silence followed by the laying of poppy wreaths. We were delighted to see that the scaffolding and fencing had at last come down from around the church.

Our amazing Fund Raising Group has been busy planning events to help restore our depleted finances. On Nov. 19th 8 teams competed in a “Call my Bluff” style Wine Tasting evening, which raised a magnificent £450+. Thanks are due to the organisers and participants. In the pipeline are a Christmas Wreath making session on Nov 29th, a Christmas Lunch on Weds. Dec 15th from 12 noon. Please let someone from the church know if you would like to come. £10 for 3 courses with a glass of wine and tea or coffee. Finally, a Christmas Evening in the Churchyard with festive refreshments, activities, music and Christmas lights. The Clophill Christmas Choir will lead community Carol singing, with a collection for CRISIS.

Despite the valiant efforts your parish Church is still struggling to recover financially. If you would like to help, we do have a Parish Giving Scheme whereby you give a regular fixed amount by Direct Debit, which can also be Gift Aided. If you feel this is right for you, please speak to either of the Churchwardens, Rosemary Ilett and Steve Grylls, or our Treasurer, Emma Thoullass. You would be helping to ensure that St. Mary's Church is here for future generations.

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

- Sunday Dec 5th. The Family Service at 11am will be our annual Christingle Service in aid of The Children's Society.
- Monday Dec 6th. Charity concert by the Greensand Community Choir at 7.30 pm.
- Christmas Eve. Lessons and Carols by Candlelight at 6.00pm to include the dressing of the Crib by any children present.
- Midnight Mass. **At Maulden** starting at 11.30 pm.
- Christmas Day. Parish Communion at **9.30 am**.
- Sunday 26th. Parish Communion as usual at 11.00 am.

St. Mary's Registers for November

Nov 22nd Funeral, John Richard Langdon, 86.

The Rector Writes....

Over the years I have found it increasingly difficult to buy Christmas cards with a Nativity scene on them. Instead, there are plenty of Santas, robins and even penguins but few that depict the true message of Christmas. This always seems strange to me as we are not celebrating a winter Festival but the birth of God's son, the Christ child. So, I am really pleased that people continue to enjoy singing carols and watching children perform traditional Nativity plays. I am very much looking forward to my first Christmas as Rector of Clophill.



We hope that you will be able to join us during this festive season at the special services we have organised.

Maulden have a Christmas tree Festival on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th December 12noon-4pm which you and your Family might enjoy. Last year my "Rudolph the red nosed reindeer" tree came third, so I am hoping that I might do even better this year.

With all good wishes

Lynda Klimas

Rector of Clophill and Maulden

Tel. 01525 403139

Coffee and Croissants

**Clophill Methodist
Church**

10am to 12noon



Saturday 8th January

Saturday 12th February

Saturday 12th March

All Welcome

(from 2022 now being held on the 2nd
Saturday of the month)

CLOPHILL AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Our November demonstrator had to cancel at very short notice due to ill health. At two days' notice Club chairman Carolyn organised an evening showing how to make wreaths and swags not only for Christmas but for other events and seasons.

Carolyn, Ann, June and Doug demonstrated using different types of wreath rings and swag holders. There were also ideas about wiring and painting fir cones; how to secure dried fruits and ribbons into the rings and swags; and tips about keeping them fresh over the festive season.

Carolyn had e-mailed members to explain the change of meeting and asked people to either make a wreath or bring along any they already had made out of dried material or fabric. This resulted in a large display of different styles and ideas and showed the huge amount of talent within the Club.



As we have had to restrict the number of tickets for our Christmas demonstration this year there are no longer any available to purchase. We know this will be disappointing to many people who regularly come to this demonstration.

It has been very encouraging to see so many of our regular members returning to our Club evenings after the enforced Covid break.

We have a full programme of demonstrations for 2022 so please look on our website www.clophillflowerclub.com for details. New members are always made very welcome.

Amphill & District Archaeological & Local History Society



Programme 2021 - 2022

The Society will continue with Zoom for the rest of the programme.

Monday, December 6th 2021 (Zoom)

Aristocrats on Tour - The Development of the Gardens at Wrest Park

Speaker – Jo Bishop

Monday, February 7th 2022

Flitwick Manor Park and Grounds: A 19th Century Visitor Attraction and Botanic Treasure House

Speaker – Stephen Coleman

Monday, March 7th 2022

The Pyghtle Works, Baillie Scott & Sir Albert Richardson

Speaker - David Fowler

Monday, April 4th 2022 & AGM

For further details: clive.makin@ntlworld.com Tel: 01582 655785

www.adalhs.org.uk

What's on in and around Clophill

DECEMBER

Sunday 5th

Santa's Sleigh trip around the village, from 4:30pm. *See poster in this issue.*

Monday 6th

Greensand Community Choir Christmas Concert, St. Mary's Church, 7:30pm.

Saturday 11th

Christmas Coffee and Croissants, Methodist Church, 10am – 3pm, followed by Carol singing in the Car Park at 3pm. *See poster in this issue.*

Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th

Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church Maulden, 12noon – 4pm. *See poster in this issue.*

Saturday 18th

Christmas evening, St. Mary's churchyard. Food, mulled wine, stalls and carols, 4pm.

Sunday 19th

Community Carol Service, Methodist Church, 3pm. *See poster in this issue.*

JANUARY

Saturday 8th

Coffee and Croissants, Methodist Church, 10am – 12noon.

Plus...

Tuesdays... in term time

Clophill Preschool, Stay and Play sessions on Tuesdays 9:30-10:30am and Thursdays 1-2pm, at the Village Hall. *See 'Village Groups' for contact details.*

Thursdays...

Thursday Leisure Club – TLC – St Mary's Church, 2pm.

Fridays...

Clophill Toddler Group, 10am-11.30am, Village Hall. *See 'Village Groups' for contact details.*

CHURCH SERVICES

Regular services at St Mary's Church, Clophill...

1st Sunday	8am, Holy Communion
	11am, Family Praise

2nd and 4th Sundays	11am, Parish Communion
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3rd Sunday	11am, Morning Praise
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Regular services at Clophill Methodist Church...

Weekly Worship at the Church, Sundays at 10:30am.

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Benefits Agency (Bedford office)	01234 361500
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Rail (Enquiries)	0845 7484950
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Luton Airport	01582 405100
Swimming (Flitwick) 01525 717744 (Robinson Pool)	01234 212479

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Central Beds Offices (Chicksands)	0300 300 8000
Mid-Bed; MP	Nadine Dorries 01462 811992
Central Bedfordshire Councillors	Michael Blair 01525 404513 Paul Duckett 07988 184061
Clophill Parish Council (Clerk) Heather Myott clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk	TBA

HOSPITALS

Bedford (North & South) 01234 355122	Admissions 01234 261150 Appointments 01234 359012
Luton & Dunstable	0845 1270127

DOCTOR'S CLINICS

Amphill (Houghton Close) 01525 300898	(Oliver Street) 01525 631395 (Greensands) 01525 631390
Shefford Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments 01462 810034
Barton 01582 528700	Flitwick 01525 715300

POLICE

	Non Emergency 101
County Police HQ	01234 841212
Amphill Station	101

CHURCHES

St Mary's Parish Church

Revd Cannon Lynda Klimas rev.l.klimas@btinternet.com	01525 403139
(Church Warden) Mrs Rosemary Ilett mandrilett@gmail.com	01525 860274
Mr Steve Grylls stevegrylls24@gmail.com	01525 860076

St Francis RC Church, Shefford

Clophill Methodist Church	Jim Davies 01525 860829
Baptist Churches	(Maulden) Ian Crawford 01525 634325 (Shefford) Hazel Arnold 01462 812564

SCHOOLS -

St Mary's C of E Lower School & Nursery (Headteacher Mrs K Bingley)	01525 860206
Harlington Upper School , Harlington	01525 755100
Preschool clophillpreschool@gmail.com (Chris) 07936 006381 or (Imogen)	07765 887868
Redborne Upper School , Amphill	01525 404462
Robert Bloomfield Middle School , Shefford	01462 628800

Village groups

Beverley Court		860920
Brownies	enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk	
Clophill Community Care	Duty Contact	07791 773705
Clophill Heritage Trust	Ali Bradbury	07894 710001
Clophill Preschool	Imogen	07765 887868
	Chris	07936 006381
Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School & Nursery	Emma Topliff	860206
	Charlotte Messer	07538 150058
Clophill Toddler Group	Val Martin	860900
Clophill United Charities	Brian Adams	862297
Conservation Group	Gillian Hill	860539
Flower Club	Sue Pearson	861110
Friends of the Cheshire Home		07903 167493
Funzone After School Club	Tony Meredith	860754
Indoor Carpet Bowls	Victoria Higgins	07920 568861
Messy Church	victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk	
	Mary Milne and Jenny Garnham	
Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)	fosmclophill@gmail.com	
	www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved	
Scouts and Cubs	Anita Errick	860695
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Village Hall Booking Secretary		

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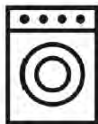
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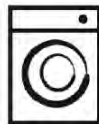
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