

Vol 47 | No.2

FREE

# CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

MARCH 2024

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## **A word from the Editor...**

*Dear Reader,*

Spring is here at last!!

This month, as well as our regular features, we have a new series of Ampthill Health walks plus an update on the much-anticipated Banking Hub also at Ampthill (thank you to my neighbour Paul for bringing them to my attention).

We have two new local Advertisers too; an electrician (who is always needed...) and a travel counsellor for that much needed summer holiday or that special trip of a life time.



**The magazine staff**



With the arrival of spring, there is plenty to do in the garden in March. The days are getting longer and warmer, hopefully the risk of frost will have passed by the end of the month, and there are plenty of jobs to do in the garden and greenhouse. Seed sowing starts to get underway and the improving weather means it's a great time to plant roses and lift and divide perennial plants.

March is the time for sowing your hardy annual seeds. Hardy annuals can be sown directly where you want them to flower; just prepare the ground well first, by clearing it of weeds and raking to a fine tilth. Don't be tempted to enrich the soil with any compost or horse manure. Try Ammi majus, borage, clarkia, cornflowers and poppy 'Ladybird'. If you didn't start your sweet peas in the autumn, now is a good time to get these going too. Sweet peas can be sown under cover from October to March. They like a long root run, so sow into deep pots or modules. If you got ahead of the game and your sweet peas are already sprouting, then now is the best time to pinch out the tips to encourage side shoots which in turn will produce lots of new shoots.

You can sow some half-hardy annuals too, but wait until the middle of the month when the light levels are better and the nights are less cold. Some to try include cleome, antirrhinum, zinnia and cosmos.

The end of the month is the time for mass pricking out of annual seedlings. Transplant everything that has formed its true leaves (recognisably like that of the parent plant) into their own individual pot. Take care to get right below each baby plant and lift out the whole of its root with a dibber or stiff label. Handle everything by its leaves, not stem, which bruises very easily.

If you have snowdrops and aconites in your garden now is the best time to lift and divide them. We call this moving 'in the green' and this is the best way to move these early flowering bulbs. Just remember to replant them to the same depth that they were originally planted and give them a water in.

If like me you, love the hot colours of dahlia flowers then now is the perfect time to start your tubers in pots under cover. If you only have one or two, plant them individually into a three-litre pot, so they can grow on happily until the frosts are finished and then they can be planted in the garden. If you have lots, lay them out in a shallow tray, packed in tight, and cover the tubers with moist compost. They'll start to sprout in a few weeks and you can then take cuttings.

Later in the month, start a regime of deadheading spring bulbs (e.g. narcissi, muscari and tulips) as the flowers finish. Leave the foliage to die back naturally and don't be tempted to cut or bend the leaves, as this will prevent the plant from retuning the nutrients into the bulb to feed it for next spring. No food at the end of the season will often mean no flowers next spring.

This year is Clophill Open Gardens which will be held on the weekend of 22nd and 23rd June and we would love to see lots of our village gardens taking part. This is an important fundraising event for our local village church and a great opportunity to meet your local community. It doesn't matter what size of garden you have and it doesn't need to be clipped and manicured. You may have a wildlife garden or have some amazing planters full of colour, a sunny courtyard or water feature, traditional cottage or new build contemporary garden. We love our local gardens so please contact either Jackie (07815 040335) or Jenny (07917 648987) for more information.

Here's hoping for great weather over the coming month and a little less rain!!



### **Clophill and District Flower Club**

We are a friendly Club with members who love the art of flower arranging. Members come from a wide area and we are the largest club in Home Counties.

At our meetings each month we have a NAFAS qualified demonstrator to show us different styles and techniques of flower arranging using beautiful flowers.

All the arrangements are raffled at the end of each meeting.

We are affiliated to NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arranging Societies) and our members can attend all Club, Area and National meetings and shows.

We hold classes and occasional workshops for those who want to learn and develop their skills

If you love flowers and would like to spend a relaxing evening once a month in good company please come and join us. We like to have visitors too.

We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in each month – except August

at Clophill Village Hall, Old Kiln Lane.

Doors open at 6.45pm with the demonstration starting at 7.30pm

**Everyone is welcome** – visitors fee £7

Further details are on our website –

[www.clophillflowerclub.com](http://www.clophillflowerclub.com)



## Reflections – Clophill in Feb 1979 - Voices from the past.

Continuing our series looking back at previous issues of **Spotlight and Clophill Village life.....** *By Julie Benson.*

As you read in last month's 'Spotlight', the January 1979 edition of its predecessor 'Outlook', was the final one. 'Outlook' was to be no more – 'Spotlight' was to take its place - but not until May. Of course, in that issue there are reports of many events which took place in the months before that: the Parish Council discussed the Parish boundary with the District Council supporting the transfer of Hall End to Clophill, while discussions were still going on with Silsoe re- the transfer of the County Garage to Clophill: the County Council had been informed of the bad state of the Old Silsoe Road Bridge. This was once part of the A6, which ran over the bridge and round the south side of the Green and on past the Flying Horse wall before the roundabout and bypass – A507 -were built. There was good news that mains water was now available at the Townshott allotments (whatever happened to that then?) Other events mentioned in the magazine included the Brownies whose team of Claire Cranswick, Sarah Eaton, Amanda Parker and Emma Thoullass came second in a Road Safety Quiz in November, their prize money being used to buy a Christmas gift for the children in the Clevedon Nursery and Mrs Hughes took Joanna Briars, Karen Pitts, Karen Porter and Bridget Tew to the nursery to present the gift.



The February meeting of the Flower Club was a demonstration by Mrs Donald entitled 'Invitation to Dinner'. "In offering her vote of thanks, Mrs Carol Whysall expressed her relief that in enjoying the meal, members had not put on a single ounce!" The WI had a meeting in January when "Mrs M Titmus showed slides and souvenirs of her five-month journey 'Round the World with Fred' and a similar one in February when Mr Harkness "spoke on the 'History and Development of Roses' "illustrating his talk with beautiful slides". The Parochial Church Council AGM was held in the school in February when Mr M.B. Henman and Mr T.G. Sheppard were appointed Churchwardens with Mrs N. Best, Mr G. Chisholm, Mr M Gibbs, Mr P Garrett. Mr A.H. Hawker., Mrs R. Hughes, Mr B. R.



Inskip, Mr A.W. Jeffrey, Miss A.M. Jeffrey, Mr R. Kirby, Mr T. Kirk, Mrs R. Brooker, Mrs J. Langdon, Mrs D. Osborne, Mrs E.W. Park, Mrs F. Robinson, Mrs D. Smith, Mr D. Smith and Mr R. Sharp members of the laity. (Wow, all those members of the PCC!) But the best bit is "The meetings were well attended and parishioners enjoyed a splendid wine and cheese party afterwards in the school hall." (Things have changed a bit since then!).

***from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:***

At the beginning of February, the whole school visited Church to take part in our annual Candlemas Service. As is customary, children take part in the service through leading the readings, prayers, singing and, of course, eagerly answering questions posed by Rev'd Lynda!



We were also very lucky to be visited by a local author, Alison Putman, who read and signed copies of her book, "Kelly at the Seaside" for the children. The children were also very keen to ask Alison questions about what it's like to be an author. It was a great activity, organised by Miss Grassi our English Co-ordinator, for National Storytelling Week!

On Friday 2nd February we were back to raising money for charity through the NSPCC Number Day organised by Mrs. Woodcraft, our Maths Co-ordinator. The children took part in Number activities during the day, linked to the book, "One is a Snail, Ten is a Crab" and raised £178 for this important charity.

The following week saw us recognising Children's Mental Health Week with wellbeing activities throughout the week (including us making a whole school rainbow on the Monday!) as well as Safer Internet Day, where we consider the benefits, as well as the dangers, of using the internet and how we can ensure we keep safe online.

As we approached half term, we discussed Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday during our daily assemblies. Some classes enjoyed decorating (and of course, eating) pancakes too. We finished the week welcoming parents and carers for our half termly 'Come and See My Work' sessions.

## **Jake the School Dog:**

Jake has attended our Forest School for Year 1 children a few times since it began – usually with me at the end of the terms. The children love taking him round to show him all the different areas and activities on offer!

This month, to celebrate Valentine's Day, a little bit of Forest School came back to us as the children made us a beautiful wooden heart! Before our photo, Jake enjoyed a good sniff!



Don't forget, you can keep up to date about school events by visiting our website: [www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk](http://www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk) or joining our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/clophillstmarysschool](https://www.facebook.com/clophillstmarysschool)

Celebrating Festivals has been the theme in Acorn Nursery over the past few weeks! We've had lots of fun making our own dragon and performing a dance and exploring noodles for Chinese New Year, eating pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, enjoying heart stamp printing and exploring the wonderful Tuff Tray activity that Mrs Styne crocheted especially for us for Valentines Day!

Our Acorn Adventurers are having the BEST time in our wonderful NEW Early Years Garden where they spend every Friday morning exploring and making a nature inspired craft!

**As a reminder - Little Saplings (Baby & Toddler Group) is held EVERY Friday morning in Acorn Nursery from 9.30am - 11am, £5 for the first child, £2.50 for every child thereafter and NO NEED TO BOOK, just drop in and stay and play!!**

If you would like to find out more about our amazing Nursery, please contact Mrs. Butterworth, our NEW Nursery Room Leader by emailing: [nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk)

## **Our Values for March are Love and Caring:**

**In school,** we will listen to and discuss stories where people have shown love and care towards each other. We will also discuss how we can personally show love and care towards others and why it's important to do this. We will also link these Values into this half term's events of Fair Trade Fortnight, World Book Day, British Science Week and, of course, Easter.

**At home,** you could discuss who you love. Why do you love them? Who loves you? How can you tell they love you? You could also discuss how we care for others, as well as things like our pets. How do we show care towards things? What can you do this week to show someone or something that you care? E.g. water a plant, play with the dog, help Mum or Dad with some chores.



## *Clophill Open Gardens Weekend*

We are planning to hold an Open Gardens Weekend in Clophill and would like to have a wide variety of gardens for people to enjoy. We were so grateful last time when you kindly opened your lovely garden and we are sure that visitors would love to see how it has developed.

**If you are willing to open YOUR garden or would like more details; please contact Jenny on 07917648987 or Jackie on 07831 861 641**





**Clophill and District  
Flower Club**

[www.clophillflowerclub.com](http://www.clophillflowerclub.com)



invite you to join them for

# **'Regal Flowers'**



A floral demonstration  
by  
**Louisa Rigden**



**Thursday 4 April 2024**

6.45 for 7.30pm start  
**Clophill Village Hall**

**Visitors always welcome at all our meetings - £7**

For further details see our website or contact Gillian on 07960 662334

St Mary's Church, Clophill



Invite you to a

# *Spring Lunch*

**10<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**12 noon – 2pm in the Church**



**£10 - 2 course meal with drinks**



**Everyone very welcome**

**Please reserve a place**

**– phone Carolyn 01462 815433 or Gillian 01525 860539**

# Claphill Preschool

## **Hello everyone,**

We can't believe we are nearly at the end of the spring term; we've braved wind and rain (lots of it) and we are hoping we can add snow to the list.

Simon and Theodore have been getting on really well at preschool and becoming more used to the children, spending more time out of their house and wandering in their cage. Someone else who has settled well are our new chickens, Owley, Fluffy and Bluey who were kindly donated by a parent. They love nothing more than making a dust bath under the snack tables and picking up any food dropped!

We have been doing a lot of cookery recently, making pizzas and apple turnovers (which made a great maths teaching opportunity as the children folded their pastry to make triangles). Our SEND children were also baking, Lynne kindly came in to teach them to make cookies. The value the children get from this is immense, they learn to follow instruction, to feel the different textures and consistencies and helping to count and measure. They were mixing and sprinkling ingredients giving them the sensory engagement that gives them stimulus and allows them to really focus on task. The pride the children feel from creating their foods is immeasurable, giving them this opportunity to immerse themselves (and immersed they were), to work alongside others focussed on a task that for some, from the outside looking in, would be seen to be beyond these children's reach but by not underestimating them and giving the right support, encouragement and belief, they showed us what they could achieve, from cracking the eggs, to setting out each cupcake case in the muffin tray carefully and systematically.

The children also used their bird ID skills taught by Carol recently to take part in the RSPB Big Bird Watch. Julie worked with the children using her theatrical experience to help them make a Chinese dragon to dance around the setting, as we learnt about Chinese New Year; which one of our children has gone to China to celebrate.

Carol and Sarah took the Adventure Friday bunch out to do map reading. They followed the map to find points along the route tracing their way to find the 'treasure' (some foil covered biscuits in the treasure chest, hidden by Kirsty). The children looked at signs and symbols on the way and Carol taught them how to use a compass to find their way learning about the compass points and following directions.

As we have become more and more sought after, we now hold regular open days for prospective parents and their children. There was no greater sight this month than watching a very young toddler be put down by their mother and two of our children swooping in to chat and look after him, offering toys and asking his name, what fantastically caring and thoughtful children we have, this is such an important part of the holistic approach we foster in the teaching and care of our children.

# Schoolreaders

improving literacy • increasing life chances

Children's literacy charity **Schoolreaders** is looking for volunteers who can help spread the joy of reading to children in primary schools across Bedfordshire.

Every year, 1 in 4 children leave primary school unable to read to the expected standard. Schoolreaders recruits volunteers to listen to children read one-to-one in primary schools, focusing on schools where children require the most support. Volunteers are asked to listen to children read once a week in term time and to commit to a minimum of a year. 95% of children supported by a Schoolreaders volunteer improve their reading age.



Schoolreaders volunteers also have a positive impact on pupils' reading confidence with 95% of pupils showing improvement and 87% showing increased reading enjoyment. Additionally, children benefit enormously from the volunteers as positive role models in the classroom.

Jane Whitbread, founder of Schoolreaders, comments "Children who leave primary school unable to read well can't access their secondary schooling fully which will compromise their life opportunities. Reading is the gateway to learning. Our Schoolreaders volunteers provide a crucial supplement to classroom teaching and are welcomed by schools and the children. If more children gain pleasure from reading from an early age and their reading fluency and confidence improves too, communities and society will reap the benefits."



Sheena, retired, and a Schoolreaders volunteer, explains her experience, "*For me, establishing a rapport with each child and recognising their*

*uniqueness by making the sessions relevant and fun is what counts and the earlier we can do this the better.*"

To find out more about Schoolreaders visit [www.schoolreaders.org](http://www.schoolreaders.org). By applying now new volunteers will be matched as quickly as possible to a partner school once they have completed a mandatory DBS check and virtual safeguarding training.

The Fledglings have had a wonderful first half term back filled with joy and laughter; we even had our first bus trip from Jacques Lane down to the village green!

We enjoyed Lunar New Year by learning to write good luck messages in Mandarin and baking fortune cookies for our families; the children each chose a member of their family to write a kind fortune for and then proceeded to hide them inside the still-hot cookie dough before pinching it shut and sealing it for the reader!



We also followed the children's interest and learnt about St Valentine, his secret wedding ceremonies and why we celebrate the anniversary of his death. Learning that St Valentine wrote the first ever love note led to the children drawing some heart pictures of their own so we used it as a chance to dive into the artworks of Jim Dine and the opportunity for the children to work in his style.

We then decided to find out about the hearts inside our own bodies. We learnt about the four chambers of the heart and discussed in depth how vital the heart is to keep us alive and oxygenated. The children had so many thoughtful questions, which led to an

unexpected lesson about defibrillators, CPR and the reasons behind it. So, to really deepen our knowledge, we then made a dummy out of a coat stuffed with cushions so the children could each have a turn doing CPR for an exhausting 2-minute cycle!

Most recently, we have been really enjoying spotting the signs of spring all around us. In keeping with celebrating St David's day, we baked some welsh cakes to drop to our dear friends at Beverley Court. We also drew and painted some beautiful daffodil

pictures before looking closely at the life cycle of daffodils and finally dissecting one to see and feel each part of the plant up close.





We are holding another Fete and Village Event on 11<sup>th</sup> May in the grounds of St Mary's Church. This is always a very successful and popular community event that attracts a large number of people from Clophill and the surrounding area.

Our aim is to organise a Fete for the enjoyment of all ages and to involve as many organisations and individuals as possible. We want to provide the opportunity for all to promote their organisation and to raise money for their own cause.

If you would like to have a stall, please contact Gillian Hill as soon as possible and by 30<sup>th</sup> April.

We would like to know the type of stall you would like to run, a side show or game or just an information stand. This year we ask you to provide your own table as we have a limited number. We are happy for you to bring a gazebo. We start setting up from 8am.

We want to develop the Fete further this year, whilst still retaining a traditional Village Fete theme. This year we are planning to extend the attractions to entertain the children and inform the grownups. There will be entertainment, activities, and games to give the children a great afternoon.

We hope you will be supporting this popular event and we look forward to hearing from you.

**Gillian Hill 01525 860539, Carolyn Cranswick 01462 816544**



## *Traditional Church Fete and Village Event*

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024 12 noon – 4pm

Name of Organisation.....

Contact name..... Tel No.....

Type of stall.....

# Clophill Parish Council

An efficient meeting was held at the Methodist church on 20<sup>th</sup> February.



Main areas for discussion were the **delayed speed signage** for the roundabout scheme and the Green one way, which is being chased. Plus; **the 20 MPH Zone for the village**, where the council resolved to raise an E-petition to be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council, to take our proposals to the Traffic Management Committee. This should be live on the Central Bedfordshire web site very soon, look out for publicity on Facebook, our website ([www.clophill-pc.gov.uk](http://www.clophill-pc.gov.uk)) and the notice boards. We need as many people to sign up as possible to make the case for the Zone, and make our village a safer place.

**Flood management** was also discussed, and we will be working with CBC Flood Management to see how we can minimise this in the longer term.

The CPC has been successful in applying for a **£2000 grant for new hedgerow planting**, along Church Path and Hay Close. As well as further Trees for a village giveaway in March. Look out for dates.

Our National Lottery funded **water project for the Townshott Allotments** is now nearing completion with connection now live from Anglian Water. This will help our plot holders over the increasingly hot summers.

GST are making good progress on **the Lakes** and hope to open to the public in the summer.

## Planning Applications

**CB/24/00078/VOC** 33 Bedford Road

**Proposal:** Variation of condition number 18 of planning permission CB/22/00190/FULL.

**NO COMMENT**

**CB/TCA/24/00018** 30 Back Street

**Proposal:** Works to trees within a Conservation Area. T1 Sycamore Tree (to side of house) reduce to previous pruning points to help maintain tree and allow light into property.

**NO COMMENT**

**CB/24/00317/VOC** Land Including and to the rear of 68 and 66a, High Street

**Proposal:** Variation of condition number 2 of planning permission CB/23/01067/VOC. Variation sought: replace revised elevations with new elevations to include 44 solar panels and 3 air source heat pumps.

**NO COMMENT**

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**The next meeting will be held on 25th March 2024, 19:45  
at Clophill Methodist Church**

## Fortnightly walks in and around Ampthill

Ampthill Health Walks are for anyone who wants to get more active. They are about **3 miles long** and last about an hour and a quarter. Everyone walks at their own brisk pace, with a backmarker to make sure no one is left behind. There may be some hills and in bad weather there might also be some mud but we do our best to minimise this! **The walks are all free.**

**Please note** that dogs are not allowed on the walks and ensure you wear suitable footwear.

**15th March:** 10.00am. Cross Keys PH. Cranfield. MK43 0JB.

**12th April:** 10.30am. Aspley Guise Cricket Club, Aspley Guise MK17 8DX.

After the walks we usually find a cafe or similar for refreshments.

We are a very friendly group so why not come along to one of our walks and see if it's for you?

For more information contact Mike Fayers on [mikef@bedsrcc.org.uk](mailto:mikef@bedsrcc.org.uk)  
or 01234 832619



## St Mary the Virgin. Clophill

*Please come to our  
Lent  
Lunches*



**13<sup>th</sup> March**

**20<sup>th</sup> March      12 noon -2pm**

**at St Mary's Church, Clophill**

**Donations will be given to WaterAid & St John's Hospice**

*Everyone very welcome*

**Raffle**

For information phone Carolyn 01462 815433 or Gill Jones 01525 861058.

Please call if you require transport





Wildlife Trust for  
**Beds, Cambs  
& Northants**  
Flit Vale Local Group



**Wednesday, April 24th, Priory Country Park, Bedford at 7.15 pm**

## **Bat Walk with Colin Carpenter\***

We will meet by the car park on the first left after turning into Priory Park from Barkers Lane, (by the bottle banks) at 7.15 pm. The road is opposite the drive to Priory Marina. This car park stays open. Please be aware the gates to the main car park at Priory Country Park will be closed before our walk ends.

Bats are emerging from their winter hibernation, and Priory Country Park is an excellent area for bats, and we hope to see and identify several species. If you have a bat detector, please bring it along but Colin will bring some bat detectors with him for use by participants. A torch is essential and insect repellent is a good idea even this early in the year! \*£4 per adult

**Saturday May 18th, Strawberry Hill Farm, Knotting Green, Bedford,  
MK44 1AA at 10.00 am**

## **Visit to Strawberry Hill Farm, led by Wildlife Trust BCN staff\***

Strawberry Hill Farm has been left to rewild for 25 years. This 150-hectare site, the largest area of scrub and young woodland in the region, has presented a remarkable opportunity for the Wildlife Trust Beds, Cambs & Northants to protect this unique habitat and create a place where people can be inspired by nature.

We shall be hoping to see and hear Nightingales and a host of other bird species as well as invertebrates and a selection of flora. \*£4 per adult

**Open to all, but please reserve as space is limited.**

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# What's on in and around Clophill

## MARCH

### **Wednesday 13th**

Lent Lunch, St Mary's Church, 12noon - 2pm. See poster.

### **Wednesday 20th**

Lent Lunch, St Mary's Church, 12noon - 2pm. See poster.

## APRIL

### **Thursday 4th**

Flower Club meeting, Village Hall, 6:45 for 7:30pm start. See poster.

## MAY

### **Saturday 11th**

Church Fete & Village event, St Mary's Church, 12noon - 2pm. See poster.

### **Plus....**

### **Weekdays during term time**

\* Clophill Community Hub is open, Village Hall, 9am to 3pm.

Also trialling opening on Saturdays 10:30am to 2:30pm.

### **Mondays...**

\* Greensand Community Choir, St. Mary's Church, 7:30-9pm.

### **Tuesdays... in school holidays - 2024**

\* Clophill Preschool, Stay and Play 10am – 12noon, Village Hall.

2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> April Easter Hunt, first 5 Fridays of the summer holidays, all £3 per child.

### **Wednesdays...**

\* Tea and Chat, Methodist Church, 10am – 12noon.

\* Beverley Court Bingo Night, in the Residents lounge, 7pm. All welcome.

### **Thursdays...**

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



## CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

Other Sundays              11am, Parish Communion

**Regular services at Greensand Community Methodist Church,  
Clophill...** Weekly Worship at the Church, Sundays at 10:30am.

## **Amphill & District Archaeological & Local History Society**

Monday 8th April 2024. Flitwick Library. 7:30.



### ***Where will the Banking Hub be located?***

In the former NatWest premises at 8-10 Church Street.

### ***What will it offer?***

Opening hours will be from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, closed at weekends.

The Hub, when it opens, will offer a counter service operated by the Post Office, where customers of all major banks can carry out regular cash transactions.

There will also be a **Community Banker** service where customers can talk to their own bank about more complicated issues on the day their bank is in the Hub. **Community Bankers** will work on rotation, with a different bank available on each day of the week.

***Monday:*** NatWest

***Tuesday:*** Barclays

***Wednesday:*** Santander

***Thursday:*** Lloyds

***Friday:*** HSBC

Finding the right location for a Banking Hub that is convenient, accessible and works for everyone often takes time so Cash Access UK is delighted to have been able to find a convenient premises in the heart of the community. This development is a significant step forward in bringing a Banking Hub to Ampthill.

## **Parish Registers for March**

### **1824**

#### **Baptisms**

- 07 Joseph, s of John and Elizabeth Kedge.
- 14 Hannah, d of George and Sarah (?)
- 21 Georgiana, d of George and Elizabeth (?)

#### **Marriages**

- 02 Richard Matthews to Elizabeth Franks (?)
- William Manton (?) to Elizabeth Wilmore.

#### **Burials**

- 16 (?) Odel (sic), widow.
- 17 John B (?)
- 22 (?) Webb, d of James.

## Parish Registers for March continued >>

### 1874

#### **Baptisms**

- 29 Grace Elizabeth Whittamore, d of Sarah from Silsoe.  
Alice and Charlie, children of John and Ellen (?) Simpson (?)

**No marriages or burials recorded**

### 1924

**No baptisms or marriages.**

#### **Burials**

- 31 Joseph Webb, 78.

### 1974

#### **Baptisms**

- 24 Michelle Elizabeth Pearce.

**No marriages or burials.**

### **St. Mary's Church Registers February 2024**

- 06 Burial of Ashes of Steven Wayne Alford, 60.  
08 Funeral of William Raymond (Ray) James, 90.
- 

## **ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEWS**

Food and Fundraising have been the priority at St. Mary's in the past month. The annual Cake and Coffee morning for Janina, the girl in Paraguay we support through Plan International, raised over £500, a great result financially and a wonderful friendly occasion. The Winter Warmer Lunches ended at the beginning of February. After expenses, we were able to give £150 to the Village Hall Hub from the donations of those who came. Now we have started our Lent Lunches, every Wednesday in Lent from 12 o'clock in the church. This year we are supporting Water Aid and St. John's Hospice Moggerhanger. We think this may be the 50<sup>th</sup> year that we have held them. Why don't you come and join us? You'd be very welcome.

Sadly, we said goodbye to one of our dear friends on February 8<sup>th</sup> Ray James, a faithful member of our congregation died at the age of 90. A full church celebrated his life, hearing some surprising details about him!

Just a reminder that we will be celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Mary's in September with an exhibition and floral display. We'd be grateful for any pictures of the church you may have, and particularly any photos of past Rectors. Save the dates; September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.



# Useful numbers

<b>Gas (Emergency)</b>	0800 111999
<b>Electricity (Emergency)</b>	0800 7838838
<b>Emergency Fire/Police/Ambulance</b>	999
<b>Water/Sewage (Anglian Water)</b>	0845 7145145
<b>Telephone</b>	(Customer Services) 150 (Faults) 151
<b>Highways Department (Central Bedfordshire Council)</b>	0300 3008049
<b>Benefits Agency (Bedford office)</b>	01234 361500
<b>Registrar's Office (Births/deaths/marriages)</b>	0300 3008089
<b>Rail (Enquiries)</b>	0845 7484950
<b>Buses</b> 01234 262151 (Link A Ride) 01525 840511 (Flittabus)	01582 406561
<b>Luton Airport</b>	01582 405100
<b>Swimming</b> (Flitwick) 01525 717744 (Robinson Pool)	01234 212479

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

<b>Central Beds Offices (Chicksands)</b>	0300 300 8000
<b>Mid-Bed; MP</b>	Alistair Strathern TBA
<b>Central Bedfordshire Councillors</b>	Susan Clinch 0300 300 8516
	Gary Summerfield 0300 300 8561
	Mark Smith 0300 300 8541
<b>Clophill Parish Council</b> (Clerk) Heather Myott clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk	07888 685 886

## HOSPITALS

<b>Bedford (North &amp; South)</b>	01234 355122	<b>Admissions</b>	01234 261150
		<b>Appointments</b>	01234 359012
<b>Luton &amp; Dunstable</b>			0845 1270127

## DOCTOR'S CLINICS

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

## POLICE

<b>County Police HQ</b>	Non Emergency	101
<b>Amphill Station</b>		01234 841212
		101

## CHURCHES

<b>St Mary's Parish Church</b>		
Revd Cannon Lynda Klimas	rev.l.klimas@btinternet.com	01525 403139
(Church Warden) Mrs Anne Shegog	anneshegog@gmail.com	01525 864868
<b>St Francis RC Church, Shefford</b>		01452 813436
<b>Clophill Methodist Church</b>	Revd Silas Wood, email: swood11@me.com,	01525 571392
	Mr John Errick	01525 860695
<b>Baptist Churches</b>	(Maulden) Ian Crawford	01525 634325
	(Shefford) Hazel Arnold	01462 812564

## SCHOOLS

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

## Village groups

Beverley Court		860920
Brownies	<a href="mailto:enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk">enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk</a>	
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 and Preschool	Tracy Hayes	860206
Clophill United Charities	Val Martin	860900
Conservation Group	Brian Adams	862297
Flower Club	Gillian Hill	860539
Funzone After School Club		07903 167493
Greensand Community Choir	Luke	07975 520085
Indoor Carpet Bowls	Tony Meredith	860754
Messy Church	Victoria Higgins	07920 568861
	<a href="mailto:victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk">victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk</a>	
Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)	Mary Milne and Jenny Garnham	
	<a href="mailto:fosmclophill@gmail.com">fosmclophill@gmail.com</a>	
Scouts and Cubs	<a href="http://www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved">www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved</a>	
Tea and Chat	Anita Errick	860695
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marylin Browning	07821 643936



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- ◇ Executors are personally liable. Are they still willing and able?
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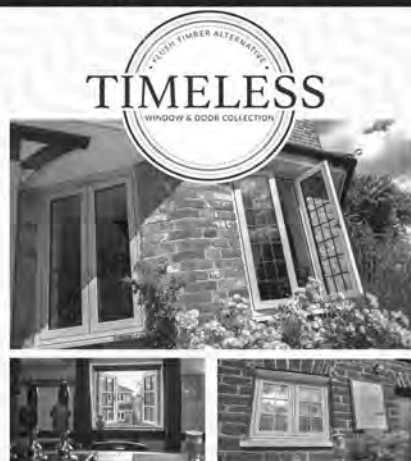
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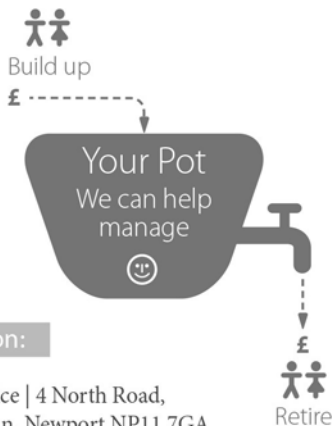
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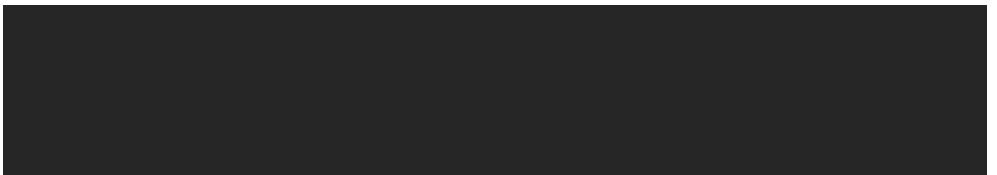
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