

Village

April 2024

Web



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 30 April, 7.00pm

Join us for
Drinks
AND
NIBBLES

Holy Trinity Church, Chrishall

Everyone is very welcome to attend and anyone on the electoral roll can vote.

Please join us at 7pm for refreshments

Front cover picture by Bonnie, Oliva and Sonya of Chrishall School.

**18 April 2024 - final date for submission of
articles for the May edition**



The Parish of the
Icknield Way Villages

Seeks to be
**Christ-centred • Faithful to scripture • Prayerful
Loving • Welcoming • Accepting all • Sharing fellowship**

April Services

Sunday 7

- 9.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church **Little Chishill** SG8 8PA
10.45am Family Café Church at **Chrishall Village Hall Chrishall** SG8 8QL

Sunday 14

- 9.00am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity **Heydon** SG8 8PW
10.45am Family Worship with Holy Communion St Nicholas
Elmdon CB11 4LT

Sunday 21

- 9.00am Holy Communion at Hamlet Church **Duddenhoe End** CB11 4XN
9.30am **URC** Morning Service led by Revd Sue Fender
10.45am Family Worship at Holy Trinity **Chrishall** SG8 8QU

Sunday 28

- 9.00am Morning Prayer at St Marys Church **Strethall** CB11 4XJ
10.45am Family Worship at St Swithuns **Great Chishill** SG8 8SS

Note: Services subject to change.

Service details, diary events and more at www.icknieldwayparish.blogspot.co.uk

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Wed: Barley *5.45pm, 6.45pm & 8pm

Thurs: Thriplow 9.10 HIPP & ZOOM Pilates 8pm

Sat: ZOOM HIPP 8.00 am

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St George's Day

April 23

St. George, revered in both Christian and secular contexts, embodies the valour and faith celebrated through centuries. Thought to be born in Cappadocia, modern-day Turkey, in the late 3rd century, he served as a Roman soldier under Emperor Diocletian. His unwavering commitment to his Christian faith led him to defy the Emperor and he was executed for refusing to make a sacrifice in honour of the pagan gods. Iconic tales depict his famed encounter with a dragon,



symbolizing the triumph of good over evil, faith over adversity. Through this story, St. George epitomizes courage, resilience, and unwavering devotion to God's will. His steadfastness amid trials continues to inspire Christians worldwide.

Although St George never visited England, his reputation for virtue and holiness spread across Europe and his feast day – the 23rd April – was celebrated in England from the 9th century onwards. He became popular with English kings. Edward I (1272-1307) had banners bearing the emblem of St George (a red cross on a white background) and Edward III (1327-77) had a strong interest in the saint and owned a relic of his blood. The St George cross was not used to represent England until the reign of Henry VIII.

In commemorating St. George, we are reminded of the timeless values he represents: bravery in the face of adversity, steadfast faith, and the enduring power of goodness.



Dorcus Society

When I start researching these articles I never really know what I might find. I have an idea of what I'm looking for, and where, but like to allow the history itself to tell its stories. This time I was looking for an Elmdon link and started by looking for Wilkes, a name I am seeing a lot at the moment as I am working on a field map for Chrishall. So I did a search for Wilkes and came up with some old church newsletters. This one from December 1905 caught my eye: "The last Dorcus Meeting was held at the Vicarage on Tuesday, November 14th, when the garments made during the year were allotted to various people in the parishes."

Who, or what, were the Dorcus group? An internet search revealed the following:

"Early Dorcas Societies revolved around the front rooms of middle-class women, meeting to make textiles, with money raised for materials by each woman in the group. The finished products would then be distributed to deserving poor in the parish."

Why "Dorcus" I thought? I'm sure many of you will be ahead of me here with the following from the Bible: Acts 9:36 Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity.

So what do we know of this group of ladies who met in Elmdon Vicarage around the turn of the last century?

In the December 1903/January 1904 edition of the Church News it was reported that the garments that had been made by the Dorcus Society during the year were distributed and consisted of 12 night dresses, 12 flannel petticoats and 26 shirts. They were given to “widows and other deserving cases”.

In the March/April Church News of 1905 Mrs O Prime was collecting subscriptions for the Dorcus Society who were meeting at the Vicarage on the 2nd Wednesday in each month. There were 26 ladies and one man, John Wilkes, who were subscribers and it seems they may have given what they could afford – ranging from Mrs Bailey with a donation of £1, 1 shilling, and Mrs R Housden with a donation of 1 shilling. There are regular bills from Mrs Chater and Mrs Wabon, perhaps for buying materials for they were the wives of the two grocers and drapers that had shops in Elmdon main street. In March 1906 there are still 27 subscribers although Mrs Bailey has now become Lady Bailey. (I suspect the 1905 title of “Mrs” was in error. Lady Bailey was presumably married to Sir James Bailey who lived at Lofts Hall.) And in 1908 with 25 subscribers the Society is still going strong. I don’t know how long the Society existed. But I hope you have enjoyed that little dip into one of the activities that was keeping Elmdon ladies busy early last century. The Archive will be open this year with the first date being Sunday 26th May - 2 - 4.30pm. Other dates are on our website. Do pop along and say hello.
Rosemarie Gant, *Chrishall Village Archive*

Our Prayer for Ukraine

A solemn gathering of mainly Ukrainian families, was held in Chrishall church on 24th February to remember loved ones in their home country.

It is scarcely credible, over two years have passed since Russia invaded Ukraine. The human cost and repercussions of this aggression will surely be felt for decades. The UK has provided a

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Candles poignantly lit, in Chrishall Church, for loved ones in Ukraine

refuge for numerous Ukrainian families, who certainly did not anticipate such a long exile.

Those living here now have been forced to come to terms with their dream of repatriation being at some indeterminate time in the uncertain future. It is hard to imagine what this must feel like. They met, relieved to be here in safety, and free, to sing, pray, listen to readings, light candles and think about the human tragedy affecting so many.

Our gratitude to Louise and Susannah for kindly facilitating this gathering. Please do make use of this prayer written by our Archbishops, as you read on.

God of peace and justice,

we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

*We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.*

*We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.*

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen

Marathon Endeavour

On **Sunday 21st April**, 24 year old **Harry Wilkinson** of Wenden Lofts will be running the **London Marathon** to raise money for Khandel Light, despite only distance running for just over a year. For more than 20 years, Khandel Light has been working to improve the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged families in Khandel and 26 surrounding villages in the desert State of Rajasthan, India. Supporting Khandel light, established by family Doctor, Peter Gough, seemed a great way to express appreciation to a special person in Harry's life, as well as contributing to an amazing, effective charity. It can be easy to take life's luxuries for granted, yet so many don't even have access to basic nutrition,



sanitation, and shelter. Harry aims to raise well over £2,000 to help Khandel Light continue the amazing work they do, focusing on water and sanitation, female empowerment, education, economic growth, environmental impact, and building developments. A £5 donation can set up a toilet, provide a lesson at a school, or assist in the creation of running water in a local community.

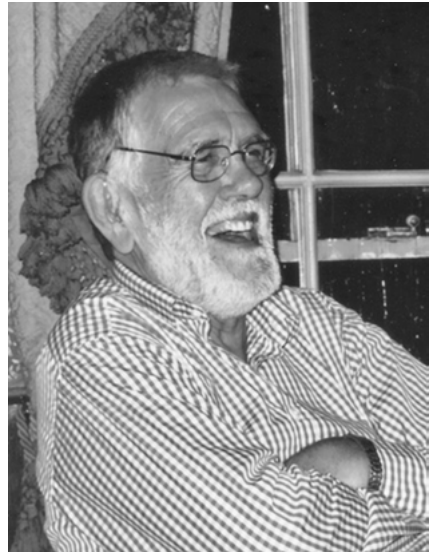
With an ambitious target of 3 hours, Harry has been training in earnest for 6 months. He would appreciate support from across the parish to help with this challenge. If you are prepared to kindly donate, your sponsorship support will certainly spur him on to train hard and push himself on the big day.

Please search for: **Harry's 2024 London Marathon fundraiser Khandel-light**

***“Do not go
gentle into that
good night...”***

Jim Fookes

**21st July 1933 -
28th January 2024**



Jim echoed Dylan Thomas’s sentiments and *raged, raged against the dying of the light.*

Read beautifully and powerfully by his wife Caroline at the celebration of his life, the poem encapsulates Jim.

Poor eyesight, challenging hearing and slow mobility in his final years didn’t stop Jim wanting to eke out every drop of his life.

He knew that life is a privilege in which we build a foundation in the first half life to become a container for the second. It is then that we can discover and embody our own and life’s true meaning.

As a respected Fleet Street journalist, Jim searched for and communicated, through his skilful writing, the truth behind social injustice.

He recognised the importance of communities, using his rugby coaching abilities to influence many young players, his journalistic expertise to support, through *Khandel light*, marginalised villages in Rajasthan and his leadership qualities to create the *Firkin Society of Chrishall*.

Fellowship over a good ale.

Next time you have a beer in your hand, raise your glass to Jim. But make sure it has a handle!

Dr Peter Gough

Re-Engage Tea Parties

We are part of Re-Engage - every month, on a Sunday afternoon, we host tea parties in our homes for people aged 75+ who are lonely, isolated or in need of companionship. They're a chance for a change of scenery and regular afternoons of conversation and laughter with friends of all ages with the added bonus of a scrumptious afternoon tea. Our parties are completely free and very friendly.

Our volunteer drivers collect guests from their homes and take them to the tea party, where between 10 and 15 older guests and volunteers share tea, cake, and companionship, and enjoy a chat. At the end of the tea party, we take our guests safely back home.

Guests should be able to get in and out of a car (with a helping hand) and be able to cope with a few steps into a host's home. They should also be able to manage their own personal needs, such as using the bathroom without assistance.

If you think you'd be interested in joining our group, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our local organiser Jill, on 075810 542833 or email her jill@garniers.co.uk. We look forward to meeting you.

Treasure Island Tracks



Inspired by the famous BBC R4 programme, we invite our castaway guest to select their choice of favourite tracks. As regular listeners will know castaways may also bring a book, alongside The Bible and the Works of William Shakespeare, with a luxury item....

Treasured Tracks

1. **King Of The Swingers.** *Kenny Ball and His Jazzmen*....a favourite of my Mum's. She met Kenny at a gig and blew his trumpet!
2. **Organ Concerto No 3** *Saint Seans*....an RAF navigator, Dad took us to this at the RAF Benevolent Fund concert at the Royal Festival Hall. That organ break has stuck with me.
3. **Hell Raiser.** *The Sweet*....the first record I bought. I remember it being played over the PA on the dodgems at the town carnival when I was a kid.
4. **Love Will Keep Us Alive** - *Eagles*....a song where the words formed a connection to someone special at a difficult time.
5. **Tomorrow** - *Bugsy Malone*....the first time someone showed us what they were capable of.
6. **Baker Street** - *Gerry Rafferty*....singing this song with the band when a Spitfire displays overhead.
7. **The Lord's My Shepherd** - *Stuart Townend*.... a wonderful worship song we sing that always hits the spot. Lovely harmonies.
8. **Fix You** - *Coldplay*.... I have been to see Coldplay several times, from the first time with my wife to the most recent with my 3 children. They bring people together in an amazing way

Treasured Book

Jonathan Livingston Seagull...we can all be so much more than we believe

Treasured Luxury

A self replenishing supply of paper. pens, pencils and paper.

To uncover this castaway guest, please see page 19.

From The Parish Registers

Funerals

Audrey Drage
28 February 2024 at Holy Trinity, Heydon

Paula Morgan
4 March 2024 at Holy Trinity, Chrishall

Chrishall School News



This term we have been thinking a lot about volunteering, volunteers and what commitment means. Lowry Class (Year 3 and 4) have been learning about extreme weather around the world and within this experience have been finding out about the amazing work of the RNLI. With this year being their 200th anniversary, it has been especially exciting to find out about the commitment and courage shown by the volunteers working for this incredible charity. To put your life on the line to save others is truly inspirational and I know many of the children have been blown away by the stories they've heard.

Newton (Years 5 and 6) have been learning about commitment as part of their PSHE (personal, social, health education) lessons. As part of this learning, they undertook some research into the volunteering that goes on in our own community. They could not believe the number and range of volunteer roles that are carried out by the local community. They would like to send a huge shout out to all the volunteers among you for the hard work you put in to make life in our villages so great.

Volunteering and offering your skills for the benefit of others is truly an amazing way to "Let Your Light Shine" and something we all benefit from in so many ways. Thomas Carlyle sums it up beautifully here: "The work an unknown good man has done is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground green."

Fiona Dyer *Teacher*

A Greener Tomorrow

The Chelsea Flower Show, a beloved tradition in the world of horticulture and landscaping, has evolved into a powerful advocate and pioneer for sustainability and a carbon-conscious agenda. In recent years, this iconic event has demonstrated its commitment to a greener future through various initiatives that showcase naturalistic planting, sustainable drainage, climate resilience, biodiversity, and wildlife conservation.

Naturalistic Planting:

One of the most significant shifts in recent Chelsea Flower Shows is the embrace of naturalistic planting designs. Gardeners and designers have moved away from the rigid formal gardens of the past and now champion a

more relaxed, eco-friendly style, and even re-wilding. These designs replicate the beauty of the natural world, emphasizing native plants and fostering a sense of harmony between humans and nature.

Sustainable Drainage:

The show's gardens now incorporate sustainable drainage solutions that help mitigate flooding, reduce runoff, and improve water quality. These innovations not only enhance the resilience of gardens against extreme weather events but also serve as a practical demonstration of sustainable practices for visitors.

Climate Resilience:

In a world facing the challenges of climate change, the Chelsea Flower Show is a frontrunner in highlighting the importance of climate resilience. Gardens at the show often feature a range of climate-resistant plants and adaptations designed to withstand changing weather patterns, offering practical lessons for both professionals and enthusiasts.

The RHS conducts carbon audits for RHS Chelsea Flower Show gardens as part of its sustainability efforts. These audits assess carbon footprints, promoting eco-friendly practices. Audits involve measuring emissions, analysing data, offering recommendations, and potential carbon offsetting. The RHS uses this data to raise public awareness and advocate sustainable horticulture.

Biodiversity and Wildlife:

The show actively promotes biodiversity and wildlife conservation. Gardens teem with a variety of plants, shrubs, and trees that provide vital habitats and sustenance for local wildlife. Butterfly-friendly plants, birdhouses, and insect hotels are a common sight, emphasizing the importance of coexisting with and protecting nature's creatures.

This transformation of the Chelsea Flower Show reflects a profound commitment to environmental stewardship. It serves as a source of inspiration for garden enthusiasts worldwide and underscores that even an age-old tradition can adapt to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. The show's carbon-conscious agenda fosters hope for a greener, more sustainable tomorrow.

Robert Myers

Robert is renowned Gold Medal Garden and landscape designer, an experienced judge at the Chelsea Flower Show. He is also a delight to work with.



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Feel Good Factor

Join Us and have some Fun!!

No, this is not a political call to arms – just a short (musical) note about a community choir in our villages.

Back in Autumn 2022 a new family moved into Heydon. We met whilst buying ice cream from the ‘Van Man’ in Chrishall Road and during a ‘quick chat’ discovered that mum Kerry was an accomplished musician, singer and choral teacher looking to set up a local choral group. Having sung in church and school choirs in my youth I expressed interest – as long as it wasn’t too serious!!!! (I can hold a tune but can’t read music and am no Taylor Swift or Maria Callas!). Kerry was as good as her word and soon I found myself spending Thursday evenings singing with gusto in Chrishall Village Hall. The ‘Chrishall Community Choir’ is just one of two local choirs that Kerry leads. We meet once a week in ‘term time’ at Chrishall Village Hall on Thursday evenings at 7pm for an hour – starting with warm up

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exercises and swiftly moving on to 'real songs'! Numbers have swelled since we started but there is always room for more. Our song sheets now fill two full ring binders and cover a very wide range of music styles – Coldplay to Handel, musicals to pop from the 50's to today.

We have performed in public and survived!!! The Red Cow Moosic Festival was our first 'gig' and we didn't stop there. We have supported Christmas events throughout the villages, sung for fun in The King William IV and visited local 'supported living' homes around the area. (Note: public singing is NOT mandatory!).

Kerry insists that we sing for fun but with heart - there is no other qualification. It's a thoroughly enjoyable experience and one that anyone with a love of singing should think about joining in my humble opinion.

If you would like to hear more about our 'vocal' evenings, and maybe join us, send Kerry an email on; kmcdunnough@hotmail.com
(The other local venue is Barley on Tuesdays from 6.00pm – 7.00pm)

Angela Bucksey

Coffee Morning
Wednesday 10 April

10am - 12pm

St Swithun's Great Chishill

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Why Yoga?



Yoga is a holistic practice integrating physical postures, breath control, meditation, and positivity to promote overall well-being. Originating in ancient India, it evolved into a popular form of exercise and mindfulness around the world.

Physically, yoga enhances flexibility, strength, and balance. Through a series of poses where practitioners engage muscles, improve posture, and alleviate tension in the body. Controlled breathing techniques, practiced in yoga, help to oxygenate the body, reduce stress, and calm the mind.

Yoga serves as an antidote to the physical strains of modern day living by promoting better posture. Classes cultivate awareness of body alignments, encouraging mindful movement, counteracting negative effects of prolonged sitting. Through consistent practice, individuals can experience improved spinal health, increased flexibility, and great sense of ease and grace in their movements, both on and off the yoga mat.

Mentally, yoga cultivates mindfulness and reduces stress. Focussing on breath awareness and present moment experience fosters relaxation, mental clarity, and emotional resilience. Regular yoga practice has been associated with decreased anxiety, depression, and improved overall mental well-being. So, whether you are seeking stress relief, increased flexibility and strength or simply a sense of balance in your life, regular yoga practice can bring profound benefits.

Becky Duncan *Founder: Chanting Stork Yoga*

*Our first Treasure Island Tracks castaway guest was **Bill Jones** of Great Chishill, lead singer in The Elderlies and our Parish Worship Band and stalwart of Duxford Music Workshop. His daughter mentioned in Track 5, Hope (Becky) Jones is a vocalist and actor (recently appearing in Sex Education, Netflix)*

Parish Contacts - *Telephone codes are 01763 unless stated*

Rector: Vacant (Parish currently in interregnum)

Church Office:

Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri 9am to 1pm - Church Office, Crawley End, Chrishall, Royston, Herts SG8 8QL Tel: 837272 Email: iwp.pariishopoffice@gmail.com

Lay Minister: Vacant

Parish Church Warden & Authorised Local Preacher: Jon Wayper

Tel: 01799 732045 Email: jwayper@hotmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Fiona Dyer Tel: 07854 602373

Email: iwp.safeguarding@gmail.com

District Wardens:

Chrishall – David Wilkinson 837303

Elmdon – Ned Tozer 838890

Gt Chishill – Angela Patrick Sutcliffe 837353

Hamlet – Sarah Westerhuis

Heydon – Mel Chandler 838289

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Strethall – Liz Stott 01799 521217

Lt Chishill – Elaine Nobel-Forbes

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Children's and Youth Work: Contact office - 837272

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Tower Bell Ringing: For all towers please contact the church office 837272

Chrishall Primary School: Head Teacher Tracey Bratley Tel: 838592

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Published by the Parish of The Icknield Way Villages
on behalf of the churches in our community

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Tactile Antiques!

The Friends of Stretthall Church invite you to an evening with Tim Turner (formerly of Sworders Auctioneers). Not quite Antiques Roadshow but audience participation and a chance to get hands on with antiques!

Friday April 19th 7.30pm
Stretthall Church, CB11 4XJ

Light refreshments including a glass of wine. All we ask is your presence and a donation!

It promises to be an informative, entertaining and fascinating talk!!

YOU'RE INVITED



Join the **WATOTO CHILDREN'S CHOIR**
as they sing, dance and share their
stories of restoration & hope.

Holy Trinity Church, Chrishall
Wednesday 8 May
5.30pm

Distributed free by volunteers to all the homes in the Parish of the Icknield Way Villages - Chrishall, Elmdon with Wenden Lofts, Duddenhoe End, Great Chishill, Little Chishill, Heydon and Strethall.