

Village
September 2021
Web

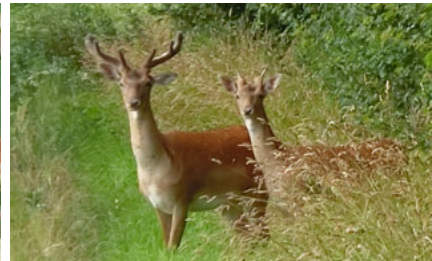
SAVE THE DATE
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September Services

Sunday 5

- 9.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church **Elmdon** CB114LT
10.45am Family Worship at Holy Trinity **Chrishall** SG8 8QU

Sunday 12

- 9.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church **Little Chishill**
SG8 8PA
10.45am Family Worship at St Swithuns **Great Chishill** SG8 8SS
6.00pm Harvest Service with Evensong **Elmdon** CB11 4LT

Sunday 19

- 9.00 am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity **Heydon** SG8 8PW
10.45am Family Café Church at Holy Trinity **Chrishall** SG8 8QU

Sunday 26

- 9.00am Harvest Service with Holy Communion St Marys Church
Strethall CB11 4XJ
10.45am Family Worship with Holy Communion at St Swithuns
Great Chishill SG8 8SS

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

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<i>Unwind & Restore</i>		19:30-20:00
	Friday	
<i>Vinaya Nourishing Flow</i>		09:30-10:30
	Saturday	
<i>Uplifting Flow</i>		09:00-10:00
<i>Beginners/ Gentle Flow</i>		10:30-11:30



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Parish News from Anand, our Rector

Dear All

I hope you have had a good holiday time during August.

We have all witnessed the success of the Olympic Games with Team Great Britain doing very well and coming 4th in the medal table. Our thanks and gratitude to all in team GB who have made the nation so proud.



The academic year begins in September with schools and colleges welcoming new students. There will be many challenges for parents who have to send children off to school and university on their own for the first time. Our hearts go out to them. We pray that these children work hard to achieve their hopes and dreams and secure a successful future.

I also sincerely hope and pray that there won't be any more pandemics and more prayers are needed for the people of Afghanistan.

I do not have much more news except to request you to please take note of the changes to the church services.

Yours in Christ



Anand Sodadasi

A Reflection from Anand

While we have been celebrating the success of the Olympic Games the news has quickly changed and has become dominated by the Taliban's progress in Afghanistan. The situation is grim and sad and with some civilians desperately trying to leave the country.

This situation reminds me of an ancient biblical story preserved in the accounts of 2 Kings 6: 8-23 and is titled 'Elisha the Prophet traps Blinded Syrians'. In this story it is apparent that in the ancient world there was no international law and no organisations like the UN to intervene and help. Any neighbouring countries could invade each other at any time. If a nation had weak political power then they would quite often be subjected to the power of other countries, both near and far.

In the story, there were tensions between ancient Syria and Israel during the time of the Israeli prophet Elisha. In the ancient world, prophets, using their divine gifts of knowledge and prophecy, quite often predicted events and revealed the secrets and plans of enemy kings. So, in this story a Syrian king is very upset because when he wanted to attack the Israelites they were warned in advance by the prophet Elisha. The Syrian king was puzzled and annoyed by how such secrets and plans were revealed to the King of Israel. One of his assistants told him that in the land of Israel there was a prophet called Elisha who could tell secrets even those that had only been spoken of in the bedroom.

Of course the Syrian king was outraged and sent a battalion of strong chariots and horses to the city where Elisha was living. The army surrounded the city and the sight of such a huge force panicked Elisha's servant and he ran to ask Elisha what should be done. Elisha's answer was simple, "*Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them*". Then Elisha prayed, "*Open his eyes Lord so that he may see*".

When the servant went outside again he saw a heavenly army with horses and chariots surrounded by fire. The story goes on to say that as the Syrian army came down from the hills to destroy Elisha and the city Elisha prayed to the Lord again, "*Strike the Syrian army with blindness O*

Lord". So the Lord struck the army down with blindness. Elisha then went to the Syrian army and said, "*The man who you are looking for is not here. I will show you where he is*". He then led them to the capital city of Israel and called for the King of Israel. The King asked Elisha if he should kill them. Elisha said, "*No! Would you have killed those you captured with your own arms with sword or bow? Set food and water before them so they can eat and drink and go back to their master*".

So the King of Israel prepared a great feast for the Syrian army. After they had finished eating and drinking he sent them away to their master, unharmed. In no time at all the whole Syrian army withdrew from invading the land of Israel.

There was no violence in the victory. Only friendship and hospitality were shown towards the invading army. The success that Elisha had achieved came from loving and caring for his enemies. Many biblical verses talk about this.

In the Gospel, Jesus said, "*love your enemies and pray for them. Do good to those who you hate and pray for those who are cruel to you*", Luke 6: 27-32. Paul said, in Romans 12: 14-17, "*Wish for only good to those who treat you badly. If someone does you wrong don't try to pay them back by hurting them. If you have enemies who are hungry and thirsty, then give them something to eat and drink. In doing so you will make them feel ashamed*".

The ancient world was an insecure place to live. Today we also live in a world where violence exists. We may think we don't have enemies, or maybe we don't recognise our enemies. Elisha brought peace to the land of Israel with God's help. We can do the same. Watchman Nee was a missionary in China who wrote a commentary on Romans. He prayed for his enemies by saying, "*Lord, if I'm honest with my nature I hate these people who are troubling me but it is possible for you to change my mind and my heart to accept them. I pray that you will change my nature*". As the prophet brought peace to Israel with God's help may we join together in praying and doing our best to help the people of Afghanistan.

May the thoughts shared above encourage us on our Christian journey.

Yours in Christ
Anand Sodadasi

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Church of England Services in our Parish

The 9.00am service is a traditional service, which follows the Book of Common Prayer rite for Holy Communion.

The 10.45am Family Worship services are informal, family-inclusive worship services, with a contemporary feel, centred on bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to all who seek him. These services will include a relevant Bible-based talk, prayers, reflection and singing. A Children's Corner is available. There is a slightly different emphasis each Sunday, as shown below, but children and young people are encouraged at all the services to engage with the sermon theme by presenting to the congregation relevant craft work, and through the Memory Verse scheme.

The service on the first Sunday of the month, at Chrishall, provides the opportunity for young people to have their own teaching in the Sunday Club at the special area at the back of the church while the main talk will be more oriented to adults.

The service on the second Sunday of the month, at Great Chishill, will feature a short Bible talk directed at children and young families.

The Café Church service on the third Sunday of the month, at Chrishall, is a relaxed service for all, with light refreshments available (some families may like to bring their own). Relevant craft work for children and young people will usually accompany the Bible theme, all conducted around café-style tables. At this service, the congregation is encouraged to engage with the scripture through reading and discussion around the tables. The service on the fourth Sunday of the month, at Great Chishill, will include Holy Communion. The talk will be more oriented towards adults.

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

The end of discordant ringing

Anyone living in Great Chishill or attending St Swithun's church will have heard the church bells ringing. The bell ringers are the first to admit that it is not necessarily a great auditory experience! There are several reasons for this which cannot be blamed on the ringers.

The bells of St Swithun's are quite old - in fact 4 of them were made in 1686 and the fifth in 1841 - and have been ringing out for a very long time, calling people to church, celebrating marriages, marking deaths, honouring the fallen in wars, celebrating royal events and marking the passing of the old and the welcoming in of the new year. It seems incredible, but the 4 oldest bells are believed to have been cast in the churchyard! Imagine pouring half a ton of molten metal in the churchyard. The biggest bell, called the tenor, weighs about the same as seven full beer kegs!

Those people who were in the village at the turn of the century will remember that in 1999 there was a vote to get the bells to ring in the new Millennium. They had been silent for 25 years and had fallen into a very sad state of repair. There were also very few local people who knew how to ring a bell. So an appeal was launched and enough money was raised to have a minimal repair done. Some non ringers learned how to ring and a new ringing floor was put in making the ringers closer to the bells. Many people thought that once the Millennium had been rung in interest in bell ringing would decline, but here we are 22 years later and they are still being rung, in some cases by the same people who learned to ring all that time ago. As time has gone on new people have come to the village and joined the band, myself included, and lately we have had three more new recruits. So the future of bell ringing in Great Chishill looks bright so long as we can rectify the problems with the bells.

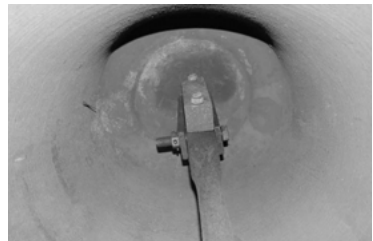
The Millennium renovation was done on a shoestring budget and did not address the inherent problems. The problems are not only 'odd struckness', but severely rusted fittings, cracked wooden headstocks with multiple worm holes and very crude bearings. Second hand components



Bolts on top of No4 bell headstock – rusty and knurled with crude packing under one nut.

such as clappers and wheels were used to keep the costs down, this has resulted in a set of bells which visiting ringers kindly describe as ‘interesting and challenging’.

The bellringers have always known that one day it would be necessary to have a major overhaul and have been raising money over the last 22 years for that end. Costs in the meantime have risen, so that now to do the job properly, it is going to cost around £90,000. We felt that as prices are rising faster than we can get money in we should take the plunge and get the ball rolling and hope that we can get grants to help along the way. We have nearly half of the amount needed and are hopeful that grant giving bodies will see that we are serious, but we cannot be sure of grant funding – I’ve just had one turned down – so any help that you can give would be greatly appreciated.



No 4 bell clapper bearing

Next month, in a second part to this article I will explain in more detail what the problems are with the bells and what has to be done to fix them. I will also give some more ideas on how you may be able to help us fulfil our mission to keep our lovely bells ringing out for the next 100 years.

If you wish to donate to the bell fund you can do it online at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/greatchishillbells and you can get a lot more details and pictures about the project at www.greatchishill.org.uk and just follow the links. **Phil Maynard**

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The Hundred Parishes Society

You may have seen our leaflets, perhaps in one of the local churches, but I would like to introduce us for this first appearance in Village Web. The Hundred Parishes Society was launched in 2014, an initiative to raise awareness of a large area of northwest Essex, northeast Hertfordshire and southern Cambridgeshire that is



particularly notable for its exceptional depth of heritage. Those who live here may take our ancient countryside and wealth of listed buildings somewhat for granted, but visitors are usually surprised when they discover the charm of our villages and small market towns and the attractive countryside in which they sit.

In the past, the area's anonymity may have been due largely to the lack of a name, so we have created one that is now recognised locally and will one day, we hope, become as well-known as the Chilterns or Constable Country. We have called the area the Hundred Parishes to recognise that it contains just over 100 administrative parishes, including Chrishall. Whilst the whole area enjoys a recurring set of special characteristics, each parish has its own identity. We hope that our initiative will encourage both residents and visitors to learn more about the area and will inspire them to explore and cherish it.

Our website www.hundredparishes.org.uk explains the idea more fully. It includes an introduction to each parish, short introductions to a number of notable people associated with the area, and a 'What's On' page that lists opportunities to learn more and to get to places that you may not know.

The website includes a growing list of walk routes that can be freely

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downloaded and printed. Two of the walks start from Chrishall Church – number 123 covers 8 miles to the south and west, while number 164 is a loop of 4.5 miles to the north and east. We hope Chrishall folk will be able to test one and be encouraged to try others somewhat further afield. Routes range from 1 mile to 17 miles.

The Hundred Parishes Society is a registered charity and the website includes details of how to become a member for a nominal subscription of £10 a year per family or organisation. Whether or not you become a member, we hope you will make regular use of our website and that it will inspire you to increase your knowledge and enjoyment of the Hundred Parishes.

Ken McDonald

URC News

URC services

Sunday 5 September Evening service 6.30pm

Sunday 19 September Morning service 9.30am

Sunday 3 October Harvest service 6.00pm.

Harvest supper 6.45pm

Sunday 17 October Morning service 9.30am

19 September - final date for submission of articles for the October edition.

Many thanks to all our contributors. The Village Web continues to seek a wide range of articles for publication. Please continue to submit your articles.



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Parish Contacts - *Telephone codes are 01763 unless stated*

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The Rectory, 1 Hall Lane, Great Chishill, Royston, Herts SG8 8SG

Tel: 838703 Email: anandsodadasi@hotmail.co.uk

Church Office:

Thursday and Friday 9am to 1pm - Church Office, Crawley End, Chrishall, Royston,

Herts SG8 8QL Tel: 837272 Email: iwp.parihoffice@gmail.com

Lay Minister: Mrs Shailaja Sodadasi Email: shailajanand@hotmail.co.uk

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 – John Holford 838286

Gt Chishill – Angela Patrick Sutcliffe 837353

Hamlet – Sarah Westerhuis

Heydon – Alex Duffus 836903

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Marcus West 838294

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The Parish of the
Icknield Way Villages

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

Foxton Scarecrow Festival

Saturday 9 October 12 noon – 5.00pm

The Foxton Scarecrow Festival will be held this year on **Saturday 9 October**. Please come along and join us for some scarecrow fun!

As in previous years, you will be able to wander through Foxton village from one scarecrow to another. Join in with the various fundraising activities along the way including a children's quiz and 'Where's Wally?' Will you be able to find this special scarecrow, hidden somewhere in the village?

We welcome you to stop at various venues around the village for some refreshments such as bacon butties, home-made soup or tea and cakes. An impromptu band will be playing during the afternoon in the Village Hall.

This fun event for all ages will finish in the Church from 4.30pm with prize giving and a performance by the Foxton Singers.

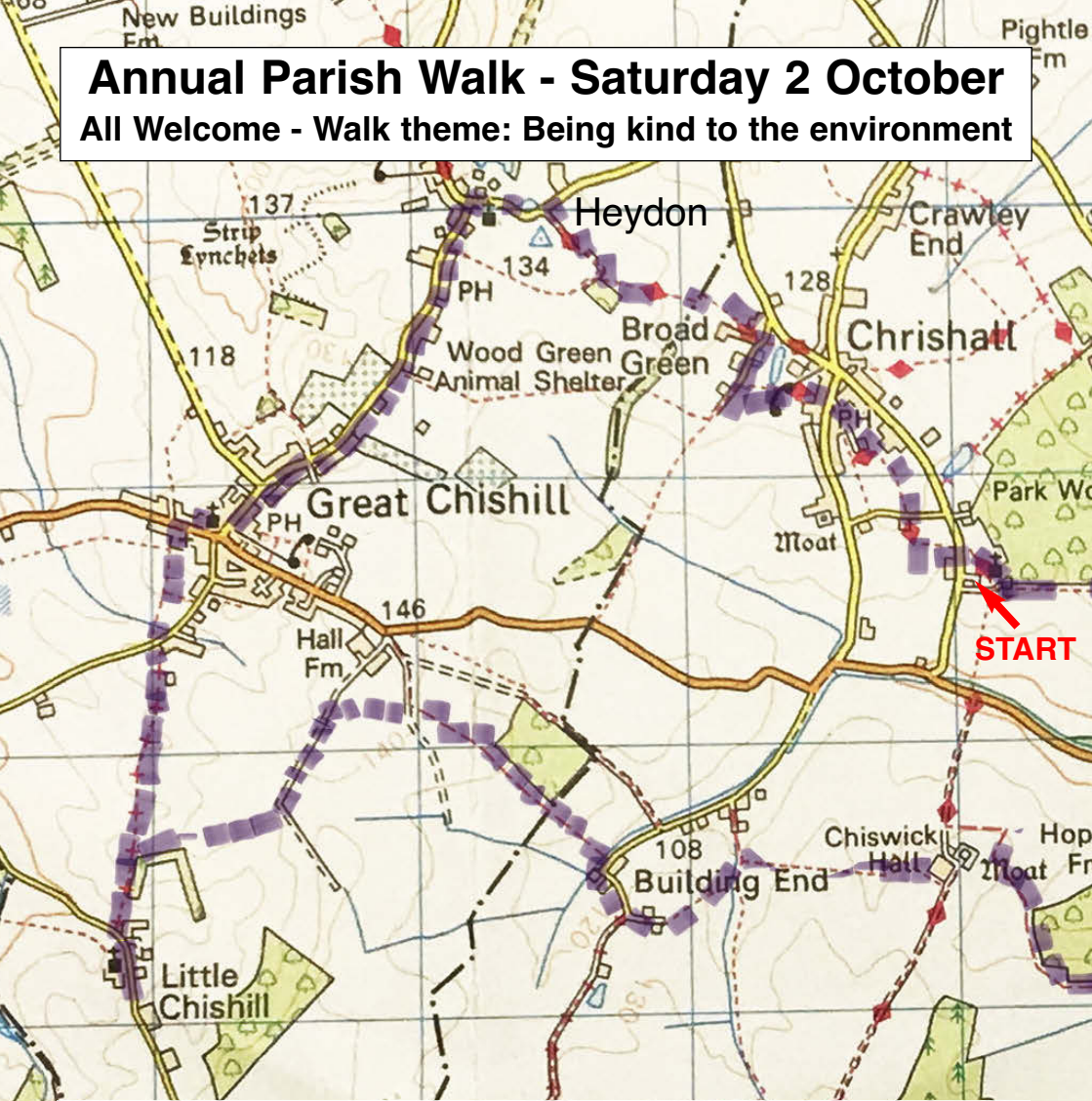
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For further information, email foxtonscarecrow@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.



Annual Parish Walk - Saturday 2 October

All Welcome - Walk theme: Being kind to the environment



Approximate timings

Arrive	Depart		12.50	own picnic lunch
8:30+	9:00	Chrishall	13.20	Hamlet
09.40	09.50	Heydon	15.00	15.10
10.10		coffee	16.00	16.10
	10.30	Gt Chishill	16.40	tea
11.00	11.10	Lt Chishill	17.00	Chrishall

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