

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

DECEMBER 2024

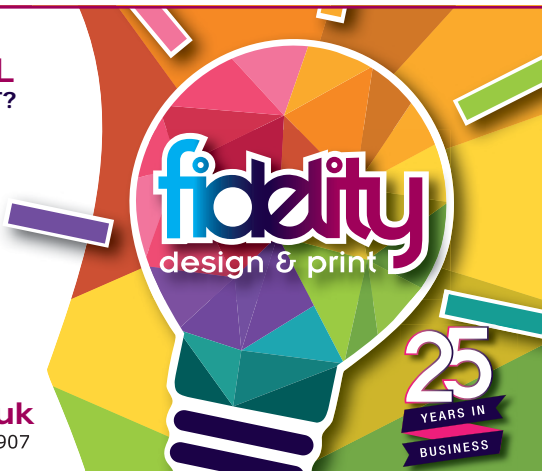


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A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the December issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

Here we are in December and another year races towards its conclusion. A little bird has told me that Santa is visiting Clophill again this year on 15th December, his route and times are on page 6. Also, we have the Christmas lunch on the 19th (page 9). When it is time to take down your tree then Sue Ryder can collect it (page 19).

As always at this time I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the production of Spotlight over the past year. **Thank you:** to Colin our designer, Jon our treasurer, our Distribution managers Toni and Paul and all our lovely posties who pop your copy of Spotlight through the letterbox. Without you all we couldn't produce the magazine. My **thanks also** go to all our wonderful contributors who make time to write the articles; and to Simon and Louise at Fidelity Design and Print.

And finally, from all the team at Spotlight, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year; and a happy and healthy 2025.

*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



I'm often asked what do gardeners do in the winter? These dormant months are the best time to work on the framework of the garden to get it in great shape ready for the spring. Winter gardening work includes shrub regeneration, bare root planting and soil preparation and general renovation and clearance – doing all the big jobs that you haven't had time to do during the summer or autumn.

Have you ever seen a hedge, rose or shrub that is all woody underneath with a thin layer of greenery on its domed top? Regular trimming will keep a shrubs surface in shape, but the woody stems will thicken and harden over time. These can start to look ugly and may eventually result in unnecessary deterioration of the plant. Plant regeneration involves either pruning out the old stems and/or pruning back all branches to encourage fresh shoots in spring. The extent of the pruning will depend on how it has been pruned in the past or vary with species. Roses, especially climbing ones, are an example of a plant that benefits from regenerative pruning.

We have lots of deciduous trees in the village and these are still dropping their leaves. Decomposed leaves make a great addition to your garden soil health so bag them up and stick them somewhere out of the way to fully break down then add them onto the soil as a mulch next autumn.

If the soil is not frozen or waterlogged, it might be possible to safely dig up and move dormant plants to another part of the garden and replant before they wake-up in the spring. While many bulbs are often planted in late autumn it's not too late to plant the later spring flowering ones in like tulips. Try planting into pots if you can't get into the garden and then you can arrange them to make a fantastic display in the spring. Herbaceous plants can also be lifted, split, and replanted to refresh both the plant and the boarder.

Winter is a good time to dig a new border. Leave the soil in clumps. The winter rain and frost will help to break it down naturally. This will also expose any pests to natural predators. Now that you can see the bones of your garden you can enjoy planning for the coming seasons.

As the council has suspended the green waste collections until next year, you might like to try the chop and drop combined composting and mulching technique. I first heard about this at Chelsea Flower show in May, but it's a great way of making instant mulch that will compost in situ.

Instead of taking away the compost to a heap you simply cut up your plant trimmings into small pieces and leave them in place around your plants. This layer protects the soil and provides important protection for hibernating insects during the winter.

Late winter through to early spring is the best time to carry out chop and drop, but make sure that you leave plenty of overwintering stems standing through the winter – not only do these seed heads look fantastic in the low winter light, they are also providing valuable habitats and food for wildlife.

Early winter is also a good time to add a splash of colour to your beds. Mahonia x media Charity has spires of yellow flowers, sweet box (sarcococca) and witch hazel (hamamelis) have fantastic scent and provide structure for the garden. Underplanting with snowdrops, winter aconites, crocus and hellebores will also provide much needed early pollen and nectar. Consider a winter flowering clematis, which is evergreen and scented, or some winter heather (Erica) to provide some gently mounding ground cover in various shades of gold, lime and green foliage, topped with dainty pink, purple and white bell-shaped flowers.

Happy Gardening and Happy Christmas



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

Wildlife walks & talks



Monday, January 27th 2025, Maulden Church hall, 7.30 pm

The Future of Nature Conservation*.

A talk by Brian Eversham, Chief Executive of the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants.

There will be several topics covered during this talk: Climate crisis; extinction crisis; the role and diverse meanings of 'rewilding'. Why management matters; how to prevent extinction whilst building future landscapes and habitats. New legislation supporting better conservation; wildlife winners – species likely to benefit in the future and the Wildlife Trusts' vision for the future.

Brian's talks are always hugely interesting and thought-provoking – don't miss this one!

*£4.00 per adult

And for your 2025 diary – Quiz Night, Maulden Village Hall. Friday, Feb 28th

Please contact Ann by email: flitvale.info@gmail.com or

Phone (leave a message or text if you prefer) 075801 78889 to register.

Reflections – Clophill in January 1980 - Voices from the past.

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

At the end of last month's piece, I ended by saying that I would let you read this fascinating item about the History of Clophill. So, I thought that I would begin with it. "Legend says that Clophill Village once stood around the Old Church, but that it gravitated to its present position after an epidemic. However that may be, in the time of the Normans the centre of the Village was near the Rectory. Paths led up to the open fields where most of the villagers laboured, and cottages, which have now disappeared clung to the slopes. Between the street and the river lay Lammas Meadows, which were thrown open for common grazing on August 1 each year. The main road between Amphill and Shefford was mentioned in a Maulden deed of 1397. The Black Death must have struck Clophill as, in 1376, ten houses stood empty and fell into the hands of the Lord of the Manor. The old Church is believed to have been built in the fifteenth century. A map of 1716 shows empty fields and strips of land around the old Church. The land given to the Parish for a school, about 1630, is believed to be the site of the old Reading Room, a convenient spot at the time. Although there are some old buildings, including the water-mill, in the present village, Clophill only developed in this direction in the middle of the seventeenth century. However, Roman remains have been found in the village. The name of Clophill is said to have come from 'Klop', the Danish word for 'stump' and hence means "The Hill of the Stump". The spelling has changed many times over the years and has included; Cluphill. Claphill, Cloppehul." So there you have it. On a lateral thought – Jurgen Klopp obviously has a connection with Clophill even though he has double 'p'!

Now, to Jan/ Feb's 1980 Spotlight and the festive happenings of 1979. The cover shows a snowplough / salter, with the caption "This was the scene last year. We have fared a little better in 1980" (I wonder how we will fare in 2024?)

The magazine is full of interesting village activities, with the main one (for me anyway) being the **retirement of Deputy Head Mollie Fisher** after 21 years at the

school. There was a retirement celebration for her on 5th December when "Mr Knowles, Area Education Officer at Bedford gave a splendidly delightful account of (her) life and role; emphasising particularly the high esteem in which she is held by all who know her. The Rev. J. Birtwhistle, Director of Education from the Diocese, praised her highly for her valued work and our Rector Philip, also paid tribute."



In her "Letter to the Editor" Mollie thanked all who had contributed to her gift (gold wristwatch) and continued "My memory of names may be failing, but many of you are remembered with affection. It always gives me great pleasure to hear news of my ex-pupils, and to be greeted by young men and women whom I last saw as children" (I heartily concur with this!).

Other topics covered the **Parish Council's** discussions "Church Path is currently owned by nobody, though the parish fill in the pot holes." Laportes have taken further soil samples and Councillor Roy Sollars will keep the parish informed. ABC have written to say that they are keeping the Quarry to extract sand, while the **Village Hall Committee** are hoping to repay a substantial part of the £2,500 loan from the Parish Council.

Beverley Court residents enjoyed a Christmas lunch and thanked Mrs M. Baldwin, Mrs N. Croot. Mrs M. Everitt and Mrs S. Lammas for their help in serving and washing up.

The **Flower Club** had a new Committee – Mrs Cranswick – Chairman, Mrs Pitts - Vice Chairman, Hon Sec – Mrs Wheeler, Hon Treasurer - Mrs Smith with 'Mesdames Brown, Crick, Drake, Gibbs, Gibson, Loake, Melville, Saunders, Sturdy, Tucker & Whysall. Linda Howell & Claire Healey achieved their **Queen's Guide Badge** and Sarah Wardley, Juliet Gordon & Clare Mee passed their **piano exams**, while Hazel Brooks & Jane Turton are candidates for the March ones.

A long article from the **school** tells about their **Christmas entertainment** – a puppet show, song and Joseel – a play based on the story of the first Christmas, (that was brilliant – well done Maxine for playing the lead role). Looking back to page 1, I see that there are sincere thanks to the typists "for the time, so freely and uncomplainingly given. Without them, there would probably be no magazine. With a few more names on our list. If you feel that you can help, please contact Mike Benson". (Nothing changes does it – just sort of rolls along!)

Happy Christmas one and all.

Warren Lane Traffic Calming measures e-Petition Update

A number of residents of Warren Lane attended the traffic management meeting on 26th November. There was recognition that something needs to be done and possibly a temporary measure in the interim.

The ePetition is still open, all signatures of support will help boost the seriousness of the situation and therefore the measures taken by traffic management.

So if you haven't yet signed it, please add your support (it only takes a minute).

The best way to access it is to use the URL below and scroll down until you come to the Warren Lane e-Petition. <https://tinyurl.com/3apun4wb>

The closing date is the **19th December 2024**.

Help make Clophill and our surrounds a safer place for all.

Thank you – the residents of Warren Lane.

SANTA IS COMING TO CLOPHILL ON SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER

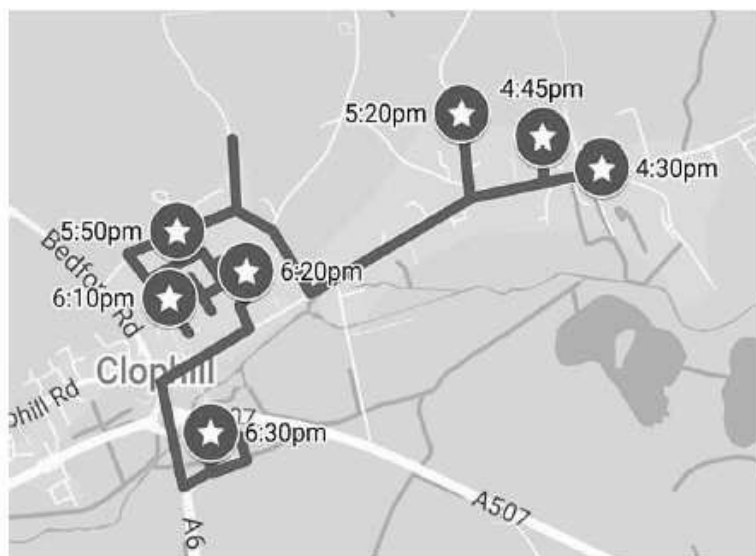


It is that time of year again, and Santa has already arranged to come and see the children of Clophill.

See details of the route on the map below, please note his timings are approximate so please remain a little bit flexible as he might be slightly early or late depending how things go en route. If you think our route is missing you out, email clophillhub@gmail.com and we will see if we can adjust the route slightly (within limits!).

Last year we did not do an official cash collection but many people did want to make a contribution to a good cause. So if you do want to donate, we will have a bucket with us and all contributions will go to help buy food for the Clophill Community Hub.

See you on the 15th.....Yo Oh Oh - Clophill Village Hall Committee



St Mary's School News

from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher:



The first weekend after half term in November, saw FOSM hold their ever popular Fireworks Night at school. This event is so important to the school as it raises vital funds for all the lovely extras we are able to offer the children. Without these funds, due to continued Government cut-backs, we would not be able to do as many of the lovely things we do, e.g. Early Years garden, wooden playground fort etc. Thank you to FOSM for all your hard work planning and running this event.

We recognised Remembrance Day at the war memorial. All of the children came with their special school-made poppies and respectfully held the two minutes silence. Oak children were also involved in reading the names on the war memorial and raising and lowering the flag, whilst Rowan children read a special prayer too.

We also recognised both Anti-Bullying week and Road Safety week in November through special assemblies and work in class. Chestnut and Acorn also celebrated World Nursery Rhyme Week, learning and performing a range of traditional rhymes and songs.

The School Council were busy with their first major charity fundraiser of the year – Children in Need. They asked everyone to wear spotty clothes (or their own clothes), have wacky hair (if they wanted to) and take part in a colouring competition and 'guess how many spots in the jar' competition. To date, the School Council have raised £247 for this important charity – smashing their target of £200!

Don't forget, you can keep up to date about school events by visiting our website: www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk

or joining our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/clophillstmarysschool>

Acorn Nursery news

from Mrs. Hayes our Early Years Leader:

We have loved celebrating World Nursery Rhyme Week in Acorn Nursery! Singing lots of songs together (developing our Communication and Social skills) and having lots of fun with wonderful activities such as building a wall for Humpty Dumpty (practicing counting), making 5 little speckled frog puppets (being creative) and using stamps to create Twinkle Twinkle Little Star paintings (developing our Fine Motor skills). Dough Disco and Sticky Kids have been popular over the last few weeks too (developing our Gross Motor Skills). Our ambitious Nursery curriculum really does provide so many learning opportunities as well as oodles of fun!

Acorn Nursery news cont...

We are so proud of all of our Nursery children (especially our youngest 2 yr olds) for living the value of respect when they visited the War Memorial at St Marys Church and joined in the 2 minute silence with the whole school, their behaviour was exemplary! Our values are taught through our Early Years Jack in the Box daily sessions with Chestnut Reception Class through songs and stories.

For odd socks day (for Anti Bullying week) we looked at the classic story of Elmer and discussed how we can all celebrate our differences, made our Pudsey headbands for Children in Need, practiced how to cross a road in our school car park for Road Safety Week and learnt about how we need to look after our planet for National Recycling Week!

Jake our School Dog:

He also celebrated Odd Socks Day during Anti-Bullying Week – where we all wore odd socks to celebrate and respect everyone’s amazing, unique differences.

Jake has also been involved in recognising all of our important events in school this month. He came with us to the war memorial and wore his Pudsey ears (for only a short time 😊) for Children in Need.



Our Values for November are Compassion and Forgiveness:

In school, we will learn that Justice means giving all people what is right and fair for them to have. It is about acting out of a concern for what is right and helping others to understand that they have choices about how they behave and act. When discussing Justice, we will be developing the children’s understanding of being part of a community that knows that everyone’s well-being is considered, not just the rights of one person alone.

We will also talk about the fact that everyone deserves equal rights and we will think about some of the rights that children have. Along with these rights, we will also consider the responsibility that comes with these – understanding how we should be treated but then also how we should treat others too.

At home, you may wish to discuss the concepts of Justice and Equality when the phrase, “it’s not fair!” crops up, with children again understanding how decisions might be made in order to make things, in fact, fair and equal for everyone!

It’s also good to identify things that are special about ourselves and others. You could do this within your family, reinforcing that diversity should always be celebrated and, again, that Justice and Equality applies to everyone, regardless of our amazing differences.

St Mary's Church, Clophill



You are invited to the

Christmas Lunch

Thursday 19th December

12 noon – 2pm

A 3 course festive meal with drinks £15

Our usual delicious menu

Christmas Raffle Everyone very welcome

Booking is essential - to reserve a place please
contact

juliebenson@talktalk.net or 01525 860497

As we approach the festive season, it's been a busy and exciting month here at The Fledglings.



Our young entrepreneurs have been busy setting up their own money-making ventures this month! Inspired by the desire to raise funds and put their learning into practice, the children have been making bath bombs, scented candles, and delicious treats to sell at the Christmas Lights Switch-On. Using the money they raised in the summer term; they purchased all the supplies they needed and have been learning how to track and manage their sales through a spreadsheet. This hands-on experience has taught them valuable skills such as budgeting, pricing, and profit calculation, as they worked out exactly how much to charge per item to ensure a profit.

It's been a fantastic way to combine creativity with practical maths, and we can't wait to see how successful their businesses will be when the products are sold at the event!

Our allotment has been buzzing with activity as the children prepare for both the early spring blooms and the winter months. They've been planting flower bulbs that will soon brighten up the garden, and we're also adding some winter-growers to the allotment.

We're also eagerly anticipating the harvest of the Christmas Day vegetables! Over the course of the year, the children have been tending to their crops, and now the fruits of their labour will contribute to our whole-setting Christmas dinner.

We're delighted to announce that our community nativity will once again take place at the Methodist Church on **Thursday, 12th December at 10:30am**. We warmly invite all members of the village—young and old—to come along and enjoy our festive performance. After the show, we'll be serving warm drinks and delicious mince pies, offering the perfect opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours. Last year's nativity was a magical event that brought people of all ages together, and we're hoping this year's will be just as special.

As we draw near to the end of the term, we want to take a moment to wish everyone in our community a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year. We're looking forward to sharing more exciting news in 2025!

Recycling for charity

I am collecting used postage stamps for **Redwings Horse sanctuary** in Norfolk again. If you would like to drop them into 59 High Street, Clophill then I will forward them on.

Many thanks, **Angela Barker**



Clophill Lakes Update

Huge progress and flooding set back:

We've been working very hard and have made much progress on the development of Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve since we last gave an update. The big news is that we have received



Some of the damage caused by the flooding.

approval for an amendment to our planning permission for the visitor facilities; giving us the green light to make a start on these. Once we have confirmation of when these facilities will be installed, we will be able to announce our opening date which will be as early as possible in 2025.

The site suffered a major setback in late September when severe flooding caused extensive damage to much of the infrastructure we had already installed. Whilst it is a wetland site, with areas acting as floodplain for the River Flit, some of our new paths were completely obliterated by flooding and landslides. Reconstruction of this damage is still in progress together with ongoing works to install fencing and habitat and safety works.

The flooding and the damage it caused means your support of our appeal for funds is all the more urgent.



Our volunteers working hard to install fencing at Clophill Lakes.



Please donate if you can via our website:

www.greensandtrust.org/Appeal/clophill-lakes

Claphill Preschool News

Hello everyone,

We'd like to start by thanking Silas from the Methodist Church for hosting our children for the Remembrance Day service. They placed their willow wreath and woven poppies at the war memorial at St Mary's church where Sarah told the story of her grandad, Sergeant Lee who served in the second World War, to our children and the Fledglings.

Back at preschool the children have been collecting up the leaves ready for mulching for the allotment beds. We have also been teaching the children how to propagate hard wood cuttings from our hydrangeas.



Carol has been helping make wonky conker cars the most wonderful of creations if only for their name. The children use conker clamps (no really) to hold the conkers and palm drills to make holes in the conkers for the willow axles and then attach them to some ash branch car bodies. Our children get so much from working on a project like this, from following instructions to using their innate curiosity to problem solve. They develop independence and a sense of achievement and learn to collaborate with others. They develop fine motor skills and coordination through hands-on experiential learning and ultimately develop the skills they need to become lifelong learners.

Our families are excited for this year's Magical Woodland Walk. It is a great family event for our preschool families and really gets everyone on the Christmas spirit with a treasure hunt around the Magical Woods to find special Christmas gifts ending at Santa's Woodland Grotto.

Massive thanks to Tracy and the rest of the PC for yet another wonderful Light Switch on at The Green, what a wonderful festive community event!

Our Parent and Toddler Group has been extremely busy of late and they are getting ready for their Christmas Party on Friday 13th December, everyone welcome. Do join us from 9:30 for a festive get together.

At this time of year, we are often out round the village on a Friday either to deliver Christmas cards, to watch the Fledglings Nativity at the Methodist Church or to pick up our Christmas tree from Badger hill, no matter where we are do give us a wave!

3.00PM, SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2024



FEATURING CONTEMPORARY WORKS, *A CHRISTMAS SEQUENCE* BY PAUL HARRIS AND *ON THIS SILENT NIGHT* FROM CANADIAN COMPOSER, SARAH QUARTEL MIXED AMONGST SOME TRADITIONAL FAVOURITES WITH A WELCOME SING-A-LONG.

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Clophill Parish Council

A very busy meeting with an almost full Methodist Church, mulled wine, mince pies and Xmas jumpers to kick off the festive season. The following main business included:



The Chairmans Award was deservedly presented to Andy & Kate Gardner.

The Lock Up repair will be arranged by Andy Gardner (thank you!).

Readshill Quarry Consultation

The owners attended to consult the village on their pre-application – forms were left, and feedback is welcomed via email to the Clerk clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk or in hard copy to the Chairman at 5, Great Lane.



Flooding

Goodwood residents and neighbours have formed a resident's group to lobby CBC. CPC is due to meet Maulden and Hayes to co-ordinate action. CBC Flood Risk team has identified pipe and drainage issues and will install further drainage at the school.

CBC Ward Cllrs Susan Clinch & Gary Summerfield fielded several questions arising from their activity log in addition to flooding.

20 mph zone – traffic survey results awaited.

Warren Lane – Highways Committee agreed to press ahead to make safer.

Parish Council x2 vacancies have received 3 expressions of interest.

Village Hall Committee has received several expressions of interest.

Clerk Vacancy – the (recently appointed) Clerk has resigned and the PC resolved to seek /appoint an interim Clerk with a view to finding a permanent Clerk. Anyone expressing an interest in this interesting and fulfilling (paid) role please email steve.rodell@clophill-pc.gov.uk.

Defibrillators – The Green Defib at the Co-op was used recently (happily it was available) – we are hoping someone will agree to check it once a month as required for maintenance.

A New Slide is being installed at the Rec.

Planning Applications

(please see full agenda / minutes on CPC website for details)

CB/TCA/24/00530 - 48A High Street

Proposal: Works to trees within a Conservation Area: Reduce Maple T1 to previous pruning points. **NO COMMENT**

CB/23/00467/FULL - Land the rear of The Old Waterworks, Shefford Road

Variation to application. **OBJECT**

CB/24/03286/VOC - 14 Great Lane **SUPPORT**

CB/24/01628/MW and CB/24/01629/MW - Cainhoe Quarry, Shefford Road

Unable to comment due to Planning Portal missing Icen letter dated 31st May 2024.

CB/24/03309/VOC - Chollerford House, 45 Shefford Road **NO COMMENT**

The Next Meeting is at 7:45pm on 14th January in the Methodist Church.

Have a Great Xmas!

ST. MARY'S CHURCH NEWS

Our two commemorative services in early November were well attended and much appreciated. On November 3rd we celebrated a lively All Saints Family Service in the morning and our now regular All Souls Service in the afternoon, which was quite a contrast! The following week was Remembrance Sunday and we were pleased to welcome the Methodist Superintendent Minister as our preacher. After the service in the church we moved to the War Memorial for the Roll of Honour, two minutes silence and the laying of wreaths. The next morning the school children came at 11 o'clock to mark the silence for Armistice Day. They were joined by the children of the Pre-school and all of them behaved with great respect.

The Winter Warmer lunches on Thursdays have resumed and are attracting a goodly number of people, who enjoy the home-made soups and cake and the fellowship. Surplus donations will be given to The Clophill Hub.

Our Christmas Lunch will be on **Thursday December 19th** from 12noon. 3 courses for £15. If you wish to come there may still be space, but please fill in one of the forms in the church and give it to Julie Benson.

There have been applicants for the post of our new Rector and interviews will soon take place. Watch this space!



SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve:

6.00pm Lessons and Carols by Candlelight to include the dressing of the Crib.

11:30pm Midnight Mass at Maulden.

Christmas Day:

9:30am Parish Communion.

Parish Registers for December

1824

Baptisms

- 02 Richard, s of Henry and (?) Sharp.
Baker.
- 12 William, s of Richard and Sarah
Appleby. Blacksmith.
George, s of John and Martha
Martin. Baker.
- 14 (?) d of John and Elizabeth
Billington.
- 26 James, s of John and Ann
Whittamore.
- 27 Elizabeth, d of Samuel and Alice
Millard.

Marriages

- 25 William Pratt to Sarah Summerfield.

Burials

- 14 Elizabeth Barrit, widow.

1874

No baptisms or marriages recorded.

Burials

- 06 Sarah Stevens, 68.

1924

Baptisms

- 07 Kathleen Iris, d of Frederick and
Margaret Tysome.
Agricultural worker.
Ronald Claude, s of Claude and
Gladys Upton. Carpenter.
Denis Ralph s of Frank and Ethel
Hinton. Market gardener.

Burials

- 09 Hannah Page, 82.

1974

No Registers recorded.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS NOVEMBER 2024

Burial of Ashes

Nov 21 Mary Eluned Williams, 96.

Take out an annual ad in Clophill *SPOTLIGHT*

Black & White per year

This is one-third £88 Height 61 x Width 126 mm

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A full page is £230

What's on in and around Clophill

DECEMBER

Saturday 7th

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

Thursday 19th

Xmas Lunch, St Mary's Church, 12noon – 2pm. *See poster.*

Plus....

Weekdays during term time

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

Also open on Saturdays 10:30am to 2:30pm.

Mondays...

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

Wednesdays...

* Tea and Chat, Greensand Community Methodist Church, 10:30am – 12noon.

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

Thursdays...

* Winter warmers – St Mary's Church, 12noon – 2pm followed by....

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

Fridays ...

* Little Saplings, Stay and Play 9:30am – 11:00am, Acorn Nursery at St. Mary's School.

Fridays... during term time

* Clophill Parent & Toddler Group 9:30am – 11:30am, Village Hall.

CHURCH SERVICES

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

1st Sunday 11am, Parish Praise

Other Sundays 11 am, Parish Communion

Services at GC Methodist Church, Clophill. See noticeboard outside church for dates and times.

1st Sunday United Service 10.30am held at different hubs

2nd Sunday 10.30am Local Preacher

3rd Sunday 9.30am Communion Rev. Wood

4th Sunday 11:00am Rev. Wood

Useful numbers

Gas (Emergency)		0800 111999
Electricity (Emergency)		0800 7838838
Emergency Fire/Police/Ambulance		999
Water/Sewage (Anglian Water)		0845 7145145
Telephone	(Customer Services) 150	(Faults) 151
Highways Department (Central Bedfordshire Council)		0300 3008049
Benefits Agency (Bedford office)		01234 361500
Registrar's Office (Births/deaths/marriages)		0300 3008089
Rail (Enquiries)		0845 7484950
Buses 01234 262151	(Link A Ride) 01525 840511	(Flittabus) 01582 406561
Luton Airport		01582 405100
Swimming	(Flitwick) 01525 717744	(Robinson Pool) 01234 212479
LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
Central Beds Offices (Chicksands)		0300 300 8000
Mid-Bed; MP	Alistair Strathern	TBA
Central Bedfordshire Councillors	Susan Clinch	0300 300 8516
	Gary Summerfield	0300 300 8561
	Mark Smith	0300 300 8541
Clophill Parish Council	(Clerk) CPC recruiting clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk	07888 685886
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		
County Police HQ		Non Emergency 101
Amphill Station		01234 841212
		101
CHURCHES		
St Mary's Parish Church		
The advertisement is now posted for the new Rector		
(Church Warden)	Mrs Anne Shegog	anneshegog@gmail.com 01525 864868
St Francis RC Church, Shefford		
		01452 813436
Clophill Methodist Church		
	Revd Silas Wood, email: swood11@me.com,	01525 571392
	Mr John Errick	01525 860695
Baptist Churches		
	(Maulden) Ian Crawford	01525 634325
	(Shefford) Hazel Arnold	01462 812564
SCHOOLS		
St Mary's C of E Lower School, Nursery & Preschool (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 Parent and Toddler Group		
	Imogen	07765 887868
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	07845 731134
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
	victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk	
Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)	Mary Milne and Jenny Garnham	
	fosmclophill@gmail.com	
Scouts and Cubs	www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved	
Tea and Chat	Anita Errick	860695
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marylin Browning	07821 643936

Recycle your real Christmas tree and support Sue Ryder's vital work.

National healthcare charity Sue Ryder is inviting residents to participate in their Christmas Treecycle scheme to help raise essential funds for families in need of palliative and bereavement care.

For a suggested optional donation, the charity will collect real Christmas trees directly from your front door, garden, or driveway and recycle them. Clophill residents can have their trees collected between 9th and 12th January 2025.

Real Christmas trees are fully recyclable and can be transformed into compost or wood chippings for use in parks, gardens, and landscaping. By choosing to Treecycle, you'll not only support Sue Ryder but also help reduce landfill waste.

To learn more about this eco-friendly fundraising initiative in Bedfordshire, and to book a collection by midnight on 5 January 2025, visit

www.sueryder.org/treebedfordshire.

Contact the fundraising team at Sue Ryder St John's Hospice with any queries on 01767 642412 or email: stjohns.events@sueryder.org

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- ◇ If you have no valid Will, the State's distribution of your assets may not be as you would have wished and could result in higher tax.
- ◇ Was your Will home made? If so, you could be storing up difficulties for the family and higher tax could be payable.
- ◇ Executors are personally liable. Are they still willing and able?
- ◇ Do you have children under 18? If so, you need to nominate guardians or they become the responsibility of the Local Authority
- ◇ Will your family be able to claim all tax allowances? Many Wills written before 2017 do not allow the full Nil Rate Band to be claimed.
- ◇ Are you in a second marriage? Special provision should be made for blended families.

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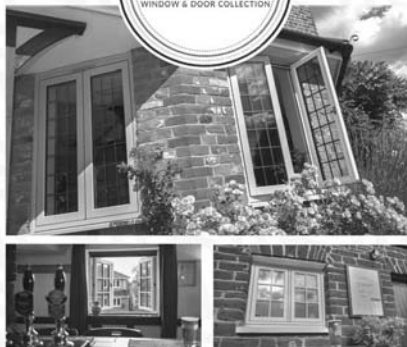


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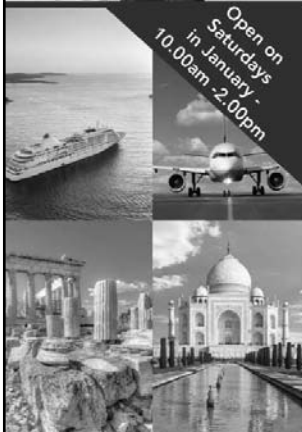
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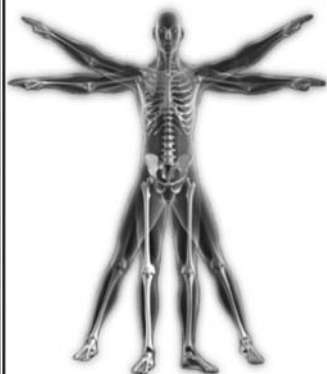
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