

# SH NEWS

INSIDE THIS EDITION:  
SPOTLIGHT ON  
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS  
G.O.M.  
MAVIS'S QUIZ  
EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO  
BOOK CLUB  
CHURCH NEWS & MUCH MORE

DECEMBER 2018 Issue 12



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



**THE THREE WISE MEN AND BABY JESUS (HOLLY) - THE NATIVITY ON THE GREEN 2013**

# St LUKE'S, STOKE HAMMOND

**Rector: Revd John Waller 01525 261062**

December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	16.00	Christingle Service – Valerie Kerr
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	16.00	Carol Service - Revd John Waller
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	09.00	Morning Worship – Phillapa Cook
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	16.00	Crib Service – David Webber
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	23.30	Holy Communion – Revd John Waller
December 30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	Holy Communion at <i>Little Brickhill</i> – Revd John Waller

*PLEASE ALSO NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES FOR COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS  
AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, BRAGENHAM SIDE.*

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 08.30 – 10.30 (Last Orders)

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 08.30 – 10.30 (Last Orders)

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO COMMUNITY BREAKFAST HELD IN DECEMBER**

**Church Wardens:**

**Diane Webber 01525-270409 and Harry Davies 01234-822780**

## METHODIST SERVICES

**Minister: Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly 01525 240589**

December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	16.00	United Christingle Service at St Luke's
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	Service – Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	16.30	Combined at Stewkley Methodist Church
December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30	Carol Service – Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly
December 30 <sup>th</sup>		No Service

### ***Coffee Mornings***

Wednesdays at 10.30 - 11.30  
(contact 01525-270287)

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



One must start this month's report with a massive thank you to Stoke Hammond residents for your amazing support and turnout on the Village Green, for the Battle's Over Ceremony held on the evening of Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November in commemoration of 100 years since the cessation of World War One, and to remember

all those that served and lost their lives. One can not be sure of exact numbers but we believe well in excess of two hundred residents came out to honour this important event.

St Luke's church and their band of helpers did an outstanding job in serving refreshments and mulled wine to numbers way beyond expectations.



The PC would like to thank everyone involved in helping to put together this event, but special thanks must go to Dave and Diane Webber for sorting the catering, Reverend John Waller who read the sermon, Peter Linley for performing the *Last Post*, John Bowler for lighting the beacon and Harry Davies for ringing the church bell. Another big thank you must go to the kind

resident on the green who kindly allowed us onto her property to replenish the water stocks for the tea urn and also connect the extension lead that powered the very same tea urn, lighting to the gazebos and the PA system. One should of course not forget the remembrance service held earlier in the day at St Luke's church, again a packed affair where several wreaths were laid to honour those who had fallen. The donations made on the day at both events raised almost £350 for the British Legion,





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*Local references available upon request.*

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As many of you may well have read or heard in the local press and or news, the Secretary of State has announced that he is in favour of creating a single unitary authority for Buckinghamshire which of course caused much consternation amongst AVDC which would effectively disappear, a point made most strongly by AVDC Councillor Neil Blake at our October PC meeting (more anon). But what does this mean to us in Stoke Hammond, other than the fact that next year's planned District and County Council elections including those for the Parish Council are likely to be deferred by a year to 2020. Probably, for most one will not see any noticeable or apparent change, other than the change to letterheads and the fact that all services such as highways, education, health, planning and other services will now fall under one global authority rather than the current two. Only time will tell if a unitary authority provides a better solution.

So yes, to the November PC meeting briefly touched on before, which for the first time in many months was attended by both a District Councillor in the form of Neil Blake and County Councillor Janet Blake who were also joined by 10 members of the public. As aforementioned, Councillor Neil Blake gave us his quite strong and forthright views against the Secretary of State's recent decision to form a single unitary authority. Citing that no weight had seemed to be given to the results of an earlier poll which showed that 74% of those who responded to the district's survey did not want a unitary authority. There is an option to have a Judicial Review but Neil felt that it would be unlikely that this would achieve much. There would be a reduction of members on the new council, two thirds of whom would represent the south of the county and this could lead to them consistently outvoting the members in the north of the county. With HS2, housing growth and the Expressway Neil Blake is extremely concerned about the future. County Councillor Janet Blake reported that she too thought the Unitary route was the wrong decision.

There were two planning applications to be considered, the first 18/03592/APP relating to the enlargement and extension of an existing garage roof space to create additional living space to Charleston, Church Road was fully supported by the PC. However, the same could not be said for 18/03052/APP seeking retrospective permission for the change of garage roof designs and the erection of entrance brickwork piers to the new Lodge Lane development. Retrospective because the developers have already carried out the work, and in particular the erection of the brick piers was brought to the attention of the AVDC planning enforcement department who confirmed this was a breach of the original planning consent. Your PC objected to this application, citing that the erection of these brick piers to create a gated community was not in keeping with the village setting, and reduced the road width below that stipulated in the original planning permission and could thus cause major traffic difficulties on what is already a

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difficult access route. There was also no real explanation provided as to why the garage roof designs needed to be changed from that already permitted.

As County Councillor Janet Blake was in attendance, we took the opportunity to raise the debacle concerning the pot holes on the road across the Green that had been reported the day before via the FIX MY STREET web site. Where amazingly just after an hour of posting the report with photographs we received a report back to say that BCC Highways had already been out (really!!) and deemed no repair required. But then at lunchtime the same day a delivery lorry sank down to its axle in the very same hole that apparently required no repair. Photographs (see *Photograph of the Month* elsewhere in this edition of the SH News) were taken and added to the previous Fix My Street post, but amazingly just a few hours later we got another response stating BCC Highways had again been out to inspect and deemed no repair required and the case was now closed!! Cllr Janet Blake promised to follow this up, and at the time of writing this report an engineer has now been out and marked out the road for repair, although no works have yet been carried out.

Please make a note that the next PC meeting the first of 2019 is moving from the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month as this is New Year's Day, to Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 7.30pm at the usual venue of the Community Centre, Bragenham Side. All are welcome. But as this is the last PC News before Christmas, your Parish Council would like to wish all residents of Stoke Hammond a Very Merry Xmas and all the best for 2019



**Should you wish to contact your Parish Council, please do so via our clerk:**

Sue Severn, 19 Curlew, Watermead, Bucks. HP19 0WG 01296 336575 07778 473392

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**Tel:** 01908 371705 **E-Mail:** [info@careatthelindens.co.uk](mailto:info@careatthelindens.co.uk)

**Web:** [www.careatthelindens.co.uk](http://www.careatthelindens.co.uk)

# THE Lindens

At The Lindens, we love Christmas and we have been and still are very busy preparing for the Christmas and New Year period.



Our lounges and hallways have been decorated with large Christmas trees, filled with twinkly lights and decorated with baubles and tinsel. Each year our residents and staff enjoy taking part in decorating these.

Some of the decorations around our "Home from Home" have been handcrafted by our residents at our Art Classes.

Our Kitchen Team have planned a magnificent Christmas Feast including Roast Turkey with all the festive trimmings. This will be served in our magnificent oak panelled Dining Room and Sun Lounge with views over our grounds. The tables are always specially decorated for the occasion. At our Christmas Day Feast, our Managing Director Michael Hannelly speaks to every resident and respite guest personally and has a gift for each of them. There will also be traditional homemade rich fruit Christmas Cakes, beautifully decorated with marzipan and royal icing to enjoy in the afternoon.

Visitors are welcome at The Lindens, so if you would like to call in and join us for morning coffee or if you are interested in volunteering here, please call us and ask for Milli or Tina.

*Merry Christmas to you all from us here at The Lindens!*

*Chris Ryan*

Manager, The Lindens

Stoke Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire, MK17 9BN.

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## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

### Lunch

#### Starter

Tomato Soup with Pasta  
Or  
Smoked Salmon Terrines

#### Main Course

Roast Turkey  
Sausage, Sage & Onion Stuffing  
Pigs in Blankets  
Roast Potatoes  
Buttered Brussel Sprouts  
Marmalade Roasted Vegetables  
Braised Red Cabbage  
Or  
Lemon Butter Salmon  
New Potatoes  
Asparagus

#### Dessert

Christmas Pudding with  
Brandy Sauce or Cream  
Or  
Chocolate, Pear & Caramel Gâteau

# Stoke Hammond local Store

Under new management, the local shop has been refurbished and re-opened on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011. It is currently known as "Stoke Hammond Food and Wine".



Opening hours are: Mon-Sat: 6am till 10pm  
Sun: 7am till 10pm

## Our products:

News & magazines	Beers, Wines & Sprits	Pet food
Confectionary & snacks	Soft Drinks	Health & Beauty products
Bread (inc. Turney's) & cakes	Tobacco & Cigarettes	Frozen food & Ice creams
Dairy products	Groceries	Greeting cards
Medicines	Baby food & other products	Household Sundries
Sandwiches & ready meals	Fruit & Vegetable	Stationary items

## Other services:

- Paper delivery available for local residents (delivery charge is 25p per day).
- Negotiation is underway to re-open the post office as "Post Office Local"
- Pay-point/Top up services will be available.
- Cash machine will be available.
- Photocopier & passport photos will also be available.
- Pies and coffee will be introduced in the morning.

## Exclusive Promotions:

Wines from <b>£2.99</b>	Beers from <b>6 for £5.50</b> <small>(500ml cans)</small>
-------------------------	--

Strong beers are from **£1.09** (500ml cans)



## CHRISTMAS AGAIN

Well not quite but I've had fireworks for this year and it's therefore near enough to mention the C word. The better half suggested I should be less grumpy in view of the festive season. I see that she said the same the last time I mentioned Christmas but as this was in 2011 I can only commend her on her memory.

We've just returned from a long weekend away and as usual I try to catch up with the post (and e-mail)). Mainly junk of course as the break included a Monday. Junk often comes wrapped in polythene (assuming this is as eco-friendly as plastic I may return to this at a later date) and this allows for the inclusion of extra leaflets. Now I can understand the Motability magazine having flyers for stair lifts and easy entry baths -makes sense. However I have just opened this week's offerings from the Owl Barn magazine and Money Week (a Times connected mag ?) and between them they have seven charity flyers covering:

The homeless                      The Hungry  
Presents for kids              The Syria Crisis appeal  
The British Red Cross Christmas appeal  
Prostate Cancer                  Homelessness

Now these are all fine causes but no doubt so are the other 183,729 registered charities (June 2018). How do these charities get their flyers into nationwide publications? I may be cynical

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but I suspect there may be money involved somewhere along the line.

I'm sure everyone has their own preferred charity and that's as it should be (yes even cats!). I have reservations however regarding the blanket appealing for funds which is likely to attract money from more vulnerable people.

## Grumpy Old Man

### MAVIS'S QUIZ

Answers to last month's quiz and if you remember it was the case of finding a word that could be placed either in front or behind each group of three words. Here are the answers – How did you do?

- (1) FOX (2) FLOOD
- (3) FLOOR (4) FLAG (5) FINGER
- (6) FIRE (7) FACE (8) EVER
- (9) EVERY (10) DROP

***Now for something completely different this month with a bit of a nautical theme – name the following ships??***

- (1) THIS WRECK WAS IN HENRY VIII NAVY AND IS BEING RESTORED.
- (2) NELSON'S FLAGSHIP AT THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR.
- (3) THE TEA CLIPPER MOORED ON THE THAMES.
- (4) THE FRIGATE OF WORLD WAR II ALSO MOORED ON THE THAMES.
- (5) THE GERMAN BATTLESHIP SCUTTLED IN THE RIVER PLATE.
- (6) THE LINER THAT WAS SUNK BY AN ICEBERG ON ITS MAIDEN VOYAGE.
- (7) THE SHIP THAT WAS INVOLVED IN THE YANGTSE INCIDENT.
- (8) THE SHIP THAT JASON SAILED IN TO GET THE GOLDEN FLEECE.
- (9) THE SHIP THAT SIR FRANCIS CHICHISTER SAILED ROUND THE WORLD IN.
- (10) TED HEATH'S YACHT.

***Best of luck, and no cheating on the internet !!  
Answers next month***



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## **“EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO”**

**Following last month’s ‘Woman in a man’s world’ we now reach our ninth eighth extract from the book 'Everything but the Moo' written by Hazel Turner's late mother Pam Murphy, we now enter the world of illusion and mystery.**

### **MIDDLE NAME HOUDINI**

I am always a little apprehensive at going to a gathering completely out of my meteor. Not because I dislike meeting people, but because I know that by the end of the evening I shall find myself in a “talk/get yourself out of this” exercise. Once the designated ‘farmer’ comes out, one is regarded as being a ‘vegetable, and mineral with strong animal connections”, and probably with a close relationship to Bluebeard.

Recently I was asked to a reception for a woman doing a man’s job; one woman asked me what I did, and on hearing I was a farmer said “How very odd!” and walked away. Interviewing, or rather being interviewed by a Headmistress, who was a cross between one out of Angela Brazil and Joyce Grenfell in St Trinian’s, I mentioned that I was a farmer. She leaned forward and sniffed, quite audibly, twice.

My inborn fear of these terrifying creatures prevented me from saying that I hoped the Chanel No. 5 covered the smell of muck and silage, but I was happy that my daughter did not have to attend her academy of learning.

It is on the subject of animal welfare that I find myself pinned to the wall rather like one of those females in a knife throwing act at a circus. The first subject is Battery Hens. I do not keep battery hens, and in fact do not much care for canaries and budgies in cages, but I do not know the alternative if people want cheap eggs. A great deal of fuss is made about the joie de vivre of the barn yard hen. This must stem from Beatrix Potter and Sally Henny-Penny, and all first reading books. But an autobiography of such fowl would probably make a good horror film. Wet and bedraggled, finding shelter out of the wind and rain in any odd corner out of reach of every cat and dog, not to mention foxes, I can not think it really had such a blissful existence, any more than Peter Rabbit. The car and tractor added to its adventures, and its ultimate fate. Hens kept in portable houses moved across fields probably fared better until Reynard came on one of his night prowls. Anyone who has seen a house of chickens after his visit loses any enthusiasm for that method of poultry keeping. Deep litter in small numbers is fine, if disease and pecking troubles can be controlled, but it is totally uneconomic, in the cost of housing alone. Yet the public want eggs, of a sort, at only twice the price that my own mother paid for them fifty years ago! If they can not have them they will buy them from foreign countries with no questions asked as to the conditions under

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# GET DOWN FEEL GREAT



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which they were produced. I am entirely in favour of stringent cruelty codes, but it should be ascertained that the imported food is reared, lives and dies under at least no worse conditions. If an animal suffers if kept under battery house conditions in the UK, it presumably suffers equally elsewhere, and it should be banned. The price would certainly rocket sky high, and the farmers would be accused of making exorbitant profits, but you can not please all the people all the time!

One woman accused me of the most terrible cruelty when she heard that my calves were taken away from their mothers at four days old – it was a barbarous practice. I tried to persuade her that it would not only be cruelty, but certain death, to leave them any longer, since the cow would have far too much milk for one calf – but not a hope! When she heard that a March born calf would not see grass for a year, I feared for my life. Nobody had ever explained, and I did not get a lot of chance, that to turn the calf out without being treated against Husk, which could only be done in spring, would probably mean a very nasty complaint and the likelihood of early death. However, she thought there was nothing odd in handing her young baby over to a Nanny almost from birth, so that SHE could return to work. I wish I could find some logic in this.

The male salvo usually touches on finance, and refers in particular to the latest Wills. Old Scrooge, who had that mucky holding at Little Puddlecombe, left £X thousand, and the mean old so-and-so never seemed to have a penny to bless himself with. Poor old Scrooge did not. He probably never saw as many pence in his lifetime as he had thousands when he died. But his Grandfather had scraped together enough in the 1890's to get a loan, at a decent rate of interest to buy his 100 acres, and through three generations the family had slaved away for small returns to pay off the overdraft and keep the farm in the family. Try and explain that inflation has overtaken farm properties in the same way as it has hit any other sort of property, and you might as well try and explain nuclear science to a Barbary Ape. Poor Mrs Scrooge now has to sell the farm to pay off the inheritance tax, even at a reduced agricultural rate, and she will also have Capital Gains to pay on the proceeds, probably hoping that the local Council will listen kindly to her plea for a bungalow. Then she might have enough to live on, after she has paid income tax and provided she does not live too long! Young Joe Scrooge, who probably did not bother to go to College and get a degree, though knows more about farming than any graduates, takes the line of least resistance and goes into the local factory, hating every moment.

That's life I suppose!

When It comes to breaking out of their incarceration, the Great Train Robbers have nothing on farm animals. And for some unknown reason, they always choose

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Christmas, Sundays, the moment you are ready to set off on holiday, or the moment you have to retire to bed with a bad dose of flu.

I think horses seem to be worst. One Christmas Day the pony was missing, and in spite of exhaustive searches and enquiries of the police there was no sign of it. Early on Boxing Day morning, when Ron came over at 5.30 am for milking, he had an urgent call of nature. There, shut in the lavatory, not fortunately entirely in the words of the song from Monday to Saturday, was a highly disgruntled pony – and a cowman who vowed to take more water with his Christmas Spirit next year!

On April Fools Day, my daughter told me that the horses were in the front paddock in a ghastly mess. I refused to fall for that one, I had fed them and left them two miles away the night before. I was the April Fool! They had brought themselves home, via somebody's prize rose beds presumably, since my old retired show jumper, Rusty (he won the Queen Elizabeth Cup in the early 50's), had three rose bushes firmly embedded in his tail. Again another Christmas, presumably startled by Santa's reindeer – or more likely those leaving the Dolphin (the village pub), three of the horses took themselves in the opposite direction, and the entire family worked up a splendid appetite walking three filthy, soaking animals three miles home.

Cows are no fools either. Most will learn an early respect for electric fences, but every so often one will find that if he pushes the post with the flat of her head she can bend the post over, and going down the line can put the fence out of operation, thus realising pastures new for herself and her friends. If you see a cow with a couple of wire devil's horns attached to a leather head collar, she is probably one of those, though in a herd of any size she must go – she is too expensive a luxury.

We had to suffer a Houdini bull with an insatiable curiosity – he had to know what was going on the other side of the fence. One Sunday he was happily grazing with his twenty two wives when he saw something interesting among the milking herd two fields away. He calmly removed two gates, by lifting them bodily off their hinges, and stepping most daintily over them to investigate. He did have some right to; the excitement was over the birth of a calf, actually one of his daughters, and he was found standing over it proudly. However by the time we had separated twenty two heifers and bull from eighty milking cows on a very hot Sunday afternoon, there might have been some doubt about his own paternity!

Cows sometimes take their hook when they calve. Another Sunday a cow called Mona detached herself from the herd and started to calve right up against a fence. Pushing hard, she broke the fence down and slithered down into a deep dried up brook, sinking into the mire until only her head was showing. It was one of those panic stricken times when no-one was about, so Jill, our herdsman, ran across

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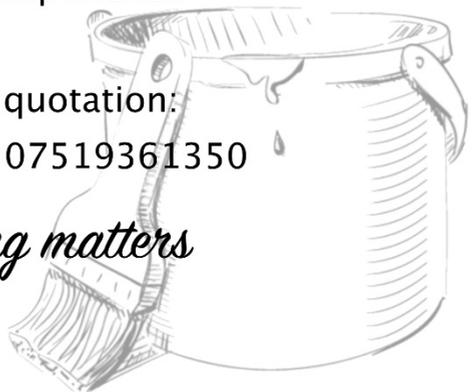
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the road and asked for assistance from some neighbours enjoying a lazy Sunday afternoon. They went back to Mona and gradually got some ropes around her, and started easing her out, more people arrived, and they began pulling and tugging first by hand and then with a tractor until she finally reached safety. After a rest and rub down she was able to walk to the farm building, where she was safely delivered of a bull calf!

At least fourteen out of the next twenty eight Christmases were spent recapturing straying livestock. There is something about Christmas – there is a different atmosphere, (apart from hooligans with wire cutters, and a penchant to go round opening gates, and letting the animals wander). Collecting cows or horses and burnt turkey will be my memory for my offspring. Births and deaths take place at Christmas, both human and animal.

Several Christmas's meant repairing to my father's in Yorkshire for a family party, something like Dodie Smith's "Dear Octopus".

The Christmas to outdo all Christmases, must be the year after my husband died (also at Christmas time). My daughters and I were to go to my brother's house in Yorkshire. The day before Hazel went down with flu, and obviously we could not go. I dashed out to buy a turkey, and could only purchase a frozen one; rushed it home and shoved it in a bowl of hot water on the Aga. By 6pm it had thawed enough to stuff. The telephone rang, as I had it on the kitchen table. It was a friend to say that she too had flu and had guests, and could I possibly feed them on the morrow. I said "But of course", and went back to the turkey. But the CAT had got there before me and had eaten half of one breast. I shoved in some sausage meat, and cut off skin from underneath and did a smart tailoring job.

Next day I cooked the turkey, and my unknown guests arrived. In due course I served the turkey. The male unknown guest said firmly that HE would carve. I said he wouldn't it was MY house and I would! We had a to-me-to-you kind of argument and the bare bottomed bird landed on the carpet! Flu ridden daughter appeared in her nightie, and with the knife's flashing it was like a scene out of Macbeth. I won. I disentangled the black cotton the bird had been sewn up with.

Now I live alone, I miss terribly the fun of opening stockings, and chasing cows around the village. My family come to lunch and we open the presents, and my main livestock worry is that other people's cows and sheep get in – animals do not know when it is Christmas, but they are, after all an essential part of it – they were around that first Christmas.

**Next month : Mad Dogs and Englishman .... And Milk!**

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## Stoke Hammond Parish News Letter - November 2018

### Nativities and Christmas Events

December is a busy time at High Ash, but always lots of fun. Our Christmas activities are well underway now. Foundation and KS1 children are extremely busy preparing for their Nativity performances which will take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Our choir performed at the Advent themed Family Service in Little Brickhill in November and will be entertaining guests at the Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch in Stoke Hammond on the Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December. We are also supporting St Mary's Church in Great Brickhill with a children's craft stall at their Advent Coffee Morning on the 1<sup>st</sup> Dec.

### Good Companions Concert

We are very much looking forward to performing our annual 'Good Companions Concert' which is at 1:30pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December in our school hall. The audience will be entertained by both our choir and orchestra and there will, of course, be homemade mince pies! If any members of the community would like to come along and join in with the Christmas festivities, please call the office on 01525 261620 or email [office@highash.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@highash.bucks.sch.uk) to reserve your seats.

### Remembrance Day

On a more sombre note, we were delighted to be invited to the Remembrance Day Parade at St Mary's Church this year. Four of our children were very proud to represent High Ash at the service and lay a wreath at the cenotaph.

On behalf of all at High Ash CE Primary School, we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Sara J Boyce*

Sara Boyce  
Headteacher  
[headteacher@highash.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@highash.bucks.sch.uk)



# Newly resurfaced and repainted courts at Great Brickhill Tennis Club!

The refurbished courts are now open for all members to enjoy so why not come along and try one of the courses on our Autumn coaching programme.

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Stoke Hammond



a thankful village

## STOKE HAMMOND

### COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME

The Community Transport Scheme is in need of a Co-ordinator and additional drivers.

**The Co-ordinator** is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Scheme. Not as onerous as it sounds, demands on the scheme are light.

**Drivers** must be 18 or over and hold a full clean driving licence.

The work entails providing transport for elderly or disabled parish residents to medical appointments, the hairdressers, shopping and other similar venues.

Drivers are reimbursed mileage and other expenses eg parking. They also have to undertake a DBS check (provided free of charge).

Any individual driver is unlikely to be called upon more than 2 or 3 times in a year.

Interested? To find out more please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance. Either through the parish website

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

or telephone 07778 473392

# Church News

## Review:

**Community Breakfast:** Another great breakfast last month: thanks to new helpers Hazel and Sue, as well as our regulars. Last month we introduced prayer request cards. To keep prayers confidential, they were placed in a basket on the altar during the next service – our Father knew what they said! Prayer requests cards will be available at future breakfasts.

**Café church:** Café church was well supported, and we were particularly pleased to see a couple of new faces. The brief “service” was about the Bible as it was Bible Sunday and led to a discussion about the Bible course – more on that later!

**All Souls Benefice service:** This annual poignant service for those who had lost a loved one in the last year (or in the past) was emotional for everyone. Names of the loved ones were read out and a candle lit for each one.



**Remembrance day service:** We were delighted to see the church full for Remembrance day, particularly for the centenary of the end of WW1. Wreaths were laid at the memorial in church.

**“Battle’s over” commemoration:** We were completely overwhelmed by the number of people who came along: a rough count came to 2-300 people! Our apologies to those who had slightly cold mulled wine hastily stretched as we struggled to cope with the demand! Congratulations to the Parish Council for organising this excellent event.

## Forthcoming events:

**Prayer meetings:** You don’t have to be Church of England to attend our prayer meetings, all denominations welcome! There will be a meeting at **8pm** on **Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Dec** at **The Birches, Church Rd.** There won’t be a meeting on Boxing day, but we may schedule another date instead. If you’d like prayers for someone, or if you’d like to join us, please call John Bowler, as we sometimes change times and dates last minute.



**Christmas Fair:** St Luke’s Christmas Fair will take place on **Saturday 1st December** in the **Community Centre** between **2pm and 4pm**. The usual attractions will be there including Christmas hamper raffle, Church bookshop (selling cards and Advent goods), cake stall, refreshments, and a wide range of other stalls and this year you can **visit Santa** in his special grotto!

**Christmas tree festival:** Back by popular demand, it will be held on **Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 10am – 5pm** and **Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 10am – 3pm**. This year’s theme is “All things bright & beautiful” Please contact Hazel on 270404 for more details.

## **A look ahead – dates for your diary:**

**Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 4pm** - St Luke’s Church: Christingle service

**Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 4pm** - St Luke’s Church: Carol Service

**Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 6pm**- Village Green: Carol Singing

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 4pm** - St Luke’s Church: Crib Service (for children & adults)

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 11.30pm** – St Luke’s Church: Midnight Holy Communion (Mass)

We look forward to seeing you at our services over Christmas!



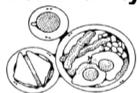
**The Bible Course:** This course can be completed by anyone; you don't have to know anything about the Bible! It's an 8 session course produced by the Bible Society in Britain to help participants understand the Bible for themselves.

**It aims to show the big picture of the Bible storyline** – from Genesis to Revelation **The course is free.** Each session is structured with informal refreshments before the start. After a brief introduction there are video talks on the week's theme by Rev Andrew Ollerton (who devised the course) with breaks to discuss a suggested question or topic or two in small groups. The session lasts about 2 hours. There will be a little "homework" which consists of reading Bible passages in preparation for the next session! More information is available online at: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course/>



If you can't make the introductory session, don't worry, you can join in later. We'd love to see the Methodist Chapel filled to bursting, so even if you're not really sure it's for you, just come to the introductory session, with no obligation on **Tue 8<sup>th</sup> Jan at 7pm for supper and 8pm start in the Methodist Church, Newton Rd. Contact John, Diane or Harry below.** For the first session, we're having a light supper beforehand so if you'd like to come along, **please let us know for catering purposes** (with any dietary requirements).

**Community Breakfast:** We will be holding our Community Breakfast again on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January**, serving breakfast **from 8.30 till 10.30am.** There's no charge, but you can make a donation if you wish (but we appreciate that after Christmas that could be difficult!) We're also hoping to start a regular collection for the **food bank** at Community Breakfast, so please bring your donations with you.



**Bible verses of the month:** *Luke 12 v 25-26 & 31: Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?...But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.*

**What does it mean?** One interpretation is that Jesus is telling the disciples that worry is a negative feeling that they should try to avoid. Later in verse 31, he says that God knows what we need (food, drink and clothes) and if we look for his kingdom the rest will come. Read the full passage at:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+12%3A25-31&version=NIV>

*\*St Luke's would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas\**

**Church Benefice Website: [www.brickhillchurches.org.uk](http://www.brickhillchurches.org.uk).**

If you want to come to a service, all church service times are listed on the website, along with contact details for the Rector. His phone goes straight to an answerphone but he will reply as soon as he's able. The Rector's day off is Monday.

Church news articles are available to read on the benefice website (click on Stoke Hammond in the list and scroll down to Stoke Hammond Newsletters)

If you would like to come to church but have mobility problems please ring John (see below) regarding transport. If you would like to volunteer to help, have a prayer request or enquiry, please ring **Churchwardens: Harry, on 07773065271; Diane, on 270409 or Treasurer: John, on 270202.**



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# BELLA, HOLLY & CHARLOTTE

**By Barbara Munn**

It's that time again and Bella, Holly and Charlotte are starting to get ready for Christmas. The spread of ages; 12, 5 and 2 makes for a very different set of experiences and expectations. For Bella it is very much an opportunity to spend time with extended family and friends. Holly, at 5, is getting more and more excited by the day and little Charlotte is taking her cue from the others but mainly just enjoying the atmosphere – and the lights. The girls live not far from the village and are well known locally especially to those who go to the monthly Community Breakfasts which the girls attend with their parents, Jo and Oliver and grandparents, Greg and Vivienne who live in the village.



- ***DO YOU DECORATE YOUR HOUSE FOR CHRISTMAS?***

Bella – Yes! Daddy does the outside with icicles that light up around the house and roof. We also have a light up reindeer and tree outside and an inflatable polar bear. Our house looks out at a few others which are decorated rather like ours. Mum

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Three generations. One sense of duty

follows her family's tradition and likes to have the tree up by December 3<sup>rd</sup> because she has two sisters both born on that day but a year apart. We used to have real trees but often they were too wide for the room so now we have a tall, slim one which has "snow" on its branches. While we decorate it we listen to Christmas music. Our ornaments are a mixture of tasteful items and things we have made and/ or decorated such as salt dough candy canes labelled for all the family and sprayed pinecones. Upstairs we all have little lamp sized trees in our bedrooms and we decorate them ourselves.

- ***HOW DO YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THE RELIGIOUS BASIS OF CHRISTMAS?***



Each year we attend a Christingle Service at a local church. Last year it was held in Heath and Reach and this year it will be at St Luke's in Stoke Hammond. Each child is given an orange during the service. It symbolises the world and is decorated with a red ribbon to show the blood of Christ and a candle signifying that Christ was the Light of the World. Finally, we have sweets which are there to show that we are all creations of God. Five years ago

a Nativity Service was held on the Stoke Hammond Village Green. Holly was six weeks old at the time and took the part of baby Jesus as there were no available boy babies. Bella played an angel, Dad (Oliver) was Joseph, Aunty Nikita took the role of Mary and a local pony stood in for the donkey.



- ***HOW DOES YOUR FAMILY CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?***

On Christmas Eve we put out a mince pie and milk for Santa and a carrot for the reindeer and they all get eaten.



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Bella. We all wake up early but Holly will probably be first. Then we take our stockings into our parents' room to open them before going downstairs to see if Santa has left more presents for us under the tree. After that we have breakfast before getting ready to go to our grandparents' house in Stoke Hammond. Here we find lots more presents left under the tree by Santa and our relatives. Our cousin Florence who's two and a half, aunts and uncles also come and altogether there are about sixteen of us to lunch. The wood-burning stove is always lit and the sitting room becomes very warm. During the afternoon we watch a Christmas film, play games such as Articulate or Monopoly, eat snacks and carry on opening presents throughout the day. Around 6 or 7pm we go back home. On Boxing Day we go to Mum's parents' house but unfortunately one of my parents, usually Dad has to go to work.

- ***WHAT DO YOU EAT FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER?***

Holly said she likes turkey and Grandad's roast potatoes, carrots, parsnips and cauliflower. She's tried sprouts but doesn't like them and pigs in blankets but will only eat the pigs. Yorkshire puddings are a great favourite, filled full with gravy. Afterward they all have chocolate log from Marks and Spencer and Great Granny has Christmas pudding with brandy butter.

- ***WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE YOUR FAMILY THIS YEAR?***

Holly answered:

I want to give Mummy a new ring, a pink one, because the gem has come out of her old one and I like pink.

For Daddy new socks because he has always got holes in his socks.

For Nanny it will be a ring as well, a purple one to go with her purple jacket.

And for Grandad - a newspaper- because he's always reading the news and I go with him to buy the paper.

I'm going to get a new blanket for Charlotte to put over her doll and it will be red and white with pictures of Santa on it.

I think I'll give Bella leggings, a tee-shirt and socks – all white so she looks like a snowman.

- ***IF YOU COULD HAVE JUST ONE PRESENT WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE?***

Holly. A new baby doll and I'll call her Annabel.

Bella. I'm hoping for clothes or trainers rather than vouchers or money.

They think Charlotte would like a new buggy for her dolls but think she will probably be just as happy with the wrapping paper and boxes



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St Luke's Stoke Hammond presents

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*If you answered yes to any of these questions (or maybe, just "Maybe"!) the Bible Course could be for you. Come along to the first session and find out if it's for you. Even if you're not really sure it's for you, just come to the introductory session to find out with no obligation. If you can't make the introductory session, don't worry, you can join in later.*

*This course can be completed by anyone; you don't have to know anything about the Bible!*

**Starting on Tuesday 8th January 2019**

**At 7pm (supper) for 8pm start**

**At The Methodist Chapel,  
Newton Rd**

A light supper will be provided for the first taster session. Please contact **John: 270202, Diane: 270409 or Harry: 07773065271** to register and advise any dietary requirements.

**\*For more details see the Church News report in this copy\***



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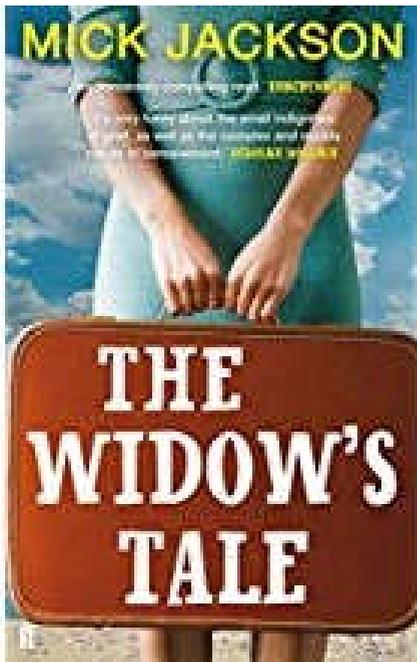
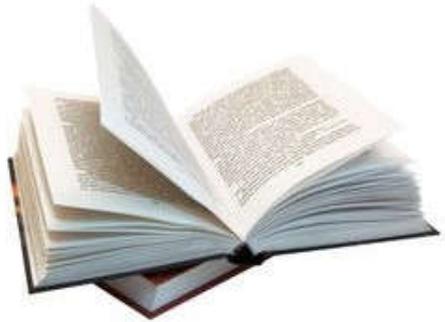
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## STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



**'THE WIDOW'S TALE'** by Mick Jackson.

This is a slightly strange book in that it deals with the thoughts and re-actions of a recently widowed woman. Her first re-action is to escape from her Hampstead house and the sympathy and curiosity surrounding her and retreat to the wilds of a Norfolk village where she can hide away and contemplate life without her husband. She moves into a basic cottage with few comforts and seems almost to be punishing herself.

Her thoughts fluctuate between deep and meaningful and rather flippant and her tart and no frills observations about life and men is refreshingly frank. She has strong opinion on most things and these are often witty and well described.

I sometimes had difficulty accepted that it has been written by a man (unless Mick Jackson is another George Elliot!) and the Group's reactions were, on the whole, not too favourable. Several thought that it was more of a Memoir than a story, that it was depressing and they wouldn't have continued with it had it not been the Club's book of the month. Others considered it cleverly written with moments of pathos and reality and everyone enjoyed the descriptions of Norfolk - two members said they wondered how it managed to be published. So, as you can see it was not a book to be recommended this time round but nevertheless had moments which provoked an interesting understanding of the reactions to grief experienced by some.

Next month's book is **'Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother'** by Amy Chua



Come and learn how Pilates can enhance and improve your life with proper technique and guidance from exercise professional NIKKI Gladlish. Pilates doesn't have to be boring and serious it can be fun and safe too and I promise you will only work within your own capabilities. Call me to find out more!

**Tuesday's 6.30pm - 7.30pm**  
 Southcott Community Centre,  
 Grasmere Way  
 Linslade  
 LU7 2PJ

**Wednesday's 6.00pm - 7.00pm**  
 Trinity Methodist Church Hall,  
 North Street  
 Leighton Buzzard  
 LU7 1ES

**£8.00 per class**  
 for block booking of 5-6 weeks  
**£10.00 per class drop in**  
 (please call in advance to check  
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 Limited spaces available

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 The Core Club or Nikki G Zumba  
 Email: [nikki@wiznft.co.uk](mailto:nikki@wiznft.co.uk)

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**OR CALL GREG NOBLE ON 01525 270744**





# PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MONTH



Here we see shots of the truck up to its axle in a muddy pothole on the road across the Green which according to Bucks Highways did not exist and thus required no repair – See Parish Council News.

And a more relaxed moment after last months the 'Battle's Over' Ceremony on the Green





Whether you are looking for short or long term accommodation The Orchard Hotel has so much to offer. This old family home has been sympathetically and tastefully converted and now provides accommodation and assisted living for retired gentlemen.

There are five single and two double fully serviced guest rooms, each with:

- En-suite facilities
- Personal colour TV
- Drinks making amenities
- Courtesy tea and coffee
- Fridge, freezer and microwave
- Personal laundry service, if required

Residents are invited to make full use of the guest lounge and sun room as well as the indoor and outdoor swimming pools and the beautifully and lovingly tended gardens.

The majority of guests at The Orchard choose to be self sufficient and prepare their own meals or eat at nearby pubs and restaurants. However, hotel staff are happy to cater for guests providing this is arranged in advance.

The Orchard is fully accessible for anyone with limited mobility. It is regretted however that pets cannot be accommodated.

For more information please contact:

**The Orchard Private Hotel, Stewkley, Buckinghamshire LU7 0HR**

**Tel: 01525 240 240 Fax: 01525 240 464**

**Email: [orchardstewkley@supanet.com](mailto:orchardstewkley@supanet.com)**

# WASTE COLLECTION DATES



**EDITORS NOTE: APOLOGIES TO THOSE FEW WHOSE COLLECTION DAY IS A TUESDAY.**

Waste Bin: 	Recycling Bin:  Paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans & tins	Food Waste Bin:  Non-recyclable or compostable.	Garden Waste Bin: 
	Wednesday 28 Nov	Wednesday 28 Nov	
Wednesday 5 Dec		Wednesday 5 Dec	
	Wednesday 12 Dec	Wednesday 12 Dec	
Wednesday 19 Dec		Wednesday 19 Dec	
	Friday 28 Dec	Friday 28 Dec	
Friday 4 Jan		Friday 4 Jan	
	Thursday 10 Jan	Thursday 10 Jan	
Wednesday 16 Jan		Wednesday 16 Jan	
	Wednesday 23 Jan	Wednesday 23 Jan	
Wednesday 30 Jan		Wednesday 30 Jan	Wednesday 30 Jan
	Wednesday 6 Feb	Wednesday 6 Feb	

## VILLAGE DIARY

Saturday 1st December	St Luke's Christmas Fayre - Community Centre 14.00 – 16.00
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Senior Citizens Xmas Lunch – Community Centre – from 13.00
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Bingo Fish & Chips Night – Sports Pavilion 19.30
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Joyful Tots First Session – Community Centre 12.30 – 14.00
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Gardening Club Xmas Dinner – Community Centre – Times TBA
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Buttons Christmas Party - Community Centre 14.00 – 16.00
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30

### ORGANISATIONS THAT USE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

#### High Ash Scouts, Cubs, Beavers

Every Thursday 17.30 - 21.30hrs  
Contact: John Till 01525 261444

#### Pilates - Group Matwork

Monday's 09.25, 10.30, 11.45, 19.10 & 20.15hrs  
Contact: Louisa Harris 07941 203589

#### Buttons Pre-School

Monday - Friday  
Monday - Friday

#### Slimming World

Wednesday's 19.30 – 21.30hrs  
Contact: Emma Yorke 07933 790954

**To Hire the Hall please telephone 07555 711929 or e-mail: [shcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:shcommunitycentre@gmail.com)**

### SH NEWS – ADVERTISING RATES

For 12 editions: FULL Page - **£85.00** HALF Page - **£50.00** QUARTER Page - **£30.00**

**To upgrade to full colour on rear cover, additional per month cost:**

**FULL Page – plus £15.00 HALF Page - plus £10.00 QUARTER Page - plus £5.00**

**Note: Upgrading to full colour is on a month by month basis, not a commitment for 12 editions**

Bucks County Council	01296-395000
Community Transport Co-ordinator	07729-699488
Registrar ( <i>Births, Deaths &amp; Marriages</i> )	01296-382581
Aylesbury Vale District Council	01296-585858
Gypsy Hotline	01296-383774
Litter Enforcement Officer	01296-585395
Social Care Services ( <i>Emergency Duty</i> )	01494-817750
MK General Hospital	01908-660033
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296-315000
Luton & Dunstable Hospital	01582-491122
SH Gardening Club ( <i>Eileen Curry</i> )	01525 270858
Clerk to the Parish Council	07743-355484
Parish Council Chairman ( <i>Greg Noble</i> )	01525-270744
County Councillor ( <i>Janet Blake</i> )	01525-261288
District Councillor ( <i>Neil Blake</i> )	01525-261288
District Councillor ( <i>Ben Everitt</i> )	07817-756158
High Ash School	01525-261620
M.P. ( <i>John Bercow</i> )	020-7219-6346

**Police non-emergency number 101**

Coming Soon to Stoke Hammond...

# Joyful Tots

- A place where we play, learn and share together
- For parents, carers, or anyone looking after a baby or preschool child
- Our first introductory session will be 12.30 – 2pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December in the Community Centre
- £2 per family – light lunch refreshments provided
- Can't make the date but still interested? Give us a ring to let us know times and days you'd prefer
- For more information Call Jacklen 07897 487657 or Diane 01525 270409



## EDITORS NOTE

Well here we are December again and another year end looming. We are pleased to have a seasonal themed 'Spotlight On' from Barbara Munn focusing like last year on children at Christmas and what it means to them. The three sisters Bella, Holly and Charlotte provide an entertaining 'Spotlight On' and some of you may remember Holly from 5 years ago when she took the part of baby Jesus in the Nativity Play held on the Green (hence the front cover photograph). I'm sure some of you will have worked out that the grandparent Greg referred to in the article is yours truly and I'm very proud of all three and look forward to them all joining Vivienne and I for Christmas with Florence our other darling granddaughter and the rest of our extended family.

As it is yearend, I must extend a massive



To everyone that makes the SH News happen, from the contributors of articles, readers correspondence, the advertisers, SHCA and SHPC and last but not least the small army of volunteers who help deliver the SH News to your homes each month. And finally, I wish you all out there

**A VERY MERRY**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**and Happy New Year!**

May I please have copy for the January issue by **20<sup>th</sup> December**

Greg Noble, Oak Farm, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond. MK17 9DB  
01525-270744 E-mail: [gregnoble1980@aol.com](mailto:gregnoble1980@aol.com)