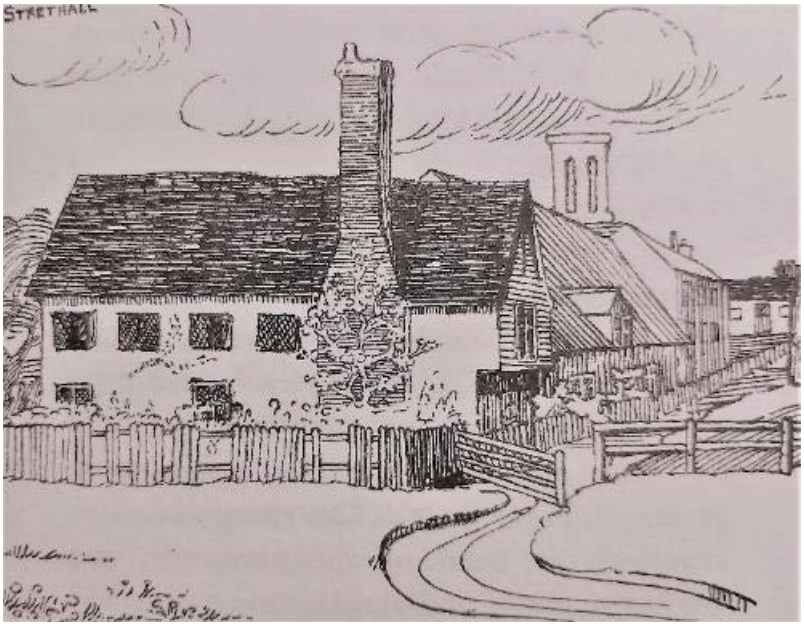


Village Web

May 2022



Nehemiah Perry and the Gypsies

Marriage and divorce, burglary, homicide and chicanery in nineteenth century Strethall

A talk by

David Melford & Martin Rose

At 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, May 5th

At St Peter's Church, Littlebury Green

Entry free, donations welcomed

A glass of wine will be served

This is the first public meeting of the 'Littlebury Hamlets History Group'
All are welcome

Front cover: Bluebells between, Chrishall and Elmdon by Jean Hards-Nichols

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May Services

Sunday 1

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

Sunday 8

9.00am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church **Heydon** SG8 8PW
10.45am Family Worship at St Swithuns Church **Great Chishill** SG8 8SS

Sunday 15

9.00am Holy Communion at Hamlet Church **Duddenhoe End** CB11 4XN
10.45am Family Café Church at Holy Trinity Church **Chrishall** SG8 8QU

Sunday 22

9.00am Holy Communion at St Marys Church **Strethall** CB11 4XJ
10.45am Common Worship with Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church **Elmdon** CB11 4LT

Thursday 26

7.30am Ascension Day Service at Holy Trinity Church **Chrishall SG8 8QU**

Sunday 29

9.00am Holy Communion at St Swithuns Church **Great Chishill** SG8 8SS
10.45am Common Worship with Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church **Heydon** SG8 8PW

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

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Wed: Barley *5.45pm, 6.45pm & 8pm
Thurs: Thriplow 9.10 HIPP & ZOOM Pilates 8pm
Sat: ZOOM HIPP 8.00 am
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Wednesday	
Reset & Flow	12:00-12:55
Friday	
Vinyasa Flow	09:30-10:30
Saturday	
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Parish News from Anand, our Rector



Dear All
By the time you read this, we will have finished the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 26th April. Many thanks to all who attended the meeting and our special thanks go to Emma Thompson for addressing the APCM.

In April we had a few activities which were well supported and appreciated. Lent course is one of the highlights where we had a very great time learning insights through our discussions. My thanks to the leaders who led the study. It was heart warming to see such good support for the church activities during the holy week around Easter time, and a good number of people turned up for the services. Thanks to all who have attended the services.

I am looking forward for another special event, the 'Ascension Day' Service on 26 May 2022. It's a Sunrise service in the morning at 7.30 am in front of Chrishall church, usually a light breakfast with croissants will be served. I hope you will join us.

A colleague by name the Revd. Paul Gill who worked in Australia in the Diocese of Perth for a number of years has also worked with me in Herefordshire for seven years. At my request he wrote an article. This he wrote a few years ago. I thought it is worth publishing it in our magazine. So here is his article.

.With thanks



Anand Sodadasi

Thought for the month: Thinking about the Church

In the New Testament the church is the people of God meeting for prayer and worship. Down through the ages 'church' has never been other than the people of God meeting for worship and prayer. The term has never referred to a particular place or building. The early church met in someone's house, an outbuilding, outdoors, under a tree, or in a public space (weather permitting).

In the fourth century an anomaly developed, following the declaration by the Emperor Constantine that Christianity was to be the official religion of the Roman Empire. The church began to be thought of as an institution of the state rather than a gathering of the followers of Jesus. People started to develop an impersonal infrastructure which included expanding the meaning of the word church from people, to include buildings where the church met.

Gradually the buildings got bigger and bigger and more and more ornate; they took on a certain aura which said the bigger and better the building the more likely one is to meet God there. In theory they were built 'to the glory of God'. In fact, human nature being what it is, most of them were built; 'to the glory of those who commissioned them, paid for them, and had them built'.

Historically the church, the people of God, has been left with an obsolete infrastructure consisting mainly of buildings, many of which are too big, cold, dark, expensive to maintain, with no facilities, and not conducive to the worship of small congregations.

Another anomaly that has arisen relatively recently in regard to church is the idea that 'a person doesn't need to participate in the life and worship of the church to be a Christian'. This is often expressed along the lines of, 'as long as I am a 'good' person I can meet with God (for example) in the garden among the daffodils'. But the Christian faith can never be just a private religious experience. The problem with this so called Christianity is that it is not Christianity at all. At its best it is agnosticism. Agnosticism, a term derived from Acts 17:23, 'to the unknown God', was introduced into the relatively modern world by T. H. Huxley in 1869 to denote the

belief that men and women do not and cannot know whether God exists. A Christian person is in no doubt at all about the existence of God and His influence in his or her life. Christian people are motivated from within to gladly share in the worship and life of the church, the people of God.
We need to be aware of anomalies that crop up in regard to our faith, whether they be historical or relatively modern, and guard against them. Otherwise they can be unquestionably accepted as part of the revelation of God in Jesus Christ, which they are not.
Revd. Paul Gill

URC Services

Sunday 1st May

Evening Service 6pm

Led by Revd Sue Fender

Sunday 15th May

Morning Service 9.30am

Tea and coffee served afterwards.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations at URC.

Thursday June 2nd

To kickstart this very memorable weekend there will be Pimms and Prosecco O'clock in the URC Garden from 5pm onwards. Live music, BBQ food, cash and card licensed bar. Best Jubilee Crown Competition for adults and children alike. Plenty of time to get creating! Everyone really very welcome.

A rough idea of numbers would be very helpful.

Friday June 3rd 6pm

Scottish Dancing at The Manse (see page 9).

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www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Public and private gardens provide opportunities for pleasurable exercise and social interaction. Our local sunny climate and fertile soils have encouraged those with green fingers to hone their design and horticultural skills to create some outstanding flower-rich gardens for their own delight. Some, like Bridge End Garden in Saffron Walden, are free but entry charges do apply at others.

Many delightful gardens are listed in the current National Garden Scheme handbook and website, www.ngs.org.uk This is a major showcase for owners who are willing to share their gardens with others; last year £3 million was donated by visitors to help nursing and health charities. Some gardens have limited opening days, others more frequent opportunities to appreciate seasonal changes; some offer opportunities for booked group visits.

Some gardens open early to showcase spring flowers but as spring gives way to summer, more are opened to show off the variety of brightly-coloured blooms and intense floral fragrances, especially from roses. Enthusiastic and knowledgeable



Bridge End Garden, Saffron Walden



Gardens of Easton Lodge, Little Easton



Henry Moore Studios, Perry Green, Much Hadham



Audley End House, Saffron Walden

owners may specialise in growing cottage garden flowers, others in designing hidden features or ponds and all are willing to share their passions with visitors.

With so many varied gardens to visit it is a challenge to decide which one should top your list! I would recommend including Easton Lodge, where Harold Peto's Italian garden is always colourful and recent restoration works to the balustrade have enhanced this area.

Throughout the summer at Henry Moore Studios & Gardens at Perry Green, many of Moore's sculptures are displayed in a garden setting and an exhibition focuses on his work in the Sixties.

The What's On listing on the Hundred Parishes website includes dates for individual open gardens and also where a village has organised a group of open gardens, sometimes with added attractions like cream teas. Enjoy!

Tricia Moxey, Trustee



Ashdon Hall, Ashdon



Caldrees Manor, Ickleton

Scottish Dancing at The Manse -

Friday June 3rd at 6pm



Don an article of Tartan, do a Highland Fling and raise a wee Dram and come and join us for a very lighthearted evening of fun, fellowship, laughter and fun. We felt that Her Majesty would wholly approve.

No experience or standard required, just a sense of humour!There will be some practises arranged to dust the rust! Look on the URC notice board, village website or just give Tess a call, 07721398642 if you are up for a giggle. There is plenty of that! ALL ages most welcome.

Not Your Usual Butlins

Once a year Spring Harvest (a Christian based holiday camp) takes over Butlins in Skegness and Minehead. We have just returned from a 4 night stay at Skegness.

Butlins staff still operate a limited schedule but most of the activities during Sprint Harvest are organised by volunteers from churches all over Britain. In the mornings there are Christian teaching groups for all ages. We had a family party of 7 adults and 10 children with ages ranging from 2-15 so we had children in every group, adults were catered for too.

Our days and evenings were very busy, a typical day would be:

7.00am wake up (or earlier depending on the ages of the children) with quick shower, pack the children's bags, snack and drink and meet outside for -



7.50am Walk or scoot to the restaurant for breakfast, which was a little walk away. The children line up for early morning pancakes and collect pain au chocolat on the way round, one of the highlights of their week, they are also encouraged to make some healthy choices.
8.45am The Big Start in the main building named Studio 36. The Big Start consists of a drama group and band presenting the Spring Harvest Theme to the families and younger folk. The theme this year was Restore, Renew, Rebuild, very clever after a 2 year break because of Covid.
The Bible teaching was based on the story of Nehemiah and how he encouraged people to help him rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem. There was much singing and dancing.
After the stirring start, the young people are dispatched to their teaching and fun groups, leaving the adults some free time to choose their next activity.
There are teaching and singing groups with big bands in several venues, or they can just spend some time relaxing or walking on the beach or perusing all the countless stalls in the Skyline. The Skyline is full of Christian charities for people to support and stalls selling beautiful things. We support Care for the Family and Toilet Twinning (I twinned St Swithun's toilet in Great Chishill with a toilet in

Malawi). After the first teaching session there is a choice of talks. Then its lunch in the chalets, whilst choosing the next activity. The afternoons consisted of football and basketball tournaments in which we entered family teams and swimming in the amazing pool. We also went to the fair which opened in the afternoon. The mobile phones were a must for us all to keep in touch.



5.00pm Tea/supper and there was a scramble to reserve 4 tables together which we managed to every time.

Then it was on to the evening activities, the older children went to their groups and there was teaching and praise (singing) in a choice of venues depending on your taste. A big treat for the older members of our group was after hours swimming, the pool was less full then and the rides had shorter queues. The pool shuts at 6pm normally but for SH it opens again from 8.00 until 10pm. When it was time to leave we were all sad especially the children and they're looking forward to returning again next year.

The Theme of Restore, Renew, Rebuild, was chosen to look at what the church looks like in a post pandemic landscape. But it's not just about our churches, there is discussion and teaching about restoring, renewing and rebuilding communities, friendships and family relationships too.

If you want to know more about SH you can find plenty on the internet and how to book early at a discount on the website. Essential Christian also offer to pay towards families on low income.

Angela Patrick Sutcliffe



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Morris Dancing



Great Chishill Morris Men (and women) performed for the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002. They will be reviving the group and will perform at The Pheasant on Saturday 4 June.

Morris dancing is widely recognised as an essentially English tradition. Its origins are vague & theorists believe that some forms of Morris may derive from the French Moresque or the Spanish Morisca dances of the 15th & 16th centuries as they share some characteristics, while others speculate that the Morris dance is the remains of seasonal pre-Christian agricultural fertility rites. The earliest documentary reference to Morris dancing is in the 1400's and by the 16th & 17th century many of the towns Guilds had adopted it, mainly as a stage performance at festivals, and for public enjoyment. Morris became an integral part of church festivals and Ales and it is recorded that some churches kept the elaborate costumes and hired them to other sides to allow them to perform - much to the disgust of the Puritans, particularly Philip Stubbs who were vehemently opposed to public displays of music, dance and merry-making. By the end of the 16th century, Morris had become established as a form of entertainment, often accompanying the seasonal celebration of the coming of spring and the autumn harvests. There are some references in the 16th & 18th century to men, women & children performing.

At the end of the 1800's, Morris was dying out in many communities, possibly due to the 'Industrial revolution' which resulted in a huge shift of population away from the land to the new industrial centres. The revival of interest in Morris dance was almost entirely due to two people in the early 1900's, Cecil Sharp and Mary Neal. Cecil Sharp was music tutor to the young 'royals' with an interest in collecting folk songs. As a result of a chance meeting on Boxing Day 1899 with William Kimber from Headington Quarry Morris near his home in Oxford he became intensely interested in the Morris and from 1906 Cecil Sharp devoted much of his

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life to collecting and notating the Morris dance, eventually writing a series of five books on the subject. https://www.ditchlingmorris.org/history

Pictures: Gt Chishill Morris Men and Gt Chishill Morris Women in 2002

The Bells of St Swithun's go from 5 to 6

The major refurbishment of the 5 bells of St Swithun's, for which fund raising started in 2000 is now within weeks of completion.

The 4 old bells cast in 1686 and the newer one cast in 1841, had not been rung for 25 years prior to the Millennium. During 1998 and 1999 the community raised sufficient funds to have the bells restored enough to ring in the new Millennium, but on a tight budget using a lot of secondhand fittings. 21 years later the bells were still being rung on a regular basis but were very difficult to ring accurately and becoming more and more difficult to ring at all.

In 2018 the Great Chishill ringers decided to bite the bullet and commit to having a complete refit and refurbishment, but it was essential that the project would not cost the church anything. Local couple Peter and Margaret Wynn offered to pay for a new 6th bell to be cast and this further galvanised the band into action. The band had surveys done and quotes for the works and even though the cost of the project was continuously rising they decided to go ahead on the basis that rising costs were going to always outstrip incoming funds.

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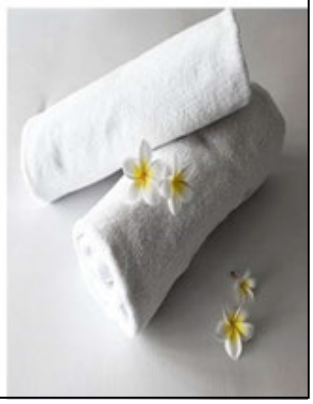
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Fund raising events increased and grant funding explored. Then came COVID and Brexit! Fund raising events were severely curtailed and prices soared, such that what had started out as a project of around £86,000 is currently expected to be £115,000.

On 12th January this year the project officially started with the disconnection and wrapping up of the clock (which is housed immediately underneath the belfry). Builders moved in as did the bellhangers and a band of local volunteers. The bells had clappers, wheels, sliders and stays removed and were then lower slowly down the inside of the tower. However, as a suspended ceiling had been put in below the ringing floor at the time that the toilets were put into the church, a special crane had to be hired in to lift the bells down to floor level. The bells were on view for a couple of days before being taken away to Oxford for their complete refurbishment.

The bells and the new 6th bell returned to St Swithun's on 21st April and at the time of writing should be hoisted up the tower on Monday 25th. There will be a couple more weeks of work on them after that but it is hoped that all 6 bells and the clock will be fully functional in the week of 9th May.

At the time of writing we are still an estimated £20,000 short, so fund raising continues.





Adrian Rudd

My husband, Adrian Francis Rudd, although he went home to the Lord at the end of November I am still very upheld by the great and gentle loving kindness of the Church family including our dear Anand and Shaila.

Friends and family came from near and far, flocking into Adrian's farewell to the earth and glorious welcome into Heaven where, as Adrian believed in the promise of Jesus, so he is healed and well, no more suffering. Glorious music all played by our dear friends from the church from 'Now thank we all our God' to 'Amazing Grace' and triumphantly – 'He will go out with joy and be led forth with peace'. The sun beamed upon the coffin, bestowed with flowers, all from the family of God as we are all part of God's family. £1450 was given to Sight Savers in memory of Adrian, I wonder how many have come from darkness to light?

Adrian was a quiet and gentle man, putting others needs before himself. Very talented in art, he enjoyed sharing this with those with special needs and church children. He like nothing better than drawing faces, anyone who he could persuade to sit for him.

Great appreciation to the church family again who especially gave, fed and served all who came to celebrate a dear one, dad, grandpa and my husband.

Jo Rudd



May Dates *for regular events*

Monday 2 **Open Door Catch-up Cafe**
Chrishall Village Hall 10.30 - 12 noon.
Come along for tea/coffee/cake

Wednesday 4 **Heydon Hedgehogs**
Holy Trinity Church, Heydon 10.00am
Parent and toddler coffee morning .
See Facebook page for more info

Wednesday 25 **Men's Group**
The Red Cow, Chrishall – 8pm

Tuesdays **Gt Chishill Youth Club**
Great Chishill Village Hall 6.30-8.00pm in term time
Contact Emily 07900 243491

Pin Board

Wheelchair

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19 May - final date for submission of articles for the June edition.

Parish Contacts - *Telephone codes are 01763 unless stated*

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

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

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Gt Chishill – Angela Patrick Sutcliffe 837353
Heydon – Alex Duffus 836903
Strethall – Liz Stott 01799 521217
Elmdon – Ned Tozer 838890
Hamlet – Sarah Westerhuis 07739550061
Lt Chishill – Elaine Knobel-Forbes 838781

Children's and Youth Work: Contact office - 837272 or Anand 838703

Treasurer: Laurence Brett Tel: 838167 Email: laurencebrett@icloud.com

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

Chrishall Primary School: Head Teacher Tracey Bratley Tel: 838592

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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

Draft Programme from 2nd to 5th June 2022

More details to follow

Chrishall Jubilee Weekend

Decorate your house for the Jubilee

Scarecrow Royalty Competition

Thursday 2nd June 2022

Opening Event - Beacon Lighting - Crawley End

6-8pm

Toast to the Queen – Bring your own glass

Prosecco provided by the Jubilee Group

Music - Meat Up Cambs Food Truck

Friday 3rd June 2022

Afternoon Concert at Chrishall Church TBC

Live Music ''So80s'' at The Red Cow, from 7.30pm until late

Large Selection of Ales @theredcow

Saturday 4th June 2022

Society of Chrishall Artists Studio - Afternoon Studio

Archive Group Exhibition

Live Music The Reavey Bros Band @theredcow from 5.30pm til Late

Sunday 5th June 2022

Fancy Dress Red, White & Blue

Street Party 12 - 5pm - Bring your own Picnic, & Furniture

Church Service 10-12pm

WI Cake competition 11am - 3 pm

Society of Chrishall Artists Studio - Afternoon Studio

Archive Group Exhibition

Children's Treasure Hunt

Face painting

GREAT CHISHILL VILLAGE HALL

LEGENDS OF ROCK

a tribute to
Elvis Presley
Freddie Mercury
Rod Stewart
Elton John
George Michael
David Bowie

performed by
PAUL LILLIE

24TH JUNE 2022

7.30pm



Licenced Bar
Canapes
&
Raffle

£15.00

In Aid of Little Chishill Church

For Tickets

Elaine 01763 838781 - Jenny 01763 837073 or Marlene 01763 838244

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