

A photograph of a church tower at night. The tower is dark, and its windows are illuminated from within, showing colorful stained glass designs. The sky is a pale, textured grey. The overall mood is serene and festive.

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Kimpton Parish Magazine

**THE PARISH MAGAZINE TEAM
WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY
AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS**

Plug in, switch on, light up—must be Christmas



It's beginning to look a lot like 2020 is going to become the Covid Christmas. The Christmas card designers have tapped into the black humour of social distancing, face masks, toilet roll storage and that virus germ logo which you see on the BBC news every night.....

....and there's the song: 'All I want for Christmas is a vaccination', the parodies of Government posters.. ...and even a 'jokey' Tesco advert about how there's no naughty this year and endorsing poor behaviour and excessive consumption. And for those who have a few too many toilet rolls there is the DIY Christmas tree.

However I can't say I really subscribe to making jokes about a deadly disease and a year in which, so far almost 62,000 English people have died after contracting Covid-19. This year has largely been a dark time.



But do not give up hope. We will survive this. We overcame the 1918 influenza pandemic. We came through the Black Death in this village and the church didn't shut in the 4 years 1347-51 and the plagues of 1563, 1593, 1625 and 1665. Typhoid for years in the 1750's and small pox in the 1840's. Remember Asian flu in the late 1950's and Hong Kong Flu of 1968-9? I caught that one. All these epidemics cost many more deaths than Covid-19 has so far. But we will come out of the dark times.

Even when it looked like Christmas could be cancelled and we'd all be locked down, there was hope for a light at the end of the tunnel of these dark times. You know hope in hopeless times has always been God's speciality. The light at the end of the tunnel suddenly got a whole lot brighter as a successful vaccine arrived. Let's thank God for that, for the gifts and speciality skills he gives to those gifted and specialist scientists who have made such a wonderful breakthrough. Let's hope and pray that all goes well as people with compromised health become the first to receive a vaccination this month.



I have to say Kimpton village certainly bears out my belief that us human beings are hot-wired to hope and to look on the bright side. In this particularly dark December so many people have contributed to the village projects. 'The village Advent calendar at the Corner Stores is proving a great art work. There's a Food Table in church—don't be hungry—take what you need or leave what you can. We have plugged in, switched on and are 'Lighting up Kimpton' to help us come out of the dark times. Christmas is the very time of the year when we remember again that hope in another hopeless time long ago in the Middle Eastern town of Bethlehem was God's speciality. God's unfailing hope for the world led him to give us the greatest gift of all time—his Son Jesus Christ our Saviour. What more comforting, reassuring, warm and loving gift could there be—the Light of the world coming into the world to chase away all darkness. With God we will survive this.

I wish you all the hope, the peace, the love and the joy of Christmas and that we shall all have a better New Year.

God bless, Rev'd Linda Williams



Christmas Church Services at Ayot St Lawrence

24th December Christmas Eve 9pm
Christmas Holy Communion for all the
family—bring your angels to decorate the
church—any style and any size angel.

Christmas Church Services at Kimpton

13th December (not September as in
your Christmas card!) Christingle
service 4pm

20th December A Service of Christmas
Carols & Readings at 6.30pm

Christmas Eve

3pm An 'Alternative' Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Fun Family Service with Holy
Communion

Please contact Rev'd Linda Williams to
book a place at any of these services.

You may only attend in your household/
bubble, wearing a face mask
throughout. You must stay in your seat
and not mingle with people who are
outside your household/bubble inside
the church building.

Barbara Graebe

News of the death of Barbara Graebe came in November. She was the widow of our last full time Vicar of Kimpton, Canon Denys Graebe, and had recently been in a Care Home in Letchworth to be near her son. Whilst there Barbara reminisced about the very happy years spent in Kimpton before retirement to Fressingfield in Suffolk. Barbara taught English at Hitchin Girls' School and met Denys when he was a curate at St Mary's Hitchin. Some will remember the exhibition of wedding dresses through the ages in Kimpton church which Barbara planned. She also formed a Book Group in Kimpton which still meets regularly.



*Barbara Graebe, with her husband Denys
and Ron Hyde at a May Festival*

From the Registers

Burials, Cremations & Interments

12th October	Marjorie Everitt
13th October	Pam Matthews
21st October	Brenda Howe

We have also learnt that Elaine Bigg passed away on 19th October.

Prayer Corner

If you would like to have a few moments of prayer or contemplation, please feel free to come to our new Prayer Corner in the Church. There is an opportunity to light a candle for a loved one and sit for a while to think about them and perhaps offer a prayer.

Instead of the Prayer Board, we have a book, where you are invited to write your prayer requests, this will be dated monthly so that there is a permanent record. The Church is open every day and all are welcome to come and experience the peace of our Prayer Corner and beautiful Church.

Encouraging wild flowers in the Village



During the summer whilst walking around the village, you may have noticed that the bank between the cow field and the cricket pitch, and the bank beside the football pitch at the rec, were not mowed until October.

The reason for this was to allow the existing wild flowers to grow and for us to see what was growing there.

After they were cut, our



wonderful Kimpton Bench Party (and "friends") put in a lot of work and effort into the clearing and raking of both these areas (which I think they enjoyed).

We then added more wild native plants and seeds such as scabious,



viper's-bugloss, wild marjoram, pink clover and chicory.

It will be interesting over the coming years to watch these areas become more established and interesting, not only in terms of the plants and flowers but also the wildlife and insects that will thrive amongst them.

These areas of natural beauty within our village are for everyone, which I hope you will enjoy as much as the wildlife

Sue Davies

Virtual Christmas Market

Whilst we were unable to run the Christmas Market this year, we were keen to support previous stall holders and have provided a website to allow local craftspeople to display their products and provide an opportunity for the community to undertake their Christmas shopping. We now have over 25 local businesses taking part and Pippa Robson is regularly updating their details on the Kimpton Christmas Market facebook page.

Details are available on www.kimptonvillage.com/kimpton-christmas-market/ or www.facebook.com/kimptonchristmasmarket/



Christmas Lights

They say that it's an ill wind that blows no good. However, the necessity to cancel this year's Christmas Market has meant that we have a supply of lights to use elsewhere in the lead up to Christmas. Those normally used inside the craft marquee are now illuminating the trees outside the school, replacing those that failed last year, and the sets used for Santa's Grotto have been put to good use lighting up the west entrance to the village at Kimpton Bottom. The latter was from an idea originally put forward by Councillor Sue O'Brien and we intend for this to be repeated in future years to come. Thanks to Bob Finch and the Bench Working Party for erecting all the lights.



Community Art Work.

It is good to see the village maintaining a range of group projects even under the current restrictions. 'Light Up Kimpton' devised by Sue Davies and Juliet Morton has produced a wide variety of stained-glass windows throughout the village.



Following on from the success of the Community Arts Alive summer project 'Everything Comes Alive in Kimpton', Anna Bosatta and Anna Kinghan devised and designed the 'Starry Skies Advent Calendar' which can be seen at The Corner Stores with a new window opened each day up to Christmas.

Our thanks to Sanjay and Anita for allowing this on their forecourt at this busy time

New Kimpton Parish Council Website

With the intent of providing an easy to use and more comprehensive single source of useful information about the village, an updated website was launched at the beginning of December.

www.kimptonpc.org.uk

I would like to thank Nigel Dowse and Carina Helmn for their research and efforts to create this tool. We have taken on board many of your comments about what is important to you. If you have any further ideas please contact the Parish Clerk. Over the next few months, we will continue to add further information.

Radio Verulam

On Sunday 29th November, Parish Councillor Ian Corbett was a guest on Verulam Radio, speaking on how the village was adjusting to Covid19. Ian spoke eloquently of the wide range of activities the community was engaged in this winter. You can catch this 41minutes into the broadcast on:

www.radioverulam.com/rvplayer/?timestamp=1606662000&postid=112208&offset=235



Our local MP, Bim Afolami, is running an initiative this year to encourage the planting of trees within the constituency. As a Parish Council we are supportive of this idea and have undertaken to provide additional planting in March upon Parkfield Recreation Ground around the car park and towards Park Lane. The Parish Council does not own significant areas of land that can accommodate new planting but would be keen to hear from the community of any area that might be considered for planting.

We are delighted to see that Andrew Manning has extended the planting of trees on his family farm with the addition of 1250 saplings along the roadside at Claggy Bottom. The village Bench Working Party and other members of the community were on hand and undertook all the planting within one day early in December.

Kimpton Cares

The role of Kimpton Cares during the first 6 months of the Covid19 epidemic was focused on supporting members of the community who were needing to access the hospital, the Doctors' Surgery, and the delivery of items. It is clear that as the impacts of the pandemic are sustained for a longer period, the additional issues of employment and mental wellbeing have become more relevant. Kimpton Cares has provided an informal, easy to access self-service food supply available within the Church. The facility is becoming well used. The response from within the community to provide food stock has been remarkable and the Parish Council has underwritten the continuity of supply should demand peaks occur. Further information is available on:

www.facebook.com/KimptonCares/

Sports Facilities

Those of you who have listened to Ian's article above will already know that the Parish Council is providing a second set of goal posts on the Recreation Ground due to the high usage of the set provided 3 years ago. These are larger in size and are also suitable for youth 11-a-side matches. In addition, local government community funding has been made available for the provision of an outdoor table tennis facility adjacent to the playground area on the Recreation Ground. This has been delayed due to the Covid19 outbreak but should be available by the spring. *Neil Burns*

**census
2021**

Be a part of Census 2021

Census day is 21 March 2021.

By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure your community gets the services it needs.

Find out more at www.census.gov.uk

Follow @Census2021

Can we help you with something?

During the Coronavirus outbreak a Kimpton telephone helpline has been set up

07745 903539

or use KimptonCares@gmail.com

Try us if you have a problem – this is a volunteer community support network

Calls will be dealt with in confidence

Standard Hours 8am – 8pm or answerphone

Kimpton Primary School

Kimpton Early Years team have been busy this autumn term developing our outdoor area, and we were lucky enough to receive a £25 voucher



from Aylett Nurseries to fund some new resources. We put the money towards a new compost bin – aptly named Compost Colin! The composter has allowed the children to independently help keep the outdoor area tidy by sweeping up the leaves. We've also been able to reduce our green waste by adding the waste from our healthy snacks into the compost bin. The children showed great interest in the worms and minibeasts we found when swapping around the mud kitchen and garden area, and so we have added a logpile habitat to the



outdoor area. This is a great place for the children to develop their investigation skills, whilst showing us how well they have understood the instructions about very carefully lifting the logs, tiles and rocks to explore what is hidden underneath. Our combined composting and habitat projects meant we were able to successfully apply for the RHS School Gardening Campaign Level 3 award. We will be rewarded with three boxes of fruit and vegetable plants which will arrive next Spring and Autumn, further developing the children's understanding of growth and sustainability.

Mrs A Ledger, Nursery Teacher

The Garden Club

We have been virtually dormant during the summer which is most unusual for us however we were able to indulge in a little Zooming again with Wheathampstead Horticulture Society who kindly invited us to join their November meeting with a professional speaker.

We desperately hope that normal service will be restored early next year meanwhile just a reminder that we welcome new members and are particularly keen to attract younger residents who will benefit from the wide pool of knowledge willingly given by our more senior members.

When normal service is resumed we will meet on the first Wednesday in every month in the Memorial Hall Green Room at 8 pm with a programme covering a wide range of interesting speakers usually with colour projection and plants for sale.

Visitors are most welcome, so do come and enjoy convivial company and tea/coffee and biscuits. (£3 fee)

We have a social programme which includes a Garden Party, Christmas Party and Quizzes. (all of which are currently on hold)

.If you like plants, vegetables and gardens our meetings provide a wealth of interest to share in the company of fellow minded folk and hopefully improve your knowledge of this fascinating subject. You don't need to be a Monty Don, Alan Titchmarsh or Charlie Dimmock to enjoy the experience.!

If you wish to create or modify a garden we may be able to help you with the most cost effective layout/selection and maintenance of plants and propagation techniques.

Meetings are free to members, visitors £3,
Annual Subscription only £15.

**Tel. Mary 01582 832110 or Myra 01438
832776 for more information**

Visit these websites for
up-to-date village news
kimptonchurch.co.uk
kimptonvillage.com



Save the White Horse

As the local MP, I know from conversations with residents in Kimpton and beyond that there is a huge amount of local support behind the effort to save the White Horse Pub. As many of you will know, the

White Horse was an important part of the community in Kimpton until it was closed in 2015 and ultimately acquired by a private individual several years ago who maintained that he would be re-opening the pub. Sadly the pub remains shut, but the "Save Our White Horse Community Group" have been working tirelessly to find a way to prevent the pub being lost to the village, including successfully getting the pub listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV).

I recently met with the Save the White Horse Community Group to discuss the ongoing issue with the use and ownership of the pub and together we are looking at how we can bring it back to the local community – not just so it can thrive as a pub (well known for miles around), but so that it can once again serve as an important part of Kimpton village life. A pub can fulfil a lot of social roles such as reducing loneliness and providing somewhere to socialise, which will be appreciated in a post-Covid society more than ever. Once we lose these things that hold the community together, they are gone forever. That's why I'm so passionate about trying to save this part of our local community as a pub, just as Preston village saved The Red Lion several years ago.

Pubs are so often at the heart of our communities and play a key part in keeping our villages vibrant. That is why I am fully supportive of the efforts by the residents of Kimpton and neighbouring villages to save the White Horse. I will continue to liaise with the group and the local council to find a route that will return the pub to its former glory.

Bim Afolami MP



We are currently midway through Lockdown 2 and so, once again, all our lives, and

Kimpton WI activities, are "on hold". However, a sudden sense of optimism is in the air as we were all cheered by the news that a vaccine may become available for some early in the New Year. With this in mind, we continue to make plans!

A few weeks ago, we were able to hold a committee meeting to discuss ideas for some kind of Christmas celebration. Our usual Christmas lunch at the Boot, which is always very popular, will not be possible this year, due to social distancing restrictions, but we have made some alternative, provisional arrangements. Hopefully, this will mean we can still enjoy a Christmas celebration with our WI friends.

Other than this, our members have continued to receive regular news letters, emails and Birthday posies and the Hertfordshire Federation have organised a series of very interesting talks, via Zoom, which members can sign up for, free of charge.

When we are able to resume our normal service of monthly, Wednesday evening meetings in the Memorial Hall (open to visitors and new members) notices with information will be displayed around the village (together with flags and bunting!) Or you can contact our Secretary, Liz Haynes, on 01438 832500.

Finally, as we near the end of what has been a very strange and difficult year, we would like to wish everyone a safe and very Happy Christmas and we hope that 2021 will be a happier and more positive year for all of us.

Chris Bichener

visit the village website kimptonvillage.com



Royal British Legion, Kimpton Branch

What a difference a year makes! Our Remembrance events last year saw our standard bearer representing the Branch in front of the Royal family at the Royal Albert Hall then on the following day a well-supported parade through the village and church service, then we finished with a well-deserved curry at The Boot!

This Covid year has meant we have had to do things differently but we were determined that the Fallen would not be forgotten.

Instead of the door to door collections, alternate ways saw funds still coming in (please see Sue Burns article in this magazine). We had a small, socially distant ceremony at the War Memorial on the Sunday, and I was touched to see passing cyclists and cars stop and join us for the Silence instead of rushing past. Wreaths were laid and the crosses bearing the names of Kimpton men who died in both wars, were also placed- normally the school children would do this, but we did not feel it was appropriate this year. The names of the Fallen were read aloud by Andy and Juliet Moreton. On the 11th- the actual Armistice day- again a small group attended at the Memorial with everyone being respectful of the social distancing.

Hopefully it will not be too long now until we can meet again and start organising social events.

Our support for people who may need help has not stopped during Covid and the telephone buddy scheme is taking off. It is possible to be a telephone buddy but not actually be in the RBL. If you are interested in becoming a branch community volunteer, please phone John Hills 07785 960353.

I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and a healthy 2021.

Kim Hills 07901 605383, Chairman Kimpton Branch

Kimpton Poppy Appeal 2020



Despite this year's obvious limitations on our ability to fundraise via door-to-door collections, we have had a very successful result and collected £2,500. This compares to a more usual figure of £3,300.

Pop-Up-Poppies at the War Memorial worked very well and caught an unexpected passing trade. My thanks to Pam, Jane, Mike, Donna and Elaine who staffed the stall.

I would like to thank all of the community businesses and the school for their generous contributions which boosted the fund. A special note of thanks to Hayley Vine for her personal donation of £650 from the sale of Poppy facemasks.

Looking forward to working with our full team of volunteers next year when hopefully our house-to-house collection means we can all meet again.

Sue Burns, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Kimpton

Happy Christmas from the Kimpton Preschool team & children

During these odd times, we wanted to bring some cheery updates from our village Preschool, so I spoke to some new Preschool parents...socially distanced of course!

Meet Holly and Daniel (Anglin), who recently moved to Kimpton. Welcome.

As Chairman of the Management Committee; I had a chat with them to find out about their experience of our Preschool so far...



How did you hear about Kimpton Preschool?

I (Holly), actually grew up in Kimpton, and like so many, decided to move back here once we had a family. Kimpton is perfect for young families (we love the country walks and the clubs/groups), and we were so pleased to find out about the new(ish) Preschool too – for our daughter, Phoebe. We obviously noticed the new Preschool building, a couple of old school friends recommended it too, as well as lots of positive reviews on the Kimpton Facebook group...whereas my hubby was drawn to the Kimpton Preschool Beer Festival 😊



How was your first Preschool visit?

We were invited for an initial (COVID secure) taster session, for us and Phoebe to see what it was like. Shahnaz and team (Beth, Michelle, Tilly) were so friendly from the start, and Phoebe was immediately running around in the garden with a big smile! The children were so sweet and welcomed Phoebe into their little gang. It was adorable to see. Once we decided to go ahead/book Phoebe in, there was a further parent/child New Term induction – with a room full of fun activities, and the team answering any Qs we had. It was so lovely and reassuring to meet everyone. We knew we had made the right decision.

When did Phoebe start?

Phoebe started Preschool this September, and already absolutely loves it! She arrives excited and leaves so happy.



How does it compare to other Nurseries?

Phoebe did not attend Nursery before this, but we did visit a few, and though they all have many different and good qualities – Kimpton is genuinely our favourite. It has much more of a special small community feel to it, and the team all know the children so well. You know you are leaving your precious child in such good hands, which as parents, is so important. Facility wise – the building is new, open, clean and much more spacious than many other places we visited, so the children have loads of space to play. The large outdoor area is a highlight.

Measuring Progress?

We LOVE 'Tapestry' – the Preschool online app. I was expecting a notebook or something basic...but we get to see photos/videos and daily detailed write-up's online, about what Phoebe has been doing/learning. We can even download the photos/reports and can share them with the Grandparents too. We look forward to logging on every night to see what Phoebe has been up to 😊



Phoebe is learning so many new things each week, and it is wonderful to see her blossom even more. Thanks to the team.

What is your favourite thing about the Preschool?

We are big fans of Phoebe getting fresh air and muddy, so the large Preschool garden is brill! Even better to know that so many of the village groups and people have helped/made the garden toys and equipment too. Kimpton is pretty special.

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From page 10 **Any Preschool final comments to add?**

We asked Phoebe what she loved most about Preschool and she said 'Naz' (...that's Shahnaz/ Manager by the way, Phoebe adores her). She also said 'fun' and 'friends' – so think it's a hit! We look forward to sending our new son Hugo there in a couple of years too.

Thanks for the chat Holly and Dan, and we look forward to welcoming Phoebe back next term...2021!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas!

Mike Newman (Management Committee Chairman) & the Kimpton Preschool Team

Kimpton Preschool has spaces available for children 2yrs+ from January 2021. OFSTED outstanding & COVID secure, the Preschool is available for 15 to 30 hours funded/self-funded children from Kimpton and the surrounding areas. For more information, please visit www.kimptonpreschool.co.uk or call the Preschool Manager on 01438 833 936.

You may not know this – but aside from the Preschool staff that you will be familiar with, there is also a dedicated group of volunteers that look after all the business aspects of Kimpton Preschool from fundraising to marketing, and making sure the bills are paid and the building is operating well.

Kimpton Memorial Hall

Unbelievable though it may seem, the inaugural AGM of the newly reconstituted Kimpton Memorial Hall Charitable Incorporated Organisation (the Memorial Hall to me and you...) appeared to escape the attention of many in the village and the Zoom hordes failed to materialise to oversee the confirmation of the existing trustees in their roles at the meeting in mid October. Electoral fraud? Vote-rigging? Fake news? Who knows..?

It would be remiss however not to once again exhort the good people of Kimpton to step forward and add their voice, their passion, their flair to ensure the hall and its usage continues to evolve to meet the needs of the Parish.

We would love in particular to hear from anyone who is interested in publicising the availability of and otherwise driving the marketing of the hall as a venue for parties, gigs, weddings, meetings, indoor sporting events and anything else (legal) you can think of.....

In the meantime keep your hand on your ha'penny and let's look forward to the resumption of real life and the onset of the roaring 20's..... *Simon Thompson*

Bench Working Party recent activity

This week we raised up a sunken grave and levelled a wonky cross in the churchyard, as well as raking up a large number of leaves. We changed the height of the art work on the wall of the chancel in the church and we made the gate into the cricket pitch close properly. Last week we helped Andrew Manning plant 1,250 hedge trees at the top of Claggy also set up Xmas lights outside the school, on The Green, at the bottom of Church Lane and in the trees at the bottom of Coopers Hill. Regarding COVID. We don't have our coffee breaks as a group any more, don't do inside work, we try and socially distance but it is not easy doing the sort of jobs you see above. Members who feel they are vulnerable, or have partners that are vulnerable have not joined us since COVID. So our numbers are down temporarily. *Bob Finch*



Eileen Swain and Barbara Kazwini were both presented with flower wreaths, made by Alison from Boho Flowers, for services to the community.

Eileen is pictured above receiving hers from Juliet Morton

Disobedience by the Village Bobby!!!

On 2nd June 1967 I was transferred from Baldock to Kimpton as the Village Bobby, living in the police house in the High Street, with my own office and telephone Kimpton 222. Kimpton 212 was the number of The Blue Cross Dogs Home and almost daily we would receive their calls. In those days we worked a six-day week with two weeks annual leave for £9 a week take home pay. I had a grey coloured Velocette motor cycle everyone called a noddy bike but at least one day a week I'd walk around the village. I worked my own hours which would be passed to Hitchin the week before. Following some cruelty to chickens reported by Mr. Bird on the new allotments, one afternoon I walked up Hall Lane to Hall Farm, then back turning right along the path overlooking the allotments onto Pams Lane, this would give me a good view of these allotments.



As I walked down Hall Lane, I noticed a plaque tied to a small tree with wire. This read, 'This is a very rare tree in Hertfordshire the spindle tree, do not pick the berries.' This tree was covered with well over a hundred of these berries and having always been a bit of a rebel I picked a few. I had often felt a little guilty of this even though I knew it was not illegal. As I walked along the path at the top of the allotments, I stopped every few yards and planted some of these berries.

This November, some fifty-three years later on my daily Covid exercise walk I went along that path. I found at least six spindle trees growing where I had planted them. It made me feel good thinking, I'll leave this planet a little better because of me!

John Truscott



Feeling lonely? You are not alone

Most people feel lonely sometimes, for many different reasons. During the current pandemic feelings of loneliness have been even more

common. If loneliness is affecting your life, there are things you can try that may help even if you are not able to meet other people face to face.

Explore ways to spend time together

If you can meet up with or visit friends or family – make sure you always follow social distancing guidelines when you are outside your home. Perhaps a walk in the park would be good, as spending time in green spaces can help our wellbeing.

If you are staying at home, you can still spend time with others. Lots of people are doing things together online, like watching films, playing Scrabble or having dinner together.

Check in regularly

Creating a regular routine of checking in with others is good, as it can make it easier to reach out at the time you feel lonely. Regular phone calls, messages or even writing letters are lovely ways to keep in touch when we have to stay at home.

Share your feelings

Being able to share your feelings with others can help with loneliness, and hearing a familiar voice or seeing a friendly face makes us feel less isolated. Telling someone you trust that you're feeling lonely can help.

Do more things you enjoy

Filling your time doing more things you like can stop you from focusing on feelings of loneliness. If you're staying home, entertaining radio shows or podcasts are a good way to occupy your mind and keep you company. You can also listen to audio books, and join an online book club to talk about it with others. There are also lots of comedy clubs online, so search for something that will make you laugh.

Exercise can lift your mood and help take your mind off things.

If you want something more calming, try a free mental wellbeing audio guide, or give a relaxation or mindfulness app a go.

Look after yourself

Feeling lonely can be very stressful and can have a big impact on your general wellbeing, which might make it even harder to make positive steps to feeling better. Ask yourself if you are getting enough sleep, eating well and getting enough physical exercise.

If you are feeling lonely you may benefit from meeting the Social Prescriber at Bridge Cottage Surgery who can offer further guidance and advice. If you would like to make an appointment with the Social Prescriber please phone the surgery 01438 715044. Information taken from -

www.nhs.uk

If you would like further information about the Bridge Cottage Surgery Patient Participation Group please email ppgbridgecottage@gmail.com



There are some serious issues below affecting personal, vehicle and property safety so do please take a little time to read them. I know some of us say “it will never happen to me” .. *but it can ... so better safe than sorry.*

Local Crime and Safer Neighbourhood Policing

Once again the good news during these strange times is that it has been relatively peaceful crime-wise in the parish since the last report.

In terms of locally generated crime if you are a victim or a witness of an incident which you feel is serious enough, do report it immediately to Hitchin Police Station using 101 and ask for a Crime Number.

May I just remind you that our Hitchin Rural officers are Ward Constable Gary Pugsley and PCSOs Heather Burrows who can be contacted via the automated control at County HQ on 01707 354192 or use the e-mail addresses on page 19.

Scams to be aware of

Parcel Delivery ... Innocent looking e-mail from such as Royal Mail, DPD etc. saying they couldn't deliver a parcel and ask you to click a link and then provide personal and bank details.

Tax Evasion and Jury Service ... e-mails or phone messages claiming you owe HMRC money or pay certain amount to avoid Jury Service.

DVLA ... claiming you owe vehicle tax and pay up to avoid prosecution.

None of the above organisations send e-mails asking you to click a link.

If you receive any of the above messages please contact the Action Fraud website and/or contact the police.

Registering White Goods

Herts Trading Standards and Fire & Rescue Service have teamed up to remind residents to register domestic appliances to help reduce the risk of accidental fires, by providing a database

so customers can be contacted on product recalls and safety issues.

Keyless Vehicle Theft

Still a worrying modus operandi where villains target valuable cars and use a booster device to remotely “steal” your key, activate locks and start the engine. Contact your dealer for advice or store the key in a dedicated security pouch, metal box or wrapped in foil to shield it from any unwanted signal. Then store this as far from the parked car as possible.

On some cars it is possible to switch the key signal to “off” so check the manual or ask the dealer.

For additional security you could also fit your car with an old fashioned steering wheel lock (e.g. Krooklock) and/or an approved tracking device, which will help police recover a stolen vehicle.

Vehicle and Contents Theft

Countywide there has been a marked increase in these crimes so always lock your car and set the alarm and don't leave any valuables, Satnavs or Dash Cams on display. There's also been an increase of thefts of catalytic converters. Fit secure CCTV cameras where possible.

OWL (On line Watch Link)

We particularly want more of you to join the growing numbers of residents benefitting from the receipt of police crime alerts direct by e-mail or telephone. Joining is quite painless by contacting www.owl.co.uk or our Watch Liaison Officer, Verity Soued on wlo@herts.pnn.police.uk.

Seasonal Security Reminders

When the lockdown is fully lifted and you are free to move about should you leave your property unoccupied for any length of time please secure all windows, doors, garages and sheds. Make the property look 'lived in' by parking a vehicle on the drive if possible and installing timer operated security lights and do please give a neighbour your contact details. Don't leave any keys within sight of an open letter box. Our free Letter Box Deflector can be fitted to most types of door and prevents 'peeping toms' having a quick look and manipulating a grabber through the slot.

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Making Kimpton a better place to live

Don't forget that you can report anonymously if you witness any incidents of fly tipping, abuse, dog fouling, unruly behaviour, excessive noise and nuisance neighbours on Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111. Please use 101 for non-emergencies or you can go on line to:
www.herts.police.uk/contact_us.aspx

Farewell

After more years than I care to remember I have decided to retire as Area Co-ordinator and am pleased to say that John Bowers of Canham Close and Angus Davidson of Kimpton Bottom have kindly agreed to take over doing a job share. I hope that these NHW updates have gone some way to making village life safer and more enjoyable.

With best wishes for a peaceful and enjoyable winter and festive season.

Alan Smith,
01438 832749

margaret.smith5@talktalk.net

The Parish Magazine team would like to thank Alan for many years of writing for the magazine and helping to keep us all safe.

DON'T THROW IT AWAY!

Kimpton is collecting:



Save them and put in the marked containers in the Church or the Dacre Rooms.

Kimpton Environmentalists will send them to be recycled.

For more info call Robin on: 07979 996406

Use and enjoy your church.....

For prayer, the food table, the book and jigsaw swap and for recycling crisp wrappers, stamps, bottle tops and pill foil.

The food table would welcome donations of dry, in-date food and anything is available to take away when needed.

It is open during daylight hours so come in and relax.



Photo: Juliet Morton

New Churchyard Regulations came into effect on 1st August 2020*



Churchyards need to be looked after and embellished to the glory of God, for the benefit of all of God's people today as well as those to come. The Regulations are intended to encourage good practices in order to create and maintain a place of peace, dignity and respect for the departed, as well as an ecologically sound area and haven for wildlife. Safety is a vitally important concern and this is one reason why we have Churchyard Regulations.

Some important things to note

No tombstone or other monument may be introduced, renewed, removed or altered without first obtaining permission from the Parish Priest.

Only headstones are permitted. No monument or memorial shall be black or pearl granite, all-polished granite of whatever colour, white marble, synthetic stone, plastic, or glass. QR codes, advertisements or trademarks are not permitted. All artificial grass is not permitted. **The grave should remain level.**

No memorial shall include any sun dials, bird baths, statuettes, obelisks, photographs, portraits, or other similar mementoes or decoration such as solar or other lights. No loose items are to be left in the area of a grave that might blow away or damage another grave. Items of value should not be left as these may be vulnerable to theft.**

Fresh flowers are much encouraged as symbols of creation and the brevity of life. Bulbs are ideal and encouraged as a symbol of resurrection. **The planting of perennial flowering plants, shrubs or trees (including conifers) is not permitted.**

Plastic and silk flowers are only permitted in exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Parish Priest, for example where rabbits destroy floral tributes. **The Church Council may remove dead and artificial flowers (including plastic/silk flowers that have deteriorated) to keep the churchyard tidy and wildlife safe from nonbiodegradables.**

Ideally, vases should be incorporated in the base of a memorial or headstone. **Free-standing plastic, metal and glass containers are not permitted as they are safety hazards.** They will be removed, especially if broken or damaged and kept for collection. Notice will be given of their removal.

The Parish Priest and the PCC have overall responsibility for issues relating to the care, maintenance and safety of churchyards. They have authority to make safe or lay flat leaning or loose stones and memorials to make them safe.

If you have any questions about the new regulations, please contact the Priest-in-charge.

September 16th 2020

*These regulations may be cited as The Churchyard Regulations 2020 and are made pursuant to the provisions of section 77(1) of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018. They replace by substitution the Churchyard Regulations 2004 which are hereby revoked.

**At the discretion of the Parish Priest, such items may be left in place for a reasonable period not normally exceeding 6 months after the funeral and at the anniversary of the death or funeral.



Art ALIVE! Starry Skies Advent Calender 2020
Our playful smiley Gingerbread Family painted by
Carly Tindle and family

Kimpton *virtual* Christmas Market 2020

As we're unable to hold a 'live' event this year we decided to hold the event online. Kimpton *Virtual* Christmas Market will run from 16th November to 22nd December on the Kimpton Village website,

www.kimptonvillage.com/kimpton-christmas-market/

and on the Kimpton Christmas Market FaceBook page www.facebook.com/kimptonchristmasmarket.

We've also got stall holder spotlight sessions so keep a look out for the videos which will be posted over the coming weeks and other activities to get involved in. Please have a look at the wonderful gifts available to you from the safety and comfort of your own home.



Buyers

Each site on FaceBook includes a 'stall album' featuring up to 10 of their products and contact information for the stallholder (website, facebook page or email). Please get in touch directly with the stallholder to place your orders. Contact details are also shown on the Kimpton Village website.

Sellers

Stalls are free to residents/businesses of Kimpton Parish (£10 to others)

Contact: clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk for further details or to book a stall.



Art ALIVE! Starry Skies Advent Calendar 2020

Artist number 1
Pauline Reddings with
her wreath and
number 9 painted by
Wendy Hyams.

Below is a 'Light up
Kimpton' image found
in Hampden.



The Church in Kimpton

Parish Church

Priest-in-Charge

Rev'd Linda Williams

01438 833348 *with voicemail*
lindalpwilliams@hotmail.co.uk

Lay Reader

Andy Morton
01438 832427
adewm@aol.com

Church Wardens

Jenny Kelly
07818 613143
genkel@btinternet.com

Lynda Harvey
07487 413901
lynda.a.harvey@hotmail.com

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Liz Jamieson
01438 832858
liz@jamieson21.plus.com

Baptist Church

Perry Green at Peters Green

Minister

Rev Andrew Gale
01582 422635

Branch Leader

Miss Pam Greener

Your Parish Magazine

Due to the current situation this edition of the Parish Magazine is only available online. Please feel free to print it and pass it on to those not online.

Police Telephone Numbers

Urgent 999 Non urgent 101

Hitchin Safer Neighbourhood Team

Sergeant Jonathan Vine
jonathan.vine@herts.pnn.police.uk

Ward Constable Gary Pugsley
gary.pugsley@herts.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Heather Burrows
heather.burrows@herts.pnn.police.uk

Contact any officer by telephone on 01707 354192
(automated system)

Police and Crime Commissioner

David Lloyd
commissioner@herts.pnn.police.uk

Parish Magazine

Editor: Andy Wright

email: ***kimpton.editor@btinternet.com***

Typed or written copy to John Pollington, 10 Canham Close
Kimpton SG4 8SD 01438 832249

Deadline

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Monday March 22nd

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Triographics Printers Ltd. Knebworth 01438 811905

Parish Council

Cllr Neil Burns (Chairman)
Cllr Ian Corbett
Cllr Alex Firth
Cllr Lewis Hawke
Cllr Jon Marsh
Cllr Sue O'Brien
Cllr Carly Procter
Cllr David Reavell

Parish Clerk

Carina Helm
Memorial Hall
clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk
01438 832573

North Herts District Councillor

Cllr John Bishop john.bishop@north-herts.gov.uk

County Councillor

Cllr Richard Thake richard.thake@hertscc.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Bim Afolami www.bimafolami.co.uk

Helping Hand

North Herts Community Volunteer Services

Can provide transport to hospitals. For details ring 01462 689400

The Samaritans

If you would like to talk to the Samaritans or find out more about becoming a volunteer, please ring 01582 720666 or freephone 116 123 anytime day or night or email jo@samaritans.org

North Herts & District Citizens Advice Bureau

To contact the CAB phone 0344 411 1444 www.northhertscab.org.uk

Kimpton Preschool

Our friendly team, based at Linden Lodge in the grounds of Kimpton Primary School, offers sessional care for children aged two to five years old.

We are open during term time, Monday to Friday. Our morning sessions run from 8.50am to 11.50am and Lunch Clubs from 11.50am to 1.20pm. We now also offer 30 hours childcare, with afternoon sessions running from 1.20pm to 3.05pm, where there is enough interest. For more details, please contact Shahnaz Vayani, Preschool Manager, on 01438 833936 or email communications@kimpton-preschool.co.uk

The Dacre Rooms

To book The Dacre Rooms please email our bookings secretary Wendy Dollin bookings@dacrerooms.info

Kimpton Memorial Hall

For bookings contact Mrs Barbara Kazwini. 6 The Wick, Kimpton. 01438 832620 barbara.kazwini@btinternet.com

Useful Links

kimptonvillage.com

herts.police.uk

stalbans.anglican.org

kimpton.herts.sch.uk

kimptonchurch.co.uk

 Kimpton Church Hertfordshire