

The Clifton Chronicles

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Clifton Celebrates Christmas

December 2021
& January 2022



Next edition—February 2022
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December 2021 & January 2022

Dear Fellow Residents

Merry Christmas!

So many lovely things to look forward to this month including:

- * Christmas Fun and Family Carol Singing, page 20
- * Christmas Tree Festival, page 21
- * Orpheus Choir Christmas Concert, page 19
- * Christmas Services, page 15
- * HATS Panto, page 23

I hope to see you at lots of these events. Please note that the Crib Service will be held in the Churchyard so we can enjoy the crib and decorated Christmas trees and lights which give the churchyard that magic Christmas sparkle—come and enjoy!

And didn't we do well with the collection for the Poppy Appeal, we are awaiting figures for online giving but brilliant outcome and well done to Denise and her team of Poppy People.

As always the Chronicles is available on line: www.clifton-beds.co.uk

Kathy Blackmore, Editor

Next edition: **February 2022**
copy date is: **15th January**

Email: chronicles@clifton-beds.co.uk

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Who's Who in Clifton p1

All Saints' Church	Rector	Revd Caren Topley , 8 Rectory Close, Clifton. rector4clifton@gmail.com	01462 615499
	Churchwardens	Pat Wisby , 51 Pedley Lane	816451
	Readers	Robin Welsford , 13 Pedley Lane Ruth Gray , 21 Fairground Way	811303 812820
	Organist & Choirmaster	Peter Maundrell , 24 Heron Close, Biggleswade	01767 314621
	PCC Treasurer	Philip Dawes , 58 Church Street	816074
	PCC Secretary	Pat Wisby , 51 Pedley Lane	816451
	Church Hall Bookings	Ruth and Kevin Gray 21 Fairground Way	812820
	Bell-ringing Cpt	Philippa Whittington 27 Purcell Way, Shefford	851816
	Mothers' Union	Betsy Gray , 18 Hitchin Lane, Clifton	629690
	Messy Church	Suzanne Stapleton , 811929; Ruth Gray 812820	

All Saints' Academy	Head-teacher	Miss Rebecca Byrne	628444
	School Governors	Chair: Philippa Whittington Vice-chair:	851816
	School Bookings	Justine McCarthy ,	628444
	PTA	Kerrie Cope, Kate Barker , (Joint Chairs) Email: cliftonallsaintspta@gmail.com	

Elected Representatives	Parish Council Chairman	Steve Langton , 45 Church Street	07721 885672
	Clerk (Community Centre bookings)	Kerri Kilby parish.council@clifton-beds.co.uk	07547 129038
	MP	Nadine Dorries , nadine.dorries.mp@parliament.uk	
	Councillors	Richard Wenham , 2 Jordan Close, Henlow, Arlesey, Henlow Camp & Stondon Ian Dalgarno , 172 High Street, Arlesey SG15 6TB,	0300300 8563 735510

Who's Who in Clifton p2

Chronicles	Editor	Kathy Blackmore , Hawarden Cottage, 47 Church Street, Clifton	646371
	Advertising	Advertising year runs May to April chronicles@clifton-beds.co.uk	646371
	Distribution	John Good , Pedley Lane, Clifton	812596

Other village organisations	Biggleswade Gardening Club	Mr A Gray www.biggleswade.gardenclub.care4free.net	01767 221428
	Brownies	Email: firstcliftonbrownies@outlook.com www.girlguiding.org.uk	
	Clifton Action Group	Mrs Diana Talbot, Secretary. Infofromcag@gmail.com	811989
	Care Scheme	07817 614654	
	Cricket Club	Chairman: Rob Davidson Email: cliftonbedscc@gmail.com V-Chair: Josh Scandrett : 07805 427129	07376 490434
	Friends All Saints Church	Keith Pledger , 2 Chapel Close k.pledger@ntlworld.com	629020
	Football Club	Jason Shacklock	816881
	Guides	www.girlguiding.org.uk	
	Langford Tennis Club	www.langfordtennisclub.org.uk Contact: Paul Metcalfe	700991
	Police Contact	The snr community officer: PS Simon BUTLER, Based in Biggleswade	01234 842531
	Providence Baptist Church	cliftonpbchurch@gmail.com	
	Rainbows	girlguiding.org.uk	
	Residents Association	Bob Smith , Secretary 30 New Road	812336
	Scouts (All ages)	gsl@henlowcliftonscoutgroup.co.uk	
	Toddlers	clifontoddlers@gmail.com	
WI	Linda Patch	814517	
Woodlands	Pre-School, Breakfast & After School Clubs www.thewoodlandspreschool.co.uk thewoodlands1@btconnect.com	811486	

Dear Friends

I can't believe how many jumpers have the logo BELIEVE on them. I wonder belief in what?

Some of you may have lost your belief over the last few years, and may not be feeling quite ready for Christmas or it has become a sad and lonely time for you.



However, Christmas isn't just about Father Christmas, so if Santa gets cancelled the true message that God came and dwelt among us in the form of the baby Jesus remains. We will always have that to celebrate.

I invite you to be with Jesus and come along with us to the Christmas services, (see the Christmas card inside your magazine). Join us and believe in the real message of Christmas.

May the symbols that make us feel festive, the Christmas Trees, Christmas lights that you see around you remind you that what Christians believe that Jesus is the son of God, who came to earth that we might live and have eternal life is something worth believing in.



Every Blessing for a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Revd Caren

Toddler Church

Fortnightly Tuesdays, 09.30-10.30

14th December 2021

11th & 25th January 2022



Numbers are limited so please book with Revd Caren on 078851 76079 for a place.

All Saints' Church

From the Registers



Funeral service at the Crematorium

25th October Ada Fotheringhame Matches Barnes

Funeral followed by burial in the churchyard

28th October John Wicksteed

Christening

24th October Alfie Jude Turner



All Saints' Church Christmas Services

See Pages 8 and 15

All Saints' Church Services

Sundays:

10.30 am Parish Communion 1st, 3rd
 All Age Worship, 2nd
 Morning Prayer, 4th

10.30 am Messy Church 4th Sunday (Church Hall)

10.00 am 5th Sunday Joint Service with Southill and Haynes tbc

Tuesdays:

Toddler Church, 1st & 3rd, 9.00 am

Wednesdays:

10.00 am Holy Communion



For details of church services see: <https://www.clifton-beds.co.uk/>

Grief, Loss & Worry at Christmas



Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas season and some people may even be dreading Christmas coming round. There has been so much loss during the long months of the pandemic and many are still worrying about what the future may hold and their ability to deal with it. Even in a good year winter can be a bleak time for many people, with short days and poor weather limiting our activities and the longest, darkest night looming of course on the shortest day.



It helps us to deal with grief to remember and name those we have lost, just as we remember those who died in the war at Remembrance Sunday. Last year, when we couldn't go into church, lots of people took the opportunity to put the names of loved ones on the leaves available on the church door which were placed on the Memory and Prayer Tree in church. People later tied ribbons to the church outer grill door to mark the first anniversary of the Lockdown in March.

So this year if you are dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or worrying for any reason that may make Christmas and its trimmings painful or difficult this service is for you:

The Darkest Night Service **Wednesday 22nd December at 4pm**

The Darkest Night Service is reflective and accepts where we are: our struggle with darkness and worry; loneliness and grief faced by those living with loss; but also holds out healing and hope.

You will have an opportunity to write the name of a loved one, your loss or struggle on a leaf and put it on the Prayer and Memory Tree in church, so your sadness and worry will be present at all our Christmas services.

Do come along to the service which will be followed by refreshments and chat.



CLIFTON CARE SCHEME



CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

As an expression of our thanks to all the volunteers who have contributed so much to the success of the Care Scheme over the past 18 months we offer a warm and cordial invitation to join us at the Church Hall for a Christmas gathering on Wednesday afternoon 22nd December from 2.00pm onwards at the regular tea & chat session. There will be mince pies, Christmas cake and sherry as well as the tea! Everyone involved with the Care Scheme is welcome to come. A lovely opportunity to catch up.

Just our usual reminder at this time of the year to make sure that Christmas presents are kept out of view and please do check that any electrical decorations are still safe and remember to switch them off before leaving home or going to bed.

NEED OUR HELP?

Remember we are here if you need our help, just call

... **07817 614654**

Despite the difficulties it has been another successful year for the Care Scheme. And it only remains from all of us here to wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Tea & Chat

Church Hall, 2.00—4.00

- * **Wednesday 8th December**
- * **Wednesday 22nd December**
- * **Wednesday 12th January 2022**
- * **Wednesday 26th January**



On 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month

For help with transport ring: **07817 614654**



Save the Date

Clifton's Platinum
Jubilee Street Party

Saturday 4th &
Sunday 5th June 2022

More details to follow...



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All Saints' Church, Clifton

Christmas Services 2021

19th December, 6.30pm

- **Carol Service** (9 Lessons)



22nd December, 4.00pm

- **Darkest Night Service**
(for those who are sad this Christmas, see page 8)

Christmas Eve 24th December:

- **Crib Service, 5.00 pm**
In the **Churchyard**, children will be able to dress up in shepherd and angel headdresses
- **Midnight in Bethlehem, 9.30pm (HC)**



Christmas Day

- **Praise Service, 10.30am**



St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day/26th December)

- **'Prayer during the day' 9.00am**
Pre-recorded online Service

<https://www.clifton-beds.co.uk/>

Samuel Whitbread Academy



The first half term seems to have gone by incredibly quickly and we have already achieved an enormous amount.

Sports fixtures are now in full swing with several teams progressing in national cups in football, rugby and netball. There were a number of stand out performances, including the U18 netball team who won 50-34 against Ipswich School, which included an England player and three mavericks players in their team.

The rehearsals for Rapunzel are going really well, with students from many of our feeder schools attending rehearsals after school to work with SWA students. The pantomime looks on course to be another fantastic performance this Christmas. Also, if you haven't seen ex-alumni Ben Wishaw as Q in the latest James Bond film yet, then you are in for a real treat!

Dr Haynes delivered an excellent assembly this month for all year groups, as part of Black History Month, which was followed by an activity in tutor time. She is also organising another debate after half term, against schools in Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Scotland, as well as Pixbrook and RBA. The topic for the debate is 'this house believes vaccinations should be shared equally across the world'. This follows the incredibly successful debate against schools in Dubai and USA last term, who debated whether statues of people linked to the slave trade should be taken down. This term Year 9 have also been reading 'Naughts and Crosses' in English, as part of Black History Month. Since this time last year we have also renamed our five houses to ensure they better reflect our community, and put a number of giant posters up around the school to celebrate our values including Martin Luther King, Amanda Gorman and Jessica Ennis. Finally, in the lead up to Christmas, as part of an idea suggested by three of our Year 11 students, we will be having another bake off around the world, where Sixth Form tutor groups will each cook a national dish from a different country, to celebrate different cultures, which students will then be able to buy at lunchtime, to raise funds for the house charities.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the students who helped out at the Year 8 Open Evenings, which were incredibly successful. Hundreds of students helped out at one or both of the events and families who attended the open evenings were full of praise for all the students they met, who were clearly very proud of their school.

Nick Martin, Principal

Clifton WI Celebrated its 99th Birthday

We celebrated the occasion with a 99 Ice-cream for each Member and a slice of birthday cake. The honour of cake cutting went to Audrey Steeds, aged 90, who has been a member since 1972.



Our talk was a Calendar Year of Wildlife, through the keen eyes of Daniel Trim. We saw some wonderful slides of insects 🐛, birds 🐦, foxes 🦊 and other wildlife. Daniel had calendars for sale and a lovely afternoon was enjoyed by us all.

1st December Meeting, 2.00—4.00 pm, Christmas Tea Party

We will enjoy music, party food and mince pies and a Christmas raffle. Look forward to seeing you there.

6th January Meeting, 2.00—4.00 pm, A Pat Wisby Special Quiz

There will be small prizes for the winning team. Our tea ladies will be Angela Ellison, Elaine Bayliss and Chris Byers.

If you would like to join the W.I. We would be happy to welcome you as a member. You can also come as a visitor, £4 entry to include tea and biscuits.

All our Meetings are held in the Clifton Community Hall, the first Wednesday of each Month. We look forward to seeing you all.

Lesley 816941

Date for your 2020 diary



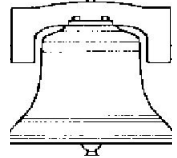
Barn Dance

Saturday

26th March 2020

Community Centre, details, February Chronicles

Bellringing Open Afternoon



On Sunday 7th November, the bellringers held an Open Afternoon in church.

We welcomed 7 villagers who were able to watch a presentation about the history of ringing and talk to a number of the local ringers. They also visited the bells, the clock and the carillon and were able to have a go at ringing. We also showed videos about the project at St Mary's Hitchin to upgrade their bells from 10 to 12; an information video from Whites of Appleton (Bellhangers) and a video of our Young Ringers practice.

Alongside this, were a range of booklets and documents and general bellringing items. If you are interesting in learning more about bellringing, you are welcome to visit us on a Friday evening from 7.30 in church or contact the tower secretary (Teresa Brown clifton@bacbr.org.uk.)

We plan to hold another session in the summer and will publish a date nearer the time.



Philippa Whittington, Tower Captain



North Herts Orpheus Choir Present:

Joyous Music at Christmas



18th December, 7.00 pm

Doors open 6.45

*Conductor: Anne-Marie Hetherington
Organist: Clifton Hughes*

*The programme will include 'Gloria' by John Rutter,
Christmas carols and other seasonal pieces.*



Tickets: £10.00

including complimentary glass of wine & mince pie

Kathy and Peter: 01462-646371

Tickets must be pre-booked, we are limiting sales to ensure that we are not overcrowded in church and we are asking everyone to be kind to others and wear masks, (other than when having the refreshments of course!)





Christmas Fun & Family Carol Singing Saturday 4th December All Saints Church & Churchyard 2.00 pm—5.00 pm



Messy Angels
craft activity for children
Tea and homemade cakes



T O M B O L A



Christmas Wreaths
Cake Stall



Family Carol Singing @ 4.00

Come and sing along with children from All Saints Academy

Christmas Tree Festival Trail Maps
see opposite 





Christmas Tree Festival

4th & 5th December

FREE to enter
you just need to have a
decorated tree in your
front garden by
1st December



Judging will be over the weekend of 4/5 December

To register your FREE entry, email:

social@clifton-beds.co.uk

giving your name, address and whether the tree has been
decorated by adults and/or children
(there are prizes for the best in each category).

Entries before 1st December please

If you represent a community group, you can register your
group to place a tree in the churchyard.

Trail maps and voting slips (£3) will be available from:
Church on 4/5 December between 2 and 5pm

Clifton All Saints Academy



On returning from a well needed half term break, the school received updated guidance from Central Bedfordshire reducing the number of visitors on site. The impact of this was that parent consultations and prospective parent visits became online and many of the activities arranged were cancelled or modified.

The Christmas Fayre was felt to be too great a risk so it was decided to cancel this. However, the raffle went ahead and was drawn on 27th November. Christmas performances and services were also revisited with the focus on keeping everyone safe and well.

During the half term, members of staff and some governors came into school to clear out the rooms that were to be demolished. Once this was completed, the construction team moved in and during the first week back, demolition started. This is a major project for the school and there are busy and exciting times ahead.

Philippa Whittington, Chair of Governors

Clifton All Saints Academy Governors

Clifton All Saints Academy has some challenging times ahead as we establish the school as a Primary School. We are in the middle of a large building project to enable us to provide a first class education to the children of the village.

We currently have a vacancy for a governor to join the Governing Body. Being a governor can be very rewarding and means being part of a team working to improve the life chances of children, who sometimes come from very challenging backgrounds.



It is an opportunity to give something back to society and to help children at an important time in their lives. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the Chair of Governors, Philippa Whittington, at: chair@cliftonallsaintsacademy.co.uk.

Philippa Whittington, Chair of Governors

HATS presents:

A Traditional Family Pantomime by Norman Robbins



Meppershall Village Hall, SG17 5AB

Friday 21st January @ 7.30pm

Friday 28th January @ 7.30pm

Saturday 29th January @ 7.30pm

Sunday 23rd January @1.30pm & 5.30pm

Sunday 30th January @1.30pm & 5.30pm

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Annual Christmas Wine Sale

Sunday
5th December
11.00 to 4.00

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Clifton Cameo Number 3

Mr Biggs and ?

Mr J.E. Biggs usually known as “Johnie Biggs” was a butcher from Arlesey who already had a farm at Silsoe when in 1952/3 he purchased The Lakes Farm in Clifton. The land lies approximately between Pedley Lane and the River Ivel Navigation. It seems that at that time quite a few local farms were down to grass for beef production with a traditional Christmas Fatstock Market at Biggleswade.

Johnie’s interest included not just cattle but also horses and Point to Point Racing and in the late 50s he bought “An 8 year old bay thoroughbred gelding” from AC Wyatt a Dorset breeder. A meadow next to the house became the horse paddock. The horse came from a very good blood line and Johnie eventually put him in the care of Trainer Willie Stephenson based on Royston Heath.

So it was that on 21st March 1959 our bay gelding now revealed to be “OXO” was entered to run in The Grand National at Aintree ridden by Michael Scudamore who ran in 16 consecutive Grand Nationals and was Champion Jump Jockey 6 times and head of the Scudamore racing dynasty. Oxo was 2nd favourite at 8 to 1.

Conditions were good and a field of 34 runners were sent off by the Starter. However at that time the Aintree Course had some very big and difficult fences (now much changed) and only 4 horses were left in the run up to the finishing postand the winner by a length and a half was our CLIFTON CAMEO 3 “OXO”. The winner’s prize was £13,646 equivalent today to about £325,000!

Johnie bought other farms and left Clifton, selling The Lakes to “his preferred purchaser” - “that nice young farmer” - Don Newman who is still the owner. Michael Scudamore sustained a racing injury in 1966 that ended his career. Oxo ran a total of 5 races, never won again after the National but came 3rd in the 1961 Beecher’s Handicap Chase at Aintree.

Barry Livesey

The photograph shows Michael Scudamore on Oxo and is signed by him, Johnie Biggs and I think Willie Stephenson.



The Clifton Walkers

The Clifton walkers are a friendly bunch of different ages and abilities. We walk every week day morning at 8 30 for an hour and also in the afternoon. Walkers come when they're free. Once a month at a weekend we do a longer walk of 6-8 miles.



As well as walking we meet once a month for a coffee and a chat. If you'd like to know more please contact Suzanne on 07933 709006 or ionssuzanne@gmail.com

GOLDEN LION GOLF SOCIETY

The October competition was played at **Mount Pleasant Golf Club** for the **Martin/Swain Trophy**. The Mount Pleasant Golf Club has undergone major development recently, transforming it from a 9 hole to an 18 hole course. The new layout was opened earlier this year. This was the first opportunity for some of us to experience the new layout and it showed! Unsurprisingly all the prizes went to members of Mount Pleasant! The weather was overcast, very windy but quite warm. Our winners were:

1 st with 34 pts OCB	Gordon Ward
2 nd with 34 pts OCB	Roger Manning
3 rd with 33 pts	Brian Sapsed

Nearest the Pin – Ian Saunders
Longest Drive – Roger Manning



This was our final competition for 2021. The new season will commence in March 2022, COVID permitting.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact:
Harvey Price on **01462 812781** or **John Wall** on **01462 814097**.

Clifton Poppy Collection



Thank you to all those who contributed to our Remembrance Sunday events. Especially to Denise Panton who organised sales of poppies at the One Stop and the team who decorated the church. Money raised from the collection pots is **£1726.09** which will be added to the total raised through contactless giving in church.



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CLIFTON PLAYING FIELD

Litter is removed from the Playing Field by Parish Council volunteers at least once a week. Recently this has included (among other things) significant quantities of dog excreta (placed in open litter bins), children's nappies and sanitary towels..



Since the field is also used for soccer games please would dog owners especially not allow their pets to run free, and always clear up after them? There is a special red bin provided for dog mess at the Whiston Crescent entrance to the field and excreta should be placed in that rather than in the open bins. It also goes without saying that used sanitary products should be taken home rather than left for others to remove. These things create unnecessary health hazards.

Please help the Council to make the Playing Field as pleasant as possible for all, and minimise the health risk created by inappropriate littering.

Judy Lanham, Playing Field Committee Chair

Clifton Residents' Association

Clifton Residents' Association would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. Although there will not be a Light Up Clifton event this year, the Village Christmas tree will be installed outside The Admiral from the 3rd of December. The CRA would like to thank Mr Don Brace for his generous donation of the tree.



If you would like to find out more about Clifton Residents' Association please contact the Secretary, Bob Smith, or email: dianatalbot27@gmail.com

With very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Diana Talbot, Chairperson CRA

Clifton Planning Applications Update Central Beds Decisions to 12 November 2021



CB/21/04973/DOC – 8 November 2021 – Clifton All Saints Academy SG17 5ES. Discharge of Conditions 2,4,6,7,8 and 9. **Application Registered**

CB/21/04911/LDCP – 3 November 2021 – 2 Whiston Crescent SG17 5HJ. Single storey side extension. **Application Registered**

CB/21/04812/LB – 27 October 2021 – Clifton House SG17 5ET. Removal of 3 storey 18/19th century rear wall and part removal of roof/scelling to 2 storey 18th century original structure. **Consultation Period**

CB/21/04590/FULL – 26 October 2021 – 84 Broad Street SG17 5RP. Part single and part two storey rear extension. **Consultation Period**

CB/21/04738/NMA – 22 September 2021 – 31 Stockbridge Road SG17 5HA. Internal amendments to ground floor extension resulting in removal of utility window and repositioning of utility door. **Granted**

CB/21/04191/DOC – 16 September 2021 – Land south of Fairground Way SG17 5JN. Discharge of condition 14, 17. **Application Registered**

CB/21/04089/FULL – 9 September – 15 Whiston Crescent SG17 5HJ. Single storey rear extension. **Granted**

CB/21/03903/FULL – 1 September 2021 – 43 Broad Street SG17 5RL. Proposed single storey rear extension and garage following the demolition of existing extension and garage. **Granted**

CB/21/03747/DOC – 20 August 2021 – Land south of Fairground Way SG17 5RN. Discharge of Condition 13. **Application Registered**

CB/21/03477/OAC – 18 August 2021 – Broad Street SG17. Independent Water Networks Ltd enabling it to provide water and sewerage services to a site call Broad Steet. **Application Registered**

CB/21/03119/FULL – 30 July 2021 - Arnolds Close SG17 5SZ. Two storey side and single storey rear extension. Addition of basement habitable space extension. **Awaiting Decision**

CB/21/03070/FULL – 21 July 2021 - 5 Stockbridge Road SG17 5HA. Replace 1.4m high garden wall with a new one using reclaimed bricks from existing wall, part of the wall that overlooks the rear garden will be raised to 1.7m. **Granted**

CB/21/03307/LDCP – 16 July 2021 – 43 Church Street SG17 5ET. New log cabin to rear garden, re-build of existing greenhouse, new pond to front and replacement of remaining dwelling timber windows with UPVC. **Granted**

CB/21/03048/FULL – 30 June 2021 – Land between Glenmore and The Dairy, New Road SG17 5JL. **Awaiting Decision**

CB/20/04642/OUT –5 January 2021-Land to rear of 210/228 Shefford Road SG17 5QS. Demolition of 210 Shefford Road and erection of 29 dwellings. **Awaiting Decision**

CB/18/01518/OUT –8 May 2018 –Land off New Road SG17 5JH. Proposed 25 dwellings. **Awaiting Decision**

Bob Smith, Clifton Residents' Association

Crime Statistics for OCTOBER 2021

THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE

08/10/2021 Whiston Crescent

ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY

09/10/2021 Spring Road

25/10/2021 Clifton Fields

30/10/2021 Pedley Lane

30/10/2021 Pedley Lane

SEXUAL

12/10/2021 Undisclosed

12/10/2021 Undisclosed

MALICIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

15/10/2021 Undisclosed

THREATS TO KILL

17/10/2021 Yew Tree Walk

HARASSMENT

28/10/2021 Undisclosed

OTHER THEFT

29/10/2021 Grange Street

PUBLIC FEAR ALARM OR DISTRESS

29/10/2021 Hitchin Lane

CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO A VEHICLE

31/10/2021 Church Street



Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club (CIO)



I understand that the elves have been hard at work preparing the sleigh for Santa. The reindeer have been booked to pull the sleigh and Santa is getting ready to visit again this year. We can confirm that he will be at Tesco in Sandy on 3rd to 5th December, ASDA in Biggleswade on 11th to 13th December and Sainsbury in Biggleswade on 18th to 20th December. Other venues will be announced as soon as they are confirmed.

We were able to be at several events during August and September and I hope you were able to speak to us on those occasions. The next event is the Christmas Dance at the Weatherley Centre on 27th November 8pm to midnight. Tickets at £25 per person including supper can be obtained from Lion Ivor 01767 226419 or Lion Judi 01462 814693. For further details please see our website bslions.org.uk.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a good New Year. We all hope that 2022 will be a more relaxed year than the last two years.

John Bennewith,
Public Relations Officer, Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club



Hitchin & Letchworth RSPB Local Group

Hitchin & Letchworth RSPB Group events have restarted. Interested in nature? Come and hear interesting talks and learn more.

Our talks are held on:

1st Friday of the month, 7.30pm

The Settlement, Letchworth, SG6 4UB

Visitors £3. COVID safety measures in place.

Friday 3rd December

Richard Bashford will talk on the Birds and Wildlife of Poland. Richard is an experienced tour guide as well as working for the RSPB.



woodlands

pre-school

We hope everyone had a lovely October half term.

Preschool Updates:

We have some new faces around preschool with both Caroline, Claire and Jess joining us this academic year to support children. Louisa is also joining us as a bank member of staff who will be helping to cover staffing needs. We are excited to have them join our team.

May we remind you that 30 hour funding codes only last three months & need updating. This code needs to be passed on to us so that we can claim the extra funding & prevent you being invoiced for additional sessions. Please log in to your childcare choices account to check your code & renew date. Everyone should now have received their invoice for the autumn term. These were sent out via email, any queries please contact the office.

Thank you all parents for adhering to our Covid rules and having PCR tests when asked, this helps keep our staff and children safer and helps us to remain open. We are very aware that we are going into cold and flu season but the need for PCR tests will continue in accordance with government guidelines. We will review all Covid related policies every half term.

Committee and Fundraising events:

A big thank you to everyone who donated and brought cakes at our cake sale in October, we raised £108.50! The Clifton Residents Association have donated a very generous £200 to Woodlands this year. We came third in the Clifton Scarecrow competition with the fantastic Room on the Broom witch and won £40!

All monies raised go towards new resources and equipment for the children. Recently we have been able to purchase new parachute and craft equipment.

Please continue to help us fundraise by using the 'easy fundraising' website when making your online purchases. Simply click <https://www.easypfundraising.org.uk/> and register to The Woodlands Preschool – Clifton. We then receive a percentage from the websites such as Amazon, eBay and many more when you shop. Also shopping through Amazon Smile will help us to raise funds.

CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clifton Community Centre

We are fortunate in Clifton to have a modern, spacious, well-equipped community centre with floodlit parking for 60 cars. For information on the facilities available, and to see just how easy and inexpensive it is to use this hall see:

[www.clifton-beds.co.uk/halls for hire/Community Centre](http://www.clifton-beds.co.uk/halls%20for%20hire/Community%20Centre)

To check availability and make a booking, please contact:

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Kerri Kilby 07547 129038 or

Bob Anderson on 07546 239784

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Providence Baptist Church – Clifton

Sunday Services

*10.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. A warm welcome is assured to all.

Communion is held during the 6.00 p.m. service on the 3rd Sunday in the month.

*The 10.30 a.m. Sunday morning service will continue to be held at the Community Centre, Whiston Crescent, Clifton.

Mondays (term time)

Mums & Tots 10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. at the Church

Explorers 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. (for Reception to Year 4) at Church

Thursdays (term time)

Coffeepot 11.30am - 1pm at the Church

Fridays (term time)

Mums & Tots 10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. at the Church

Website: www.cliftonpbchurch.org.uk

Contact: cliftonpbchurch@gmail.com

ABOUT OUR FRIENDS



St Francis of Assisi, Roman Catholic Church, Shefford

Father	Canon Bennie Noonan	813436
Deacon	Rev Peter Hyde	711702
Parish Secretary	Rose Boulton	811547

Sunday Services

St Francis 9.00 am 5.15 pm

Saturday Service

St Francis 11.00 am

Shefford Methodist Church

Minister: Revd Lorna Valentine 813284

Bookings: Chris & Peter 815069

Sunday Service

9.30 am Worship for all, plus Junior Church, crèche facilities & refreshments afterwards.

Other activities see the notice-board & www.sheffordmethodist.org.uk

Salvation Army, Stotfold

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Sunday Services: 10.30 am, 6.00 pm

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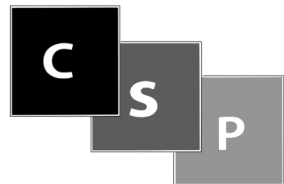
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