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DERRY HILL AND STUDLEY MATTERS

**June
2017**



The Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Derry Hill



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EDITORIAL POLICY

Any opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writers and are not necessarily the policy of this publication or its editor. **All articles submitted for publication are subject to editing.** Deadline for inclusion of material in **next** month's magazine is the **10th** of **this** month.

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EDITORIAL

It is sad to write that this is the last month we shall have Rev. Ann as our vicar, she has been with us for nearly 7 years.

As deputy church warden, I get to speak to a lot of folk who visit church for weddings, funerals, baptisms and ordinary services. What comes across is the praise these worshippers have for Ann in her ministry; her caring for their circumstances and relating to them.



Ann has introduced many changes for the good, particularly to encourage young families to come to church. In addition, she has reached out to other Christian denominations and encouraged joint services as well as the joint Lent Talks recently.

In the wider community, Ann is well known for her caring visiting of the sick, lonely and bereaved. Ann also counsils those who are entering marriage with individual care before their big day. Ann has been visiting Kingston House regularly, bringing services to those who can't easily make it to church.

Dave Massey has been a quiet, thoughtful, helpful and humorous aid to Ann; opening and closing the church, organising the lighting of the spire, sitting at the back of church at services making sure the sound is just right and lending his significant IT skills to run the Marden Vale website, the printing of the magazine and numerous church booklets. We can't thank you enough Dave for your support.

We shouldn't leave out Dave and Ann's children. Countless times they have stepped up to the plate; to haul the BBQ to the Fete or somewhere, shift furniture in church and so on. Becca has been a star, often playing the organ for services, especially before she got married and flew the nest!

So we thank you Ann for your care and commitment to our community, which has been outstanding.

We do understand why you have to leave and wish you Ann and Dave many blessings in your retirement and hope you share many happy years together.

Ed

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TOWN HALL MOVIOILA

'Lion' (PG)

A five year old Indian boy gets lost on the streets of Calcutta, thousands of kilometres from home. He survives many challenges before being adopted by a couple in Australia. 25 years later he sets out to find his family.

Starring Dev Patel and Nicole Kidman. This will be showing in Calne Town Hall on **Weds 14th June at 7.30pm**. Doors open at 7.00pm.

Refreshments available.

Tickets £6.00 from the information office or on the door.



Flying Teddy Bears

Despite my being brought up on 'Hammer House' Dracula movies, I do not find Bats at all alarming; in fact I rather think of them as cuddly flying teddy bears! The very fact that a species of mammal has evolved to become such an adept night flyer is one of the great miracles of nature.



Like many creatures, thanks to our stupidity and greed, they are having a hard time. So how do we help? Bats like a diversity of habitats and dislike flying across open areas, because they are very vulnerable to predation. So mature trees and overgrown hedges and ponds will help attract and conserve them. Some builders are now including bat roosts on houses as part of their design policy. It's so exciting to see them swooping over a pond catching insects on a summer evening sat in your garden. Why not put up some boxes on your house?

All 17 species of British bats have been known to roost in houses! And they can squeeze through a hole as small as 20mm. Maternity roosts are usually on the south or south-west sides of buildings, presumably because these are the warmest places Here are some brief facts about different types of bats:

Pipistrelles are most likely to breed in your house. They like cavity walls and spaces under the eaves in modern houses, so try not to block these off. They fly along walls, taller hedges and tree lines to minimise the risk of predation, so it is important to provide secure flyways to and from their roosts.

Brown long-eared bats are the species most likely to use bat boxes, especially for breeding. They are easy to identify from their slow fluttering flight and the way they hover to pick insects off the leaves of garden trees. They are occasionally even seen fluttering outside windows, picking up insects attracted to the lights, and may hang up in the porches of houses to eat, leaving a pile of discarded wings and faeces.

Natterer's bats will roost in large old houses, but forage in wooded parks and along canals and rivers. **Daubenton's bats** are closely associated with still or slow moving water, even in built-up areas. Bats skimming the surface of still water are likely to be this species.

Larger species such as **Leisler's bats** sometimes breed in houses in urban areas, but generally they fly off to feed in nearby rural locations. However, both species can be seen hunting around white street lights, and Leisler's sometimes forage along urban canals.

In my part of Studley Lane bats swoop across the garden over the pond and dart back and forth across the lane. The fact that tree cover is proposed in part of the lane by Crest Nicholson builders is a blessing.

Do remember that all species of bats are protected by law. It is a criminal offence to harm them or disturb or damage their roosts. You can get lots of useful guidance and information from the Bat Conservation Trust on how to help them and attract them. And if you want to come and watch the bats at our Garden Trust in Studley Lane, then we can make an appointment for you to visit. And don't forget that you are all welcome at our Studley & Derry Hill Open Day on Sunday 16th. July from 2 to 5pm (entry £3 in aid of charity).

©Stephen Cox Garden Trust

stephencox.gardentrust@gmail.com



YOGA

with Suzanne

NIGHT TIME CLASS

Tuesday 8-9.30pm Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill

DAYTIME CLASSES

Tuesday & Thursday 10-11.30am Bromham Social Centre, Bromham

Friday 9.30-11.00am Equilibrium Natural Health Centre, Pewsham

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MIXED ABILITY · BEGINNERS WELCOME

Lansdowne Luncheon Club

We meet on alternate Wednesdays in the old meeting room at the Lansdowne Hall.

The club is open to those over 60yrs living in Derry Hill or Studley and we welcome anyone who will enjoy some social contact.

We provide a two-course hot meal, with a current charge of £3.50, which is usually paid in advance for 3 or 4 meals, to fit with our rental payments.

If you or a friend is interested in joining, please contact

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GARDENING STEVE

As I write this we've only had 11mm of rain at Bowood. If you have planted trees and shrubs in the last 2 years, start watering them, as the roots would not yet be established. The bigger trees have a good root system and will find moisture in the ground. If we don't get much rain soon summer will be very interesting! If you haven't done so yet, clip your box hedging; it is best done when it is dry and hot as this will control Box Blight. Plant out all your bedding plants now, the risk of frost has passed. Let your spring flowering bulbs die down naturally as this will help all the goodness to go back into the bulb. Your roses should now begin to bloom. When the flowers have gone over, deadhead to encourage more flowers. Most deadheading can be done with secateurs; cutting back to just above strong buds lower down the stems of the plant. Some plants such as hardy geraniums can be trimmed back with garden shears when the flowers fade; they will soon grow back. Continue staking tall perennials. There are many ways of supporting plants and a whole host of products available from garden centres. Twiggy sticks are an easy means of support, the advantage of these is that the plants can grow through and hide them. Enjoy your time in the garden!

Stephen Starr Bowood Gardener



MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS TO DERRY HILL

Lansdowne Hall Derry Hill, 14.30 – 15.45

Tuesdays: **27th June, 25th July 2017**

Kingston House Derry Hill, 9.40 – 10.25

Mondays: **12th June, 10th July 2017**



CALNE WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

(Derry Hill and Studley are in this Parish)

The Parish Council met on Monday 8th May.

The council met very shortly after the Parish election. Only the West Ward (which covers most of Derry Hill and Studley) was contested. The Chairman welcomed newly elected members two of whom, Ian Rees and Keith Robbins, were attending as councillors for the first time. Co-option of two past members for other wards was approved, though at least one councillor thought the vacancies should have been re-advertised. The offices of Chair and vice-chair were voted on and Ed Jones (Chair) and Jim Cook (Vice Chair) were unanimously elected.

There was a good deal of discussion and input on the subject of the Blount's court development and its detailed plans. Many Studley villagers feel that the development should be made more sympathetic to the nature of Studley. With this and other factors in mind, including the layout and position of the A4 crossing, Ian Rees and the Clerk were authorised to make a detailed response to the planning authority.

The Chairman said he has once again been in contact with Wessex Water on the drain overflow problem in Norley Lane. Councillor Ayles reported that the third dog bin was about to be installed on the pathway by the side of the Village Hall.

Councillor Maddicks brought up the continuing problems of school dropping off and picking up times and how it is affecting traffic flows and motorists' tempers. A working party is to be set up.

These are my own jottings to help keep you up to date.

The website www.calnewwithoutpc.org contains the official minutes, once passed. The next meeting is on **June 5th 7.30pm** in the **Lansdowne Hall**.

Richard Ayles, Parish Councillor.

West Ward Election in Calne Without Parish

Many thanks to all those who voted for me in the recent Parish election. I'm delighted that I secured enough votes to be a Parish Councillor for Calne Without and will do my best to serve you and the interests of our Parish. **Richard** (Ayles)

DEFIBRILLATOR NEWS

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed over the years to the defibrillator fund as, through your generosity, we have raised enough money to pay for a fourth defibrillator in the Derry Hill and Studley area.

You may recall from our previous news bulletins that the South West Ambulance Service requires a defibrillator to be no more than 200 metres from where it is required. This has led to gaps in the coverage of our area but, through your help, we can now place another defibrillator where it is needed. This will still not give us full coverage for our area but we are carrying on with our fund-raising efforts and are aiming for a fifth defibrillator!

Siting of new defibrillators

We now have two possible sites for the new defibrillator. One is within the curtilage of the new scout hut along Old Road, and the second is near the junction between Norley Lane and the Hazeland Road. There is to be a site meeting of committee members and relevant parties involved with these two locations to decide which location is the most feasible at the present time. We will keep you up to date on progress in purchasing and siting of the new defibrillator in future news bulletins.

Fundraising

We will once again have a stall at the village fete on Saturday 8th July when we will have a raffle and tombola. If you have any unused items, perhaps unwanted Christmas presents, we would be pleased to take them off your hands! Please contact us. (See below)

Telephone Box

During last month's regular checking of the defibrillators, it was noted that a pane of glass in the telephone box had been smashed. When committee members went to inspect the damage, they noticed a second pane of glass had been smashed. The panes in question are at the bottom of the telephone box and as they are made of toughened glass, it is apparent that someone had deliberately smashed them. This vandalism has now been reported to the police. Neighbours living in the vicinity have said they will keep an eye out and we would ask residents to watch out for anyone acting suspiciously and report it immediately to the police.

Hazel 01249 822400



MOTHERS' UNION BIG LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 7th JUNE 12.30

**CHRIST CHURCH DERRY HILL
THE MOTHERS' UNION ARE HOLDING A BIG
LUNCH IN AID OF
"AWAY FROM IT ALL" HOLIDAYS in
Sidmouth for one week in August.**



The lunch is a donation only event but we need to know numbers for catering purposes. If you would like to come on Wednesday 7th June at 12.30 in Christ Church Derry Hill please contact Deirdre Lias 01249 822157

A big thank you!

I wish to express my thanks to all those who sent flowers, cards and kind wishes during my recent illness. It was much appreciated.

Robyn Summers

Children's Society

Thank you to all those who have a collecting box. We raised £244 this year. **Sarah**



With Thanks – A message from Councillor Keith Robbins

I would like to thank all those people who voted for me to become one of your Parish Councillors for the West Ward of Derry Hill and Studley. As one of your Parish Councillors, it is my intention to truly represent the views of the community. With that in my mind, if you have any concerns that you feel need to be brought to the attention of the Calne Without Parish Council, then please contact either myself or the Clerk to the Parish Council. I will do my best to ensure your views are heard.

Keith Robbins (keithrobbins95@gmail.com) Tel: 01249814845) or cwpclerk@gmail.com



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Tuesday 8-9.30pm Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill

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Tuesday & Thursday 10-11.30am Bromham Social Centre, Bromham

Friday 9.30-11.00am Equilibrium Natural Health Centre, Pewsham

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Derry Hill United Local Aviva Community Fund Success!

Fabulous news from Derry Hill United Football Club. Our local children's football team, based at Bowood Sports Ground, have managed to win their category of this year's Aviva Community Fund. The win has enabled the club to buy new 7 a-side goals and new 'respect' equipment for match days at their ground.



This win is a real help in improving the club's provision of football, particularly for their new girls' teams. Football for girls is something the club excel at already. They have 60 girls at the club currently either playing in one of their four girls-only teams or playing mixed football alongside the boys. This new equipment helps the club develop their girls' football further and of course the new equipment will benefit all their players, boys and girls, and other users of the ground.

DH UNITED U12'S AT BOWOOD
SPORTS GROUND WITH THE OLD

The membership and community were really key in securing the win. Joe Foley, coach for U12 girls and U14 mixed team, spotted the opportunity and helped with the bid. The club membership and our local supporters got behind the bid, voting in numbers to support.

Chris Saville, Chairman at Derry Hill Utd said: *'This success is great news for the football club and other users of Bowood Sports Ground. It enables us to retire our plastic goals and improve further our football provision. This was a team effort and my thanks to my colleague, Joe Foley, for finding us this opportunity helping craft the bid. Also, a big thanks to our membership, the local community and St Margaret's School for getting behind the bid and voting for us.'*

CHURCH CONTACTS

CHRIST CHURCH - DERRY HILL www.mardenvale.org.uk

Vicar Reverend Ann Massey **01249 817926**
ea.massey@btinternet.com

Administrator: Diane Saxty **07846 244726**
diane@mardenvale.org.uk

Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs)

Please call if you would like a visit or chat. All in strictest confidence.

Averil Davis **01249 814411**
Anita Uttley **01380 859433**

Church Wardens

Mr Stephen Starr **01249 821325**
Vacancy

PCC Treasurer (Tr) & Secretary (Sec)

Mr Simon Strange (Tr) **01249 813378**
Mrs Jennie Leddra (Sec) **01249 660550**

If you wish to discuss arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals or would like a pastoral visit or meeting arranged then please contact Reverend Ann Massey as above.

KINGSTON HOUSE

On June 9th we are saying goodbye to our Manager Carol Grainger, she has been with us for 20 years and will be greatly missed. We wish her all the best for the future.

On June 16th our home will be open for National Care Home 'Open Day'. We will also be celebrating 20 years of Greensleeves Care. Do pop in and see us and have a chat to residents, staff and other visitors

A big thank you for all the support for the Rag Bag, Books, Bric-a-Brac and lots of wool for our knitting club. (The ladies inform me they have enough for their project at the moment.)

Look out for details of a Bingo Evening soon!

Further details on any of this from me.

Lynda **01249 815555**.

Derry Hill and Studley Village Fete



As we enter June, things are taking shape nicely for this year's fete, which will be held from 1:30pm on Saturday 8th July at the Lansdowne Hall. Be there in good time for the opening ceremony at 2pm which offers something a little different this year, gone are the decorated barrows (for a year or two anyway) enter the parade of heraldic flags!

The parade betrays the fact that the theme of the fete this year is **HERALDRY**. We are already seeing community groups coming forward with their support for the theme and talking animatedly about how to introduce heraldry into their stalls or main arena acts.

We are pleased again to welcome **SpaceyTracy** as Bheartedonze Sponsors of the Entertainment Zone. They are thinking about what heraldic bouncies they can introduce, something about knights and dragons and jousting although I am not sure where Sumo Wrestling fits into the theme.

You should have received the schedule of classes for ye olde **PSP Insurance and Financial Solutions** Arts & Crafts Show that will be held in the Lansdowne Hall again with classes to keep all ages engaged and occupied and its completely free to enter this year!

We have started receiving raffle prizes and it is heartening to see organisations in the local area and beyond are willing and able to donate some great prizes. Already we have been pledged an annual membership of St Marys Sports Centre, spa treatments at Bowood Hotel, golf at North Wiltshire Golf Club and cream teas at Beechfield House. More sneak previews next month. Do you work for an organisation that could donate something to the great cause of raising money for our community groups? Let me know.

Since the Lansdowne Hall has grown it's good to be able to confirm that the entrance will again be via the main doors to the hall. This year, we are pleased to welcome a new Silver Sponsor for our

“Entrance Zone”, this is **KTA Motor Group, Pewsham Garage**. We look forward to seeing which Fiat/Abarth vehicles they will bring to distract you as you queue to get in!

Returning to the parade of homemade flags if I may, yes, we want individuals, school classes and village groups to design and build a flag that best represents you, your organisation or the community of Derry Hill or Studley- on a pole or handheld, your choice. Bring it along and join the parade. To help get your creative juices flowing, follow these links for inspiration....

<http://tinyton.org/hersymbols.htm>

<http://tinyton.org/blazoningarms.htm>

Finally, we are so grateful to our sponsors, all highlighted above, and we hope that you are able to consider them when it comes taking out insurances, buying performance vehicles or hiring bouncies for your own needs.

Peter Prater

Chair, Derry Hill & Studley Fete Organising Committee

email: peterprater@btinternet.com Phone: 07912 466453

My amusing life as an auctioneer and how to spot fakes!

**Friday 30th June 7.30pm at Christ Church
Derry Hill**

A lighthearted look at the life and times of an auctioneer and valuer and the funnier sides of it. Gordon Brockman from Chippenham Auction rooms has seen it all. Come and listen to his hilarious tales and enjoy a glass or two of wine (other drinks are available), with some lovely cheeses! £8. (Includes a drink and cheese etc.)



Tickets and further details from Richard Aylen 01249 814632



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Derry Hill & Studley Village Fete

Saturday July 8th



Gates Open at 1.30pm, Entrance only 50p
OPENING CEREMONY at 2pm with a procession of flags



Bar and Barbecue Cream Teas Numerous stalls including a
Human Fruit Machine Dave Hickory - children's entertainer

Arena events throughout the afternoon

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Visit our Craft Village

THE PARADE OF FLAGS

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theme - Heraldry. Free to enter
get the family involved or your
street or local community group.

There are prizes to be won

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Derry-Hill-and-Studley-Fete

DERRY HILL AND DISTRICT WI

At the April 27th meeting the ladies learned some of the “secrets” of Italian fashion and style from Maira Rossini, originally from Trieste, whose talk was titled “*A Walk into the world of Italian Style*”. She explained how the use of simple contrasts such as black and white can create optical illusions regarding relative proportions. She further explained that it is more difficult to accessorize a patterned fabric than a plain one which can often be complemented by a single item such as a scarf. Her presentation included some illustrations of completely “*over-the-top*” outfits from the Cannes festival.



The monthly completion was appropriately won by Ann Vaid with an Indian delicate green scarf.

The more formal proceedings of the meeting included approving a resolution for the national annual general meeting to encourage supermarkets to dispense surplus food to food-banks rather than treating it as waste.

It was decided that the invitation for a sponsored visit to Leekes would be exercised on Wednesday June 1st.

The June meeting will be at 7.30 on June 22nd at the Lansdowne Hall when the speaker is to be Val Procter on the topic of “*Bless This Child*”.

WI meetings take place generally at 7:30 on the last Wednesday evening of each month at the Lansdowne Hall. If you are interested in coming to a meeting, please phone Sheila on 814538, or Janet, on 814152, or just pop in - we'd love to see you

Terry

SALAD AND PUDDING SUPPER EVENING

Friday 2nd June 7:30pm Christ Church Derry Hill.

Tickets **£10** for a **2 course Supper**. Please bring your own Drink. Contact Stephen Starr **01249 821325** to reserve your place.



REVEREND ANN WRITES

Dear All

This is my final letter as Dave and I prepare to leave the Marden Vale to go home and spend more time enjoying the company of family and friends. Many of our friends have been neglected over the last seven years as I have put parish needs first.

Being a vicar is very challenging to family and close friends as, living on the job (so to speak) inevitably blurs the line between family and 'work'. Some say that being a vicar isn't work but a vocation. Well, it is a vocation and that means one works even harder at it than if it were just another job – bringing in the money to buy the material things in life. A vocation is more demanding! More demanding on the person doing it - and their family! It can be emotionally and physically draining – and sometimes spiritually too.

A vicar's job being one day a week is a well-used joke. A typical week sees my diary with at least twenty meetings in it plus services on Sundays. Evenings are generally taken up with meetings until 8.30pm. It is rare to have a non-weekend evening without any meetings. And then there is time needed to prepare Sunday sermons and liturgies, prepare for meetings, answer emails, do the administration, be a listening ear when someone knocks on the door.... And there needs to be time with God, praying daily, and seeking God's will for the future in the parishes – trying to discern a path forwards which will make the church more attractive to those outside the building who rarely, if at all, come whilst, of course, encouraging those within. Changing a safe environment to one that takes chances for the sake of the gospel is a challenge which carries a high personal emotional cost!

Getting to know people through baptism, marriage and funeral preparation is always rewarding. The conversations are usually deep and spiritually aware – I learn from them and, I hope, those who participate learn something from me too. The families are respectful, generous and understanding of the church and the traditions held even though they may not be traditions that they would want to sign up for on a regular basis. I have tried to customise services for life events to the needs of those requesting them to enable them and their guests to participate attentively, finding their needs being met through

the church. Many who ask for these services are not frequent church-goers so perhaps they also come on special occasions with eyes and ears open to hear God's word and be affected by it. Through letters and conversations, it is heartening that many find their spiritual needs being met at such times. Putting the Gospel first helps all other needs, financial and otherwise, to be met. After all, that is what the Gospel tells us in any case – trust in God to provide.

In trying to live the Gospel I ask forgiveness for those times I have got it wrong, and to those who have encouraged me and worked with me to promote the Gospel I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Dave and I wish you all every blessing for the future and hope Christ Church will find itself looking forward to, and enjoying, a positive future central to the life of Derry Hill and Studley.

With love, **Ann**

PLEA FOR HELP

The Derry Hill and Studley Village Hall Trust is on the lookout for a new Treasurer with the intention that the person who volunteers for this position should shadow the current Treasurer for a period of time before taking over fully. Anyone who is interested in supporting the Community in this important role can obtain further details by contacting Jim Cook (Chairman of Trustees) at

jim.cook@nocketts.co.uk or Alan Rosekilly (Trust Secretary) at Rosekilly@aol.com or on 01249 814538, both who will be pleased provide further information and give details of what the role involves

In addition the Trust is always happy to welcome new members to serve as Trustees or Lansdowne Hall Management Committee Members and likewise the above named will welcome any interest from residents keen to help in this important community activity.

Alan





Derry Hill Under 5's playgroup



Derry Tots

Derry Tots is your friendly local Under Fives Playgroup. We meet every Wednesday morning during term time at the Lansdowne Hall in Derry Hill.

We are having an open morning on 29th June, 9.30-11.30am with coffee & cake and a pre-loved toys and clothes sale.

Please come and visit us, all welcome!

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CHRIST CHURCH EVENTS IN JUNE

4th June 2017

11:00am Holy Communion (CW)

11th June 2017

11:00am All Age Communion (CW)

18th June 2017

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

11:00am Family Service - **Father's Day**

25th June 2017

All Age Holy Communion.

Come along to

Rev. Ann's last service!

11:00am Christ Church

Drinks and nibbles afterwards



30th June 2017

7:00pm Cheese and Wine – Humorous talk from Gordon the auctioneer

CHRIST CHURCH EVENTS IN JULY

2nd July 2017

11:00am Holy Communion (CW)

9th July 2017

11:00am All Age Communion (CW)

16th July 2017

11:00am Family Service

23rd July 2017

11:00am Holy Communion

30th July 2017

11:00am United Benefice Holy Communion **AT BREMHILL**

STUDLEY METHODIST CHURCH

SERVICES FOR JUNE 2017 - 10.30AM

4 JUN REV JANET EVANS –
Sacramental Service

11 JUN MRS KATE TROWBRIDGE

18 JUN MRS MARGARET BOYD

25 JUN MRS ANNETTE FOSTER

PRAYER, POETRY AND PROSE

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 5 June at 2.30pm
All welcome. The afternoon will be rounded off with a cup of tea and homemade cake.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Studley Methodist Church has forwarded the magnificent sum of £450 to Action for Children being the proceeds from the home collection boxes for 2016/7.

A very big thank you to all who contributed to this wonderful amount. Records show over £20,000 has been sent by Studley over the past 70 years to help UK's most vulnerable children. Should you wish to assist in this way then please contact Eric/Helen 01380 870922 – eandhclifford9@btinternet.com or any member at Studley Methodist Church.

Our next fundraising event for Action for Children is the Quiz Night at Studley Methodist Church on **Saturday 1 July 2017 at 7.30 p.m.** all are welcome to bring or join a 4-member team.

Kind regards, *Christina*



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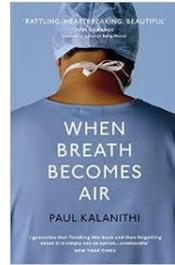
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Book Review

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, the next he was a patient struggling to live.



As Paul went through his cancer treatment, he shared his experiences through essays and interviews. He also began work on an autobiographical book of his experiences as a doctor and a patient facing a terminal illness – the result is *When Breath Becomes Air*. Paul died in March 2015 while still working on his memoir; it was completed by Lucy, his wife, and published 10 months later.

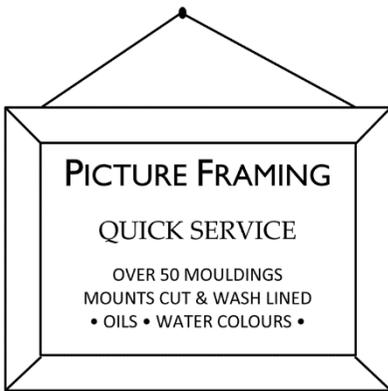
As he explores the questions of life and death; living with death; the relationship between doctors and patients; bringing new life into the world (Elizabeth Acadia – Cady – was born eight months before Paul's death); and the core of identity in the brain or the soul, our knowledge that he is dying makes the writing and the reading even more poignant.

Somewhat in the shadow of the 'big questions' are smaller unexpected details that reveal the source of Paul's apparent humanity and humility and his adherence to the truth: his parents eloped from southern India to New York City (he a Christian, she a Hindu, their marriage condemned by both families); the family settled in a small town in Arizona (in the least educated district in America) and his mother made Paul and his brother work through a college prep reading list (Paul read 1984 when he was 10 years old); Paul was headed on the path to be an English professor until he felt called to medicine and neurosurgery ("working with the crucible of identity"); he and Lucy met in Paul's first year of medical school; their marriage was in difficulty just as he was diagnosed, something no-one knew until the book was published.

Book Club members found this an emotional read but one worth the tears. If anyone would like to read this book, please contact Dani for a copy. Tel

816106

Elizabeth Warwick



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FLOODLIGHTING THE SPIRE

This is a lovely thing to do to remember loved ones and to celebrate special anniversaries and birthdays. The Spire is currently lit between 7pm and midnight, though this varies with the time of year.

Floodlighting the Spire can be arranged through Richard Aylen 01249 814632 or inspireeditor@outlook.com.

A donation to the church for the cost of the lighting is welcome.

ALTAR GUILD

Flowers in Church: The Flower Guild are inviting flower sponsorship for the single pedestal in Christ Church, Derry Hill each week. If you would

like to do this or sponsor part of a pedestal, in memory of a special occasion then, to find out more contact Claire Satchell, on **07968 091217** or email newleaflooristry@hotmail.co.uk



The main meeting of Derry Hill Mother's Union took the form of an afternoon of prayer and fellowship. Deirdre opened the meeting with joint prayers and then members read prayers and bible passages and explained the significance of them in their lives. The business section of the meeting included a discussion on the design of the flag being entered into the parade at the village fete. A working party on June 28 will execute the design amid no doubt the usual discussion and chaos these parties usually generate!! Final arrangements were made under Robyn's guidance for the **Big Lunch** to be held in church on **June 7** when all villagers and friends are invited to join the MU for lunch. This is a free event but donations are welcome for the 'Away from it all holiday fund' of the MU. This is for families who would not normally manage a break away. Please let Deirdre or another member know if you're able to come. Posters will be put around the village with all relevant information.

Julia's House.

Ten members are able to go to an open day at the new children's hospice on Thursday, 15 June. Also, a group of members have decided to hold an afternoon cream tea in their own name in aid of Julia's House in the Lansdowne Hall on August 2. More news of this later. New members and visitors are always welcome details from Deirdre on (01249) 822157



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First Anniversary – a chance to rest and be still for 30 minutes!



The meditation group that meets weekly will be having its first year anniversary in June. We meet every Wednesday from 6.30 p.m. until 7.00 p.m., meditating together in the church. Some arrive on their way home from work, others before they set off for an evening out. It is a simple place of rest and stillness.

Meditation is not a club that you join. There is no chitter chatter or coffee socialising, but it does offer a deep sense of peace, preparing us for our busy lives. All you need to do is turn up! All are welcome and will be made truly welcome. It is an inclusive place, for all people. If you feel the need for a quiet place to rest, then join the group in celebrating our first year!

Janet Robbins

Wednesday Walkers



Wellie Walks on Wednesdays continued all the way through to the Spring with only one being abandoned due to adverse weather! We made one adjustment to the timing to allow a visit to the Bowood Woodland Walks. In the spring/summer season we have decided to add a monthly longer walk on the final Wednesday of May, June, July and August. We plan to walk to (and back from) **Lacock** (May and perhaps September), **Chippenham** (June), **Maud Heath's Monument** (July) and **Calne** (August), starting at 9am and returning to Derry Hill by approximately 3pm. You will need to pack a light day sack with snacks/lunch and drinks etc. You may also wish to bring money for a pub/cafe stop for a drink and toilets.

Other Wednesdays we will continue with our shorter walks, starting at 9am and returning to Derry Hill by 10.30am we are finding that we regularly walk between 2.5 and 3 miles.

Phone 814278 for the start point, further details or check cancellation in adverse weather. Sorry no Dogs.

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News from 1st Derry Hill Scout Group

On April 23rd to mark St George's Day, a group of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Leaders and parents climbed the path to the White Horse at Cherhill joining 5 other groups from across the district to help with the resurfacing of this famous monument.



We were very lucky with the weather; dry with

blue skies above us, but not too hot for the hard work ahead of us! We were put into teams with the parents and leaders and some of the bigger Cubs and Scouts helping to haul the bags of chalk down the ridge to the White Horse itself. There the Beavers and Cubs were spreading out the chalk as evenly as possible across the monument. There were many white knees and tops by the end of the day!

By lunch time the White Horse was once again glowing white so we were all able to enjoy our picnic lunch! All the groups present took part in a flag carrying parade before a service was held by Reverend Ann. Everyone felt that it was a fantastic day, hard work but very rewarding to have been involved in a local project. There is real sense of pride to be able to look up at the White Horse knowing that our group had a hand in helping to preserve it.

Interesting fact: The Cherhill White Horse is the second oldest of the Wiltshire horses.

Thanks to Finn's dad, Steve Jones (The Little Photo Company), for taking some great pictures of the day!

Our Scout group is always on the lookout for helpers. If you would like to find out more about volunteering please get in contact with the group leader Dave Stovell at davestovell@1stderryhillscouts.org.uk . If you feel that you would like to help but are unable to volunteer on a regular weekly basis, please do still get in touch!

Elise

News from Rub-A-Dub Pre-school



2017 is a very special year for Rub-A-Dub as we are celebrating our 'Pearl' anniversary! It is incredible to think that we have been providing great child care for 30 years!

To mark this occasion, we are holding a 'Pig & Jig' at the village hall on Saturday 24th June from 7 to 11pm, where there will be a hog roast, live music and dancing, cash bar and raffle prizes. All villagers, friends and family (providing you are over 18!) are invited to celebrate our anniversary with us. Tickets cost £12.50; to purchase all you must do is email us at radpigandjig@gmail.com. Alternatively look out for the posters at the school with a named contact for tickets. So come along and have some fun and reunite with parents from the past or even with friends that you went to Rub-A-Dub with!

We are also on the lookout for any memorabilia about Rub-A-Dub that you may have, perhaps newspaper articles or photos. If you have any please get in touch using the same email address above. We will be able to arrange to make copies of anything you have so that the originals remain in your possession!

Looking ahead to the last term we will also be holding a special party for the children at Rub-A-Dub, so parents look out for the details about that in the newsletter for Term 6.

With Easter being late this year our term back from the holiday was much shorter than usual, but we still had lots to do! We had a trip to Hope Farm on the day we closed for local elections and our Rub-A-Dub Duck entered the Calne Duck Race – at the time of writing we don't know if we won or not, if we do we will let you know!

Our theme this term was looking at changes and growth within the environment and ourselves. A lot of the children were showing an interest in the changes and growth of flowers and the strawberries in the garden, so the warming weather we had was a blessing!

As our Rising Stars have had their primary school places confirmed, we have started the process of engaging with their new schools. This term we visited Derry Hill Primary school to join in with activities, free play and snack time, with the aim of helping them with their transition to school. It is one of the joys of being involved with a pre-school such as ours, seeing the children grow and develop, then seeing them 'graduate' from pre-school to primary! Let's hope we will be doing this for another 30 years!

Elise

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