

# *Newsletter*



*Ampthill Clophill Flitwick*

*January 2026*



# Welcome to the January Newsletter

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<i>Another year is dawning:</i>	<i>Another year of progress,</i>
<i>Dear Master, let it be,</i>	<i>Another year of praise,</i>
<i>In working or in waiting,</i>	<i>Another year of proving</i>
<i>Another year for Thee.</i>	<i>Thy presence all the days.</i>

*Francis Ridley Havergal MHB 954 v. 1 and 3*

## *A Message from our Minister*

Growth - personal, spiritual growth - is very much a focus in our circuit this year. And as 2026 begins, many of us might be thinking about growth - what we hope will change, what we want to become, and what we want to leave behind. The Bible often uses the image of plants to describe our spiritual lives, and it's a helpful picture to hold as we step into the months ahead.

A healthy plant doesn't grow overnight. Growth happens quietly, beneath the surface, long before anything is visible. First, strong roots need to develop, drawing in water and nutrients day after day. In the same way, spiritual growth is rarely dramatic. It comes through small, faithful habits - daily prayer and Bible reading, worship, service, and learning to trust God more deeply in everyday circumstances.

Plants also need the right environment. They need light, nourishment, and care. Too little attention and they wither; too much pressure and they can be damaged. Our spiritual lives are similar. We grow best when we remain connected to God and to one another, allowing encouragement, accountability, and grace to shape us. Joining a Bible study or house group is an ideal environment for faith to grow.

Finally, growth takes patience. As any of you who are keen gardeners know, you cannot force a seed to sprout, but instead have to trust the process and keep tending the soil. As we enter this new year, let's resist the urge to rush our spiritual growth and instead, remain rooted in Christ, trusting that God is at work - even if we can't see the results yet.

“ Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him. See that you go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. ” (Colossians 2:7 Living Bible)

I pray that this year is one of steady, faithful growth for us all.

God bless.

*Silas*

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## *Church Family News*



### *Happy Birthday*

to all those who have birthdays  
this month.



### *Happy Anniversary*

to those celebrating a wedding  
anniversary this month.

*May God be with you all on your special day and always.*

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*Thou didst leave thy throne  
And thy kingly crown  
When thou camest to earth for me,  
But in Bethlehem's home  
Was there found no room  
For thy holy nativity:  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus!  
There is room in my heart for thee.*

*Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliott H&P 154 verse 1*

## *Worship in January*

### 4th January

**United Worship at Flitwick** led by Rev Silas Wood      **10.30 am**

### 11th January

**Amphill**      Worship led by Rev Silas Wood (HC)      **9.30 am**

**Clophill**      Worship led by Keith Lilley      **10.30 am**

**Flitwick**      Worship led by Claire Peck (Agapé)      **11.00 am**

### 18th January

**Amphill**      Worship led by Rev Silas Wood (HC)      **11.00 am**

**Clophill**      Worship led by Rev Silas Wood (HC)      **9.30 am**

**Flitwick**      Worship led by Paul Cooper      **10.30 am**

### 25th January

**Amphill**      Worship led by Claire Peck      **10.30 am**

**Clophill**      Worship led by Liz Little      **11.00 am**

**Flitwick**      Breakfast Church led by Liz Little      **9.30 am**

### 1st February

**United Worship at Amphill** led by Rev Silas Wood      **10.30 am**

### 8th February

**Amphill**      Worship led by Rev Silas Wood      **9.30 am**

**Clophill**      Worship led by Chris Robinson (CA)      **10.30 am**

**Flitwick**      Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood (HC)      **11.00 am**

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## *Worship in January*

January	4	11	18	25
Ampthill	10.30 am United Worship at Flitwick	9.30 am Holy Communion Silas Wood	11.00 am Holy Communion Silas Wood	10.30 am Worship led by Claire Peck
Clophill	10.30 am United Worship at Flitwick	10.30 am Worship led by Keith Lilley	9.30 am Holy Communion Silas Wood	11.00 am Worship led by Liz Little
Flitwick	10.30 am United Worship Silas Wood	11.00 am Worship led by Claire Peck (Agapé)	10.30 am Worship led by Paul Cooper	9.30 am Breakfast Church Liz Little



## *What's On in January*

### *Monday*

**Craft Café** at Flitwick 5th January 2.30 pm - 4.00 pm

### *Tuesday*

**Prayer Meeting** at 6 Brinsmade Road, Ampthill 2.30 pm

### *Wednesday*

**Tea and Chat** at Clophill 10.00 am - 12 noon

**Ampthill Ladies Group** 2.00 pm

Next meeting 4th February - Welcome back, Ukelele Players

**Tea and Chat** at Flitwick 2.30 pm - 3.45 pm

### *Thursday*

**Baby Comes Too** at Flitwick (Term time) 9.15 am - 11.15 am

**Community Café** at Ampthill 10.30 am - 1.30 pm

**Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association** at Flitwick (Term time)

Anchors and Juniors 6.15 pm - 7.30 pm

Company and Seniors 7.00 pm - 8.15 pm

### *Saturday*

**Coffee and Croissants** at Clophill 10th January 10.00 am - 12 noon

**Soup Lunch** at Flitwick 10th January (see next page)

**Ladies Breakfast** at Flitwick 17th January 8.30 am  
Our speaker will be Kelvin Horton who is the Town Crier at Ampthill.  
The talk is called Masquerade. We look forward to seeing you in the  
New Year. All welcome, please bring a friend.

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## *A New Year Date for your Diary*

After enjoying a Christmas lunch at Flitwick for the past few years, we took a break this year, and, instead, planned something for the New Year when life is not so busy, Christmas lunches not in such abundance and we are all feeling a little flat in the dark days of January!



On Saturday January 10<sup>th</sup>, we invite friends from our three churches to come to a Soup Lunch at Flitwick. Many years ago, Anne Foley and Rebecca Caird and Girls' Brigade used to organize amazing Soup lunches at Flitwick which were always very popular.

There will, of course be more than just a selection of soups. As always there will be a selection of cakes to follow the soup!

So please, put the date in your 2026 diaries and come for a time of Soup and Fellowship.

We will be serving lunch between **12.00 and 2.30.**

If anyone feels able to offer to make their favourite soup recipe or provide a cake or tray bakes please let Ann Blair or Linda Pitts know by Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

[annmblair@hotmail.com](mailto:annmblair@hotmail.com) 01525 714847





## *Winter Has Arrived*

Winter has arrived,  
And global warming dictates  
What weather we will have:  
Cold or hot, snow or frost  
Sun or rain, hurricanes or storms.  
I hope not!

Of course, life can be a lot like that  
With our hearts and minds  
Our emotions and feelings,  
It is about the rich tapestry of life.

Our Christian journey can be similar too,  
With the prayers we send up to God  
Happy, sad, bewildered, or whatever else.

He understands,  
Because it is how he communicated with his Heavenly Father  
While walking here on earth  
And we too can have that one to one relationship with our Lord.

So do you and I speak to him as we do a friend?  
Proverbs says he is closer than a brother.

How much more does he want us to come to the Cross  
And give ourselves and this New Year to him.

*Lance*



## *Prayer Suggestions for January*

### *3 days beginning 1st January - New Year*

- Thank God that he has brought us to the beginning of another year.
- Thank God for his constant love and mercy towards us.
- Pray that we remember that just as God has been with us in the past so he will go before us and guide us in this new year.
- Pray that we will use new opportunities for serving God in whatever way he wants to use us.
- Pray that we will always put our trust in God, whatever challenges we face in our lives.

### *Week beginning 4th January - Epiphany*

- As we remember the Magi visiting Jesus with their gifts we ask God to accept us as we give ourselves to him once again.
- God revealed himself to the Magi through a star. Pray we will be aware of the ways God reveals himself to us.
- Just as the Magi followed a star, may we follow the promptings that God gives us.
- The journey for the Magi was long and hard but they kept going. Ask God to help us to keep going when we face difficult times in our journey through this year.

### *Week beginning 11th January - Winter*

- Pray for those who find the winter particularly challenging.
- Pray for the NHS as winter brings more illnesses and for the emergency services.
- Pray for people whose work involves travel in difficult conditions.
- Pray for those who work to keep our roads safe in icy conditions.
- Thank God for the beauty of the changing seasons.

*Week beginning 18th January - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*

*Theme: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to be the one hope of your calling." Ephesians 4:4*

- Pray for all Christians everywhere, remembering that all Christians are our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Pray for all Christians locally, of whatever denomination.
- Pray that we may work with Christians of other denominations where we have the opportunity.
- Pray for the local Churches Together group as they organise different activities and services we can support.
- We pray for tolerance and understanding for Christians who hold strong beliefs about aspects of the faith that we don't agree with.

*Week beginning 25th January - Holocaust Memorial*

*Holocaust Memorial Day 27th January.*

*Theme: Bridging Generations*

- The theme this year reminds us of the importance of remembering and praying that past atrocities of genocide are not repeated.
- Pray for a peaceful world and for world leaders, that they may work together to resolve difficulties.
- Pray that we will do what we can to encourage a stand against prejudice and intolerance.

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*Local Preacher Appointments*

Please pray for preachers from our Greensand Community Church who are planned to lead worship in January:

Anne Foley	11th at Clapham; 18th at Putnoe Heights; 25th at Wootton
Perlllyn Thomas	11th at Langford
Angie Woodcraft	11th at Priory

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## *Ampthill Ladies Group*

### **Ampthill Methodist Mission Hub**

**Meetings are held fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons at 2.00pm followed by refreshments. All are welcome.**

At our last November meeting on 26 November we were joined by Richard Luscombe telling us about **“An American at Wrest Park”**. This was a very enjoyable tale of Whitelaw Reid, an American who bought Wrest Park as a weekend retreat! He was originally a war correspondent during the years 1861-65 and was the first journalist to send his report by telegraph. He was a Vice President candidate, although not chosen for this role, he did become an American diplomat and newspaper editor and was also the author of ‘Ohio in the War’ – a popular work of history. In 1905 he became the US ambassador to the UK and was a real fan of the new trend of motor cars and allowed Wrest Park to host the Bedford Auto Club in 1907.

Our last meeting before our Christmas break was a very entertaining afternoon hosted by our resident musicians, Silas and Yvonne, on 10 December. All members of the ALG committee also took part with readings/prayers/poems and all guests enjoyed delicious party food, singing some favourite carols and enjoying friendly conversation, ending our year thanking God for giving us so much to be thankful for.

We start our next session on 4 February 2026 with a ‘welcome back’ musical afternoon with the Ukulele Players. We have our next programme arranged until 13 May and if you are interested in seeing a list of our speakers, please ask for a copy.

*Carole*

*ALG Committee Member*

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## *Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association*



The New year of 2026 brings both opportunities, and also challenges for Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association.

We have a recruitment plan involving social media and a School Assembly visit coming together. However, we also have the challenge of losing two members and an experienced leader – due to another Thursday evening activity changing its time, so it now clashes with BBGA.

But there is always hope. So, we continue with our recruitment plan and ask the following of the wider church:

Please pray that the recruitment campaign will be successful, and we will do what we can to provide information to focus those prayers as and when.

Social Media – if you are on Facebook or Instagram please follow us and when posts appear please like and share and pray as you click. This will influence the social media algorithms and therefore mean more people are likely to see the posts.

Be a Friend to BBGA, by supporting those events we organise that we open to the wider church. In the early days of the group a number of folk in the church were given friends badges. Linda Pitts dug hers out recently - and I'm sure there will be others amongst the Flitwick congregation. I hope to award some more Friends badges in the future, so need to know who already has them!

Finally, can you give of your time? This is a big one, as I know people are so busy. But if you can just help out for a couple of hours on a Thursday evening or help with preparing craft items or purchasing items – we will reimburse.

The world can feel like a dark place at times but we have the opportunity to bring the light that is Jesus to young people through BBGA. Let us work together to make 2026 a great year for our Church as we connect with more families through BBGA.

Happy New Year.

*Angela*

*Company Captain/Leader in Charge*



*Messy Christmas 2025*



Our Messy Christmas saw 7 youngsters and their families share in a variety of Christmas craft, hearing the story of the Lost Star and sharing in a bring and share buffet.

A crown was made for each mission hub which had the variety of names by which Jesus is known written in stars on each crown.

During 2025 we have had 6 Messy Church sessions mainly at Flitwick but also at Clophill and at Ampthill. There will be a meeting in early 2026 to discuss how we move forward with Messy Church including something for the older youngsters, some of whom are helping, to allow them their own space to share together in faith. If you would like to be part of this meeting then please email

[GreensandCommunityMessyChurch@gmail.com](mailto:GreensandCommunityMessyChurch@gmail.com)

*The Messy Church Team*



## *The New Year*

The new year is a time of hope;  
We know God's blessings will not end;  
But more than that; we know that He  
Will still be with us as our Friend.

He's been with us through life's hard times;  
He's guided us through times of fear;  
He's shared our days of happiness;  
Through life's dark days He has been near.

Because of this we know that He's  
The greatest Friend that we can have.  
The future, then, we need not fear,  
But leave it safely in His hands.

As we set out through this new year  
Let's walk with confidence and know  
Each step we take can be with God.  
If we will trust, it will be so.

He'll never leave us on our own,  
But guide us now and each new day.  
All that may come He'll use for good  
If we will trust, His will obey.

The God of Love will satisfy  
Our needs as through this year we live.  
May we his presence feel and know,  
And thanks and praise and honour give.



## *The Newsletter*

Thank you to those who have contributed to this issue. I hope you have found it useful.

Please let me have items for the February newsletter by **Sunday 25th January**. It would be lovely to receive something from you.

Thank you very much.

Janet

