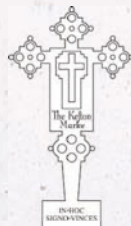


The Keston Magazine

News of your Parish and Village



Feb/March 2020

Keston Parish Church

Church Rd., Keston, BR2 6HT kestonparishchurch.org.uk



Rector

Rev'd Carol Morrison 01689 853186

email: rector@kestonparishchurch.org.uk

Days working for Keston Parish: Sunday to Wednesday

Licensed Lay Minister

Tricia Coward 01689 854373

& Parish Administrator

email: kestonconsult@btconnect.com

Churchwardens

Neil Morrison 07900 081696

John Molnar 07709 818073

Verger

Patricia Geiger 01959 574008

Parish Secretary &

Heather Molnar 07816 464880

Safeguarding Officer

email: hevamolnar@aol.com

Treasurer

Anna Bailey 01689 852583

Organist & Choirmaster

David Cook 020 8289 5768

Church Hall

Tricia Coward 01689 854373
hallbookings@kestonparishchurch.org.uk

Messy Church

Tricia Coward 01689 854373

Magazine Editor &

Sally Churchus 020 8462 8750

Book Reading Fellowship

email: editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk

Keston Singers

Pam Robertson 01689 856318

Beavers/Cubs/Scouts

Samantha Strange 07507 519114

27th Bromley

email: strange_samantha@hotmail.com

Women's Institute

email: tonia.cc@blueyonder.co.uk

Residents' Association

www.kvra.org.uk

Village Hall

Tina Lupton 01689 859906

Bless the Children

John Goldby 01689 851000

Welcare in Bromley

Caroline Cook 020 8289 5768

Keston C.E. Primary School

Julia Evison 01689 858399

Friends of Keston Common

High Elms Country Park 01689 862815
www.friendsofkestoncommon.btck.co.uk

Keston Residents' Road Safety Group

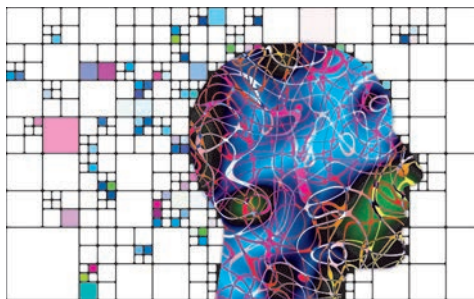
email: krrsg@hotmail.com

Front cover: Fishing at Keston in all seasons Peter Jeffrey ©

People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.
1 Samuel 16:7

Thought for the month

Theology of Decluttering



At this time of year many people decide to do something about having **too much stuff** in their homes. Jane Brocklehurst has worked as a professional ‘declutterer’ for many years and these are some of her thoughts: **Forgetting what lies behind, I press on towards the goal. (Phil 3:13)**

An important aspect of spirituality is to live in the present, without letting the past hold you captive, or the future make you anxious. But in a house full of clutter, paying close attention to what is immediately in front of you may be the last thing you want to do! Heaps of clutter demand attention, because it occupies the space you need to work in, because it hides the important thing you are looking for, because it is difficult to keep clean, because you literally risk falling over it.

The desire to clear clutter and live more simply can be strong, but people often don’t know how to begin. Decluttering always begins the same way – we set a goal. What are you aiming to achieve? Your goal provides motivation, a sense of purpose when the mess is at its worst. With no goal, you might just move stuff from one place to

another, without sorting through it. One room is cleared, but another is newly cluttered! So it is better to go through things by type – shoes, tools, pans, books, and so on – rather than room by room. For example, do you really need 20 pairs of shoes, and eight screwdrivers? If your goal is to keep only things you use at least once every year, then the answer becomes easier.

Often clutter is inherited. Although you don’t really want it, there is a sense of obligation, guilt, or fear of what might happen if you give anything away. So, part of your goal could include a change of attitude. Pray you will be able to see things for what they really are. Pray for wisdom as you choose what to keep. Pray that you can open your hands to let go of what you do not need. Pray for perseverance until your goal is reached. We can also ask the Lord to change our attitude towards space in our home, so we see space as a valuable commodity, something to use creatively and enjoy. Clutter is as much in the mind as in the home.

Then begin. Gather your possessions into ‘like’ groups, and look at each thing in turn. Make positive choices. How will this possession help you to reach your goal? Surround yourself with beautiful, useful things that make living in the moment a joy and a delight. Take the rest down to a charity shop or Freegle online – where someone else can enjoy it. Eventually you will be free from the burden of constantly having to sort and maintain your overflow of possessions and have the room and time to use the creative gifts that God has given you.

Cover Story

Thank you to Peter Jeffrey from Biggin Hill for our front cover on this issue – he is a very keen fisherman! Keston Ponds are his favourite place to fish and hold many happy memories for him. Do read his story on p15 of this issue. We will be featuring some other great photos done by him later in the year.

Christmas Gifts

We had an amazing response for donations at our Gift/Toy Service at the beginning of December. We were able to give Welcare in Bromley £240 in supermarket gift vouchers and also six bags of toys to the Salvation Army for local families. Afterwards, they replied: We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you so much for your recent donations of toys. We received just over 800 requests from various agencies in the Borough of Bromley this year, (I think that is a record for us and a sad indication of our times). We have referrals from various departments at the local council, (Safeguarding, Leaving Care Team, Disabled Team, Social Workers), and then Health Visitors, schools, Mencap, Welcare, Children's projects, Jamma Umoja and Bromley Women's Aid. We couldn't cope with the demand without the generosity of the public through the supply of these gifts and also through our collecting when we're out in the High Streets with the band at Christmas. So, many thanks – together we can make a difference.

Messy Fun



Calling all children! Did you come to our Messy Church Advent session at the end of November or our Messy style Christingle Service on Christmas Eve? We are sure you enjoyed yourselves. For those who haven't been before we meet roughly every 8 weeks on a Tuesday afternoon at 3.30pm to get creative doing crafts on a Christian theme. We then go into church for a short age appropriate song and talk and then back into the church hall for a high tea. The children and accompanying adults head home at about 6pm holding their precious crafts. Do join us for our next session on 24th March at Keston Parish Church. More information from Martin on messy@kestonparishchurch.org.uk.

Out of clutter, find simplicity – Albert Einstein

An Act of Remembrance



Before

From the time, 39 years ago, that we moved to Leaves Green, I had been aware that a flying accident had taken place opposite our home. I was also aware that it had happened on the day after I was born, on 27th March 1949. I knew Flight Lieutenant Derek Benson was buried in Keston Parish Churchyard, and from time to time I had searched for his grave without success. As this accident and many other aspects of post-war flying at Biggin Hill will be covered in the second volume of my history of the RAF Base, (Vol 1 'RAF Biggin Hill – The Other Side of the Bump' still available from Occasions in Biggin Hill), I researched a little more and asked Pat Geiger if she could ask the Rev'd Carol Morrison if she could inspect the burial records and

find a location for me for Benson's grave. This she duly did and it became clear that he was buried in plot 147 but, on first inspection, I could find no headstone but, subsequently, found his details on the kerb stone (stone grave surround). It was clear the grave had not been tended for many years and it occurred to me that a couple of the RAF Cadets from the Biggin Hill Squadron, (where I am an instructor), might be happy to help clear it as an act of remembrance.

The Rev'd Carol Morrison was happy for us to go ahead and on Saturday, 9th November, the job was done, recycling some of the white crushed stone which surrounds the flag pole at Biggin Hill – from where F/Lt Benson took off to undertake a Met. Check before some Cadets of the time were allowed to go



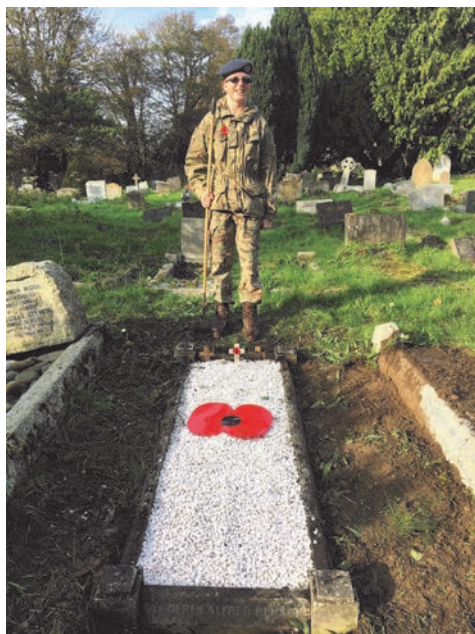
Work being carried out by James Kennel from the Biggin Hill Squadron

flying in an Avro Anson. What happened to cause the plane to crash was never really determined and the circumstances of the accident were recorded in detail in The Keston Magazine in 2010 when 'Chalkpit' wrote down his recollection of the tragedy which he saw first hand.

Hopefully our clear up of the grave will last for a few years to come and, perhaps, other Cadets will keep up the tradition – there are a few RAF graves in Keston which could do with the occasional visit.

Thanks to the Rev'd Carol Morrison and Pat Geiger for trawling through the records to confirm the position of Benson's grave.

Peter Osborne



Come Walk with Us!



On the first Tuesday of each month we meet at 9.30am on the field opposite The Greyhound pub for our Prayer Walk. We start with a simple prayer and then proceed to walk and chat as we make our way across Keston Common. We stop a couple of times for prayers that are creation themed, taking time to appreciate the natural environment and water and wildlife around us. We end our walk in The Greyhound pub where we have tea and coffee, or even a full English!

You would be welcome to join us to walk, or afterwards at The Greyhound at 11am if you would rather not walk. Rev'd Carol will be able to chat to you at this time if you have anything you would like to discuss.



My Faith Journey

I've always been a rebel!
My mother is Catholic but I was Baptised into the Church of England. We left England for Africa when I was six and lived on the compound of a Moslem boarding school, but in a Christian country. The one birthday card I drew was a picture perfect pencil and ruler drawing of the school's mosque; I have always loved the symmetry of Arab architecture. The only Anglican church was the cathedral at the other end of the island so when I wanted to go to Sunday school I had to find staff who attended the nearby Methodist church who were prepared to take me. Need I say I love Wesley hymns? My first boarding school was in the capital, a beautiful campus with an Anglican chapel in the centre and where you could see the snow on the mountain as you walked to breakfast. Each week we had three whole school assemblies with prayers and hymns, two chapel services and a full Sunday service. It annoyed me that only the Protestants had to attend chapel, all the other boarders having free time. After two years I persuaded my parents to send me to school in England with the proviso that it was near the sea, 100% boarder, with entrance exams and good science laboratories. I found that in the fourth form you still had to attend RS lessons, but only if you were a Protestant. During the first lesson the rather weak teacher was asking everyone

what they thought about the world being created in literally seven days. Really? My response of "Er, rubbish" meant that for the remaining two terms all reports and exams were awarded C3 without any input from me. RS plus Sunday services at a freezing cold very high Anglican church had me asking my father to declare me an atheist. It didn't happen. Come the Lower Sixth where church was no longer compulsory I signed up for the course and was Confirmed on 21st June 1970.

I attended church twice whilst at university, for all the wrong reasons.

For one service I had to attend a couple of Christian Union meetings the other was with a friend at Eton. Ulterior motive? Cliff Richard was leading the services.

After John and I were married at a church in Suffolk we headed back overseas. Our interaction with religion tended to be

visits to temples and mosques. David and Anita were born and were both christened in Newbury on various home leaves. Christianity and attending church didn't really enter our thoughts until our last overseas posting, in the Middle East. TV programmes were halted for prayers to be broadcast, in Arabic, except during "Children's Hour" when they were in English. I didn't want our young children to only see one side of religion, (we were not allowed to take a Bible with us), so it was down to St Audrey's for Sunday School and the



Parish Church for four months until we went out to join John. On returning to Keston the kids went back to Sunday School, I joined the Choir, served 10 years on the PCC and the rest is history.

I always remember mum saying that devout Catholics do not fear death as they know they will be with the Lord, which seems a good reason for our existence. It is why I light candles for departed loved ones and friends in any church/cathedral of any denomination with a votive candle holder, anywhere in the world. Oh, and there's nothing better than a Book of Common Prayer Evensong or service with bells and smells and, of course, traditional hymns.

Sandi Flynn

The Burning Coal



The Rector had noticed that an elderly gentleman of his congregation had been missing from church for a few weeks so he decided to pay him a visit. It

was a cold afternoon and the gentleman had a roaring fire burning in the hearth. The Rector was a man of few words but the two men sat in companionable silence enjoying the warmth of the fire. After a while the Rector took the fire tongs, picked a piece of burning coal from the fire and laid it on the hearth. It was red and fiery but as they watched it the coal began to lose its colour and its heat and gradually cooled and became dull looking. Then the Rector took his leave. The following Sunday the elderly gentleman was back in church.

The UK's Favourite Hymns

Jerusalem has been voted the UK's favourite hymn in a survey held by BBC's Songs of Praise. Members of the public chose from the 100 hymns that have featured most on the show over the past five years. *How Great Thou Art* and *In Christ Alone* came in second and third. Songs of Praise host Aled Jones made the announcement in a Songs of Praise special which was filmed at De Montfort Hall in Leicester. *Jerusalem* did not feature among the top 10 the last time the public voted in 2013.

The Top 10 hymns for 2019 were:

1. Jerusalem
2. How Great Thou Art
3. In Christ Alone
4. Dear Lord and Father Of Mankind
5. Abide With Me
6. I Vow To Thee My Country
7. Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer
8. Amazing Grace
9. Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord
10. I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Songs of Praise is on BBC1 at 1.15pm on Sundays, and also available on bbc.co.uk to watch retrospectively.



Christmas Carol service at Keston church

Church Services

CW = Common Worship H & W = With prayer for Healing & Wholeness

2nd February Presentation of Christ in the Temple

10.00am First Sunday Communion (*Shorter all age service*)

9th February 3rd Sunday before Lent

10.00am Holy Communion (CW)

Wednesday 12th February

10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

16th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

10.00am Holy Communion (CW) H & W

23rd February Sunday next before Lent

10.00am Holy Communion (CW)

Wednesday 26th February Ash Wednesday

10.30am Holy Communion (CW) with Ashing

1st March 1st Sunday of Lent

10.00am First Sunday Communion (*Shorter all age service*)

8th March 2nd Sunday of Lent

10.00am Holy Communion (CW)

Wednesday 12th March

10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

15th March 3rd Sunday of Lent

10.00am Holy Communion (CW) H & W

22nd March Mothering Sunday

29th March 5th Sunday of Lent

10.00am Holy Communion (CW)

From the Registers

Baptisms

17th November Fleur Mason (born 19/4/2019)

29th December India Elsie Jackson (born 1/10/2019)

Wedding

7th December Dennis John Sumner & Veronica Patricia Carnwath Carro

Funerals

7th November Samuel James McLean (aged 75 years)

27th November Major Dennis Knight (aged 99 years)

18th December William Bernard Branch (aged 90 years)

Interment of Ashes

10th November Paul Haskey (aged 75 years)

Car Park Improvement Scheme

Keston Parish Church Car Park Improvement Fundraising Target

£50,000



£800



£300



£2000



£250



£400



£5000



x36

Donate towards
Car Park Space



x6

Donate towards
Ornamental Trees



x4

Donate towards
Bench Seating



x3

Donate towards
Wood Sculptures



x2

Donate towards
Lighting



x1

Donate towards
Woodland Path



Donate towards
Area Clearance

£10 £25 £50

£75 £100 £200

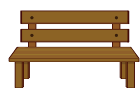
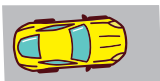
£500 £750 £1000



The elements depicted within this poster are for illustrative purposes only and are not an exact breakdown of where and how your donation will be spent. The amount allocated to each element is an estimated cost and this is just a fun mechanism for highlighting how much money has been raised throughout the process. .

We are very excited and pleased to be able to start the next process of our car park redevelopment, the fund raising.

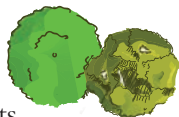
The illustration shown opposite is a replica of our poster which shows how we intend to extend the parking area and also repurpose the unkempt space behind, to create a woodland and reflective area with great views over the Vale of Keston. This area is intended not only for church goers, but also the wider community. We aim to create an area which will be conducive to spiritual reflection, quiet days, mindfulness and meditation practice and the enhancement of mental wellbeing.



To achieve the £50,000 required, we will be exploring the possibility of grants, match funding or commercial sponsorship, and will organise or support events to raise funds.

However, we would like to take this opportunity to appeal to you, our local community, to also be involved and make whatever donation you can to help us achieve our goal as quickly as possible.

So whether you are an occasional church goer, attend a class in our hall, are a visitor attending a Baptism, Wedding or Funeral, come to one of our many social events, pop in for a drink and toilet stop on the St Christopher's Fun Walk, are a passing cyclist, dog walker or horse rider who has seen our beautiful setting, we are praying for your generosity, (and if you are a tax payer, the bonus of getting a free 25% extra from Gift Aid).



Our Planning Application made note of the fact that, as a local parish church,

we are a resource for the local community. If you live in Keston parish you are entitled to have your Baptism, Wedding and Funeral in your church. We hire our halls for people to meet for social activities, clubs and classes and offer a place for families and large groups to have celebrations. We hope to continue to be here for future generations, as the church has been for past generations and we need the extra parking to make this community resource as easy to access as possible.



The poster displayed in church is just a fun illustrative way of keeping track of what elements we have achieved funds for and what we still need to achieve. You can allocate your donation to any of the elements included in the redevelopment which include the cost of parking spaces, ornamental trees, (a condition of the planning permission), woodland sculptures, seating, lighting, woodland pathway and the area clearance.



To donate, please BACS your donation to Keston Parish Church Acc. No. 30543683, sort code 20 05 57 referencing 'Car Park Fund' and, for us to claim Gift Aid, send an email to annabailey@sunnyfields.net with your house number, postcode and full name. Alternatively you can post a cheque, payable to Keston Parish Church, to Anna Bailey, Elm Gables, Westerham Road, Keston BR2 6HH. We can also process card donations at the church.

We do plan to acknowledge all donations with a thanksgiving event later in the year when the work is complete, so please be sure you give us your contact details. Thank you.

Radio 4 Thought for the Day

A member of the House of Lords has criticised the Radio 4 feature ‘Thought For The Day’, saying it has just become platitudes and limits religious people saying what they really believe. Lord Singh has said he will no longer fill the slot, which happens every day on the Today programme at 7.45am and features religious leaders and thinkers sharing a short, topical reflection with a philosophical or religious angle. The slot has often been criticised by former Today presenter John Humphreys, who said that Thought For The Day was pointless and discriminated against people without a religion and called for it to be scrapped.

Attacking it from the other end of the spectrum, Lord Indarjit Singh of Wimbledon, a Sikh and interfaith activist, said he was nearly prevented from broadcasting his thoughts about an executed Sikh guru who opposed the forced conversion of Hindus to Islam “because it might offend Muslims” and claimed he got the same response when he wanted to suggest that there was just one God. The cross-bench peer told The Times: “It was like saying to a

Christian that he or she should not talk about Easter for fear of giving offence to the Jews”.

Lord Singh persuaded the BBC to let him say what he wanted and there were no complaints. However, he has now quit the slot because he feels he can’t represent his faith fairly. He said: “The need for sensitivity in talking about religious, political or social issues has now been taken to absurd proportions, with telephone insistence on trivial textual changes right up to going into the studio, making it difficult to say anything worthwhile. The aim of ‘Thought for the Day’ has changed from giving an ethical input to social and political issues, to the recital of religious platitudes and the avoidance of controversy, with success measured by the absence of complaints. I believe Guru Nanak, (the founder of Sikhism), and Jesus Christ, who boldly raised social concerns while stressing tolerance and respect, would not be allowed near ‘Thought for the Day’ today”. He added that the BBC had “a misplaced sense of political correctness that pushes contributors to bland and unworldly expressions of piety that no one can complain about”.

Courtesy of Parish Pump

A Family Blessing

Lord, we ask you to bless this family... with a warm place by the fire
When the world is cold,
A light in the window when the way is dark,
A welcoming smile when the road is long,
A haven of love when the day is done.
For the blessing of this home we give thanks.

Celtic Blessing



"Orwell" when first built. Kitty Elder is seated on the left

James Robert Elder left his home at Orwell in Scotland in 1905 for work at Erith in Kent. From there James went to the Chivers Estate, Cambridgeshire and moved yet again in 1918 to become the Farm Bailiff at Blackness Farm – at that time arable and livestock. Before finally retiring in 1939 James purchased eight acres of land fronting Blackness Lane and built a bungalow to share with his wife Margaret Malia. Their son Matthew, (Matt), worked alongside his father and elder brother on the farm. In 1928 Matt married Katherine, (Kitty), Raines at Bromley and they started a long and happy life together. Their first priority was a home and a plot of land was agreed with his father in what had previously been the farm stackyard. The couple took a trip to view available possibilities at the Ideal Home Exhibition and on Stand 62 Browne and Lilly were displaying a wooden bungalow that could be supplied in kit

form with erection on site included in the cost! The couple purchased the display model and it became their home for the rest of their lives. On the spare land Matt introduced pigs and soon became known in the district as a successful pig farmer. The couple were both involved in parish life and Matt joined the Keston Parish Council Volunteer Fire Brigade as a fireman, the position coming with a very smart uniform and decorative brass helmet. Kitty also acquired a uniform in the War when she voluntarily joined the Civil Defence organisation.

The bungalow was demolished in July 2013 and still nailed to a large ridge beam was the original card giving details of the Stand and Manufacturer. There now stands a new dwelling on the plot of Matt and Kitty's home which still retains the original name "Orwell", which I am sure would please all those associated with that name!

Obituary

William Bernard Branch

20/10/1929-6/12/2019

Will's birth was immediately followed by the Great Depression; he always claimed the two events were completely unrelated! Home was modest rented rooms in West Ham and he was baptized at the local All Saints Church. At the age of nine Will was evacuated, originally to Playford Hall – an Elizabethan manor house in Suffolk complete with moat and chauffeur driven Rolls Royce, and later to Porthscatho, a small fishing village on the south coast of Cornwall. Here a teacher at the local village school saw potential in him and tutored Will in his own time which resulted in him passing the scholarship to grammar school. Returning from Cornwall Will attended Buckhurst Hill County High School in Essex and passed School Certificate with Matriculation.

At 16 he joined the Metropolitan Water Board training to be a draughtsman. National Service followed where Will was selected for officer training at Sandhurst, becoming a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. Having been responsible for taking troops across Europe aged just 19, he was then posted to Thessalonica in Greece during their Civil War.

Back home his weekends were consumed by his Vincent Comet 500 motorbike, upon which he wooed his future wife Josephine. Marrying in November 1956 they bought a house in Kemble Drive, from which Will never

moved. Their daughter Ann arrived a year later and son John four and a half years after his sister. With children attending Keston C of E Primary School the pinnacle of Will's sporting prowess saw him winning the Father's Race on Sports Day the year it involved entrants consuming doughnuts as they progressed down the course!

His work, now as a Civil Engineer, took him to the Middle East including Saudi Arabia and the UAE where, upon the discovery of oil, tiny oasis settlements in the middle of the desert soon became thriving metropolises.



Will had a long held passion for boating, being an active member of the Old Wilsonian Sailing Club on the River Medway, racing every weekend for many years and winning several trophies with his daughter as crew. He was also an extremely

accomplished photographer.

Together with his son, Will had a shared passion for Morgan sports cars lavishing much time and attention on his quintessentially English two seater, even to the point of installing central heating in his garage prior to having it put in his house!

In later years at Keston Parish Church, where Will was a Sidesman for more than a decade, he was extremely fortunate to meet Susan Hayes who, for the 15 years they spent together, became the love of his life. He was blessed with five grandchildren, two great grandchildren and much loved by us all.

John Branch

What I Do



Peter with Pike



Peter with Common Carp

I started fishing at Keston Ponds when I was eight years of age, it was my uncle, Jeff Shaw, that took me and got me interested. My first fishing rod was from Woolworth's in Petts Wood in 1975 – then it all started. I caught many roach, perch and tench and then on through the years jack pike, (up to about 3-4lb), and then bigger pike. In 1990 I caught the Keston monster pike weighing 25lb and it was nearly as long as me! What a nightmare it was to land, being stuck in the lilies. The News Shopper did a feature on it which brought a lot of people to Keston Ponds the following week to try and catch it themselves.

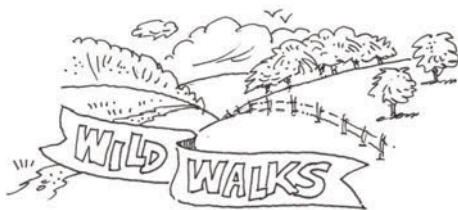
After all these years I still enjoy fishing at Keston Ponds, it is my favourite place even though I have fished in other places. I have made friends with others who fish there regularly and people recognise and stop and talk to you. At one stage I lived in Hastings but still used to come up when I could. I fish in all weathers and seasons – even in snow when I have had to look for a hole in the ice to fish in! Also at night sometimes.

When we land a fish we look after it, check it for disease and lice – which we

remove. If need be we put medication in their mouths to help the wound from the hook to heal up before returning them to the ponds. We really care for and respect the fish – some must be 50 years old.

The greatest challenge is to catch carp at Keston – it took me 40 years to catch my first one! Keston Ponds is one of the hardest places in the country to catch carp. The bait we use ranges from worms, maggots and sweetcorn to lob worms. Over the years I've hooked carp but they came off as the line gets tangled in the lilies or weed and snaps. I had never landed one till that foggy Wednesday morning in November 2019. It was my best day fishing ever, catching a 5lb mirror carp, (my friend Ginger Tom helped me to weigh it and did some photos), a 25lb common carp then another 25lb common carp and a 22lb popbelly common carp. I am very grateful to my friend Nick Turner who left work in Beckenham for a while to help me to land one of the commons. Then on the Friday I landed a 22lb black mirror carp. I will never forget those two days at Keston Ponds.

Peter Jeffrey



On Boxing Day last the good housewife and I journeyed through the wintry countryside of Kent to the charming little town of Crowborough; set high in East Sussex on the road leading to the Ashdown Forest.

We partook of a hearty meal with the Mr and Mrs Jeffs of that town and their two daughters. To wear off the effects of the wine and plum pudding a healthy walk was suggested whereupon daughter Megan, granddaughter Rhiannon and I set out,

The footpath became steadily more muddy

(suitably attired), for the three mile walk to Rotherfield. Ah, and the dog!

We made our way down to Jarvis Brook, (the clue being in the name), from whence a regular railway train will carry you to the great Metropolis.

From here we parted from the road and joined a footpath which, after climbing a little, entered a wintry wood which took us further down.

The footpath became steadily more muddy and how pleased we were that we had considered suitable footwear! Still down we went where great steps had been made in the path until we heard rushing water. Ahead was a

narrow wooden bridge below which, at about 40ft, rushed a great torrent of water on its way, (with numerous tributaries), to meet the river Medway near Groombridge; and thence to Penshurst and beyond.

Over the bridge we climbed steeply and emerged from the trees onto a great grassy field stretching upwards. We followed the muddy tracks until finally, in the gathering gloom, we were confronted with a high thick hedge! We felt lost but pressed on until there, in the diminished light, appeared a signpost pointing through the hedge. With much relief we had again joined the path.

All the while we could see the distant spire of Rotherfield church lit by a pale light and this became our beacon of hope.

Finally, with great relief and muddy boots we plodded into Rotherfield where we entered the fine hostelry of the King's Arms where we all partook of refreshments.

How did we return to Crowborough? Oh, a car collected us – efficient but not half the fun!

Richard Pickwick Geiger



Walking is...

Diet without denial, medicine without prescription, exercise without expense, travelling without pollution, and therapy without a coach. Try it!

Two Keston AGMs

1. The Friends of Keston Common AGM is on Wednesday 18th March in the Jubilee Room of Keston Village Hall from 7.30pm. The Chairman, Larry Herbert, will give an update on borough wide activity and it is hoped that our Ranger, Stephen Lofting from idverde, will give an update on site progress and plans, which should be interesting.
2. Keston Village Residents' Association AGM is on Thursday 26th March at 8pm in Keston Village Hall. After 10 years, David Clapham will be standing down as Chairman and Shelly Sturdy has offered to take on the role. There will be an update by Councillor Jefferys on health matters in Bromley and also the latest about the Heathfield Road plus information on the War Memorial Centenary Commemoration project.

WI News

A happy, healthy and peaceful New Year to you! Another year and another decade, what will this year hold?

Derek Griffin gave us an excellent talk on his job as Royal Protection Officer to the Queen and Prince Philip. He told us of the kidnap attempt of Princess Anne in 1974 when several people were shot. Also the intruder who sat on the Queen's bed – Michael Fagan. There were many anecdotes too! He was very good. Jennie Randall's subject for February is the V2 rocket attack on the Crooked Billet Pub. March will see us going back to Medieval times and cooking! Why don't you come and join us and enjoy our speakers? We meet in Keston Village Hall, at 2pm on the second Wednesday in the month.



Shirley Newman

Slimmer's Psalm

Strict is my diet, I must not want.
It maketh me to lie down at night, hungry,
It leadeth me to pass the refrigerator,
It tireth my will power,
It leadeth me in the paths of starvation for my figure's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the aisles of pastas,
I will buy no chocolate eclairs,
For they are fattening.
The cakes and pies they tempt me.
Before me is a table set with green beans and lettuce,
It filled my stomach with liquids,
My day's quota runneth over.
Surely, my calories and weight charts will follow me
All the days of my life,
And I dwell in the fear of the scales forever.

Taken from various Parish Magazines

Magazine Deadline

Please send copy for the April/May issue of The Keston Magazine to the Editor, Sally Churchus, by Sunday 8th March at the very latest by email to editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk or telephone 020 8462 8750. Thank you.

Laughlines

© A man who had just moved to a village walked into the local pub and ordered three beers, which he drank quietly at a table, alone.

Next day, the man came back to the pub and ordered three more beers. This happened again and again, until soon the village was whispering about the “Man Who Orders Three Beers”.

Finally, about a month later, the bartender broached the subject on behalf of everyone. “Ah”, said the man,

“You see, I have two brothers. Long ago one went to America and the other to Australia. We promised each other that we would always order two extra beers whenever we drank, as a way of keeping up the family bond”. The bartender and the whole village were pleased with this answer and he soon became a local celebrity.

Then, one day, the man came in and ordered only two beers. The bartender poured them with a heavy heart. The word flew round, and prayers were offered for the soul of one of the brothers. Next day, the bartender said to the man “Folks around here want to offer you our sincere condolences...”. The man pondered for a moment, then responded, “You’ll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well. It’s just that I, myself, have decided to give up drinking for Lent”.

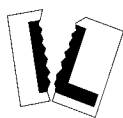


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