



The

# Keston Magazine

News of your Parish and Village

October/November 2021



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[krrsg@hotmail.com](mailto:krrsg@hotmail.com)

In his hand is the life of every living thing  
and the breath of all mankind.

*Job 12:10*

Front cover: View of bridge over third pond by Sally Churchus ©

# Thought for the month



## Harvest Abundance!

One word that comes to mind this year when thinking about Harvest time is ‘abundance!’. I’m sure you will have noticed that there has been a great abundance of growth in our gardens and in the parks and verges around us.

On a recent walk on our lovely common I came across a very large caterpillar, a large gold carp in the pond, the first seen acorn of the year and a vast change in the landscape due to the enormous re-growth that has taken place.

In spite of the restrictions in our own activities in the past year and the slow in the things we ourselves could participate in; this has most obviously not been the case with the natural world. We have also seen extremes in the natural world with floods and fires across the globe, which reminds us of our dependence on, and vulnerability to, nature.

There is a Bible verse that comes quickly to mind when thinking about abundance, John 10:10 records Jesus saying: “I have come that they may have an abundant life – a rich and satisfying

life”. We may still be living with some restrictions but we do have an abundance to be grateful for and can enjoy an abundant life even within limits!

This year we have had bumper crops but there are not enough pickers, for political and pandemic reasons, to bring the crops in – it seems such a crime to waste what has so abundantly been provided to us! It is still estimated that the average UK family throws out £700 worth of food a year.

Whilst we have been endeavouring to get to grips with a post-pandemic life, recovering from the effects of all that has happened in the past couple of years, the natural world has been growing exponentially. A blessing for us!

As we celebrate the Harvest Season in church, we can also remind ourselves of the abundance of life that is available to us in whatever form that might take. We are hoping to have a Harvest lunch together this year – a shared picnic, but at least an occasion when we can give thanks and show our gratitude for all that God has continued to provide for us, even in the strangest of times.

However we spend this Harvest time, may we enjoy the unkempt grass verges – even turning sadness to gladness! “Plant seeds of happiness, hope, success and love; it will all come back to you in abundance. This is the law of nature”, quotes Behavioural Scientist Steve Maraboli. Happy abundant Harvest time!

Carol

Rev'd Carol Morrison

## From the Editor



Thank you once again to those people who have contributed articles for this edition of the magazine. We have a lovely selection from

Wedding tales to Helpline volunteering and at long last some events to advertise.

But perhaps the thing that is foremost in my mind is the churchyard. We have recently paid to have extra work done clearing the incredible amount of growth that has been swamping the gravestones. It is nearly completed and all graves will soon be accessible. However, there is a trade off with this as it has been a haven for wildlife. Since this clearance I came across a gravestone I had not seen before, with a stone dove perched on the top of it. Reading the inscription I found out that it was for a five year old child – how heartbreaking for those parents.

It has become the ‘in thing’ to visit churchyards, and there is a new C of E initiative to create a Google maps type index for them, mapping every grave, headstone and memorial in England. What a job! You can read about a recent discovery in our own churchyard on page 15, in which I have been involved. It amazes me that there is always more to find out about Keston.

Sally Churchus

## Cover Story

I took this photo on 3rd November last year, while out on the Prayer Walk. The sunlight on the bridge over the third pond made a beautiful scene. Let’s hope we get some sunny autumn days!

## Magazine Donations

Thank you for another great year of donations towards the production of this magazine, and for returning your gift aid slips worth an extra 25%. We are still open for donations so it’s never too late to give.

Sally and the Parochial Church Council are always touched by how much the community appreciate reading the magazine and by our deliverers who are proud to distribute it.

Anna Bailey, Treasurer

## Coats Wanted

Keston Church are collecting your unwanted coats to donate to Wrap Up London, a scheme run by charity HandsOn London distributing warm coats to the homeless and people at risk during the winter. Please bring them to church any time from now until the last drop off date of 21st November. Alternatively, you can leave them in a back bag and deliver to Elm Gables, Westerham Road, Keston, BR2 6HH. Our Treasurer Anna Bailey has taken responsibility to deliver them to the charity collection point.

So this is your opportunity to go through your unwanted coats and donate them to a good cause, at very little inconvenience or cost to you. We know they will be appreciated and given new life by their end user. Thank you. See [wrapupuk.org](http://wrapupuk.org) for more information.

Anna Bailey





# Historic Holwood Walk and Talk

On Sunday 10th October, starting at 2.30pm, Dr Brian Philp, M.B.E., Director of Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit, will lead a walk through the Holwood Estate. We will learn of the impact of the Roman occupation, explore the Iron Age hill fort, the site of the medieval tile kiln and discover the close connections Holwood has to William Wilberforce and William Pitt the Younger.

For those wishing to travel by car we suggest parking in either of the Keston Common car parks, (Heathfield Road or Westerham Road opposite the lodge), and entering the estate through the private gate off the public footpath, which is near the new roundabout on Westerham Road and Heathfield Road and runs through Holwood. Someone will be at the footpath gate to let people in and give directions where to go. Otherwise, if arriving on foot enter through the main drive opposite Fishponds Road and follow the signs.

We suggest that suitable footwear is worn as we will be walking on rough ground. We regret that we are unable to accommodate dogs.

Unfortunately we have to limit numbers, so to reserve a place please telephone or text 07939 122174. Thank you.



Pitt's oak



Wilberforce seat



Medieval tile kiln before being covered

**‘Of the hundreds of thousands of artefacts found by the archaeologists, not one has ever been discovered that contradicts or denies one word, phrase, clause or sentence of the Bible’. Dr J.O. Kinnaman  
(American biblical scholar and biblical archaeologist).**

# Thanks from Deepak and Susannah



Closing day for the Village Stores

On Sunday 18th July a presentation was made to Deepak and family by Shelley Sturdy, Chair of Keston Village Residents' Association, on behalf of the parish as this was the closing date for the Village Stores. Deepak, Susannah and the girls would like to pass on their sincere thanks for your generosity. They were overwhelmed by the £790 that was collected which has provided them with the opportunity to buy a much wanted big fridge/freezer. Deepak said every time they open the door to get out milk and eggs they will be reminded of Keston!

## Heathfields

Wow! We can't quite believe it's nearly a year since we opened the doors of Heathfields for the first time last November. It seems such a long time since we started with take away only during lockdown.

Since then we have encountered ever changing rules but we have made it and

are glad to have settled into a more stable routine. We were delighted to receive our five star food hygiene award back in August... and we are now open every day plus Friday and Saturday evenings for Tapas which are proving to be increasingly popular.

It's been an extremely tough period for many people and small businesses and we are overwhelmed by the support of the village and our wonderful team.

For those that don't know, following the closure of the Village Stores we are offering basic essentials on a pre order basis. (Please order by 2pm for collection the next day by emailing [hello@heathfieldskeston.co.uk](mailto:hello@heathfieldskeston.co.uk) or phone 07825 981647). However, if you are caught short you are welcome to pop in for milk, eggs etc. on the off chance and if possible we will do our best to accommodate!

Thank you again and hopefully see you, your families and dogs soon.

Paul and Gail



### HEATHFIELDS GROCERY PRICE LIST

MILK 2 PINTS	£1.00
MILK 4 PINTS	£2.00
OAT MILK	£2.20
ORANGE JUICE 1 LITRE	£3.50
KENT FREE RANGE EGGS X 6	£1.20
GRANARY BREAD	£2.20
LARGE SOURDOUGH LOAF	£4.50
KENT SMOKED BACON 6 RASHERS	£2.75

OTHER ITEMS UPON REQUEST

ORDER BEFORE 2PM FOR NEXT DAY COLLECTION FROM 8.30AM  
[HELLO@HEATHFIELDSKESTON.CO.UK](mailto:HELLO@HEATHFIELDSKESTON.CO.UK)



# Farewell to Olive!



The morning service at Keston Parish Church on July 25th was a rather poignant affair. It was the first time since March 2020 that the congregation had been able to join in with the singing of the hymns. Although the sound of singing was somewhat muffled by having to wear a mask it was good to sing the praises of the Lord with hymns that referred to singing – Let all the world in every corner sing, O for a thousand tongues to sing and Give me joy in my heart keep me praising.

It was also the occasion when we publicly marked the retirement of Olive Hayler from the church choir.

The date when Olive started singing in the church choir is lost in the mists of time. She was certainly in the choir when I was appointed as Organist and Choirmaster in 1978. Olive was often then referred to as the new girl(!), so it is thought she joined in the mid 70s. This would mean that

Olive has given nearly 50 years of loyal service to the choir.

To mark this amazing length of service we presented Olive with a Royal School of Church Music Long Service certificate and an engraved Long Service medal. It is a tradition in our church choir that leaving members are presented with an original Richard Geiger card. Richard excelled himself with a farewell card that referenced Olive's other love, that of going on cruises! We also gave Olive some flowers and, because she loves it so, the famous and wonderful coffee and walnut cake made by our esteemed Editor.



I know that Olive will greatly miss singing in choir, for it has been one of the joys of her life. Olive has particularly fond memories of singing at Rochester Cathedral in 1980s and in lots of Carol Services, performing carols by John Rutter.

Thank you, Olive, for all your loyal service to the choir and Keston Parish

Church. We hope you have many years ahead of you continuing to “keep... praising” from your pew in the church.

David Cook



# Church Events for all

## Prayer Walks

We meet on the green opposite The Greyhound pub at 9.30am on the first Tuesday and third Wednesday of the month. We usually return about 11am. All welcome.

## Book Reading Fellowship

We meet on a Monday afternoon about every six weeks to discuss the books we have read with a Christian content. It is an informal group and we enjoy tea and cakes! Please contact Sally Churchus [editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk) for details.

## Men's Group

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 7pm at the Greyhound Pub. We enjoy an evening of social chat, a few drinks and some also eat a meal. The venue was originally chosen just as a meeting place to discuss future activities for the group but – to date – we have stuck to our current format of drinks, food and talk. All men are welcome, you don't have to be a church goer. You can contact Martin Becker on 07484 609102 for more details.

## Autumn Prayer

Dear Loving, Father God,

As the season changes and we enjoy the beautiful colours of autumn, there are other changes which we don't enjoy. Changes we cannot control; changes and suffering in the world, beyond our comprehension; changes to our work routines, or health, or circumstances; changes which cause us anxiety and uncertainty.

When everything seems to be falling around us like the autumn leaves, help us, Lord, to remember that you stand firm. You are our rock.

You never change. You are always faithful, always with us, as we move into each new day and each new season.

Thank you for loving us so much that you gave us Jesus, so that by putting our trust in Him, we can know the security of your love, for ever!

In His name, we thank you, Sovereign Lord. Amen.

*Daphne Kitching*



# One of my Favourite Hymns/ Worship Songs



What a tricky question – what is my favourite hymn or worship song? It's like asking a chocoholic what is your favourite sweet – that changes from week to week, a Twirl one week, then Maltesers the next!

Basically I love all the hymns and worship songs, and they are a very important part of my worship at church. During my training as a Licensed Lay Minister I even had to prepare a sermon on a hymn, which was chosen by someone else.

I swing from the traditional Charles Wesley hymns, to the modern Gospel songs, and everything in between. Take just a few – Amazing Grace, At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, For the beauty of the earth, Meakness and Majesty, I the Lord of sea and sky, Father God I wonder how I managed

to exist, and Love divine – all very special.

My choice this week is one that many of you will not have heard, but I do encourage you to have a quick search on the internet, and listen to it. The words are so simple, it could be used as a prayer, and I try to live my life through these words.

It was written back in 1987 by an American Pastor based in Denver, Colorado called Jude Del Hierro. The words are so simple –

More Love, more power  
More of You in my life  
More love, more power,  
More of you in my life.

*And I will worship You with all my heart,  
And I will worship You with all my mind,  
And I will worship You with all of my  
strength, For You are my Lord.*

And I will seek Your face with all of my heart,  
And I will seek Your face with all of my mind,  
And I will seek Your face with all of my strength,  
For you are my Lord, You are my Lord.

Keston Church is now able to hold Wedding services and we have had some beautiful weddings following lockdown back in church, and how happy and excited I was to see that a lovely couple from our congregation chose this actual song to be sung at their wedding – thank you Chris, Danielle and Eadie – a brilliant choice!

Tricia Coward

# From the Registers

## Weddings

24th July	Nicola Jordan and Joshua Walling
7th August	Danielle Wood and Christopher Mead
30th August	Alexandra Horgan and Edward Turner

## Baptisms

7th August	Danielle Caroline Wood (born 3/1/85) Eadie Mae Mead (born 7/5/20)
14th August	Summer Charlotte Zoe Range (born 14/6/21)
15th August	Toby John Peter Mendham (born 25/3/20)
29th August	Florrie Emmi Joy Lawrence (born 29/9/19)
5th Sept	Imogen Louise Akers (born 25/8/20)

## Funerals

13th August	Victor Charles Dallanegra (aged 78 years)
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## Memorial Service

23rd August	Miriam Rogers (aged 95 years)
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## Burial of Ashes

21st August	Joan Tegerdine Ann Bickford William Ernest Thorne and Ethel Thorne
23rd August	Miriam Rogers

## Renewal of Marriage Vows

28th August	Sharon and Paul Turner
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The chancel at Harvest time around 1960. Thanks to Chris Bishop for the photo.



# Church Services



Services are at 10am on Sundays and booking is no longer required. We are pleased to be back to singing again although we still wear masks. Please do join us for worship.

## Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating Harvest Festival on Sunday 3rd October during our 10am service, which will be a Family Service without communion. We will be holding a collection, (of cash please), to go to Welcare in Bromley, our local charity for needy families, unfortunately they are currently unable to deal with the supermarket vouchers that we usually give. We will also be collecting items for Bromley Borough Foodbank that they are currently particularly short of: bags for life, cooking sauce, UHT milk, 500g bags of rice, sugar free sweets, adults' and childrens' toothbrushes and toothpaste, male and female deodorant and conditioner. (They do NOT need pasta, baked beans, cereals and baby milk).

Instead of our usual Harvest Lunch we are all invited to bring a picnic to enjoy together at 1pm, but we will provide some home made cakes. Hopefully we will be outdoors in the

churchyard, but if need be can retreat inside the church hall. Everyone is welcome to join us.

## Remembrance

Join us on Sunday 14th November at 10am for a short, (non communion), church service at Keston Parish Church. We then meet at the Village Sign opposite The Greyhound pub at about 10.30am and leave at 10.40am to walk quietly up to the War Memorial where prayers will be said, the two minutes silence observed and wreaths laid.

## Service for the Bereaved

Going through grief is sometimes described as a journey. Like a journey, it is a process and so involves changes over time. But, unlike most journeys, it doesn't really have a clear end point. Each grief journey is unique, affected by many things, and the process of grief takes longer for some people than for others.

We sometimes need an opportunity to let go of some of our grief. This year we offer the chance to come together to do those things. Keston Parish Church is holding a Service of Remembrance for the Bereaved at 3pm on Sunday 7th November, to which all are invited. There will be a short service of hymns and prayers with the chance to light a candle in memory of our loved ones and a list of their names will be read out.

If you would like someone's name added to the list please email Tricia on [kestonconsult@btconnect.com](mailto:kestonconsult@btconnect.com). After the service we can share tea, cakes and company in the church hall.

# Not the wedding we had counted on...



Chris and Danielle during the service with Rev'd Carol Morrison

We will forever remember our marital 'eureka moment' – the moment Danielle and I knew exactly how, when and where we wished to be betrothed. It was whilst sitting in one of Plymouth's most beautiful churches as we attended our closest friends' wedding on 28th December 2018 – some five months after our own engagement – that Danielle and I knew instantly that we, too, longed for our wedding to be in the presence of God and with our families and community that we so dearly cherished.

It was from that moment on – for two years – that we set about meticulously planning our special day. With our mutual appreciation, some may suggest obsession, for numerically even digits, we decided that the year 2020 was going

to be the perfect time for us to tie the proverbial knot.

After having weathered some relentlessly challenging times, August 2020 was going to be 'our year' – the year of putting our love and goal of being a family, first. 2020 promised to be a fresh start – a new era of hope, joy and unity. Something to look forward to and something that would herald the dawn of a new venture for us as we embarked on our forever lives together. We were blithely unaware that we had selected the worst possible time to exchange our forever 'I will's'.

With no knowledge of how the pandemic would unravel in the days, weeks or even months to come and at a time when restrictions were infantile and lockdowns unheard of, we took the



heart-breaking yet seemingly foolhardy decision to postpone our wedding to the following year, setting a revised date of 7th August 2021. Trying desperately not to dwell on the fact that this new date was indeed not the even number we had envisaged, we took solace in the fact that we had one another, we had our faith, our love and that our family would soon grow to three with the arrival of our daughter, Eadie, in May 2020.

At the time, this felt the wisest of options as we wanted, perhaps rather naively, to have the best day possible once the pandemic had become a 'distant memory'. We recall our stubborn determination in not having our day overshadowed by an unwelcome visitor. We were not prepared to say our 'I wills' through surgical, NHS approved Grade A masks. We were not willing to share this special moment with loved ones at a two-metre distance – not able to embrace one another and rejoice. We were adamant that nothing would stand in the way. Therefore, August 2021 it would have to be.



Finally husband and wife!



Chris and Danielle with Eadie

As lockdowns and restrictions came and went and our big day loomed closer with no sign that the virus would bid farewell, we chopped our guest list by two thirds to guarantee the go ahead. It was an excruciating task made worse when companies began cancelling our bookings with just weeks to go.

Still, we were determined to forge on and make the most of it, and with the generosity of the community, friends and family, we managed to get our wedding back on track where, on Saturday 7th August 2021, Danielle and I finally became husband and wife! The day was spiritual and overwhelmingly emotional in equal measure and made more so through the baptising of Eadie and Danielle as part of the same ceremony.

Despite the day being shaped by adversity, the challenges it faced along the way were not successful in detracting from what we was most important to us: love. For this alone, we will feel forever blessed.

Chris and Danielle Mead

*Photos by Kate Hennessey Photography*

# Obituary

**Mary Marguerite Ormond**

**18/12/1923-19/7/2021**



Mary Ormond, (née Hopkins), died peacefully at home on Monday 19th July surrounded by her children. She had been living at Bradfield, Leafy Grove since 1933.

Born in York in 1923, the daughter and middle child of Hollis and Elsie Hopkins, and at the early age of five the whole Hopkins family moved to Cairo when her father, (a bridge engineer), got a job with the Egyptian State Railway. During that time she was educated by a governess.

On returning from Cairo in 1933, Hollis Hopkins bought Bradfield, Leafy Grove. Mary attended Baston School then, and at the beginning of the war was evacuated to West Kent College. She then attended Ravensbourne Art College in 1941 but only for a year. Mary left and worked on the land at Crow's Farm across the valley near Coney Hall.

At the end of the war she met her husband-to-be Jonty Ormond at a neighbour's house. They agreed to meet

under the clock in Calais and travel to Sarajevo where Jonty joined a group of volunteers to help rebuild the hospital there.

They got married in 1947 and had their first child, (Kimball), in 1948, living in a bungalow in the grounds of Bradfield. By 1952, they had two more children, (Peter and Lesley), and Jonty built Ormondene in Leafy Grove next door to Bradfield. He then got a job as a mining engineer in Malaya so the whole family left and lived in a mining village until there was an "Emergency" conflict and the family returned home to Ormondene in 1957 where Mary had her fourth child, Kate.

By 1958 Jonty got a job in South Wales so the family moved again. In 1960, Jonty's job then moved to Nigeria where they lived for three years – except the two eldest boys, Kim and Peter who stayed behind at boarding school in Devon. The family returned in 1963 when Mary's fifth child, (Michael), was born.

Over the following years life was fairly busy – taking in lodgers from Seismograph Ltd. (from their base in Holwood) who were returning engineers from various parts of the world, some of whom remain friends even today. (She even nursed one through a particularly nasty bout of malaria!).

Finally, three siblings built their homes around Bradfield where they brought up their children and her grandchildren – all going to Keston Primary School (three generations!). Peter moved to Australia but Kate has moved back to Keston in recent years.

Kimball Ormond

# Mystery Tombstone



Brian lifting and turning stone over for the first time



The stone with some writing just about legible



New replacement stone over the stopcock

Brian Philp, Director of the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit writes: Following your report that the gardener had uncovered a large stone block in the churchyard of Keston Parish Church, which he thought was Roman, you very wisely contacted me so this could be examined. This was done in late August.

“Our inspection suggested that this was the back of a reused headstone, which on close inspection had been used as a cover for a stopcock for an adjacent water hosepipe. (Next to the large Yew tree). On carefully turning it over we were delighted to find a rather worn inscription. We could just make out the name Wood and the word brazier. Its style suggested to me a date of about 1750.

After replacing the stone my team later carried out some research. This revealed that a John Wood, who was described in the old register as a brazier, had been buried in the churchyard in 1742. He is listed as from Cudham

Lodge. A brazier made copper vessels for a range of uses working from copper over a brazier, hence the name. We later moved the headstone near to the door to the church hall while we consider where to put it, and replaced it with a modern slab.

This little event suddenly alerts us all to a man who must have lived and died in the Keston area nearly 280 years ago, but who like so many other good parishioners has fallen from memory. He had disappeared, like perhaps another 1,000 others resting in the churchyard, from memory only now being suddenly revealed by accident. It reminds us that these were all living people, with families, friends, jobs and important lives taking an active part in the community in exactly the same way as we do today. Sadly, it also means that we do not now know exactly where he was buried, but he will be in good company”.



# Keston in Wartime and Post War Austerity 1939-1955



31, Heathfield Road

Our website at Bromley Borough local History Society recently received an interesting enquiry from Frances Lake, (née Clarke), who having returned after living many years in South Africa was researching events surrounding the explosion of a VI 'flying bomb' at Keston on 24th July 1944 that directly involved her family. It landed in Lakes Road demolishing many of the terraced houses on the south side and damaging most of the other houses on both sides of the road. Fortunately, this occurred around 6.20pm when most people were likely to be at home, amazingly the death toll was limited to four. The headmaster wrote a very mundane entry in the school log book for that day, *'damage to the Village no children injured'*.

The afternoon of the 24th, Frances' grandmother, Daisy Frost, was living at

'Oakdene', 31 Heathfield Road, with her daughter, Mrs Ena Kathleen Clarke and new arrival to the family, Kenneth, who was three days old. The rear garden to the house backs those of Lakes Road and with no barrier to the bomb blast there were inevitable consequences. Ena resting with the baby in the back bedroom was blown out of bed and showered with glass fragments from the shattered window, a glass mirror and a broken wardrobe; she and the baby were taken to Farnborough hospital to have the glass splinters removed. The house was considered uninhabitable and the family was moved to various temporary housing including 'Priors' on Jackass Lane at the bottom of Fox Lane. Frances later discovered that her parents received £114 compensation for the personal loss at the time and although her Nanna received compensation for damage to the property, years later she was still complaining it was 'not enough'.

On leaving Keston School in 1936 Ena had followed her passion for dogs and become a kennel maid at Walthamstow before joining the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, (WAAF),



Frances with older brother Kenneth  
outside their home Unit 17,  
Hayes Common Camp  
*Courtesy of Frances Lake née Clarke*

in April 1942 where she began her training as an ambulance driver at Bridgnorth, Shropshire. Eighteen months later in December 1943 she married Aircraftsman William Robert Clarke, (Bob), of Bow, East London, at Keston Parish Church and in 1944 was discharged from the WAAF on compassionate grounds being pregnant with her first child. In that year Bob was serving with the RAF, stationed in Henlow and shortly after training was selected to go to Kabrit, Suez Canal Zone. Ena described her time in the WAAF as the happiest years of her life because of the camaraderie.

Soon after the armistice in May 1945 the heavy artillery gunsite on Hayes Common opposite St Audrey's Church, (now Commonsides car park), was closed and the barrack blocks were used to house aircraftsmen stationed at Biggin Hill Airfield. Following Bob's demobilisation at Christmas 1945 the family returned to live at 'Oakdene' for a short time. Then in 1948 after the Ministry of Defence released the site for civilian use and following refurbishment work, the Clarke family, now with a second baby, Frances, needed rehousing and found themselves occupying Unit 17 at the Camp; some time later they moved to a larger hut, Unit 19 and remained there until early 1954. The huts were single brick walled buildings with corrugated roofing with a free standing stove for heating. The only source of hot water available was in a separate communal wash house block. The rent was 15 shillings, (75p), per week including light and hot water. The registers held in Keston School archives record that in most years until 1955,



Commonsides car park

some children gave 'Hayes Common Camp' as their home address; when it was finally closed and returned to Common land, ten years after the end of war.

Having been moved out of the Camp the family were allocated temporary housing at 'The Cottage', Hill House, 16 Heathfield Road. The latter had no electrical supply and Frances recalled that the accumulator used to power the radio had to be transported regularly to the local garage to be recharged. The housing problem for those bombed out of their homes was only one of the privations faced by the civilian population who lived under strict rationing of food, clothing and fuel for most of these years. The highlight of the week for Frances was when her father returned from work on a Friday having been paid and the children were allowed to go to the newsagent's shop on Heathfield Road to choose a sweet treat.

Tudor Davies

**Sources:** Childhood Memories of Frances Lake née Clarke

Research undertaken by Edward Williams and Peter Zieminski for their forthcoming book *'Keston and the Second World War'*  
BBC History: *World War 2 People's War*  
Keston School archive

# What I Do

## Helpline Volunteer

When I retired I was keen to dedicate some of my newly found free time to a worthy cause and ‘do my bit’ for the community. What luck to have found an ideal post that matches my skills and interests perfectly! I work one day a week for YoungMinds, a charity that is leading the fight to make sure that all young people can get the mental health support they need, when they need it, no matter what. YoungMinds addresses issues on many fronts, from lobbying government to fundraising, but my role is on the Parents Helpline.

There are many excellent services that support children and young people directly – Childline being one of the most widely recognised – but the YoungMinds Parents Helpline is unique in offering support to the prime carer. When a young person is having a hard time with their mental health they will often turn to an adult in their life that they trust. It can be tough to suddenly feel that you need to be counsellor or psychotherapist to a child who is struggling to cope with life, and this is where the Parents Helpline comes in.

When I pick up a call I never know quite which mental health issue I will be speaking about, but the top five concerns are anxiety, depression, suicide, self-harm and anger issues. Sometimes parents are grateful for a sympathetic ear, or may benefit from signposting to an appropriate specialist

organisation, but we also pride ourselves on giving practical advice on what to do next. I might be able to help a parent to understand their child’s behaviour, suggest ways in which to strike up a constructive conversation with a teenager or what support a parent can reasonably expect from school if a child is suffering with anxiety. If a caller needs clinical advice then I can arrange for one of our qualified mental health professionals to call a parent for a free, 50 minute telephone consultation.



I have worked on the helpline for six years now and prior to lockdown I would travel into the main London office once a week. With excellent timing our remote working was launched just in time to run the helpline at full capacity throughout the pandemic. With my trusty laptop and comfy earphones I can safely and securely take

calls from my study at home. Microsoft Teams means that I’m constantly in touch with my supervisors who respond immediately to any questions I have or to take over a crisis or safeguarding call.

Young people’s mental health is an urgent issue facing the UK today and I am delighted to have found a way to use my experience as a teacher, parent and grandparent, together with the excellent training and up-to-the-minute resources that YoungMinds provides to make a difference to many young people’s lives. To access this service please visit our website at [youngminds.org.uk](https://www.youngminds.org.uk) for further information.

Jackie McIntosh



# What I Collect

## The Badge Bug



How does a collection begin? In my case a small book on British Army Badges from my older sister and brother at the end of the war! Once my interest in military badges and insignia was known, family friends and those returning from Active Service were happy to pass on their badges. The details of these gifts were then checked against the book illustrations, ticked off and safely stored in a wooden box where they remained for some years whilst other interests took over. It was meeting with my wife's grandfather that revived my interest in the military. As a Stretcher Bearer in the Great War he had acquired many badges throughout the conflict and during visits to his home he would relate some of his experiences, but not all the terrible things he had seen as some episodes were just too painful. In time he handed over the bag containing his badges and they joined those already in the wooden box. It seemed a shame to keep them

hidden away so a suitable display case was purchased and with the badges polished and mounted on dark green felt the collection looked most impressive.

The 'bug' had struck and with a more comprehensive reference book it became clear that there were an untold number of badges to be discovered; Infantry, Cavalry, Territorial Forces, Corps and many more. So the hunt began and although I knew I would never find all those illustrated the fun would be in the search! A new badge could be found anywhere, at junk shops, boot fairs, charity shops as well as up-market military fairs in boxes of odds and ends, with of course, some haggling over the price! As the collection grew a large display cabinet was needed and this came in the form of an old notice-board with glass doors, cleaned, polished and green felt backing it made an ideal space for the rapidly expanding collection. Apart from

acquiring the cap badges, researching the history behind them was a way of bringing history to life! Their design might show Country emblems and battle honours are displayed on many badges, others leave no doubt as to the Unit they are representing.

There was one set of badges, shoulder titles and buttons I was determined to find – my Father's Regiment, The West Kent Cyclist Battalion which became the 1<sup>st</sup> Kents on arrival in India in 1916 – so two lots of insignia to discover! Eventually I found all the items apart from one small button. I attended the Old Comrade's Regimental Dinner at Maidstone where one of the last surviving cyclists gave me the missing link! All these went into a special display case along with his three Campaign medals. Having achieved my aim and no more available room but happy with my collection, I turned to another collecting craze – but that's another story!

Keston Resident



Father's Army Service

## Lemon Curd Recipe



### Ingredients

4 lemons  
5 eggs  
4oz. fresh butter  
1lb sugar

- 1) Grate the rind from the lemons very thinly after washing and then juice them.
- 2) Beat the eggs.
- 3) Put eggs, lemon rind and juice and butter with the sugar into the top of a double saucepan. Stir until the sugar has dissolved, and the mixture cooks and thickens.
- 4) When the mixture is thick, strain into small sterilised pots and cover immediately.

**Note:** As homemade lemon curd contains a liberal proportion of eggs, it should be made in small quantities and only kept for a short time. **KEEP IN THE FRIDGE.** It is less sweet than shop bought lemon curd.

Recipe kindly shared by Pam Broughton

**Wild Walks** writer, Richard Geiger will be back with more tales in the next issue – hopefully!

# Church minister was inspiration behind 'Great Escape'

A Church of Scotland minister nicknamed 'Padre Mac' has been named as the inspiration behind the Great Escape.

The Rev'd Professor Murdo Ewen Macdonald's "fiery sermons" motivated the famous breakout of a German Prisoner of War camp in March 1944, according to an author. Dr Linda Barker said the Great Escape is often heralded as a plan masterminded by English officers, and the theme tune to the 1963 film of the same name is sung by England football fans.

The theologian has been given credit for a minor role in hiding tunnel sand in

**Padre Mac, may have been the 'inspiration that led to many great escapes'**

the famous break-out over the course of a year. However, the historian claims his influence was possibly far more significant, as he had previously made his own escape while in transit to a PoW camp.

He was a chaplain for the men of Stalag Luft III, including RAF Squadron Leader Roger Bushell, who has always been known as the mastermind of the Great Escape.

Dr Parker is the author of *Nearer My God to Thee: Airborne Chaplains in the Second World War*, which examines the



full story of padres who accompanied the airborne forces to all theatres of war between 1942-1945.

"Murdo Ewen Macdonald, known as Padre Mac, may have been the 'inspiration that led to many great escapes' during the Second World War," she said. "He was moved to Stalag Luft III, where the Great Escape would take place in March 1944. Here, he befriended Roger Bushell, and Harry 'Wings' Day, both instigators and organisers of the Great Escape.

As a chaplain, he would have had access to all the troops and would have been able to speak with them, in confidence, to motivate them with the story of his own escape attempt".

*Courtesy of Parish Pump*

## Love

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope and patience never fail. Love is eternal.

*From 1 Corinthians Chapter 13*



# Magazine Deadline

Please send copy for the December/January 2022 issue of The Keston Magazine to the Editor, Sally Churchus, by 7th November at the very latest. Email [editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk) or Tel: 020 8462 8750. Thank you.

# Laughlines

☺ **Double Booked** A mate has two tickets in a corporate box for England v Ireland on Saturday. He didn't realise it was the same day as his wedding, so he is looking for someone to take his place. It's at Chelsea Registry Office at 4pm. The bride's called Sarah, she is 5' 4", pretty and a really good cook!

☺ I left my wife because she was obsessed with counting... I wonder what she's up to now?

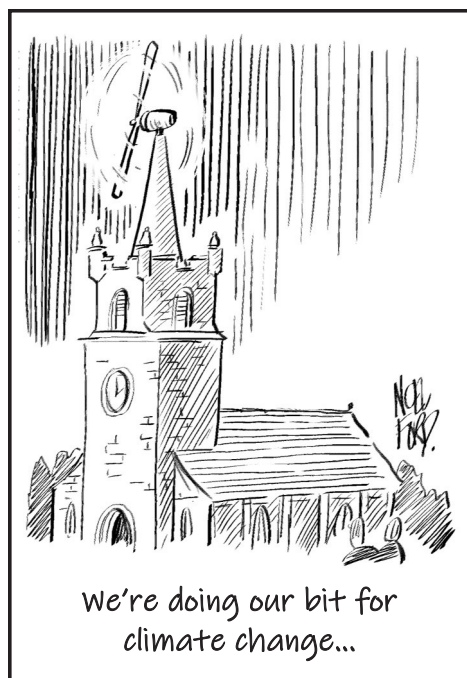
☺ My wife said she's leaving because I'm obsessed with supermarkets..."Do you want help with your packing?" I said.

☺ **Wet floor** A police officer called the station on his radio. "I need backup here. The Vicar's wife shot her husband for stepping on the floor that she had just mopped".

"Have you arrested the woman?"

"Not yet, Sarge. The floor's still wet!"

☺ A small boy said to his mother, "When I grow up, I'm going to marry you!". "No," his big sister interrupted, "You can't marry your own mother!". "Then I'll marry you!" he said. "No," she replied, "you can't marry someone from our family". "Uggh!" he said. "Do you mean I have to marry a stranger?"



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