

The

Keston Magazine

News of your Parish and Village



December/January 2022

Keston Parish Church

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



Rector

Rev'd Carol Morrison

01689 853186

rector@kestonparishchurch.org.uk

Days working for Keston Parish: Sunday to Wednesday

Licensed Lay Minister & Parish Administrator Churchwarden

Tricia Coward

01689 854373

hallbookings@kestonparishchurch.org.uk

Neil Morrison

07900 081696

warden@kestonparishchurch.org.uk

Verger

Patricia Geiger

01959 574008

Treasurer

Anna Bailey

01689 852583

Organist & Choirmaster

David Cook

020 8289 5768

Church Hall

Tricia Coward

01689 854373

hallbookings@kestonparishchurch.org.uk

Magazine Editor &

Sally Churchus

020 8462 8750

Book Reading Fellowship

editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk

Keston Singers

Pam Robertson

01689 856318

Beavers/Cubs/Scouts

gsl27thbromley@gmail.com

Residents' Association

www.kvra.org.uk

Village Hall

Tina Lupton

01689 602993

Bless the Children

Jean 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

krrsg@hotmail.com

So the Word became human and made his home among us.
He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.

John 1:14

Front cover: View over top pond by Larry Herbert ©

Thought for the month



A Christmas Home

You've probably heard the sayings: 'Home is where the heart is' and 'Home Sweet Home!' Homes means so much to us, especially in the past couple of years when we've been confined to them for long periods of time. Some people have moved home now that their working life has altered, some realising how much a garden or other open space means to the wellbeing of their family.

Home is where we have an emotional attachment and may be where we remember feeling safe and loved. Some have made a home for themselves in later life, because their childhood home wasn't safe or filled with love.

One aspect of the Christmas narrative is the 'home' God chose for the little baby Jesus to be born. For someone who was to become such an important figure in the world's history, the original home was a very interesting choice! It is pictured as a home meant for animals, the stable. If you study more deeply, it is actually thought that it was more likely to have been a cave!

Whichever is more accurate, one thing we can deduce from this home in which Jesus was born, is that it was the most simple of homes. Of course, it was only a temporary place where Mary and

Joseph found themselves due to having to travel into the area for the census. But, nevertheless, the little family would have had to stay there for long enough for Mary to be fit to travel on a donkey again!

This 'home' may be an important piece of the story of Christmas – and even an overlooked message from God, especially in light of the recent COP26 Conference. To call somewhere home, it doesn't have to be extravagant, full of luxurious furnishings which can be changed when we tire of the colour or filled with components that rob the earth of health and life.

Our home can still be where our heart is and a very sweet place to be loved and safe without the many trappings of this modern world that do little to safeguard the universe that God so loved, and which inspired God to live among us in the form of Jesus.

Jesus was born in that simple first home because of love – we know the famous verse – John 3:16: *'God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life.'* The original Greek word for 'world' was 'Kosmos', God sent Jesus for all creation – insects, cows, foxes, flowers, mountains, oceans, forests – and all that lives within them and depends on them – and for humans in all their glorious variety.

This Christmas may our homes be filled with love – for each other and for all that God has made.

Carol

Rev'd Carol Morrison

From the Editor

At the time of writing, another year has almost slipped by and I have been putting details of events for 2022 in this edition. At least there are events again now, and for that we must be grateful. We also have a page of ‘Thank You’s’ to people in our community, which I hope will be an ongoing series.

I recently read an article in the newspaper by Matthew Syed talking about gratitude. He says ‘Instead of directing our gratitude to the stuff – material and non-material – that furnishes our life, I wonder if we would do better to reflect upon the miracle on which these things are constructed: the fact of existence itself. To be alive when we might have never lived – isn’t this the greatest mystery and the most confounding gift? To co-opt the line of one of my favourite hymns: “It is a thing most wonderful almost too wonderful to be!”’. He also talks about his father’s constant amazement at “the gift of life” and of a palliative care nurse observing that often dying people regret that they didn’t embrace the preciousness of life while there was still time. That they lived... as if life were a dress rehearsal. Thought provoking stuff.

I pray that we will not lose the wonder of the preciousness of life in the busyness and rush of Christmas or during the coming year, whatever it may bring.

Sally Churchus



Deluge of Coats Donated!



Further to our write up in the last magazine, we have been overwhelmed by the generous donation of coats from our community towards this great cause. For your information, we dropped off 183 coats/warm jumpers, two blankets, a pair of winter boots, four scarves and a suit! A special thanks goes out to a school in Kent who donated an enormous number of ‘new’ ex-school uniform coats.

The collections have now stopped for this year, but we will do this again maybe in a couple of years when your unwanted supplies have built up again. Many thanks on behalf of Wrap Up London, and the homeless and vulnerable on our streets this winter.

Anna Bailey

Village Stores sale



Mashona Terrace 2021



Mashona Terrace c.1908 by courtesy of Peter Leigh and seen in *A History of Keston* by Tudor Davies.

The sale of the Village Stores at 15 Heathfield Road was completed on 29th October, but we do not know what the buyer's plans are – we will have to wait and see!

The name of the parade of shops is Mashona Terrace and commemorates George Bruce who was born at Heathfield House and became the first bishop of Mashonaland in 1891. The first villa beyond the shops was occupied by carpenter James Borer; the second villa was the Village Post Office. The sign across the pavement informed visitors that 'The Haven' in Lakes Road offered teas. It was built by Frank Wells the baker but was destroyed in 1944.

FoKC News



Thanks to the hard work of Larry Herbert, (Chair), and all the team comprising the Friends of Keston Common together with idverde, Keston Common has retained its Green Flag status for 2021-2022. The new flag was raised on the morning of 15th October.

The FoKC are pleased to announce they have been selected again as part of the Co-op's Local Community Funding Scheme for 2021-2022. Please help by selecting FoKC cause when shopping at the Co-op. Last year they raised an amazing £1,500 for us, which will go towards work needed by the third pond.

Xmas lights 2021

To brighten up the village for the festive season we will again be putting up the Christmas lights. Unfortunately due to the continuing constraints of Covid we will not be able to have an event to raise the money to fund them. We would really appreciate any donations either by bank transfer to the KVRA account:-
Sort code 09-01-29
Account number 35321237
Or by dropping a donation into 21 Heathfield Road. Thank you.

Hilary Ryder
Keston Village Residents' Association

Save a Life



AED at the Village Hall, Heathfield Rd.

Did you know that there are now two Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) in Keston? One at Keston Village Hall and one at The Greyhound.

An AED is a simple piece of equipment which is easy to use and could make the difference between life and death. Public access defibrillators are designed to be used by the public. When you switch it on, it will provide you with clear instructions and talk you through what to do. Early CPR and defibrillation could double the chances of surviving a cardiac arrest, however many defibrillators risk being unusable as they are unknown to 999 call handlers. A campaign has been launched to register all defibrillators on a nationwide database called The Circuit, which connects defibrillators to NHS ambulance services across the UK so that in those crucial moments after a cardiac arrest, they can be accessed quickly to help save lives.

Another challenge is to ensure that local defibrillators are 'rescue ready'. In Keston we have 'local guardians' who look after them, ensuring that the

batteries are functioning and that the pads are within date, so that they are ready to go in a medical emergency. Our local guardians are Karen Smithson and Jenny Leng at the Village Hall and Catherine Rose at The Greyhound.

Jenny Leng

Snowfriends

Snow Friends has been set up by Bromley Council to help clear snow from local residential streets that are not part of the council's priority clearance operation. Snow friends are local people who volunteer to clear snow and ice in their street. They work as a group with a nominated co-ordinator or with a local community group or residents association. Snow Friends co-ordinators receive a supply of scoops and salt that they are responsible for distribution to volunteers.

To see if the area you live in has a local co-ordinator please visit snowfriends@bromley.gov.uk. If you haven't a co-ordinator in your area you can apply to become one, set up a group and get supplies sent to your specific area. Please note that the salt and scoops are only supplied for clearing pavements, not residents' driveways. Also, no salt should be allowed to get near the base or roots of street trees.

Keston Calendar

Following a number of enquiries, I'm sorry to say that we are not producing a 2022 calendar – but it's a possibility for next year if I can source enough good photos!

Sally Churchus

Keston History

Keston has an outstanding early history beginning with the massive 44 acre hillfort now hiding in the grounds of Holwood Park, constructed about 300 BC. That was the central headquarters of a major, (un-named), tribe which dominated our half of the Thames Valley. It had a King and Royal family, a strict Druids Order and hundreds of scattered family farmsteads. It was a powerful military and political force before the Roman invasions.

During excavations at Warbank on the Westerham Road, we found a large corresponding Iron Age settlement with huts, pits and many artefacts. This was replaced initially by a modest Roman farmstead, also producing pottery, which soon flourished and developed into a thriving Roman Villa.

The end came about 400-450 AD with the collapse of Roman Britain and the progressive arrival of the first Saxon warbands. We discovered a Saxon weaving hut in the centre of the ruins of the Villa, dating from the 6th century. Then the Warbank site expired, but the focus of later Saxon Keston moved 600 yards to the site of the present church where it happily still flourishes today.

Keston is first mentioned in the Bromley Charter of 862 AD and the Domesday Survey of 1086 records Chestan held by Gilbert Maminot, but then only assessed at 100 acres and was clearly small, but valuable. No church is mentioned but in late-Saxon times it was held by Sberne Biga. Hence the settlement can claim to be no later than the 9th or 10th centuries.

When the east end of the church was destroyed by enemy bombing, human

burials were found under the foundations. The suggestion then was that these were Roman is incorrect and clearly these were Christian burials predating the east wall. Most likely they were related to the late-Saxon community and buried by an unknown, smaller church or chapel, built either of wood or masonry. Little trace of this is likely to have survived.

Thus the fantastic story of Keston, spanning 2,300 years, is spread over a compact area really centred upon Holwood Hill and its lower slopes. It is effectively one large site. Indeed, given other circumstances this would elsewhere be regarded as a significant national historic park! Whereas the centre of local power may now lie in central Bromley, its certain predecessor was quiet Keston.

Dr Brian Philp
(Director, Kent Archaeological Unit)



Walking along the ditches between the ramparts on the history walk through the Holwood Estate on 10th October

"Sing of the Christ Child..."



Christmas Carol service 2019

One of the many depressing things about Christmas 2020 was that we were not allowed to gather together and sing carols. Talk about a Silent Night It was virtually a Silent Christmas!

This year, at the time of writing, things are different. We can hopefully get together to sing carols! With this in mind there will be several opportunities to do so in Keston this Christmas.

Firstly, Keston church has been invited by local Publicans Lisa and Mike Powley of The Fox to come and lead some carol singing at the end of a children's party from 5.30pm on Wednesday 22nd December. All are welcome to join in this community event.

Keston church is also providing several opportunities for people to get together and sing carols.

Our annual Carol Service returns this year and will take place on Sunday 19th December at 6.30pm. As well as

some choir carols and traditional Bible readings the service will also include some poetry and numerous lively congregational carols for all to sing. All being well we hope to serve mulled wine and mince pies after the service in the church hall. Because of Covid, numbers will be limited, so please book your seat through Rev'd Carol on [rector@kestonparishchurch.org.uk/](mailto:rector@kestonparishchurch.org.uk) 01689 853186 or Tricia Coward on kestonconsult@btconnect.com/ 01689 854373. The church will be well ventilated, so wrap up warm and bring your mask!

Other opportunities to come and sing carols will be at the Christingle Service in aid of The Children's Society at 4pm on Christmas Eve, The Christmas Eve "Midnight" Communion service at 11.30pm, (please book), and the Christmas Morning Communion Service at 10am.

We look forward to welcoming people to these events when in the words of the old traditional Catalan carol we can "Sing of the Christ child with Mary his Mother (giving) Glory to God for this gift of His love".

David Cook
Organist and Choirmaster



My Favourite Christmas Carol



I have to admit, every year, I look forward to 'Once in Royal David's City'. The reason I like/love this Carol is twofold, and goes back to my time as an 11 year-old chorister at the Royal Naval College in Greenwich.

I was at Prep School in Vanbrugh Castle, an all-boys school for sons of airmen who died on duty. It was everyone's wish to be in the Choir, we were paid the amazing sum of 50p per week, which meant sweets for the week, which we could barter for other items like comics etc. from other boys. (I hear you all saying no angels then in the Choir, and I would agree, we were anything but angels, apart from when we stood fully robed in the choir stalls).

Anyway, I deviate from my reason, but have partly explained one of them, so the practices for the Christmas service started in mid-November if I remember correctly, and the Choir

Master, as always asked who would sing the solo to start the service off. As normal no-one volunteered. But me being me and being told this might be my last year in the Choir as my voice was likely to break soon, put my hand up. To mine and the other boy's disbelief, the Choir Master said well done and for this you will receive an extra £1.50, a fortune, and while thanking him I guess I was already planning what I might buy and acquire in one thought.

I went on to sing Once in Royal David's City at the 1975 Christmas Carol service as a solo first verse, and I have always loved it since and like to listen to each service as it starts with this solo.

I also guess I'm still no angel, but have always loved singing from my early years.



Martin Chalker



The Royal Naval College Chapel

Communion Again!



It was great joy to many of us that we began taking Holy Communion in both parts recently! At church each week we partake in a 'sacred meal' which was given by Jesus as a way to continue to remember him. This consists of bread and wine, which are blessed on the altar table and then symbolise for us the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for all creation – he gave his body and shed his blood to show how much God loves all of us and wants us to have eternal life.

It is the tradition of the Church of England to take the wine part of this meal from a cup that is shared – this has been done for centuries and it is believed that the silver of the cup mitigates the spread of germs. However, given the obvious risk in doing this of spreading the recent Covid virus, and maybe other diseases, the church instructed this be suspended last March.

Many people miss partaking in this symbolic part of the meal, therefore, at Keston we recently purchased small glass cups that sit in a wooden tray, (*see photo*), and we are now able to have both bread and wine without any risk of infection spread. We will continue to offer this sacred meal in this way for the foreseeable future. We welcome all

people to share this meal with us – because we never know what a blessing it might be, even if a person has never been to church before!

Rev'd Carol Morrison

Christmas prayer

We praise you, O loving God,
who gave your very self in human form,
your majesty born into our poverty,
your love lying in an out-house.

We thank you that,
amidst Bethlehem's noisy rush,
we find in you
a focus for our activity,
a hope for your humanity,
a love for all eternity.

But we confess that
Christ's birth has gone unnoticed.
Now, as then, we have not made room
in our day to day lives.
Now, as then, we have mislaid
your message of reconciling love.
Now, as then, we have ignored
the stillness of your presence.
Gift-giving God, forgive us.
Free us from our self-centeredness.
Help us to accept your love
so freely given that we may live
as you have called us to live. Amen.

From www.methodist.org.uk

Christmas Sale

Shirley Friends of Demelza Hospice Care for Children will be having a sale of Christmas items and cards, gifts and more at Keston Church Hall at 11am on the 28th November (after the service).

Cash only please so don't forget your purses and wallets. All proceeds will go to Demelza. Thank you.

Tonia Crouch

Church Services

We are holding our usual Sunday services at 10am but have a **booking system** for popular services to enable social distancing. Please wear a mask.

Sunday 5th December 10am – ‘Toy Service’

Please bring your gifts of new (unwrapped) toys to this service, which will be given to The Salvation Army, who supply around 800 locally referred children with a parcel to open on Christmas Day. Thank you for your generosity. (No vouchers this year please.)

Sunday 19th December 6.30pm – Carol Service

Please book via

Rev'd Carol on rector@kestonparishchurch.org.uk / 01689 853186 or
Tricia Coward on kestonconsult@btconnect.com / 01689 854373

Friday 24th December – Christmas Eve

4pm – Christingle Service

Both children and adults are invited to this short service of readings, prayers and familiar carols, we will be guided through the making of our Christingles and learn all about them. A collection will be taken for The Children's Society, who do such good work with children and young people nationally. Step aside from all the frantic preparations and join us for this magical service, capturing all the excitement of Christmas Eve.

11.30pm – Midnight Communion

Please book – see details above

Saturday 25th December – Christmas Day

10.00am – Short Communion Service

Sunday 26th December

NO SERVICE

From the Registers

Baptism

10th October Sophie Coey (born 13/3/21)

Wedding

25th September Jane Ann Hoadley and Ronald David Hicks

Funerals

28th September Sarah Jane Simmons (aged 58yrs)

5th October Reginald Washington (aged 79yrs)

12th October Betty Day (aged 86yrs)

5th November Maurice Green (aged 89yrs)

My house in Gravel Road and its link with Keston Parish church



103 Gravel Road under construction in the early 1930s

A few years ago a surprising and lovely thing happened to me – someone sent me a photo of my 1930's house at 103 Gravel Road being built! A lady called Valerie had come across it while sorting through some old photos – the house had been built for her grandparents, Ernest and Marie Herbert, and she had happy memories of visiting it as a child. We started corresponding.



Leon Zucker

She gave me a bit of her family history. Her grandfather's father, Leon Zucker came over to England in 1858 from Krakow, Poland, to live in East London. He was born a Jew but took Holy

Orders and became a Congregational Minister trying to convert the Jews to Christianity! Probably because of having a Jewish surname her grandfather started using his second Christian name (Herbert) as his surname during WWI. The pogroms were rife across Europe and he would probably have been in fear of having his shop window smashed- he was a jeweller and had a shop in the New Kent Road, Elephant and Castle.

Before having the Gravel Road house built, Ernest and Marie lived at Keston Villas on the Croydon Road, from where their daughter Shirley, (Valerie's mother), was married in Keston Parish Church on 4th October 1924.



Postcard dated 1912

One of the most precious things that Valerie sent me is a postcard of Keston church, with a post mark dated 1912. It had been sent by Marie to Shirley and her sister Florence who were, (I think), at finishing school in Belgium.

Marie was a good cook, famous for her buns and gingerbread cakes, (even though the kitchen was small), and loved amateur dramatics. Apparently she had a Newcastle accent and a wicked sense of humour! 103 Gravel Road was called 'Beggars Roost',

presumably because the Herberts were a generous couple. Before the war beggars used to come to the door with a tin can to ask for tea. Marie was a churchgoer and also apparently a great supporter of Harold Macmillan, and the Conservative party. She received a thank you letter from Winston Churchill at Chartwell for sending birthday wishes to him, dated November 30th 1959. I have Churchill's hand written letter and the envelope addressed to 103 Gravel Road in a frame.

While visiting her grandparents at 103, Valerie remembered the wood outside the upstairs bay window to the right side of the house, the room she used to sleep in. (Where the 1950s houses now begin). She recalled the long garden, which was wild up at the end, and still is! Also that the house had a conservatory. She thought that the government paid for repairs to replaster the ceilings that had been damaged during the war.



Ernest Herbert. Aficionado of cars and motorcycles. Died in 1935, buried at Keston church

After Ernest died, Marie continued to live at 103 with her second daughter,

Florence, who had infantile paralysis (polio) and had worn a caliper as a child, but somehow still managed to be a VAD nurse



during WW2, as did Shirley. After Florence's death in 1947 Marie stayed in the house on her own until she was very elderly when she went to live with her daughter Shirley, (Valerie's mum), and family in Sevenoaks.

Ernest and Marie are buried together with Florence and Shirley in Keston churchyard – the church I was Christened and married in and belong to.

Sally Churchus

Sadly Valerie has now died but she did have a strong Christian faith, and I will always be thankful that she spent the time to contact me.



Marie Herbert and granddaughter Valerie

Goodbye and Thank You



We joined Keston church in January 2013 when we and our daughter, Nikki, were looking for a church to have our grandson Charlie christened in, and someone recommended Keston. We have had our other grandchildren Isabella, Alma and Summer christened at Keston since.

After Charlie's christening we decided we liked Keston as we were made to feel very welcome by the congregation and thought we would carry on attending the Sunday Services. We slowly got involved in the church being part of the tea/coffee team, Sidespersons and Readers. We also helped out at Messy Church. John took on the role of Treasurer for about 18 months and then got elected as a Churchwarden in 2017. Heather took on the role of PCC Secretary in 2016 and then also took over the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer.

After living in West Wickham for 25 years in June 2021 we decided to move

and on 24th September we moved to Seaford, East Sussex fulfilling our wish to retire and live on the coast.

We would like to thank everyone at Keston for their kind words in our leaving card, the bouquet, chocolates and the very generous gift of money for us to buy something nice for our new home or garden. We will buy something that will remind us of our lovely friends and our time at Keston church.

We will miss our regular attendance at Keston but hope to pop back now and again to see you all and worship with you. We are very happy in our new home. We love it and we love the area too. It is so beautiful. God has really blessed us.

Heather and John Molnar

The Legend of the Mistletoe

The mistletoe shrub is an evergreen hemiparasitic plant that grows on a variety of tree species.

The tradition of hanging mistletoe in the house supposedly goes back to the times of the ancient Druids, who valued it for medicinal properties, while other pagan cultures saw the white berries as symbols of male fertility. The Romans associated mistletoe with peace, love and understanding and hung it over doorways to protect the household. However, in the 19th century, mistletoe in the Western world became associated with Christmas as a decoration under which lovers kiss.



Thank You To...

- Thank you to Mike and Lisa in The Fox for generously providing free teas and coffees after the Act of Remembrance at the war memorial.
 - There was the appreciation, growing over the months, of the unidentifiable folk who passed me by on my daily walk along the footpaths around the fishponds, who before lockdown would simply do that – just pass by with their dogs and companion walkers. But now you were acknowledged as a fellow human being, with a smiled “Good afternoon” and sometimes friendly gesture as you passed, suitably distanced. And how valuable that was for we isolated lone-livers, to re-establish us in the world of continuing life. So grateful thanks to all those otherwise unknown human beings, as well as the Bromley Council workers who kept the access to the greenery and waterside in good condition for the many, many who needed it – Marilyn Clipston
 - A big thank you to my daughter Ghislaine Horgan and family for all their help and support during the lockdown and beyond – Anne Blanc
 - Thank you to the people in our church family who made contact with the whole congregation regularly throughout lockdown. Those phoning were Rev’d Carol, Tricia Coward, Angela Godfrey, Ren Harrold, Heather Molnar, David Cook and Sally Churchus – Eileen Davies
 - Thank you to Paul and Kate Hill who have been such good neighbours to us since we arrived in Keston – Steff and Ruth Nash
 - Thank you to Tim, our milkman who has delivered our pintas throughout the pandemic – Martin Becker
 - My neighbours, Hilary and Richard Ryder, have always been good friends but particularly in these past two years they have shown exceptional care and I should like them to know how much I appreciate their many kindnesses to me – Heather Abram
 - Thank you to so many people who have made life so much more bearable during the past 18 months. While isolation itself can be a blessing the feeling of loneliness creeps in and makes the days seem very long. My family, particularly, have been very supportive in so many ways. Angela Godfrey, Ren Harrold, Eileen Davies and Tonia Crouch have kindly given me lifts by car to church meetings. Rosemary Cogswell, Sheila Adcock and Jenny Nicoll have kindly included me in coffee and tea occasions. Thank you, too, to David Cook whose patience must sometimes have been sorely tested! Thanks also to Doreen Smith, and also Donna and Gareth Smith and neighbours who have phoned or knocked on my door to check I am ok. Rev’d Carol and her team have all been brilliant in continuing to keep the church open where possible and broadcasting services on YouTube. I think the lockdowns we have had to put up with have made me appreciate more human contact and the value of living in a community like Keston – Joan Taylor
- Please send your Thank You’s to Sally at editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk to be included, they do not have to relate to the pandemic. Thank you!

Looking back at Harvest 2021



Rev'd Carol taking the Harvest celebration at Keston School

School Harvest

Keston CE Primary school celebrated Harvest with a thought provoking service led by Rev'd Carol and our amazing Y6 worship committee.

Children across the school were involved in the service. YR and Y1 performed a lovely version of 'Dingle, Dangle Scarecrow', Y3 and Y4 shared their stories about harvest and Y5 and Y6 children shared a poem about harvest. To end our service, Y2 had composed prayers and shared these with the school.

We were particularly delighted to welcome parents to the celebration and were thrilled to see so many were able to join our service. The food donated was taken to Link to Hope, (a Christian

charity rebuilding lives and communities in Eastern Europe through education and social care), after the service and we were overwhelmed by people's generosity.

Church Harvest

During our Harvest Service on the 3rd October we collected about eight very large bags of food, plus a big bag with lots of toiletries etc. Tricia Coward kindly delivered them to the Bromley Foodbank Unit which is now close to the Millwall training grounds, the other side of Bromley. They were very appreciative and extremely grateful. In addition, the cash we collected for Welcare in Bromley totalled £275 as well as two £50 Tesco vouchers.

Why? By Chalkpit



The article in the October/November magazine entitled “Mystery Tombstone” reminded me of another strange occurrence concerning a tomb in the churchyard.

The firm of William Smith & Sons, Builders and Undertakers, always had a large connection to the fabric of the church at Keston. On this occasion in the early 1960's William's son, Leonard, was engaged in taking the inner church door and re-hanging it to the front of the porch to give extra room to the interior. After two days of hard work he left for home returning the following morning to complete the job. To his surprise on entering the churchyard Leonard saw broken bricks and rubble scattered over the path and a large stone slab put to one side! It soon became clear that a tomb had been disturbed but as an Undertaker accustomed to burials he did not hesitate to approach the tomb. The wood of the outer coffin had been taken apart to reveal the inner lead one which had been cut and carefully peeled back. This revealed a woman, her remains undisturbed with her hands clasped upon her body, just as she had been placed in her final

resting place, the most astonishing feature on the exposure of the skeleton being the amount of dark blonde hair still remaining! A hasty return to the yard in Gravel Road was required to get the necessary tools, building materials as well as the assistance of four strong employees. Also to make phone calls to the Rector of the parish and Farnborough Police Station, (now long gone), before returning to the church. On arrival the Rector and police constable were already waiting for them, the latter took a few notes, looked puzzled and left. Nothing was heard from that quarter again! It didn't take long to secure the lead coffin and with the brickwork restored to a lower level it just needed a bed of mortar before the men struggled to lower the large slab into place, most thankful that the walls on the tomb had been lowered! It didn't take long for the rubble and broken bricks to be cleared before the men all returned to the builder's yard with the door remaining unfinished!

**It soon became clear
that a tomb had
been disturbed**

The question they all asked was “Why?”. Leonard's theory was that they had knowledge of valuables within the coffin as he knew that many were buried with their treasured possessions. It could have just been a random choice but it would have been a lot of effort on the ‘off chance’ and perhaps they did find jewellery, but we will never know. Maybe there was a more sinister motive, you can come to your own conclusion

and I will leave it to you to visit the tomb and satisfy your curiosity as to who and when the lady within the coffin was interred and also her name!

Our Editor is always thinking of new subjects and ideas for the magazine but I think this must qualify as best yet! “Moonlight tours of the churchyard to visit graves with interesting stories!”. I look forward to her idea coming to fruition!

Editors note: You must be joking! Interestingly, the word ‘tomb’ has been used as opposed to ‘grave’, as there is a significant difference. A tomb has no soil on top of the coffin ie. there is a void, which can be used to place other coffins in at a later date. A grave has soil on top of the coffin, filling in the gap to ground level.



The actual wording on the tomb, which is difficult to read is:

Sacred to the memory of
THOMAS HAMILTON Esq.
of Bromley Common, Kent
late of Cophthall Court, City,
who departed this life
October 3rd 1821, aged 55 years also
Mrs. MARY ANN HAMILTON
Wife of the above
who departed this life
February 1st 1825
aged 51 years

Regular Events

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 Discussions

We are meeting to talk about *The Little Book of Advent* on Wednesday 8th December at 2.30pm at 103 Gravel Road and also at 7pm on Monday 20th December at The Rectory, 40 The Dale.

We regularly meet over tea and cake every six weeks or so to discuss the different books with some Christian content that we have each read. Our next meeting will be on 31st January at 103 Gravel Road. Please let Sally know if you would like to come to any of the meetings on 020 8462 8750 or email editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk. Thank you.

Men's pub social

Everyone is welcome to join us at 7pm at The Greyhound on the third Wednesday of the month for social chat, a few drinks and a meal for those who want it. (You don't have to be a church goer to come). Contact Martin Becker on 07484 609102 for more details.



What I Do



I started working at Alan De Maid in 1995, initially at the Petts Wood office and after a short stint in the Chislehurst office, have worked in Locksbottom for over 25 years. The industry was familiar to me with my mother having worked for the original family business before becoming the Managing Director of what became Alan De Maid/ TSB property services. The business for many years has been part of the Countrywide/Connells group. Together with my colleague, David Hughes, with 38 years experience with the company, we have seen major transformations within the industry and local residential housing. It is a pleasure to have acted for so many clients locally, whilst still seeing many on a regular basis within the village and beyond. My wife Barbara and I were married in Keston Church, where both our children Thomas and Julia were baptized, both of whom enjoy school life at Keston CE Primary school.

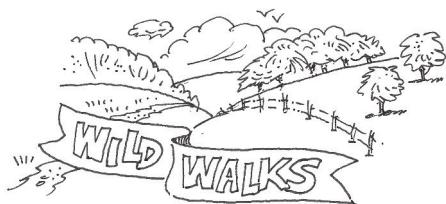
My job is tremendously rewarding in helping achieve and surpass vendors' expectations with their move, building chains and the repeat business in having moved many clients and latterly their children on multiple occasions. Being an integral industry within the community,

we have dealt with every age of client and of course many Probate sales. You get a real buzz in this role from meeting a client at a Valuation, to pro-actively phoning purchasers on an extensive company database and building a strong marketing campaign. Most people who have moved a few times realise the hard work begins at this stage though, and one statistic I'm most proud of is our ability to exchange on at least 90% of agreed sales; this contrasts to an industry average of 36% transactions that fall through the first time.

Pre 2020 I thought I had seen most of the fluctuation that could occur in the housing market, but nothing compared, (even the credit crunch), to the last year and a half of Covid. After almost seven weeks at home, the office reopened in May 2020. I had some trepidation that things would be tough, but Covid triggered a real change in the landscape with clients making major lifestyle decisions about the type of property and area they saw their futures in. Combined with the government's stamp duty incentive by the end of June and minor gain by the end of September 2021, demand was certainly boosted. Despite the loss of trading time in 2020 our office had its second-best year and by the beginning of August 2021 we had had our best recorded. This was against a backdrop of stringent Covid protocols including a locked door policy, risk assessments for any outside appointments and of course the use of PPE equipment. There have been some major technological strides within the industry, not least our use of a virtual 360-degree tour, instrumental in completing first viewings remotely and

cross selling where with prospective buyers we can switch to another tour easily. The virtual tour made clients feel more secure with less face to face engagement and also resulted in a much higher conversion from viewings to sales. As restrictions have gradually been eased it has been nice to return to more common appointments although of course with all sensible measures still in place.

James Driscoll



Cromer in Norfolk is a pretty bleak place lying as it is on the east coast. I visited it many years ago whilst cruising on the Broads. That was in the summer and even then it was inclined to be chilly. However, one thing that really impressed me was the beautiful flint walls of its parish church. You've got to see it to believe it, the constant size and uniformity of the flints is astounding. To select the correct shape and size must have taken an inordinate length of time. "What did you do today dear?" said the builder's wife when he returned after a day's work, "Oh I managed to find 20 correctly shaped flints and discarded three hundred!". Little wonder they took a 100 years to build.

Now where is this going you may ask? Well, when walking the woods and fields of our locality I frequently come across piles of flints, often barely visible

as they are in the woods or edges of the fields. Years and years of autumn leaves have covered them and turned to earth. You'll find them if you know where to look.

In the small wood separating the West Kent Golf Course from the airfield there are several piles – and that's only the ones I've stumbled upon. What this tells me is the fields which pre-date the airfield sloped down to what is now the golf course. The other indication being the classic creep of the earth down the slope as a result of constant ploughing – then to cease with a slight ridge followed by a not inconsiderable drop. Thus indicating a hedge; fences as we know them didn't exist then.

The flints would be picked up by the ploughman, (or small boy), who would carry them to the field's edge. Later they would be collected and used for building. Flints of uniform size would be put into a square yard of a timber frame. When full they would move on and leave piles to be picked up by horse and cart. I actually saw this 40 years ago up near the Woldingham Road.

Richard Geiger



Tractor at Leaves Green September 2021

Keston Book Club



I have always had a love of books and enjoy nothing more than being snuggled up with a good book! So after the last year of Covid and lockdown, I thought wouldn't it be great to have a local book club. I then saw on the Keston Community Facebook page a lady called Stefanie enquired about a local book club and asked if anyone would help to set one up. I offered, and researched the format for a book club, then advertised on the Keston Community Page for members, we soon had 13 members signed up.

The first meeting was in October at The Greyhound, we only had six members as we struggled with times. The group quickly got chatting and everyone got to know each other and then after a healthy debate on different books, we picked our first book, *Songbirds* by Christy Lefteri.

Our meetings are going to be on the first Wednesday in the month at 7pm in The Greyhound. If new members would like to join please contact me on the Keston Bookclub Facebook page or email angelahollamby@gmail.com or on Tel: 07503 268001. It's such a great way to enjoy reading and to try new books along with hearty book discussions!

Angie Hollamby

Flower Arranging Workshop and Demonstration

There will be a Christmas flower arranging workshop and demonstration on Tuesday, 14th December, held in Keston Church Hall at 2.45pm for a 3pm start.

We will make a door hanging arrangement which can be adapted for use as a table centrepiece if required. The holders will be provided, including oasis, and will be available to buy on the day at a cost of £2. You will need to bring secateurs, small flowers (fresh or artificial), small leaved foliage, baubles, cones etc. There will be the usual raffle. We do hope you can join us. For further information please contact Maureen Marshall
Tel: 01689 857260. Thank you.

Beat the Blues Coffee Morning



Saturday 15th January
10 am - 12 noon
Keston Church Hall
BR2 6HT

* Home made cakes
* Raffle * Bring & Buy

Entrance £4 includes coffee/tea & cake
Everyone welcome



Magazine Deadline

Please send photos and articles for the February/March 2022 issue of The Keston Magazine to the Editor, Sally Churchus, by 9th January at the very latest via email to editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk or contact her to discuss ideas on 020 8462 8750. Thank you.

Laughlines

☺ Christmas wish list

A middle-aged woman posted her Christmas wish list on the refrigerator for her husband to read. Rather than list certain items she desired, she simply requested “something that will make me look sexy and beautiful”. When Christmas rolled around she expected to open a package with some fancy lingerie inside. To her surprise, he gave her an exercise bike instead.

☺ Daily Mail

A Sunday School teacher requested that a notice to go into the weekly pew sheet, asking for church members to bring in any old copies they had of the Daily Mail. She wanted the newspapers for a big Christmas project involving lots of papier-mâché, and thought that the ink on the Daily Mail would be less messy. The secretary put in: ‘Wanted by our Sunday School teacher: lots of daily males’.

☺ Rooms

When the Vicar moved his family into the large Victorian vicarage, a member of the congregation asked the young son how he liked his new home. “It’s great,” the little boy replied. “At last I have my own room, and Mike has his own room, and Jemma has her own room, and Robbie has his own room. But poor mum is still in with dad”.





LEARN WITH LANES

- Solo Tuition
- Door to door
- Manual & Automatic
- Nervous Pupils welcome
- Driving Instructor Courses
- In-Car Theory Training
- Male and Female Instructors
(All offers subject to conditions)
1-5 day courses with
Guaranteed Test Pass Scheme

020 8290 2070

Head Office: 27 Hayes Lane
Bromley, Kent. BR2 9EA
www.lanesdriving.co.uk

WI

Woodbury Interiors London
& Bromley Curtains and Blinds

Made to Measure Blinds
Bespoke Curtains
Soft Furnishings
Upholstery
Interior Design

077689 22 333

mail@woodburyinteriors.co.uk
www.woodburyinteriors.co.uk
www.bromleycurtainsandblinds.co.uk

COMPUTERSOUP



.co.uk

A LOCAL I.T SERVICE FOR BROMLEY RESIDENTS,
PROFESSIONALS & BUSINESS

- BROADBAND INSTALLATION
- PC SETUP & MAINTENANCE
- PC REPAIRS, UP-GRADES, SALES
- PC SYSTEM RESTORE, 'HEALTH CHECK'
- VIRUS & SPYWARE REMOVAL
- WIRELESS NETWORKING
- XBOX LIVE, PS3, Wii & IPOD SETUP
- DATA BACK-UP, RECOVERY
- INTERNET, EMAIL REPAIR, TIME LIMIT MSN.

07940 329 687

01689 603483 for Robert

COVERING ALL OF BROMLEY AND NEIGHBOURING AREAS.
NO FIX - NO FEE, NO CALL OUT CHARGE, FREE CONSULTATION

info@computersoup.co.uk

www.computersoup.co.uk

R & B JOINERY



Roger & Adam Baxter

2 Lakes Road, Keston BR2 6BN
Tel/Fax: 01689 861999
Email: rabinery@hotmail.com



KESTON
FOREST
PRE-SCHOOL
 & TODDLER STAY AND PLAY
An exciting new
venture
NOW OPEN
 07862 020745
 enquiries@kestonforestpreschool.co.uk
 www.kestonforestpreschool.co.uk
Church Road, Keston BR2 6HT

NEXT AHEAD

Offers all types of
 hairdressing services
 for men and women
 Late night Tuesday till 9pm

HAIR STUDIO

Telephone: 01689 860548
 17 Heathfield Road, Keston BR2 6BG

J.&R. KILLICK Ltd

Est 1879
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

FAMILY RUN BUSINESS

- Personal Service
- 24 Hours a Day
- Modern Funeral Fleet
- Pre-paid Funeral Plans Available
- Information Brochure Available
- Horse Drawn Funerals



For Advice & Assistance Please Telephone

PETER KILLICK

020 8777 4502

112 High Street, West Wickham BR4 0ND
Also at: 47 Station Approach, Hayes, Kent
 www.jrkillick.co.uk



01689 850280

19 Heathfield Road, Keston BR2 6BG

Web: www.wrinkle3.com

E mail: info@wrinkle3.com

Ironing Service
Full Laundry Service
Alteration Service
Dry Cleaning Service
Service Wash & Dry
Shoe repairs

Opening Hours:
 Monday to Saturday 8.00 – 5.00