



The Keston Magazine

News of your Parish and Village

February/March 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

Safeguarding Officer

Helen Perkins

safeguarding@kestonparishchurch.org.uk

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

Front cover: View of stream next to Fishponds Road by Sally Churchus ©

(Jesus said) "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life". *John 8:12*

Thought for the month



Lifelong Learning

Have you heard the saying: “education is wasted on the young”? It seems to depend on the age you are as to how true you think this is! If you are at school or university, you may not agree with it, but if you are over 35, you may think there is some truth in the quote.

I can see both sides of the argument. As a child at school, I felt I worked extremely hard, and I achieved the best I possibly could. Looking back, when dyslexia was not widely recognised in schools, I was told “I was good with my hands!”. Which really meant not academic, but I could draw, cook, sew or create something, and to a pretty high standard!

Fast forward and I became a mother, and I wanted to be the best mum, so I enrolled in a “parenting course” and enthusiastically listened and read to help with the challenges children can bring. To this day if I see a child climbing a tree, I will exclaim – “hold on tight”, and not shout “you’re going to fall”, as these are the words that will resonate in their minds. I tried to be positive, encouraging and give them the confidence to try different things.

When my youngest son was at secondary school, and the maths was getting harder, his teacher offered any parent that wanted it a class in the modern methods of math. I jumped at the chance, and at the session, the teacher said if anyone wanted to take this further, they could apply to take maths GCSE. Four mums took up the offer, and we attended every class, were attentive, did our homework, and soaked up the knowledge – and all passed!

If I could go back in time and go to school again, based upon what I now know – I could be brilliant! There are so many topics I’m interested in now – I love English, history, geography, music, global issues, culture and even languages – sorry Mrs Dunleavy (my French teacher)!

The youth of today have many more opportunities than we did, and hopefully they will grasp every spark, and it will ignite into an explosion of learning, that will grow with their age. Adults need education just as much as the young. But don’t look back and wonder what could have been, rather it is never too late to learn, grow and mature.

“Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge”. *Proverbs 18:15*

Tricia.



Tricia Coward, Licensed Lay Minister

From the Editor

It's a smaller magazine than of late, as there were not so many contributions. Thinking ahead, it would be lovely to feature parishioners' memories or photos of any encounters you have had with the Queen and other members of the Royal family in the June/July issue when we will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Please do start sending them in to me via email sally.churchus@btinternet.com or post to 103 Gravel Rd. Bromley Common, BR2 8PW. Thank you. What an incredible number of years' service. Hopefully there will be some celebratory events in Keston to advertise too.

I recall that when my daughter was at Keston School and there were the Golden Jubilee celebrations, the children had to do a picture of the Queen on her throne. One child wrote underneath her drawing '50 years on the thorn', then when the mistake was pointed out, re-did it and wrote exactly the same thing again! Joking apart, there have been some painful times for the Queen and indeed for everyone there are times of joy and sadness. But God is always with us through both. And a little humour in life never went amiss – hence the inclusion of some within this magazine. Hope it brings a smile to your face while winter continues!

Sally Churchus



Toys Collected



We had an amazing response to our toy collection during the church service on 5th December. Together with a large box of toys from a resident of Regent's Drive, (who had collected toys from friends and neighbours), Tricia Coward dropped them off to the Salvation Army for local distribution. We had:

- 20 books
- 4 dolls
- 7 new cuddly toys
- 11 family games
- 1 mini football
- 1 Paw Patrol Scooter
- 8 vehicle/multi toys
- 14 art/craft sets
- 4 jigsaws
- 5 lego/playmobil toys
- 2 baby gifts
- 2 creative play toys
- 10 assorted others

These will have made many children happy this Christmas. Thank you all.

Congratulations to the raffle winners

Rosemary Cogswell who won our M&S Christmas hamper and Anna Bailey who won the other one! We raised an wonderful £260 for church funds.

New Safeguarding Officer

My name is Helen Perkins and I'm delighted to have been appointed Parish Safeguarding Officer for Keston and am looking forward to serving the parish church in this important role.

Born in Wolverhampton, I am proud of my Black Country roots and my mixed Welsh, Cuban-Caribbean heritage. I came to London for a change of job and moved to Bromley Common in 2019 just a few months before lockdown. Restrictions meant that it was difficult to socialise but enabled me to rediscover my love of country walks. I was keen to find a church to worship at and, after the lifting of restrictions, I started to attend Keston church.

Whilst at a service I heard a plea for someone to be the Parish Safeguarding Officer. As I have a background in safeguarding, wanted to be more involved in the church, and give something to the community, I felt I was being called to assist and so I approached Rev'd Carol to volunteer.

I've been involved professionally with safeguarding for a number of years, working in Magistrates and Family Courts often advising Magistrates and District Judges in child protection, 'custody', adoption and domestic violence cases. I'm now a legal and policy adviser within Government. As a Rotarian I've volunteered in the UK and internationally with organisations that work with children and vulnerable adults. I've been fortunate to volunteer in New York with homeless children and adults, with Palestinian refugees in Beirut, with marginalised communities

in India, and with disabled children in Moldova.

It was through volunteering in Moldova and Rotary connections that I met my fiancé Martin. He works for a wonderful charity based in Bromley, Childaid to Eastern Europe, (www.childaidee.org.uk), which was once called Aid to Russian Christians and came out of Keston College. We are getting married at Keston church this summer.

My work and volunteering has involved some of the most vulnerable in society. Whilst children are vulnerable due to their age and lack of autonomy, some adults are vulnerable due to particular characteristics, others may be vulnerable for particular periods due to the circumstances that they are in. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and it's vital that we are all vigilant in keeping an eye open and report concerns.

The role of safeguarding officer is important and responsibilities include working closely with Rev'd Carol to: advise within the parish on safeguarding matters relating to children, young people and vulnerable adults; receive any concerns and make sure proper advice is received and referrals made, referring to the diocese where required; promoting safer practices in all activities; and ensuring safe recruitment practice is followed.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss anything, please get in touch. safeguarding@kestonparishchurch.org.uk.



Thank You To...

- While the village shop was empty between August and October, Roger Baxter and his son Adam of R&B Joinery in Lakes Road kept a close eye on the rear entrance for me. It quickly became a dumping area and they saw to it that random rubbish eg. old sofas were quickly removed. How kind is that.
– Helen Ward
- A big thank you to Sam Price, (below), who kindly donated all the oranges for our Christingle service. He runs a stall in Bromley, opposite Poundland, and during the lockdown he sold and delivered fruit and vegetable boxes locally. A member of the congregation ordered one for the PRUH staff and he gave an extra one too. How kind!
– Tricia Coward.
- I would like to say thank you to my lovely neighbours in Windmill Drive who helped me when I had to isolate for 10 days before a small operation in November, and those who gave me lifts when I couldn't drive for a few days. Thank you to those same kind and generous neighbours who enabled us to send £110 to 'Bromley Homeless' after we sang carols in our little Close just before Christmas. I really appreciate our lovely community
– Angela Godfrey.



Please send your Thank You's to Sally at editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk to be included.

Celebrity Christian Quotes

Marcus Rashford

For me and my family, that's definitely the case. If you could see our lives 15-20 years ago to where we are now, it's impossible not to have faith in God and all he does for us.

Boris Johnson

Christianity is a superb ethical system and I would count myself as a kind of very, very bad Christian. No disrespect to any other religions, but Christianity makes a lot of sense to me.

Sylvester Stallone

You need to have the guidance of someone else. You can not train yourself. I feel the same way about Christianity and what the church is: The church is the gym of the soul.

Justin Bieber

The success I've achieved comes to me from God.

Denzel Washington

Number one: put God first. Put God first in everything you do. Everything that you think you see in me, everything that I've accomplished, everything that you think I have – and I have a few things. Everything that I have is by the grace of God.

Jim Caviezel

Jesus is there for us in the scriptures. How often do we ignore Him? We must shake off this indifference.

Mark Wahlberg

The first thing I do when I start my day is, I get down on my hands and knees and give thanks to God.

My favourite hymn



With such a huge range of sacred music available, including classical masterpieces, traditional hymns and contemporary songs, it is almost impossible to choose a favourite. However, I have settled on the hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” to the tune “Blaenwern”. This is frequently sung at weddings, including my own and that of Prince William and Catherine Middleton, and innumerable others. It reminds us that a beautiful wedding and marriage is a reflection of the Love above all loves – we are only able to love one another because Christ first loved us. The hymn was written in 1747 by Charles Wesley, that great author of more than 6,000 hymns, and is one of his most well known. He had the ability of expressing divine truth in simple ways. However in this case, when analysing the text, it is sometimes theologically challenging, (if not controversial), while maintaining a tone of praise and adoration. The writer remains hopeful and confident of the glorious future awaiting us all ...

“till in heaven we take our place... lost in wonder, love and praise”.

But for me personally, the Welsh tune “Blaenwern” is equally important, drawing me back to my roots (I’m half Welsh). It was written much later by William Penfro Rowlands during the Welsh revival of 1904-5, and named after a farm in Pembrokeshire where his son was cared for during a period of convalescence. Rowlands himself was born nearby, but lived much of his life in Swansea, in the same county, (Glamorgan), as my own paternal family. His tune follows a strong tradition of Welsh choral singing, in particular hymn singing, using rich 4-part harmony and characteristic rhythm. So for me it recalls the weekend festivals of hymn singing (called “*Gymanfa Ganyu*”) when, as a nine year old girl standing next to my Godmother in a packed chapel, I would be “*lost*” in a huge swell of harmonious singing, producing a sound of “*wonder, love & praise*”. Although I couldn’t participate, at least not with words (not being a Welsh-speaker), the resulting, glorious, 4-part harmony sound is burnished on my soul to this day.

Ruth Nash

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown...

...Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Obituary

Sheila Ann Netscher

6/3/1938-24/11/2021

In 1938, Sheila was born into a Methodist family in Ilford. Her early years were under the shadow of World War II when much time was spent in an Anderson shelter in their garden.

Tennis dominated Sheila's youth. She would spend every minute she could on court at Brentwood Hardcourt Club. She won many junior tournaments and at the age of 16 won the Cromer Open. This led to her playing at Junior Wimbledon the following year. Her competitiveness and love of sport was in evidence all her life.

Tennis led to Sheila meeting me on Easter Monday 1959, through a group of tennis friends who went to Plumpton Point to Point races.

Sheila joined Bromley Cricket Club, became Lady Captain of tennis, ran the junior section and won 12 titles. Sheila's love and empathy for children enabled her to run a very successful playgroup in the clubhouse for 40 children each day for 12 years.

Golf followed tennis and she became Lady Captain of West Kent in 2002. Though she fell on the course, breaking both her wrist and ankle, it did not put her off golf. However, a series of falls at home led to her reluctantly giving up golf six years ago.

Sheila and I loved Switzerland where we had honeymooned and returned many times. We were very fortunate to holiday all over the world including swimming with dolphins in the

Caribbean and two memorable visits to the 10 yearly Oberammergau Passion Play.

Away from sporting activity, Sheila loved dancing. Young Conservative dances in Bromley were followed years later by Sainsbury dinner dances at the Dorchester and the Grosvenor. Sheila sang with the Ravensbourne Light Operatic Society, especially enjoying Gilbert and Sullivan.

Our daughter Sandra's strong faith and beliefs led us to worshipping at Bromley Baptist Church for many years, but after Sheila and I moved to Keston we became regular members of Keston

Parish Church, where we were warmly welcomed and sang in the choir.

Later, gardening became a passion for Sheila, with fuchsias her particular favourite. She took 150 cuttings each year and spent every spare moment tending them lovingly.

More recently, bridge became a key ingredient

of Sheila's social life. Bridge 8's became regular social evenings with friends where a meal was followed by bridge.

Sheila doted on our loving, caring and supportive children, Philip and Sandra and her grandchildren, even more so in her final years when she battled courageously against illness which left her bedbound. Throughout this time Sheila's warm infectious smile radiated through the room and she never complained.

Sheila's life was full of energy, love and care for others.

Frank Netscher



Church Services

We are holding our usual Sunday services at 10am, including communion, but ask that everyone could please wear a mask. This includes Mothering Sunday on 27th March. Please see our website kestonparishchurch.org.uk for more details.



From the Registers

Funerals

15th December Sheila Ann Netscher (aged 83 yrs)
20th December Frank Alexander Goodridge (aged 90 yrs)

Burial of Ashes

16th November Sarah Simmons
21st November Michael Kenway

Poem

All that really matters is the
way in which we live,
The way we face our troubles
and the happiness we give.
The way we deal with others
whom we contact on life's way,
The way we work, the things we
think and the sort of prayers we pray.

All that really matters is our
attitude of mind,
The way we meet life's rough and smooth
and the set backs that we find.
The way we try to right the wrong
and the way we check despair.
The way we use our talents
and the things for which we care.

All that really matters is the
character we build,
The way we shape its glory by the
missions we've fulfilled.
The rays we cast through goodness
across the ways we've trod.
These are the things that matter to
ourselves as well as God.

Taken from The Keston Magazine July/August 1986
and kindly sent in by Pam Thomas

Light of the World

The significance of church candles

As I write this, it must be one of the darkest and gloomiest days this year even though we haven't quite reached the shortest day. It's been misty all day. I'm looking forward to the warm light of the candles at the Carol Service and the singing which should lift our spirits this evening.



Advent

Each week in Advent we have been lighting an extra candle on the Advent wreath. This consists of four white candles which represent hope, peace, love and joy with the central candle representing Jesus as the light of the world, which is lit on Christmas Day. (Jesus said 'I am the light of the world' *John 8:12 and John 9:5*). Alternatively, the candles represent those who point to Jesus, the patriarchs, the prophets, John the Baptist and Mary the mother of Jesus, but the central candle is still for Jesus as the light of the world. The colours of the candles seem to vary between different churches.

Christingles

The Christingles that are central to the Christingle Service, (held on Christmas Eve at Keston), also represent Jesus as

the light of the world – the orange represents the world and the small central candle represents Jesus. This is always a popular service with families and the collection taken up goes to the Children's Society. Fortunately this still managed to go ahead this year with 25 children and 30 adults attending.

Candlemas

In the church calendar the Christian feast of Candlemas falls on 2nd February, 40 days after Christmas. It is also known as the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, when Jesus, as a first born male, was presented to God and a sacrifice offered as required by Jewish law. Simeon, a holy man in Jerusalem immediately recognised Jesus as the expected Messiah and praised God. Part of this 'Song of Simeon', (*Luke 2:29-32*), calls Jesus 'a light for revelation to the Gentiles' – hence the naming of the feast and ceremonies involving candles in some churches.

A symbol of prayer

Candles are also burned as a symbol of our prayers rising to God, so are lit during church services when we join together before God for prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Many churches, and most cathedrals have a special stand for small votive candles, and Keston is no exception. Ours was given in 2011 by Sandi Flynn in memory of her husband



John Flynn. People are invited to pray for a person or situation and light a candle as a symbol of this while they pray, or light one in remembrance of a loved one. The candle burns on after they've left, as a symbol of prayers still rising to God.

A symbol of God's presence

Candles have always been seen as a symbol of the presence of God. The lit candles placed on the altar for the duration of a service symbolise both God's presence with us, and our worship rising to God.



Aumbry

Some churches keep some consecrated bread and wine in a special wall safe called an aumbry, so that it is available at any time for an emergency communion visit. There is always a candle, (or other light), burning in front of the aumbry, to indicate the presence of our Lord. The one we have at Keston, right up in the north side of the chancel was given in memory of Paul Martin Rugg and there is a small plaque inside the door with

the words 'Remembered by his family for his love and faith'. He sadly died in 1981 aged only 22 years.

Paschal candle

Many churches have a Paschal Candle, or Easter Candle, which is a large white candle on its own stand. It bears a cross as its central symbol; the Greek letters alpha and omega, signifying that God is the beginning and the end; the year, representing God here with us now. The Paschal candle is lit on Easter Day, (or Easter Eve if there is a service then), and throughout the Easter season until Pentecost. Some churches, including Keston, also use their Paschal candle during the year at baptism and funeral services. Paschal candles are traditionally made of beeswax, which represents Christ's purity, the wick his humanity and the flame his divine nature.



The candles are an integral part of our worship and remind us that Jesus is the light of the world and also that God is with us and hears us.

Sally Churchus

Computer Tips

A new series of tips by Robert Peacock for computer users was going to start in this edition, but will now have to be in the next issue. In the meantime I found this from the Association for Church Editors, that readers may enjoy:



Upgrade anyone?

The young woman who submitted the tech support message below, (about her relationship to her husband), presumably did it as a joke. Then she got a reply that was way too good to keep to herself. The tech support people's love advice was hilarious and genius! The query:

Dear Tech Support,
Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a distinct slowdown in overall system performance, particularly in the flower and jewellery applications, which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0. In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5, and then installed undesirable programs such as: AFL 5.0, NRL 3.0 and Golf Clubs 4.1. Conversation 8.0 no longer runs, and House cleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system. Please note that I have tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail. What can I do? Signed, Desperate.

The response that came weeks later out of the blue:

Dear Desperate,
First keep in mind, Boyfriend 5.0 is an entertainment package, while Husband 1.0 is an operating system. Please enter command: I thought you loved me.html and try to download Tears 6.2. Do not forget to install the Guilt 3.0 update. If that application works as designed, Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewellery 2.0 and Flowers 3.5.

However, remember, overuse of the above application can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0, or Beer 6.1. Please note that Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will download the Wind Breaking and Snoring Loudly Beta version. Whatever you do, DO NOT, under any circumstances, install Mother-In-Law 1.0 as it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources.

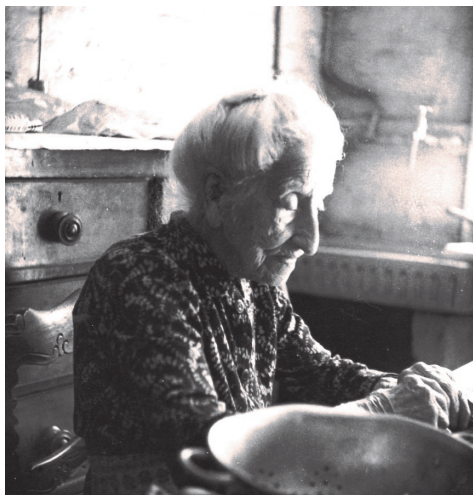
In addition, please do not attempt to re-install the Boyfriend 5.0 program. These are unsupported applications and will crash Husband 1.0. In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance. We recommend Cooking 3.0.

Good Luck! Webmaster MIPC



"Granny Carter"

By Chalkpit



Granny Carter allegedly shelling peas

Having access to the Burial Registers of a firm of Builders and Undertakers established in 1850 with the last recorded burial being in April 1974 certainly made for interesting reading! Many of the burials are in the graveyard at Keston Parish Church and record parishioners well past the usual three score years and ten. However, one stood out from all the others – the entry for Sarah Ann Carter.

Sarah, born 6th June 1865, was the daughter of James and Sarah Bowen. He was an Under Gardener employed on the Holwood Estate and living at Gardener's Cottage. There were many Bowens residing in Keston at that time and George Bowen gave his name to Bowen's Lodge standing at the North entrance to the Holwood Estate. Sarah proved to be an independent young lady and trained as a typist-clerk. This enabled her to obtain a position in this

role working for Lord Sackville Cecil at the Oast House, Hayes Common for ten Pounds per annum – a sum reflecting her ability. A man of immense talents in the application of electricity, especially in submarine telegraphy he was Chairman/Director of many worldwide organizations in that field. Lord Sackville Cecil's father was the 2nd Marquess of Salisbury and his mother, daughter of 5th Earl de la Warr became Mary, Countess of Derby. These advantages of parentage, natural aptitude and hard work were all of a great service to Lord Sackville Cecil who, however, on the 29th January 1898 died of pneumonia aged only 50 years. After Cremation at Woking his ashes were then buried near to St. Audrey's Church, Commonsides, (now a private house), that he had had built for personal reasons.

Sarah's independence however was not to last as her father, with a Victorian attitude, disapproved of her working outside the home and she was obliged to obey her father and remain at home. Following her father's death, Sarah and her mother went to live at Lakes Cottage, Fishponds Road and it was whilst living here that she met and married John Ephraim Carter on the 30th May 1895. They had one child, Marjorie, born in 1897. Her father would have approved of the marriage as John was a respectable Architect and Surveying Managing Clerk!

Sarah was widowed in 1925 and remained completely independent for the remainder of her life, living at 1 Park Cottages, Westerham Road, doing all her own cooking and housework. It was during this period

she earned the affectionate title of “Granny Carter” by all who knew her. Sarah was admitted to Farnborough Hospital, (now The Princess Royal), and her remarkable life ended on 20th December 1969 in her 105th year! The account for her funeral records that every consideration for a suitable tribute was accorded to “Granny Carter”. The funeral service in Keston Parish Church was attended by the many who knew and respected her. Sarah was then reunited with John in the family grave.

You will no doubt be interested to learn that her funeral in 1969 although costing only £138.7s.6d was almost twice as much as the other funerals at that time. A reflection of the attention to detail afforded to a remarkable “Granny”!



Her 100th birthday with Mrs Chilton on the left and Mrs Berry on the right

In Brief

Prayer Walks

We will meet on the Green opposite The Greyhound pub at 9.30am on Tuesdays 1st February and 1st March and Wednesdays 16th February and 16th March. We usually return about 11am. All welcome.

Book Reading Fellowship

Come and discuss books with some Christian content that you have read at 2pm on Monday 7th February. Please let Sally Churchus know if you would like to come. Tel: 020 8462 8750.

Men's pub social

Do 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). More details from Martin Becker on 07484 609102.

Friends of Keston Common

Our AGM will be on Wednesday 16th March from 7.30pm on Zoom. Please contact fokc.support@hotmail.co.uk for the link. It has been decided that due to the uncertainty of the pandemic that Countryside Day will not be held in 2022. Monthly walks continue on the 1st Wednesday in the month at 2pm under the village sign. All welcome.

Mashona Terrace name (see last issue of the magazine)

I have a different version of the origin of the name. The terrace of shops was built by Mr Masham of Keston who named it after the Mashona mine where he made his fortune, and subsequently built this terrace. I wonder if that is just a story that has been passed down across the generations – Helen Ward.

What I Do

Dog Grooming



Hi, I'm Laura and my business is called 'In the Doghouse Grooming'.

In life sometimes we're thrown a curveball which changes our everyday walking life. I was made redundant after working for over 25 years in the Oil industry. Luckily, with redundancy plus forward thinking redundancy insurance I could take some time to decide what I really wanted to do. I've always loved animals, especially dogs, and after my parents got a Cockapoo decided that maybe dog grooming was the path I should take.

After months of training in London I passed my City & Guilds Levels 2 and 3 and started up my very own grooming business. I have a ready-made bespoke Dog POD which caters for every dog's grooming needs. Owners can rest assured that I always treat every dog as if it were my own and I want them to feel happy when they're left in my care. I always get great pleasure when a regular doggy client brings their dog to me and their tail is wagging.

Many dogs would rather be out running in the park than having to stand still for some time on a grooming table, so patience, understanding, treats, toilet break, stretching of the legs and obviously kisses and cuddles are always part of my agenda. If ever I have a very nervous or an old dog I always call in a second pair of hands to help pacify them, stoking, giving head pats and as a treat dispenser. I feel very happy doing the job I do and lucky to be surrounded by our lovable furry friends for over eight hours a day. It's definitely a physical job as you can't really negotiate with a dog and explain, so us groomers often have to be able to style and perform a haircut on a moving target!

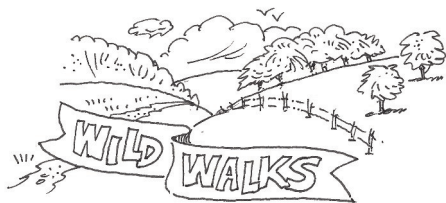
Grooming isn't always a luxury – it is an essential part of a dog's life, especially with certain coat types. Regular brushing and diet helps maintain a good healthy, tangle free coat. Matting can be very uncomfortable for dogs, which not only pulls on the skin, it can cause itching, interfere with controlling their body temperature and in extreme cases create sores. Dog groomers can also detect problems such as lumps or eye or ear infections, and bring them to the attention of their owners, which I have done on quite a few occasions now.

I really do enjoy my job and spending time with my doggy clients, I love seeing the before and after transformations for all my pampered pooches. I recently started up my Instagram/Facebook page for all to see, which is still a work in progress and I have many more

photos to upload, so please take a peek @Inthedoghousegroomingltd

If you'd like a groom for your furry friend then please do contact me, I will do whatever I can to cater for your dog's needs and make your dog's grooming experience a happy one.

Laura Mannall (07956 661222)



Whilst walking through my favourite woods, bordering the airfield, I recently stumbled across an old sauce bottle. It was of square section and moulded in the glass it read: THE ORIGINAL A1 THICK (underlined), SAUCE.

Intriguing, whose was it? HP, Heinz, Daddies, and how did it get there? One thing was certain, it had been there a long time.

About 40 years ago I ventured in these same woods on the hunt for bean poles. I passed the golf club buildings and parked the car by the gate which leads on to the airfield. This being the old Milking Lane which crosses the runway and emerges by the King's Arms at Leaves Green. I entered the woods and began my search. Within a short while I was aware of a springiness beneath my feet. I cleared the ground ivy and brambles only to find I was standing on a rusty piece of corrugated iron. I bent down and prised it from the woodland floor. Beneath was a hollow

area and lying within it was an aluminium army mess tin complete with its folded-in handle.

I was later told by Frank Goodrich who, as a boy lived in Downe village, that the Canadians who went on the ill-fated Dieppe raid in 1942 were encamped here. I also discovered, some years later, evidence of steps leading down off the footpath into the woods. Also part of the tented encampment.

Now here's a mystery, what animal collects stray golf balls and deposits them in undergrowth? Mainly in one small area. When I come across them I poke them into crevices in tree trunks or squeeze them between growing branches – as the branches thicken they compress the balls resulting in them being there for many many years.

Since writing this I was pleased to observe the uplifting sight of a flock of skylarks rising from the field which leads to Leaves Green. There were about 7 or 8 heading towards the airfield in their characteristic flitting and swooping flight pattern. In the summer I see them perched on the chain link boundary fence only to take off as I approach and alight further on. This is repeated all the way to the end of the airfield. I'm told this is now a rare sight.

Here's an afterthought...could the mystery sauce bottle come from the Canadians?

Richard Geiger



Thinking of Others

Fairtrade Fortnight 2022

(21st February – 6th March)



Fairtrade works with farming co-operatives, businesses and governments to make trade fair so that producers earn secure and sustainable livelihoods. (Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed *Isaiah 1:17* and Love your neighbour as yourself *Matthew 22:39*).

The climate crisis is the biggest threat to the livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers and agricultural workers in low-income countries worldwide. Without a fairer income, farmers and workers are unable to invest in the types of mitigation and adaptation techniques needed to protect the environment, and their businesses. This represents a vicious cycle of poverty in which steps towards environmental protection and decarbonisation are likely to be beyond the reach of those who aren't even able to earn a living income because the price they receive for their produce is far too low.

When thinking of Fairtrade, most people think of bananas, chocolate or tea and coffee, but there are many other Fairtrade products, including gold, wine, clothes, beauty products and flowers. There are over 70,000 people growing,

harvesting, packing and caring for Fairtrade flowers which are traceable back to the original farm. Fairtrade certified farms must ensure safety and working conditions for their employees. These farms receive a Fairtrade Premium of 10% for every stem sold, which allows workers to invest in healthcare, education and other social benefits. Fairtrade works with flower workers in countries including Kenya, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Ecuador, Uganda and Tanzania. Fairtrade flowers are available from Aldi, Asda, Co-op, Lidl, M & S and Moonpig, which may be worth bearing in mind with the approach of Valentine's Day and Mothering Sunday.



Prayer

This Fairtrade Fortnight, Lord help us to remember the 'power of the consumer' – that our choices can be the cornerstone of another person's livelihood. Help us to remember that swapping our shopping habits helps to put those who have for so long been last, first, so that they may know that they are not forgotten and that we are all part of the same world, your world, where no one person is better than the next and all deserve the same opportunity. Amen.

Caroline Hughesdon

Magazine Deadline

Please send photos and articles for the April/May 2022 issue of The Keston Magazine to the Editor, Sally Churchus, by 4th March at the very latest via email to editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk or contact her to discuss ideas on 020 8462 8750. Thank you.

Laughlines

☺ Know what to do

The town's fire prevention officer was conducting a health and safety course at the local church. The officer said to the minister: "Now imagine this: it is a Sunday morning, and you have a number of people, spread throughout your church building. Some are in the choir stalls, some are in the kitchen, and some are in the nave. Suddenly, a big

fire breaks out. What are the first steps you would take?"

The minister thought carefully for a moment. "Really big ones," he said.

☺ Say it with flowers

A man stopped by his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine's Day. He asked the proprietor, "You know the expression, 'Say it with flowers?'"

"I do indeed!" the florist enthused.

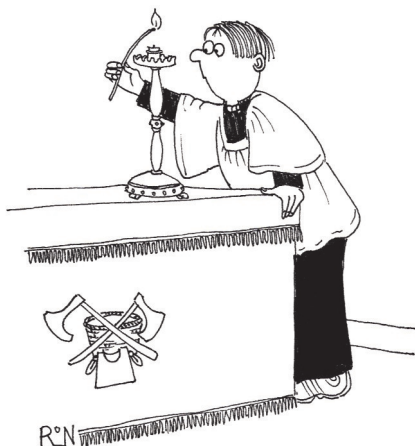
"How about three dozen of my finest roses?"

The man hesitated. "No, make it just half a dozen roses. I'm a man of few words".

☺ Congestion

A truck loaded with Vick Vapour Rub overturned on the motorway.

Amazingly, there was no congestion for eight hours.



*There were many signs
of economic downturn*



**Saturday 26th
February
6.30pm for 7pm start
Keston Church Hall**

Tickets £15 including fish & chip
supper available from Chris
Tel: 07988 712873
(Please bring your own
drinks and glasses)





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

In the Doghouse Grooming



Contact

Laura

Dog Groomer

07956 661222



Keston (Bromley)

Insta@Inthedoghousegroomingltd



City & Guilds Level 2&3