

The

Keston Magazine

News of your Parish and Village



August/September 2022

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Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

Matthew 22:37-39

Thought for the month

Summer Sun – The Light of God



Endings can be so difficult. When we have been involved in or committed to something for a long time – something that has been a big part of our life and has maybe shaped who we are – it can bring grief to see it go, or to let go of it.

However, an ending is also a beginning, because when one thing ends, inevitably, another begins. I am mindful of a hymn that begins *'In a world where people live in darkness, let us turn our faces to the light'*. The darkness of an ending, or any difficult life-event, can actually be an opening for light to flood in, if we can find that shard of light and turn our focus onto that thing that brings us comfort and hope.

Proactively turning to the positive, to the new beginning, reframes the whole situation. What we choose to turn our attention to, to direct our thoughts onto, can turn our whole physical wellbeing around.

There have been dark times for many over the past few years, there is darkness in places around the world right now, but light invariably breaks in – sometimes at the most unexpected

moment! That same hymn says: *'For the light is stronger than the darkness. And the day will overcome the night'*.

Humans have an amazing ability to overcome 'darkness' – to rise up to challenge or change and come through with more than before. More wisdom, more strength, more compassion, knowledge or hope. From taking our first steps to moving into our first home, from our first day at school to our first day in our first job, there is challenge and change.

Maybe we don't always realise, or appreciate, that we live with challenge, change and sometimes darkness right through life. And yet....we are transformed by it. This same hymn says: *'Though the shadows linger all around us. Let us turn our faces to the light'*.

Whatever life might be bringing our way today or in the days to come, we can be assured that the God of this universe is constant, doesn't change and wants light and life for us. As the summer sun shines on us, may the light of God, and the warmth of God's unconditional love, shine on us all too!

The third Collect prayer in the Book of Common Prayer of 1662 for Evening Prayer is: *'Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night'*.

A simple yet powerful prayer to end the day with – a reminder that light *will* break through and ultimately overcome darkness. Brighter times are on their way!

Carol

Rev'd Carol Morrison

Rev'd Carol retiring



After much thought and prayer I have come to the decision to retire early from my role as Rector at Keston Parish Church. This will bring to an end my 10-year relationship with this beautiful ancient place of worship, and its lovely people. (10 years, apart from my short spell in Burrswood in Tunbridge Wells).

I have enjoyed living in two different Rectories – having worked with the Diocese to sell the old one on Commonsides and buy the new one in The Dale. We have had a fruitful time joining the more traditional with some innovative ways to meet with God – some of which have not yet come back from the pandemic and others, like our Prayer Walks, which have thrived in spite of it.

Neil and I have felt so at home in this wonderful community and seen quite a lot of change in the village and parish – even in this relatively short space of time! We have so valued the great neighbours in both Commonsides and The Dale, our current neighbours being such a wonderful group of people throughout the pandemic!

I will miss so much about Keston and will be praying that your next Rector will also enjoy the privilege of being with you all.

From the Editor

Welcome to this summer edition – at the time of writing, it certainly feels like summer is here. My car told me this afternoon it was 32°C today!

It seems that it is a time for new leaders at the moment. Whether we are happy or sad to see Boris Johnson go, we are certainly sad that Rev'd Carol will be leaving us at the end of August. I'm sure you will agree with me that she has been a good leader of her flock in Keston, and want to thank her for all she has done. She has been a true friend to many of us too. We will also be saying farewell to her husband, Neil, who has taken on several roles including that of IT technician so that our services could be viewed online during the pandemic and also as Churchwarden. If you would like to say goodbye we are having a leaving lunch on Sunday 28th August in the church hall. If you are interested in coming, please let Tricia Coward know on 01689 854373, thank you.

We also now have two new Churchwardens, Martin Chalker and Geoff Carr, and we thank them for taking on these responsibilities, especially during the approaching interregnum. The wheels of the Church of England grind slowly, so we won't have any news about what is happening for quite a while, but in the meantime please be reassured that our services and activities will continue as normal.

Sally Churchus



Post Office Move with General Store

The public consultation about the proposed move of Keston Post Office branch 40 metres to a new location: 19 Heathfield Road, Keston, BR2 6BG closed on 5th July. The premises, which used to be Wrinkle3 dry cleaners is currently empty, and will soon be undergoing a refurbishment to incorporate a convenience store as well as Keston Post Office.

Why is the move happening?

The move is happening as part of the ongoing modernisation of the branch network. Introducing a local style branch alongside a successful retail store is the most effective way to safeguard sustainable Post Office services in the local community into the future. Customer satisfaction with this style of branch stands at 95%.

Your new Post Office branch

A range of Post Office products and services will be available at a low-screened, open-plan, modern serving point that's part of the retail counter.

Opening hours

Would be extended from

Mon-Fri 9.00-17.30

Saturday 9.00-12.30

Sunday closed

Initially, to:

Mon-Fri 8.30-17.30

Saturday 8.30-12.30

Plus Sunday mornings for newspapers and general store items.

Opening date

Hopefully this will be at the end of August or beginning of September.

Heathfields Tuesday Tea Club



It's been just over a year and a half since we opened Heathfields and so far it has been a wonderful journey through a very unique period. One thing that has stood out for us is that we have met some wonderful people whose paths we had never crossed before despite living in the village for eight years.

We have also heard some extraordinary stories of the history of Keston and the surrounding area. For example, we now know that the house next to us was used as a hospital during the war and the Canadian army were based on Keston Green. Most of these stories have been recalled by local people who have lived here for many, many years and quite a few have one thing in common, that they live on their own. They either pop by to visit us when with friends or when walking around the village we stop and have a chat with them. So this got us thinking, why don't we use Heathfields as a meeting point where people can pop in on their own without feeling uncomfortable to meet people in a similar position for a tea and a chat,

(or coffee of course), no gimmicks, just a place to meet.

So we are starting the Tuesday Tea Club... 2-4pm every Tuesday we will allocate one of our larger tables for people to sit, talk and have a nice beverage and maybe a cheeky slice of cake and meet some new and old friends.

It may be just us and our lovely Heathfields team you talk to at first but hopefully it will grow and other people will have the confidence to pop by. So please spread the word and we are looking forward to meeting you soon.

Paul and Gail Spencer



Keston's New Churchwarden

I came to live in Keston in 2007 and began attending Keston Church. I found the church and its congregation friendly and enjoyed attending the services and as someone with a number of strengths in management, IT and engineering I decided to offer any assistance I could to the church and the congregation. After a while I was asked to do more and become more involved so I considered taking up a position. This was initially to serve on the PCC, (Parochial Church Council), and then



after a few more years I thought of standing as a Churchwarden but it was not to be as I tend to spend a lot of time out of the country. However, this year, with the offer of help from an unofficial deputy Churchwarden (Sally Churchus), I was voted in at the APCM to hold the post alongside Martin Chalker. I was actually in the Pacific on a cruise ship when I heard the news!

I have strengths in some areas but concerns about my lacking in knowledge of the worship side of the position. I am therefore trying to learn about that part of the job and it seems there is a lot to learn. I have taken to reading up on the role and found there are online courses that I need to take. This will help me with becoming a better Churchwarden and I hope people will come and talk to me and ask me questions which will help me build my knowledge and improve how I can serve Keston Church. I know that with the help of the congregation and God I will get there and hope to become a beneficial Churchwarden in helping the church with its present and future direction.

Geoff Carr

Another New Churchwarden



The first time I visited Keston Parish Church was back in 1983, while I was serving in the Royal Air Force. The church has changed since then, with the addition of the hall, and Garden of Remembrance, and after moving back here for the third time in 2012, I started to attend the church in 2015/16.

My background is in Facilities Management (IWFEM) and I am also a member of Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). My current daytime role is as CEO for a charity, (International Students House), based up in London which provides a 'Home from Home' for International and UK students studying in Central London. We also provide scholarships and bursaries to underprivileged and minority students to enable them to get a degree at one of our 32 joint partner Higher Education institutions, along with a hardship fund for students and a full diary of in-house events, along with a small travel club to help students understand the UK as well as get to

know one another. Our office is at 1 Park Crescent in London which is a Grade 1 building which needs a lot of long term maintenance and repair.

I live on Heathfield Road. I guess I started to get more involved in Keston Parish Church at the end of Covid, and with the last Churchwarden moving away I naturally stepped in and helped out, and at the last AGM in May 22, was officially voted into the role. I am also a member of the church choir, (I'm not sure if that is a good thing, but I enjoy singing).

I have been on PCCs before at other churches and see this role as Churchwarden as being the bishop's officer; to look after the registers during a vacancy; to act as a representative of the laity and liaise with and support the Incumbent. Plus we have an Archdeacon's Visitation annually for which we help to prepare.

The officer role of Churchwarden was legally recognised back in the 13th century and two centuries later Churchwardens were chosen annually in a parish meeting in which all adult parishioners had a say in the election. So Geoff and I are presumably in a long line of Churchwardens for Keston Parish Church. (First recorded date of Rector in Keston was 1207, William of Taunton).

I look forward to serving as Churchwarden, and that of helping the Rector in our worship and praise as well as helping keep Keston Parish Church in as good a condition as we can, so all can attend and worship in such a beautiful parish church.

Martin Chalker

Community Draw Winners

A big thank you to all those organisations in the community that so generously donated prizes and made the Draw such a success. £1,600 was raised in total for Keston Parish Church and the Keston Village Residents' Association (for the poppies and Christmas lights on the lampposts). The prizewinners for the Queen's Jubilee Keston Community Draw were: Dave Angiolini – The Greyhound voucher

Jenny Erian – Next Ahead voucher

David Clapham – Bird table from Jack Frost Pet and Country Store

Deidre Fitzgerald – 1984 bottle of port

Doreen Smith – The Crown voucher

Robert Johnson – Kitchen Doctor

Will Burvis – Daisy Grey voucher

Sheila Clark – Church hall hire

Amelia Grey – The Fox voucher

Karen Smithson – Garden Bistro set from Dobbies

Buck Biggs – Heathfields voucher

Ghislaine Horgan – Holwood Farm afternoon tea



Doreen Smith collecting her prize when the draw was done on Sunday 5th June.

Roman Tombs Open Day 22nd May



It was a successful day, thanks to the wonderful weather and many helpers who provided tables, chairs, cakes, biscuits and lots of hard work!

We raised approximately £1,200 for motor neurone disease, which was an incredible amount, and will go to the West Kent branch. The money will help pay for much needed equipment for sufferers of this debilitating and distressing disease. Thank you so much to our visitors for their generosity.

Sally Ring

Parish Walk



Setting off from the church car park on the same sunny afternoon – 22nd May

Chelsea Garden coming to Biggin Hill

Photo by Ollie Dixon ©



After being displayed at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, the RAF Benevolent Fund Garden has been relocated to a permanent site at Biggin Hill Airport, adjacent to the Lookout Café and new hotel, The Landing. It is to be renamed ‘The Strongest Link Garden’ – alluding to Prime Minister Winston Churchill’s description of RAF Biggin Hill as his ‘strongest link’ during the Battle of Britain. The statue was installed on-site on Monday 11th July and the event was marked with a Spitfire flypast, kindly flown by the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar. It will now be covered until the official unveiling and opening of the garden to the public which will take place later this year.

The garden and statue, designed by award winning designer John Everiss, features a sculpture of a young pilot

looking up at the sky. Standing at four metres tall and constructed from 223 layers of laser cut stainless steel, the contemporary sculpture is a powerful and moving tribute to all those who have served and continue to serve in the Royal Air Force.

The garden has been designed to allow visitors to sit and reflect on the service and sacrifice of those that served at RAF Biggin Hill in the hope that it will inspire visitors to look into their own history and speak to family and friends about their connections to the RAF. Entrance to the garden will be free of charge.

Funding for the garden was provided by Project Giving Back, a new support scheme enabling charities to create a garden at the world-renowned show.

Obituary

Margaret Nicholas

13/4/1940 -11/6/2022



Margaret Bedwell was born in Upper Norwood, the first child of Herbert and Doris Bedwell, and in due course was joined by a sister, Anne. The wider family was extensive and close-knit, and the sense of being part of a family was a significant element in Margaret's life.

From the local primary school, she went as a Croydon scholar to James Allen's Girls School in Dulwich, and from there to St. Hugh's College, Oxford to read mathematics, where her tutor was Dr Ida Busbridge, whom some will remember as a member of this church. She came down from Oxford in 1962, when the computer industry was in its infancy. Her first job was on "Leo", the first commercial computer in Britain, built by the Lyons, the tea shop company, to handle the accounts. By the time that we met in 1967 Margaret was working at BOAC, attempting to match ticket sales to seats on their aircraft.

We married in 1968 and settled in Beckenham, where our children Alison and Jonathan were born, and moved to Keston in 1973. The connection with the church was instantaneous. To be

more precise, as we were unpacking our things after the removal men had left, we received a parish visit from the Rector, and that was the start of Margaret's long and happy time as a member of Keston Church.

Once in Keston she met Dr Busbridge again, who was by now retired, and it was through Dr Busbridge that she became the technical editor of the Journal of the London Mathematical Society, a post she held for several years. She had a spell as Treasurer of the PCC and for many years counted and banked the collections and proceeds of church services and functions and was also involved with the refreshments provided after services. Away from the church, she served as a governor of the village school and St. Olave's and spent a longer period as a volunteer at Oxfam and the PRU Hospital.

As our children reached independence, so, in a strange way, did we. When the children were young, a holiday was a cottage in Wales or the Lake District – now it could be Greece or Italy, or even Kenya, where Jonathan settled for some years. It also brought Margaret the pleasure of being a grandmother, and seeing the eldest to their points of independence. Looking back, this was the golden period of our life together. It also brought to her the responsibility of her own elderly relatives, from which she would never flinch.

Margaret's final years were increasingly difficult, and the family is grateful for the many friends who gave her support and comfort.

David Nicholas

Church Services

1st Sunday of each month – Informal Family Communion Service

All other Sundays – 10am Holy Communion

From the Registers

Baptism

3rd July Eden Jeremy Mills (born 5/7/2021)

Wedding

7th May Louise Churchus & Raphael Vinhas Chaves

Memorial Service

10th June Sheila Mary Barham (aged 92 yrs)

Burial of Ashes

26th May Caroline Vida Markham (aged 81 yrs)

15th June Elsie Phythian (aged 90 yrs)



Baptism of Eden Mills, brother to Oscar with his parents, Louise and Brendan on the right and Godparents on the left, on Sunday 3rd July



Wedding of Louise Churchus and Raphael Vinhas Chaves on Saturday 7th May

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



Royal Afternoon Cream Tea in Keston church hall on 2nd June with 70 people attending



Maureen Liddy with her portrait of the Queen on display in the church



Celebration cake at the Cream Tea



Street party in The Dale



Mary P'Anson and neighbours celebrating in Windmill Drive



Friday 3rd June Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration on Keston Village Green

Faith and Cancer – A personal journey

“Cancer. You have pancreatic cancer.” This was the news that I was given when I attended the Emergency Department at the PRUH at the end of October last year. It was the news that I was half-expecting, and was braced for, but that still did not make it any easier to hear. It rocked my world, and not in a good way.

I am not of course alone as so many people are given such news every day of the week. It is devastating for each individual person and their loved ones.

A consultation with Dr Google informed me that the chances of still being here in 5-year’s time are not good and this was even more difficult to take in than the initial diagnosis.

This news, and the information I discovered through my research and reading, forced me to review many areas of my life and the one I wish to share with you now is the way his has impacted on, and challenged, my faith.

I have been a Christian for as long as I can remember; at times I have been very committed and active, but much less so in recent years (although I have never lost my faith or turned my back on God). I had a choice: be a victim, ask “why me?” and blame God, or stay positive and use my predicament as an opportunity despite how tough life quickly became in terms of my treatment, how I began to think about my life and the uncertainty that I immediately began to experience.

Despite the awfulness of my cancer diagnosis I was determined not to view myself as a victim and to accept that I



am simply a person living with cancer.

So how could my faith stand up in terms of my uncertainty and adversity? Could I use my circumstances to rebuild, sustain or even strengthen my faith? I decided absolutely that I could – the challenge was **how** to do this.

I had lost touch, (for some years), with my church community in Keston and my first decision was to re-engage, and not simply in terms of attending church but to involve myself in the life of the church community. This has been a complete blessing and a wonderful starting point in the renewal of my Christian faith. But faith is not simply about faith and trust in God, it is also about faith and trust in yourself and your own knowledge and abilities, and also those of others, after all these are God given too.

I have never believed that you should rely only on God: as humans we have

God-given gifts and abilities that it is incumbent upon us to use for our own benefit and that of others. An important element of my faith journey has therefore been to use my professional knowledge and background in psychology, mental health and lifestyle medicine to apply to my own situation, adjusting my approach to my own

Could I use my circumstances to rebuild, sustain or even strengthen my faith?

wellbeing and lifestyle to mitigate the effects of my cancer and my treatment.

Prayer, meditation and mindfulness have also played a vital part in my faith journey. These three are not so different from each other in the healing effect they have on your body although I firmly believe that prayer has an additional dimension in God's intervention or influence on the outcome.

Interestingly, I have found that my faith has strengthened, not through any particular effort but as an **effect** of changing things in my life to deal with my situation. This has been an unexpected blessing. The letter from James, in the New Testament, sums up my experience perfectly; he says:

"... consider yourselves fortunate when all kinds of trials come your way, for you know that when your faith succeeds in facing such trials, the result is the ability to endure".

(James, chapter 1, verses 2-3). This has become an anchor-point for me. I am fortunate to have a conviction that my faith will succeed and I know from my experience that staying positive about my future and my faith, will allow me to deal with my cancer, get through it, and endure.

So, although it might seem a strange thought, my cancer, for me, has been a blessing, and has brought me unexpected opportunities for personal and spiritual growth.

John Bakker
johnbakker.uk@gmail.com

New Day

I thank you Lord for this new day,
Which is a gift from you,
Help me not to waste it Lord
But live it just for you.
May I spread your love dear Lord,
To the people that I meet,
To those who visit me at home,
Or meet me in the street.
Keep my ears from listening,
To gossip or idle chat,
Stop my tongue from
saying words, I know
I should keep back.
Give me a loving heart
So people see I care,
And help me to remember Lord,
That you are always there.
Amen.

Keston National School

Part 4: 100+ years ago

Absenteeism was a constant problem for the Master of the School and the School Log Book recorded many reasons to explain the poor attendance by pupils. The Managers received an estimate of the problem confronting the teachers in 1876 when the Master reported that an average of 1 in 3 days was lost through absence. Entries in the Log Book provide a particular view of

the school, the children and also their families. Sickness, social events, family needs, inability to pay fees, bad weather and job opportunities were frequently given as reasons for absence. Even after the Master, Fred Taylor, had established a good reputation and the school was considered successful, serious absenteeism persisted.

Between 1900 and 1904 Mr Taylor recorded the following reasons amongst many others for absences by the children of Keston.

- Dec. 1899 'Jumble sale school closed'
- Jan. 1900 'several boys absent beating' (cover beating for game shoots)
- Feb. 1900 'deep snow temperature in large room 45F at 9.30am.' (about 8 °C)
- Feb. 1900 'very cold temperature in large room 35F at 9.30am.' (about 2°C)
- Feb. 1900 'snow, only 44 present' (163 on school roll)
- April 1900 'tea and entertainment for parents in evening, school closed half day'
- June 1900 'Edward Solman, George Howden, Lilly Allen, Gladys Lettington, passed labour examination and free to seek work' (all under 14 years)
- Nov. 1900 'diphtheria in Fox Hill children from there to be kept at home order of M.O.' (Medical Officer)
- Dec. 1900 'diphtheria in Leaves Green children to be kept at home, school disinfected'
- June 1901 'Edith Borer permitted to attend half time for gooseberry picking'
- Nov. 1901 'school closed for one week due to scarlet fever epidemic'
- Jan. 1903 'closure for 3 weeks measles epidemic'
- July 1903 'attendance poor owing to fruit picking. Nine boys permitted to leave before 14'
- Sep. 1903 'Mayor of Bromley's Procession some parents taking children, school closed'
- Apr. 1904 'Apps children absent, chicken pox'
- May 1904 'school closed on advice of M.O. (May 16th to June 6th)
- Sep. 1904 'Budd family hop picking'
- Nov. 1904 'Edward Durling of Rouse Farm cottages employed three beaters'



Keston Church of England School

‘The Old School’ was built on the Common in 1855. The photo can be dated between 1899, when the extra rooms had been built on the rear of the original school, and before the erection of a flag pole in 1908.

Photo and information courtesy of Edward Williams

Only in 1873 did it become illegal to employ children under eight years in farm work and not until 1880 were parents required by law to send their children to school. Pupils achieving ‘standard 4’ in literacy and numeracy would be granted a ‘labour certificate’ that permitted them to leave school before their 14th birthday.

Accidents to children while at work were not unusual; in 1885, the Master recorded that, ‘*William Samyer has crushed his fingers in the chaff cutter, obliged to be amputated*’. Before the days of antibiotics the serious threat from infections to children and teachers is clear; Emily Valentine and Lilly Allen both contracted ringworm while working as pupil teachers at Keston School as did

Assistant Teacher, Miss Purdy who was absent with a ‘*facial complaint*’ in 1899.

Entries in the School log also remind us that winters were frequently longer and colder 100 years ago, making it hazardous for children wearing inadequate clothes and shoes to walk between home and school four times a day.

Tudor Davies

Interested in Keston History?

Tudor’s comprehensive book, *A History of Keston* published in 2017, and covering just about everything to do with the history of Keston is still available from him on tdkeston@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: 01689 855744. Priced at only £5, proceeds will go to charity.

Keston school Platinum Jubilee events

The Year 5 children entered the Bromley competition to design a Jubilee planter. They went to Coolings and selected plants to represent the colours of the jubilee and made a 'crown' from wire and coloured tape to go over the planter for flowers to grow around, from which their cut out drawings of some 'Red Arrows' were hung. They made and decorated bunting for the outside of the container. They achieved 'Highly Commended for Best Horticultural Display'.



There were lots of other events including decorating paper plates with Jubilee colours and using them to carry their biscuits on, which they had decorated with icing in Jubilee colours. The children then enjoyed eating the biscuits!

The children also made and decorated crowns which they wore as they paraded around the playground on the Friday afternoon, waving hand-made streamers. We then welcomed 'The Queen' who took time out of her busy schedule to come and visit! She spoke with many of the children and staff and had photos taken with some of the children after school.



'The Queen' visits Keston again

'The Queen', (Jeanette Vane aged 93 from Bromley) made another appearance at The Crown in Leaves Green on Friday 8th July for a private Diamond wedding anniversary celebration, that of Ted and Maureen Williams. Congratulations!



What I Do

When I was asked to be in The Keston Magazine, with a circulation of 1,350, Sally the Editor said, “I know it’s a lot of potential readers – but not as frightening as seeing them all in front of you!”. This could not be more true.

I sang on stage at the Keston Platinum Jubilee celebrations on 3rd June. There were thousands of people and it was one of the most nerve-racking experiences of my life because there were so many people in the crowd that I knew. I sang for an

hour and did a mixture of songs to cater for everyone there, ranging from Vera Lynn to Luther Vandross. I had pre-performance nerves and my heart was racing thinking about what could go wrong. Would I

forget the words, would I fall off the stage? I remember thinking “why am I putting myself through this, just run home”. But I gave myself a little pep-talk and embraced my jitters and didn’t let it intimidate me. I knew the Keston crowd would be welcoming and it really was.

I have lived in the heart of Keston village for over 12 years and my three daughters went to Keston C.E Primary School. I previously had the honour of being asked by the KVRA to sing at a couple of Christmas Fayres outside

The Greyhound and the last Royal wedding celebrations. However, this has really been the limit of my public singing for the last few decades.

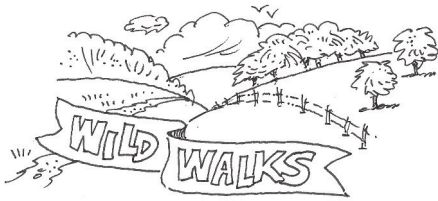
Ironically, I gave up recording and singing in bands years ago as I felt I was getting too old to be on stage. I concentrated on my career and raising my daughters. The owner of Tugra in Hayes always asked me to sing in his restaurant but I never had the guts to say yes, until now. I sing there on a regular basis and this has led on to various other venues and functions asking me.



Turning 50 a few months ago and being like so many mums whose children are growing up and becoming independent, it’s been the hardest but most wonderful thing to watch. Seeing their cocktail of

emotions as they let go of their comforts of childhood to find themselves in the world, has led me to re-discover my passion for music. It’s also scary not knowing what the next stage of life has in store for me. I have a lifetime of wisdom to help me make decisions, I have a heightened sense of self-esteem to believe in myself. 50 is where good things get better and the bad things fall away. Singing makes me happy, so I’ll do it for as long as I’m in demand!

Caroline Jackson



Birds in Keston

“I was walking out one day, in the merry month of May” goes the song. In fact I was walking the dog close to the airfield perimeter when across my field of vision flew – in perfect formation a ... gaggle of geese. It was the honking sound that first drew my attention upwards and there, flying west to east, across the runway, was a classic ‘V’ configuration of them. As they passed and reached the far side of the airfield they veered to the left and headed to what I assumed would be Keston ponds or thereabouts. Many years ago I flew in a light plane out of Biggin Hill and was surprised to see numerous ponds and small lakes around and beyond Holwood House.

In my favourite woods, flanking the golf course, I’ve been treated since early spring to the sound of a cock pheasant calling out. He’s obviously laid claim to the territory as I’ve heard him, over the spring months, in various parts of the wood. On my approach to the area I’ve caught sight of the young hen pheasants scuttling into the undergrowth from the fields of green shoots of winter corn. Hopefully he’s had some success!

I have also been lucky enough to see a pair of skylarks swooping and twittering. They live in a field which projects into the land of the airfield at the northern end. Beneath the surface, there are massive chambers which until recently

contained North Sea gas. These were being constructed in 1970 along with the pumping station and a network of delivery pipes which went around the county. Apparently they are no longer in use. As a result the field is allowed to grow naturally and is not used for a crop. Ideal for ground nesting birds.

Question: which bird sleeps on the wing? I may stand corrected but I’m sure I learnt years ago that swallows do this as they migrate yearly from Africa. They attain tremendous height and glide; enabling them to snatch short naps! Well, they arrived recently and I saw them twisting and zooming in their

Question: which bird sleeps on the wing?

characteristic way. With the recent warmer weather the insects are emerging and rising high in the warm air providing these birds with vital food. I heard on a radio broadcast that they fill small pouches in their throats and consume their catch later.

Oh, and a few days ago I was startled in the woods by a great flapping sound as a buzzard, surprised by ‘me and the dog’ staggered into the air with its great wings slapping the branches as it struggled to gain height through the trees, scary!

Footnote: Although they’re quiet now, the woodpeckers were very active a month ago with their hammer drills echoing through the woods.

Richard Geiger

Apologies – this article should have been in the June/July issue – Ed.

Regular Events

Prayer Walks

We meet on the Green opposite The Greyhound pub at 9.30am on the 1st Tuesday and 3rd Wednesday in the month. We usually return about 11am.

Men's pub social

Do join us at 7pm at The Greyhound on the 3rd 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).

Book Reading Fellowship

Come and discuss books with some Christian content that you have read at 2pm on Monday 15th August. Please let Sally Churchus know if you would like to come. Tel: 020 8462 8750.

Mental Wellbeing Coffee Morning

An opportunity for chat over tea/coffee and cake in a group with a local mental health professional at hand. We will hear some tips about how we can keep ourselves well on Saturday 27th August 10am-12 noon in Keston Church Hall.

New Keston WI

We meet from 1.30pm-3.30pm in Keston Village Hall on the 2nd Wednesday in the month, but we will not be meeting during August.

Friends of Keston Common

Monthly walks continue on the 1st Wednesday in the month at 2pm under the village sign. Everyone welcome.

Keston Book Club

Our meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm in The Fox. New members welcome. More information from 07503 268001 or angelahollamby@gmail.com.

Christian Aid

For the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising. The combined effects of the Covid pandemic, conflict, and drought have robbed communities and families all over the world of the power to provide for themselves and their children. During Christian Aid week in May, the congregation of Keston Parish Church were very generous and we collected £575.81 to send to Christian Aid to help alleviate this situation. Thank you all.

Tricia Coward

Mixed Ability Yoga

I have been practicing Hatha Yoga as a student for nearly 10 years and teaching for two and a half years. My passion for Yoga began during a challenging period in my life, when a friend introduced me to Yoga. I soon felt the benefits of a calmer and quieter mind and Yoga became a part of my weekly routine.

In 2018 I decided to embark on the journey to become a Yoga Teacher and trained with the British Wheel of Yoga gaining a Level 4 Diploma in Yoga Teaching (RQF). I welcome students of all abilities – my new class is on Monday evenings from 7.45pm-9.15pm in Keston Parish Church hall BR2 6HT, £10 per class. Please contact Keighley on activateyoga@yahoo.com for more information.

Keighley Willis



Magazine Deadline

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

Laughlines

☺ Maths lesson

The only place where you can buy 64 watermelons without anyone wondering why.

☺ Miscellaneous observations on life

- As long as there are exams, there will be prayer in schools.
- Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.
- You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

☺ Memorable school reports

- *The following were sent in to the Daily Telegraph some years ago...*
- One of my French reports simply said: 'Sheila attended the lessons'. Sheila Blow, Surrey
- My housemaster wrote: 'He has an overdeveloped unawareness'. Ian Jones, Wirral
- My teacher observed: 'The improvement in his handwriting has revealed his inability to spell'. Colin Sutherland, Switzerland
- My teacher was a realist: 'I am sorry to have to tell you that he is doing his best'. Stan Proctor, Surrey.

Magazine Donations



If you enjoy The Keston Magazine and would like to make a donation towards the costs we would be very grateful. BACS transfers with reference 'Magazine donation' can be made to Sort Code 20-05-57 Account 30543683. Please use the envelope enclosed for cash or cheques made payable to **'Keston Parochial Church Council'**. (The bank will not accept variations). If you are a UK tax payer and fill in the Gift Aid slip, we can recover an extra 25p for every £1, whichever way you pay. Thank you.



Derek was beginning to regret even mentioning Wordle in last Sunday's sermon!

©ANDY ROBB

You can find Derek the Cleric at www.derekthecleric.com on Facebook and Twitter



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