

The

Keston Magazine

News of your Parish and Village



October/November 2022

Keston Parish Church

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



Rector

There is currently an interregnum

Licensed Lay Minister & Parish Administrator Churchwardens

Tricia Coward	01689 854373
hallbookings@kestonparishchurch.org.uk	
Martin Chalker	07711 016891
warden@kestonparishchurch.org.uk	
Geoff Carr	07584 058872
warden@kestonparishchurch.org.uk	
Patricia Geiger	01959 574008

Verger

Treasurer	Anna Bailey	01689 852583
Organist & Choirmaster	David Cook	020 8289 5768
Church Hall	Tricia Coward	01689 854373
	hallbookings@kestonparishchurch.org.uk	
Magazine Editor & Book Reading Fellowship	Sally Churchus	020 8462 8750
	editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk	
Women's Institute	Helen Best	07715 880889
Beavers/Cubs/Scouts	gs127thbromley@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

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived
what God has prepared for those who love him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

Front cover: Rev'd Carol and Neil Morrison planting the tree by Sally Churchus ©

Thought for the month

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 21st April 1926-8th September 2022



We are all deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Her Majesty The Queen, on the 8th September 2020, as we take this edition of the The Keston Magazine to press.

As Britain's most respected, beloved and longest-serving monarch, we remember Her late Majesty's lifelong devotion to public service here in the United Kingdom, across the Commonwealth, and around the world. Her Majesty was also the head of the Church of England and at the heart of her life was her faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. That faith that she spoke about so openly in recent years, that faith which sustained her in all the ups and downs of the life of our nation and indeed in her own life.

We in Keston send our condolences to His Majesty King Charles III and all the members of the Royal family on the loss of a much-loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Comfort can be found in Hebrews 4:16 "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need".

Although many of us will be sad at her Majesty's passing, we must also celebrate her life, her guidance and love for the nation. As I thought back to this last couple of day's events, my son reminded me of the small scene Her majesty played with Paddington Bear, the fun she had in that little sketch, and the cheers it raised when shown all down the Mall. There was also the memorable time at the opening of the Olympics when Queen Elizabeth was seen accompanying James Bond, 007, to board a helicopter and seemingly parachute into the stadium – this was the fun side of Her Majesty.

I know there were more serious times and with all the years on the throne she counselled 15 Prime Ministers, (although the last she only met once), but her strong sense of duty and love for God and her subjects will never be forgotten.

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love". (1 Corinthians 13:13). The Queen's love will always live with us.

Martin J Chalker, Churchwarden



From the Editor

On the front cover, it may look as if Rev'd Carol is planting a tree with Gregg Wallace of MasterChef fame, but I can assure you that it's her husband Neil! Rev'd Carol donated the tree to the church and parish on her retirement at the end of August. (See p7). Thinking back over her time at Keston, she has done a considerable amount for the residents of Keston, including starting the popular Prayer Walks; our Mental Wellbeing coffee mornings; the Book Reading Fellowship, church pub socials; Wednesday Worship at Keston School as well as overseeing the much needed enlargement of the church car park. That is not to mention all the services, sermons, baptisms, weddings and funerals that she has taken as well as helping us to grow in faith. We often underestimate the time that people use to fulfil their roles in the church and community. Indeed, we often have no idea how much they actually do until they stand down! So to everyone who gives of themselves for the community in Keston, in a variety of ways, we thank you – we are not able to name you all individually, but you know who you are.

Everyone has gifts, in fact very different gifts and talents, given by God, and we ask that He will guide us to use them to help, encourage and bring happiness to others. And on that note, I hope you enjoy this issue of the magazine!

Sally Churchus



Donation Thanks

Thank you once again to all our readers who made donations towards the costs of The Keston Magazine so that it may continue. It's not too late to do so if you would still like to contribute.

BACS transfers with reference 'Magazine donation' can be made to Sort Code 20-05-57 Account 30543683, or cheques made payable to

'Keston Parochial Church Council'.

Please send them to the Treasurer, Mrs A Bailey, Elm Gables, Westerham Road, Keston BR2 6HH. Thank you.

Donations of information, articles and photos would also be welcome as a constant supply is needed. Thank you.

Friends of Keston Common News

We are pleased to announce that we have retained our Green Flag status for 2022/2023. Our next open meeting is on Wednesday 5th October at 7.30pm in the Jubilee room of Keston Village Hall.

There won't be any tree works in Padmall Wood this winter as originally scheduled as the main structural bridge has not yet been repaired. Vehicle access is therefore compromised and so the work has been postponed until winter 2023/24.

The Friends meet every Friday at 10am in the Westerham Road car park and undertake a couple of hours of light, (gardening style), activities across the Common. Please do come and join us.

Larry Herbert, Chair of FoKC

Post Office Move with General Store



On the rather drizzly morning of Thursday 1st September, the new Post Office and general store opened at 19, Heathfield Road. The new Postmaster is Kiritharan Thurairajalingam (Kiri) and Postmistress, his wife, Shaveetha Udhayakumar (Shavee). They have two sons, Keshiyan, who at 14 is the eldest and Harin who is 10 years old. (In case you are wondering, the names are Sri Lankan, although Shavee was born in Germany and still has German citizenship). On the opening day they were busy as soon as they opened the door as people who had gone to the Post Office next to The Fox found it was closed. They had planned an official opening with the cutting of a ribbon by Kiri's mother, but unfortunately it was not to be as they had a constant stream of customers.

When Shavee met her husband Kiri, he was already a newsagent and this is now their fourth retail business. They still have a convenience store in Sidcup, which they took over in 2009. However,

the Post Office side of things is new to them and after 14 hours of online training and a three day course in Croydon they have started in Keston with some help for the first week and then six months of remote support – but there is a lot to learn! The Post Office opening times are currently Monday-Saturday 8.30am-6.30pm and Sundays 9am-2pm. Together with their family this leaves little time for Shavee to spend on her hobby of cake decorating. (I saw some photos of amazing creations that she had done!).

The store is beautifully fitted out and sells a variety of soft drinks, tobacco, confectionery, toiletries, household items, medicines and some fresh produce as well as newspapers and alcoholic drinks. National lottery tickets will soon be on sale too. It is our luck that you have come to Keston and taken on the combined Post Office and store, and we welcome you into the community.

Sally Churchus

Rosemary for Remembrance

You have probably noticed, if you go up to the church, that the box hedge round the Garden of Remembrance has been under attack. Even though I was checking for box caterpillars I never saw any but that is what killed them. However, we are in good company with this as even Monty Don lost his box hedge last year to the dreaded caterpillars.

So at the end of June I enlisted my husband David's help to get the box out as it was looking very sorry for itself. Just as well I roped David in as I could not budge them and he had to remove them all himself. We saw lots of the quite pretty box caterpillar moths! We also discovered that a lot of the original edging boards had rotted and needed replacing. David measured up, ordered the wood, had it delivered to church, and set about replacing the entire framework. It is now much sturdier, being all bolted together in one framework. It was a long hot day when

we did the boards, but after a siesta we finished around 9.30 in the evening.

New shingle was put on the outside edges for families to leave a pot of flowers for a loved one whose ashes are interred in the plot. The heat wave continued so we delayed the planting of the rosemary till it was a bit cooler. Since then it has been watered every day by either myself or Eileen Davies and I am glad to say they are surviving this extended heatwave and the grass is beginning to grow again.

I cleaned out Waitrose several times buying up their rosemary plants. Rosemary was chosen, not only because it is disease resistant and can be cut to form a hedge, but because, in the language of flowers, rosemary means 'Remembrance'.

Donations towards the cost of the refurbishment would be gratefully received. You can find me at church most Sundays and sometimes working in the wildlife garden by the new car park extension.

Tonia Crouch



Rev'd Carol's Last Day



We said our goodbyes to Rev'd Carol and her husband, Neil, on Sunday 28th August as she retired. After the 10am Communion Service, attended by over 60 people, we watched as they planted a flowering cherry tree in the churchyard by the road. Rev'd Carol wanted to do this in support of 'The Queen's Green Canopy' which is a project to plant trees during the Platinum Jubilee year. A slate plaque commemorating the occasion is now in situ at the base and reads:

Planted by
Reverend Carol Morrison
to support
'The Queen's Green Canopy'
during the Platinum Jubilee year
28th August 2022



A wonderful buffet lunch followed the presentation of gifts and a card to Rev'd Carol, with Tricia Coward thanking her for all she has done for the parish over the years. A special cake was cut at the finish of the afternoon. We wish Rev'd Carol God's blessings as she and Neil start a new chapter of their life in Hastings.



New church lights



Here at Keston parish church we have recently continued our efforts to be more energy efficient and environmentally friendly by installing new lights in the church. We had already changed to LED lighting in the hall and lobby.

The existing halogen lamps in the church kept failing and were very expensive to run. The installation we chose needed no major changes to the structure of the lighting system, so no impact on our beautiful ancient building, but we now have an exciting and variable way of lighting the church.

The new lights are LED enclosed units which are multifunctional, and all linked to one control unit which can be operated remotely. There are many options, all dimmable, including warm or cool white light and a complete RGB range of colours throughout the church to set a mood for specific services and events. We very much look forward now to Harvest time and Christmas, and other occasions, when we have the option to use the appropriate colours!

Most of all though we are happy that, with the increasing cost of energy, we will be able to reduce our spending and hopefully make our small contribution to saving the planet as well!

Rev'd Carol Morrison

Car Park Walkway



Following a generous donation by a member of the congregation we have been able to add a further update to the church car park.

Several people had asked if anything could be done to help pedestrians accessing the car park. Many had found the ramp challenging and did not feel safe sharing it with cars. Drivers were concerned about the sight line down Church Road as cyclists and other vehicles approach at speed.

A separate tarmacked pedestrian walkway at the side of the existing drive, which is less slippery and wide enough for walkers and wheelchair users, has been added and we are now finalising plans for handrails and gates to secure access to the car park. The pathway and car park will have separate gates, independently lockable, the exact specification yet to be decided including self-locking with a key pad to unlock them.

The final and most needed part will be the addition of solar lighting. As yet we have not agreed on this as the early idea of using scaffold poles has not worked and we are now trying to source 3-metre lamp posts. Watch this space as dark nights are coming.

Geoff Carr

Historic Holwood Walk and Talk

At 2.30pm on Sunday 2nd October, Dr Brian Philp, M.B.E., Director of Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit, will lead a walk through the Holwood Estate. We will learn of the impact of the Roman occupation, explore the Iron Age hill fort, the site of the medieval tile kiln and discover the close connections Holwood has to William Wilberforce and William Pitt the Younger.

If you are coming by car we suggest parking in the Heathfield Road or Westerham Road car parks and entering the estate through the private gate off the public footpath, which is near the roundabout on Westerham Road and Heathfield Road and runs through Holwood. Someone will be at the footpath gate to let people in and give directions where to go. Otherwise, if arriving on foot enter through the main drive opposite Fishponds Road and follow the signs.

We suggest wearing suitable footwear as we will be walking on rough ground. Sorry but we are unable to accommodate dogs. As numbers are limited, please reserve a place by phoning or texting 07939 122174, thank you.



Brian talking to last year's group by the Wilberforce seat

Keston Village Residents' Update



As you probably know our Queen's Platinum Jubilee event on the Green was a tremendous success, way beyond what we imagined which made all the hard work worthwhile. We are pleased to say that we now have the money in our funds to pay for the Christmas village lights this year and we are looking to refresh the lights.

St Christopher's Hospice fundraising team supported us in running our event in June by lending us a lot of the equipment we needed. Together with some of the local businesses who were also involved on the day, Next Ahead, Daisy Grey, Heathfields, Shirley's ice creams, and The Greyhound we were able to donate £1,300 to St Christopher's, for which they are extremely grateful.

Our next event will be an Xmas Fair on 12th November at Keston Village Hall from 1-5pm. We plan to have stalls selling gifts etc. inside the hall and a variety of food stalls outside the hall. If you are interested in having a table inside the hall at a cost of £25, please email kestonvillagera@gmail.com.

Hilary Ryder for KVRA

Welcome to a new Keston Resident



In the middle of August, in the middle of the night, a resident of Beechwood Drive was surprised to see a fox, a cat and a hedgehog on their front lawn, looking at each other! (Sounds like a book). Being an animal lover, she went out and gave the hedgehog some cat food. She then noticed he had dug a hole under the front fence behind her shed, which had a gap underneath

where he is probably living. He comes every evening for his dinner of cat food, cat munches, mealworms and unsalted cashew nuts. With a dish of water on the side, of course. He chose the right garden to visit! A hedgehog house now serves as a restaurant and ensures only the hedgehog gets the special fare. Presumably it won't be long before he is thinking about hibernating, of course.

We would love to know if other Keston residents have also seen hedgehogs as they have been in decline over recent years, although reports suggest that numbers may be recovering in urban areas.

Harvest Lunch

After a long break, due to Covid, we are happy to announce that we will be holding our Harvest Lunch again on Sunday 2nd October in Keston Church Hall at 1pm. Tickets, to be bought in advance, are £18 each and include a two course meal with coffee and are available from Chris on 07988 712873. (Please bring your own drinks).

From the Registers

Wedding

9th July Helen Kathleen Wynter Perkins & Martin Wilcox (see photo opposite)

Funerals

11th July Margaret Valerie Nicholas (aged 82 yrs)

10th August Ellen Margaret Selby (aged 88 years)

Burial of Ashes

19th July Judith Ann Moir (aged 81 years)

28th August Allen Francis Ayles (aged 86yrs)



Church Services



1st Sunday of each month

Informal Communion Service

All other Sundays

10am Holy Communion

Harvest Festival

Sunday 2nd October

We will be taking cash donations for Welcare in Bromley and also food for Bromley foodbank. Items they currently need most are: UHT milk, coffee, sweets, sponge puddings, jelly, Angel delight, jam, cooking sauces, soup, washing up liquid, unisex shampoo and carrier bags/bags for life. They've got plenty pasta, pulses, cereal, tea and biscuits. Thank you.

Service for the Bereaved

Sunday 30th October

Everyone is welcome to this service at 3pm in Keston Parish Church. There will be a short service of hymns and prayers with the chance to light a candle in memory of our loved ones and a list of their names will be read out.

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

Remembrance

Sunday 13th November

As usual, we will meet at 10am in Keston parish church for a short non-communion service. We then make our way down to the Village Sign opposite The Greyhound pub at about 10.30am and leave there at 10.40am to walk quietly up to the War Memorial where prayers will be said, the two minutes silence observed and wreaths laid. Do join us for the church service or just the walk from the village to the War Memorial and the act of remembrance there.



A Prayer for HM Queen Elizabeth II

Blessed Jesus,
Lord of Lords and King of Kings,
we give you thanks
for our late sovereign,
Queen Elizabeth II;
for the grace and mercy
she received from you,
for all that she reflected
of your gracious sovereignty,
and for the great love she held
for you and for her people.
Enfold her in your everlasting arms,
grant her rest
and raise her up at the last
in the company of the saints in light;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

I'm motivated by my faith



Time off for Ruth and Steff on a HOPE trip

Ruth and Steff Nash were at secondary school together so you can get an idea of how long they have known each other! They both studied medicine, Steff at Cambridge and Kings London and Ruth in Edinburgh and Kings. Steff came to faith in his first year in medical school and immediately developed an interest in overseas work particularly after he read a book “The Cambridge Seven” by J Pollock. These seven men all went on to have a massive impact on the world in several ways. In 1973 Steff went to India for a year, contrary to everyone’s advice, as a ‘gap year’, as he hadn’t had one before going to medical school. After that year he became even more certain that he wanted to go overseas to serve the poor and those discriminated against.

It took 10 years to get ready to go and this included a year at All Nations Christian College, which specialises in cross-cultural communication. It was a rewarding and challenging nine years, (1984-1993), with many lessons learned. Three years before leaving Nazareth Steff became interested in taking over the recently built Emergency Department. He was very much

involved in designing it and then training staff to run it. He also wrote the first ED manual, which gives guidance to doctors on how to treat the many and varied conditions which may attend. On return to the UK in 1993 Steff started work in Kings A&E department and was involved in the re-design of their A&E, so the experience of Nazareth was invaluable.

Steff’s interest in overseas mission did not wane and he was soon visiting other Arab nations. This resulted in three regional conferences in Egypt and one in Jordan to bring together those committed to ‘the same vision’. The main purpose was training leaders how to respond to persecution. In 2002 it became necessary to form a charity and build a team to achieve the task – we learned rapidly. The vision grew and expanded to the Turkic world, (Silk route), in 2005 and then the Persian world in 2009. 3P stands for “Prayer and Planting among the Persecuted”. Our intention was to work in countries where leaders are persecuted and discriminated against because of their faith.

We now work in 13 nations and the team has grown to 10 people, all of whom are part time and each person has another source of income. In Steff’s case he works as a Consultant in Emergency Medicine at Princess Royal University Hospital, which is only two miles from their home in Keston.

2002 was a very formative time in Steff’s life and he started a second charity called HOPE 4 the World. This also stems from his deep sense of justice



Steff teaching the Karen students

and desire to help those who suffer injustice and discrimination. He was approached by Jubilee Campaign, within the Houses of Parliament, to meet a General from the Karen National Union, who was visiting the UK Government to appeal for help against the Burmese Military Junta of the day. Very soon he was on a plane to Thailand to meet the 'Government in exile' in Thailand.

It became clear very quickly that Steff's abilities were well suited to the situation. A team of four was recruited and very soon he was taking teams to Burma to train the Community Health Workers of the Karen Department of Health and Welfare. What began as two week training trips has grown into a one year comprehensive training programme. The charity is entirely voluntary and each doctor, nurse, midwife or dentist takes a week of annual leave from their job to visit Thailand and cover their own expenses for the trip. The end result is 30

graduates each year who are the equivalent of Nurse Practitioners or Paramedics who are able to practice independently. The 'Scope of Practice' covers everything from malaria to malnutrition. The needs are enormous as the Military Government does not provide education or healthcare for the minority tribes.

The history of the British involvement in Burma, (Myanmar), is not widely known but the consequences have been devastating for the nine minority tribes. The treatment of the Rohingya by the Burmese military was brought to the attention of the world in 2017 when ethnic cleansing was clearly taking place. The Karen tribe has suffered the same hostility since 1947 and the atrocities committed against them are well documented by 'Burma Campaign' if you want to explore the history.

Our work continues and the next group will start on 10th October 2022.

Steff Nash

My time in the WRAF

I decided I wanted something more exciting in life after going to school in a Convent and working in Lewisham library, so I applied to join the WRAF. (Women's Royal Air Force). It was certainly the right decision, I thoroughly enjoyed myself and ended up meeting my husband, John.

All good stories need a bit of romance

At age 18 I was living in Forest Hill and in search of adventure I applied to join the WRAF and was happily posted to RAF Horsham St. Faith near Norwich after taking my oath. Everything was provided, food and accommodation. I started as an aircraftwoman and was proud of my uniform, and by the time I left in 1955 I had achieved the rank of Sergeant. Although the war had finished, we still needed to practice plotting the positions of aircraft in case it was needed again. I became one of these 'plotters'. This involved us working in an Operations Room with a large table where there was a map of England upon which we pushed counters to show the details of British aircraft positions, height and bearings. All the English stations were on there, including Biggin Hill. We were each allocated a section to do and we listened through earphones to the pilots and air traffic controllers and then used our plotting rods, (adjustable length and with a magnet on the end), to move the

relevant counters. I loved the work and the communal life.

All good stories need a bit of romance, and this came through a friend I made whilst at Horsham St Faith by the name of Edward Rosenberger, the NAAFI (Navy, Army and Airforce Institute) manager. On one occasion when I went to visit Edward, his Godson, John Blake, was there too. He was doing his fortnight's reserve training in the Air Force. The following week when I popped in to see Edward, John was there again! We began corresponding as John was living in Beckenham and working for the Midland Bank. It was the start of our courtship and I visited his parent's house and John also drove up to visit me in Norfolk. We were married in 1955 at St. William of York Catholic church in Forest Hill and were fortunate to enjoy 63 years of marriage together.

Jo Blake

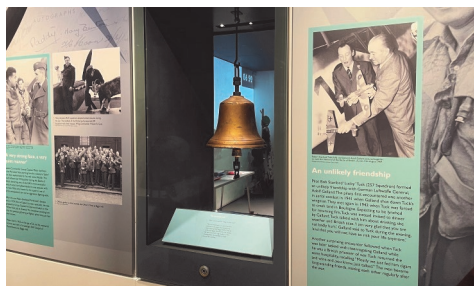


We will Remember



I was disappointed I couldn't fly the Spitfire. Well, the VR Spitfire experience at the Biggin Hill Memorial Museum to be precise. I thought it was about time I visited the museum, after all it has been open about three and half years. We have all seen the boxy building alongside St. George's RAF chapel.

I was pleased that the museum is a manageable size, so that you are not overloaded with information but there is enough of interest. The things that really stood out for me were the large 1946 aerial map of the area, the brass Scramble Bell, the video of Squadron Leader Geoffrey Wellum, (whose Spitfire is outside), speaking, the map of the area where bombs were dropped in and around Biggin Hill, the caterpillar and guinea pig lapel pins* and film of a Scramble. There were artefacts, clothing, photos, (including pilots with their pet mascots), stories and much more to be seen. The museum also includes an activity area for children as well as a shop.



At the end of July an exhibition 'Women & War – Hidden heroes of WWII' opened in the St George's room adjoining the back of the chapel. This small exhibition makes clear the perceptions of women at the time and the limited roles they were allowed to take. The beautiful stained glass windows in this room pay tribute to the support services. (See below).

The actual chapel itself is well worth a visit too and you may want to round off your visit with a cuppa in the Nightingale Café which has some seating outside so you can watch planes landing, including the Spitfires, if the weather is good. Apparently it is named after the original Second



World War tea rooms which served both servicemen as well as civilians. The café owned an illegal fruit machine and the owner of the café gave a bacon sandwich to anyone who scored three cherries in a row. It wasn't on show!

I would definitely recommend visiting the museum, hopefully the VR Spitfire ride will soon be fixed!

Sally Churchus

*Caterpillar Club badge was presented to RAF personnel who had successfully bailed out of a disabled aircraft wearing a (silk) parachute. The Guinea Pig Club badge was given to those who survived fiery crashes and underwent experimental pioneering plastic surgery.

My Bible Garden

While scientists and politicians debate climate change, or indeed, if there is such a thing, you only need to look in your own backyard to see what is happening. The weather is becoming less predictable and there have been suggestions that we will need to grow plants that thrive in hot dry weather.

About 20 years ago I came across a derelict Bible garden at a Christian conference centre. It was not until nine years ago, when I married my wife, Sue, that I had an opportunity to start a Bible garden. My first wife had died of breast cancer several years previously. It was a new beginning which meant buying a house together and restoring a garden that had previously been used as a football pitch by the boys who had lived there. Family friends and members of our church were overwhelmingly generous and gave us gifts of garden vouchers to spend on our new garden. It was then I remembered the derelict Bible garden and so we decided to invest the gifts in creating one that we could share with them in the future.

My plan was to only grow plants mentioned directly, or indirectly, in the Bible. While my traditional English crops such as strawberries, raspberries, rhubarb, gooseberries, potatoes etc. were becoming less reliable, both in quality and quantity, I have since been overwhelmed with figs and grapes, as the other Bible garden plants have flourished.

I soon discovered that the only books on the subject were written about 50 years ago and are no longer in print and, of course, our climate has changed considerably since the time the



Ripe figs

books were written! There are also very few examples of Bible gardens in the UK, I have never seen any others. If you enjoy a challenge, are prepared to be patient, and accept that some plants will fail, it is not impossible to grow a good number of them. There are more than 100 plants and trees mentioned in the Bible and, to date, I have grown over half of them. They include vegetables, fruit, flowers, herbs, shrubs and trees.

Anyone can start growing Bible plants, whether it be in a few tubs on the patio, or if you have the room, (and a very tolerant family!), to create your own Bible garden. You may, of course, already be growing some of them in your garden without realising it, so the first thing to do is to draw up a list of the plants that qualify and create your own wish list. When planning a Bible garden as well as the plants there are other elements such as rocks, stones, water, lights and statues, that add considerably to the overall picture. The plants and elements provide a constant reminder of the beauty of God's creation and the powerful message of God's love for us that is revealed through the pages of the Bible.

Bob Peters for The Association for Church Editors

In God We Trust By Chalkpit



Keston Youth Fellowship Whit Monday 1952 (*with thanks to Maureen Thrower*)

A photograph taken in 1943 records the official start of the Keston Youth Fellowship for the young men and women of the parish. Among those present was Rev'd Rahe-Hughes, (Curate), Founder of the Club and the original members along with Eric Rogers (Keston Park), Rev'd Hepburn-Whyte, (Rector), and, to cut the celebratory cake, the Mayor of Bromley.

I had no further information about the Fellowship until a large amount of material came into my possession relating to the Keston Youth Fellowship. Recorded in a scruffy notebook is the Club's formation, names of members and their attendance as well as numerous other details.

Those who had been Confirmed at Keston parish church on the 21st March 1948 met two weeks later at the Youth Club hut in Keston Avenue to decide the principles on which a Christian Fellowship of Young People

should be based. A long list of rules were agreed upon which included joining fees, age of members restricted from 14-21 years, together with a balanced programme of talks and visits; bearing in mind the four main principles of the Fellowship:

SPIRITUAL – EDUCATIONAL –
RECREATIONAL – PRACTICAL

being adhered to. It took until 27th September with numerous suggestions put forward before the Fellowship motto of "IN GOD WE TRUST" was chosen. The amount of educational, recreational and practical sessions was prolific with at least one being organized for each meeting at the Club hut or an outside location. The spiritual side on which the club was based not being neglected! Trips to Rochester Cathedral took place and on 1st July 1950, a Reaffirmation of Confirmation of Vows was held along with Corporate Communion at St. Audrey's,

Commonside, which would appear to have been a yearly occasion.

Whilst hostilities interrupted attendances with both men and women going off to war, this was then followed by National Service for every man for two years. These details, in my possession, are all beautifully recorded in white hand script on black boards.

I have much more information in both documents and letters but it would fill the magazine so I hope this article just gives a small insight into those Fellowship days!

I have no record after June 1959 of activities other than two reunions in 1972 and 1976 so did the club end in 1959? Maybe someone can answer this!

It is with thanks to the late Hazel Shepherd (née Tester) for passing on to me all the Club records for safe keeping.



Leonard Smith with ? the two Howden girls at the Edenbridge fireworks 5th Nov 1952



What I Do

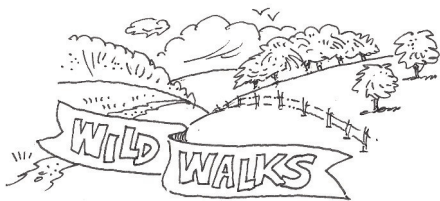
The Highlanders of Holwood

In 1945 there was good news in that the war was drawing to its conclusion at long last, although not welcome was a trip to the school dentist in Bromley for a necessary extraction! To soften the experience the promise of a box of Britain's lead soldiers was offered as an inducement if I didn't make a fuss! However, the box purchased from a small shop in East Street as my reward was a big disappointment as they only had a set of Bandsmen, not REAL soldiers with guns as I had hoped for. Perhaps with Christmas approaching I would have better luck, but once again the anticipated present was not of the type eagerly expected! These were unlike any other toy soldiers I had ever seen. They were large and very light unlike the construction of Britain's lead soldiers. Representing Scottish soldiers they were correct in every detail with tartan kilts, sporrans and Regimental uniforms; marching soldiers accompanied by bagpipes, drums, flag bearers and officers with drawn swords – all very impressive but not fighting men in war-like poses! Much later research revealed that they were made by a German company founded in 1904 by Christian Hausser and his sons Otto and Max. The company trademark ELASTOLIN was found impressed on the base of each model. The factory was situated near Stuttgart and produced various figures based on a wire framework with the body made from a sawdust and glue composition material. A degree of detail could be obtained by this method accentuated by skilful painting of each figure. Although played



with occasionally in time they were confined to a biscuit tin and forgotten until many years later! During my research I learnt that mother had attended a fund raising event at Holwood House, hosted by Lady Stanley who explained that they had been her husband's soldiers when he was a young boy, so they have a very aristocratic history! Certainly too good to hide away they were put into a cabinet making a very impressive display. Those that have the 'collecting bug' will understand the need to acquire and this can only be resolved by finding more. So began the search to add to those on display which included trips to antique shops and fairs around the country and slowly more Elastolin figures were found. They came in two sizes and many types: guardsmen with busbies, soldiers in various khaki uniforms, sailors marching with sloped arms and officers proudly on horseback with drawn swords. All now making an impressive display alongside those given me more than 75 years ago as a present from my parents, who had managed to find a very special gift when toys were not readily available.

Ted Williams



‘Down Memory Lane’

I’ve decided this month to leave the country behind. On Saturday the 27th August, the missus and I plus son and granddaughter ventured into the metropolis – well, the outskirts. We took the train from Hayes to Lewisham and then the DLR to Greenwich.

The train journey was enjoyable and we felt that it was going to be a nice day out. Things started going wrong when we left the train at what seemed to be Greenwich but the missus, (who’d been before), didn’t recognise the road outside the station. However, I did, and informed the party that as Greenwich church spire could be seen in the distance we’d better start walking. We’d alighted one station too soon! Thirty minutes later we arrived at what I can only describe as my idea of hell! Hordes and hordes of people were ambling about, some going this way and some going that. On the road, on the pavement, in the shops and out again. Ghostly!

Son Peter had a brilliant idea – “Let’s go under the river to the other side”. Down the spiral stairs, round and round we went till finally reaching the tunnel. There it was stretching away into the distance with only a few people coming and going.

Now the memory lane bit. Back in 1965 I worked on the river Thames and Medway on a motor barge name ‘Gaye’

for six months. My only mode of transport at that time was a Lambretta scooter which I would put on board and if we moored up overnight I would ride it home to Rainham, (Kent), and back the next morning. This particular time we visited the Millwall Docks and rather than use the Woolwich ferry I opted for the foot tunnel as it was late in the evening and I didn’t expect many people would be using it.

I rode along Ferry Road and came to Island Gardens, then into the lift along with a couple of cyclists going home, like me. Down we went and emerged at the tunnel entrance. Now to start the

**the noise of the exhaust
was deafening... Not only
that but the smoke**

Lambretta. When it started the noise of the exhaust was deafening in the confined space. Not only that but the smoke from the two-stroke engine filled the tunnel like fog! A minute or so later I was at the Greenwich end and entered the lift where I was mildly rebuked by the attendant. The smoke probably lingered all that night. Then up in the lift and away. In those days there was no Cutty Sark and NO crowds!

Postscript: In contrast to the Greenwich side, the Essex side – Island Gardens – was peace and tranquillity with first a grassy area flanked by London plane trees, seats at the river wall and a little café/card/sweetie shop. Luvly!

Richard Geiger

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). More details from Martin Becker on 07484 609102.

Book Reading Fellowship

Come and discuss books with some Christian content that you have read at 2pm on Monday 3rd October. Please let Sally Churchus know if you would like to come. Tel: 020 8462 8750.

Mental Wellbeing Coffee Morning

This is an opportunity to 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 12th November 10am-12 noon in Keston church hall. Just come along if you are interested.

New Keston WI

We meet from 1.30pm-3.30pm in Keston Village Hall on the 2nd Wednesday in the month.

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.



70's Night

**Saturday 29th October,
Keston Church Hall
BR2 6HT at 7pm
Tickets £18 (includes
dinner) from Chris on
07988 712873**

Bromley Bridleways Access Group



General Knowledge Quiz
Friday 4th November
7.15pm for 7.30pm start
Keston Village Hall BR2 6BF

Maximum of 6 people per team. Tickets in advance £7 or paid up supporters £6.

Nibbles provided but please bring your own drinks and glasses.

Limited numbers so please reserve a table bbag1976@aol.com or 07765 252428

Magazine Deadline

Please send photos and articles for the December/January 2023 issue of The Keston Magazine to the Editor, Sally Churchus, by 1st November 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

☺ **Morals**

A new Rector had arrived, to replace the one who always ended his lengthy sermons with “Now the moral of this is ...”

A few weeks later the Bishop ran into one of the Churchwardens and asked how things were going with the new Rector. He got an enthusiastic reply: “Oh Bishop, the new Rector is just great, he hasn’t any morals at all!”



*“It saves energy and makes
me feel holier”*

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Transport for London Version of Lord's prayer

Our father who art in Hendon
Harrow Road be thy name
Thy Kingston come, thy Wimbledon
In Erith as it is in Hendon
Give us this day our Berkhamsted
And forgive us our Westminster
As we forgive those who Westminster
against us
Lead us not into Temple Station
But deliver us from Ealing
For thine is the Kingston
The Purley and the Crawley
For Iver and Iver
Crouch End

National poetry day is on 6th October 2022. The above was written a few years ago, but railway journeys might be on our minds currently.

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