

The Keston Magazine

News of your Parish and Village



December/January 2024

Keston Parish Church

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



Rector

There is currently a vacancy

Licensed Lay Minister & Parish Administrator Churchwarden

Tricia Coward 01689 854373
hallbookings@kestonparishchurch.org.uk
Geoff Carr 07584 058872
warden@kestonparishchurch.org.uk
Tonia Crouch
verger@kestonparishchurch.org.uk

Verger

Safeguarding Officer

Steff Nash
steff@swissmail.org

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

Women's Institute

Helen Best 07715 880889

Beavers/Cubs/Scouts

gsl27thbromley@gmail.com

Residents' Association

kestonvillagera@gmail.com

Village Hall

Tina Lupton 01689 602993

Coffee, Cake & Kids

Victoria Madden 07866 509696

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

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us

John 1:14

Thought for the month



Angels

Here is a one topic in the Bible that everyone knows about, especially at Christmas. But do we really know what the Bible teaches about angels or it is a mixture of truth and legend? Well, let's have a quick look at what the Bible says. I'll also let you know what my favourite Bible passage is regarding angels.

The word "angel" comes from a Greek word which means "messenger". Angels are mentioned at least 108 times in the Old Testament and 165 times in the New Testament. Two angels are mentioned by name, Archangels Gabriel and Michael. Angels are spirits, like the soul of man, but without a physical body. Angels never die and they possess superhuman intelligence and power. These superior beings are made up of two camps, 'Holy' (or elect) angels and 'Fallen Angels' (or demons). Angels main roles are those of guardians, messengers, and servants.

Angels are beings created by God. While no definite figures are given, we are told in the Bible that the number of angels is very great.

In the Christmas narrative, angels are mentioned several times, including when angels appear to the following:

- Zechariah, to inform him that his elderly wife is going to have a baby boy (later to become John the Baptist)
- Mary, and tells her that she's going to give birth to the Son of God
- Joseph, and tells him that his fiancée is pregnant as a result of the Holy Spirit and that he should go ahead and marry her
- The shepherds, to say that a Saviour has been born in Bethlehem (and is followed by a large choir of angels singing glory to God)

My favourite passage about angels is in the story of Lazarus, (but not the one that Jesus raised from the dead), from Luke 16:20-23 when it mentions the role of angels in caring for believers at the moment of death: "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side".

We lost someone close earlier this year, and it is a comfort to know that she is now in heaven. I like to think of the angels escorting her spirit into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise God that when He saves us, He will let absolutely nothing separate us from the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord. "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord". (Romans 8:38-39).

Have a wonderful Christmas.

Martin J Chalker

From the Editor

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the magazine, I hope you have time in all the busyness to read some of the interesting articles. Thank you to all those who heard my plea for more contributors which makes for a more varied content.

On page 9 you will see an Obituary for Alan Cox, one of our previous Rectors. It was during his incumbency that The Keston Magazine started in its present format, going free, bimonthly to every house in the parish (circulation 1,350). This is one of the benefits of being a small parish – that this is achievable, thanks to our band of dedicated deliverers and those that donate towards the costs.

Despite living in such a beautiful and peaceful place we cannot ignore the horrific wars that are still going on in the world. Others, like me, must find seeing the atrocities on the news difficult to watch, and feel powerless to do anything about it. I guess that giving to those charities that are helping with humanitarian aid and praying is as much as most of us are capable of doing.

Let us not lose sight, though, of the wonder that at Christmas God became man and came into this world in all its messiness. God is with us, Immanuel! Do join us to celebrate this at one of our church services over the Christmas period and enjoy the festivities.

Sally Churchus



Keston Village Christmas Lights

The Keston Village Residents Association are very pleased to say that the village Christmas lights will be illuminating the village this year. Two lots of four different themed illuminations, consisting of a shooting star, bauble, angel and Christmas tree, are planned to be erected and switched on, in time for our Christmas Fair on the 18th November.

A huge thank you to all the residents and local community, who support our fundraising events, enabling us to raise the much needed funds to bring this little slice of festive cheer to the village.

Shelley Sturdy, Chair of Keston Village Residents' Association.

Keston CE Primary Christmas Fair

A festive poster for the Keston CE Primary School Christmas Fair. It features a blue background with white snowflakes and a green Christmas tree. A snowman wearing a red scarf and hat is at the bottom. Text on the poster includes: 'KESTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL', 'Christmas Fair', '£1 entry Everyone welcome!', 'Saturday 2nd Dec at 1pm - 5pm', 'BRING FRIENDS & FAMILY', 'Our Event Includes: GROTTOS, STALLS, CRAFTS, GAMES, FACEPAINTING, TEAS, BAR & MORE!', and contact information for booking a stall or advertising space.

KESTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christmas Fair

£1 entry
Everyone welcome!

Saturday 2nd Dec
at 1pm - 5pm

BRING FRIENDS & FAMILY

Our Event Includes:

- GROTTOS, STALLS, CRAFTS, GAMES, FACEPAINTING, TEAS, BAR & MORE!

If you would like to book a stall or advertising space, please email ptakestonccef@outlook.com or scan the QR code. Thank you.

KESTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
LAKES ROAD
KESTON BR1 6BU

The Fox Reborn



The Fox Inn c1865

As you will probably know by now we are ambitiously taking over the beautiful building that is The Fox Pub and making it a wonderful Brasserie & Pub, opening in January next year.

We are excited and terrified in equal measure but less nervous than when we embarked on our Heathfields Journey. Back then in 2020 we were totally new to the industry. Opening our doors, (or not), amidst the pandemic made it even more challenging. However, we have loved the way the community has embraced and supported Heathfields and it is with that new found support and confidence we have been brave enough to take on the bigger challenge of The Fox.

We hope to make it a really warm and inviting place to be. Gail is busy designing the inside which we hope you will love as much Heathfields, about which we have had many wonderful compliments. And in case you were wondering, Heathfields will definitely be staying open.

We plan on creating a top end Brasserie serving high quality food, freshly prepared daily with a seasonal menu and produce. As with Heathfields we aim to support as many local producers and suppliers as we can. There will be a separate bar menu offering sharing options as well as pub classics.

We also plan to makeover the beautiful garden with its amazing sunsets, where we hope to serve pizzas in the summer months and our most exciting part is the installation of a petanque court (boules court).

We are keen that it is a relaxed Brasserie & Pub – somewhere you can pop in any day of the week for a meal, light bite or just a drink.

We are very much looking forward to opening our doors and welcoming you in...

Paul and Gail Spencer



THE FOX
BRASSERIE & PUB
KESTON

Car Park Dedication

It was umbrellas out and hoods up for the Keston Church Car Park Dedication on Sunday 29th October. After Tricia Coward, our Licensed Lay Minister, said a few words and a blessing, and Frank Netscher had cut the ribbon, we quickly retreated into the church hall for a hot cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake.

Once again, we give thanks to those who have made the much needed extended car park a reality, in particular Frank and Sheila Netscher. An engraved plaque on the car park gates has now been unveiled and marks the occasion.



Frank Netscher cutting the ribbon

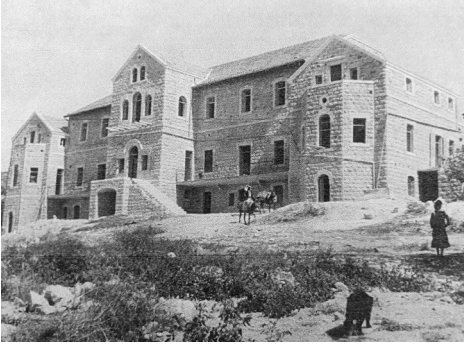


Frank Netscher cutting the cake



Frank Netscher's family, brave members of the congregation and choir at the Dedication

My Faith Journey



EMMS Hospital, Nazareth, in early 1920s

Life is often described as a ‘journey’, but what *is* a journey? Usually it has a beginning and an end. In the Christian faith, the ending is surely when we leave this world and go to “meet our Maker”, enjoying His presence in eternity. But what of the beginning? I cannot really define where or when my journey began, only that it was sometime in the formative years of my early teens. I did not come from a Christian home or family – my father, a Professor of Physics, always claimed to be agnostic. My mother, although not holding a personal faith, was keen to do the “right” thing by attending church on certain occasions and taking me to Sunday School. Through the dedication of some of the Sunday School leaders, encouragement of a local “Crusader Class” and various associated youth meetings, my faith was gradually moulded and developed. Each time we went on a house party or holiday camp, I would respond a little more to the call of Jesus to follow Him.

At University in Edinburgh, I attended the Christian Union as well as a couple of the large churches which

were strong in sound Bible teaching. But my main fellowship was within the smaller “Christian Medics” group, which I went on to lead for a couple of years. This period also brought me into contact with the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society (EMMS) which, among other things, ran a student hostel in the city. Meanwhile Steff, my future husband, had become a Christian during his time at a different university.

After marriage to Steff and moving to London, our joint calling to overseas mission became more apparent, in particular to the Middle East. We completed our medical degrees and worked for a few years as junior doctors and specialty trainees (often working more than 80 hrs a week!). In 1984 we moved to northern Israel with two small children, to live and work in the EMMS Hospital in Nazareth. This hospital was founded in 1861, well before both World Wars, the Balfour declaration and the British Mandate. At that time it was the only medical facility between Damascus (to the north) and Jerusalem (to the south), seeking to bring “healing in the name of Jesus”. I loved living there, being part of the hospital community, the town and the whole vibrant and multicultural region of the Holy Land. The selfless dedication of the families and staff serving there long-term was inspirational, as were the local Arab Christians seeking to make a difference in their community.

As there was no medical post available in my own specialty in Nazareth, I obtained a job in a hospital in the nearest Jewish town. Here I made many new friends of varied backgrounds, and attempted to learn Hebrew, to add to

my very basic Arabic. I also got to know a group of musical people in another Jewish neighbourhood through our son's English-speaking violin teacher. In my own tiny way I hoped to be a bridge between the two communities, which is why I find the current situation in Israel utterly heart-breaking.

When we first arrived in Israel, despite obvious difficulties, the overall atmosphere was one of optimism. The Arab and Jewish communities within Israel coexisted, living and working side by side, and life in the occupied territories was reasonably calm with freedom of movement. We prayed for unity and a peaceful land. However, then followed the first 'intifada' and many years of unrest leading to an exponential increase in mistrust between the communities, and formation of factions within each of them. This deterioration in relationships has spiralled out of control, resulting in overt hatred, brutal acts of violence and now out-and-out war in Gaza. The aggression, injury and loss of life on both sides is appalling – all we can do from here is pray for an end to the killing and restoration of humanity. We also pray for our friends and the EMMS hospital, that mistrust and hatred between the communities will not spill over into hitherto peaceful areas nor affect their lives and work. One cannot foresee where this journey will end for the nation itself – and so we weep and pray for the peace of Jerusalem, as did Jesus himself.



Ruth Nash

Obituary

Dr Ruth Chilcott 1929-2023

It is now some years since Ruth retired and, despite some reluctance at leaving the village where she and Arthur had brought up their “girls”, moved to Great Leighs, Chelmsford to be near Sian, her elder daughter, and family. Her younger daughter, Rhian, was at the time leading the busy life of a diplomat's wife in various exotic places.

she is noted as a
“lover of ice-creams”

A warm-hearted, friendly person, she epitomised the ideal of a village GP and many living in Keston will easily remember her unstuffy personality and ready sense of humour – or perhaps I should say “sense of fun” for even on the card announcing her death, she is noted as a “lover of ice creams”. Many will also recall informal consultations taking place either outside the Village Stores, on the Common opposite “The Greyhound” or even whilst admiring the handsome harp which stood in the window of their beautiful family home tucked away behind Heathfield Road.

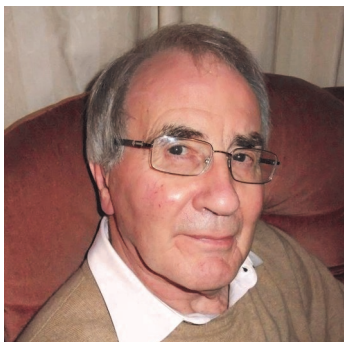
Enjoying her wider family and friends, she spoilt them and every visitor outrageously with her famous cakes although how she ever found the time to bake I never understood. The old saying “If you want a job done, ask a busy person” applied so much to Ruth, a lovely person, very easy both to know and to work with and intensely proud of her Welsh origins! *Dum gydach chi.*

Judy Davies

Obituary

Rev'd Alan John Cox

25/6/1934– 5/10/2023



Alan was born in Hastings the second son of four children, two brothers Barry and Trevor and sister, Daphne. He attended Hastings Grammar School and in 1945 he began a career in banking with the National Provincial Bank, now part of NatWest, where he remained for 12 years, (including two years away for National Service in the R.A.F.) During his time there he worked at several branches eventually moving to Shaftesbury Avenue, London, when his love of London began.

In his early 20s Alan went youth hostelling to the Lake District many times and knew the area well. I went to the Lake District with him a couple of times in later years but staying in hotels! Buttermere was his favourite area. Alan also liked to go on cruises and persuaded me to go with him despite my reluctance, but over the years we had three very happy cruises together.

In 1962 Alan was accepted for training for the ordained ministry of the Church of England. He trained at the Theological College in Northwood, part of the University of London, for three and half years. During the summer

breaks he worked as a bus conductor in Hastings and at Christmas as a postman, both of which jobs he enjoyed. After graduation, his first curacy was in Kirkheaton, Huddersfield and his second was in Keynsham near Bristol. From there he became the Rector of four country parishes adjoining Exmoor National Park.

Following his time in Somerset he moved to St. Francis Church in Strood which was totally different from the country parishes of Somerset, with its own challenges. In 1983 Alan moved to his final parish in Keston until he retired in 1994. During his Incumbency, the sale of St Audrey's Church and the subsequent building of a new church hall at Keston Parish Church were completed.

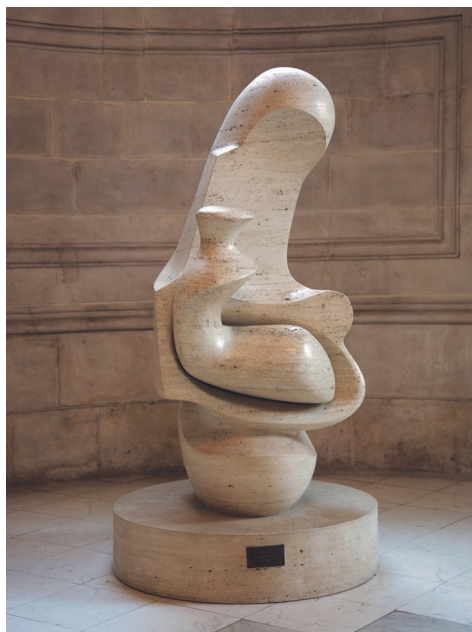
In each of Alan's parishes he was very much involved with the younger members of the congregation and started youth clubs and supported the Church of England Primary Schools.

When Alan retired he moved to Beckenham and spent 29 very happy years in his flat. Being near Beckenham Station was a delight to him and he would often jump on a train and spend a few hours in London visiting museums, art galleries and his favourite shops – Harrods, Fortnum & Mason, Garrard's and John Lewis. He loved to attend concerts at the Royal Albert Hall, especially The Last Night of the Proms.

Alan was a very loving and caring brother and uncle and loved to be involved with our lives and was interested in all that we were doing. He will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him.

Daphne Burton

St Paul's Surprise



It was quite shocking to see something so modern in such a traditional and ancient setting. Henry Moore's massive Mother and Child: Hood stands up towards the east end of St. Paul's cathedral, exactly where he had chosen to site it. Made of travertine marble and installed in 1983, it was one of Moore's last works before his death in 1986.

Together with reclining figures, mother and child was one of his favourite topics for sculpture. This one is the culmination of Moore's reflections over many years of the mother and child relationship. The work presents three stages of motherhood: conception, gestation and parenting. These gradually reveal themselves as you walk around the sculpture. The marble is speckled and has a smooth, very tactile quality. According to the information about it on the St Paul's

website, 'The undulating back of the work owes its shape to an animal bone which Moore had in his studio, while the front offers a towering mother figure, whose robe provides a protective enclosure for the cotton-reel headed infant on her knee. This design references Romanesque and Renaissance images of the Virgin Mary and Baby Jesus'.

'My sculpture is becoming less representational, less an outward visual copy, and so what some people would call more abstract; but only because I believe that in this way I can present the human psychological content of my work with the greatest directness and intensity.' – Henry Moore, 1967.

Moore managed to visit the cathedral on 27th March 1984 to see the sculpture in situ. Since its installation the cathedral has welcomed more contemporary artists to exhibit.

There is speculation about whether or not the piece was carved from a single piece of marble – you will have to visit in order to decide for yourself. Whatever the answer, it is certainly a fascinating and thought provoking piece of artwork.

Sally Churchus

O that birth for ever blessed!
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bare the Saviour of our race,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore.

(From the Christmas carol 'Of the Father's love begotten' translated by J.M. Neale)

Church Services



Christmas Carol Service

1st Sunday of each month

10am Informal Non Communion Service (Shorter all age service)

All other Sundays

10am Holy Communion (HC)

Toy Service

10am Sunday 3rd December

Please bring your gifts of new (unwrapped) toys to this service, which will be given to The Salvation Army, to go to local children on Christmas Day. Thank you for your generosity.

Carol Service

6.30pm Sunday 17th December

Traditional service of nine lessons and carols but with a new version of The First Nowell by Bob Chilcott. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the church hall afterwards.

Messy Christingle Service

3.30pm Sunday 24th December

Both children and adults are invited to this short service of readings, prayers and familiar carols. Each child will be able to make a Christingle, (a symbolic orange decorated with a candle and sweets). The actual service will then begin at 4pm during which a collection will be taken for The Children's Society. Step aside from all the frantic preparations and join us for this magical service, capturing all the excitement of Christmas Eve.

Midnight Communion

11.30pm Saturday 24th December

Christmas Morning Communion

10am Sunday 25th December

Keston Winter Nature Notes



Waxwing



Velvet Shank mushroom



Brown Hairstreak egg

As the year draws to its close, and the woods and fields lose their summer clothes, the observant walker will begin to see signs of creatures preparing for the winter ahead.

Without the leaf canopy, birds are more visible as they go about stripping the last berries from the hawthorn and garden shrubs like cotoneaster. Time to dust down the feeders and put them out with new seeds and fat balls to provide extra nourishment in the cold weather ahead. With the increasing temperatures here in the UK, more birds are choosing not to migrate, and so garden feeders will help them to survive. But do also look out for the rarer winter passage migrants, such as Waxwings, that may stop off here to refuel.

Most birds fall silent in winter, but the Robin keeps its sweet and somewhat melancholy song all year round. Listen too for the early drumming of the Greater Spotted Woodpecker, as the

male starts to proclaim his territory to other birds. Around Lakes Road, there are Tawny Owls who call at night – the male has the familiar “huhoo”, while the female has a sharper “keewik” call.

Small mammals are also more active, laying down their winter larders in different ways. Grey Squirrels bury nuts in different places – they don’t hibernate and can be seen all through the winter, starting breeding in January. However, hedgehogs do hibernate from November till about April, so you won’t see them at this time. Moles are one of our commonest mammals, but are rarely seen above ground, although their molehills are visible all winter as they need to keep feeding to survive.

The larger mammals are more nocturnal, so one way to detect their presence is by looking for tracks and signs. After a light overnight snowfall, go out early before the woodland paths have been trodden down, and you may

find the interweaving trails of foxes, badgers, rabbits and squirrels.

Roe deer and Fallow deer roam widely at dusk, usually following the same trails over fields and fences. Look in soft earth for their distinctive cloven hoof prints.

Around Lakes Road, there are Tawny Owls who call at night

Below are a few tracks seen on the Common in 2019 when the snow was just right. An excellent identification guide can be purchased from the Field Studies Council “Mammal Tracks and Signs” for £4.00.

Most plants are usually dormant in winter, but with the global fluctuations in temperature, some wild flowers are emerging very early. Look out for Primroses and Violets in December and

January, as well as Sloe (Blackthorn) blossom.

Fungi will have mostly finished by December, but there are a few that can survive freezing temperatures, such as the golden coloured Velvet Shank mushroom, found on dead trunks and branches. An easy one to identify with its sticky cap and furry dark stem.

Insects are generally absent from the winter months, although you may see some butterflies on very warm days, such as the Red Admiral and Brimstone. These will overwinter in a sheltered spot, such as a garden shed, and will emerge briefly before returning to hibernation when the cold returns. However, for those with good eyesight and patience, winter is a good time to look for the early stages of butterflies. The Brown Hairstreak butterfly, which is becoming more common in Bromley, lays tiny eggs on the young Blackthorn suckers which can be found once the leaves have fallen.

Bob Harrop



Badger tracks



Rabbit tracks



Roe deer tracks

Uplifting Concert

Croydon Male Voice Choir, despite its name, has a number of members who live in the Keston area, including its current Chair, Kim Ormond. Croydon falls in Southwark Diocese and thus it was that the choir staged a performance at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday, September 23rd.

Around 40 members rose to the occasion magnificently, singing two sets of six pieces. The first, secular in nature, covered showtunes and popular songs including *Anthem* from Chess, *Angels* by Robbie Williams, and Dylan's *Feel My Love*. The second set began with the spiritual *Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho* and concluded with Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, the magnificent cathedral acoustics resounding to the final exuberant "Hallelujahs". Before the cathedral performance the choir sang at several locations in nearby Borough Market; afterwards, its members repaired to the next-door Mudlark pub, singing for a further two hours and entertaining numerous passing tourists.

The choir aims to sing at a cathedral once every year. It also enjoys its informal sings, and most Fridays holds a "Beer and Ditties" session in pubs in and around Croydon and, recently, the Jolly Woodman in Beckenham. We rehearse at Sandilands, the home of Addiscombe Cricket Club and go on annual tours in the UK and abroad.

The club currently has some 60 members and performs around ten concerts a year, mostly in Croydon and neighbouring boroughs. Its current chair, Kim Ormond, who is a top tenor joined the choir some 40+ years ago. He says that he values the choir not only for its musical qualities but also for its "enjoyable company with ready wit and a friendly beer". "Singing", he adds, "is good for the soul".

The choir recently acquired a young new music director, who is expanding its repertoire and techniques. We would welcome anyone with an interest in singing to come along – see our website croydonmalevoicechoir.co.uk.

Kim Ormond



At Southwark cathedral

Road Safety



Almost a decade on from its formation, Keston Residents' Road Safety Group remains very active in the aim of 'Improving road safety' in our local area. Over that time there have been a number of changes to the committee, but we remain an enthusiastic and committed group under the chairmanship of Andy Barrett (above). We are fortunate to have the continued support of our ward Councillors at a time when all local authorities are under extreme financial pressures. Since our formation, traffic on our roads has undoubtedly increased due to both more car ownership and developments in adjacent areas such as Biggin Hill Airport.

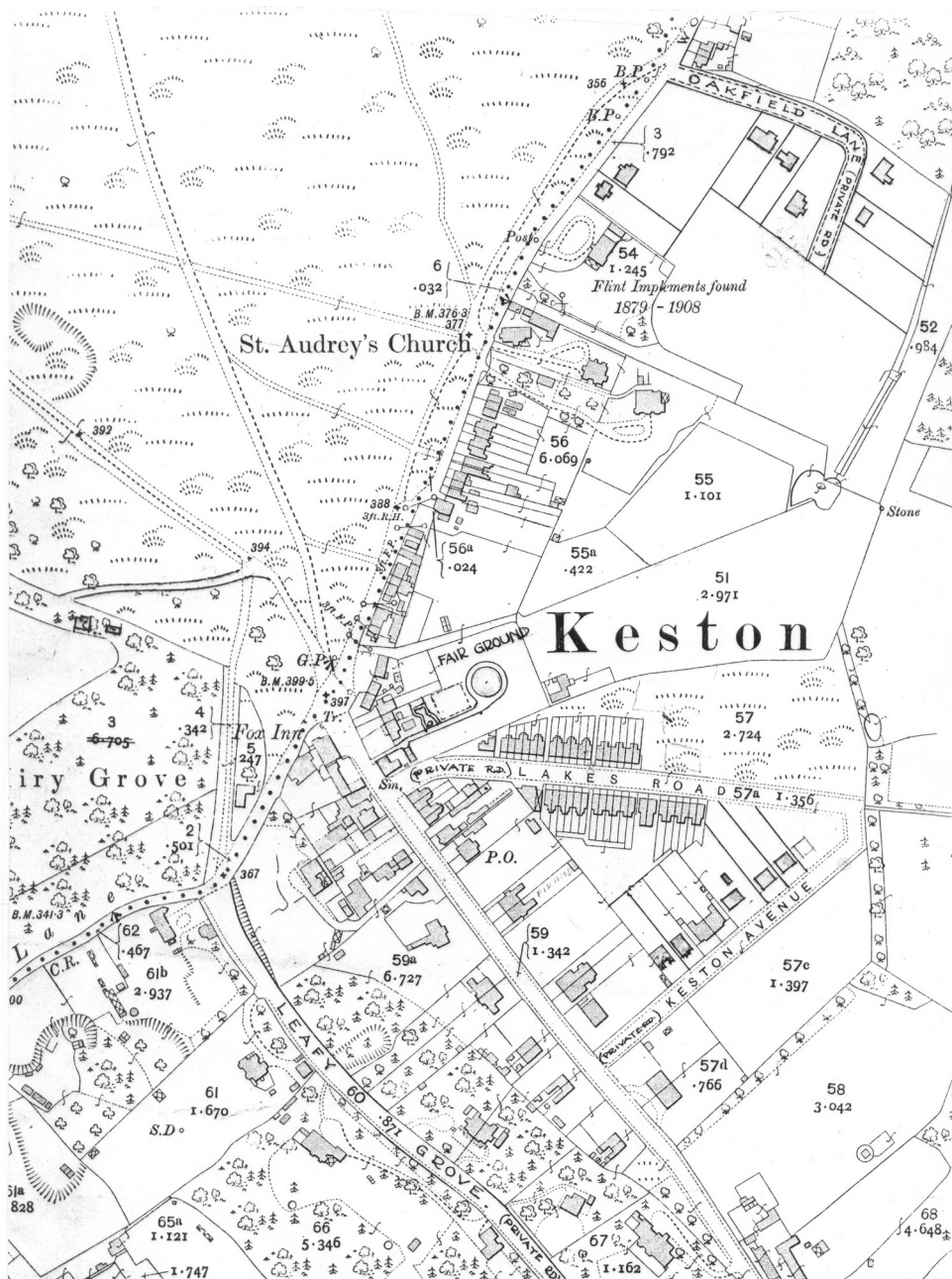
Today our work falls into two main categories, the first where our members take action themselves and the second where we attempt to persuade the local authorities to carry out safety improvements. You may be unaware that whilst the majority of roads and junctions in the area are the responsibility of L.B. Bromley, Red Routes such as Croydon Road and Hastings Road come under the jurisdiction of Transport For London, a difficult organisation to deal with.

Examples of our actions are the acquisition of a defibrillator at the Keston Mark Shell garage and undertaking initial and refresher training in the use of the equipment plus simple first aid measures. We are hoping, in time, to provide a second device in the area and we will keep you updated on that and any further familiarization open to residents. Defibrillators can play a vital role in saving life immediately after a heart attack.

Another example is Community Road Watch initiatives where volunteers assist Metropolitan Police CSO's in monitoring speeding traffic. Offenders are sent warning letters but more importantly information gathered through these exercises is used to focus the resources of the Roads Policing Team who follow up with full speed trap initiatives. You may recently have seen Community Road Watch in Heathfield Road.

Our other work focuses on reacting to concerns of our members and seeking improvements. We do not simply raise the issue with Councillors and road safety officers but try to offer straightforward and low cost solutions. A current example is traffic travelling toward the Keston Mark lights from Locksbottom pulling out to jump the queue at the lights before the road has sufficiently widened and into the path of oncoming vehicles. We have received a number of reports of near misses, a simple improvement would be the painting of double white lines down the centre of the road from the lights to beyond Longdon Wood.

Michael Overall



Map from 1930's

Windmill Close

Hidden behind the Porsche garage and The Greyhound, with access from Lakes Road, is Windmill Close which has a fascinating recent history.

In 1821 and 1823 Peter Burrell, Lord Gwydir of Langley Park sold many pieces of land from his estate. Among them was a field behind Commonsides and a plot from the Fox Inn along Heathfield Road to Ladycroft House. These sales were soon followed by the building of new cottages on Commonsides while opposite the Fox Inn more cottages appeared. Some of the cottages had long gardens on which orchards were established. When the Tithe Assessment Commissioners conducted their survey 1838-41 the field behind Commonsides was arable land and the land on which Lakes Road is built was rough pasture known as The Furze.

In the late 19th century improvements in public transport made Keston more accessible. At the same time legislation granting Bank Holidays and half day holidays on Saturday for many workers resulted in ever greater numbers of visitors to Keston. The residents responded to the opportunity by opening tea rooms offering refreshments to the day trippers. There were six tea rooms, two pubs and a Village Stores within 100 yards of each other by 1901. The orchard at Windmill Close was soon being used as a country garden for the two tearooms facing the Fox Inn.

Then in 1926 the owner of the smithy gained planning permission to develop a visitor centre providing a greater range of activities with proper facilities



including public lavatories. 'Keston Korner', soon to be known as Grannie Pettigrove's Funfair, opened in 1926 with great success. Here you could enjoy a steam driven carousel, swing boats and side shows. William and Isabella Pettigrove had arrived in Orpington from London establishing their winter quarters at Carlton Parade, Orpington.

Restrictions imposed in the Second World War saw its closure for most of the War, (1939-45), but successful reopening in 1946. Older residents will remember the long queues of visitors outside The Fox and down Fox Lane waiting for buses to return the trippers to Bromley and beyond. This quickly ground to a halt with the development of jet aircraft and cheap flights offering holiday destinations abroad. The Funfair closed in the early 60s and the plot was converted for use as a caravan park. The housing shortage remained with the consequent increase in the value of building land. The final days of the caravan park came in the early 1980's soon followed by the construction of Windmill Close. The builders obviously knew nothing of the history of the land and missed an opportunity for a more exotic name.

Tudor Davies

Escape to the Country



On 27th September 2022 we moved to north Devon leaving our home of 60 years, and in my case to depart Leaves Green after 82 years! Although a strange feeling, it was more from relief than sorrow as we drove away from our home. The previous weeks had been a bit traumatic so maybe that had a lot to do with it!

As I write this it has now been almost a full year mixed with hard work and the joy of being near the rest of the family and realizing what has been achieved both inside and out – but all very satisfying. Our Annexe is now more ‘us’ and homely with our personalities showing through. The main house now has a super new kitchen but as with any old building there is still more to be done. The garden resembled a large area of wasteland and our first task was to establish vegetable beds along with the acquisition of a large polytunnel and both have provided us well with a variety of vegetables and salad crops. A ‘gift’ from our grandson of three Gloucester Old Spot piglets proved

quite a challenge but now occupy two freezers in the form of pork products which are very tasty!

Our home is approached from every direction by very narrow lanes the banks and hedgerows of which are home to a great variety of both birds and wild flowers, starting with snowdrops early in the year and swiftly followed by wild daffodils, primroses, cow parsley and much more. At the moment blackberries are ripening in abundance unpolluted by roaring traffic! We are surrounded by carefully tended farm land where both sheep and cows can be seen grazing as well as various crops being grown. Renting two fields to a neighbouring farmer meant earlier on the air was filled with the sweet smell of new mown hay which brought back memories of when farming was carried out in Keston.

We now wake every morning to the sound of birds and occasionally a distant tractor not the roar of traffic and aircraft and are thankful every day that we made the move. Do we miss anything? Yes, our friends, although having all the family close by definitely helps to compensate.

We get a parish magazine here, although there is no church, and we are grateful to still receive The Keston Magazine which keeps us in touch! From Sally I know that many of you enjoyed the Chalkpit articles and I do miss doing them although it was getting harder to come up with something different.

So, many thanks to our Keston friends and neighbours for all their good wishes.

Ted and Maureen ‘Chalkpit’

What I Do



I have been making cards as a hobby for at least 20 years. It came about when I received a home-made birthday card and I asked the sender where she had purchased the craft supplies as I was interested in having a go. I was directed to a small shop in Shoreham village who stocked lots of craft goodies and they also ran card making classes. Although the shop closed many years ago I am still in regular contact with a lady who used to work in the shop and we go to craft shows and card making classes together.

Over the years I have made a good many friends through my hobby. I have tried most aspects of crafting, scrapbooking, parchment craft, decoupage, rubber stamping and die cutting. Obtaining the materials is harder these days as many of the local

shops have closed and there are not many shows to attend.

I have known Janet, the owner of Next Ahead for over 40 years and she is a good friend as well as my hairdresser. My son was an apprentice in her shop and he lived in the flat above the shop when he came home having got married in Australia. When I retired from full time office work, I made so many cards that I was overrun with them. Janet offered to sell some for me and I am more than happy to donate 10% to the very worthwhile charity 'Help for Heroes'. I have been able to send them yearly cheques in excess of £100. My friends and neighbours also purchase my cards. I am happy to personalise any card if required. There are cards for all different occasions in the shop and I am very grateful to Janet and my local customers.

Gina Meacher

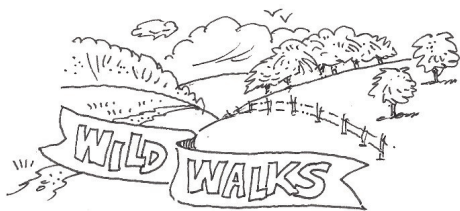
Beat the Blues Coffee Morning



Saturday 13th January
10 am - 12 noon
Keston Church Hall BR2 6HT

* Home made cakes
* Raffle
* Bring & Buy
Entrance £4 includes coffee/tea & cake
Everyone welcome





Something for nothing

Should you walk beneath the flight path at the northern end of the airfield along the footpath that circles the ‘drome’, (as it was once called), you’ll pass two small woods, or copses to give them their real names. These little woods were used for collecting and providing timber for all manner of things, fence poles being an obvious use in days of old.

When I first moved here and walked with my first dog around the area I would go through these little woods and create a route by snapping off twigs and small branches thereby creating a path, (quite unofficial of course), which began to be used by other walkers and now they’re an established ‘walk’.

Two weeks ago I was asked, by my daughter, to accommodate grand daughter for the day. Naturally I was delighted and so she was dropped off around 10 in the morning. “What are

we going to do for the day?” she asked. “We’re going to collect crab apples”, I replied, “and after that we’re being driven to Tudeley by a friend to a pub that does Trad Jazz at lunchtime”. The first bit appealed to her but the second bit met with caution. As it turned out, she seemed quite impressed!

However, back to the crab apples. We dutifully set off across the field, now shorn of its corn and looking very autumnal. In a short while we arrived at the first copse and entered. It had a sombre quality in the subdued light of an autumn day and we walked the meandering path. We rounded an ivy covered trunk and there, spread out on the darkened woodland floor we came upon the patch of crab apples. The area they covered was quite large and their yellow skin stood out remarkably on the dark leaf strewn ground. My grand daughter was delighted and remarked how they resembled stars in the night sky... and she wasn’t wrong!

Bending over and collecting them wasn’t such fun, but being two of us it made the job shorter. Now it’s up To the missus to turn them into something yummy!

Richard Geiger



What's On

Prayer Walks

1st Tues & 3rd Wed 9.30am

The Green opposite Greyhound pub

We usually return about 11am. Well behaved dogs welcome too!

Men's pub social

3rd Wed 7pm The Greyhound

Join us for social chat, a few drinks and a meal for those who want it. More details from Martin Becker on 07484 609102.

Book Reading Fellowship

Mon 11th Dec 2pm Gravel Road

Come and discuss books with some Christian content that you have read over tea/coffee and cake. Please let Sally Churchus know on 020 8462 8750 or editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk if you would like to come.

Keston Book Club

1st Wed 7pm The Fox

More information from 07503 268001 or angelahollamby@gmail.com.

New Keston WI

2nd Wed 1.30pm-3.30pm

Keston Church Hall

More details from Helen Best 07715 880889.

Friends of Keston Common

Fri 10am Westerham Rd car park

Join us for activities such as scrub clearance, tree/shrub pruning, pathway restoration and structural repairs.

Mental Wellbeing Coffee Morning

Sat 2nd December 10am-12 noon

Keston Church Hall

Come for chat over tea/coffee and cake with a mental health professional at hand. We will hear tips about how we can keep ourselves well.

Events

Christmas Sale in aid of Demelza Children's Hospice

Sun 26th Nov

11am Keston Church Hall

The Shirley Friends of Demelza will be selling the usual mix of gifts, toys, cards, Christmas items etc. Cash only, please.

Christmas Flower Arranging Workshop

Thurs 21st Dec

1.30pm Keston Church Hall

There will be a demonstration of how to do an arrangement, with ideas of how to use either a pin holder or chicken wire instead of oasis, as they are more environmentally friendly. (Although oasis will still be available to purchase if needed). Please bring: secateurs, flowers, foliage, a suitable container and pin holder. There will be the usual raffle together with tea and biscuits. We do hope you can join us. For further information please contact Maureen Marshall Tel: 01689 857260. Thank you.

Christmas Hamper Raffle

Sun 24th Dec

11am Keston Church Hall

The winning ticket for our M&S hamper as well as an additional one will be drawn on Christmas Eve. Tickets priced £1 each are available from church members. Proceeds will go towards the upkeep of the church.



Magazine Deadline

Please send photos and articles for the February/March issue of The Keston Magazine to the Editor, Sally Churchus, before Friday 5th January by email: editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk or contact her to discuss ideas on Tel: 020 8462 8750. Thank you.

Laughlines

© From *Bringing in the Sheaves* by Rev'd Richard Coles

A fortnight before Christmas and in between carol services I am on the phone to a funeral director, going through the Order of Service for a friend's mother, who I will be consigning to eternity at a crematorium in South London. As we're going

through hymns and music, she asks me what I want the organist to play when the coffin comes in. 'I Know That My Redeemer Liveth', I tell her.

On the day, I open my Order of Service and see printed therein: *As the cortège enters, the organist will play 'I Know That My Reindeer Cometh'.*

☺ **Christmas Carols – as interpreted by children**

Away in a manger,

No crib for a bed...

The cattle are blowing

The baby away

(The cattle are lowing, The baby awakes)

Hark the hairy angels sing,

Glory to the newborn thing

(Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the new born King)

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