

The Keston Magazine

News of your Parish and Village



August/September 2026

Keston Parish Church

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*Many are the plans in a person's heart,
But it is the Lord's purpose that prevails. Proverbs 19:21*

Thought for the month



Growing a younger church

Who doesn't look forward to the summer holidays? Seems a ridiculous question to ask. Of course everyone looks forward to days by the warm, sandy beaches or relaxing by a pool, visiting museums, hunting out adventure parks, lazing in country pubs and quaint tea rooms. What's not to like? Yet there are those who doggedly avoid these wonderful places and activities, fearful of encountering excitable, unruly little people.

Jesus often took himself off into the mountains or to the other side of the sea for some quiet, renewing time and for prayer and reflection. Somehow the crowds managed to find him, and graciously he would talk to them, tell stories and perform miracles. Even the little children came looking for him, much to the disciples' annoyance. They tried to turn them away, thinking that Jesus, this important man who had come to change the world, had much better things to be doing than entertaining the whims of young people. But Jesus was having none of it. He scolds them, saying, *Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 19:14)*

Children come with open minds, innocence and humility. They have no expectations, just a simple trust, a blind faith that they will be loved and cared for, that their needs will be met, their protection assured. In a patriarchal society, where children were among the least in the pecking order, Jesus makes it clear that the Kingdom of God includes all, especially the little 'insignificant' children. Subconsciously they get the fact that we can do nothing in our own strength. They understand what it means to be wholly reliant on someone else.

God, who is both father and mother to all he has created asks no less of us his children. Jesus warns, *'unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'* (Matthew 18:3)

Linda Creed, in 1976, penned these wise words, popularised by Whitney Houston, *'I believe the children are our future, Teach them well and let them lead the way'*.

At Keston Parish Church, we have a small core of babies and toddlers that attend church regularly – they are very welcome and we are keen to ensure that we do not put up any barriers that prevent them taking a full part in worship, even to the point of approaching the Lord's table. It is our ambition to preserve the longevity of Jesus's legacy by growing younger as a church.

Your children and our young leaders are the future of our church, of our nation. Imagine if they were nurtured to be seen, heard and valued, as Jesus did. Would the children's laughter remind us how **we** used to be?

Rev'd Belinda Beckhelling

From the Editor



As I write this, we are in the middle of a heatwave but at least it was nice and cool in the church this morning! Of course, in the winter we need to come well wrapped up as it's so cold. Many of you will recall the heatwave of 1976 – not much air conditioning around then, and certainly not in cars! You can read about an unusual holiday by car on p19, and see photos of the unbelievable weather we had for KestFest on p6.

I hope you enjoy the selection of articles in this issue, sadly I have had a lot of trouble finding material to go in. If you know of something or somebody, preferably with a Keston or Christian link that would make an interesting article, or even feel you could write something yourself I would love to hear from you to discuss ideas. I'd like to say a big thank you to those who have kindly contributed, this time and in the past. I do try and make it a positive publication, there is plenty of bad news available elsewhere, and hope and pray that it may continue to help foster the wonderful sense of community that we are fortunate enough to have here in Keston.

Sally Churchus

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. Alternatively, scan the QR code and select 'Magazine' to donate. Please use the envelope enclosed for cash or cheques made payable to '**Keston Parochial Church Council**'. If you are a UK tax payer and fill in the Gift Aid slip, we can recover an extra 25p for every £1. Thank you.



I wish to Gift Aid my donation to '**Keston Parochial Church Council**' to help meet the expenses of The Keston Magazine

Title	Surname	Forenames
House No/Name	Postcode	Date

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The Fox Good News



The reconfigured bar area

Although the scaffolding is still up following the fire at The Fox on 19th April, amazingly they have already reopened as usual for food and drinks.

I spoke to Paul and Gail at Heathfields, who run both venues, and they said the fire was a tremendous shock and the subsequent months have been stressful but they are so grateful that the building was empty at the time of the fire and that no one was hurt.

They confirmed that the fire started in the kitchen of the flat on the first floor. The source turned out to be a pile of tea towels that had been removed from the tumble dryer and left on the side. The heat retained from within the towels eventually caused the towels to spontaneously combust a few hours later. This is very rare, but apparently more common than you might imagine.

Although there is no fire damage to the restaurant and pub below, unfortunately there is water damage which has meant that the restaurant area is out of bounds for a while whilst it dries out and repairs are done.

Paul said 'The weeks following the fire are a bit of a blur now, but with the help

of our amazing team and the pub company acting quickly to get scaffolding up and protect the roof, we stripped out the sodden carpets etc. from the first floor in the hope of avoiding further water damage. We cleared out fridges and freezers and salvaged what we could. Unfortunately, after the initial flurry of activity the subsequent weeks have been much slower in progress whilst we wait for insurers' builders to tender for the works.

One of our main objectives was to ensure we retained our wonderful staff. We relaunched our much loved Tapas nights at Heathfields and our Fox team hosted the nights.

After being closed for six weeks our power was finally reconnected and so we decided that with the summer months coming and our wonderful garden looking so good we would do our best to open in some capacity, so we have partitioned off the affected restaurant area and created a new space with more seating in the bar area.

We are fortunate that our commercial kitchen was unaffected so we are able to offer our full summer menu, roast dinners and our pizza hut is also open as usual at the weekends. We hope that the works to the restaurant will be complete by the end of the summer/early autumn.

We would like to thank the local community for all their lovely emails, messages and cards. We would also like to thank the fire brigade which went above and beyond to cover and protect much of the furniture, appliances etc. which helped to reduce the damage'.

Sally Churchus

KestFest 6th June



KestFest captured by Barbara Fowlds

Despite the terrible weather, the festivities carried on in true British style! Deputy Mayor of Bromley, Sunil Gupta, kindly opened KestFest, and our MP Peter Fortune also came along. The dog show was a brilliant success, and the Band, (G Force), played on through the torrential rain and wind.

A huge thank you to all our stallholders and to DJ Dave for braving the elements and keeping spirits high throughout the day. Here's hoping for sunshine and blue skies in 2027!

Shelley Sturdy
Chair, Keston Village Residents' Assoc.



Shelley Sturdy with Deputy Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Dr Sunil Gupta

Books Wanted



If you are having a sort out of your paperback books in the near future, would you consider donating them to the book exchange on the corner of Lakes Road and Windmill Drive please? The exchange is very well used, the turnover of books is fantastic and I am very grateful to everyone who uses it. I can't take hardback books, unfortunately, as they are too big for the exchange. You can always leave a bag of books on the doorstep, (1A Lakes Road), if you can't fit them in the exchange. Thank you in advance!

Sue Sinton

Bible Sales Increase

As reported in *The Guardian* and *The Telegraph*, Bible sales in the UK have climbed by 134% since 2019, with people of all ages, and especially younger readers, picking up Scripture with renewed interest. Many are searching for meaning, stability and hope in a changing world. With the rise in AI, many people are asking what is trustworthy, enduring and real.

Also, more people than ever are reading the Bible via the YouVersion Bible App which is free.

My Faith Journey



I have been a Christian as long as I can remember. I was Christened at eight weeks old at St Mary the Virgin church in Ladywell. My parents sent my brother and I to Sunday school at St Peter's in Dulwich, but they never came! My Father taught me the Lord's Prayer when I was about four or five. We always said Grace before a meal.

When I lived in Dulwich we had another Sunday school run by the Methodists and it was very popular with the local children. We were put into separate groups and won prizes, I still have the Good News Bible that I won, alongside the King James Bible given to me by my grandfather. We were taken on a camping trip for two weeks at Arundel where religious instruction was very intense, and it was there that I took the Lord Jesus to be my Saviour. I had pictures of Jesus all over my wall at home next to my bed and read the Bible every night with helpful notes produced by Scripture Union. I also joined the Girl Guides and went to church regularly. I was never asked or told about being Confirmed. I asked my Mother but she said it was for Catholics

only. My Mother was not a practising Christian and was confused.

After I had my last two children, who were Baptised at Holy Trinity Clapham, I started taking them regularly to church as it was attached to Macaulay School. During Mass I was invited up for a blessing which I did and finally one of the nuns asked me if I would like to be Confirmed! I was 38. I was so happy and started my lessons in the local Convent. My children were Confirmed when they were 11. My husband was a Catholic (lapsed) but did attend church with me quite often and wanted the children brought up in the Church of England.

So that's my story, I have lapsed a few times over the years but God has helped me in so many ways and my faith is stronger than ever, He is my guide and Jesus my Saviour and Redeemer.

Rosemary Camilleri

The Keston Prayer

*Merciful God,
as we trust in your love;
increase our faith,
feed us with your word
and strengthen us for service.
Bless our community.
Make this place holy,
to heal and transform
all who come.
In the precious name of
Jesus our Saviour.
Amen.*

Keston Baby & Toddler Group

Keston Church Hall
Every Friday
11am-1pm

Starting on 18th September
with Teddy Bear's picnic.
Bring own teddy and picnic.
Songs, story, space and
time with other small
and big people.



Making Memories at Keston CE School



It has been a wonderfully busy and enriching term at Keston CE Primary School, with much to celebrate. Pupils have enjoyed a wide range of exciting learning opportunities beyond the classroom, including trips to the Science Museum, the Tower of London, Maidstone Museum, High Elms, PGL Activity Centre and even a special visit to see Paddington Bear in London. The experiences have helped to bring learning to life and create lasting memories.

For one year group, however, the highlight of the term was their residential trip to Bowles Activity Centre. This unforgettable experience gave pupils the opportunity to challenge themselves, build confidence, and strengthen friendships through a variety of adventurous activities including skiing, swimming, team-building challenges, campfires, high ropes, and the daunting “Leap of Faith”.

The children returned buzzing with excitement, eager to share their

experiences. Many pupils spoke about overcoming fears and trying something new, one said, “My favourite activity was the Leap of Faith, we learnt to be brave and my class were very supportive. I had the best time and I would love to go again.”

Teamwork was another strong theme throughout the trip. They commented, “The best thing was the teamwork, we went to Big Al’s which is a tunnel which felt like a dream because of how dark it was,” while another pupil shared, “My favourite activity was the team building because we had to work together. That taught me I don’t always need to do everything by myself.”

For some, the residential was also about stepping outside their comfort zone. One pupil explained, “On the coach I was really nervous and scared if I would like it. I was so happy that I came, otherwise I would have missed everything.” Similarly, another said, “This has been a great experience, I was feeling nervous before we went but I’m really glad I went. The food was delicious!”



There were also plenty of lighter moments. One pupil enjoyed the campfire, saying, “On Wednesday night we had a campfire, I learned lots of new songs and I loved the marshmallows,” while another shared, “Sharing a room with my friends was my favourite part because it was like having a big sleepover”.

As the trip came to an end, the feelings of many were summed up: “When it was time to leave I didn’t want to go because the things I did there are memories I will keep forever.”

The teachers were extremely impressed with the resilience,

enthusiasm, and “have a go” attitude shown by all the children throughout the visit.

The school community is truly thankful for the many wonderful opportunities they have enjoyed this term and are looking forward to what next term will bring.

Dawn Ardern, Headteacher

Keston CE Primary School is now welcoming enquiries for Reception (September 2027). Book a visit to see us in Lakes Road, Keston BR2 6BN.

Tel: 01689 858399

Email: admin@keston.bromley.sch.uk

Keston Parochial Church Council



Parochial Church Council Members Elected at the Annual Meeting in May
From left: Judy Davies, Anna Bailey, Geoff Carr, Annika Toomer, Tricia Coward, Chris Rowland, Martin Becker, Rev'd Belinda Beckhelling, David Cook and Ren Blanchette.

Church Services



First Sunday service at 10am, with piano accompaniment

First Sunday in the month

8.00am Holy Communion using Book of Common Prayer (1662)

10.00am Celebrational Worship (non Communion)

All other Sundays

10.00am Holy Communion

Third Sunday in the month

10.00am Holy Communion with Sunday School for children (but no Sunday School in August)

Every Monday

(But not in August)

7.40am Morning Prayer

8.00am Holy Communion (said)

Second Saturday in the month

11.20am No Healing & Wholeness services in August or September

From the Registers

Baptisms

28th June

Eliza Anne Brownlee
(born 12th July 2025)

Freddie Barford
(born 29th December 2022)

Funeral

9th June

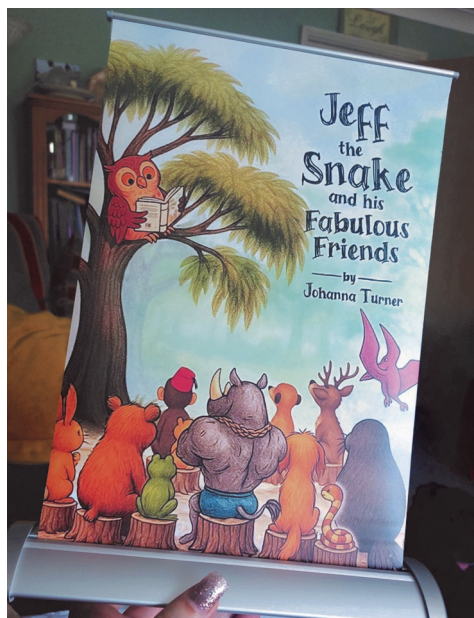
Bruce John Laurence Skittrell
(aged 82 years)

Service of Thanksgiving

15th June

Anthony John Davies
(aged 87 years)

Keston Inspired Children's Book



The idea for 'Jeff the Snake' came about in 2021 in our second lockdown. As a teaching assistant at Keston Primary School, I was working part time so that we could accommodate key workers' children. At the end of a poetry lesson, I read the class a poem that I'd written myself and luckily for me, they liked it. As they were leaving that day, a boy in Y6 asked if I would write one for him. Of course I said yes, but to narrow it down, I asked what his favourite animal was. He said, "a snake". Then I asked him to give it a name – "Jeff" he replied... and so it began.

The poem got a great reception and soon the other children were asking me for poems too. Making no promises, I noted each of their favourite animals and the names they'd chosen. By the end of the school year, each child moving on to secondary school had their own poem.

At the same time, my Mum was very ill in hospital, and each day, when I visited, she would ask how the collection was going and loved listening to what I'd written so far. She was also keen to keep me on track and make sure I got them done! She also made me promise to do something with them. After she died, my Dad became my priority and I didn't think about the poems very often – until one day when fate took over.

Now in his 80s, my Dad was struggling to keep on top of his garden and I knew that a friend of a friend was a gardener, so I asked him to help. Not only did Dad's garden look glorious again, but the pair of them hit it off and became firm friends. After a cup of tea together one day, Dad found out that Chris was also an illustrator. Reminding me of the poems that Mum had loved, Dad told me to ask Chris to illustrate them.

I lost my Dad a year ago, six months before my book was published.

Jeff the Snake and his Fabulous Friends is a collection of some of my, (and Mum's), favourites and the illustrations are amazing. I hope that I've made her and Dad proud.

Johanna Turner and Christopher Rawlins

Books are available for £10 and can be signed. For details please email jprturner@hotmail.com



Obituary

Anthony (Tony) John Davies

29th June 1938 - 25th May 2026



Tony was born in Willesden, North West London, and subsequently lived in a flat on the Kings Road, attending Kings Road School. When war came he was evacuated to Wales with his Mother, on their return they lived at Tulse Hill with his grandparents. He remembered the Doodlebugs and the Red Cross trains. Whilst at The Bec Grammar School in Tooting, he took on a paper round in order to fund a much wanted racing bike. In 1956 Tony did National Service in Cyprus and Libya.

Tony was a hard worker, at one stage he had five different jobs simultaneously to provide for his family. Eventually, his career path led to him becoming a Financial Auditor and he worked in various companies over the years.

In 1960, he married his first wife, Beryl and had two daughters, Sue and Annette and the family lived in Streatham. However, in 1977 they separated. In 1983 he married Eileen, whom he had met at a squash club. They first lived in Clapham, then Beckenham and finally Keston. In 2012 they decided to renew their wedding

vows at a special service being held at Keston Parish Church and were both welcomed into the church family, and began to take part in many services and activities at the church.

Tony enjoyed squash, golf, cycling and ballroom dancing which he and Eileen did together until a few years ago. They enjoyed many holidays in Europe as well as visiting his daughters in the USA. He was blessed with four grandchildren and one great grandson.

Tributes to Tony referred to him as a true gentleman, thoughtful, a joy to be with, one in a million. Tony was a source of kindness, a man whose gentleness was not weakness but a quiet strength that shaped everyone who knew him. He had that rare ability to make you feel seen, valued, and at ease. Many remember his warmth – the way he listened, the way he encouraged, the way he made space for others. He wrote about his Faith Journey in The Keston Magazine back in October 2019, and he explained that he had never been a devout Christian but he had a turning point in 2018 when a good friend was taken seriously ill and was close to death. He and Eileen visited her over three months when she was in intensive care, and prayed at her bedside, and prayers were also said in church. She recovered well, and returned to normal life. Tony was convinced that the power of prayer does work, and on waking each morning, he would thank the Lord for another day with his soulmate Eileen.

Sally Churchus, Eileen Davies,
Rev'd Eric Heslewood
and Tricia Coward

George Kadwell



The Fox Inn, Heathfield Road 1886

In the Wickham Court manor rolls of 1831, the steward, when recording the Estate tenants, made the following entry under the name George Kadwell, *Brick layer, brick maker, bankrupt*

The large extended Kadwell family lived in Deptford, Hayes and Keston at various times in the 18th and 19th centuries.

One of the earliest mentions of George's activities in Keston comes in 1812 when he purchased Woodside, a messuage, (cottage), on Commonsides for £108. The tenant then living there was William Powell, his wife and four sons. Kadwell seems to have been successful in his business at least until 1828 when he was declared bankrupt. Probably his most successful development venture is described in the land sale conducted on behalf of Peter Burrell, Lord Gwydir of Langley Park. The sale was held on 31st October 1823 at

Garroway's Coffee House, Change Alley, Cornhill in the City of London.

George Kadwell bought lot 82 comprising over nine acres of land in the shape of a triangle extending down Fox Lane and along Heathfield Road above Leafy Grove Wood. The price was a jaw dropping £1,530. He had anticipated the price and had earlier made an agreement with the vendor's solicitor to accept a shared purchase. Fordham and Marsden the brewers joined him in this joint venture and paid £843 for the Fox Inn and three acres. They subsequently sold the land surplus to their requirements leaving only the Inn with its outbuildings in their possession.

Kadwell retained four and a half acres from Leafy Grove down Fox Lane on which there was a chalk pit and lime kiln. Seven years later the auctioneer working on behalf of the bankruptcy



Fox Hill House in February 1933, on the corner of Fox Hill and Leafy Grove

court produced a description of Kadwell's property. A large house with stables and appurtenances, four cottages, brick kiln and a lime kiln. The large house is almost certainly Fox Hill house which had a chalk pit in the garden for many years. The pit, now clothed in trees, is the site of a secluded private house. The four pairs of cottages continue to provide homes for families of Keston. If extended and modernised one will now cost you 2,000 times the original cost of building.

Sadly, George died within a year of being declared bankrupt. In his will he left £5 annually to his three children, Hannah, Charles and William but all the property retained in his estate was inherited by his grandson also named George. Any future grandchildren were to share in this legacy. In 1850 Hannah Kadwell was living in a cottage on Commonsides and three other male members of the extended family are recorded as butcher, shoemaker and draper.

Not until 1874 on the sale of his property do we hear of the three

grandchildren George, Henry and Emma. By then, of the three grandchildren only Emma Kadwell lived in Keston. Her brother George and Henry had emigrated to Acton Ontario, Canada and Henry lived in St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A.

The Kadwell family's story would no doubt provide material for a fascinating episode of 'Who Do You Think You Are?'

Tudor Davies

With thanks to Edward Williams for the old photos of The Fox Inn and Fox Hill House



Woodside on Commonsides today

Beekeeping in Keston



Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) collecting nectar from a clover flower Photo by Andrey Larionov on Unsplash

My name is Neil Munro and I've been living in the area for the past 40 years, with my wife, Christina. On and off for most of this time we have kept bees in the locality, and now we have left our 9-5 jobs behind, beekeeping has become our 'job', if something you thoroughly enjoy can be called as such!

My beekeeping story started over 50 years ago helping my Father and brothers with an apiary, (which is where you keep beehives), in South West Scotland. This provided me with the knowledge slowly gleaned over the years, as beekeeping requires a considerable investment in knowledge. This is the singular reason why so many people start beekeeping and fail, notwithstanding the significant help available from local associations.

Our routine is driven by the seasons. In winter, we can hunker down like our bees, making and repairing, and in the height of summer, we are as busy as can bee(!) managing our hives to ensure as big a crop as possible. We need to do this as, despite no social media, websites or advertising, we always sell all the honey we produce. (Local retailers include Holwood Farm Shop).

We love this work. We are outside in all weathers looking after our stock, like any other farmers, and as our season is driven by the climate and phenology about us, we are forced to watch, listen, and, yes, smell what is happening around us to assess what is going on so we can modify our practices accordingly. In the meantime, if any wellness articles are to be believed, we are probably getting an overdose of dopamine from our endeavours.

The honey produced in Keston is arguably some of the best honey to be had. This is because of the flora to be found in the locality, and the foraging practices of honey bees compared to the likes of bumblebees and other pollinator insects. Honey bees tend to work on flowers which are available in abundance, unlike the bumblebee which is more of an opportunist, visiting many flowers in a small range such as a few gardens. Due to its physiology, it can



Christina collecting the honeycomb



Beehive with swarm

also access flowers which honey bees cannot due to their much longer tongues! The worker honey bee which discovers, say, a large thicket of brambles, will communicate its distance and direction to its fellow foragers, and within minutes, more bees will be there.

The honey produced in Keston is arguably some of the best honey to be had

These workers will then tell others, until the plants are finished, and then they will move elsewhere. How does this play out in Keston? The season starts with gorse on the common in February, followed by willow in the marshier parts of the Ravensbourne source. Then follows hazel, snowdrops, plum and dandelion in the spring. As the year progresses, hawthorn is the first nectar source which the bees store in the hive instead of using the earlier income to just build up the strength of the colony.

Needless to say, all the wild cherry and abandoned fruit trees around the remains of the Blackness farm orchards are very welcome to our charges.

You will see that most of the nectar harvested so far has come from trees, and that is what is so special in this area. But we also have an abundance of forage from gardens and meadows, and a lack of agricultural chemicals. This provides a pure honey, which, if tasted side by side with many of the commercially available alternatives is immediately apparent in the flavour.

As food production goes, beekeeping probably possesses one of the lowest carbon footprints. Once the hives, protective equipment and extractor is purchased there is very little expenditure as we can raise replacement colonies of bees ourselves. The only difficult problem is finding places to keep them, and if anyone knows of a spare piece of land which could accommodate some beehives, please call us. We are always willing to talk bees, and, if a swarm lands in your garden, we should be able to assist.

Neil and Christina Munro 07919 997044



Saint Christopher



Icon image by Dimitris Vetsikas from Pixabay

25th July Feast Day of St Christopher

The legend goes that St Christopher was a Canaanite who lived in the 3rd century. He was a giant of a man, of fearsome appearance. At first he decided to serve the devil, but when he discovered that the devil was afraid of Christ and His Cross, Christopher decided to serve Christ instead. A nearby hermit instructed Christopher in the Christian faith and assigned to him a place near a river: Christopher's job was to help travellers cross it safely.

All went well, and Christopher helped lots of people on their way until one day a child came along and asked to be carried across. Christopher put him on his back and set off, but was soon staggering under the astonishing weight of this child. The child then told him that He was in fact Jesus Christ, and that He carried the weight of the whole world. The Christ-child then told Christopher to plant his staff in the ground: the next day it bore flowers and dates – confirmation that the child was indeed who He claimed to be.

After some more time of helping travellers cross the river, Christopher went to the city of Lycia, (in modern day Turkey), where he preached the

gospel with such success that the Roman emperor had him arrested and imprisoned – especially when Christopher refused to sacrifice to the gods. Two women sent into his cell to seduce him came out converted Christians instead. So Christopher was beaten, shot with arrows and finally beheaded.

Christopher has been well-loved of the English down the centuries. Many wall-paintings of him have been placed on the north wall of churches, opposite the porch, so that he would be seen by all who entered. There was good reason for this: as patron saint of travellers, it was believed that anyone who saw an image of St Christopher would not die that day. As the ancient saying goes: 'Behold St Christopher and go thy way in safety'.

St Christopher became the patron saint of motorists

A kind of daily insurance policy against death – this was so good that in due course St Christopher became the patron saint of motorists. There is even a church in the Javel area of Paris where Citroen cars are made, that is dedicated to St Christopher. In modern times, with the increase in air and motorway travel, Christopher has remained popular. When in 1969 the Holy See reduced his feast day, there was a sharp protest in several countries, led in Italy by a number of popular film stars. If you ever travel in a taxi on the Continent, look out for a little St Christopher hanging from the rear-view mirror beside the driver!

Parish Pump

An unusual holiday in the 60s



Tricia, left, with her sister and Mother

Holidays in the 60's! How excited my sister and I were to be going on holiday to France, together with my Golf Professional Father and Mum on our first trip overseas!

The holiday was meticulously planned, we prepared the car for the journey, a small mini, and we added a roof rack, just so we could take the luggage and all the cuddly toys I insisted we had to take! There was my giant white teddy bear, for which I had made a chic pale pink bikini, (complete with georgette frill on the bikini top), especially for the holiday. Then I also had to take my rabbit pyjama case!

All packed up and off we went. My Dad drove us to Lydd Airport, on the windswept coast of Kent, where we queued up in the car, then my Mum, sister and I went off into the small terminal. We then walked to the passengers' boarding stairs, and entered a large Bristol freighter plane, owned by Silver City Airways for cross Channel trips. Looking out of the window, we saw our Father drive the car up a ramp and into the open fronted cargo bay of the plane, where it was carefully secured by the engineers, he then came to join us. There were four point safety belts but no hostesses with refreshments! We

flew to Le Touquet, disembarked and then continued by car to our holiday destination in La Baule, the Atlantic coast resort with 9 km of sandy beaches. En route at every junction to villages there were beautiful painted statues of Mary, the mother of Jesus, always with fresh flowers.

We enjoyed a fabulous holiday, and I remember the local lace makers, and the super sticky chewy sweets on sticks, which we watched being made. My Father, always the practical joker, kept worrying me throughout the holiday that on our return home, the Customs & Excise might think we were smuggling contraband diamonds in the tummy of my 3ft teddy, so I was very anxious as we went through Customs! But thankfully we all made it back home safely, cuddly toys intact!

I can still remember that in the 60's there was a maximum of only £50 that you were allowed to take out of the country, which meant we had to be very careful and spend the money wisely to ensure we had enough for the whole holiday.

Tricia Coward



Us in our towelling cover ups, with two slits to put your arms through and which usefully doubled as circular beach towels

My Travels

I was in many places during my career, but I don't think I was ever in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone. I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there. I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work. I live close, so it's a short drive.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore. I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go and I try not to visit there too often. I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm. Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get! And, sometimes I think I am in Vincible but life shows me I am not. People keep telling me I'm in Denial but I'm positive I've never been there before!

So far, I haven't been in Continent, but my travel agent says I'll be going soon. How are your travels these days?

Source: Association for Church Editors



Grandad was babysitting when he heard his little grand-daughter muttering the alphabet over in hushed tones. "What are you doing?" he asked her. "I'm praying," she replied. "I can't think of the right words so I just say all the letters. God will put them together for me 'cos He knows what I'm thinking."



© CHRISTIAN CRACKERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR by Phil Mason, published by Monarch

What's On



Prayer walkers and talkers!

Prayer Walks

First Tuesday & Third Wednesday 9.30am

The Green opposite The Greyhound pub

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

Keston Book Club

First Wednesday 7pm The Fox

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

Friends of Keston Common Walk

First Wednesday 2pm from Keston Village Sign opposite The Greyhound

Walks last up to 2 hours. Well behaved dogs on leads welcome. Good footwear advised and water to drink in warm weather.

New Keston WI

Second Wednesday 1.30pm-3.30pm

Keston Church Hall

Contact Helen Best on 07715 880889.

Mental Wellbeing Coffee Morning

Saturday 1st August 10am-12 noon

Keston Church Hall

Come for a chat over tea/coffee and cake. We will hear tips about how we can keep ourselves well.

Keston Village Race Night

Friday 18th September 7pm

Keston Village Hall

Come and enjoy an entertaining evening trying your luck on the races! Organised by Keston Village Residents' Association, profits will go towards the Keston Village Christmas Lights. To book your tickets, £10 pp, please email kestonvillagera@gmail.com. Don't forget to bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Book Reading Fellowship

Monday 28th September 2pm

Come and discuss books with some Christian content that you have read over tea/coffee and cake. If you want to come, please let Sally Churchus know on Tel: 020 8462 8750 or email editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk.



Parish Lunch

Sunday 6th September

12 noon - 3pm Keston Church Hall

Tickets £18 from Chris 07988 712873

Bring your own drinks and glasses

Keston Parish Church is Hiring

Keston Parish Church is looking to recruit an enthusiastic Parish Administrator to work flexibly 10-12 hours a month at £14.80 per hour providing administrative support for the smooth running of the church. Details from rector@kestonparishchurch.org.uk

Magazine Deadline

Please send material for the October/November issue of The Keston Magazine to the Editor, Sally Churchus, before Wednesday 2nd September by email to: editor@kestonparishchurch.org.uk or contact her to discuss ideas on Tel: 020 8462 8750. Thank you.

Laughlines

☺ Bible Knowledge

A minister was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I finally figured out what the Bible means!" The minister thought of his extensive theological library and asked his young son what he thought the Bible meant. "It's easy, Daddy," the boy replied. "It means: Basic Information Before Leaving Earth".

☺ Cucumber

A small boy asked his mother for a cucumber to take to Junior Church. A slightly puzzled mother complied. Later she asked what it had been used for. "Sorry, mum," he confessed. "I got it wrong. We were supposed to bring a newcomer".

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