

PARISH NEWS

The Thameshead Parishes of Kemble, Ewen, Poole Keynes, Somerford Keynes with Shorncliffe

Rector
Rev Trevor Kemp
The Rectory, Coates
01285 770550

Associate Priest
(House for Duty)
Rev David Austin and
Rev Angie Austin
01285 770654



All Saints, Somerford Keynes

Readers
Barrie Cran

Liz Collins
01285 770698

Frampton Mansell
Rev Pepita Walker
01285 760211

Youth Minister
Ben Fudge
078 5880 6913

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www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk



Services March 2021

Each Sunday the Benefice is hosting two virtual services:

Family Worship every Sunday at 9.30am – 9.50m by Zoom

Private secure link for safeguarding purposes – please contact Trevor for joining instructions

Benefice Service at 10am – livestream worship (service sheet and link on thamesheadchurches.org.uk)

In addition there will be an **informal service** at 6pm on the fourth Sunday in the month, with the first of these taking place on Sunday 28 February

As we work our way through Lent towards Holy Week and Easter it is difficult to plan what we may be able to share in addition to our continued online services. But whilst we may not be together physically, we shall all share in **Mothering Sunday on 14 March; Passiontide on 21 March and Palm Sunday on 28 March**. Details of the readings for those celebrations are all at the back of the magazine, as are those for Holy Week, so we shall share a bond with all who are following the liturgy throughout and beyond Lent.

We hope to be able to arrange at least one service in each parish in our Benefice during Holy Week but will of course be taking every precaution to avoid travel between parishes and the risks of cross infection.

Please keep an eye on the website for the latest information about services.

In addition to the usual online services, and the new online service at 6pm on 28 February and 28 March, we plan a Messy Easter zoom on 21 March and some online services and reflections during Holy Week.

On Easter morning we hope there will be something for everyone, including services outdoors, so please join us in praying for lovely weather that weekend! We hope to provide more information in the April magazine.

Churchwardens

Kemble	Stephen Lambert-Humble 077 8673 8824	Mark Wilton 771581
Poole Keynes	George Collins 770698	John Hiscock
Somerford Keynes	David Crofts	Sussanne Lock

Parish News is edited by a series of guest editors – would you like to join the team? It would mean preparing just a few magazines a year. If you'd be interested, please drop us an email on parishnewsthb@gmail.com

We are trying to work towards our normal production pattern but for the time being the magazine will only be produced on line: the deadline for the April magazine will be 12th March.

Little Fishes Sorry – no Little Fishes for now	Bible Study For details of current Bible Study please join via our website link	TIME OUT Sorry - The Time Out Bible discussion group cannot meet at present
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Stop Press : We have just heard that Jean Milbank has sadly died .

March 

Reflections from the Rectory

Dear Friends

This month is my least favourite. I don't know about you but by February I am waiting for winter to end. The days are short, the weather damp and the flowers of spring mostly just a hope for tomorrow. By the time you read this of course it will be March and the lengthening days will warm the earth for life to spring forward. I think most of us feel that sense of hope in spring returning and we know, because it is the earth's cycle, that it will reliably happen even if the detail of each year is variable.

Hope is a really important emotion in our lives and one that for some the pandemic has made more challenging to hold onto. What is it that you hope for or that we have hope in? When we lose hope we find despair is lurking in a dark corner to assault us with depression and fear and worry and pain.

Somewhere hidden in our humanity is a God given ability to believe that there can be light at the end of the tunnel. If it were not so could we send our young people to wars and could they survive them mentally intact? For most human beings hope springs eternal even if the flame is reduced to the slightest flicker. I wonder what it is within us that makes this true and how we can encourage it to burn more brightly in our lives. There is no doubt that for half of us BREXIT was a cause for sadness, perhaps for anxiety, as we considered the future and the changes to our world as a result of that decision. That may also be true for many who voted leave because following what you believe to be right is not necessarily easy or without anxiety. Similarly we are all familiar with the issues around global warming and maybe the political desire of some nations to reclaim global status or of others to acquire political or economic domination. That is the natural politics of nationalism and imperialism.

The pandemic has thrown into sharper relief some of the weaknesses in the global economy and the underlying self-interest of every nation and there are lessons to be learned about that as we traverse the years ahead if humanity is to move forward. I suspect though that in the great scheme of things self-interest and suspicion will be hard if not impossible cankers to remove. You only have to look at the infighting within the UK to see that.

So where do we move forward from here? First and foremost real change comes when one by one people choose to live differently, to think differently, to challenge the assumptions of their past and to choose a different future. It is not easy and in an affluent area like the UK it will come with a greater burden of cost too. A call to sacrificial giving of self for the good of all our neighbours and all our world. That good will and hope is there though isn't it. When Roger Butt died the compassion of people in this village was strong. (More will be spoken of him elsewhere). Roger was a rather taciturn man, I suspect few had meaningful conversations with him, partly his nature and partly because he was always working the farm. He was faithful in worship and always ready to ring the church bell and I guess as he had been brought up, always wore a proper jacket and looked smart for church as opposed to his normal farm attire. Roger was an important part of the village having never lived anywhere else and not only will I miss him but I feel the village is poorer for his passing. It was very moving to see so many stand at the road to pay their respects at his funeral. Compassion and thoughtfulness for others has not been hard to find over the pandemic in our villages. Almost everyone is looking out for everyone else and that is the spirit that needs to flourish and grow in our world. That is the hope for a better future.

Of course I will say this will flourish and grow from hearts turned to God because God has always set out smart rules for living together and taking care of one another. Actually it becomes so much easier when we discover the freedom God invites us into because all those political and social concerns become less significant when we are living well, with integrity, within the promises of God. The issues about how we value ourselves and others become less when we know that we are all valued and loved equally, because we are, and not because of what we look like or how big our bank account is. When we see with God's eyes and listen with his heart then compassion and care and wise decisions about the local and the international become natural parts of living with integrity and loving our neighbour.

The good thing about February is that it doesn't last forever, beyond the darkness is light and warmth and new growth so as we journey into lent I pray we may all be able to rejoice in the light of Christ and find joy together in the journey.

With love and prayers

Trevor Kemp

Rector

Tel: 01285 770550

Email: rector@thamesheadchurches.org.uk

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Mon: 3:00 - 6:30

Tue: Closed

Wed: 2:00 - 5:30

Thu: 8:00 - 11:30

Fri: 8:00 - 11:30

KEMBLE BRANCH SURGERY DETAILS

Monday	Dr A Strong	3:30pm - 6:00pm
Thursday	Dr N Vernon	8:40am - 11:30am
Friday	Dr A Strong	8:30am - 11:20am

Kemble Branch Tel: 01285 770640

These Doctors are available at other times at the Main Surgery in Chesterton Lane, Cirencester.

For more information on our opening times at our main Cirencester surgery please visit www.phoenixhealthgroup.co.uk or see our Facebook page.



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KEMBLE & EWEN 200 CLUB

Following distribution of the 2021 subscription letters, on behalf of Kemble Village Hall Management Committee I would like to thank all of you who have once more supported the Village hall funds and delighted to welcome many new residents who have also bought tickets - Thank You.

I plan to arrange the first draw in March when the first 3 months of the year will be drawn. The results will appear in the April issue of Parish News.

Good Luck to you all - any questions please contact me on 0770690182.

Keep safe, Jean Whitehead (Treasurer).



Kemble and Ewen Women's Institute

Well done to Kelsie our programme secretary as she has encouraged most of our members to join in with Zoom meetings. For those who didn't have the technology she linked them up with those that did! The first get together held in February was a great success as we enjoyed very much an afternoon tea parcel which had been delivered earlier by Kelsie. Our meet up in the afternoon on screen we devoured our delicious goodies whilst catching up on W.I. business.

If you would like to know more what we have planned for this year please contact me.

Pat Ayres secretary 770385.



Kemble and District Royal British Legion Women's Section

We will resume meetings as and when. Good News that we recently received a donation of £250 in memory of past member which has been earmarked to use towards any costs of celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the RBLWS. Yippee something to look forward to members.

Pat Ayres branch Chair/secretary770385

SAVE THE DATE

Scarecrow Trail



The Kemble Church Fête committee is very excited to announce a family-friendly, fun-filled (and COVID-safe) scarecrow trail and plant sale which will take place in Kemble and Ewen on Saturday 15th May...keep your eyes peeled for further information! There will also be exciting news about the Fête itself later in the year... watch this space!

Poole Keynes News and Events

Poole Keynes 100 Club

Thank you to everyone for your continued support for the village hall by subscribing to the 100 Club

This money is very important to the hall as it enables us to keep the hall maintained as we are unable to fund raise during this unprecedented time

Here are the results for the draw from September to February

- ♦ September Number 79 Tom Corran
- ♦ October Number 12 David Bush
- ♦ November Number 29 Judith Hiscock
- ♦ December Number 87 Miles Russell
- ♦ January Number 39 Niki Oakey
- ♦ February Number 83 Robert Hiscock

Congratulations to all the lucky winners

PKVH

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Cirencester Eating Disorder self help support group (this group covers all of Gloucestershire and beyond) working in partnership with National BEAT. This is a FREE service. (Formed in 2003)

Unfortunately for the time being **NO** support meetings will be held. This could change hopefully very soon.

I am still offering to speak to anyone on the phone or have an exchange of emails.

I can also signpost callers to online support and organizations that offer virtual support if they so wish.

The planned concert starring the Stuart Singers to be held in the Sundial theatre Cirencester College rescheduled from last October to this September has now been put back to May 13th 2022. !! This is to raise money for the National BEAT support helplines.

Please contact Pat on 01285 770385 email ayrescares50@gmail.com in confidence for more details.

UP, UP AND AWAY! CIRENCESTER'S MEGA CHARITY AUCTION

Reach for the skies and make a big difference locally by bidding for this super exciting Lot, kindly donated by **AeroSuperBatics**.. Local businesses and celebrities are generously offering fabulous items and experiences for **Cirencester Rotary Club's** mega online charity auction in aid of the **Big Yellow Bus Project** supporting the homeless <http://www.bigyellowbusproject.co.uk/the-project/>, **Cotswold Counselling** helping people cope with the challenges in life <http://www.cotswold-counselling.org.uk> and other local good causes.

Wingwalking over the Cotswolds must be one of the most exhilarating experiences of a lifetime! This is the chance to fulfil a lifelong dream or buy the ultimate give for someone special.

Scheduled to take place on **Friday 12th March 2021**, thanks to the generous support and sponsorship of local auctioneers **Moore, Allen & Innocent**, this exciting online event will be hosted by their celebrity auctioneer **Philip Allwood** on the-saleroom.com. Planning is well under way and already some fabulous 'money can't buy' experiences have been secured. An appeal is going out for local businesses, residents and their influential contacts to support this event and provide more unique Lots to ensure the success of this mega charity auction.

To get involved, offer an auction Lot or discuss potential sponsored experiences please contact Cirencester Rotary Club Members: Howard Davies on howard.m.davies@btinternet.com or Christine Sheldon on csheldon1000@gmail.com There will be an on-going PR programme promoting this event, highlighting exciting items, supporters and the local beneficiaries.

If you are community-minded and would like to make a difference locally why not consider joining **The Rotary Club of Cirencester** www.cirencester-rotary.org.uk?



PSALMS Update

Thank you so much for your continued partnership with PSALMS. This update is to share some of the latest news that has emerged from conversations PSALMS have been involved with for the last three years. We are passionate about our continued mission to grow and support ministry reaching the 95% of children and young people who don't connect with existing forms of Church. In partnership with you we are excited to see this vision continue to take shape and grow in the local community.

As part of this we are excited to tell you that PSALMS is merging to become part of a new organisation that will be formed called OneLife. This will create a greater scope for building upon the fantastic work that is already going on as well as providing capacity for new ministry. It's a privilege for PSALMS to fully live out one of the key values we've had from 16 years of history of 'giving away ministry'.

We are in the process of working through transition issues but in the next few months we will make the switch to become OneLife. It's important to reiterate that our core values and DNA will very much remain and the way in which we operate will be largely consistent with current practice. We will keep you updated with the changes during this transition but in the meantime please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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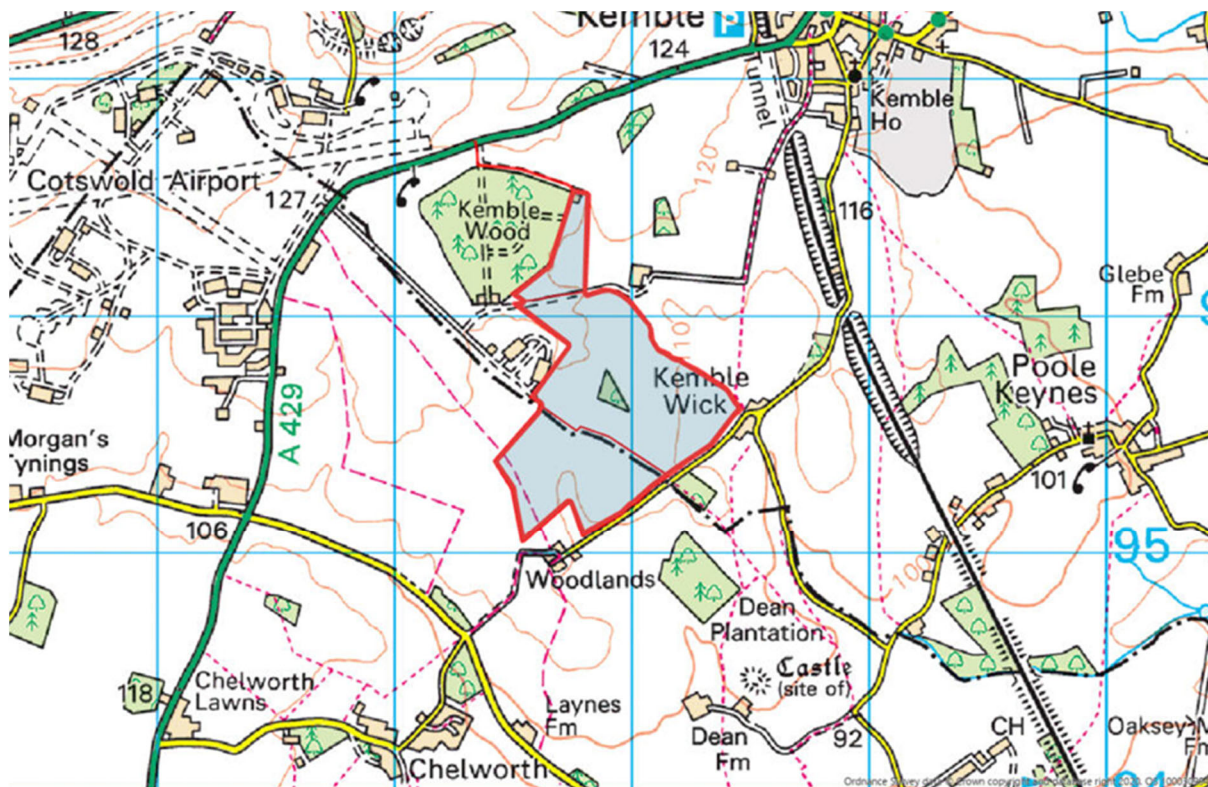
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What were those Festival Flags in Kemble Wick?

Those of you who regularly enjoy a walk along the footpath between Top Farm and Kemble Wick may have noticed some multi-coloured festival flags in the field adjacent to Kemble Wick flapping in the wind between February 5th – 19th. Also, regular readers of this magazine will recall an article written a few months ago by Aura Power regarding their intention to build a solar farm. These flags mark the South Eastern boundary of the proposed solar farm that Aura Power are planning to build on Bathurst Estate Land.

The proposal is that the solar panels, which will be 3m in height, will cover an area extending North from Kemble Wick to Kemble Woods and West to the area adjacent to Woodlands – area outlined in red below.



The benefits of solar farms are clear in the world we currently live in. However, given the acres of land available within the Bathurst Estate and the proximity of the proposed solar farm to Kemble Wick, the local residents have made 2 alternative suggestions for the location of the solar farm which would mean it was further away from domestic housing and would have less visual impact for those using the local footpaths. At the time of printing the residents are still awaiting feedback on these alternative proposals

Aura Power intend to put in a formal planning application that will eventually result in a public consultation by Cotswold District Council - <https://www.aurapower.co.uk/kemble-solar-farm/>



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Readings for March 2021

February		
28.02.21	Second Sunday of Lent	Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16 Romans 4.13-end
March		
07.03.21	Third Sunday of Lent	Exodus 20.1-17 1 Corinthians 1.18-25
14.03.21	Mothering Sunday 4 of Lent	Exodus 2.1-10 or 1 Samuel 1.20-end 2 Corinthians 1.3-7 or Colossians 3.12-17
21.03.21	Passiontide Fifth Sunday of Lent	Jeremiah 31.31-34 Hebrews 5.5-10 John 12.20-33
28.03.21	Palm Sunday	<i>Liturgy of the Palms:</i> Mark 11.1-11 or John 12.12-16 <i>Liturgy of the Passion:</i> Isaiah 50.4-9a Philippians 2.5-11
29.03.21	Monday of Holy Week	Isaiah 42.1-9 Hebrews 9.11-15
30.03.21	Tuesday of Holy Week	Isaiah 49.1-7 1 Corinthians 1.18-31
31.03.21	Wednesday of Holy Week	Isaiah 50.4-9a Hebrews 12.1-3
01.04.21	Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12.1-4[5-10], 11-14 1 Corinthians 11.23-26
02.04.21	Good Friday	Isaiah 52.13-end of 53 Hebrews 10.16-25 or Hebrews 4.14-6, 5.7-9
03.04.21	Easter Eve	Job 14.1-14 or Lamentations 3.1-9, 19-24 1 Peter 4.1-8



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British Transport Police	0800 40 50 40	Childline	0800 1111
Victim support line	0845 2050 900	Emergency	999 or 112
Victim Support	00808 281 0112	Samaritans	116123 (free)
Gloucestershire	0808 168 9111	Police Non Emergency	101 or 01452 726920
Victim information service	0808 168 9293		

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