

PARISH NEWS

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

Frampton Mansell
Rev Pepita Walker
01285 760211

Youth Minister
Luke Campbell
07949 111509



All Saints, Shorncliffe

Readers
Liz Collins
01285 770698

Karen Czapiewski
01285 770255

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Thameshead Benefice

www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk

Kemble Village Hall - Rural Cinema 18th Anniversary Screening



A powerful London theatre critic becomes entangled
in a web of deceit and murder.

Monday 17th February 2025 - 7.30 for 8.00

Tickets £5.00

February Services

All our services are for everyone so please join wherever you wish and all visitors are always welcome. We are one church family with several buildings and many villages. In addition to 'normal' worship services in our buildings everyone is invited to join the services that are streamed online from All Saints Kemble. To join these please go to the Thameshead website: www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk and select the LIVESTREAM button, from here you can join our worship live or share in recent services at any convenient time. We have a calendar on the website which will be kept up to date.

If you would like help or assistance please message us at office@thamesheadchurches.org.uk and we will get in touch with you.

February services				
02.02.25	Candlemas	10.00	Kemble	Benefice Holy Communion (streamed)
		11.00	Sapperton	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
09.02.25	4th before Lent	9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
		10.00	Kemble	Morning Source – all age (streamed)
		10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
16.02.25	3rd before Lent	9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
		10.00	Kemble	Morning Prayer (streamed)
		10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
23.02.25	2nd before Lent	8.00	Tarlton	Holy Communion BCP
		10.00	Frampton Mansell	Combined Benefice Service
March services				
02.03.25	1st before Lent	10.00	Coates	Benefice Holy Communion
		11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer followed by ACPM
		11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer



Kemble Church Fête
Saturday, 17th May, 2-4pm
at Kemble House by kind permission of Martin and Jill Kingston
Further details to follow.

PARISH NEWS SUBSCRIPTIONS 2024 - REMINDER

Subscriptions for 2024 of £5 should be given to the person delivering your magazine. If you prefer to pay online please contact me at tonyferris804@gmail.com and I will send you the appropriate bank details.

Please also tell the person who delivers to you that you are paying this way

Tony Ferris

Deadline for March magazine: February 20th.

Kemble Church, Eco Church

Kemble Church holds one of 3000 Eco Church awards, which help churches to care for God's creation.



The Gloucestershire writer Laurie Lee described February as “twenty-eight days of waiting, a month of silence and frozen growth, when all the germs of spring stand on brink of stillness, life-loaded but as yet unfired.” He wasn't a fan of the month.

He

Candlemas is celebrated on 2 February and is the final date on which Christmas decorations and greenery should be taken down. There is an ancient saying which tells us: 'If Candlemas be fair and clear, there'll be two winters in one year. If Candlemas be wet and foul, winter will not come again.' It is said that the hibernating animals wake up, smell the air and decide whether to emerge or not. Whether the weather is fair or foul, the birds will still need fresh water and food, such as seeds and flaked oats.

Valentine's Day on 14 February is the day when birds were said to pair up and begin nest building, so if you have been pruning and tidying, please leave materials for nest building. Digging the soil after a cold snap will make sure that birds will be able to find bugs and worms.

Here are some more ways to enjoy February:

2 February is World Wetlands day, which celebrates these vital habitats - You can find out more about our local wetlands and where to visit from: <https://www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/wetlandsGloucestershire Wildlife Trust>

17 February – Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) day - is an initiative that encourages people to spread love, compassion, and positivity through small, unexpected acts of kindness. If you want to make everyday an RAK day, you can download a calendar from the website: <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>

Rachel and Juliette Jago on behalf of Kemble PCC

Community Grant Scheme 2024-25

Each year, Kemble and Ewen Parish Council gives small grants to local groups and organisations that provide a service or social benefit to people living in Kemble, Kemble Wick, and Ewen.

This year a total fund of up to £700 is available.

Depending on the submissions, the parish council may divide this between several groups, or give it all to just one group.

Organisations are invited to apply for some (or all) of this money.

Please apply online here via form link here : <https://kembleandewen-pc.gov.uk/community-grant-scheme-2024-25/>

The deadline for completed applications is **February 28, 2024**

Marion Gilliland

On Monday 13th January at the Community coffee morning in the hall we marked Marion's 87th birthday with a special cake. Many of us were unaware that Marion would be moving from her home in Ewen the following day! That said her daughter had been making plans to move her up to Macclesfield to be nearer her so we knew it was on the cards at some point.

Marion had lived in Ewen since 1976 so nearly 50 years. She joined Kemble and Ewen W. I. as it was a way to meet people in the community and remained a member until now. During her membership she threw herself into schemes, crafts, projects and campaigns. Her leadership as a term of president had members on their toes. Marion was a keen walker hence she produced a map of local footpaths which was used when we submitted our entries for the Best Kept village competitions back in the 1980's/ 90's. Marion was the inspiration behind the Millennium Church Kneelers project. She spent hours researching and designing them and encouraging villagers to take the sewing on.

There are so many memories Marion has left with us in Kemble and Ewen and we shall evermore be grateful. Thank-you Marion.

We wish you much comfort in your new home.



Kemble Village Hall - 200 Club

November - Ticket 147 - Rob Smith

December - Ticket 151 - Rob Smith

Congratulations to the lucky winners



Kemble and Ewen Women's Institute

The February meeting will be held in The Tavern function room on

Thursday 20th at 3pm. Dorothy Cook will be the speaker and will give us Tales of a Midwife. All visitors very welcome. If you would like a 2025 programme contact Pat on ayrescares50@gmail.com

Pat Ayres secretary



Kemble Royal British Legion Women's Section

Hear all about Bomb Disposal Units

You are invited to come along to an afternoon on Saturday 1st March in Kemble village hall at 2.30pm when we have Matt Midleditch who will tell us about working with bomb disposal. His wife Carmen who is the fundraiser manager raises funds to support those that suffer in any way through that. The charity is called the Felix Fund.

If you would like to come along please contact Pat ayrescares50@gmail.com or 01285 770385 so she can put you on the attendance list for catering numbers. Entrance by donations of £5 minimum to include an afternoon tea. Carmen will be running a raffle in aid of the Felix Fund.

Pat Ayres Chair.

Attending the funeral of past member Hazel Bolton aged 102 years late of Culkerton in Rodmarton Church recently I was so moved by the love and respect she was held in by her family and neighbours from near and far.

Hazel never married but spent her whole life 'service not self' the legion motto. She left school at 14 years and went into Service and then cared for grand parents/parents until their deaths. Hazel loved her garden and grew all her own vegetables. Sadly her reduced mobility meant she had to move to a care home just last year! Hazel cooked with on/ in an old Aga making the most delicious cakes and pies giving most away to visiting family and friends. Her faith sustained her throughout her life.

A very special gentle soul.

Pat Ayres.

KNITTING WOOL WANTED PLEASE

Any unwanted knitting wool whether it be full or part balls would be very much appreciated. We are a small group of friends who make various requirements e.g. Blankets, hats, scarves etc for various local Charities, including our local Food bank in Cirencester who are so aware of the needy who need help, to keep them warm.

I am happy to collect if this would help you.

Please contact Jean on 07770 690182.

Thank you.

KEMBLE COMMUNITY GARDENS

Are you looking for somewhere to grow your Fruit, Vegetables or Flowers?

We currently have 2 allotments available at the Community Gardens for any Kemble resident.

If interested please contact Jean Whitehead 07770 690182 for further details.



Kemble Community Gardens Chair's Report for 2024

2024 proved to be a very good year for our community gardens. In March 2024 we held a very successful Quiz Night, hosted by Michael Binks, as part of our fundraising for our Spacehive project which was the final contribution to enable us to reach our target of £9227. This project had 133 backers which shows how popular and important the gardens are to so many people and contributions have ranged from £1 to £1500 from the Gloucestershire County Council and £2000 from Cotswold District Council. Kemble and Ewen Parish Council (KEPC) funded the cost of £4900 of installing our beautiful pond.

So far, the money raised has funded new seats and picnic tables, the purchase and installation of a noticeboard, gazebo shelters for community events, bird and bat boxes, a new strimmer and repairs to our mower to enable the site to be managed and the cost associated with the pond installation (skip for site clearance and water to fill it!). We still have some money remaining, however there are plans to spend this in the near future.

Early in December the parish council received from CDC the 50-year lease for the Gardens. This was signed and returned to CDC and will take effect from February 2025.

As explained in my letter to ploholders dated 16th December (attached), the committee have agreed that to facilitate the management of KCG under this lease the committee will become a subcommittee of KEPC early in 2025.

Our plans for next year include clearing, covering and barking the area surrounding the pond to prevent it becoming overgrown and to give a clear site line around it for safety reasons, covering and barking areas under the benches and picnic tables to facilitate mowing, removing the unnecessary fencing and the slow worm barrier on site, installing bat and bird boxes as well as general clearing and tidying of the site. As you can imagine we will be asking you to come and join working parties to complete these tasks!

As ever thanks go to those who have contributed the gardens over the past year in many different ways including the allotment holders, who tend their plots so lovingly, and Bob Whitehead who takes excellent care of the mowing and the many other tasks that need doing. The committee have worked hard throughout the year to co-ordinate our activities and support the continued development of the site and KEPC who have supported the gardens and doggedly pursued the lease negotiations to bring them to a successful conclusion. The lease protects the community garden site and its wildlife from development for the benefit of the local community for the next 50 years, and I should like to thank all those involved in pursuing this aim to its final successful conclusion even though it has taken 2 years to negotiate!

We look forward to another successful year for KCG in 2025!

Jill Steeden
Chair, KCG

SIREN SISTERS

at POOLE KEYNES CHURCH SAT. 29TH MARCH

We are delighted that the wonderful Siren Sisters are coming to sing at Poole Keynes Church on Sat.29th March. The concert will start at 7.30pm, tickets (adults £12, children free) to include first drink and 'bites'.

The Siren Sisters are a local all-female vocal group who will perform a wide range of music from jazz, classical, folk, pop and everything in-between. Anyone who has heard them sing will know it will be an evening of pure enjoyment. Please save this date in your diaries and contact Margaret (770889 or dmabush@gmail.com) to book tickets.



Poole Keynes Film Club

Friday 7th February 2025

2pm and 8pm

Cert 15 Run Time 1 hour 40 mins

Starring Ian McKellen, Gemma Arterton, Lesley Manville and Mark Strong

A powerful London theatre critic lures a struggling actress into a blackmail scheme that has deadly consequences

If you would like to join us a guest the cost is £3.50 per person

To book please email pkfilmclub23@gmail.com as seating is

limited and booking is essential

Poole Keynes 100 Club

November Margaret Stanford

December Mark Foster

January Andy Rose

Congratulations to the lucky winners

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New Fingerpost at the Source of the Thames

A new fingerpost at the Source of the River Thames, or the start or finish of the Thames Path, was installed last month by our wonderful volunteers. The previous fingerpost was vandalised in May, and the fingerboards found under a hedge by Thames Path walker John Tippetts, who came along to photograph the installation on what turned out to be a wet day – thank you John!

The fingerboards were routed and drilled into the post in our workshop before it was taken to Trewsbury Mead. Thanks to the landowner we were able to get close to the site instead of carrying it and the tools through the flooded field. Big ‘thank you’ to our volunteers Graham, John, Martin and Roger working with Sophie Aziz as they coped with challenging conditions to dig a deep hole and erect the post. Photos and videos posted on our social media @thamespathNT generated welcome comments from past and future Thames Path walkers.



Flooding

This year has certainly seen its fair share of wetter weather, which when you are in charge of maintaining and monitoring a riverside National Trail can be rather troublesome...!

The Thames Path has experienced some extensive periods of flooding during 2024. From January to the end of April much of the path was either soggy, full of puddles or completely underwater.

As a team we have kept our social media pages up to date on flood warnings and have worked with local councils and landowners to negotiate repairs for areas damaged by the high waters.

The safety of our walkers always comes first, and we would advise you to delay walks in flooded areas until drier conditions are with us.

Before considering any trips to the Thames Path check out local weather reports and flood guidance using these websites:

- Met Office Weather: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>
- Government Flood Checker: <https://www.gov.uk/check-flooding>



Quiz

Night for the Kemble Village Hall

KEMBLE VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 29th March 2025

7.00 for 7.30 start

TEAMS Up to 6

More Details to come in Next Edition

Cathy Carroll here again from North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club. Just to remind you we are a group of folk who love flowers. Some of us were florists but many were not. We meet to talk about flowers every 3rd Wednesday of the month in Crudwell Village Hall at 7 for 7.30. There is plenty of parking space and we provide tea/coffee and cake at the end. We occasionally make our own arrangements but mostly watch good (i.e. National and Area) NAFAS demonstrators arrange them and raffle them afterwards. This January we have an open house: which means in house demonstrators will make simple arrangements for us to copy at home. Whereas in February we have Violet Persephone talking about Aestheticism: that is, the way of looking at everything as if it is art.

You are welcome to join us. Do come.

Cathy

The Joy of Shoebox Season

Glynis Hunter, a local shoebox collector for T4U, has asked me to pass on to you the following thank you message:

Another very big thank you to everyone who supported T4U 2024 by donating empty shoe boxes, a financial donation, Christmas wrapping paper and/or gifts to enable us to fill shoeboxes and pay for their transportation. A big thank you also to those of you who donated already filled and wrapped boxes to add to the 120 individual and four family boxes wrapped by Glynis. All of the boxes were collected and taken before Christmas to T4U's central distribution depot for this area at Evesham, to join the thousands of others collected for their ongoing destinations in Eastern Europe, where they were delivered to children in hospitals, orphanages and schools as well as to children who live on the streets.

Each year, T4U distributes the shoeboxes and gifts to children and people who are victims of war, poverty and natural disaster and these are probably the only Christmas presents they receive.

For children (aged 2 - 14), suitable gifts include hats, gloves, scarves, new underwear and socks, stationery, soft toys, puzzles, dolls and cars. A flannel, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, and of course a packet of sweets are also very welcome.

For the family/home, shoeboxes can be filled with candles, plastic containers, T-towels (preferably decorative), small saucepans, hairbrushes, plastic utensils, bowls and cups, soap, washing up cloths, clothes pegs, and a small Christmas decoration.

Gifts must not include anything glass, anything sharp, or anything to do with conflict or politics.

On behalf of Glynis, I would be pleased to collect or take delivery throughout the year of any suitable gifts you may wish to make whether Christmas wrapping paper, shoeboxes (men's sizes preferred) and/or donations of items to fill the boxes or to help cover transportation (which costs £3.00 per box).

I'm also happy to receive any filled and wrapped boxes (note - please do not seal them down as they have to be opened checked at the central depot before they are finally sent off);

May I request items are not left at my gate without prior agreement, to avoid them being spoiled by the elements if left outside and unattended for a period of time.

If you want to know more about T4U, do have a look at the website www.teams4u.com

Jane Russell
(01285 770340)



Farming Matters

If your level of engagement with social media is similar to mine you may have missed this, but there has been outrage on social media around Arla's requirement that all its dairy farmer suppliers include a feed additive in their cows' diets. Described as a 'trial' farmers must feed a product called Bovaer which aims to reduce methane 'burps' in dairy cows by up to 30%. A kind of gas suppressant product, if you like.

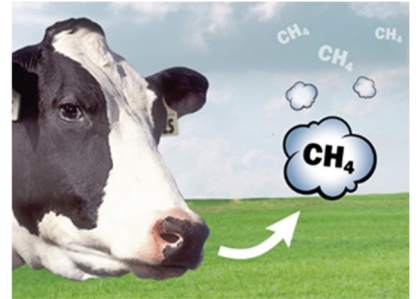


Although greenhouse gas emissions from farming amount to less than 10% of the UK's total emissions, methane (CH₄) from ruminants makes a significant contribution to emissions associated with food production. Bovaer suppresses a methane-producing enzyme in the cow's stomach with no impact on milk production or composition, or on the cow herself. The cow metabolizes the additive, so it doesn't pass into her milk or meat. Bovaer has successfully undergone safety assessments in the UK, EU, Australia, Canada, and the US, resulting in Food Standards Agency approval.

A good story so far you might think. But Bovaer is a brand name of a synthetic compound made using silicon dioxide, propylene glycol and the synthetic organic compound 3-nitrooxypropanol. It suppresses the enzyme in a cow's rumen that naturally combines hydrogen and carbon dioxide to produce methane. Sounds a little bit more unnatural now maybe.

But a 30% reduction in a major greenhouse gas should be great news - except people don't like their food being messed with. We should know this by now. British consumers balked at the idea of hormones and chlorinated rinses used in US meat production, rejected the concept of bovine somatotropin (bST) treatments to make dairy cows more efficient and have opposed the fluoridation of water for years, to the extent only 10% of the population has a fluoridated supply despite clear evidence of its safety and benefits.

Some of you will remember protests against genetically modified (GM) crops in the 1990s. A perfectly sound concept which was poorly introduced, allowing little time for consumer understanding and acceptance. GM crops were subsequently banned in the UK, and still are, although over 70 million Ha. are grown worldwide and some are imported, like bananas, tomatoes, soya and maize. Widespread use of GM bakers' yeast and GM rennet in cheese production seem to cause little public concern.



Technologies employed along the supply chain have enhanced the safety, nutritional value and sustainability of food, and yet agri-food technologies are not always perceived in a positive way by consumers. Why do consumers reject food technologies that experts perceive safe? What factors influence consumers' perceptions and acceptance of novel food technologies? Consumers have a fundamental influence on what technologies in agriculture and food production are implemented and successful in the market. Many consumers perceive the use of food technologies as contradictory to healthy, nutritious, tasty food, which is a challenge for the food industry.



I once worked with a professor of animal health and welfare from the University of British Columbia who coined the phrase 'sentiment trumps science'. This was in the context of dairy calves being separated from their mums at birth. In contrast to all the scientific evidence that demonstrated that this is better for both calf and cow, the consumer is not comfortable with this widespread practice.

Bovaer is already used quite extensively in livestock production in the UK. A certain supermarket which doesn't just sell food, it sells 'special' food has required their dairy farmer suppliers to use it for years. I believe Arla made the big mistake of calling it a 'trial', suggesting the outcome was uncertain. We should not allow great solutions to fail because we haven't tackled communications diligently enough. The greatest idea in the world is nothing if it can't be implemented.

David Ball

Rotas for February 2025

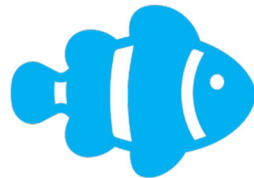
	Sidesperson	Readers	Readings	Kemble Flowers	Poole Keynes Cleaning & Flowers	Somerford Keynes Flowers & Cleaning
2nd February	Martin Whittle	BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION		Guild Flowers – Julia Clarke	Liz	Flowers: A McKeown Cleaning: Jon & Henrietta Cantouris
9th February	Karen Czapiewski	MORNING SOURCE		Binnie Rank	Liz	Flowers: A McKeown Cleaning: Jon & Henrietta Cantouris
16th February	Mark Wilton	Juliette Jago Kelsie Hall		Binnie Rank	Liz	Flowers: J Swaffer Cleaning: Jon & Henrietta Cantouris
23rd February		COMBINED BENEFICE SERVICE		Linda Day	Liz	Flowers: J Swaffer Cleaning: Jon & Henrietta Cantouris
2nd March		BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION At Coates		Linda Day	Lent	Cleaning: Josie Woodley, Polly Handover, Poppy Broadbent

Church Wardens

Kemble Jill Kingston 07798 830287 / 771133

Poole Keynes George Collins 770698
Somerford Keynes David Crofts

Tom Grand
Sussanne Lock



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Osteopath (including Cranial osteopathy)	Cricklade Osteopaths: Kelly Haines and associates, 12 High Street, Cricklade SN6 6AP. Online booking available at www.crickladeosteopaths.com		01793 750504
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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	RSPCA	0300 1234 999

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