

PARISH NEWS

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

Priest -in-charge
Rev Dr Steve Bullock
07535 488409

Associate Priest
Frampton Mansell
Rev Pepita Walker
01285 760211



All Saints, Somerford Keynes

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770255

Youth Ministry
Karen (Kaz) Van Namen
07949 111509

Vol LVII No 7 September 2026

Circulation: 310 and on-line



www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk



September 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.

September services				
06.09.26	Trinity 14	9.30	Coates	Holy Communion
		10.00	Kemble	Morning Prayer with Source Seekers (streamed)
		10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Tarlton	Harvest Holy Communion
		11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
13.09.26	Trinity 15	10.00	Kemble	Benefice Harvest Holy Communion (streamed)
		11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
20.09.26	Trinity 16	9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
		9.30	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
		10.00	Kemble	SOURCE service (all age worship)
		11.00	Frampton Mansell	Harvest Holy Communion
		11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
27.09.26	Trinity 17	8.00	Tarlton	Holy Communion BCP
		9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
		10.00	Kemble	Holy Communion (streamed)
		11.15	Somerford Keynes	Harvest Holy Communion followed by harvest lunch in the village hall
		16.00	Poole Keynes	Evening Prayer
		18.00	Rodmarton	Evening Prayer
October services				
04.09.26	Trinity 18	9.30	Coates	Harvest Holy Communion
		10.00	Kemble	Morning Prayer with Source Seekers (streamed)
		11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Rodmarton	Harvest Holy Communion
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
		16.00	Poole Keynes	Harvest Festival service followed by harvest tea in the village hall

War Graves in Kemble cemetery Church Road

There are 8 war graves which Brian has been tending since 1999. Last year there was a representative from the War Graves commission visiting local sites. He said it wasn't necessary to plant shrubs /flowers on the plots, just weeding and mowing around. Brian in the past has tried to mirror the way overseas maintain theirs to such a high standard with shrubs etc.

After discussions with the parish council Brian has decided that a 'younger' person might like to show their respect to those that served many years ago and tend these graves. Otherwise if no volunteer comes forward the parish council will cover the plots with soil, lay turf so that the grass contractors can just mow across them whenever they cut the cemetery.

Remembrance crosses are laid each year end of October so any visitors to the graves can see their relatives aren't forgotten.

One week later in September !!

**DON'T BE SHY
COME AND JOIN US**



JOIN THE LITTER PICK

**Saturday 19th September, 10.30 at the Tavern
Saturday 10th October**

Reader Ramblings from Karen

Dear friends

Another month, another letter, another comment from General Synod.

Magazine deadlines mean that I'm writing this in the middle of August, during the seemingly endless heat and, frankly, the novelty is wearing off. General Synod at York in July was very hot, but actually rather cooler than here. As we seem to lurch from one heatwave to the next, I hope things will have settled a little by the time you read this.

One of the topics discussed at General Synod was a new Festival, added to the church calendar on the first Sunday in September. This had originally been called God the Creator but is now to be known as The Festival of Creation in Christ. This aligns with the name given by other Christian churches across the world and identifies Christ's presence at creation. We are not called to worship the created order nor merely to offer lament for ecological crisis. Rather, the Festival connects the liturgical celebration of creation with the Church's calling, expressed in the Fifth Mark of Mission, to 'safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth':

Creation must be cherished because it is created in Christ, sustained in Christ, wounded by human sin, and destined for renewal in Christ.
(*General Synod 2408Z*)

There is an inevitability to the way in which seasons roll through: I am often reminded of the truism that other countries have a climate but we have weather. The weather is part of God's amazing creation, entrusted to our care. And weather is a frequent theme in the Bible. As we approach Harvest Festival season, those weather-related words from 'We plough the fields and scatter' spring to mind:

He sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine
and soft, refreshing rain'.

So as we enjoy – or do I mean cope with – whatever weather greets us in September, let us remember and be thankful for Creation in Christ. In the words of Isaiah:

You shall go out in joy and be led back into peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. (*Isaiah 55.12*)

In fact, I invite you to launch into song as you read those words... I wish you joy.

The Joy of Shoebox Season

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.

I am happy 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 to 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 Tel: 01285 770340

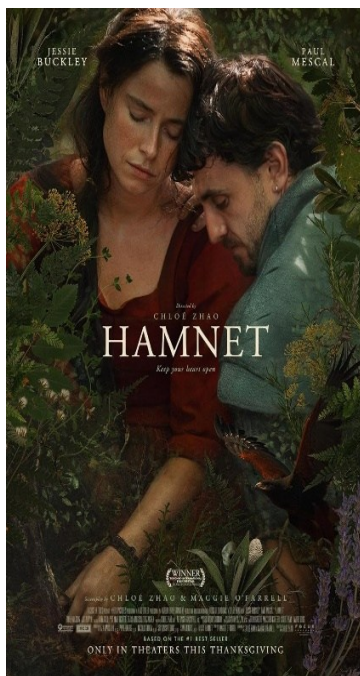
St Michael & All Angels

Poole Keynes

September 2026



Services September 6th 10am Morning Prayer September 13th 10am Benefice Hoy Communion at Kemble September 20th 9.30am Holy Communion (please note new time) September 27th 4pm Evening Prayer (please note new service) October 4th 4pm Harvest Festival followed by Harvest tea in the village hall	
Coffee morning Come and join us on the first Wednesday of each month from 10.00-11.30 for chat, drinks & cake!	Join In! If you would like information on the full range of Church events across the Parish (Poole Keynes), Benefice (Thameshead) Deanery (Cirencester), or Diocese (Gloucestershire) do ask a PCC member for details or see the Thameshead Churches website https://thamesheadchurches.org.uk/
Memorial bench Our new bench is now in place. It is a lovely place to sit, rest and reflect.	
Saturday, 12th September Gloucestershire Historic Churches 'Ride and Stride'. Travel your way through the stunning chapels and churches of Gloucestershire and North Bristol. For further information, please visit https://ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride	St Michael and All Angels PCC We would love to have more people join us on the PCC – we have just 3 or 4 meetings a year. If you think this is something that would interest you, please speak to the church wardens.
	PK breakfast The great PK breakfast is back! Come and join us for a full English or a continental breakfast on Saturday 17th October.
Changes in the service pattern Starting in September, there will be a change to the Church services at Poole Keynes. In a normal month, they will be as follows: Sunday 1: Morning Prayer 10am Sunday 2: Benefice service 10am – venue will change each month Sunday 3: Holy Communion 9.30am Sunday 4: Evening Prayer 4pm This may change slightly depending on festivals etc. See notice board for current information.	Harvest Festival On Sunday 4th October at 4pm we will be holding our traditional Harvest Festival Service where we give thanks for God's bounty and the work of our farmers and growers. There will be a collection for the Foodbank – this can be tins and packets of food, toiletries and washing powder or even pet food. Following the service, please join us for a Harvest tea in the Village Hall.
	Font Reinstatement Project There have been a few hiccups with this, which we hope will be resolved before too long. More updates to follow.
	Volunteer Tea Party On Sunday 20th September, we are holding a tea party to thank all our wonderful volunteers who help keep our church going. Look out for your invitation – partners are welcome too!
Dates for the diary September 20th Volunteer tea party October 4th Harvest Festival and tea 4pm October 17th PK breakfast 8 - 10am October 31st Light Party All Saints, SK November 28th Crib Festival November 29th Songs of Praise December 19th Carol Service	Questions? Contact the Parochial Church Council Members George Collins - Churchwarden 07831682410 Tom Grand – Churchwarden tgrand@btinternet.com Margaret Bush – Treasurer Liz Collins – Secretary 07774104990 John Hiscock Sandy Pepperdine DM us or contact via WhatsApp Poole Keynes Village Chat



Poole Keynes Film Club
Friday 11th September 2026
2pm and 8pm
Poole Keynes Village Hall

Genre Historical Drama **Cert** 12A **Run Time** 125mins

Hamnet is a 2025 historical drama directed by Chloé Zhao that explores the fictionalized family life of William Shakespeare and his wife Agnes (Anne Hathaway), focusing on how the devastating death of their 11-year-old son, Hamnet, inspired the creation of **Hamlet**

If you would like to join us as a guest for this film the cost is £4 per person

To book please email pkfilmclub23@gmail.com as seating is limited and booking is essential

Friday 9th October

A Double Bill for our 25th Anniversary Celebrations with cake and fizz

7.30pm A Friend of Dorothy

8.15pm Mothers Pride

The new season membership is now open and subscriptions are due by Tuesday 1st September. Therefore, if you would like to join us as a member of Poole Keynes Film Club please contact Judith for further information and how to pay.

pkfilmclub23@gmail.com

RBL - KEMBLE & DISTRICT BRANCH

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – 2026

Advance warning about a talk taking place in November.

8pm Thursday 12th November 2026 – Talk in Kemble Village Hall

David Russell has kindly offered to provide our Branch with another talk:

Title - 'COAL - HOW THIS BLACK GOLD MADE A NATION AND AN EMPIRE'

"How the black gold called coal changed people's lives, local and national society and indeed influenced global economic development by the formation and the fueling of what we know today as the British Empire".

You are welcome to attend the talk even if you are not an RBL Branch Member.

If anyone would like more information about our RBL Branch, please contact me for details or check out the British Legion website:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/things-to-do/membership/become-a-member>

Ian Czapiewski
 Branch Secretary
 07711 015168





Somerford Keynes Church Tower Open Day

On Saturday 18 July the church at Somerford Keynes opened up the new bell tower spiral staircase and welcomed 25 visitors, 20 of whom climbed to the roof to admire the panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. David Croft and Andrew Locke who, together with their grandchildren, had spent many days and hours clearing the tower of a hundred years worth of twigs, sticks and leaves brought in by birds as nesting material, loved showing visitors the bells and the views and telling the history of our ancient church.

Coffee, juice and cake were also enjoyed on this perfect sunny day. A repeat day is planned in September.

Somerford Keynes September Coffee Morning

The monthly coffee morning will take place on Thursday 17 September from 1030 to 1200 at the village hall. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy hot drinks and cake, browse the book and produce stalls and catch up with friends and neighbours.



Somerford Keynes Harvest Lunch

Everyone is invited to come to the Harvest Festival service in our church at 11am on Sunday 27th September (led by Rev Steve Bullock) followed by Harvest Lunch in our village hall at 12.30, kindly organised again by Helena Metcalfe.

Lunch will be £8 for adults and £4 for children under 5, to include soft drinks, cold meats, sausages and some sides.

We ask everyone to please bring a pudding or salad to share and bring your own bottle!

There will be a "kids corner" to keep the younger ones entertained and plenty of good food and good company

The church collection and all profits from the lunch will be going to Cirencester Foodbank and we will also be collecting foodstuffs both in the church and in the village hall

Please RSVP to Helena at Watermead with your preferred offering of salad or pudding no later than Wednesday September 23rd - hellymetcalfe@gmail.com

Helena is currently away until the end of August, so anyone wanting to pay for tickets before her return should please give the money to Paula Eales at Lorient - ealesfamily88@gmail.com

Thank you. We look forward to seeing you

Somerford Keynes Bio Blitz Day

About 20 village people and their children attended an eco friendly day at Somerford Keynes village lake in July which was organised by the village Lake committee in conjunction with James Ponting, the Lower Mill Estate ecologist.

Everyone enjoyed looking at the moths caught in a month trap overnight before they were all released unharmed, and identifying over 30 species of wildflowers, small mammals and insects around the lake.

An excellent day!



Lay Leadership Lay Worship Leader Training Course



A Diocese of Gloucester course that equips **lay people to lead Services of the Word** and all-age worship **with confidence**, usually in the church where they already worship. Lay Worship Leaders become part of the ministry team: **enablers of ministry** who can offer a Sunday service where there might otherwise be none.

WHAT WE WILL EXPLORE

- The basics of leading public worship in a church
- How Anglican liturgy works
- The place of music in worship
- The importance of all-age worship
- How to structure and deliver a short Bible talk
- Plenty of practical work alongside the theory, to build confidence up front

THE DETAILS

Dates Thursday evenings:
10, 17 & 24 September;
8, 15 & 22 October 2026
Plus Saturday 3 October 2026,
a special session on childrens' and
all-age services (10am – 2pm)
Time 7.15pm
Venue Watermoor, Cirencester
Led By Revd Dr Andrew
Cinnamon

BEFORE YOU APPLY: The agreement of your incumbent and PCC – A willingness to undertake safeguarding training – Participants complete every session.

Interested, or know someone who might be? Please speak to Emma Anderson eanderson@glosdioc.org.uk



Pastoral Care Pastoral Visiting Training Course



An evening course for anyone called to **walk alongside others**. Over five Monday evenings together we will grow in confidence to offer attentive, prayerful **pastoral care across our parishes**, part of the deanery's commitment to caring well, close to home.

WHAT WE WILL EXPLORE

- Listening well and being truly present
- Visiting and accompanying others
- Praying with and for people
- Knowing our limits and when to signpost
- Caring for ourselves as we care for others

THE DETAILS

Dates Monday evenings:
2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 November 2026
Time 7.00pm – 9.15pm
Venue The Forum, Cirencester
Led By Revd Dr Steve Bullock
& Revd David Treharne, Diocesan
Collaborative Ministry Lead

BEFORE YOU APPLY: The agreement of your incumbent and PCC – Participants must complete all five sessions – Open to anyone with a heart for pastoral care – No previous experience needed.

Interested, or know someone who might be? Please speak to Emma Anderson eanderson@glosdioc.org.uk



Kemble Church, Eco Church

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



September marks the beginning of meteorological Autumn and usually heralds cooler, wetter and windier weather, however the Met Office and BBC predictions for the start of the month suggest that we can probably expect more dry weather before the rain arrives.

As well as the usual early autumn gardening jobs of harvesting, pruning and planting, this is a good time to plan ahead for next year. If you have room for it, a water butt is a good investment for storing winter and spring rainwater, which is the best option for garden watering.

Clover

The changing climate will make it harder to maintain a green, single-species lawn, so September is also the time to consider sowing low-growing, drought-tolerant plants such as clovers in the bare patches in the lawn. This will benefit the remaining grass by providing a source of fertiliser, as well as encouraging pollinating insects into the garden. Visit the RHS website for information and advice about clover lawns: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/weeds/clover-in-lawns>

Tegelwippen

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust are currently running a 'Tile Whipping' campaign. They are asking residents to get involved by lifting a brick or tile and replacing it with a plant, which helps reduce nearby flooding and creates habitats for wildlife. 'Tile Whipping' comes from the Dutch term 'tegelwippen': there is a national scheme encouraging residents to de-pave the way for wildlife across The Netherlands. There is full guidance on 'Tile Whipping' on the GWT website: <https://www.gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk>

Here are some other ways we can join in this September:

Secondhand September – a campaign to encourage us to avoid buying new 'stuff' for a month and to donate things we no longer want to extend their life.

12 September - **Litter picking** – meet at the Tavern at 10.30 – all welcome. Cirencester **Repair Café** will also be open from 10.00 – 13.00 at the Baptist Church (last repair items accepted at 12 to allow the repairers to do their magic).

21 September – 4 October **2026 Fairtrade fortnight** – when we are asked to 'do it Fair - for People, for Planet and for Fair Pay'.

23 September - **Autumn equinox** - officially the first day of the autumn seed gathering season, organised by the Tree Council to inspire everyone to gather seeds, fruits and nuts and grow the trees of the future

Rachel and Juliette Jago on behalf of Kemble PCC

Kemble and Ewen Women's Institute

After enjoying a lovely garden party in a member's garden in July and then the usual summer break in August the members are ready to get back into meeting up for their regular monthly get together. The next one being on Thursday 17th September in the Tavern Function room at 3pm. The programme says it is a members afternoon but usually a 'surprise' presentation pops up. Visitors most welcome. Delicious teas and a raffle. More info from the secretary Pat 01285 770385.



Kemble Bellringing Team

Since the 'Royal' wedding and several notices via parish news and local paper for recruitments we have had results! Three volunteers have come forward to have a go! Our tower captain Rick will spend time getting them use to handling the bells, hopefully then they can join the team.

We do need 'younger' ringers as although the current team are keen, their energy sadly doesn't match! We have kept the bells ringing in Kemble for the past 55 years as for a few years before that they hung silent. Let's keep it up!

Monday nights from 7pm we practice come along and say Hello.

Pat Ayres (ringer)

Sportily in Thameshead

Since Kaz and Matt took over Sportily in Thameshead they have increased their presence and provision.

Kemble Youth Club has changed to weekly every Monday with eight regular young people enjoying games, food and conversation. With 3 Youth regularly attending church and they are even trying 'bellringing' at Kemble Church soon.

During last term 33 Year 5 and 6 students at Kemble Primary and Sapperton C of E Primary Schools undertook the 'Playmakers' Sports Leaders courses during their lunch breaks, receiving Certificates in their assemblies which is quite an achievement. They will now be running games and activities for the rest of the school on a rotating basis during lunchtimes. Some of the students even helped out at the Kemble fete.

Sapperton and Rodmarton Schools have been having regular Afterschool Clubs 3 times per week. Sportily have also just started a fun fitness class - 'Strength and Tone' every Thursday morning for the parents and any other adults in the village. Toddlers and children are welcome to this class too – demonstrating inclusivity and great role models for the kids to see their parents exercising.

Every Friday a group of women have been doing 'Couch to 5k' – encouraging each other along the way, with great camaraderie and a much-needed drink at the Tavern at the end. Anyone is welcome to join and we will do this again in the autumn.

Kaz and Matt have been taking part in a variety of events in Thameshead, providing games and preaching at the Ascension Picnic in the park, running sports and activities at Somerford Keynes and Kemble fetes, plus the Climbing Wall at the Cotswolds Highland Games. Kaz helped run sessions at the Spirituality Day at Sapperton School. They also helped out at the Kemble School fete, garden service and had a great event at the Tavern with fun games, a quiz and DJ Reverend Steve on the decks.

For the first three Mondays in August – 3rd, 10th and 17th, there were free pop up events at Windmill Park, Kemble. "Fun in the sun" involved various sports, games and friendship for the whole family.

In September and October we are planning a 'Fitness Fundraiser' to raise money for 'The Listening Post' charity. This will be a gentle stretch and tone class for all ages and abilities for a worthy cause. We are also planning a 'Women only retreat' – a morning of stretch and Christian meditation, a mindfulness nature walk and arts and crafts. We don't want to leave the guys out though – so will do a fun 'men only' activity – something like clay pigeon shooting/ archery or 'beat the goalie', rounders and cricket with a BBQ.

Hopefully there is something for everyone in the Sportily provision in Thameshead. We are loving being part of the community.

North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club

What a summer it has been! We normally crave dry sunny weather at this time of year but in future we may be careful what we wish for... It certainly has been a challenge keeping our garden flowers and foliage fresh and thriving, ourselves too. Even more so for farmers, growers and wildlife.

That said, the roses and companion planting at the David Austin Rose Gardens in Shropshire, looked superb when we visited in July. It was an excellent day out by coach. As well as several gardens to explore, we had a guide who explained and demonstrated the lengthy process behind the scenes to breed a new rose variety. Time also to enjoy the cafe, garden centre and gift shop.

In August we held a Saturday workshop led by Coral Gardiner, National Demonstrator, in which we improved our skills in making pedestal arrangements, large and small. There was a great atmosphere, some excellent refreshments, everyone learnt something new and took home a stunning centrepiece.

Coming up soon is our (short) AGM on 16th September, followed by a talk and demonstration by Jennie from Halliesphere using environmentally friendly flower holders. At this meeting we will publish our varied new programme for 2027 which includes talks, workshops, and demonstrations, mostly held on the third Wednesday of the month, 7pm for 7.30pm, at Crudwell Village Hall. On 21st October we are holding a wreath making workshop with tuition by Brinkworth Willow. Also save the date for this year's main annual event, an Open Meeting at Malmesbury Town Hall on Wednesday 18th November with National Demonstrator Nick Grounds, visitors welcome (tickets £25 including canapes and fizz).

For more information please visit our Facebook page – North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club, our website northwiltshirevillagesflowerclub.co.uk or contact us by email - nwvflowerclub@gmail.com. We hope to see you soon.

New service rota for the Thameshead Benefice

As a result of listening to the needs and wants of each parish in the benefice a new pattern of services will be trialled in many of our churches over the coming months.

The aim is to provide each parish with a regular and recognisable pattern of worship, and a regular monthly communion service in every parish each month with Rev Steve.

On the second Sunday of every month, there is an opportunity for a Benefice Service, which will rotate between our churches. The same approach will be taken whenever there is a fifth Sunday in the month. Please check our monthly service list for details of the venue and times.

The table below shows the usual pattern of services for each parish. While we expect to follow this pattern most of the time, there will occasionally be changes to mark feast days and special occasions such as Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, and Christmas.

Wherever you choose to worship, you will receive a warm welcome. Whether you are a regular member of one of our churches, visiting another church in the Benefice, or joining us for the first time, we would be delighted to see you.

Key: HC = Holy Communion, MP = Morning Prayer, EP = Evening Prayer, SS = Source Seekers (Sunday School), SOURCE = All-age worship.

	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday
Coates	HC 9.30am	Benefice Service 10am	MP 9.30am	MP 9.30am	Combined Benefice Service 10am
Kemble	MP with SS 10am		SOURCE 10am	HC 10am	
Poole Keynes	MP 10am		HC 9.30am	EP 4pm	
Rodmarton with Tarlton	HC 11am	MP 11am	MP 11am	HC at Tarlton 8am EP at Rodmarton 6pm	MP 11am
Sapperton with Frampton Mansell	MP 11am	Benefice Service 10am	HC 11am Sapp. (even) FM (odd)		Combined Benefice Service 10am
Somerford Keynes	MP 11am			HC 11am	





Body, Mind and Spirit with Cadie Aspray.

Tuesday 22nd September 2026 from 19:15 to 21:00.

Hosted by **Cadie Aspray**.

Venue :

Jackaments Barn, Rodmarton, GL7 6PL.

RSVP / Contact:

Julie Allen 07704 892029

Aileen Shaw 07807 199602

Toto Walls 07989 301120



THAMESHEAD LADIES CONNECTION #TLC

COME & JOIN US

ALL WELCOME

DRINKS AND HEALTHY
SNACKS

PONDSIDE CHAT WITH CADIE ASPRAY

*As a Neuro Linguistic
Practitioner (NLP) she
will be sharing some
insights into her practice
Cadie will also be telling
us about her vision and
plans for her wellness
retreat 'Dwell'.*

Kemble and Ewen Safari Supper Saturday 21st November 2026



Three Courses, Three Locations, One Safari Supper

When: Saturday 21st November 2026

Where: Starter & Mains hosted in Kemble or Ewen,
Puddings in Kemble Village Hall.

Time: 6.30pm - 11.00pm

Contribution to KVH: £15 or £25 per person, depending
on whether you host a course or attend as guests

An entertaining way to meet people and support Kemble
Village Hall.

To book your place, or for further information,

Contact: Ian Czapiewski

Email: lowwood@gmail.com

Phone: 01285-770255

The Tavern Inn



Coffee Morning

The Tavern pub will be holding a coffee morning in aid of
the Macmillan charity on Saturday 26th September at
10.30am.

All very welcome

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

PILATES WITH LOUISE



Mat Pilates classes:

Various class days and times from
Tuesday - Friday

Seated Pilates:

Tuesday 10.15am

Kemble Village Hall

Prices from £11.50 per class

Interested? Contact Louise

07401165389

Hello@pilateswithlouise.uk

www.pilateswithlouise.uk

Coffee, Cake & Chat



"Moreish sweet & savoury home-bakes, proper
coffee, selection of teas at this popular event"

Gluten-free & decaf too

Tues 19th May 10.30AM - 12.00PM

3rd Tuesday of every month @ Coates Village Hall

£5.00 Choice of 2 home-bakes + bottomless tea/coffee

£2.00 Bottomless tea/coffee

Well behaved dogs welcome.

To contact us: 07794 678 928 / 01285 770 596



Farming Matters

I may sound like a broken record, but I think I have legitimate justification for writing about the weather – again! For most, it's been a great summer but it's not all positive news and you won't be surprised to hear that most farmers are not happy. The cereal harvest went without any weather delays, crops ripened early and many farms completed the entire harvest without rain. All good? But conditions were too dry, many farmers working through the night to benefit from some extra moisture. Cereal grains are sold at a contracted moisture content of 14%; money being deducted for deliveries higher levels. Similarly, oilseeds are contracted at 9% moisture with severe deductions for higher moistures and no premium for drier seed, and an absolute limit of 6%. Even harvesting through the night seeds were at 4.5% resulting in a lighter crop yield and a marketing headache.



I recall in quite recent times that the start of harvest coincided with schools breaking up and those with families, involved in harvest had to take holidays in term time. I always believed that the origin of the long school summer holiday was that children stopped going to school when they were needed to work on farms, so schools closed for the summer. Apparently, this is a myth. In the 19th century when school terms were established, most children lived in cities and more affluent families, wanting to escape the stifling heat, would travel to the countryside or the coast. So, schools closed for the summer. Also, harvests were later then and would probably have peaked during September.

This year's grain harvest started early in July and was largely finished within the month. Results were varied depending on soil type and preceding rainfall, but a number of reports saw yields down by 50%. Some farmers were planting next year's oilseed rape crop as early as July. The seed will sit dormant until it rains. With seed costs alone over £100/hectare for some varieties, it's a huge gamble that they get enough rain to establish the crop, too little and the seeds will germinate then perish.

Local livestock farmers are having an especially tough time with no measurable rain since late June resulting in brown fields with no grass for grazing. Farmers who have traditionally grown single species, ryegrass swards are becoming more interested in mixed species, herbal leys. You may notice in lawns and in grass fields, it's always the "weeds" which continue to grow when the grass has given up. These are deep rooting plants which can find moisture more readily. What we used to call weeds are now being incorporated into grassland seed mixtures for increased drought tolerance. Older grasses like Cocksfoot and Timothy are not so nutrient rich but they continue to grow when sugar-rich, high protein grasses have given up. Legumes like Sainfoin and Lucerne are included as deep rooting nitrogen fixers and herbs like chicory and plantain add minerals and remain green in extreme conditions. They may not be so productive by current standards but something green to eat is better than bare fields. Winter forage stocks are now being used to feed animals with little prospect of being able to replace them by the autumn.

Forage maize is normally a reliable crop, able to withstand dry conditions. There's an old adage, "knee high by the 4th July", as an acceptable target for plant growth. This year many crops were shoulder high and tasselling by 4th July. Tasselling is when the male flower, the tassel, emerges from the top of the maize plant at the start of reproduction. The tassel sheds millions of pollen grains that fertilize the female silks appearing on the end to the cob below. We are used to seeing forage maize being harvested from mid-September onwards, but crops were ripe and ready to go during the first half of August this year.



Even the most prepared livestock farmer has struggled to escape the latest exotic disease to hit the countryside. Bluetongue is an insect-borne viral disease that affects ruminants like sheep and cattle. It does not affect humans or food, so meat and milk remain safe. The virus is primarily spread by biting midges. Midge numbers and the spread of the virus are driven by the higher temperatures which help populations grow, allow the virus to replicate faster, and enable infected midges to blow over from mainland Europe. There have been 373 cases of bluetongue in the UK so far this year, mostly in the southwest. It is a notifiable disease, so all suspected cases need to be reported to the Animal and Plant Health Authority. New outbreaks may be culled but it's mostly dealt with by movement restrictions and vaccination.

This year has seen some extreme weather and nature is also responding to the new norm. Blackberries were ripe on 1st July while sloes and hazelnuts think it's already autumn. So, we may have had a great summer, but it has presented farmers with many challenges and provides evidence that we need to adapt farming practices and change with the times.

David Ball

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NPTC

Rotas for September 2026

	Sidesperson	Readers	Readings	Kemble Flowers	Poole Keynes Clean/Flowers	Somerford Keynes
6th September	Martin Whittle Morning Prayer and Source Seekers	Keith Miles Judith Miles	Isaiah 55. 12-end John 1.1-14 or Matthew 8. 23-27	Tessa Tarratt	Sue T. and Margaret B.	Flowers: R. Lawn Cleaning: Lisa Willis Wendy Cartwright
13th September	Judith Miles Harvest Benefice Service	Juliette Jago Jill Kingston	Deuteronomy 8.7-18 or 28.1-14 Luke 12.16-30 or 17.11- 19	Anne Wilton	Sue T. and Margaret B.	Flowers: C. Baker Cleaning: Lisa Willis Wendy Cartwright
20th September	Source Team	Source Team	Exodus 16.2-15 Matthew 20.1-16	Anne Wilton	Sue T. and Margaret B.	Flowers: C. Baker Cleaning: Lisa Willis Wendy Cartwright
27th September	Binnie Rank Holy Communion	Tim Postlethwaite Colin Rank	Exodus 17.1-7 Matthew 21.23-32	Julia Clarke	Sue T. and Margaret B.	Flowers: P. Broadbent Cleaning: Lisa Willis Wendy Cartwright
4th October	Morning Prayer and Source Seekers	Rob Day Linda Day	Exodus 20.1-4,7-9,12- 20 Matthew 31.33-end	Julia Clarke	Di and Sandy	Flowers: P. Broadbent Cleaning: Sandy Crofts Alexia Goldman Tracy Quidley

Church Wardens

Kemble	Mark Wilton 07802 350866	
Poole Keynes	George Collins 770698	Tom Grand
Somerford Keynes	David Crofts	Sussanne Lock

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To advertise on the back page, please contact Mark Wilton at durlstonsk@aol.com

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