

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



Readers
Liz Collins
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St Michael & All Angels, Poole Keynes

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www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk

PLANTS * LIVE BAND * BOTTLE STALL * SKITTLES * GAMES * ICE CREAMS & MUCH MORE... * HUMAN FRUIT MACHINE * TOYS * BOUNCY CASTLE * RAFFLE * PINMS * TRACTOR RIDES * DOG SHOW * SPLAT THE RAT * TEA & CAKES

**KEMBLE CHURCH
FETE
17TH MAY '25
KEMBLE HOUSE
AT 2PM-4PM
ALL WELCOME**

KEMBLECHURCHFETE
WWW.KEMBLE.CO.UK
KIND PERMISSION OF
MARTIN & JILL KINGSTON

May 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.

May services				
04.05.25	Easter 3	9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
		10.00	Kemble	Morning Prayer with Source Seekers (streamed)
		10.00	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
		11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
11.05.25	Easter 4	10.00	Kemble	Benefice Holy Communion (streamed)
		11.00	Tarlton	Rogation procession
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer and APCM
18.05.25	Easter 5	9.30	Coates	Morning Prayer
		10.00	Kemble	Source service (streamed)
		10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
25.05.25	Easter 6	10.00	Rodmarton	Benefice Holy Communion
		08.30	Tarlton	Holy Communion BCP
29.05.25	Ascension Day	18.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
June services				
01.06.25	Easter 7	10.00	Sapperton	Benefice Holy Communion with Bishop Robert
		11.00	Rodmarton	Said Morning Prayer followed by The Big Lunch

THAMESHEAD LADIES CONNECTION

TLC - SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY 19th JUNE 2025, 2- 4.30pm

Come and join us for 'An afternoon with Bishop Rachel.' Enjoy tea and scones in a relaxing setting.

Kindly hosted by Margaret Bush, Bridge Farm, Poole Keynes, GL7 6EG

Look out for our poster in June's edition with details to follow.

RSVP:

Julie Allen 07704 892029
 Aileen Shaw 07807 199602
 Julie Morton 07784 790395
 Lucinda Turner 07881 825895

Deadline for June magazine: May 21st.

View from Woodstock.

As I look across the valley while having a coffee; spring is definitely here. Leaves are beginning to 'pop' on the beech hedge. The grass could do with a haircut. Blackthorn is in bloom – looking like white clouds along the hedgerows. I wonder do we take it all for granted. The natural world keeps ticking in spite of all the miseries that some people have to cope with.

But does it?

Forests have been cut down to create areas for arable farming – or for housing. Humans are encroaching in to land where previously animals were free to roam.

We may ask is there any point in going on?

We have just celebrated Easter. Jesus brought us New Life. Living in the northern hemisphere we are blessed with spring appearing at Easter; bringing new birth, lambs playing in the fields, spring flowers blossoming – our bottom grass, it doesn't deserve the name lawn, is full of cowslips.

Life may not be easy for any of us, but Jesus came to give us hope. He brought new birth and the promise of new life. So let us rejoice that Christ is Risen.

With love and blessings. Pepita.



Kemble Church, Eco Church

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

The sensory garden in the Community gardens is beginning to take shape. Come and see the progress we have made – bring a cup of tea and a book and enjoy a moment of calm on the bench. We would love to hear from you if you would like to get involved.

In Kemble churchyard we are leaving areas of the grass uncut as part of Plantlife's No Mow May (and beyond) – letting the grass grow allows flowering plants to produce food for pollinating insects. It also has other benefits such as freeing us from hours of mowing to appreciate the beauty of our wildflowers and insects. Even leaving a small area of lawn to grow will help. Hopefully we will see more butterflies when it comes to the butterfly count in July.

Here are some other ways we can join in:

May is National Walking Month and there are various activities and challenges to inspire people to walk more, whether it's for commuting, leisure, or health. Find out more at <https://www.active-together.org/news/2025/04/what-will-you-do-for-national-walking-month-this-year>

28 April – 4 May - National Gardening Week – the focus this year is on new and beginner gardeners. You can find tips and advice on the RHS website.

4 May: International Dawn Chorus Day – sunrise will be at 05.34, so an early start but it is the Bank Holiday weekend.

10 May – Litter picking at the Tavern at 10.30 – all welcome. Cirencester Repair Café will also be open from 10.00 – 13.00 at the Baptist Church.

17 May – Kemble Church Fête – if you have good quality toys or gifts that are looking for a new home, the toy stall and the regifting stall will be happy to take them – and it's a good opportunity to find some lovely presents. Details for donations in the Fête advertisement.

28 May – World Hunger Day – This year's theme is sowing resilience, and we are encouraged to shop locally and support farmers by visiting our local farmers' market.

Rachel and Juliette Jago on behalf of Kemble PCC

juliettek@btinternet.com

SAVE THE DATE SOMERFORD KEYNES OPEN GARDENS SATURDAY 5 JULY

Save the Date

By kind permission of Sussanne and Andrew Lock, at the Manor House, Somerford Keynes, an Open Garden Party and Family Fun Afternoon, between 2pm and 4pm, with use of the swimming pool and organised children's games and activities. In aid of Somerford Keynes Church. More details to follow nearer the time.

Somerford Keynes Village Coffee Morning

The monthly Somerford Keynes coffee morning will take place on Thursday 15 May in the village hall from 1030 to 1200. Everyone is warmly invited to come and enjoy coffee, tea and cake, browse the produce and book stalls and catch up with friends and neighbours.



Poole Keynes Film Club

Friday 2nd May

2pm and 8pm

Poole Keynes Village Hall

Cert PG Genre Biography / Drama Run time 124 mins

Inspired by a true story set in the slums of Katwe in Kampala, Uganda. Life is a constant struggle for 10 year old Phiona and her family, but her world changes one day when she meets Robert Katende, a missionary who teaches children how to play chess.

If you would like to join us as a guest for this film 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

The 100 club draw took place at the monthly coffee morning and the winner for April was Lydia Coulter

Congratulations to the lucky winner

Greyhound Rescue

Thinking of having a spring clean and wondering what to do with unwanted old duvets, duvet covers, pillows, pillowcases, towels, fleeces etc?

All these items are wanted for a rehoming unit for retired greyhounds in Swindon.

I would be pleased to collect or receive any items you wish to donate, but may I request nothing is left at my gate without prior agreement to avoid items being spoilt if left outside and unattended for a period of time.

Many thanks

Jane Russell

01285 770340



Reader Ramblings

Dear friends

Well, I've been a Reader for a whole six months – and am still suffering from a severe case of imposter syndrome. However, as the right person to lead us going forward is still to be discerned, I'm having plenty of practice and loving the warm and gracious way in which you have all welcomed me into this new role.

In our Diocese we still have Readers, though elsewhere we are starting to be called Licensed Lay Ministers. I rather like the old title, though I do understand that it can feel slightly obscure. I've been asked several times what I can now do that I couldn't before. It's a difficult question to answer because, like many, I was already doing a lot of the things that used to be the province of Readers such as leading services which I had done as a warden and as a lay worship leader, and preaching a sermon which isn't so very different from giving a talk which I had done several times. The main difference is not what I can do but who I am. This feels as though I am fulfilling my vocation, much like many of you who find yourselves doing what you believe you were born for, be that a particular career, or raising children, or simply being you.

Let's have a look at the gospel according to Matthew:

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” [Matthew 28:18-20]

This passage, known as the Great Commission, tells us we are all to be disciples. We each do that in our own way, but if you feel your way may be to play a bigger part in church life, do have a conversation with someone about that and explore what your calling might be.

For most of May we remain in the glorious season of Easter, which in my view continues to involve a lot of chocolate, and we hold the joy of Christ's resurrection in our hearts. Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven, marked on Ascension Day, 29 May. Between then and Pentecost, on 8 June, Christian churches across the UK join in a wave of prayer known as Thy Kingdom Come (TKC). In our Benefice the plan is to have a prayer walk in each of our six parishes and a service in each of our nine places of worship – see the draft schedule below in the magazine. Most services will be a short compline at 9pm, but at Sapperton we have a Benefice communion service on 1 June at which Bishop Robert will preside. Do join in for any part of TKC as you are able: it would be good to see a full church for Bishop Robert.

With love and prayers

Karen

Thy Kingdom Come

Date	Location		Time
29/5	St Peter's, Rodmarton	Ascension Day HC	6.00pm
30/5	St Michael and All Angels, PK	Prayer walk and compline	8.15pm 9.00pm
31/5	St Matthew's, Coates	Prayer walk and compline	8.15pm 9.00pm
1/6	St Kenelm's, Sapperton	Bishop Robert HC	10am
2/6	All Saints, Kemble	Prayer walk and compline	8.15pm 9.00pm
3/6	All Saints, Shorncote	Prayer walk and compline	8.15pm ? 9.00pm
4/6	St Luke's. FM	Labyrinth compline	8.15pm 9.00pm
5/6	St Osmund's, Tarlton	Compline	9.00pm
6/6	All Saints, SK	Prayer walk and compline	8.15pm ? 9.00pm
7/6	St Kenelm's, Sapperton	Compline	9.00pm
8/6	Pentecost Picnic, Kemble playing field	Picnic and service	11am
8/6	St Peter's, Rodmarton	Holy Communion	11am

Kemble Fete - Saturday 17th May 2025 – Work Party

Kemble Fete 2025 is fast approaching and will be held at Kemble House on Saturday 17th May 2025, by kind permission of Martin & Jill Kingston.

The working party is an important part of the success of the Fete and particularly the construction of all the tents, stands and distribution of chairs and tables etc.

If anyone is willing to volunteer to help at either the start or end of the day or both, they would be very welcome.

We will be meeting at 9.00am on Saturday 17th May at Kemble House and construction is normally finished by around 11.30am. Do drop in or provide whatever time you may have that day.

The Fete starts at 2.00pm and is normally over just after 4.00pm, when help with the deconstruction would be appreciated.

If you have a gazebo that you would be willing to loan the fete for the day, please let me know.

Many thanks in advance for all offers of assistance.

Ian Czapiewski

07711 015168

The cake stall needs you!

All donations of cakes and bakes will be very gratefully received: whole cakes, traybakes, biscuits, flapjacks, brownies, cupcakes, scones, chutneys, jams... We would also particularly appreciate any bakes suitable for special diets (gluten-free/dairy-free etc...).

Donations can be delivered to Kemble Lodge on West Lane in advance or to the stand on the day of the fete. I'm also happy to collect and have space in the freezer for any early deliveries. Thank you in advance!

Please contact Toto Walls if you are able to help – it is very useful to know in advance if you are able to contribute. antoniawalls@hotmail.co.uk or 07989 301120



KEMBLE DOG SHOW

CLASSES:

- BEST PUPPY
- BEST JUNIOR HANDLER
- BEST RESCUE DOG
- DOG MOST LIKE OWNER
- BEST BISCUIT CATCHER
- MOST LIKE TO TAKE HOME

GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON!



17TH MAY '25
PART OF KEMBLE CHURCH FETE
KEMBLE HOUSE
AT 2.45PM
KIND PERMISSION OF
MARTIN & JILL KINGSTON



DONATIONS WANTED!!!

CAKES & BAKES

WHOLE CAKES, CUP-CAKES, BISCUITS, QUICHES, SAUSAGE ROLLS YOU NAME IT, WE WANT IT. CAN BE DELIVERED BEFOREHAND OR ON THE MORNING OF THE FETE. GOING TO BE AWAY, DON'T LET THAT STOP YOU, CAKES CAN EASILY BE DELIVERED OR COLLECTED AND FROZEN AHEAD OF TIME!
CONTACT TOTO WALLS – 07989301120 ANTONIAWALLS@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

BOTTLES

– ALCOHOLIC OR NON, HIGH END OR PLAIN DRINKABLE, BOTTLES, OR CANS –
BOTTLES MUST BE DELIVERED BEFORE THE DAY OF THE FETE.
DROP OFF'S CAN BE MADE AT:

SUZANNE MACINTYRE, TANNERS, EWEN, (3RD HOUSE ON LEFT PAST THE BUS STOP GOING TOWARDS KEMBLE BOTTLES CAN BE LEFT IN THE CORNER OF THE PORCH.)
07887651895 SUZANNE@MCINTYRE.UK.NET

COLIN RANK, THE OLD FORGE, CHURCH ROAD, KEMBLE, BOTTLES CAN BE LEFT IN THE POTTING SHED, SMALL SQUARE BUILDING TO THE RIGHT OF THE HOUSE.
07866457812 RANK@BTINTERNET.COM

LINDA DAY, 8 WEST HAY GROVE, BOTTLES CAN BE LEFT BEHIND THE PILLAR BY FRONT DOOR.
07855546638 LANDRDAY@LINANDROB.CO.UK

IF COLLECTION IS REQUIRED

CONTACT CADIE ASPRAY 07929549806 CADIE@ASPRAYS.COM

TOYS & GAMES

– GOOD, CLEAN, CHILDREN'S PLAYTHINGS TO INCLUDE BOOKS, FANCY DRESS, ETC. CAN BE DELIVERED BEFOREHAND OR ON THE MORNING OF THE FETE.
CONTACT – CADIE ASPRAY 07929549806 CADIE@ASPRAYS.COM

RE-GIFTING

– DESIGNER OR GOOD QUALITY, NEW OR NEARLY NEW ITEMS. ITEMS CAN BE LEFT UNDER THE PORCH OF 28 WEST HAY GROVE
CONTACT RACHEL JAGO 07855764323 RACHEL.JAGO@BTINTERNET.COM

PLANTS

– PLANTS CAN BE LEFT THE DAY BEFORE OR ON THE MORNING OF THE FETE BY THE BIG TREE ON THE DRIVE AT KEMBLE HOUSE.
CONTACT JILL KINGSTON 07798830287 KINGSJILL50@GMAIL.COM

RAFFLE PRIZES

– CAN YOU HELP US CREATE A PAMPER HAMPER OF LUXURIOUS TOILETRIES OR A BOX OF SWEET TREATS TO ADD TO OUR COLLECTION OF RAFFLE PRIZES?
CONTACT HOLLY WILLS 07881920057 HOLSSOFFE@HOTMAIL.COM

FOR ANY OTHER QUERIES EMAIL KEMBLEFETE@GMAIL.COM OR
CADIE ASPRAY ON 07929549806

KIND PERMISSION OF MARTIN & JILL KINGSTON

Kemble and Ewen Women's Institute

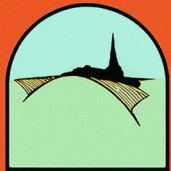
All welcome to the meeting on Thursday 15th May when Sara Gray the speaker will tell us all about The History of Pantomimes. Visitors very welcome to come along for the 3pm start. The treasurer will collect £5 which includes tea and cake.

Further info from secretary Pat Ayres.

ayrescares50@gmail.com. 01285 770385

Kemble Village Hall 200Club

April's 200 Club Winner is ticket 192 Matt & Hannah Hollowood, drawn at the Screening of Wicked.



**KEMBLE
& EWEN**
PARISH COUNCIL

**ANNUAL PUBLIC
MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 13TH MAY 2025
7:00PM**

KEMBLE VILLAGE HALL

KEMBLE VILLAGE HALL AGM at 6:30PM

TOPICS

• **CCTV**

• **MUGA (MULTI-USE GAMES AREA)**
COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH



Note : Kemble Rural Cinema—One Week earlier than usual.

Kemble Village Hall - Rural Cinema



In 1961, an unknown 19-year-old Bob Dylan arrives in New York City with his guitar and forges relationships with musical icons on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking performance that reverberates around the world.

Monday 12th May 2025

7.30pm for 8.00pm

Tickets £5.00—Cash or Cards



Kemble and District RBL / Women's Section.

Both Standards of the RBL and Women's section have been invited to parade at the Cotswold District Offices on Wednesday afternoon the 7th May to mark the 80th anniversary of the Victory in Europe day 8th May. Also as the guest of honour, Alan McQuillan (Mac) a Normandy Veteran aged nearly 102years who lives in Kemble will join in with the event which will be followed by a celebratory tea.

Forward thinking to VJ80 on 15th August The Tavern Pub will be hosting a weekend 16th/17th of activities and memories to include an under canvass service on the Sunday the 17th. The theme of the weekend will be 'Then 1945 through to Now 2025' with live music, food, fun and games for children etc etc.

Tessa Dunlop interviewed Mac some time ago and has now produced a book entitled Lest we Forget- War and Peace on 100 British Monuments which includes Kemble war memorial. Mac has received his hard copy already. Books can be pre ordered now with a paperback coming out later.

Pat Ayres Chair W/S

Alan Willis

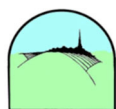
Alan Raymond Willis aged 96years formerly of River Cottage Ewen Road Kemble - passed away 31st March .

Remembered fondly, My memory list- a potted history!

- He loved all wildlife/ trees/ flowers did nature walks with school children
- He loved all garden flowers/ shrubs - growing many so his late wife Anne could use in her floral displays
- He loved his garden birds welcoming them to his feeders and watering holes.
- Tried his hand in men's cooking competitions as an exhibitor in produce shows winning many prizes as he did also with growing vegetables and fruit to exhibit.
- He loved being in his garden in shorts and green wellies.
- An excellent host of Safari suppers.
- Legion supper evenings acting as barman and quiz master.
- Hosting sales at home in aid of Mencap.
- For several years holding a 'Thinking of Others' Christmas event in aid of service charities etc Blind Veterans, BLES-MA, Brainwave plus many more.
- Attending and providing transport to conferences, RBLWS especially, visiting Blackpool and Bournemouth and Eastbourne. We shared walks and talks along the prom with Alan and Anne.
- Alan's wealth of knowledge of the above and various holiday destinations he was a great enthusiastic speaker to clubs around the area giving many of them freely to help the organisations stay afloat.
- Alan loved to swim!
- He was a member of the Kemble team of bell ringers.
- His sense of fun and joining in and even taking on modelling which he did when the W.I. held a fashion show. Wearing a leather jacket and Jeans with his hair flopping over his face he looked a 'real cool dude! I have the photos!!!
- Alan had a wicked sense of humour and a unique chuckle.
- Softly spoken
- A devoted husband to Anne whom he adored.
- Alan in his working life was a professional accountant; therefore, many voluntary clubs and charities used his services to audit their figures! I for one used his expertise and support.

In a nutshell - Alan had enthusiasm for life, kindness and good humour shone through and he held sincere respect from others and to others.

Pat Ayres MBE



**KEMBLE
& EWEN**
PARISH COUNCIL

Vacancy – Parish Clerk & RFO

Kemble and Ewen Parish Council are seeking a CILCA qualified clerk and RFO.

Overall Responsibilities: The Clerk to the Council serves as the Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer of Kemble & Ewen Parish Council, entrusted with managing the Council's affairs to the highest standards of statutory compliance and professional excellence. This role demands strong leadership to foster a culture of accountability, continuous improvement, and efficient service delivery. The Clerk will play a pivotal role in driving the Council's strategic initiatives, overseeing the effective management of staff and resources, and ensuring the seamless execution of all Council objectives. The Clerk will also act as a key advisor to the Council, providing impartial, accurate, and timely information to support informed decision-making

Accountable to: The Council, as a Corporate Body

Line Management: The Clerk will report to the Staffing Committee for day-to-day management, with the Chair of the Staffing Committee acting as the designated line manager on behalf of the Council.

Hours of work: 9 per week within variable hours contract.

Interested parties should send a CV to clerk@kembleandewen-pc.gov.uk. The council will consider applications from those willing to undertake the CILCA qualification and training and starting as a Deputy Clerk working with the current clerk during a transition period.

Duties Include :

Legal and Statutory Responsibilities , Administration of Meetings , Administrative Functions and Responsibilities , Financial Responsibilities and Liaison, Communication and Relationship Management

Detailed information regarding duties available at <https://kembleandewen-pc.gov.uk/vacancy-parish-clerk-rfo/>

KEPC POLICE AND CRIME UPDATE (also dial 101 or 111...???)

The PC have noticed that there has been a slight but not insignificant increase in local crime recently within the Parish community.

Although serious crime (stolen vehicle crime or so called County Lines crime carried out by organised gangs) is more of a National Issue we still have our part to play in this and well as more so called 'local crimes' such as vandalism, fly tipping and burglary.

This local crime is always possible within any village environment and is both seasonal and fairly random within the Parish, however with the aid of the local community, as well as the Police, the scale of such activity can be reduced.

Prevention and awareness are the key points here as well as all Parishioners maintaining a keen eye on unusual activity and events. The parking of the (rather ubiquitous) unmarked white van, for example is always worthy of suspicion and of note; an innocent enquiry regarding the occupants business in the Parish would not go amiss and may just deter the opportunist thief. A quick 101 call in this instant again would not be deemed inappropriate..more on that number later..

As the Summer Season approaches we tend to spend much more time outside and hopefully enjoy more fresh air by opening our windows and doors, both of these activities lending themselves to theft and possible burglary, the message here being make sure all your valuables are secured and when you are not at home all windows and doors are locked.

Mobile phone theft is also on the rise, these everyday essentials (!) are now being termed 'hi value items' by most police forces and therefore an easy target for criminals...many phones being stolen whilst being used by the owners whilst walking down the street!!.....also an easy lift from the owners back pocket, so please stow them away securely.

Finally that note on non emergency phone numbers.....remember

101 - NON EMERGENCY POLICEreporting crime already happened, sharing information, suspect activity, fly tipping etc

111- NON EMERGENCY NHSin need of medical help but not an emergency, general advice etc.

No need to remind - If Life is in danger or a crime is in progress it's 999.

Note - check out WHAT THREE WORD APP- for your precise location information...if you have this simple app installed on your phone you can let the emergency services know your exact location by.....guess what, THREE WORDS....easy to set up and recognised by all the emergency services!!

Stay safe

David Russell



Farming Matters

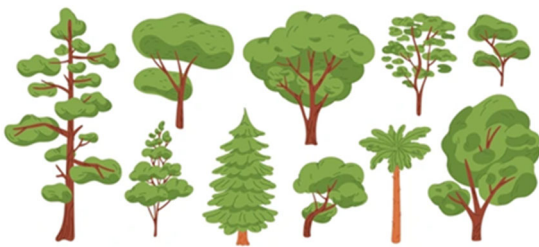
At last, the Blackthorn is in flower. Later than usual, probably due to the cold dreary weather we had in Feb/Mar. More recent fine, dry weather continued into early April allowing farmers to get up to date with spring planting, an increased area than was planned, due to the poor weather conditions limiting planting opportunities last autumn. But we need balance. Farmers are now desperate for rain to encourage crop growth. Not too much please, as later spring crops like maize and potatoes need favourable planting conditions later in April.

Those of you that suffer from hay fever, or have a pollen allergy, will know we have entered the hay fever season. The release of pollen follows flowering, although some flowers are not that obvious. The season starts with trees, Hazel, Yew and Alder are the early culprits while Birch, Ash and Oak are in full flow by early May. The Horse Chestnut tree is one of our showier trees and will also be dropping pollen around early May.

It's been pleasing to see recent woodland maintenance carried out locally. This is a vital part of tree management which often goes unnoticed or neglected as the economics are, at best, questionable. The timber arisings from the recent work will be sold for biomass and woodchip, helping to offset the cost of the work. Woodland Condition is a term that is increasingly used in the forestry sector to describe the ecological condition of a woodland and reflects the biodiversity status, tree health and the provision of environmental benefits.

Woodland in good ecological condition provides a whole range of benefits, including improvements in air quality, purification of ground water, carbon storage, wildlife habitats, not to mention timber and fuel supply. Good condition can be impacted by a range of pressures such as invasive species, emerging tree pests and diseases, browsing animals like deer and grey squirrels and poor maintenance. Little or no woodland management can lead to dense, shady environments with a uniform structure and a poor understory, resulting in low biodiversity unable to support a varied ecosystem. It's therefore important that good woodland maintenance is carried out to keep these valuable areas productive and healthy.

Many of the areas which have seen recent work would have benefitting from the Forestry Commission Woodland Grant Scheme in the 1980s. The economics of lowland timber production are poor, so these incentives were provided to encourage planting.



The Scheme provided payments over 40 years to encourage farmers to plant trees to provide these benefits but with a requirement that maintenance be carried out over that period. As a result, copses were created at this time with many examples around the area (either side of the Thames between the A429 and Parker's Bridge for example). Previously, extensive planting took place in the early 20th century, again with many examples locally. Fangrove (1899), Severalls (1906) Marjorie (1920). This period was one of relative prosperity in the farming world following a depressed time in the

late 19th century, illustrating the need for a prosperous farming sector, and/or financial incentives, to deliver these benefits.

The UK only grows about 20% of the timber it consumes, leaving the remaining 80% to be imported. On 21 March 2025, the Government announced a new National Forest covering Wiltshire, Glos. and West of England. The forest partnership will work with landowners, businesses and local communities to plant 2500 hectares of new woodland and other tree habitats in its first five years, with an aspiration to plant 20 million trees by 2050.

You may have noticed other works going on around Kemble recently. The underground ducts are being installed to take the cables from the new solar farm. This involved digging across the railway tunnel, generating understandable interest from Network Rail. They were interested to hear that when the 'Cheltenham and Great Western Union Railway' was established in 1836, Robert Gordon, who owned the Kemble Estate at the time, insisted that the line passing Kemble House should be in a tunnel, as he didn't want dirty steam trains spoiling his view. This was evident in the trenches recently dug as either side of the tunnel was undisturbed, layered limestone, while over the tunnel was backfilled rubble. I'm not sure HS2 would afford the same considerations.

And remember, Oak before Ash, we're in for a splash, Ash before Oak, we're in for a soak.

David Ball

Rotas for May 2025

	Sidesperson	Readers	Readings	Kemble Flowers	Poole Keynes Cleaning & Flowers	Somerford Keynes Flowers & Cleaning
4th May	Martin Whittle	Tim Postlethwaite Gill Awdry	Acts 9.1-6 [7-20] Revelation 5.11-14 John 21.1-19	Guild Pat Ayres	Sue Timbrell and Margaret Bush	Flowers: J Shearn Cleaning: Helen Sweet, Aideen McAvoy-Wilding, Paula Eales
11th May	Rob Day	Colin & Binnie Rank	Acts 9.36-end* Revelation 7.9-17 John 10.22-30	Pat Ayres	Sue Timbrell and Margaret Bush	Flowers: J Shearn Cleaning: Helen Sweet, Aideen McAvoy-Wilding, Paula Eales
18th May	Ian Czapiewski	MORNING SOURCE	Acts 11.1.18 Revelation 21.1-6 John 13.31-35	Binnie Rank	Sue Timbrell and Margaret Bush	Flowers: H Sweet Cleaning: Helen Sweet, Aideen McAvoy-Wilding, Paula Eales
25th May		BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION	Acts 16.9-15 Revelation 21.10, 22- 22.5 John 14.23-29 or John 5.1-9	Binnie Rank	Sue Timbrell and Margaret Bush	Flowers: H Sweet Cleaning: Helen Sweet, Aideen McAvoy-Wilding, Paula Eales
1st June		BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION	Acts 16.16-34 Revelation 22.12-14, 16- 17, 20-21 John 17.20-26	Anne Wilton	Di	Flowers: P Handover Cleaning: Jean Shearn Ronwynne Dunn

Church Wardens

Kemble Jill Kingston 07798 830287 / 771133

Poole Keynes George Collins 770698

Somerford Keynes David Crofts

Tom Grand

Sussanne Lock

The Diocesan Life Prayer

God of hope and transformation,
who in our Lord Jesus Christ
the gift of life in all its fullness,
send your Holy Spirit and grant us
joy in our following and vision in our leadership.

May we be rich in imagination,
confident in faith,
and courageous in our engagement with
the people and places of this diocese.
As we share your life with the world,
keep us rooted and grounded in love
as we bear witness to your glory
and pray for your Kingdom to come.
Amen.

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