

Kingston Parish & Church Magazine



October 2023

Village Diary

Saturday 7th October from 6.30pm
Thursday 12th October 1 – 1.30pm

Pub Night in the Village Hall
Library Van at the crossroads

Tuesdays at 10-11am
Fridays at 11.00am
Fridays at 9.30am

Boogie Tuesday at the Village Hall
Village Hall Coffee Morning
Pilates

Wheelie bin collection dates

You can add your bin collection dates to calendars on Android or Apple devices. See <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/find-your-household-bin-collection-day/>

Thursday 5th October
Thursday 12th October
Thursday 19th October
Thursday 26th October

Black bin
Blue and Green bins
Black bin
Blue and Green bins

Editorial

The wind is howling outside my window as I write and autumn, if not winter, definitely seems on the way. Summer fun seems a long way behind us now and the harvest festival last month ushered in the next season, with longer nights and an abundance of autumn fruits and berries.

As reported elsewhere, the weekly Wednesday coffee mornings have been moved to Fridays, while the emergency services use the hall for a month as a rest station during their work. We will return to Wednesdays on 1 November and look forward to welcoming any newcomers who would like a chat and a cuppa. And, of course, the monthly pub nights continue as usual on first Saturdays.

Many of you will notice that several villages have now become 20 mile per hour zones and our own Parish Council is pursuing this course of action. Differing opinions abound, but the statistics show that accidents and deaths are definitely reduced by this 10-mile per hour reduction.

And on the bright side, our 18 bus service currently supplied by Whippet Coaches is set to remain in place until March 2025 thanks to continued council funding. As the saying goes, 'use it or lose it'.

Miki Ellar miki.ellar7@gmail.com 07568 706106

Cover photo: Harvest, courtesy of Lee Steele

Vicar's Letter:

What are we working for?

There is a creativity and measure of giftedness in all of us that remains hidden or unnoticed unless we are attentive and go looking for it. I saw this again recently when someone asked to share a piece of poetry in a funeral; subsequently, I discovered this person has written scores of poems and similar written pieces.

This experience set me thinking about a remark my wife made around the same time – to the effect a lot of the time we handle many relationships in a largely transactional manner. It goes like this: you have something I want so I deal with you to the point where we agree on what basis you share this with me. It works for the most part but may prove to be very functional or utilitarian; moreover, it fails to see value or release so much that is good and often creative in all of us.

We see this at its worst in political matters all too often – where the goal of any new proposals appears more to do with what one side can get away with rather than a genuine investment in doing the right thing.

Christians are meant to be different because we should be motivated by love summed up by the exhortation 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' Here we have an example of where our English translation is not clear enough: the word for LOVE is the one used elsewhere to describe God's living actions towards us – a sacrificial love, the sort that steps in to rescue a person in dire trouble irrespective of the cost and not for any return or gain that will follow. (To be a professional politician and a practicing Christian is surely one of the hardest vocations for someone to embrace!)

One of the things that makes me sad is when I meet people who had gone into service vocations such as education and medicine but who now feel ground down and fed up, to the point they are focussed on getting out or reaching retirement. For the most part this seems to be a systemic or cultural failure that has hurt and damaged great servant-hearted people.

Here is my question (in the early weeks of a new 'academic' year): what are we ambitious for and want to see happen in the next few months? There is nothing wrong, per se, with ambition, except it can easily become distorted or orientated solely to my benefit and at someone else's expense. At that point ambition can become destructive or unpleasant. As we listen to the political debates coming from the main party conferences we could do worse than asking ourselves '*Do I want, am I working for and will vote for because it will do this and that for me and my family; or is striving for these things about the common good, the betterment of*

society and the capacity of the country to serve well at home and in our dealings abroad, both now and for generations to come?

I believe we need, in many sectors of society and around the world, the recovery of the sort of LOVE that is at the core of our heritage and Christian tradition.

Nigel di Castiglione, Team Rector

Church Services in October

There will be no church services in Kingston for the next few months as Kingston church remains closed for repairs. For services elsewhere in the Papworth Team, see www.papworthteamchurches.org.

Papworth Team Services

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 1 st October | 10.30am Harvest Family Worship at Bourn |
| Sunday 8 th October | 8.30am Holy Communion at Bourn |
| | 10.30pm Morning Prayer at Caxton |
| | 10.30am Holy Communion at Longstowe |
| Sunday 15 th October | 10.30am Holy Communion at Caxton |
| Sunday 22 nd October | 10.30am Holy Communion at Bourn |
| | 10.30am Morning Prayer at Longstowe |
| Sunday 29 th October | 10.00am Team Service at Caxton |

The website papworthteamchurches.org has up to date service information for all churches in the team. It also has the Zoom link for the Morning Prayer.

Zoom Chapel Morning Prayer (Mon – Sat) at 8.15am (Zoom)

Telephone service on Mondays at 5.00pm

For further information, see papworthteamchurches.org

Highways Issues

Villagers might like to have this useful link to report any issues they have that relate to the council's highways department, like potholes etc. It is also useful to know just how much of any verge is the responsibility of this department.

<https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk>

Harvest Festival and Supper 16th September

Fifteen Kingstonians gathered together to celebrate Harvest in the Village Hall on the evening of the 16th September. The Rev'd Nigel Pearson, himself a farmer, led the worship, which included the old faithful hymns All Things Bright and Beautiful and Come, Ye Thankful People, Come. Nigel related his visit to the Weetabix factory at Burton Latimer to illustrate the earth's incredible bounty: a square metre of ground will produce about 1 kilo of wheat grains; an average field of 12 hectares will produce enough grain for 34,000 packets of Weetabix. But the message of Harvest is not simply about gratitude, it is also about the imperative to charity.

There followed a wonderful Harvest Supper which might be described as 'deluxe ploughman's', with many cheeses, and various home-made apple crumbles, pies and tarts to finish. A raffle was followed by a quiz on horticultural themes. John Easy supplied a beautiful plaited harvest loaf. We are greatly indebted to Lee Steele for organising the supper and for decorating the table and hall so beautifully with flowers and ears of corn. A really convivial event: many thanks indeed to all those who contributed.

Ride and Stride 2023

The annual Ride and Stride took place this year on the 9th September. This is a national event organised by the various county churches trusts which do so much to fund repairs to church and chapel buildings throughout the country. The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust has recently helped Kingston with a grant of £3,000 and an interest-free loan of £20,000.

I visited twenty churches on Saturday 9th September: eleven in central Cambridge on foot – Little St Mary, St Botolph, St Benet, St Andrew the Great, Holy Trinity, Great St Mary, St Edward, St Michael, The Round Church, St Clement, All Saints Jesus Lane – and two by car on my way in (Kingston and Toft) and seven more back out (Coton, Barton, Comberton, Harlton, Little Eversden, Great Eversden and Caldecote). Very many thanks to all those who have kindly sponsored me: to date I have raised £300. It is still not too late to contribute: cash preferred but I can supply BACS details if you prefer.

Peter Reynolds peterreynolds299@btinternet.com

Volunteers Wanted

We are looking for a volunteer or couple of volunteers who might have some spare time to thread in this year's new growth into our willow tunnel at the village play park. This will be a one-off task so will not involve a long-term commitment and any spare time people could offer would be most appreciated.

We are also looking to create a rota of volunteers who would be able to visit the play park for a short trip to look at the various items of play equipment and



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complete a tick sheet inspection report. This is a weekly task that is conducted by the parish council as part of our monitoring duties to meet the requirements of our insurers. It does not take long and we currently have a small group of volunteers but would like to expand our group to include a few new people and were also wondering if perhaps some people who have children might also be interested in helping out.

If anyone would like to help please contact the parish council at kingstonpc.cambridge@gmail.com

Repairs to tower roof, leadwork and parapet

Kingston's peg-tiled tower roof and its sandstone parapet date to the restoration of the Rev'd Salisbury James Murray Price in 1894 (the great Ninian Comper, knighted in 1950, was the architect; Kingston was one of his earliest commissions). Some repair was carried out following the lightning strike of 2009, but otherwise this area of the fabric is Victorian.

Several parishioners remarked on a light in the church tower quite late during evenings in August. This was not the ghost of Charles 'Clocky' Custance, whose responsibility it was to wind up the church clock 150 years ago, but the real presence of Edward Steel of Elizabeth Cottage, finishing off



Newly flaunching tower roof

his thoroughgoing campaign of repairs to the church tower. Our architect, Nigel Walter, in his Quinquennial Inspection of 2017, suspected water ingress around the old chimney, which served the coke boiler heating system in the church's basement, and thought that the timber beneath the adjacent lead gulley had rotted away. So it proved.

Ed proceeded to install new lead soakers and flashings around the chimney; took up the gulley on the south side of the tower and replaced the rotten bearers and decking beneath; cleaned, secured and dressed all the lead work around all four sides of the tower; raked out and replaced the cement

pointing of the parapet with lime mortar; and replaced broken bonnets and tiles. Inside the tower Ed removed the loose pointing between the battens and entirely reflushed the roof tiles; finally, he cleaned the bell frame, bell chamber and stairs.

There has always been a suggestion that the tower chamber was inhabited at some distant time – even that there was a loft above the nave. Certainly there is the outline of a blocked internal aperture on the east face of the tower, below the nave roof, and the steps of the clunch newel staircase are extraordinarily well worn...but whether this is true or not, the tower is certainly fit to live in now. Our sincere thanks to Ed for a labour of love.



New lead flashings



Cleaned bell frame

Nave ceiling and south aisle roof repairs

As we go to press we are half way though the sixteen-week programme of repairs to the church fabric. The old ceiling has been stripped out, at least a century of debris removed from the eaves and four coats of lime plaster applied to the new lathes. This will need to dry out for a couple of weeks before three coats of limewash are applied. Externally, broken tiles have been replaced on the upper nave roof and ridge. Our architect, Alexandros Michalitsianos, discovered on inspection that a lot more of the clunch stonework around the clerestory windows than was originally specified will need to be replaced. Already the total cost of the project looks likely to exceed the agreed contract sum, including the contingency allowances. We are therefore extremely grateful for two recent generous donations to the Restoration Fund.

P.R.



Nave ceiling: new lathes



Nave ceiling: first plaster coat

Take Charge and Be Safe!

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is urging residents to Take Charge and Be Safe by keeping in mind some simple steps when using electrical devices, especially those with lithium-ion batteries. By following a few simple safety measures, like adding fire safety to your bedtime routine and being awake when using and charging some devices or appliances, people can keep themselves and their families safe in their homes.

Over the coming weeks more information, including key advice for residents to Take Charge and Be Safe will be released on the fire service's social media channels. Make sure CFRS is in your feed by liking and following us.

Lithium-ion batteries can be found in many electronic devices that are used every day: things like mobile phones, laptops and tablets, vape cigarettes and games console controllers, as well as e-scooters and e-bikes.

E-scooters and e-bikes

E-bikes and e-scooters are becoming a popular mode of transport and when bought from a reputable seller, with the correct battery and charger, and maintained well, they can be used safely.

Simple tips can help reduce the risk of overheating a battery:

- Use the correct charger for your battery, and make sure to buy from a reputable seller
- Make sure your battery and charger meet UK safety standards – look for the CE mark.
- Ideally, don't charge your e-bike or e-scooter overnight or while you are sleeping. If you must charge overnight, charge the bike/scooter in a room away from escape routes, close the door to the room and ensure the room has a smoke detector in it.
- Keep an eye out for warning signs that your battery might be failing and becoming a fire risk – if the battery is getting very hot, making a noise, smoking, leaking or bulging or the charger cable is frayed, stop using it and get a replacement. It is normal for batteries to feel warm when charging but if it is extremely hot to touch it is a sign it may be defective and could start a fire.
- Let your battery cool after use before charging it.
- Unplug your charger once the battery has charged.

Bedtime routine

Many fires in the home start at night while people are asleep. This can be down to a number of different causes, but can be easily avoided by following a few simple tips, as well as having working smoke alarms on each floor of your home.

A bedtime routine is a great way to help you and your family stay fire safe in your home. By following a few simple tips before heading to bed for the night, you can prevent a fire from happening or, if one does break out, stop it from spreading.

Tip 1: Switch off plugs and electrical appliances before heading to bed, and blow out candles. Things like fridges, freezers and smart devices (e.g. Alexa) are designed to be kept on, but TVs, microwaves, wax melters, washing machines and tumble dryers should all be turned off.

Tip 2: Closing internal doors will help prevent a fire from spreading, if one does break out. Take the time to close any doors around your home, especially the kitchen door.

Tip 3: Work out the quickest way to escape your home should a fire break out and make sure it's clear before heading to bed. Keep stairs, hallways and corridors clear of clutter to ensure you and your family can get out quickly if needed.

Tip 4: Before going to bed, make sure you have quick access to your keys so you can easily leave the house if needed.

Batteries

When buying lithium-ion batteries, look for a CE mark to signify it meets UK standards to decrease the chances of buying a dodgy battery. To increase your safety in your home when charging lithium-ion batteries, where possible, buy from recognised manufacturers.

Lithium-ion batteries cannot be disposed of in your regular household recycling. Doing so can cause fires. Many local shops have a battery bank where you can dispose of them and recycling centres can also take them.

Residents can also use our online home safety check to carry out their own fire risk assessment of their home. This simple to use tool goes through each area of a property and generates a safety plan for the occupants to follow. The check can be carried out on behalf of a vulnerable family member. Find out more on the fire service's website: www.cambsfire.gov.uk.

Tools Worth £6K Stolen from Emmaus Workshop

Burglars have stolen more than £6,000 worth of tools from the on-site workshop at Emmaus charity for the homeless in Cambridge, which is home to 50 people. The Police have launched an investigation, but could not find those responsible or locate the items. Emmaus are appealing to the public for replacement items and donations towards the damage caused. If you would like to help them replace lost items or donate, you can visit their website <https://emmaus.org.uk/cambridge/support-us/donate/>. They also welcome donations of preloved items to sell in their shop.

Kingston Poor's Land Charity: grants for school leavers

The original purpose of Kingston's charity was the relief of poverty, and we are still able and willing to offer help to anyone struggling with the cost of living increase, or with any other adversity. But for many years we have also made grants to school leavers who are proceeding to further education of any kind: university, technical college or apprenticeship. Please contact either of us, the trustees, in confidence:

Donal O'Donnel odonnel924@btinternet.com

Peter Reynolds peterreynolds299@btinternet.com



Papworth Team Ministry (C of E)

The Papworth Team Ministry Team Office:

Lower Pendrill Court
Ermine Street North
Papworth Everard
CB23 3UY

Email:

papworthteamministryoffice@gmail.com

Web: www.papworthteamchurches.org

Our Team Administrator, Revd. Chris Westgarth, works in the office normally on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings; serving the parishes of Bourn, Boxworth, Caxton, Conington, Croxton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Graveley with Papworth St Agnes, Kingston, Knapwell, Lolworth, Longstowe, Papworth Everard, Toseland and Yelling.

For enquiries about weddings, baptisms, funerals and general parish matters, please contact Chris (as above), visit the website or speak to one of our clergy...

> The Revd Nigel di Castiglione, Team Rector
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APPLE DAY: A Celebration Of All Things Apple!

Saturday 14 October, 10 am onwards
at Burwash Manor, New Road, Barton CB23 7EY

Come and join a fabulous countryside celebration...with the apple at its core!

Burwash Manor are doing all sorts of things with apples...from pulping them (bring your own apples and their juicing crew will be on hand to press them for you), identifying them (EEAOP will be there to identify your mystery apple, and hoping they can find a previously unknown variety), drinking them in the form of juice and cider and, you never know, you might feel the urge to just eat (and buy) some of the many local varieties that we will have on show!

Take a ride on a miniature steam train, have a go on the fairground, try your hand at the pony riding or the Rodeo Bull or watch displays of many traditional activities – from willow weaving and bee-keeping to basket weaving. And there will even be some less traditional treats – a nerf shooting range and the assault course spring to mind!

There's plenty to keep little ones occupied – peeling an apple (how long your peel could be?), apple tasting, face painting and the ever-popular tractor and trailer rides around the farm. And if you start to get peckish – there are plenty of food vans, refreshment stops and, of course, ice cream!

Entrance is £5 per adult, children under 12 are free. Last year we raised over £8,000 for the Sick Children's Trust....maybe this year we can make even more!

www.burwashmanor.com

Comberton Village College Piano Appeal

The Music Department at Comberton Village College is raising funds to purchase a much-needed new piano to be used for lessons, recordings and performances. Any donations are extremely welcome: To donate, please visit <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/23146>

You can raise free donations for this piano appeal every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them at no extra cost to yourself! It is easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cvcmusic/>

Afternoon Tea

Longstowe Village Hall
everyone welcome

Fridays: 2.00 to 4.00

27 Oct
24 Nov



Comberton Village College Retain Award

Comberton Village College has been re-accredited with the International Schools Award.

Marielle Burgess, who co-ordinated the re-application, said: "We had to fill in a very lengthy document listing the trips and activities we do, the impact on pupils, staff and the wider community. There are strict criteria of what they accept in terms of activities and the process is very thorough."

Comberton has held the award since 2004 and have earned reaccreditation every three years with the latest award running from 2022, when the work started, until 2025.

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Enquiries: Sarah Wright (secretary)

01223 263500 or 0787 999 1068

kingstonvillagehall@gmail.com



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This Year's Big Butterfly Count Results

Participants of the Big Butterfly Count saw more butterflies this year than in the previous four summers. In total, over 1.5 million butterflies and day-flying moths were recorded from 14 July - 6 August. After an all-time low in 2022 of just nine individual butterflies spotted per Count, this year saw an increase to 12 butterflies recorded on average per Count.

However, this good news is in contrast with what the long-term trends are revealing. Released for the first time this year, these show that since the Big Butterfly Count started 13 years ago, many species have significantly decreased. It is a warning sign that nature everywhere is in crisis – butterflies, as well as forming a vital part of the food chain, are considered significant indicators of the health of the environment.

Following last summer's heatwave and drought, scientists at Butterfly Conservation asked the public to help them understand the effect the extreme weather had on the UK's butterflies. In response almost 95,000 citizen scientists took part in this year's Big Butterfly Count, conducting 136,719 15-minute Counts in gardens, parks, school grounds and the countryside.

Dr Zoe Randle, of Butterfly Conservation, said: "We now know that the effects of last year's drought were not as bad for butterflies as we had feared. The mixed weather this year has helped as there has been an abundance of green food plants available for caterpillars, and plenty of nectar-rich flowers for adult butterflies. However, while the number of butterflies recorded this summer has been the highest since 2019, the longer-term trends show worrying declines for some of the UK's most common butterfly species."

The most-seen species this year was the Red Admiral, with 248,077 recorded - an increase of 338% on last year's Count and the first time the species, which is increasing in the UK as a result of climate change, has taken the top-spot.

Gatekeeper was next, with 222,896 sightings. This represents a 12% increase on last year and is a small, but welcome, boost for a species that has decreased by 28% since the Count began.

The Whites took the third and fourth spot, with 216,666 sightings of Large Whites and 190,506 of Small Whites, an 11% and 15% increase on 2022 respectively. Holly Blue had another good summer, with numbers up 66% on 2022, in keeping with its longer-term Big Butterfly Count trend of a 41% increase.

Species that saw a decline from last year include Ringlet, Common Blue and Speckled Wood, all of which also show long-term declines.

Although its numbers hardly changed compared to summer 2022, Green-veined White has the most severe Big Butterfly Count trend in the longer term, a decrease of 61%.

One of the biggest threats butterflies in the UK face is habitat loss. While the weather has an impact on numbers from year to year, butterflies, moths and many other species can generally cope with variable weather. What they cannot cope with is habitat destruction. Butterflies need a place to live. If they can feed, breed and shelter, they can thrive. By creating a Wild Space in your outdoor area, you can help to reverse the massive losses of wildlife-friendly habitat and start to turn around the fortunes of our declining butterflies.

Anyone, anywhere, can create a Wild Space. Whether it's leaving a patch of long grass in your garden or planting a small selection of nectar rich plants on a balcony, by creating a Wild Space everyone can make a difference and help butterflies and moths thrive.

Butterfly Conservation <https://butterfly-conservation.org/> has free resources and guidance on creating a Wild Space, including simple advice for anyone to have a go.

Bourn School Bag Drop! Thursday 2nd November

Please bring unwanted clothes, shoes, handbags, belts, hats, scarves, jewellery or perfumes in a tied dustbin bag to the front yard of 2 Short Street, Bourn, on the morning of Thursday 2nd November by 9am, or at drop off at the school gate by 9am if you have a child at Bourn School. Everything will be sent to Happy School Bag for re-use or recycling, avoiding landfill and raising much needed money for Bourn Primary School. Please note, we cannot accept dirty, damaged or wet items, or items not listed above.

Thank you for your support!
Bourn School Association



Foxton Scarecrow Festival

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- Quarter page: £5 (£50 for 12 issues)

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| Councillor Tumi Hawkins (SC District Council) | 01954 210840 |
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| | prescriptions 01223 262399 |
| Dr. Redwood & Partners, Bourn Surgery | |
| | Appointments 01954 719469 |
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| Comberton Road, Toft | 01223 264460 |
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| Italian , The Pergola, Harlton | 01223 260005 |
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| Parish Council Chairman (Sue Dalglish) | 07799 602103 |
| Parish Council Clerk | kingstonpc.cambridge@gmail.com |
| Park and Ride | 01223 845561 |
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| Stagecoach (Cabus) information 8am to 8pm | 0870 6082608 |
| Stansted Airport | 0870 0000303 |
| Streetlight failure reporting | 0800 7838247 |

Papworth Team

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