

Vicar's Letter - A letter from the fields

For many farmers 2014 will be a most memorable year.

The drilling (or sowing season) was a bit prolonged and for many very wet with autumn flooding across so much of the country. Some of the seed didn't go into the best of seed beds, with the slugs taking their fair share of oil seed rape plants and some of the last wheat had difficulty surfacing in the sodden ground.

However, the winter was very mild, enabling surviving late plants to catch up, and bringing the growth of all crops forward - but also providing fertile opportunity for key crop diseases to proliferate.

For some farmers the spring crops went in late, into good but dry seed beds; then, just in time, enough spring rain came to set most of them going. Then June, a critical month for growth, was the perfect combination of cool temperatures, rain and sunshine to fill the grain and produce the basics of bold and good quality wheat and barley.

When harvest arrived, the wheats were early, and for us, the same harvest team came together again - 10 part time and full time - and the combines rolled and we had perfect hot and dry weather for both the oil seed rape and the early milling wheats. Bumper crops in sight (!) and potential good news for the consumer: as soon as world production looked as though it would exceed demand, the prices crashed by around 40% - not quite so good for the farmer, but then for most farmers the yield and quality will provide some compensation.

Only one minor 'event' on our farm so far: someone leaves the trailer tipping lever 'in gear' and our student is showered with 3 tonnes of wheat; no problem getting out of the way, but he's left with 2-3 hours shovelling to do.

But then a shocking and huge sadness: a 19 year old with a heavy load had a fatal accident on a local A1 roundabout - a reminder to us all that farming is one of the two most dangerous industries.

It is still lovely that so many people take an interest in the harvest, so we have quite a few visitors, with several people riding in the combine, children coming round to see where bread comes from and climbing the wheat heaps in the barn.

Then the rain comes and all grinds to halt, but perfect timing for me as I slip out to take the Christian part of a two day Christian and Hindu wedding.

But we have to be aware that the farming skills lie in a team with no one under the age of 63, except for Tom, the student.

Our self employed and totally key 45 year old agricultural engineer comes into the yard and says he's retraining. I say you can't and ask "what on earth for?" He replies "to be a nurse to look after you when you draw your pensions - which looks as though it will be quite soon". So for us, after 25 years, a son will be slipping quietly into the saddle in a year's time and will pick up the reins.

But as we reflect on another year's farming, perhaps the most striking aspect of harvest is the community that comes together to bring the harvest home: in addition to our own harvest team, the seed suppliers, corn merchants, agricultural engineers, fuel suppliers, the agronomists, the fertilizer suppliers, the chemical suppliers, the road hauliers and the store providers all play their part in producing the food that arrives on our plates.

And not to be forgotten has been a particularly lovely sight this year: the variety of wildlife that can be seen from the combine cab: the brood sizes of the partridges and pheasants have been as large as we have seen for years in spite of the numbers of predators, and those species giving us the concern of diminishing numbers – corn buntings, turtle doves, grey partridge, kestrels, skylarks and barn owls are all in evidence.

We sow perhaps 35 tonnes of seed and harvest 3500 tonnes of produce – a multiple of 100: what productivity! Throughout the harvest, I pray, of which the definition is simply conversations with God – nothing complicated or 'formal' - for a safe and timely completion.

In 4 more full days of harvesting, we will finish, and I will make my own pilgrimage to the church in the village which is now open Spring Summer and Autumn, and thank the quiet mystery behind all life who made it all possible.

The Rev NHA Pearson

Festival of Ideas is coming to Kingston!

"Finding conspicuous display in the thirteenth century landscape" with Sue Oosthuizen 10-11.30am at the church on Friday 24th October. Booking opens on 22nd September on 01223 766766 or www.festivalofideas.cam.ac.uk

Church Services for October

Sunday 5th October	Holy Communion 8.30am
Sunday 19th October	Family Service 10.30am
Sunday 26th October	Evening Prayer 6.00pm

Church cleaning

1 st Sunday	Peter and Suzy Stokes
2 nd Sunday	Donal and Monica O'Donnell
3 rd Sunday	Linda Rimmer
4 th Sunday	Janet Clear
5 th Sunday	Peter Reynolds

Church flowers and brasses

5 th October	Janet Clear
12 th October	Miki Ellar
19 th October	Mandy Ray
26 th October	Joan Reynolds

Books and Cards in the Church

Recently we have been selling cards featuring photos of different aspects of the Church. Priced at just £1, you could save money and support the church! We also have second hand books for sale at just 50p each. We are very happy to receive donations of books, old or new. Books will also be valued and sold elsewhere to achieve their real value. Please leave any donations inside the church or contact me if you would like them collecting. Many thanks.
Mandy Ray 262961

Home Communion

If you are a regular worshipper and become housebound we still want you to be able to share in the life of your Christian community. If you are having difficulty getting to church, but a lift would make that possible please contact the team office on 01954 719718 and we will be able to help. If you cannot get out and would like to receive Holy Communion at home please let the office know and we will arrange for the sacrament to be brought to you on a regular basis. This also applies to those who are seriously ill and bed bound.

Wave Café Church

Wednesday 1st October
at the 'Abantu' coffee shop in Bourn,
7.45 for 8pm until 9pm

For those who are interested in exploring Christianity in a relaxed and informal way with DVDs, quizzes and discussions over coffee, tea and cake.

For more information please contact Ruth Terrell on 01954 718575.



Papworth Team Ministry



Team Evening Service

Sunday 19th October 2014
 6.00 pm at St Andrew's, Caxton

Praise, Prayer, Teaching

Speaker: Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech,
 The Venerable Hugh McCurdy

For Information the dates for the rest of the year are:
16 November.

A short, prayerful service of **Holy Communion**

Every Wednesday
at midday
in Bourn Church



Anyone from around the Team or beyond is welcome to attend.

If you have particular prayer requests, please contact Revd Dr Alexandra Clarke (01954 710426) alexandra.clarke@ely.anglican.org Wheelchair access provided.

Parish Council News

Flooding: The torrential rain on 8 August revealed some problems with storm water drainage in Kingston. There is an extensive system of drains, ditches and gullies which will help to keep running water off the road, but it does need occasional maintenance. The parish council has considered what action needs to be taken to reduce the risk of future problems, and would like to ask all residents to cooperate in the following two initiatives:

- If you have a ditch between your property and the road, could you please try and keep it clear of obstructions, accumulated mud, overgrown vegetation etc.
- The County Council is due to clear the road drains in the village sometime between 13 – 24 October as part of a regular programme. Paul Wheeler has kindly agreed to monitor the work done to try and ensure all drains are cleared to a satisfactory standard. **Could you please let me know before 13 October** of any road drains in the village which you know are blocked or are visibly blocked. I will pass this information on to Paul so that he can ensure these are cleared.

Streetlights: Cambridgeshire County Council is embarking on a county-wide programme to upgrade or replace its streetlights, many of which are at the end of their useful lives. The new lights will be more efficient, and there will be a considerable saving in running costs. White lights will be used to replace the old yellow lights. The contractor carrying out the work is Balfour Beatty, and before long they will be starting work in Kingston. All of our streetlights will be replaced, either with a completely new column, or a new light on top of the old column. In a few cases the new column will be positioned on the opposite side of the road to the present one. Note that our five footway lights (three in Crane's Lane, one in Field Road, one in Rectory Lane) are not part of this programme. For more information go to www.lightingcambridgeshire.com.

Kingston Oil Club: don't forget this winter that Kingston Oil Club is your hassle-free route to the best price! For details, go to the Kingston website www.kingstonvillage.org.uk and click on 'Kingston Oil Club' in the right hand column under *Kingston Services*.

Superfast Broadband: we have been informed that the fibre optic cabinets in Toft, supplying Kingston and Old Caldecote, are now live. You will need to contact your service provider to take advantage of the new service.

Planning

- **S/1723/14/FL The Old Rectory:** An application has been made to refurbish and convert the thatched barn.
- **S/1290/14/FL South Sea Farm:** permission has been granted for an infill building to farm buildings.
- **S/1713/14/FL Walker's Field, Church Lane:** permission has been granted for demolition of sun room and replacement with single storey extension.
- **S/1347/14/FL The House on the Green, Bourn Road:** permission has been granted for demolition of garage and erection of annexe building.
- **S/1814/12/FL Summerhill, Tinker's Lane:** permission has been granted for the addition of a covered car port and store.

Peter Stokes, Parish Clerk

International Evening

Please make a note in your diaries for the **International Evening in Kingston Village Hall on Saturday 22nd November at 7.00p.m.**

This is a sit-down supper party for friends and neighbours. You are invited to contribute a dish with an international theme, so there will be a good range of main courses and desserts from different countries. If you prefer not to cook, you can just purchase a full-price ticket instead!

The bar as usual will have a wide choice of wines and speciality beers.

The **International Evening** is always a very popular event, and this year's may well be one of the last social events we can hold before building work starts on our Upgrade Project, so get your tickets now!

See the advert in the magazine for more details or ring Pat Draper

Date	Title	T.E.W	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe
Oct 5	Trinity 16		10.30am Harvest	8.30am HC(2)	8.30am HC(2)	
Oct 12	Trinity 17		10.30am Worship for All 6.00pm EP		10.30am HC	10.30am Harvest
Oct 19	Trinity 18	6pm at Caxton	8.30am HC(1)	10.30am FS	10.30am Harvest	
Oct 26	Last Sunday of Trinity		10.30am Morning Worship	6.00pm EP		10.30am HC(2)
Nov 2	4 th Sunday before Advent		10.30am HC(1)	8.30am HC(2)	8.30am HC(2)	
			6.00 pm All Souls Service at Bourn			
Nov 7			Confirmation Service at Haslingfield			
Nov 9	Remembrance Sunday		10.30am Remembrance (WfA)	10.30am Remembrance	10.30am Remembrance	10.30am Remembrance (RBL)
Nov 16	3 rd Sunday before Advent	6pm at Caxton	8.30am HC(1)	10.30am FS	10.30am FS	
Nov 23	Christ the King		10.30 am Deanery Service at Comberton Village College 6.00 pm Bread of Life at Eltisley (with HC)			
Nov 30	Advent 1		8.30 am HC at Kingston 10.30 am Team Advent Service at Papworth 3.00 pm Christingle at Longstowe			



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Pam Pantazi: nursery manager 07708 061 575

E-mail: lh.bourn@gmail.com

Little Hands is also at Linton, Melbourn and Newton, visit the website at www.littlehands.co.uk

What's On at Comberton Sports & Arts, West Street, Comberton CB23 7DU

Date	Event		
4 Oct	Vintage Vocals Workshop – www.james-hawkins-music.co.uk	9:00am	£30
10 Oct	Custard Comedy - Ian Stone, Karen Bayley, Kate Lucas & MC Laura Lexx. Part of Cancer Research UK's 'Stand Up To Cancer' campaign	7:45pm	£10 adv / £12 Door
18 Oct	Dance XS - Ceroc Freestyle	8pm	
25 Oct	British Legion - Festival of Remembrance	7:00pm	£8

Kingston Bear would like to see the world!

Calling all children of the village! Are you going on a visit in this country or abroad? If so, Kingston Bear would love to come with you. Take a selfie of you and Kingston and write a few lines about your visit and it will be included in the next magazine. To collect Kingston, contact him c/o mja630@yahoo.co.uk



From The District Councillor

Hope you all had a good summer. The days are beginning to draw in ...

Mystery and Mayhem at SCDC Planning

In July, SCDC lost two planning appeals at Waterbeach. Developers had appealed the decision by SCDC to reject proposals to build on land in Waterbeach earmarked as green separation between the existing village and the planned new town. The Planning Inspector allowed the appeals on grounds that SCDC did not have a 5-year housing land supply!! This put the cat amongst the pigeons – because the proposed LDP had been forced through Full Council on the basis that it would give SCDC the much needed 5-year supply plan.

Mystery: SCDC used one method of calculating the housing land supply, the Planning Inspector used another method-and the two did not meet!! There is a shortfall of about 1400 houses.

Mayhem: Cllr Pippa Corney subsequently stepped down from the role of Planning Portfolio Holder, and the role is now taken up by Cllr Robert Turner – who was until then the Chairman of the Planning Committee. The Council has had to consider a number of actions to try to mitigate the damage.

This means that all villages in the district may be targeted by developers with speculative and/or inappropriate or unwanted (by the community) proposals which may be difficult for the Council to refuse.

SCDC Local Development Plan Update

The examination by the Planning Inspector of the SCDC Draft Local Development Plan is to start on 4th November 2014. The Inspector held a preliminary hearing on 11th September 2014 at which she explained how the hearings will be conducted, and what to expect in terms of witness to provide more information, and timescales.

The soundness of the Draft Plan was put into question by the two appeal decisions in Waterbeach and the inspector will be having a session on this. In the meantime, SCDC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the City Council, on the issue of site delivery, which they hope will solve the problem of the 5-year land supply.

There are 5 sessions in the first block of hearings, and I will be speaking at 3 of them on a number of issues. I will try to keep you updated on matters as they arise.

The StopBAD campaign is continuing, and will have legal representation for the public examination and would welcome donations to the fighting fund.

Superfast Broadband – Connecting Cambridgeshire

GOOD NEWS - The new fibre cabinets for Comberton Exchange serving Toft, Kingston & Old Caldecote have gone live!! Hurray!! Orders are now being accepted – so contact your current internet service provider immediately. Those that are unable to connect now may need to wait until the second cabinet is live.

Caveat: (not mine) The broadband speed delivered depends on a number of factors including the length of the line from the cabinet, the line quality, and the equipment etc. There may be some premises connected to an upgraded cabinet that are simply too far away to receive a fibre service. Improved broadband will be available by December 2015 for premises who currently receive less than 2Mbps. This means that potentially Old Caldecote and Kingston both of which are at the far end of the exchange may not get any better service than they currently do.

I have been talking to the Connecting Cambridgeshire (CC) team to try and get an extra cabinet installed closer to the village and I will keep you updated.

I have had some Kingston residents contact me about this matter already. Those who are unable to get broadband service should email me, with name, address/postcode and current Internet Provider, and reason given for not being able to get the service. This will be more evidence that I can present to the CC team.

Councillor Surgery

I hold drop-in surgeries at the Toft People's Hall, on first Mondays of the month, 6 – 7pm, and at Caldecote Village Hall on the first Thursdays of the month, 7 – 8pm. The next surgery in Toft will be on Monday 6th October and in Caldecote on Thursday 2nd October 2014. In the meantime, if I can be of help in any way, please feel free to contact me in the usual ways by telephone on 01954 210840, email tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk or my blog www.TumiHawkins.org.uk.

Best Wishes

Tumi Hawkins

Kingston Barbecue

The Village Hall BBQ in September was a great success. Including children we had over a hundred people and the weather stayed fine.

Thanks to all of you who supported this event, especial thanks to Janet and James Clear for the venue, Mark and Katherine Stalham and their band of cooks, Suzy Stokes for co-ordinating the salads and puddings, Jill Coleman for organising the raffle, all those who sold tickets and helped set up and take down the marquees and to Kingston Blues Band for the music.



We took the opportunity to thank Torrie Smith for all his hard work as chairman and to welcome Mark Stalham as our new chairman.



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

**Following last year's very successful event there is
to be another**

INTERNATIONAL EVENING

**at Kingston Village Hall
Saturday 22nd November 7.00 p.m.**

**Tickets £10 per person
or just £5 if you bring along a
main course or dessert with an
international theme
(around 6 portions, please).**

**The bar will be open all evening
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Pat Draper**

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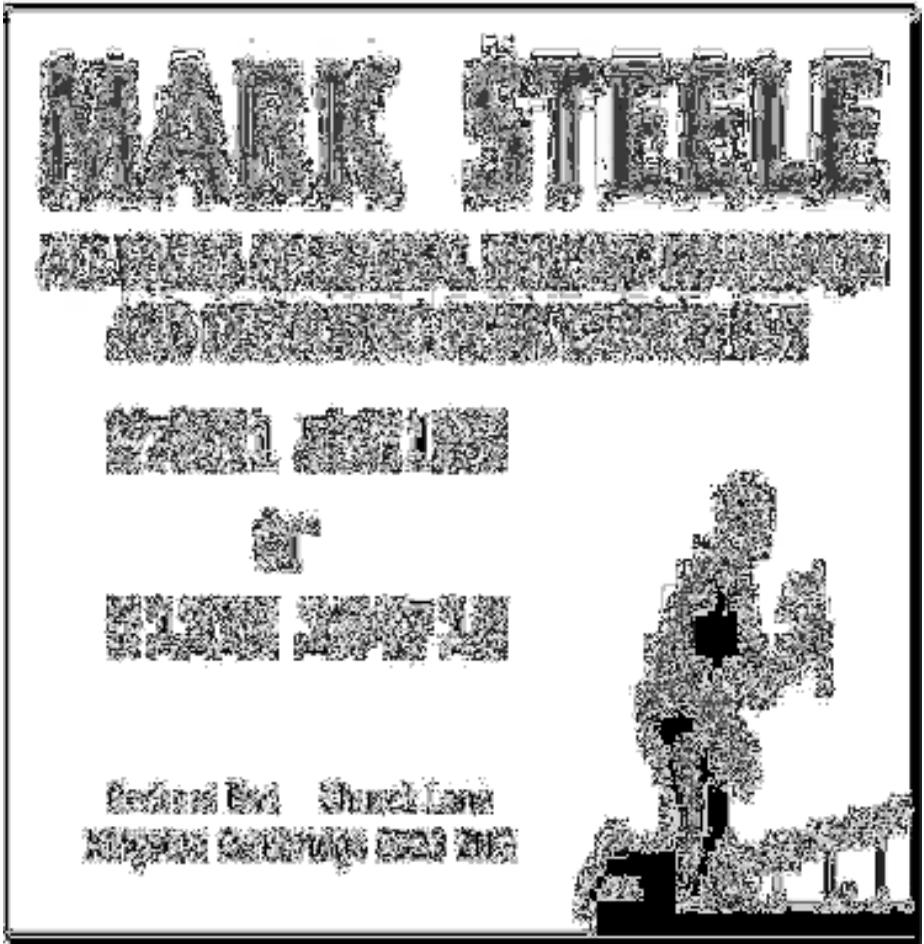
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KINGSTON BLUES BAND

Playing in Toft

In cabaret with songs from their new CD



Saturday 15 November 7.45 pm

The Village Hall, Toft

Featuring Paul Kaufman

Vocals, guitar and blues harp

Tickets £6

*Simon Draper (bass guitar and upright bass),
Ed Mayall (drums), Pat Draper (keys),
Dave Hunt (guitar)*

+++

Five weeks of fun and culture in Cambridge

This autumn Cambridge comes alive with a five week festival of fun and creativity across the city. Presented by the University of Cambridge Museums with the Festival of Ideas, cultural partners and community organisations, *Curating Cambridge* is a city wide cultural celebration with an exciting mix of exhibitions, workshops, music, talks and performances for all to enjoy.

There's plenty for families with a two day extravaganza during half term when The Campsite takes over Christ's Pieces on 25 & 26 October – a pop-up venue with a difference – a collection of vintage campervans, caravans and tents all of which become venues for theatre, music, poetry and art installations showcasing performances and activities created by artists in collaboration with each of the University's museums and Botanic Garden. Hear a story in a vintage campervan, relax and play some camping games or discover live music in a 1980s caravan!

Check out the full Festival of Ideas programme at

www.festivalofideas.cam.ac.uk

Booking opens on 22nd September.

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EMERGENCY 01223 464242

Dispensary

Mon-Fri 8:30-12:30 & 1:30-6:30

Commercial advertising rates in this magazine:

- Full page: £8 (£80 for 12 issues)
- Half page: £5 (£50 for 12 issues)
- Quarter page: £3 (£30 for 12 issues)

Other sizes by arrangement. Reduced rates for Kingston residents