

*Kingston Parish & Church
Magazine*



January 2025

Village Diary

Sat 4th January from 6.30pm

Thurs 9th January 1 – 1.30pm

Tuesdays at 10-11am

Wednesdays at 10.30am

Fridays at 10.00am

Pub Night in the Village Hall

Library Van at the crossroads

Boogie Tuesday at the Village Hall

Village Hall Coffee Morning

Pilates at the Village Hall

Wheelie bin collection dates

Thursday 2nd January

Thursday 9th January

Thursday 16th January

Thursday 23rd January

Thursday 30th January

Blue bin only

Black bin

Blue and Green bins

Black bin

Blue bin only

Editorial

Welcome to 2025 and I hope you all had a good Christmas and are all ready to face 2025 with or without resolutions. The village looked very festive with lots of lights and wreaths and decorations, all of which will melt into precious memories on twelfth night when all is taken down for another year and stored away.

My Christmases in this lovely village have always been memorable and I hope they were for all of you.

If this reaches you in time, I see that the pub will be open on New Year's Eve which might give some of us a good excuse to relax and enjoy each other's company. And after that, most events go back to their regular schedules. Just check the calendar in this issue.

Meantime best wishes to all our readers for a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year.

Miki Ellar miki.ellar7@gmail.com 07568 706106

Cover photo: Last rose of '24

Arthur Rank Hospice Christmas Tree Recycling

Registrations are open until 11.59pm on Sunday 5 January and trees will be collected from Thurs 9 – Sat 11 January. The trees will be chipped and used as mulch. You can choose how much you would like to donate.

Register at <https://www.arhc.org.uk/fundraising/fundraise-your-way/community-initiatives/christmas-tree-recycling/>

Vicar's Letter: 'Let there be light!'

We are in the midst of decluttering ... preparing to move home and trying to work out what we can keep, what needs to go and who might find such and such useful. It is a process that takes time, brings back memories, requires consultations and forces choices. The start of a new year can be a good time for something similar in terms of what we do, the goals we guard and pursue as well as the relationships we prioritise. Such endeavours can pose dilemmas, bring surprises we have not taken account of and be derailed by the wholly unexpected – 5 years ago most of us couldn't imagine the impact of a pandemic from which the ripple effects have changed many landscapes.

One of the things that has surprised me is how different generations view and treat things I have valued or taken little notice of! I have 2 grandsons at university who have little or no interest in buying and owning the sort of books I thought were 'must-haves' at their age and stage! They tell me almost everything they need is accessible through Wi-Fi and a decent laptop; or if a book has to be held in the hand, a quick visit to the university library serves the purpose! My question has become 'What does living more simply look like?' I am finding there are rich resources offering answers to the question within the Christian tradition; another reminder that faith is as much practical as it is about eternal and spiritual matters.

2024 is ending, tragically, with the realisation that, in some quarters, the Church of England has been hanging on, guarding and failing to clear out its cupboards of some dark secrets of past misdemeanours and shameful failures. It will prove to be a seismic shaking of an institution that has been much loved by many and continues to do many great things locally, throughout the nation. I pray this 'decluttering' brings peace to those who have been victims as well as a leaner, simpler, healthier, humbler and servant-hearted culture, better-suited to play our part and represent our Lord locally and nationally. The new year kicks off in the Christian tradition with Epiphany - where we acknowledge the visit of the Magi who were led to the infant Jesus. We tend to focus on the presents they brought but the record in Scripture emphasises their goal was to recognise and worship Jesus as King and Saviour. This was the outcome of a long journey, having packed what was needed, a persistent refusal to stop short of their goal, willingness to seek advice and counsel underpinned by an awareness of God at work around them. Their simplicity of focus has found a place in history that continues to have much to say to us.

Meanwhile, I seem to be making innumerable visits to the local recycling amenity, also charity shops to drop off items they can sell to others; whilst pruning my collection of books to a number I can accommodate and use well in new surroundings! There remains a big unknown question: will all my wife's shoes and clothes go with us, or will she buy into the same need to shed some?!

May 2025 be for you and yours a year of good health, unusual happiness and a fresh realisation of the things that really matter and which we need to hang onto!

Nigel di Castiglione, *(Team Rector)*

Kingston Church Services for January

Sunday 19th January Family Service 10.30am

The church is open every day.

Papworth Team Services_(FS=Family Service, HC=Holy Communion, MP=Morning Prayer)

Jan 5th 10.30am FS at Bourn

Jan 12th 8.30am HC at Bourn, 10.30am MP at Caxton, 10.30am HC at Longstowe

Jan 19th 9.00am HC at Caxton

Jan 26th 10.30am HC at Bourn, 10.30am FS at Caxton, 9.30am MP at Longstowe

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 (except Bank Holidays)

Church cleaning

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

Church flowers and brasses

5 th January	Janet Clear
12 th January	Linda Smith
19 th January	Miki Ellar
26 th January	Christine Allison
2 nd February	Annabel Diggle

Carol Service Sunday 15th December

Following the cancellation of their engagement at Croxton church, The Papworth Team Choir were able to join us for the Carol Service on the 15th December. The choir was about sixteen strong, led by Patrick Dailly, and were in fine voice. There were fifty people in church, all told. Mulled wine and mince pies were served in the Village Hall afterwards. Thanks to Miki Ellar, Peter Reynolds, Linda Rimmer, Lee Steele and Suzy Stokes for supplying refreshments.

*Jeremy Harmer,
The Bingham Quartet and
Kiko Campbell with handbell
See page 5
Photo: Takana Campbell*



Church opening and closing

Many thanks to Monica O'Donnell and Martyn and Ffanni Apperly for offering to join our church opening and closing rota. Thanks, also, to Peter and Suzy Stokes, Keith and Christine Allison and Janet Clear for continuing for another year in this role and to Peter Reynolds and Lee Steele for continuing as reserves.

Village Hall AGM

The Village Hall AGM will be held on Thursday 30 January at 8.00 pm. As in recent years, this will be an open meeting at which we will welcome contributions from residents.

A major item for discussion will be fundraising. As you are aware, a number of planned village events, not just those connected to the Village Hall, were cancelled this year mainly because of lack of support. Meanwhile, more casual, drop-in events such as pub evening, coffee morning and art and music nights continue to flourish. The Quiz and Chips is also a sell-out. Therefore, we need to look critically at our traditional main fundraising events, notably the BBQ and Christmas Fair, to examine how they might be refocused or replaced.

We do need a new generation of committee members (trustees) to begin to shadow the key posts of chair, secretary, treasurer and clerk of works. Apart from that of the treasurer, those posts are held by people of advanced years and this is not sustainable. Without these key posts filled, the hall would have to close, as has happened elsewhere in the county.

Please come along and join the discussion and seriously consider becoming a committee member. Most of the business is conducted online and the work is not onerous – even enjoyable. If you would like to know more about the role of trustees please contact me.

Paul Wright (*chair*) Paulwright8@btinternet.com 07803 237751

Welcome and au revoir

Luke, Emma, Florence (2) and Kit (2 months) moved into Willow Tree House (Church Lane) at the end of November. Previously in Mill Road, Cambridge, they were looking for more space for the children. Luke works in Papworth and Emma in London. Torrie and Linda Smith have moved from Willow Tree House to Foxton (see Parish Magazine for December).

Chris, Isabelle, Karl, Lucy and Anton Reily (4 Field Row) have moved to School Lane in Toft. We will miss seeing the children playing their inventive games on the green, but it's good to know they are just a stone's throw away and plan to come back to Kingston for social activities.

A Christmas Carol, Friday December 13th at 7.30pm



The Bingham String Quartet: Steve Bingham, Hilary Sturt, Brenda Stewart, Alan Halsey (photo: Simon Draper)

The Bingham String Quartet comprises Steve Bingham and Hilary Sturt on violins, Brenda Stewart on viola (also Rector of Wells-next-the-sea in Norfolk), and Alan Halsey

on cello (www.binghamquartet.net). The group have acquired an international reputation over nearly forty years, with a huge repertoire, including most of the classics, but also contemporary works. They have made many recordings, from Joseph Haydn to Elizabeth Maconchy. It was a great privilege to have such accomplished musicians perform for us in Kingston on the 13th of December.

The programme began with Mendelssohn's Quartet in D opus 44 no 1, followed by a lovely carols fantasy by John Halsey (the father of the quartet's cellist). After the interval the group was joined by Jeremy Harmer as the narrator, to perform Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*, arranged by the brothers Richard and Thomas Allain. This piece was commissioned by Steve Bingham and Brenda Stewart to raise money for the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, following the treatment of their baby son many years ago. (At the premiere Richard Stilgoe was the narrator; Stephen Fry recorded a version during the Covid lockdown.) Members of the ensemble doubled up on percussion with various chimes, gongs, chains and handbells (these last kindly lent by Holkham church for this occasion). This was a magical and extraordinary performance, at once sophisticated and emotionally engaging. It has to be said that it was a great shame that only five people from Kingston attended.

The various ghosts, characters and events from Scrooge's life are accompanied by a series of musical scenes which include the wintery cold of Scrooge's office, Scrooge's lonely schoolroom, Fezziwig's Christmas ball, the lighting of the pudding in Bob Cratchit's house, Scrooge's own gravestone, and music to accompany the appearance of Jacob Marley and the three spirits. Woven into these scenes are references to a

number of Christmas carols. Some, such as Coventry Carol and Somerset Carol are fully voiced. Elsewhere, there are merely snippets of The First Nowell, Ding Dong Merrily on High, Deck the Halls, and God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen. And, almost hidden, are fragments of Silent Night and Once in Royal David's City... Although the story is nearly two hundred years old, its themes of poverty and greed, social injustice, forgiveness and compassion are as relevant today as they were in Dickens' own time.' (Programme note: wisemusicclassical.com)

Very many thanks to Jeremy Harmer, who also supplied refreshments, and to the members of the quartet for this heart-warming celebration of the spirit of Christmas.

P.R.

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Enquiries: Sarah Wright (secretary)

kingstonvillagehall@gmail.com

0787 999 1068



Santa made an early appearance in Kingston on 22 December to give gifts of books to children. But he was back at the North Pole in plenty of time for his Christmas Eve visits!

Hare coursing update

Most parishioners will have seen the message below sent out by Sam Clear via the village e-mail list on 13.10.24.

'We have been having trouble with hare coursers frequenting the farm in the last couple of months. They have most recently been using Crane's Lane to get on to the fields.'



Despite efforts to make both the Clear's and the Heyman's land either side of Crane's Lane more secure, the problem continues. Paul Heyman strolled up the lane on the afternoon of Saturday 21st December to find a 4 x 4 vehicle on fire in the ditch. It is presumed that hare coursers driving towards Kingston from the south came upon Sam's harrows placed across the Lane, reversed, lost control and ended up in the ditch. The vehicle – possibly stolen – was then torched.

Photo: Paul Heyman 21.12.24

'Could villagers (especially those who live on Crane's Lane) please be vigilant of vehicles, likely suspicious looking 4x4's. These will probably be covered in mud and have up to 4 men in them, with lurcher type dogs in the boot and driving quickly. Number plates, descriptions and/or photos of any suspicious vehicles would be a massive help (if you can take these safely), as I can pass these on to the police. I should add that these men should not be confronted.'

Please pass any information to Sam at sam.southseafarm@gmail.com.

If you see any hare coursing activity taking place, this is a crime, so please inform the police directly on 999.

James Clear 1950 – 2024

The funeral of James Clear took place on December 2nd, and was followed by a private cremation. The Revd Nigel Pearson officiated, assisted by The Right Revd Bishop Graham Kings. An appreciation of James will appear next month.

Many thanks to Paul Wright for this article originally published in the December 2020 edition of the magazine. We thought it would be of interest to all newcomers.

KINGSTON IN THE 1841 CENSUS

The first national census was in 1841 and the results for Kingston are still decipherable. The population, including the outlying farms of Kingston Wood, Edge Hill and Kingston Pastures was 307. There were only ten inhabitants over 70, the oldest being 75.

The great majority are described as agricultural labourers, working for eight farmers, one of whom was Mr Samuel Clear. Most farmers lived in the village, with no named farm. This was because the relatively late Acts of Enclosure in Kingston (1815 onwards) coincided with subsequent decades of agricultural decline, so many of the new class of farmer did not have the capital to build new farms away from the village. This accounts for the remarkable emptiness of the countryside on either side of Crane's Lane. Kingston Wood, Edge Hill and Kingston Pastures Farms predate the Acts of Enclosure. Kingston Wood, owned in 1841 by Richard Wallis, had a sizeable population of 16. This is significant, as original estimates of medieval and earlier rural populations in England and Wales, based on numbers of what were assumed to be just family farms, have been shown to have been far too low. Many early farms were, in effect, hamlets whose clusters of houses have only recently been identified.

As well as agricultural labourers there were three basket makers, a shoe maker, thatcher, gravedigger, gamekeeper and a few domestic and farm servants. At the opposite end of the social scale the Rector was 30 year old Daniel Dod Sampson and the schoolmaster was 25 year old Joseph Webb. There was one governess and two men described as being of independent means. Somewhere in between, in the early Victorian hierarchy, were two publicans (Mr Cato and Mr Custerson) and a grocer.

Crane's Lane was indeed called Wildman's Lane in 1841, and those who lived in the village in the 1970s will recall the controversy over what should be put on the street sign.

What is remarkable is the number of family names that survived well into the 20th Century, some into the 1980s: Algood, Chapman, Clear, Curtis, Custerson, Jacklin, Linsey and Wayman. The Clears, of course, still farm here and Sam is the descendant of the 1841 farmer Samuel Clear.

The local newspapers of around that time add to this picture of life here 180 years ago. There are reports of the local hunt and sales of timber and 200 Leicester sheep from the Kingston Wood Estate and court cases over financial disputes. Poaching and drunkenness seem to have been the main activities to land people in the local court at Caxton. The Kingston Wood gamekeeper was shot at and injured by three village poachers and had to go to Royston to get his wounds treated. William Blows was summoned for snaring and was described in court as "...one of the incorrigibles who will not work, but follows snaring for a living". He was fined five shillings or to serve three months hard labour in lieu of payment. An Arrington man was acquitted by Caxton Magistrates after being wrongly accused of stealing hay belonging to Samuel Clear from a field beside the road to Toft. Mary Ann Constance was struck in a drunken brawl near the chapel after refusing to join a "very topsicated" Mr Sam Bones for a drink. Tragically, Thomas Wayman aged 18 was killed when the drum of a horse threshing machine exploded.

Paul Wright

	the preceding Page	Name	Age	Occupation
So		Mary Blows	30	
		William do	10	
		Sarah do	7	
		Charlotte do	5	
		James do	10	
do	1	Ann Bond	43	Widow
		David do	29	Ag. Lab
		Frederick do	16	Ag. Lab
		...	10	

Extract of the census showing William Blows, aged 10, who became an "incorrigible snarer"

News Update from Bourn Primary

The second Autumn half term is always incredibly busy and everyone is very tired by the end of it with the nights drawing in earlier and the winter chill is in the air. We have achieved so much this half term and enjoyed some wonderful moments of celebration and cheer.

During this half term we talk a lot about sharing and being kind in our Collective Worship. In November we marked Children in Need Day where the children and staff wore something yellow in honour of Pudsey bear. They enjoyed doing some Pudsey bear inspired maths and doodle activities in class.

The children and staff enjoyed inviting parents into school so that the children could share with them their work and look at their books together during our Open Classrooms afternoon. This was very well attended and each class was bubbling with enjoyment and pride. What was particularly special was that if somebody's parents couldn't make it, older siblings visited younger siblings' classrooms so that they had somebody to share and celebrate their work with.

At the start of December, luckily just after the first wet patch of weather, some of the KS2 children (33 of them in all) entered a cross-country race at Milton Country Park. The competition included 13 other South Cambridgeshire primary schools. To our delight we yet again produced some excellent results by coming 2nd in the Year 6 Boys' race, 1st and 3rd in the Year 5 Girls' race and 1st in the Boys' Year 4 race. Overall, Bourn was placed 4th place for Year 5/6 and for Year 3/4. We are very proud of the children and especially of how they supported and cheered each other on.

This time of year is very exciting with Christmas just around the corner. Christmas Capers is our annual Fayre which brings the community together as well as raising much needed funding for the school. It takes months of planning and our hardworking BSA (Bourn School Association) parents work incredibly hard preparing for it by organising stalls, a Santa's Grotto, refreshments and activities and much more. Year 6 play a very important part in this. They are tasked with making some of the games and activities that will raise money for the school during our annual Christmas Capers Fayre. This entrepreneurial task requires all the skills and qualities that our school values promote every day. One that was regularly tested was Friendship and Forgiveness as the children learned to navigate the dilemmas and disagreements that invariably arose when working on their projects. Christmas Capers was a great success and the school was filled with such a joyful energy as adults and children of all ages enjoyed themselves.

The highlight of the Autumn term and indeed the school year, are the Christmas productions. Acorn class performed the sweetest Nativity with all of the children

looking very cute and sparkly in their costumes and singing all the songs confidently. KS1 children put on a brilliant performance of 'Prickly Hay'. All of them worked so hard learning their songs, lines and dances.

As if the excitement of productions and Christmas Capers wasn't enough to get the children into the festive spirit, the KS2 children were treated by the BSA to a trip to the theatre to watch 'A Tiger's Tale' while the younger children watched a pantomime at school. At the time of writing, our final week is a lot more relaxed as lessons wind down and Christmas arts and crafts activities take place. The school enjoys sharing Christmas dinner together in the last week, and on our final day, we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas when we all walk to the church together and celebrate on our last day with a carol service at the church.

Sarah Wheatman (Deputy Head)



hope courage justice forgiveness friendship



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, and Thursday 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 – 07770 697240 - 01954 267241

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Bourn Surgery Newsletter: November 2024

First, the good news...

We are delighted to announce that Bourn Surgery has been awarded the Royal College of General Practitioners East Anglia Practice Team Award 2024.

This award is for the most outstanding contribution to Primary Care service provision or development by a Practice Team in the preceding year. We felt that after the challenges and successes of the last year our team deserved the recognition of being nominated for this award, and we are delighted to have won.

Representatives from each of the Surgery's teams attended the Awards ceremony at Bedford Lodge Hotel in Newmarket on 25 September, and were presented with a very impressive engraved glass trophy.

We do hope you will agree that this award is hugely deserved by the whole Bourn Surgery team. We are very proud that the efforts of each member of our team has been recognised.

...But our practice is under threat

We don't want to get political, and recognise that balancing the country's finances is an almost impossible task. Successive Governments have consistently underfunded General Practice, however it is hard to imagine a budget that could have been worse for General Practice. As avid readers of this newsletter will know from previous articles, general practices such as Bourn Surgery are independent small businesses, owned by the GP partners who are legally only able to hold one contract with one provider - the NHS - to provide NHS general practice services to their patients. Governments set our income, and over many years this has failed to meet our increasing costs and the increasing demands on our services. It is this scenario that has led to practice closures throughout the country, and has led to the increasing urgency of our professional leaders in trying to raise awareness of the fragility of general practice. The current value of the contract provides just 31 pence per day for each patient registered with us.

It is on this background that the increasing of both employer's National Insurance (NI) contributions, and raising the National Living Wage will have a particular detrimental impact. As all small business owners will know, this will significantly increase our staff costs, at a time when general practices are already struggling to continue to provide services on the income they currently have. These changes will cause further GP practices to close and lead other practices to reduce staff numbers and services in order to keep afloat. At Bourn Surgery we are now reassessing the levels of services we provide in light of these proposed changes. We do not want to reduce our staff or our services, but we may have no choice.

What seems even more extraordinary is that while public service NHS organisations such as hospital trusts will have their employer's NI increase reimbursed, GP practices, along with hospices and charities that provide services on behalf of the NHS, have been deemed not to be public services, and therefore will receive no reimbursement. However, the Treasury has at the same time also declared that GP practices are public services, and therefore we have no access to the Employment Allowance that small businesses in the private sector do.

What can you do to help us?

Across the profession GPs, and our representative trade union the BMA, are writing to MPs and lobbying the Government to raise awareness of this situation. The more MPs hear about the concerns, the more they will understand the true consequences of the action the Government is taking. You can help by adding your voice; patients across the country will be directly impacted by the closure or reduction in services of their local GP practice, and we believe that many patients value the care they receive and do not want to lose it. Please consider writing to your MP to express your opinion.

Our local Integrated Care System's vision of the future:

The worrying news continues more locally unfortunately. Our local ICS are planning to develop a New Model of care which will require all patients to access any NHS care through a "digital front door", costing £10million of the NHS budget for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. What will this mean? Rather than going straight to A&E, or calling your local GP, patients will need to login to a "digital portal" and you'll be told where to go. You won't be able to just book a GP appointment or attend A&E, but will be required to use the digital portal. It will become more likely you'll get access to NHS clinicians who aren't doctors, or NHS staff using artificial intelligence to advise you about your health.

As a practice we are extremely concerned about these potential changes. How will elderly patients or those with learning disabilities access this digital front door? How will patients who don't have WiFi, smartphones, computer skills or good vision access this? How will patients feel about the loss of ability to contact their GP practice when they feel they need to? We don't know the answers but we do know this feels like the end of a family doctor service on the NHS.

[Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS conducted an online survey about these plans for digital access that concluded on 13 December. You can find links to contact Healthwatch Cambridgeshire at <https://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/>]

Although we approach the end of the year at a challenging time for General Practice, please be assured that as a team we are committed to continuing to work hard and provide the best possible care we can for all of our patients.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our patients a peaceful festive season and a healthy New Year.

Published: Nov 27, 2024

MARK STEELE

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Comberton Road, Toft		01223 264460
Indian , The Hoops Gt.Eversden		01223 264443
Italian , The Pergola, Harlton		01223 260005
Jetlink (to Stansted, Heathrow, Luton, Gatwick)		08705 747757
Magazine Editor (Miki Ellar)		01223 262887
National Rail Enquiries		08457 484950
Neighbourhood Watch (Peter Stokes)		01223 262207
NHS 24hr health Advice Line (talk to a nurse/doctor)		111
Parish Council Chairman (Sue Dalgleish)		07799 602103
Parish Council Clerk	kingstonpc.cambridge@gmail.com	
Park and Ride		01223 845561
Police non-emergency (our PCSO)		101
Road repair		01223 833717
Rosie Maternity Hospital		01223 217617
Samaritans		01223 364455
South Cambridgeshire District Council		01954 713000
Stagecoach (Cambus) information 8am to 8pm		0870 6082608
Stansted Airport		0870 0000303
Streetlight failure reporting		0800 7838247

Papworth Team

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nigel.dicastiglione@gmail.com or 07770 697240
Rev Nigel Pearson (First contact minister) 01954 719637

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Paul Wheeler (Councillor)

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