

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
01285 770698

Karen Czapiewski
01285 770255

All Saints, Somerford Keynes

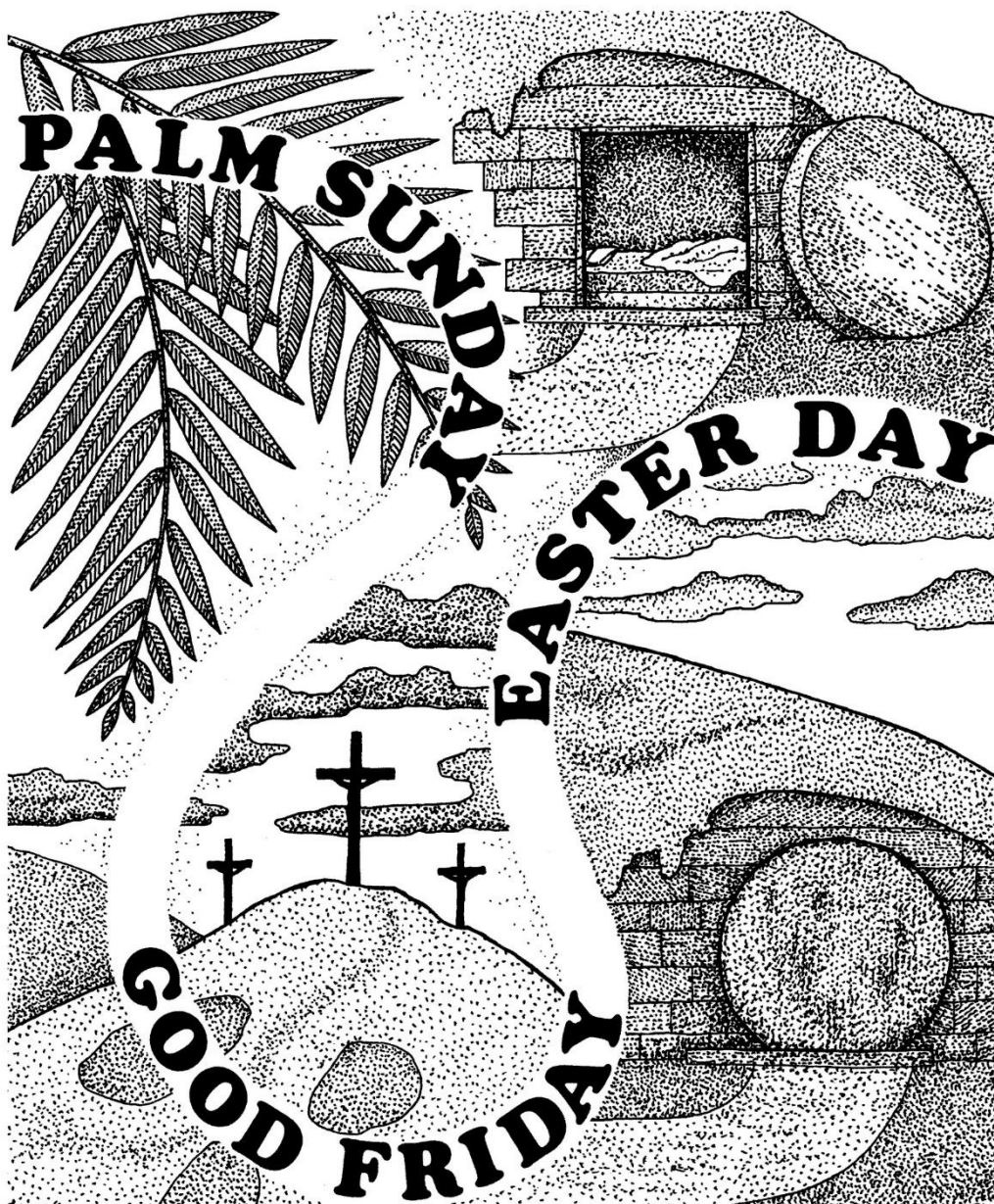
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Thameshead Benefice

www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk



April Services

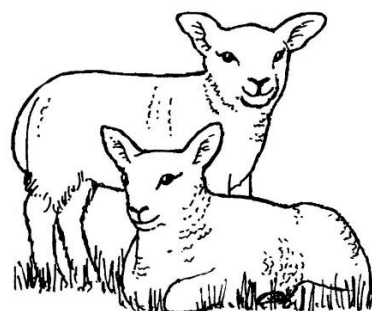
All our services are for everyone so please join wherever you wish and all visitors are always welcome. We are one church family with several buildings and many villages. In addition to 'normal' worship services in our buildings everyone is invited to join the services that are streamed online from All 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.

April services				
06.04.25	Lent 5/Passiontide	10.00	Somerford Keynes	Benefice Holy Communion
		11.00	Sapperton	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
13.04.25	Palm Sunday*	10.00	Kemble	Morning Prayer (dog free) *
		10.00	Tarlton	Benefice Prayer Walk to Rodmarton
		11.00	Rodmarton VH	Liturgy of Palms – procession to church
17.04.25	Maundy Thursday	19.30	Kemble	Holy Communion
18.04.25	Good Friday	11.00	Kemble	Meditation
		12.00	Sapperton	Meditation
		13.45	Frampton Mansell	Meditation
		14.00	Somerford Keynes	Wild & Messy Church
		19.00	Rodmarton	Compline
19.04.25	Holy Saturday	18.00	Tarlton	Easter Eve – Lighting Easter candle
20.04.25	Easter Sunday	06.30	Poole Keynes	Sunrise Service
		08.30	Tarlton	Holy Communion BCP
		09.30	Coates	Holy Communion
		10.00	Kemble	Holy Communion (streamed)
		10.00	Poole Keynes	Easter Praise
		11.00	Sapperton	Holy Communion
		11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
27.04.25	Easter 2	10.00	Poole Keynes	Combined Benefice Service
May services				
04.05.25	Easter 3	10.00	Kemble	Morning Prayer (streamed) + Source Seekers†
		10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer

Please note: * Those who wish to have a shorter walk can join the procession at Rodmarton Village Hall, or no procession, at Rodmarton Church. The Morning Prayer at Kemble will not be streamed and will be low key for those who wish to avoid the dogs that will join the Benefice procession.

† Source Seekers is the new name for Sunday School / Children's Church



Letter from Liz

Dear friends,

For food and drink and fellowship, God's Holy name be praised.

One of my greatest pleasures is sitting down to a meal with my family. At home, we try to eat as a family on a Sunday, where we can chat about the week past and about what is coming up. It is a time of joy and love.

Many surveys show that families who eat together are emotionally stable and have a sense of well-being.

Sharing a meal with friends is also much enjoyed – relationships can be re-established and deepened.

In Christianity, eating together is considered a deeply significant act, symbolising unity, fellowship, love, and God's provision.

The tradition of people eating together being a sign of God's reign or kingdom is rooted in Judaeo-Christian history.

'On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.'

Isaiah 25:6

Jesus frequently shared meals with diverse people, demonstrating inclusivity and the welcoming nature of God's kingdom.

In The Book of Acts we read:

'They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.'

Acts 2:46-47 (The Message)

On Maundy Thursday we remember the last meal that Jesus shared with his friends. He laid out before them what was going to happen to him – his betrayal, death and resurrection - and he gave them a way to remember him through the sharing of bread and wine, his body and blood. We continue to remember his sacrificial love every time we take communion.

The joy of eating together is a way to connect with others, to build community, and express gratitude for God's blessings, thus making it a powerful tool for spiritual growth and relationship building.

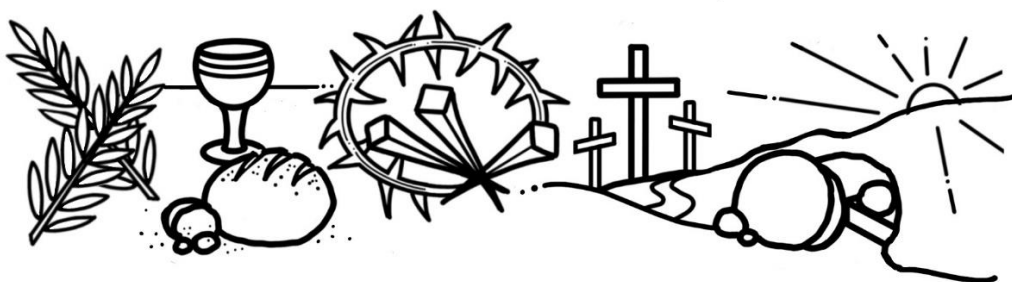
As a church, I think we could establish the sharing of meals as a way to connect with our communities much more widely.

As Easter approaches, why not invite some new friends round for coffee, lunch or afternoon tea – it could be fun and it could lead to something even bigger!

Wishing you all a very happy and blessed Easter,

With love and prayers,

Liz (Licensed Lay Reader)



St. George's Day 23rd April 2025

The Royal Society of St George Gloucestershire branch St. George's day service will be held in St Barnabas Church, Gloucester at 7pm.

This service will be held in the presence of Mr Edward Gillespie OBE his Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Gloucestershire.

The prayers of Thanksgiving and Penitence will be led by 'our' reader Canon Karen Czapiewski.

The Citations of the winners for the Nairac Youth Awards will be read by Mrs Pat Ayres MBE chair of the Gloucestershire RSSG.

Further details about this branch please contact Pat on 01285 780385 ayrescares50@gmail.com

Kemble and Ewen Women's Institute

Visitors most welcome when Terry Ransome will be the speaker his title 'Finding Eliza Carr' girls education in the 1800s which sounds very interesting in The Tavern at 3pm on Thursday April 17th.



Delicious cakes and biscuits served with a cuppa. Excellent raffle too.

Further info from secretary Pat Ayres ayrescares50@gmail.com 01285 770385



Kemble and district RBL - women's section.

Both Standards will be on parade at the annual Anzac Service on Sunday 27th April 3pm which is held in Leighterton village Cemetery near Tetbury.

The day honours the 24 members of the Australian flying corps who died while training at Leighterton airfield during WW1.



Leighterton primary school children read the roll call and lay sprigs of Rosemary on the graves.

Observers very welcome to attend.

Pat Ayres Chair W/S

23rd April: St George of the Golden Legend

The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. Some stories say that he was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly 23rd April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.

In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine gave St George a handsome write-up. The story runs thus:

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Lybia, where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. St George charged forwards and drove his spear into the dragon's gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over.

Then St George borrowed the Princess's girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised.

It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So, 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body.

St George thus became a symbol of the war against evil, and he is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs. The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.

Somerford Keynes Village Coffee Morning

The monthly Somerford Keynes coffee morning
will take place on **Thursday 17 April**
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 neighbours and friends.



Cotswold Lakes

The iconic Cotswold Water Park is undergoing an exciting transformation, changing its name to Cotswold Lakes to better reflect the stunning wetland landscape.

The story of the Cotswold Lakes name is one of discovery and connection. The lakes are not just a destination; they represent a meeting point between nature and people, land and water, fun and relaxation.

The new name is built on the three core themes which define the Cotswold Lakes experience:

- ◆ **Discover Nature** – With over 180 lakes across 42 square miles and vast wildlife habitats, the lakes have received national recognition for their importance for wetland wildlife with thousands of water birds breeding in the spring or visiting for the winter.
- ◆ **Discover Tranquillity** – Whether relaxing on the shores, indulging in lakeside wellness retreats, or simply soaking in the natural beauty, Cotswold Lakes offers a peaceful retreat from the everyday hustle.
- ◆ **Discover Adventure** – From kayaking and paddleboarding to rally experiences and nature walks, the lakes offer thrilling, hands-on ways to explore the great outdoors.

The new Cotswold Lakes name is a unified voice for the region's wildlife, leisure, and local businesses and is driven by its vision to:

- promote sustainable tourism, conservation efforts, and restoring and enhancing wildlife habitats
- strengthen local identity, support businesses, and reduce visitor confusion caused by the previous name
- enhance eco-tourism and provide opportunities for local enterprises.

Cotswold Lakes Trust, which manages nature reserves, country parks and car parks in the Cotswold Lakes has worked together with representatives from the local leisure businesses and councils to ensure a smooth and meaningful transition.

North Wiltshire Flower Club

On 16th April we have Jenny York with her designs called "Out of Africa". Jenny was a diplomat and speaks very well about flowers which we will raffle at the end.

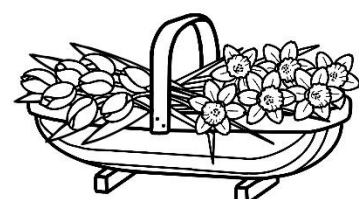
On May 13th we are joining with Royal Wootton Bassett Flower Club to visit Salisbury Cathedral Flower Festival. You are welcome to join us for a small fee. We meet at 8.30am in the carpark at Crudwell Village Hall for the coach. There will also be cars available and there is plenty of parking space. Do let us know if you want to come.

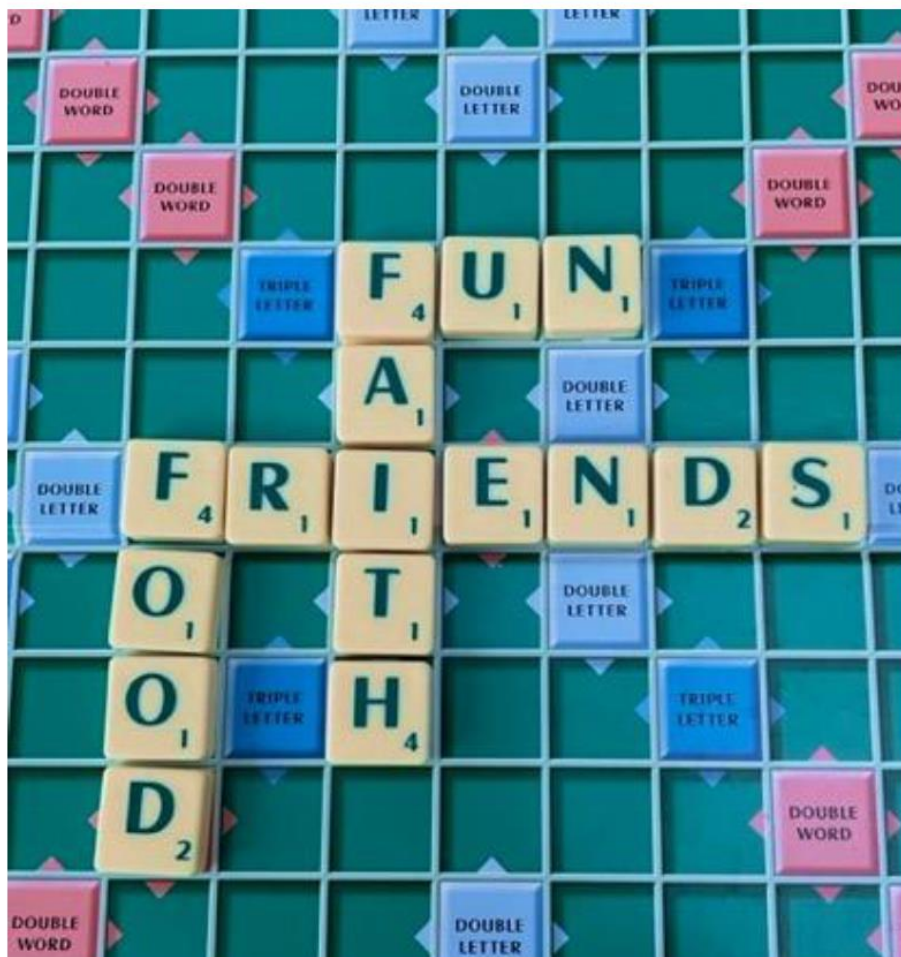
We normally meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm for 7.30 start. We have free tea/coffee and cake at the end.

We are a friendly group of people who just love flowers.

If you want to check up on us you can do so on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/northwiltshirevillagesflowerclub>

Cathy Carroll





Thursday 10th April 2025

19:15 to 21:00

Venue:

The Old Forge, Church Road, Kemble
GL7 6AA.

Interested? Want to know more?

Contact:

Lucinda Turner 07881 825895

Julie Morton 07784 790395

Aileen Shaw 07807 199602

Donations welcome



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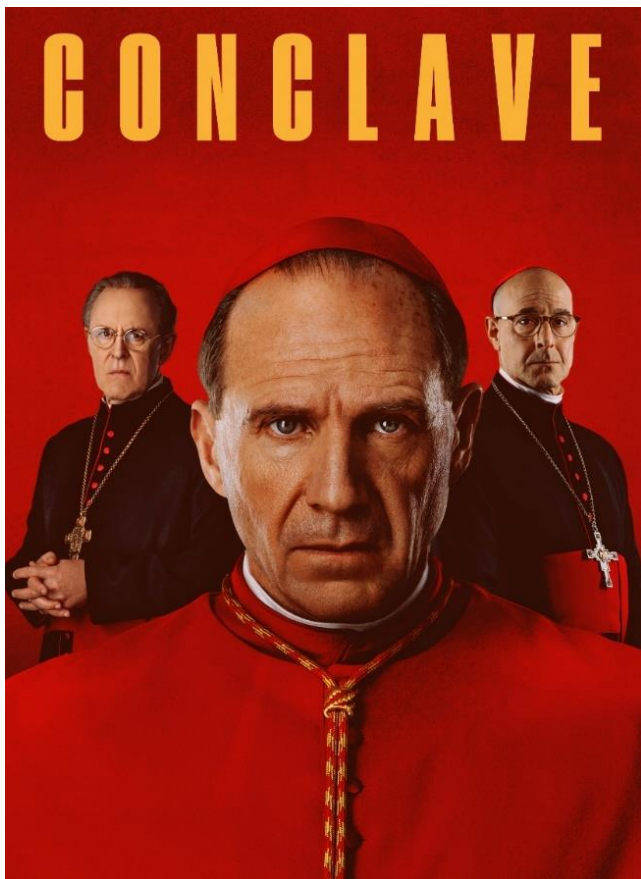
DRINKS & NIBBLES

CAROLINE PHILLIPS

**BEYOND
GRIEF**

A personal journey

RSVP to Lucinda, Aileen or
Julie.



Poole Keynes Film Club

Friday 4th April

2pm and 8pm

Poole Keynes Village Hall

Cert 12A Genre Conspiracy Thriller

Run Time 120 mins

Starring Ralph Fiennes, John Lithgo, Stanley Tucci and Isabella Rosellini

When Cardinal Lawrence is tasked with leading one of the world's most secretive and ancient events, selecting a new Pope, he finds himself at the centre of a web of conspiracies and intrigue that could shake the very foundation of the Catholic Church.

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

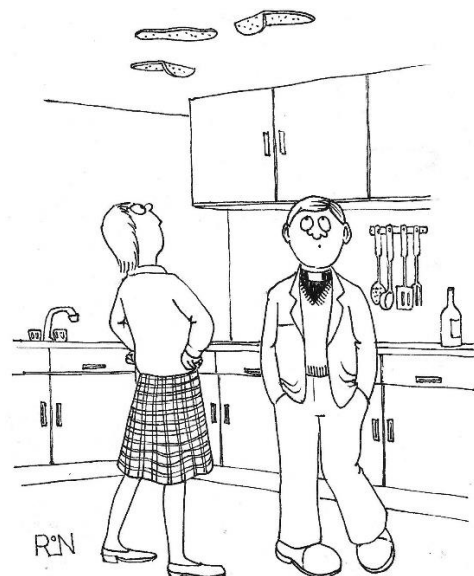
Poole Keynes 100 Club

The number drawn for March is 76 Nancy Legg : Congratulations to the lucky winner

Pancakes at Poole Keynes

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the pancake party on Shrove Tuesday at Poole Keynes. Over 2 dozen eggs, 12 pints of milk and 3lb flour were used to produce over 100 pancakes! A wide range of both sweet and savoury toppings were available and an even wider range of mixtures tried! Special thanks to those working in the kitchen, mixing batter, cooking and tossing pancakes, making drinks, serving, plus of course the inevitable washing up.

£150.00 was raised and sent to the local Foodbank to help those in need.



"Pancake party?" said Simon,
"What Pancake Party?"

Kemble Church, Eco Church

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



As the days get longer and (hopefully) warmer, April is a great month for spring flowers and blossom. Pollinating insects will be getting busy and house martins will be returning.

We have joined Kemble Community Gardens in a new project to create a sensory garden for everyone to enjoy. As it gets warmer, we will plant herbs and other plants to provide scent, colour and texture, as well as providing a peaceful space to sit and contemplate the beauty of creation. We hope the plants will encourage pollinating insects as well as Kemble residents – do come and see what we are doing.

If you are growing vegetables in the Community Gardens, or your own plot, you might try companion planting to avoid using pesticides later in the year. For suggestions of combinations to try – and to avoid – go to www.gardenersworld.com/plants/10-companion-plants-to-grow.



Here are some other activities we can take part in:

4 April: Walk to Work Day – improve your health, save money and help the planet by walking more (even if walking to work or school might be a step too far)

7 April to 13 April: Community Garden Week - celebrates the amazing community and school gardens across the UK, including ours in Kemble

21 April to 28 April: International Dark-Sky Week – The Lyrid meteor shower will be at its peak on 22 April. If you have a smart phone, the app Stellarium is a great tool to identify what can be seen in the night sky.

22 April: Earth Day – this year the focus is our power, our planet. You can find out more at: <https://www.earthday.org/>

30 April: Stop Food Waste Day – there are lots of tips and recipes on their website: <https://www.stopfoodwasteday.com/en/index.html>

Rachel and Juliette Jago on behalf of Kemble PCC

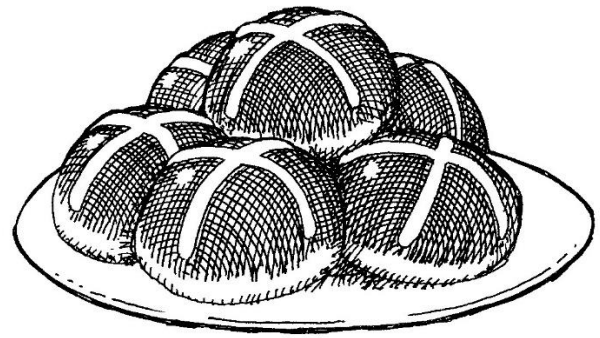
The 200 Club Winners for Kemble Village Hall
– draw at March's Rural Cinema

Month	Ticket	Winner
January	88	Celia Moule
February	24	Hugh Browne
March	178	Rachel & Nigel Roffe

A Memorial Lily at Easter - 2025

The Flower Guild plan to have lilies in the Church this Easter. If you would like a lily 'in memory of a loved one' perhaps you could let either of us know as they have to be especially ordered. It would be appreciated if you could also make a donation of £5.00 towards the costs by Monday 7th April. Many Thanks

Julia Clarke	770472	31 West Hay Grove
Pat Ferris	770756	Ewelme, Ewen

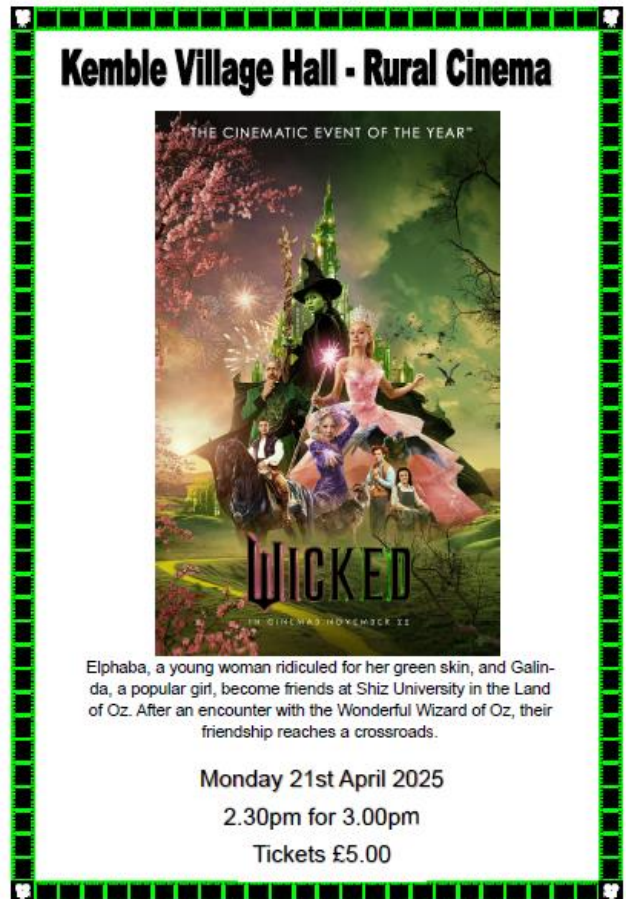


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MONTH OR EMAIL KEMBLEFETE@GMAIL.COM

KIND PERMISSION OF MARTIN & JILL KINGSTON



Farming Matters

It was nice to see a brief spell of sunshine in early March after so much dull, damp, cold weather. This much-needed change allowed farmers to get out into the fields with their fertiliser spreaders to apply some vital nutrients to their crops, which were just starting to wake up after their winter dormancy. Hopefully, continued dry weather will allow spring cultivations and planting to get underway, although it did snow this morning!

Most arable farmers struggled last autumn with extended wet periods which impacted plans for sowing. Autumn crops were invariably drilled late and so were poorly established when winter took hold. This is evident if you look over hedges and walls, very thin crops can be seen everywhere, even in the light, 'easy' soils of the Cotswolds, let alone the heavier soils some farmers wrestle with. Some of these crops will not be viable, and replanting will have to be added to the spring workload. This is the third year in the last five farmers have found themselves in this situation and many are asking, is this the new norm and what changes should we make to adapt, if it is.



Nutrients are essential for crop growth, the most important perhaps is water, but too much can be detrimental, as we have seen. Nitrogen, another key element, can be supplied from many different sources. Soils are likely to benefit from around 20kg per hectare of nitrogen deposited from the atmosphere. Nitrogen is also present in soil; most is bound up in organic matter and small quantities are slowly mineralised into forms that plants can utilise. The release of nitrogen from the soil is variable and depends on soil temperature, moisture level, aeration and of course the amount of organic matter in the soil.

Anything from 50 – 100 kg per hectare of this valuable nutrient can be released for plant growth during the year, but nitrogen is very mobile in the soil and can easily be leached into ditches and water courses during periods of wet weather. So, farmers take winter rainfall into account when calculating how much additional nitrogen should be applied to their crops, as very little will remain after the winter months.



Additional nitrogen can come from organic materials, like animal manures, spread on the fields, but it is often slowly released from being bound up in the organic matter. A key source of additional nitrogen is manufactured fertiliser, commonly in the form of Ammonium Nitrate. Relying on natural sources of nitrogen could result in an output from a wheat crop, for example of around 6T per hectare. Adding 200kg per hectare of manufactured fertiliser could see a yield of over 10T per hectare, a 66% increase.

Although this practice is widespread and financially beneficial, the manufacture of Ammonium Nitrate is energy hungry so has a high carbon footprint. As a push towards Net Zero the government are introducing a 'Carbon Tax' on fertilisers. While the farming sector needs to be concerned about the environment, this move could see fertilisers taxed but not imported produce, creating an unlevel trading environment. As fertiliser often represents around 40% of crop growing costs, this could make home produced crops less viable, more food could be imported, and we end up exporting our environmental responsibilities to other countries.

It is often suggested that farmers use more organic manures, cattle and pig slurry, for example, or digestate from anaerobic digesters of 'biosolids, form the wastewater treatment industry. These are all very valuable sources of crop nutrient, but they are already being utilised. Animal manures in the UK contribute around 982,000 tonnes of nitrogen annually to crops, digestate and other organic materials around 150.000 tonnes. Manufactured fertiliser contributes around 967,000 tonnes. Relying solely on organic materials would result in a serious reduction in agricultural output.

Perhaps we should be looking to manufacture fertilisers using energy with a lower carbon footprint rather than trying to dissuade farmers from using it in food production.

Those of you still waiting for Easter should be patient. Easter is the original 'moveable feast', its timing being based on the spring equinox and the phases of the moon. The latest possible date being 25th April.

David Ball

Rotas

	Sidesperson	Readers	Readings	Kemble flowers	Poole Keynes cleaning & flowers	Somerford Keynes cleaning	Somerford Keynes flowers
6 April		Benefice Holy Communion at Somerford Keynes	Isaiah 43.16-21 Philemon 3.4b-14 John 12.1-8	Lent	Margaret S	Sue Cadwallader Chris Bell	Lent
13 April		Palm Sunday walk Tarlton to Rodmarton	Liturgy of the Palms at Rodmarton		Margaret S		
20 April	Howard Davies	John Tarratt Mark Wilton	Acts 10.34-43*	Guild	All ladies for Easter		
27 April		Combined Benefice Service at Poole Keynes	Acts 5.27-32* Revelation 1.4-8 John 20.19-30	Guild Julia Clarke	Margaret S		M Munroe
4 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 Margaret Bush	Helen Sweet Aideen McAvoy-Wilding Paula Eales	J Shearn

* Compulsory reading

A huge thank you to our lovely churchwardens who do so much to keep us organised, safe and legal:

Kemble: Jill Kingston 07798 830287 / 771133

Poole Keynes: George Collins 770698 Tom Grand

Somerford Keynes: David Crofts Sussanne Lock



"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota, rota... do I see a hand...?"

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Make A Will Month – April 2025

Partner solicitors will write or update a straightforward will in exchange for a donation:

- £150 for a single will
- £200 for joint mirror wills

In 14 years, this initiative has raised over £130,000 for vital equipment and services. Places are limited—visit our website or call **01242 535922** to find out more.

Upcoming Events

- **Quenington Open Garden** – 13 April 2025: Rare plants and homemade treats.
- **Snowdon Sunrise Trek** – 16 May 2025: A magical climb for a great cause.

Learn more at www.cobalthhealth.co.uk



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Curtains, Blinds and Cushions	Harris and Rose Interiors, Ashton Road, Leigh www.harrisandrose.co.uk	Sophie@harrisandrose.co.uk	
Dentist, Dental Clinic	Richard Elsey BDS MSc FDS RCS - Elsey and Elsey, 7 Sudeley Drive, South Cerney		860712
Electrical Contractors	D. L. Hayward Electrical Ltd. 15 Station Road, Kemble		M: 077 7392 6747 770770
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Funeral Directors	A. Slade and Son, 35 Dyer Street, Cirencester		Day/Night 656336
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Orthodontist	Maggie Elsey BDS FDS RCPS. M'DENT SC(orth) M'orth RCS- Specialist Orthodontist Elsey and Elsey Dental Clinic, 7 Sudeley Drive, South Cerney		860712
Osteopath (including Cranial osteopathy)	Cricklade Osteopaths: Kelly Haines and associates, 12 High Street, Cricklade SN6 6AP. Online booking available at www.crickladeosteopaths.com		01793 750504
Post Office, Newsagent & Village Stores	K Chudasama, Kemble Stores, Windmill Road, Kemble		770201
Printers/Stationers	Swiftprint, Silver Street, Cirencester		655925
Security Alarms	C.I.A, Fire and Security Ltd Cirencester based Family-run NSI GOLD Approved Installer of Alarms CCTV, Fire, Keyholding and Gate Automation. www.ciafireandsecurity.co.uk		651025
Water softeners, drinking water filters & salt	Gloucestershire Softeners, Unit 3 Purlieus Barn, Ewen, Cirencester GL7 6BY www.gloucestershire-softeners.co.uk		770002
Window & Gutter Cleaning Service	Cirencester Business Cleaning Services		771360 M: 07834457220

Other useful numbers			
Cirencester Hospital	0300 421 6200	Cotswold Water Park Trust	01793 752413
District Councillor, Mike McKeown	mike.mckeown@cotswold.gov.uk	MP Dr Roz Savage	roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	Action Fraud	0300 123 2040
Anti-terrorist Hotline	0800 789-321	NSPCC Helpline	0808 800 5000
British Transport Police	0800 40 50 40	Childline	0800 1111
Victim support line	0845 2050 900	Emergency	999 or 112
Victim Support	00808 281 0112	Samaritans	116123 (free)
Gloucestershire	0808 168 9111	Police Non Emergency	101 or 01452 726920
Victim information service	0808 168 9293	RSPCA	0300 1234 999

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