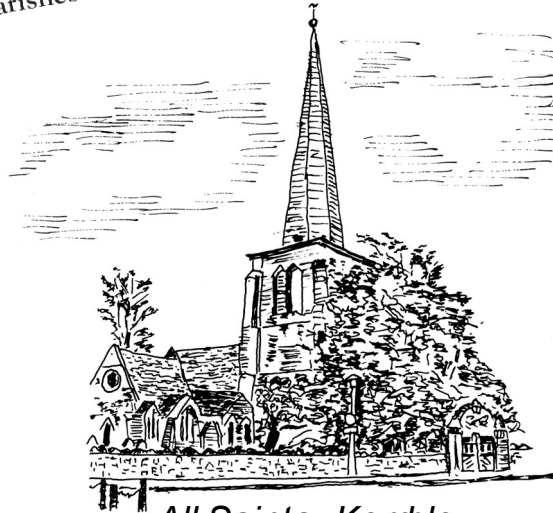


PARISH NEWS

The Thameshead Parishes of Kemble, Ewen, Poole Keynes, Somerford Keynes with Shorncliffe

Curate
Joe Mottram
07746 211093

Frampton Mansell
Rev Pepita Walker
01285 760211



All Saints, Kemble

Reader
Liz Collins
01285 770698

Youth Minister
Luke Campbell
07949 111509

Vol LIV No 10 December 2023 / January 2024

Circulation: 330 and on-line



www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk

Crib Service

Sunday 24th December

Starting with a lantern procession from the
church gate

3.45pm

All Saints Church, Kemble



We would love you to come dressed as angels or
shepherds!

Please bring a lantern or torch to light the way

Bringing the light and joy of Christ into our communities; that all may flourish



December / January 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 Sunday Service' or follow this link: <https://thesundayservice.gallery.video/thamesheadcofe> 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 rector@thamesheadchurches.org.uk and we will get in touch with you.

December services

03.12.23	Advent 1	10.00	Kemble	Communion (streamed) + Children's Church
		10.00	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
		11.00	Sapperton	Holy Communion
		11.00	Rodmarton	Advent Sunday Holy Communion
		15.30	Poole Keynes	Wild & Messy
10.12.23	Advent 2	9.30	Coates	Holy Communion
		10.00	Kemble	Morning Source all age (streamed)
		11.00	Tarlton	Holy Communion Christingle
		15.00	Kemble	Deer Park Kemble Scouts Carol Service
		18.00	33 West Hay Grove	Evening Source + refreshments
17.12.23	Advent 3	11.00	Rodmarton	Carols
		15.00	Coates	Carols
		16.00	Frampton Mansell	Carols
		17.30	Somerford Keynes	Carols
		18.30	Kemble	Carols
20.12.23	Wednesday	18.30	Poole Keynes	Carols
24.12.23	Christmas Eve Advent 4	15.00	Somerford Keynes	Nativity
		16.45	Kemble	Crib Service
		17.30	Tarlton	Carols
		18.00	Kemble Tavern	Carols
		18.00	Frampton Mansell	Crib Service
		23.00	Coates	Holy Communion
25.12.23	Christmas Day	8.00	Tarlton	Holy Communion BCP
		10.00	Kemble	Family Holy Communion (streamed)
		10.00	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
		10.00	Coates	Holy Communion
		10.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
		10.30	Sapperton	Holy Communion
		11.00	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
31.12.23	Christmas 1	11.00	Shorcote	Carols <i>Please dress warmly</i>

January services

07.01.24	Baptism of Christ Epiphany 1	10.00	Kemble	Communion (streamed) + Children's Church
		10.00	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Frampton Mansell	Holy Communion
		11.00	Tarlton	Holy Communion Feast of the Kings
14.01.24	Epiphany 2	9.30	Coates	Family Service
		10.00	Kemble	Morning Source all age (streamed)
		11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
21.01.24	Epiphany 3	9.30	Coates	Holy Communion
		10.00	Kemble	Morning Prayer (streamed)
		10.00	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Rodmarton	Morning Prayer
		11.00	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
		11.00	Frampton Mansell	Morning Prayer
28.01.24	Presentation of Christ/Epiphany 4	8.00	Tarlton	Holy Communion BCP
		10.00	Kemble	Benefice Service

Winter Traditions

Dear Friends,

We all have traditions. Some are part of our regular life, such as our morning routine or having fish & chips on a Friday. Others come around at particular times of year, such as Christmas and New Year. We often inherit traditions from other people and add to them as we go through life, so they become varied and unique to each person or family. When I was a teenager, it didn't feel like Christmas until we'd got all the decorations up, eaten our first home-made mince pies, and started playing board games with my uncle while watching 'The Muppet's Christmas Carol' on the TV.

Another big part of Christmas tradition for many is music. Whether it's trying to avoid hearing Wham's Last Christmas (Whamageddon), grumbling about hearing the same songs on repeat in shops while secretly loving them, or singing Christmas Carols together, these are all a big part of the feel of the season. The traditional service of nine lessons and carols has an enduring appeal, whether shared with friends and family in our villages or watching the yearly broadcast from King's College Cambridge.

I still remember how empty it felt during my first Christmas as an ordained minister in 2020 when singing in church wasn't allowed due to Covid restrictions. That year I gained a new appreciation for the words of these songs that some of us sing every year. The images they conjure in our minds connect us to the enduring story of God sending Jesus to be born in that little town of Bethlehem as a sign of his love for us. When we sing about shepherds and angels, we encounter values of love, peace, joy, and care for one another that are still sorely needed in the Holy Land and throughout our world today.

Then, as December turns to January, we may find time to reflect on all that has happened in the past year. In this we may want to establish new traditions which bring life and health to ourselves and those around us. One of the enduring lessons from Covid times was the importance of community, friends, and family. At a time when some can feel lonely and isolated, each of us can do our bit in looking out for those around us and putting the values of Christmas Carols into practise in very practical, down-to earth ways. These acts of care and kindness have a value beyond measure.

My hope and prayer is that in our community traditions this winter, each of us will feel welcomed and valued, that we will know that we are loved by God and those close to us, that we will start the New Year well, and share the best of ourselves in whatever lies ahead. That would be a pretty good tradition to hold to, and a good present to both give and receive this winter.

God bless,

Joe

Joe Mottram 10/11/2023

Rev. Dr. Joseph Mottram
Assistant Curate to the Thameshead Benefice
revjoemottram@gmail.com



PARISH NEWS SUBSCRIPTIONS 2023

As last year, subscriptions for 2023 of £5 should be given to the person delivering your magazine.

If you prefer to pay online please contact me at tonyferri804@gmail.com and I will send you the appropriate bank details.

Kemble Church, Eco Church

Kemble Church is part of a scheme called Eco Church a project from A Rocha UK, which helps churches to care for God's creation through their: worship and teaching; use of buildings; use of land; engagement with the community and individual lifestyles.

It challenges us all to think about our stewardship role and to seek to find many ways to make improvements not only by appreciating and understanding creation better but actively protecting it for years to come. The work for this is the responsibility of the whole PCC, the congregation and far beyond.

Here are some suggestions of ways you can join in:

BBC's Countryfile is running an initiative called Wild Britain to help us to engage with and celebrate our wildlife. If you take part in an activity, you can log it under four categories on the interactive map: wildlife homes; feeding stations; water for wildlife; volunteering for wildlife at www.wild-britain.co.uk

A Rocha has ideas for a greener Christmas, which not only help our environment, but also help save money. These include wrapping presents in reusable scarves and cloth bags. There is more information at eco-church.arocha.org.uk/ideas-for-a-greener-christmas

5 December is World Soil Day, a United Nations Day to raise awareness of the importance and relationship between soil and water in achieving sustainable and resilient agrifood systems. If you have a compost bin, you can keep it going in winter by shredding woody waste and not adding too much in one go. It's a good idea to keep the bin covered in winter to make sure it doesn't get waterlogged and to keep the heat in. You can look forward to using your soil-improving compost in the spring.

Once the celebrations in December are over, you might like to join in with Veganuary, a challenge to follow a more plant-based diet for the whole month, perhaps starting with a day a week.

10 January to 16 January: Houseplant Week – time to celebrate the beauty and benefits of indoor plants.

17 January to 23 January: Big Energy Saving Week – organised by Energy Saving Trust and Citizens Advice Bureau to raise awareness of the benefits of saving energy in our homes. You can find advice about saving money and energy at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/our-work/our-campaigns/awareness-raising-campaigns/besw/energysavingtips/

27 January to 29 January: Big Garden Birdwatch: you simply watch the birds in your garden or local park for one hour, and record what you see, then report your findings to the RSPB. Will house sparrows keep their number one spot, or will 2024 be the year of the blue tit?

Rachel and Juliette Jago on behalf of Kemble PCC

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - KEMBLE AND DISTRICT W/S

Following on from the recent AGM the officers remain the same namely Chair/Secretary Mrs Pat Ayres and Treasurer Mrs Pat Ferris.

It was agreed to hold a couple of meetings a year so the remaining members can get together. It has been suggested that the RBLWS and RBL branches have a joint Annual Meeting with a speaker, this is under discussion.

We do have planned a coach trip to the Birmingham Tattoo on Sunday 11th February which we have joined forces with Cirencester and South Cerney branches. The cost is around £42 per person. If anyone would like more info then please contact me.

Pat Ayres 01285 770385 ayrescares50@gmail.com





Somerford Keynes is having the annual children's village Christmas party this year on Sunday 17th December 2-4pm in the village hall.

There will be entertainment, a visit from Santa (please bring a wrapped gift for your child clearly labelled) and a party tea.

Please contact Shirin (07867513934) or Bex (07875543473) to let us know if you can make it and for further secret details!



Poole Keynes Film Club

Friday 1st December

2.00pm and 8pm

In this Christmas classic, an old man going by the name of Kris Kringle fills in for an intoxicated Santa in Macy's annual Thanksgiving Day parade. Kringle proves to be such a hit that he is soon appearing regularly at the chain's main store in midtown Manhattan. When Kringle surprises customers and employees alike by claiming that he really is Santa Claus, it leads to a court case to determine his mental health and, more importantly, his authenticity.

We will be serving mince pies and tea or coffee at the afternoon screening and Mulled Wine and Festive nibbles in the evening

Indiana Jones and The Dial of Destiny

Friday 5th January 2024

2.00pm and 8pm



Daredevil archaeologist Indiana Jones races against time to retrieve a legendary dial that can change the course of history. Accompanied by his goddaughter, he soon finds himself squaring off against Jürgen Voller, a former Nazi who works for NASA.

Starring Harrison Ford, Toby Jones and Pheobe Waller- Bridge

If you would like to join us as a guest at either screening the cost is £3.50 per person To book please email pkfilmclub23@gmail.com as seating is limited and booking is essential

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of Harold Fry**

HOPE IS A JOURNEY

BEGIN YOURS IN CINEMAS 2023

Harold is an ordinary man who has passed through life, living on the side lines, until he goes to post a letter one day...and just keeps walking.

Monday 15th January 2024

7.30 for 8.00

Tickets £5.00 — Cash Only

Kemble and Ewen Women's Institute

No open meeting for visitors in December as members will be enjoying a festive lunch at The Tavern.

If you would like to know what we are planning for 2024 and get the dates in your diary please contact me and I will let you have a copy of what we have in store!

Pat Ayres secretary 01285 770385 ayrescares50@gmail.com

01285 770385

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Wild, Messy and Swoony Church

Sunday 3rd December

Light in the darkness



3.30 - 5.30pm

Poole Keynes Village Hall

Fun, games, craft, tea and worship both indoors and outdoors for everyone

Please contact Liz Collins for further details

If possible, please let us know if you are hoping to join us.

e.collins@farming.co.uk

07774104990

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Residents of Kemble and Ewen



Kemble Village Hall is looking for enthusiastic new members to join our friendly committee.

We need replacement committee members and a new Chairperson as several of our current volunteers are standing down in early 2024, after many years of service to the village.

If you are interested, please contact Nick Fox on 01285 770764 or send us a message via the "Contact Us" tab of the Village Hall website



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CAROL SINGING IN SOMERFORD KEYNES



This will take place on Friday 22nd December and will as usual be in aid of Winston's Wish, the local charity which gives support to bereaved children and their families.

Please meet outside the Village Hall at 6.30pm and bring a torch or lantern if you can. We need both singers and collectors – so do still come along if you're tone deaf!

Can donors please remember to have cash available, thanks.

OUR "GLORIOUS DEAD"

"Our Glorious Dead" they said,
But where's the glory?

When it began we had our share,
Before we went out there.
Seemed just like a village fair,
With waving flags and beaming Dads
Cheering, proud, their patriotic sons;
Parades and bugles, songs
They saw us go. They didn't know
The carnage that was waiting.
That's a different story, but does it bear relating?

Amid the mud, the blood, the fury
Where's the glory?

Beyond the wire, on our own
With wounds and pain and screams of agony,
And dreams of coming home.
"Mother, I love you, we may not meet again."
And "Pray, dear God, please take away the pain!"

What could the Padre say? What could he say,
Thinking, as he tries to help us pray
"Where's the glory?"

1914---he would never have seen
How those four years would change our nation.
But now, these years have passed away, what do we say?
We field the "Why?", the "Where?", the "How?"
From young ones, eager for explanation:
"Father, tell me, where's the glory now?"

"In market place, on village green,
We turn to face the cross of stone,
Remembering the lives that could have been;
Our loss of those who came not home,
Fallen fruits of your grandparents' generation,
And bow our heads in humble veneration.
The wearing of each poppy red a tribute, now, to all who bled."

So thus, across the century the embers of our memory,
still glowing, burst to living flame,
Illuminating each carved name.

Every November, we remember,
And there's the Glory.

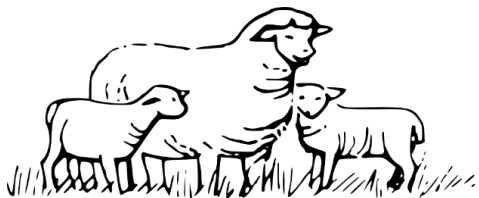
Marion Gilliland
November 2014

Farming Matters

Once the clocks go back at the end of October, winter always seems to come around so quickly. Not helped by the bombardment of Christmas adverts on the television with supermarket food offerings leading the charge. At least the radio seems to have an agreement not to blast us with Christmas songs before the 1st of December.

Many farmers will have housed their animals by the time they experience the darker evenings, especially this year with all the wet weather we have experienced. Cows don't like change, they are simple creatures who are content with a routine, but they don't like rain and wind, and the grass swards and soil condition suffer badly if trampled by heavy stock when wet and soggy. So, any change is usually introduced gradually, unless of course sudden weather events dictate immediate action.

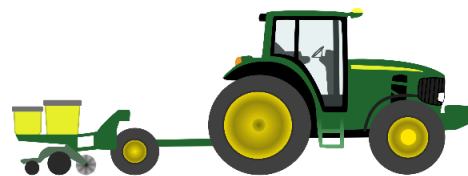
Not all farm animals are housed at this time of year. Sheep are better able to cope with the adverse weather conditions with their thick, wholly coat, and their lighter bodyweight is less harmful to the fields. But ewes are often housed in the early spring as they approach lambing time. This is in part to enable the farmer to manage their diet in the latter stages of pregnancy but also for ease of providing the care needed during the runup to lambing. Not all ewes are housed, some stay in fields to lamb and farmers adopting this system choose a breed of sheep known for their easy lambing traits reducing the risk of complications.



The wet autumn has meant that some fields didn't get planted with the seeds that were planned. The windows for sowing autumn crops were narrow this year as fields needed to recover from heavy rains and the next frontal system was not far behind. Some fields which were planted were left with water logged soils resulting in the seed rotting rather than germinating and establishing a viable plant. These fields will need replanting in the spring.

Although unplanted seed which is kept in the barn could represent a saving in these circumstances, varieties bred for autumn planting often have a requirement to experience a cold spell as a young plant to initiate the reproductive phase of growth. This process is known as vernalisation and stored autumn seeds sown in the spring won't experience this process and won't produce a harvestable crop.

So, it's a gamble. Farmers with purchased seed in the barn need to get it in the soil in good conditions before the 'latest safe sowing date', published for each available variety, to ensure the correct development of the crop, or the seed is wasted and replacement 'spring seed' needs to be bought to plant when conditions allow.



Another seasonal risk, which many livestock farmers experienced this year, is the short timescale available between harvesting forage crops for winter feed and the time when they need to be fed to their animals.

The poor summer resulted in maize crops developing their cobs and becoming ready to harvest later than expected. Planted in late April, early May, the maize plant is one of our most efficient at capturing the sun's energy and turning it into energy for animals (especially cows) to eat to produce nutritious dairy products and/or valued meat. It grows rapidly over 4 – 5 months to produce up to 40 – 45 tonnes of feed per hectare. But once harvested and ensiled it needs a period of 6 weeks to ferment and preserve the crop enabling it to be stored for the winter. Late harvested crops and early housed animals are an unfortunate combination, often resulting in animals having to be fed poorly preserved crops at risk of harbouring mycotoxins which can disrupt the rumen balance and reduce milk output.

But it's not all bad news. The seasons are what defines our farming calendar and dictate which crops we grow and when. Winter is a time for plants and trees to close down and rejuvenate ready for the next season. Fields get a rest from grazing livestock and animals are brought into sheds to allow the farmer to give them the best attention away from the vagaries of the unpredictable weather. For most people it's also a time of festivities and celebrations which usually involves indulging in the best fayre that our farmers have produced during the year.

Have a very enjoyable Christmas and a rejuvenated New Year.

David Ball.



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200 Club Winners

November's 200 Club Winner was Ticket 42 – Jane and Shaun Patrick

December's 200 Club Winner was 105 – Alan Richens

Both drawn at November's Rural Cinema

Cirencester Eating Disorder self help support group

This group covers all of Gloucestershire and beyond, working in partnership with National BEAT. This is a FREE service, formed in 2003

The next meetings in **Coates Village hall** are **Wednesday 6th December and January 3rd 2024 at 7.30pm** i.e. the first Wednesday of the month.

Please contact me (Pat) if you would like to talk in confidence.

01285 770385



Rotas for December/January

	Sidesperson	Readers	Readings	Kemble Flowers	Poole Keynes Cleaning &	Somerford Flowers
3rd December	Binnie Rank	Tony Ferris Kelsie Hall	Isaiah 64.1-9 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 Mark 13.24-end	Advent	All ladies	Advent
10h December		EVENING SOURCE	Isaiah 40.1-11 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8			
17th December	Gill Awdry	CAROL SERVICE	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-end 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 John 1.6-8,19-28	Carol Service		
24th December		CRIB SERVICE CAROLS AT THE TAVERN	2 Samuel 7.1-11,16 Romans 16.25-end Luke 1.26-38	Guild		Mrs E Tracy
25th December			Isaiah 52.7-10 Hebrews 1.1-4[5-12] John 1.1-14	Guild		
31st December		CAROLS AT SHORNCOTE	Isaiah 61.10-62.3 Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.15-21	Guild		
7th January	Stephen Lambert-Humble	Rob & Linda Day	Genesis 1.1-5 Acts 19.1-7 Mark 1.4-11	Guild (Julia)		
14th January	Ian Czapiewski	MORNING SOURCE	1 Samuel 3.1-10[11-20] Revelation 5.1-10 John 1.43-end	Guild (Julia)		
21st January	Howard Davies	Martin Kingston John Tarratt	Genesis 14.17-20 Revelation 19.6-10 John 2.1-11	Guild (Kelsie)		
28th January	Martin Whittle	UNITED BENEFICE SERVICE	Deuteronomy 18.15-20 Revelation 12.1-5a Mark 1.21-28	Guild (Julia)		
4th February	Karen Czapiewski	Tim Postlethwaite Juliette Jago	Proverbs 8.1,22-31 Colossians 1.15-20 John 1.1-14	Linda Day		

Church Wardens

Kemble	Mark Wilton 771581	Jill Kingston 07798 830287 / 771133
Poole Keynes	George Collins 770698	Tom Grand
Somerford Keynes	David Crofts	Sussanne Lock

Copy deadline for February magazine: 21st
January 2024, email

parishnewsthb@gmail.com.



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Orthodontist	Maggie Elsey BDS FDS RCPS. M'DENT SC(orth) M'orth RCS- Specialist Ortho-		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
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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 Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	020 7219 5147
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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