

Kingston Parish & Church Magazine



December 2016

Village Diary

Saturday 3 December

Pub night – village hall, 6.00pm – 10.00pm

Wheelie bin collection dates

Friday 2 nd December	Black bin
Friday 9 th December	Blue and green bins
Friday 16 th December	Black bin
Friday 23 rd December	Blue bin only
Saturday 31 st December	Black bin

Please note: It has been announced that from 27th February the majority of residents will be affected by a change to their bin collection day and/or sequence of collection. More information to follow from South Cambs.

Editorial

First, a big thank you to all those of you who stepped up and submitted your Christmas memories for this issue. As you will see, many folks provided a wonderfully assorted collection of personal memories ranging from the Kingston area to far and wide. They all make for fascinating reading. Where they overlap (rarely, I have to say) they authenticate each other; where they differ, they provide a rich and colourful set of varied and unique reminiscences. Second, may I be the first to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Peter Holly

Vicar's Letter

We live, we are told, in a “post-truth society”. So much so that the Oxford English Dictionary has chosen “post-truth” as its Word of the Year for 2016. Having been in use since at least 1992, “post-truth” showed a 2000% jump in published usage following the campaign to leave the EU in June, and more after the US presidential election campaign.

It seems these days that some public figures, especially politicians, can make claims which bear no relation to actual facts – commonly called “lying” – and still be believed. Somehow, many people would rather believe an obvious lie which supports their prejudices than face the risk of having to change their minds.

This is hardly new: in 1710, Jonathan Swift wrote “Falsehood flies, and the Truth comes limping after it; so that when Men come to be undeceiv’d, it is too late; the Jest is over, and the Tale has had its Effect”

Jesus had a thing or two to say about truth and lies: he said the Devil “does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:44)

And of himself he said “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

We are approaching Christmas when we remember Jesus born to be the light of the world – a light which leaves darkness with nowhere to hide.

Let’s enjoy all the trappings – I’m very partial to a mince pie myself – but let’s not forget why Jesus was here. Let’s refuse to be fed lies by our politicians and media, but instead hold them to a higher standard. Let’s refuse to collude with dealers in “post-truth”, but instead insist on looking for truth, even when that means we need to change ourselves, which is always uncomfortable.

Let’s remember, in the words of John’s Gospel, that in the baby at Bethlehem “the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”

Stephen Day

Church Services for December

Sunday 4th December:	Holy Communion 8.30am
Sunday 18th December:	CRIB SERVICE WITH CAROLS 3.00pm
Saturday 24th December	CHRISTMAS EVE: Holy Communion 9.00pm
Sunday 25th December	CHRISTMAS DAY: Family Service 10.30am
Sunday 1st January:	Holy Communion 8.30am
Every Wednesday:	Evening Prayer 6.30pm

CHRISTMAS 2016

All are very welcome to attend any or all of our Christmas services, as always. The Crib service on the 18th December will feature the participation of Kingston's young children. If you would like your child(ren) to take part, please contact Annabel Diggle beforehand. The Christmas Eve Holy Communion will be in traditional form, with on Christmas Day a more informal service for all the family.

Church cleaning

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

Church flowers and brasses

4 th December (brasses only)	
11 th December (brasses only)	Linda Smith
18 th December	Lee Steele
25 th December	Christine Stone
1 st January	Christine Allison

Home Communion

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. If you are having difficulty getting to church, but a lift would make that possible please contact the team office on 01480 839933 and we will be able to help.

Please Note: Church flowers for Christmas

This year with the crib/carol service on December 18th, flower arrangers are requested to do their flowers on or just before Saturday 17th. Thank you very much for your continued support. Linda Smith

Wave Café Church

**Wednesday 7th December 7.45 for 8pm until 9pm
at Manor Farm, Bourn**



For those who are interested in exploring Christianity in a relaxed and informal way. Bridget Baguley is speaking about women in the Gospels. Please come and bring a friend.

For more information please contact Mike Bigg on 01480 839147.

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

is celebrated

**Wednesday at midday
in Bourn Church**



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

One Christmas Day in Comberton

Many years ago we lived in Comberton. One year our Vicar, the Revd H G Wise, in his wisdom arranged for Christmas Day Communion at 6.30am. During the night of Christmas Eve we had quite a heavy snowstorm. I got up early, put on my warmest clothes and wellingtons and trudged through the snow from Green End up to St Mary's church. I was the sole communicant! The Revd Mr Wise was unperturbed and solemnly gave me communion and then went back to the Vicarage a few yards away to spend the day with his wife and son. I remember his adult son had learning difficulties but had a love of clocks that he liked to wind up and set so that they chimed. I hope they had a chiming Christmas: they had a lot of clocks! I went home to cook Christmas dinner for my family. The Vicarage in Comberton, like so many, has now been sold off into private ownership.

Joan Reynolds

Christingle Sunday – 1st Sunday of Advent

When I was a child it was the tradition to go to my grandma's house on Christingle Sunday.

We had the full Christmas goose dinner followed by going to the Moravian church for the Christingle service. Part way through, they lit all the candles on the oranges, dimmed the lights in the church, then all the children went up to receive one. The next hymn was sung by the light of the candles – magical!!

My grandma passed on when I was in my late teens but I can still hear her warbled voice to this day, along with the memory of my brother and me trying not to giggle.

Janet Clear

A Malawian Christmas

A few random memories of Christmases spent in Malawi, 35 or so years ago:

- Listening to a superb rendering of Handel's 'Messiah' in the cool of Limbe cathedral, the singing at times competing with the tropical rains drumming down on the corrugated iron roof.
- Wading our way through roast chicken, potatoes and all the trimmings including a flaming Christmas pudding, which was brought to the table by our houseboy, hugely enjoying his role in the festivities. Feeling rather sweaty and longing to change our glad rags for the comfort of shorts or swimming costumes.
- Listening to a crackly, badly-tuned rendering of the Queen's Speech on the BBC World Service, and feeling rather homesick.
- Talking to our Mums and Dads on the phone, conscious of the miles between us, and wishing they could be with us.
- Waking very early on Boxing Day (after a heavy day of over-indulgence) to the deafening sound of an African band playing RIGHT UNDER OUR WINDOW! Once over the shock, we all stumbled outside, bleary-eyed, to greet the players with their broad smiles and home-made instruments – guitars, drums, double-bass, cymbals, etc all made from odds and ends of cans, wood and bits of wire. We handed over the money needed to move them on to the next house.

Suzy Stokes

Date	Title	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe
Dec 4	Advent 2	10.30am FHC	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A	
Dec 11	Advent 3	10.30am W4A	6.00pm EP	10.30am Christingle/Carols	3.00pm Carols
Dec 18	Advent 4	8.30am FHC 6.00pm Carols	3.00pm Crib/ Carol Service		
Dec 24	Christmas Eve	3pm Crib Service 11.30pm FHC	9.00pm HC		
Dec 25	Christmas Day	10.30am FS	10.30am FW	10.30am HC	9.15am HC
Jan 1		8.30am HC at Kingston 10.30am HC at Eltisley			
Jan 8	Baptism of Christ	10.30am W4A	6.00pm EP	10.30am MP	8.30am HC
Jan 15	Epiphany 2	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A		
Jan 22	Epiphany 3	10.30am FW		8.30am HC	10.30am MP
Jan 29	Epiphany 4	10.30am Cluster HC at Longstowe			

HC = traditional Holy Communion (BCP)


EP = traditional Evening Prayer (BCP)

W4A/FS = Family Service

MP= traditional Morning Prayer (BCP)

FHC= Common Worship/All Age Holy Communion

FW = All Age Worship/Morning Prayer/Prayer & Praise/Morning Worship



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Recruitment Day for Wimpole Estate Volunteers: 14 January 2017

The National Trust's Wimpole Estate is holding a recruitment day for Volunteers on Saturday 14 January 2017 in the Old Rectory Restaurant. There are two sessions: 10.00am to 12 noon and 1.00pm to 3.00pm. We are not this year recruiting Room Guides but have a wide range of other volunteer roles on offer including: Visitor Welcome, Retail Plant Sales, Garden Guides, Catering, Tractor Drivers, Weekend Farm Workers, Outdoors Volunteers and Flower Team Volunteers.

Simply turn up on the day and join us for a cup of tea or coffee to find out more.

John Procter *Volunteer Programme Manager Wimpole Estate*



Village Carol Singing

The Village Carol Singing will take place on

Tuesday 13th December 2016.

(Please note this change of date)

Meeting at the **Village Hall at 6.30pm**

Carol Sheets are provided but please bring a Torch.

Refreshments afterwards in the Village Hall.

If you would like to join us or would like us to
come and sing to you,

please contact James or Janet on 263746



**Come
and Celebrate Christmas**

at All Saints & St Andrew, Kingston

Sunday 18th December
3.00 pm Carol and Crib Service

Christmas Eve
9.00 pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day
10.30 am Worship for All Service

Christmas Dinner

These days Christmas dinner is mostly turkey. Many years ago when I was a boy most people had a large cockerel weighing about 8-10 lbs as they could not afford turkey or goose like the rich folk. Having a cockerel was something special. Many people in the villages had their own chickens at the bottom of the garden for the eggs. I myself in my teen years bought a dozen day old cockerels from the cattle market thinking I would make some money for Christmas, but I do not think I did seeing as corn was expensive and cooking scraps of waste food was enough for them. I first tasted goose when I was about 17 years old, at my girlfriend's grandparents' house. They always had goose after Christmas, but then they did have a farm. My nephew got himself about 10 goslings and reared them to kill at Christmas and make a bit of money. Come Christmas I asked him who was going to kill and pluck them. He said his uncle (me) could kill them and he would pluck them. Well come the time I killed two and hung them in our old stable. My nephew and his friend started to pluck them. Sometime later I returned to see how they were getting on; opening the door I could not see for down off the geese so that was not a success. He did not have any more geese.

Terry Osborne

Christmas Memory: Memory of Christmas Nativity

In my thirties, I was asked to play the Virgin Mary in a church nativity tableaux. I felt this was a bit of a stretch, but it turned out to be more about our 3 month old son, Ross, who they wanted to be swathed in swaddling clothes, etc. NO, I would not be entering holding my precious bundle riding a real live donkey, up the aisle.

The performance almost came to a standstill, when the audience realised that to their surprise the sniffles and snorts of the infant Jesus, were in fact real. Later in the presentation, one son was swapped (stage left) for a reluctant older son, Jake, fleeing the wretched Herod, It was a busy night.

Lee Steele

Christmas 1968 in the USA

What I remember most of my childhood Christmases is the baking my mother would do and my sisters and I would get to help. After all was prepared, we would drive around town to family friends delivering packages of treats to each household with a Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays message – depending on the religious beliefs of each family. The baking is a tradition I have carried on – and I like to believe improved upon from a recipe perspective – to the point now where my children have made it clear I am not welcome at Christmas if I do not show up with my decorated sugar cookies.

However, during my second year of college when I went home for Christmas, the baking was done and it was decided that four of us, my parents, my younger sister and myself, would travel some eight hundred miles from Springfield, Missouri, to Midland, Michigan, to see my paternal grandparents for Christmas. While I don't remember much about the trip, I recall helping my grandmother in the tiny kitchen of their apartment and going on rounds with my grandfather of the complex of apartments my grandparents managed for a bit of income in their retirement. On Christmas Day itself after our traditional morning of exchanging gifts, we sat around in the afternoon and my grandfather told one of his "Jimmie Bean" stories which my father tape-recorded. This recording begins as follows:

This is Christmas Day Nineteen Hundred and Sixty-Eight and here we are sitting in our living room with Char and Dick and Kay and Patty; they are all here and we've had a wonderful time with them. And now I'm going to tell you a story about Jimmie Bean that I have told many, many times in the past and maybe someday little Shelly might be able to listen to her great-grandfather tell this story.

Shelly was my elder sister's first-born and, over time, my father ensured that each of six great-grandchildren would receive their own recording of the story. Now, forty-eight years on, I am endeavouring to turn this recording into a children's book so that my father's great grandchildren might benefit not only from the voice of Grampa Bumble Bee, as my grandfather came to be known by Shelly, but also Jimmie Bean can be known to generations of children to come.

Kay Forsythe

My Twelve Songs of Christmas

1. I have to start with the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, and their rendition of **Once in Royal David's City**. As the lone choirboy heralds the beginning of the annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (to be gradually joined by the whole choir), you know that you are in the presence of something very special. Clustered around the radio, this is when my family's Christmas began and one of my fondest moments was when I took my parents to the actual event back in the 1980s. For a modern take on the same carol, it is well worth seeking out the CD "Come Darkness, Come Light" by Mary Chapin Carpenter.
2. The LP "The Modern Jazz Quartet at Music Inn" contains **Variation No. 1 on God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen**, a wonderfully cool way to get into the Christmas spirit. On this record the MJQ are joined by Jimmy Giuffre, fresh off his triumph with "The Train and the River". Both these tracks were my late brother's all-time favourites.
3. Rummaging through the 50p record racks at Emmaus, I came across an obscure German recording of Christmas songs. On the Phonola label and titled Die Schonsten Weihnachtslieder, it contains brilliantly atmospheric versions of **Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht** and **O Tannenbaum** by an augmented children's choir. Somehow this is how Christmas music is meant to sound like.
4. On Joni Mitchell's famous album "Blue" is the stand-out track **River**. Beginning with the lines "It's coming on Christmas/They're cutting down trees/They're putting up reindeer/And singing songs of joy and peace", you enter the bitter sweet world of Mitchell's melancholia, an apt reminder that personal issues don't disappear just because it's Christmas.
5. On her new record "in Winter", Katie Melua has the good sense to cover Joni Mitchell's **River**, but **O Holy Night** is the track that resonates with me. Translated from an original French poem and recorded by many artists, it is Melua's clear voice that adds the necessary timbre to bring this beautiful song truly alive.
6. The McGarrigles, Kate and Anna, have always produced music of a high calibre. On their CD "The McGarrigle Christmas Hour" they are joined by their equally brilliant off-spring, Rufus and Martha Wainwright. The outstanding track is Jackson Browne's **Rebel Jesus** sung by Martha Wainwright and Kate and Anna McGarrigle, before the former's untimely death. In truth, any track on this album is worth a listen.
7. The Chieftains have had a long career and made many recordings but their Celtic Christmas album "The Bells of Dublin" is one of their finest. Containing many standout tracks by the Chieftains and friends (the McGarrigles join them for Il Est

Ne/Ca Berger), my personal favourite is **The Wexford Carol** by Nanci Griffith, like Mary Chapin Carpenter, a country singer with a fine pedigree.

8. Emmylou Harris is featured on the previous two albums. On her own recording, "The Christmas Album: Light of the Stable", my favourite track is **O Little Town of Bethlehem** closely followed by her version of **Away in a Manger**.
9. Rufus Wainwright's version of Elvis Presley's **Blue Christmas** is another standout track from "The McGarrigle Christmas Hour". Wainwright's plaintive, bitter-sweet delivery fits the song perfectly.
10. Rufus Wainwright also sings **What are You Doing New Year's Eve** on the same LP, but my favourite version will always be Nancy Wilson's jazzy take, which can be found on her long-player "Yesterday's Love Songs: Today's Blues".
11. Bing Crosby's **White Christmas** should be on this list but, from the same era, you can't beat the rocking **Jingle Bells** by Benny Goodman and His Orchestra, found on an album called "The Original Big Band Christmas".
12. **In the Bleak Midwinter** is surely one of the greatest songs ever written. Included in "A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols", the Choir of King's College Cambridge gives this carol its just desserts. The soaring choristers are joined by tenors and then the full choir in a rising, nothing-held-back majestic crescendo. Set to a poem by Christina Rossetti's and music by Gustav Holst, the carol received Harold Darke's anthem setting in 1911 and became popular among soldiers in the First World War. During World War Two, Darke served as conductor of the King's College Chapel Choir and included the carol in the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, where it has remained in pride of place ever since. Indeed, in 2008, in a poll of the world's leading choirmasters and choir experts, it was named *the* best Christmas carol. In my mind, the last verse says it all.

What can I give him/Poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd/I would bring a lamb;
 If I were a wise man/I would do my part;
 Yet what I can give him – Give my heart.

PS: My daughter, Amy, cannot believe that **Last Christmas** by Wham isn't on this list. Maybe next Christmas!



Bourn Primary Academy Grand Piano Arrival

Last May we launched an appeal to raise a minimum of £10,000 to replace our ageing Grand Piano, which has been such an important part of our strong music tradition for over 50 years. Just six months later, I am delighted to announce that we have reached our initial target and a beautiful new piano was delivered by Pianoforte Cambridge (www.cambridgemuic.net) to the School on 11th November. We are, however, continuing the fundraising until Christmas for a few additional extras.

This incredible amount of money has been raised by holding big events such as the Music Marathon last May, the Bourn Proms in June, from kind donations from friends of the School and members of the local community, from Bourn Village Store and from Parish and Church Councils, by making grant applications and in many other different ways. None of this would have been achieved without the drive and passion of Suzanne Armitage and Marietjie Verwoerd, and I thank them on behalf of everyone for their endeavours.

On Friday 11th November, our old piano was dismantled in the morning, and then delivered to its new home at Manor Farm, where we know it will continue to be well used and appreciated. Our new piano, Nancy (named in memory of the old piano's donor), arrived in the afternoon, and the children and many parents and members of the local community lined the drive to clap, cheer and generally welcome it to its new home. Just before home time we gathered the whole school into the hall, along with parents and community members, to see and hear the piano for the first time. We sang a rousing hymn followed by a blessing. It was a very emotional, momentous and fitting start to its new life.



We are planning a 'Thank You' and dedication concert, in the near future, and will be announcing more details very soon.

I am hugely grateful to everyone who has made this dream become a reality and in such a short space of time.

Christine Page, Head Teacher

KINGSTON CHRISTMAS FAIR



Saturday 10th December
2:30 – 4:00pm.
Village Hall



- * *Plants, preserves, baked goods, decorations*
- * *Chocolate Tombola !*
- * *Raffle*
- * *Tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies*

This is a great chance to meet and mingle during the festive season over refreshments. Please bring any donations of gifts or produce (no jumble or books please), chocolate items for the Tombola (from a Mars bar to a box of chocs!) and raffle prizes any time up to **Friday 9th December** to Suzy Stokes (The Old Post Office, Rectory Lane) or Miki Ellar (Wainstones, Cranes Lane). Food items such as cakes up to **11.00 on the day of the Fair.**

Suzy

and Miki

All proceeds to the Village Hall

Our MP Heidi Allen's Latest Newsletter

This month, we're once again in uncharted waters, both nationally with regards to Brexit and also locally in terms of the City Deal. Whilst it's frustrating to ask people to be patient, in this fast paced, modern, Twitter dominated world it's easy to underestimate the value of scrutiny and consultation. We shouldn't. Taking time to consult, probe and examine what is being put forwards is the starting point for any successful negotiation and I remain confident that we have some sound navigators at the helm, being held to account by democracy in action.

I have been vocal about my opposition to the City Deal plan for Busway 3 and 3A (Cambourne to Cambridge route via the Westfields.) I sense the City Deal board are rushing because of spending deadlines imposed at deal inception, so I am working with the board and central Government to see whether we might be able to link the City Deal with the impending Cambridgeshire devolution deal. I believe a more creative and workable solution is possible which offers better value for money than the £140million partial route currently on the table. I'll make sure my voice is in the mix as these discussions move forwards.

The City Deal is just one of the ways I'm working with local and central government to improve things locally. My other big focus continues to be education. I'm not letting up on the fairer funding issue for our schools and met with Minister Nick Gibb recently to push for further action. I'm also championing a campaign to recruit more teachers into Cambridgeshire and have worked with the County Council and Anglia Ruskin University to host a Teacher Training Information Event. It will be held on 17th November, at 6pm at ARU and you can find more details on my website. If we have any budding teachers out there, this is your chance to find out how you can make a real difference to our children's futures. Watch out for a follow up Teacher Recruitment Fair in the Spring too. I'm also speaking to our planning department to see how we can provide key worker housing to attract the best and most talented teachers to our constituency.

I met more of our extraordinary talent this month when I visited the Technology Partnership in Melbourn, with the Prime Minister's new advisor on Industrial Policy. TTP flagged up a need to support British companies through sustained local growth that builds on R&D work, rather than outsourcing innovation to foreign suppliers. I'm proud of the work our local research is producing and will do everything I can to keep South Cambridgeshire as one of the brightest stars in the research, technology and science cluster.

The new Papworth Hospital found a unique way to celebrate their next phase of development as they invited me to 'Top Out' their new building on the Addenbrooke's campus. Having helped to level out a slab of concrete, a fir tree was swung over the building to ward away bad luck. Apparently it's a tradition of the Norwegian contractor

Skanska! The new site is extremely impressive with state of the art theatres, en suite bedrooms and world class research facilities. Another great local NHS success story.

I highlighted the importance of your contributions to the Boundary Review in my last newsletter but if you live in Bassingbourn, the Mordens, Melbourn or Queen Edith's and want to stay part of the South Cambridgeshire constituency, please make your voice heard on the consultation website - www.bce2018.org.uk. Every submission really matters, I don't want to lose you!

I was thrilled and humbled to be awarded 'Conservative Newcomer MP of the Year' by the Patchwork foundation. The award looked at the work my team and I have been doing to give a voice to under represented people, such as the disabled community. I only learn about those without a voice because you tell me – so please keep your emails, thoughts and feedback coming - I'm listening.

As always, you're welcome to come to my "no appointment needed" drop in surgeries. The next date is Saturday 10th December at Hauxton village hall, CB22 5HS. You can find full details on my website www.heidisouthcambs.co.uk/residents-drop-surgeries or drop me an email at heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk or call my office at 01954 212707.

How safe is your home?

Chief Inspector James Sutherland from Cambridgeshire Police created a quiz around a year ago, which is still running. Once the quiz is completed it tells you how safe your home is.

The "bad-wolf test" is an online quiz that takes just 2 minutes and tells you how safe your home is from burglars. You get a score of brick, twigs or straw.

Anyone who gets the straw rating is given an email contact address and encouraged to get in contact with Cambs Police so that they can come out and do a free full home security survey.

Try the quiz yourself to see how safe your home is.

<http://tinyurl.com/bad-wolf-test>

Voluntary/ work experience as a countryside ranger

Hinchingbrooke Country Park, Huntingdon, PE29 6DB offers volunteers the chance to join in with a variety of practical tasks such as fencing, clearing scrub land or working with visiting school groups. No experience is required. The Rangers provide equipment, training and supervision. It's a chance to build social and teamwork skills and to gain knowledge of plants and woodland. Contact the Rangers on 01480 388666 if you're interested in being involved on weekdays 9.30am - 4.30pm.

<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/hinchingbrookecountrypark>

Christmas Memories: THE BIG FREEZE

It was at Christmas 1962 that the weather across the whole country changed from mild and wet to the terrible conditions of 1963. Apart from the heavy snow followed by the extensive flooding of the Fenland in 1947 I can recall nothing as bad as the so called 'big freeze' when the temperature dropped alarmingly and stayed that way until March. Snow, ice and bitter winds hardly let up and travel became a nightmare for most people. Britain almost ground to a halt. Even the sea froze whilst it is said that at Chatham dock ice breakers were needed. It was possible to walk across the Thames upstream from Windsor. Diesel oil froze in buses and climbing hills in any vehicle proved impossible at times. On the domestic front burst pipes were legion, toilets solidified and so did milk in bottles.

Shortly after the Christmas Break, even though snowdrifts had started to pile up along some Kingston area roads and, in particular, the main road to Cambridge was still passable and when conditions were not too bad I chose to use the regular bus to get to work in the centre of the City. Unfortunately on one fateful date a new, heavy, fall of snow combined with an increasing wind during the morning provided worrying conditions. The staff of my office including myself were let go early at 4pm. A check provided the information that all buses had stopped operating in the area and that my road home had been completely blocked by further drifts.

I decided to make my way to the railway station as Dr Beaching had not yet closed the Bedford line. Even the walk through the City streets was no picnic in those conditions but, 'glory be' the line was still operating even though trains were running late. At long last, after a perishingly long wait I was on board and away. The nearest stop to Kingston was, of course, Longstowe. I scrambled out there to find that two lifelong residents of Kingston, namely Lucy and Zillah Custance were also facing the same three mile walk as myself. In unrelenting blizzard conditions we struggled home in a never to be forgotten walk. I got there in a shattered condition at about eight o'clock to be greeted by my rather anxious wife and much needed refreshments. I must report though that my lady companions stood up to their ordeal even better than I did!

David Heath

Grantchester Barrel Race! – Boxing Day (26th Dec) – 12noon

Approximately 100yrs of rolling and mayhem. Opposite the Rupert Brook Pub. Charity Donations accepted but it is free.

I Had A Dream

Several months ago I had a dream that Andy Murray would win Wimbledon and the Olympics again and then go on a tear that would involve him winning several tournaments on the trot, culminating with him winning the ATP Finals crown at the O2 in London where he would beat the world's no. 6 (Cilic), no.5. (Nishikori), no. 4 (Wawrinka), no. 3 (Raonic) and no. 2 (Djokovic) and become the year-ending world number one. After a Sleeping Beauty-like slumber, I woke up and, amazingly, found it was all true. All I can say is, Happy Christmas Andy.

Peter Holly

CAMBRIDGE GRADUATE ORCHESTRA

The Music Of Shakespeare

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MENDELSSOHN
MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM

The poster features a central circular graphic with a watercolor-like texture in shades of blue, green, and red. Inside the circle are white silhouettes of figures: a person on a balcony, a person standing, and a person sitting. The text 'The Music Of Shakespeare' is written in a cursive font across the center of the circle.

manor farm 

a slice of country living

manor farm, 14 alms hill, bourn, CB23 2SH 01954 713971

CHRISTMAS TREES

www.manorfarmbourn.com

The advertisement has a yellow background. On the left, the 'manor farm' logo is in a serif font, with a small bird icon. Below it is the tagline 'a slice of country living' in a script font. At the bottom left is the address and phone number. On the right, the words 'CHRISTMAS TREES' are in large, white, serif capital letters. Below them is the website URL. The right side of the advertisement features a close-up photograph of green pine branches.

Christmas Memories of the 1950s

My mother worked hard to make Christmas special for us and what she lacked in funds she more than made up for in effort and ingenuity. She seemingly worked on her Christmas cake for weeks, kneading the fruity cake mix, baking the cake, adding layers of marzipan and icing and topping it all with small decorations that emerged every Christmas from who knows where. Making the Christmas pudding was almost as painstaking what with including “thrupenny” bits in the mix and steaming the pudding wrapped in some kind of cloth for seemingly hours on end. Mince pies were produced although I can’t remember how and when they were made. Over time my mother also accumulated my father’s favourites: nuts of all kinds, and boxes of dates and Turkish delight.

She also loved to decorate the house using streamers of crepe paper (“trimmings” she called them) that were pinned diagonally across the living room from the picture rail in one corner to the picture rail in the other, sprigs of holly picked locally, and a Christmas tree, again from a local source, probably felled using my father’s axe that was left over from his wartime duties in the fire service. The Christmas tree was decked with various small decorations that were re-used every year and small metal candle holders were clipped to the branches to add to the overall effect. The little white candles were lit only briefly on Christmas day probably because my father didn’t want to give up his nut-gorging and have to repeat his fireman’s heroics from the war.

My mother was also a brilliant low-cost shopper. On one famous occasion she managed to buy the entire rejects box at the local toy-shop which contained head-less soldiers, leg-less horses, wheel-less covered wagons and the like; it was my best Christmas present ever. Casting verisimilitude to the winds, I was able to stage fantastic war games with German storm-troopers and American cowboys taking on an army of French foreign legion troops and Native Americans, all with the added attraction of their limbless features. As my father, the master of puns, liked to say, it was all “very ‘armless”.

On Christmas Day itself we each opened our stocking (which always contained an apple and an orange in the foot) and our presents which always included an “annual” book: my brother liked the one from the Eagle comic and I liked the Rupert Bear annual. We went to morning church with my parents playing their usual roles in the church choir and then returned home for the gastronomic extravaganza. Being Methodists we weren’t allowed to play cards until midnight which, for my part, always cast a pall over the proceedings. Before being able to

succumb to the delights of whist we must have watched television scrunched around our Bush 9-inch screen set which my parents managed to buy in time for the Queen's coronation in 1953.

My mother's hard work payed off in another way. During the year she looked after our widowed next-door neighbour, Mr. Maughan, doing light cleaning and food shopping for him. Then every Christmas he would take my whole family and treat us to a slap-up meal at the Centre Café in town. I can remember I always chose the roast chicken meal which included delicious crisps roasted in with the meat fat. Those were the days. Another tradition was on Boxing Day when we all went for a long walk up through the allotments and across the golf course to try and work off the massive food explosion from the previous day. These were innocent times and, given my mother's industry, all the more enjoyable. Whether we all thanked her properly I cannot say, but December 23rd was her birthday so she had double the celebrations to count on.

Peter Holly

Mill Road Winter Fair

Saturday 3 December 10.30am-4.30pm

So many things happen throughout the day and at different times all along the length of Mill Road, in all the shops, restaurants, cafés and other businesses. There are fancy dress, ethnic costumes, special dishes, dancing, singing, special offers and fundraising initiatives for several different local charities. Here are some of the highlights of the 2016 Fair:

Free fun dog show, bouncy castles and hands-on science, make and create art activities from Cambridge University Museums. Capoeira, Circus, mime and clown performances. Help build a beautiful woven willow sculpture in Great Eastern Street Car Park.

10.30am, fire engine pull, collecting money for the Fire Fighters Charity.

The 'Over The Rainbow' community parade will begin at 12.30pm at Romsey Terrace (next to Cutlacks) and snake its way down to Petersfield by 1.30pm.

The CULDT Chinese lion will perform at 1.45pm outside Cutlacks/Cycle King.

You can find a brochure and timetable at

<http://www.millroadwinterfair.org/2016-brochure/>

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Christmas memories

Country

As a child growing up in Caldecote we often visited my Uncle David and Aunt Rose who then lived at 1 Field Row in Kingston. My parents and we four children would usually cycle over and spend most of the day eating (usually a home-reared cockerel cooked on a range in what is now our dining room) and drinking. By the time we left it was dark, with the only light coming from paraffin lamps in the village houses, the telephone box and a crisp, clear night sky. The return journey – with me seated on a cushion on my father's crossbar – was via the Rose and Crown (now Old Mead House)! Simple Christmases, but always very memorable...

City

... But the city offered different delights! Our biggest treat was a train ride from south London into the centre to see the Christmas lights and shop window displays in Oxford Street and Regent Street. None of the high tech windows that are now on offer, but Selfridges in particular always had us running from the tube station to see what this year had to offer. And afterwards ... a little white paper bag of five (usually burnt) roasted chestnuts from one of the braziers on the corner of every side street – so hot they burnt the fingers but there was no time to worry about that with the smell urging you on to eat them at once! Nothing tasted as good on a cold December evening. Now we often roast chestnuts on the wood burners in Kingston during the winter and wash them down with mulled wine and it always takes me back to those December nights in Oxford Street!

Charlie and Linda

Foodbank

If you, or someone you know, is in urgent need of food because of a sudden emergency (eg change to benefits, illness, job loss etc), you/they may be able to receive 3 days emergency food supplies from a local foodbank distribution centre. The nearest is in The Ark in Cambourne. Food is distributed to those who have a foodbank voucher. Various agencies can administer vouchers, including the church. If you are in need, contact Revd Stephen Day, Bourn Rectory, 01954 264226.

MARK STEELE

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07831 550189

or

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Christmas reminiscences

- Ever since I can remember as a young child, as well as the streamers and other Christmas decorations that were put up each year, we had the Traditional Bells. These were two papier-maché bells covered in tarnished tinfoil, with faded decoration in blue on one, and red on the other. They were about 12" in both height and circumference, fragile and ancient-looking, full of mystery and excitement, and I have no idea where they came from. When you looked inside and carefully peeled back the foil a little, it was evident that the papier maché was made from old Chinese newspapers. One year my mother decided they needed sprucing up. She re-covered them in Bacofail, and re-painted the blue and red chevrons on the outside. They looked garish and modern, and for me at least, had completely lost their magic.
- No modern Christmas tree is without its string of lights, but when I was a child, we had candles on our tree! Candles! What about Elf an' Safety? About a dozen I think, each one in a clip-on holder. They were quite heavy, so when clipped onto the outer fronds of the Christmas tree they weighed the fronds down, and pointed more-or-less horizontally outwards, looking rather silly. The candles themselves were red, and twisted like barley-sugar sticks. I don't recall that they were ever actually lit.
- We had Christmas Stockings of course – my sister Penny and I would go to bed on Christmas Eve with one of my father's socks (which seemed huge) laid carefully at the foot of each bed. On first awakening on Christmas morning I can still remember the excitement! Has he been? Push an exploratory foot down the bed – yes! The weight of the stocking, full of goodies, on my foot! Always a funny hat (the stiff cardboard sort, with elastic) on top, then a tangerine, a rubber ball, and all sorts of other toys and strange things – some sweets, a miniature bottle of Rose's Lime Juice one year. A yo-yo, a pencil, a roll-up paper whistle, and one of those things you got from Woolworths, with spinning coloured wheels, which emitted sparks. And perhaps one of those puzzles with plastic squares with letters or numbers, with one space so you could slide one square at a time up or down or sideways to get them in a different pattern. Most of it eaten, drunk, lost or broken by the end of Christmas Day.

Peter Stokes

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01954 718101

Comberton Surgery Opening Times

tel. 01223 262500

Reception

Mon-Fri 8:15-12:30 & 1:30-6:30

(Out of hours for duty doctor's number
ring: 01223 262500 or 262579)

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

Papworth Team

Rev Stephen Day (1st contact)	01480 831915
Rev Nigel di Castiglione (Team Rector)	01954 267241 or 0777 0697240 Email: nigel.dicastiglione@gmail.com
Rev Paul Gildersleve	01954 713989
Rev Nigel Pearson	01954 719637

Churchwarden Peter Reynolds

Jack Diggle

PCC

Janet Clear (Secretary)

Linda Rimmer (Treasurer)

Parish Council	Tim Fitzjohn (Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee representative) tfitzjohn@btinternet.com Julie Conder (Finance, Webmaster)	01223 263446
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James Clear (Vice-Chairman, Open Spaces Officer)

Peter Stokes (Clerk) kingstonpc.cambridge@gmail.com Trish Dunlop (Councillor, Footpaths Officer) Keith Tan (Councillor)	01223 262207
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Village Hall MC	Mark Stalham (Chairman) mark.stalham@niab.com Chris Reid (Treasurer)	01223 263510
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