

Kingston Parish & Church Magazine



March 2017

Village Diary

Wednesday 1 st March	Village Coffee/Tea – Village Hall – 10:30am
Saturday 4 th March	Pub night – village hall, 6.00pm – 10.00pm
Thursday 30 th March	Gesualdo Six Concert – details below

Wheelie bin collection dates

Wednesday 1 st March	Blue and Green bins
Wednesday 8 th March	Black bin
Wednesday 15 March	Blue and Green Bins
Wednesday 22 nd March	Black bin
Wednesday 29 th March	Blue and Green Bins

Please note: Wednesday is now our regular bin collection day. As before bins must be out by 6am at the latest on the collection day.

Editorial

We're March-ing into spring! Snowdrops are blooming and daffodils are preparing to sprout. It won't be long before we'll see the kind of scene captured in David Heath's cover photo. As the poet said, Oh! to be in Kingston now that spring is here!

And it's a busy month to come. It starts with a new bin day and then the excitement keeps mounting. On the same day, March 1st, the renewed coffee morning starts at 10.30 in the Village Hall, quickly followed by the Pub Night on March 4th (for further details see below). When you've recovered from those events, you'll just have time to book your tickets for the Gesualdo Six concert on March 30th. Hurry because I hear that tickets are going fast.

As I hoped would happen, there is a rich variety of offerings in this issue of the magazine, including major articles by Paul Custerson and David Heath. It could be your turn to be published next month!

Vicar's Letter

Fake news or Good News – which would you rather have?

We've all heard about "fake news" - the stories which certain politicians and certain parts of the media invent, or wildly exaggerate, in order to push their own agendas, or boost their own profits.

The other name for it is "lies". Whether it's a promise of NHS funding painted on the side of a bus, or a non-existent "massacre" used as an excuse for banning immigrants, such lies are more and more common.

It's bad enough when people get fooled by those lies. It's worse when people make decisions based on those lies, because those are inevitably bad decisions – the only people who benefit are the liars. Worst of all is that the liars can then cry "fake news" even when presented with the truth, leaving everyone confused, and making it much harder to find out what is real news, and what is lies.

In the Gospels, it is Pontius Pilate, the cruel and cynical Roman politician, who asks Jesus "what is truth?" just before making the politically expedient, but wrong, decision to have Jesus executed. Pontius Pilate may have thought that the truth could be distorted, hidden, or killed, but God had other ideas.

Jesus said of himself "I am the way, the truth and the life". His life conquered death: Jesus rose from the dead, and the truth was revealed – Good News, not fake news.

How can we deal with the problem of fake news? We can actively look for the other side of each issue. We can ask ourselves "who is benefitting from this?" We can think, pray, and make up our own minds. Then we can choose not to support 'newspapers' or politicians who peddle lies. We can choose to be and to spread Good News.

Jesus also said "the truth will make you free" so to choose truth is to choose life and freedom. To turn a blind eye to 'fake news' is to choose death, and enslavement to those who benefit from us not asking questions.

So what will you have: fake news, or the Good News? The choice is yours.

Revd Steve Day

Church Services for March

Sunday 5th March	Holy Communion 8.30am
Sunday 12th March	Evening Prayer 6.00pm
Sunday 19th March	Family Service 10.30am
Sunday 26th March	MOTHERING SUNDAY Family Service 10.30am
Every Wednesday:	Evening Prayer 6.30pm

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

5 th March	Christine Allison
12 th March	Janet Clear
19 th March	Miki Ellar
26 th March	Kay Forsythe

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.

Mothering Sunday 26th March

All are very welcome to our Family Service for Mothering Sunday, especially families with young children.

Annual Church Meetings

The annual Church Meetings will take place in the Village Hall on the 4th April at 7.30pm, for the purposes of electing two churchwardens and presenting annual reports. All parishioners are entitled and welcome to attend.

More on Kingston's dovecotes

Besides David Heath's and May-lis Atiyah's dovecotes, described last month, Kingston in the past had two more besides. There was one at Kingston Wood Manor, clearly drawn on the Earl of Hardwicke's estate map of 1720, and another at the Rectory, 'of mud and thatch', mentioned in a terrier of 1837.

Peter Reynolds

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.

Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday
2nd March 12.00 noon at Bourn Church

Announcement!! Village Morning Coffee **Re-starts on Wednesday March 1st**

As announced last month, some people have been wondering if it might be time to revive the monthly coffee morning held in the village hall, especially now that we have such a marvellous new kitchen and newly refurbished room at the hall.

We therefore propose to open the hall on the first Wednesday of each month, starting in March, from 10:30 am.

Please do come along for coffee/tea and a chat. We welcome all villagers who are interested. Please turn out to help make this a success.

Mikki Ellar

Date	Title	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe
Mar 2		Ash Wednesday Holy Communion 12.00 at Bourn			
Mar 5	Lent 1	10.30am FHC	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A	
Mar 12	Lent 2	10.30am W4A	6.00pm EP	10.30am M{P	8.30am HC
Mar 19	Lent 3	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A		
Mar 26	Mothering Sunday	10.30am FW	10.30am FS	11.00am FS	9.30am FS
Apr 2	Lent 5	10.30am FHC	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A	
Apr 9	Palm Sunday	10.30am Cluster HC at Bourn			
Apr 13	Maundy Thursday	7.30pm HC at Kingston			
Apr 14	Good Friday	9.30am FS at Bourn 12.00pm Stations of the Cross at Eltisley			
Apr 16	Easter Sunday	10.30am FHC	10.30am FHC	11.00am FHC	9.30am FHC
Apr 23	Sunday after Easter	8.30am Cluster HC at Longstowe 10.30am Cluster HC at Eltisley			
Apr 30	Easter 3	Full Team Service at Caxton led by team from Ridley Hall with guest speaker			

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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Wave Café Church

**Wednesday 1st March 7.45 for 8pm until 9pm
at Manor Farm, Bourn**



For those who are interested in exploring Christianity in a relaxed and informal way. Please come and bring a friend.

Bishop David will be at Wave, introducing this year's Lent course - "Becoming Bigger Christians".

For more information please contact Mike Bigg on 01480 839147.

The Papworth Team Churches Lent Course: Becoming Bigger Christians

Introduction at WAVE at The Stove Café, Manor Farm, Bourn, CB23 2SH on Ash Wednesday, (1st March) – 7.45pm for 8pm. Led by Bishop David. Then every Tuesday of Lent from 7th March until 11th April at Papworth Village Hall at 8.15pm

If you are interested in attending the Lent course (even if you can't commit to every week) then please contact the team office to put your name down ~ thank you Email: papworthteamministryoffice@gmail.com Tel: 01480 839933

Announcing a Pub Night Special

Come to Kingston Pub Night on 4 March and enjoy a delicious takeaway curry! We thought we would start with curry from the award winning Cam Spice in Eversden. It works like this:

1. Go to www.camspice.co.uk by Friday 3 March (Or order by phone on 01223 264443).
2. Choose your meal.
3. Pay.
4. Ask that your curry order, with your surname, be delivered to the village hall at 7.15 on Saturday.
5. Come and join your friends for a delicious curry and a drink from the bar.

We will be cooking pizza for those of you who would prefer it.

If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Wright

MARK STEELE

ALL FORMS OF GENERAL BUILDING RENOVATION
AND DECORATING WORK CARRIED OUT

07831 550189

or

01223 264710

Orchard End Church Lane
Kingston Cambridge CB23 2NG



Major Announcement: The A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme is now officially underway

The £1.5 billion project includes a major new bypass to the south of Huntingdon and upgrades to 21 miles of the A14, adding additional capacity, boosting the local and national economy and cutting up to 20 minutes off journeys. Construction is now underway and we will be implementing traffic management shortly. To minimise the impact on drivers, we aim to maintain the current number of traffic lanes during the day by narrowing the existing lanes to gain the space needed. When work does require lane or full closures, these will take place at night. Diversions have been agreed with Cambridgeshire County Council and will be clearly signposted.

Over the next few months, we will be using the following traffic management:

- narrow lanes on the eastbound A428 between Madingley and Girton; this is the start of traffic management to construct this section of the scheme
- narrow lanes in both directions of the A14 between Dry Drayton and Swavesey; this is the start of traffic management to construct this section of the scheme
- traffic lights on side roads during off-peak hours (9.30am to 3.30pm)
- night-time closures on the A1 between Brampton Interchange and Alconbury, and on the A14 between junction 24 (Godmanchester) and junction 30 (Dry Drayton); this is for site clearance

For up to date traffic information visit the roadworks planner on our scheme page <http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/a14-cambridge-to-huntingdon>

The Papworth Team produces a weekly Bulletin

with details of services across the Team, events in the Papworth Team villages and Team news which is sent out by email to those who request it.

Please contact the office if you would like to receive this.
(papworthteamministryoffice@gamil.com)

The Gesualdo Six

Thursday 30th March

Kingston Church, CB23 2NG

The Gesualdo Six are an outstanding vocal sextet directed by Owain Park. Focusing mostly on early renaissance music, they also perform works by modern composers. In 2015-16 they were the St John's Smith Square Young Artists of the Year.

www.thegesualdosix.co.uk

Buffet supper in the village hall from 6.30pm

Concert in the Church 8.00pm

Tickets £25: to include a buffet supper and glass of wine

Tickets from: Linda Rimmer

all proceeds in aid of Kingston Parish Church

Parish Email Distribution List

Most readers will know that I send out periodic emails to a distribution list on matters of local interest, such as:

- Police information on nearby crimes (to keep us all on our toes!)
- Matters with a fast-approaching deadline, too late for the next magazine
- Reminders about an approaching village event

To try and keep the quantity to a minimum, I do consider each message for its relevance to Kingston and its potential usefulness before sending out. I am sometimes asked to send out a message by someone else in the village, and am happy to do this providing it passes my test of relevance and usefulness. Despite this, inevitably those of you on the receiving end will get some messages which are of no interest whatsoever, however I hope that the labour of 'click – delete' for the nuisance element is a price worth paying for the useful information. I welcome any comments on the way it works for you.

If anybody reading this doesn't know what I am talking about, you are probably not on the list. If so, you may be missing out on some important or useful information. If you would like to be included, please let me know with a quick email to kingstonpc.cambridge@gmail.com. You can always ask to be taken off again if the stream of messages becomes an intolerable deluge.

Peter Stokes, Parish Clerk

THE CUSTERSON FAMILY IN KINGSTON AND THE EVERSDENS

To put this article into context, Custerson is a very local name and has been in Cambridgeshire for at least 400 years. My research into the family tree has taken me back to the late 16th century where the earliest records are at Landbeach. Within a matter of just 40 years the name morphed from Christoferson through Christerson, finally settling on Custerson.

The Custersons first appeared in Great Eversden when Joseph Custerson of Wimpole (my 4x great-grandfather) married Elizabeth Blacktop on 28 May 1761 in St Mary's church. He was a tenant farmer on the Wimpole estate and after his death in 1775 his widow continued to run the farm on the estate until at least 1790. Their son Joseph married Elizabeth King of Melbourn in St Mary's, Great Eversden in 1793. They settled in Great Eversden and raised 12 children. After the Inclosure Act of 1814, Joseph was allotted 10 acres, 1 rood and 18 perches of land by copyhold to the south-west of the

village, off a lane which used to run beside the church parallel to Wimpole Road. The family attended the Congregational Chapel (now the Village Hall) and 6 of the children were baptized there on 5 December 1815. Joseph and Elizabeth's son Samuel is listed on all the censuses from 1841 to 1871 as a farmer in Great Eversden. He died in 1876 and his gravestone still lies next to the old chapel beside the car park.

As a result of cousins marrying within the family, two of Joseph and Elizabeth's other sons, John and Robert, became my 2x great-grandfathers, the former on the male side and the latter on the female.

On the first reliable census of 1841, John was recorded as a farmer living in Great Eversden with his wife Ann (née Stevenson) and 7 children. Robert in the meantime had married Ann Paine at Kingston in 1829 and in the census of 1841 was recorded at Kingston as a publican and wheelwright, living at the Chequers (now The White House) in Field Road with his wife and six children.

In the late 1840s John also moved to Kingston with his widowed mother and according to the 1851 census he was farming 98 acres and employed three labourers, probably at North End Farm (i.e. North Farm in Church Lane. N.B. full addresses are not given on early censuses). Robert was still a publican and wheelwright, but also farmed 10 acres, employing his own family.

By 1861 the size of both John's and Robert's farms had increased to 99 and 31 acres respectively. John was employing four men and two boys, and Robert one man.

John died in 1869 and Mary Mills, in her famous diary, gives a touching record of his passing. On the 1871 census John's widow Ann was running the farm, reduced to 70 acres, with the help of three men and one boy. Her eldest son Richard was farming 12 acres next door and Robert's eldest son Paine was a wheelwright on the other side – three Custersons in a row! Robert & Ann were still at the Chequers and their son Reuben (my great-grandfather) was listed as a horse keeper. Their son John had married Sarah Mills in 1869 and by 1871 they were lodging with William Hart and Sarah his wife (née Custerson) in Great Eversden and John was recorded as a carpenter. My other great-grandfather Joseph was running the village shop in Great Eversden with his wife Mary. They had three children and their lodger was the local schoolmistress, Eliza Mary Hood.

Robert's wife Ann died in 1876, but he was still going strong in 1881 when the census was taken, running the pub and farm. His youngest son George had now taken over the role of wheelwright and his cousin Mary acted as housekeeper. George was

Robert's youngest son and Mary was the daughter of his eldest son Paine, so they were the same age. George was in fact Mary's uncle and she was his niece. Living in the same house together, the inevitable happened and they fell in love, and in 1884 they eloped to Mary's brother Israel in Shoreditch, London, where they got married. Unfortunately they decided to return to Kingston and were the scandal of the village: it is illegal for an uncle to marry his niece. Of their nine children only one male survived into old age and five of the remainder never reached the age of ten. My great-grandfather, Reuben, had married his cousin Jane in 1875 and had moved to Great Eversden where he was farming at 32 Church Street, which I believe may have been 'The Homestead' (later the Fosseys' house, opposite the church), although a few years later he and his family were at 'Sunnyside' next door. His brother John (carpenter) was living at 27 Chapel Road with wife Sarah (née Mills), six children and his aunt, Sarah Hart.



Reuben & Jane's family in the orchard at Sunnyside, Great Eversden, c1903: Back row L to R – Percy, John, George, Harry & Israel. Front row L to R – Reuben with George's eldest son Edgar, Jane, George's wife Elizabeth with second son Reg, Harry's wife Ann with their first child Jack. (Harry & Ann are my grandparents)

My other great-grandfather, Joseph, was living at 23 Chapel Road, with his wife Mary and daughter Anna. Their neighbours were Henry Blacktop, a carpenter and Alfred Glading, the Congregational Minister. I assume that they lived almost opposite the chapel. Joseph died in 1889, but Mary was still running the grocer's shop with her

daughter Anna when the 1891 census was taken. John was by now a master carpenter and he and Sarah had eight children. Reuben was still farming in Great Eversden next door to Samuel and Sarah's son Joseph, who had married Elizabeth Ann Hagger in 1877, and by 1891 they had three sons and two daughters.

Back in Kingston following Robert's death in 1884, his eldest son Paine is recorded as a wheelwright and journeyman living at 7 Main Street (probably Church Cottage in Church Lane) with his wife Jane and daughter Ruth on the 1891 census. Next door at the Rectory, their daughter Martha was housekeeper to the Rector, the Revd John Griffith Cheshire. George and Mary were at the Chequers with three daughters and one son, whilst his brother Joseph and wife Sarah Ann (née Gravestock) lived nearby with their nine children.

Now because most families were large this narrative is becoming very complicated. So for the next two censuses (1901 and 1911) I shall just list the Custersons who were living in Kingston and the Eversdens:

Kingston 1901

Great Lane (i.e. Church Lane) – Jane (75) widow with granddaughter Anne Male

Great Lane – Joseph (70) widower with 4 sons & 2 daughters

The Chequers – George (48) & Mary (née Custerson) (47) with 3 sons & 1 daughter

Cross Road – Charles (64) widower

Field Road – David (34) & Emma (née Allen) (33) with 4 sons & 1 daughter

Great Eversden 1901

Private house - John (56) & Sarah (née Mills) (51) with 2 daughters

Farm house - Reuben (54) & Jane (née Custerson) (57) with 3 sons & 1 daughter

General shop - Harry J K (38) (my grandfather) and cousin Lydia (14)

Little Eversden 1901

Cottage - Richard (35) & godmother Eliza Cornwell (69)

Kingston 1911

The Green – David (45) & Emma (née Allen) (44) with 4 sons & 2 daughters

The Chequers – George (59) & Mary (née Custerson) (57) with son Frank (18)

Great Lane – Joseph (31), brother George (42) & sister Joyce (24)

Great Eversden 1911

John (66) & Sarah (née Mills) (62)

Merry's Farm – Richard (40) & 'Lillie' (née Isabella Angel) (39) with 1 son & 2 daughters (Richard was known locally as "Duxer Dick" - he came from Duxford)

Little Eversden 1911

The Plough – Philip (29) & Ruth (née Bester) (29) with 1 son & 1 daughter

My great-grandfather Reuben had moved to farm at Comberton by 1911, but died at North End Farm Kingston in 1929. His youngest son Israel also farmed at North End Farm, but on 31 May 1934 there was a disastrous fire which destroyed the farmhouse

and outbuildings. As reported in the Cambridge Chronicle, this was caused when a spark from a passing traction engine set fire to the thatch and, fanned by a strong wind, it was impossible to stop the resulting inferno. Luckily everyone escaped unharmed.



North Farm, Church Lane, before it was burnt down (children unknown). The brick wall on the left survived until 2014

This is almost where I run out of information, but I do recall visiting Edward Dan Custerson and his wife in Little Eversden and Jane Richmond (née Custerson – Charlie Richmond’s mother) in Caldecote during the 1970s, when my wife Sylvia and I were researching the family history. They were both very helpful with filling in some gaps; in fact it was Jane who confirmed that David Custerson’s sons Israel and Robert had emigrated to Australia in the 1920s. Israel’s descendants are in the Melbourne area to this day.

Naturally many of those mentioned above are buried in the Eversdens and Kingston churchyards, not least both of my 2x great-grandparents: John and Ann in Great Eversden and Robert and Ann in Kingston. John and Ann’s son Joseph is also buried at Great Eversden with his wife Mary. Their son Harry married Robert and Ann’s granddaughter Ann and they are my grandparents (both Custersons!) Needless to say, in village communities it was not uncommon for cousins to marry within the same family. Harry and Ann, and later their son Jack, ran a dairy from 55 Maid’s Causeway in Cambridge, keeping cows on Midsummer Common.

Charlie Richmond's mother Jane was the daughter of David and Emily Custerson; David's parents were Paine and Jane Custerson; Paine was the eldest son of Robert and Ann (née Paine). Thus Charlie is my third cousin.

Emily Custerson at Mills Villa (1, Field Row, Kingston) holding her baby daughter Jane (born 1912), Charlie Richmond's mother, with her older daughter Rose Beatrice to the right



I hope you have found this interesting, and I would be grateful to receive (through the editor) any information relating to the Custersons that readers of this article might be able to supply.

Paul Custerson, Cambridge – January 2017

Thriplow Daffodil Weekend

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 March

11.00am until 5.00pm

Each year 7,000 - 10,000 people visit Thriplow for the annual Daffodil Weekend. Visitors step back in time, walking the beautiful traffic-free lanes and connecting footpaths, visiting residents' Open Gardens, Craft Barns, Marquees, Stalls and Demonstrations, and experiencing the warm and friendly atmosphere, with music and a variety of food on offer: plus Church flower festival, heavy horses, sheepdogs and a working smithy. Daffodil Weekend is a village community (450 residents) working together. Virtually everyone in the village does something towards the event, be it baking cakes, helping serve teas, working in the car park or picking up litter at the end of the day.

Adults £5, Children (u16) £2.50, Under 5s FREE

<http://thriplowdaffodils.org.uk/>





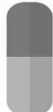
Broadband for Kingston - latest

Workmen have been busy recently bringing the new fibre cables into the village. There should be 52 households covered by the current work, and a further 20 households in the next few months. Unfortunately no details are forthcoming about exactly which premises are being covered when, but it looks on the ground as though it is the Eversden side of the village that will go live first. Hopefully by the time you read this, the first FTTP (Fibre To The Premises) orders for Kingston will be underway.

Julie Conder

DON'T SWALLOW UP YOUR NHS

Last year your local NHS spent over £4 million on prescribing medicines that you can buy easily from local pharmacies, shops or supermarkets. This included:

Pain relief (paracetamol)	Upset stomach treatment	Antihistamines (hayfever)	Heartburn & indigestion treatment	Travel sickness treatment
				
Cost to your local NHS: £1.5 million	Cost to your local NHS: £1.2 million	Cost to your local NHS: £550,000	Cost to your local NHS: £320,000	Cost to your local NHS: £93,000
Cost for you to buy £0.25 (16 tablets)	Cost for you to buy £1.00 (6 capsules)	Cost for you to buy £2.75 (30 tablets)	Cost for you to buy £2.00 (200ml)	Cost for you to buy £2.30 (10 tablets)

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THIS WINTER**

All prices are based on an online search for the cheapest available product in your local pharmacy or supermarket.

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Cambridge Science Festival

13 - 26 March 2017

The programme for the 2017 Festival features hundreds of mostly free talks, performances, exhibitions, films and hands-on events – and some family favourites are back again for another year.

Find programme details and book at <http://www.sciencefestival.cam.ac.uk/>

The Repair Shop

My name is Ryan and I'm on the casting team at Ricochet TV which is part of Warner Bros TV production UK www.ricochet.co.uk

We are making a new television show for BBC2 called "The repair shop"; the show looks into repairing beloved and interesting possessions for people who would like to see them restored or repaired back to their original working order. The kind of items we have come across so far have ranged from inherited pocket watches to grandfather clocks, from rocking horses to drawn carriages, even from toy cars to VW campers. We have a team of experts who cover all trades such as blacksmithing, ceramics, clockmakers, upholsterers and carpenters

Additionally, as well as sentimental/interesting items belonging to individuals....we'd really love to feature and repair a few items in the show that have a community value, something treasured or something essential to communities that has fallen into disrepair, perhaps has an interesting story and purpose to the village/town that can be restored.

If perhaps you might have something you'd love to be repaired, then please get back in touch with us at repair@ricochet.co.uk or call us on 01273 224800



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The SOCIETY of
CHIROPODIST
& PODIATRISTS



A shaky start in the U.S.A.

I have no doubt that present day travellers find airport security checks irritating to say the least but, even as long ago as 1982 when Ann, my wife, and I had our first introduction to America our arrival at Los Angeles was far from free of unexpected and alarming difficulties. We had booked with Freddie Laker Airways but our trip was put in jeopardy when the firm went bankrupt only days before the departure date. Luckily our Agency managed to re-book us with American Express, albeit at a substantially higher charge, and eventually I found myself standing in a very slow moving passport control queue at L.A. Airport after an eleven hour flight from Heathrow. I was in no mood for extra traumas and Ann was sitting wearily on a bench at the back of the hall with our hand luggage beside her.

"Oh" bother" I said, or words to that effect, "I've left my specs on the plane!" I promptly dashed off to explain my problem to a stewardess. Closely escorted back to the plane I found my essential item with some relief and came back to rejoin the rear of what had become a much longer queue. Ann spotted me and walked a few paces across the hall to suggest that I should join a shorter queue nearby. Rather unwisely, as it turned out, she left the hand luggage unattended on the bench and as she turned back towards it was seriously shaken to see two grim looking security guards, hands hovering over hefty but still holstered guns, heading straight for the bags. They were clearly ready to raise a bomb alert but visibly relaxed as Ann took possession again and they faded once more into the background.

Having at last collected our baggage we tried to make contact with our courier. In the confusing melee that followed we failed but we were advised eventually by an official to board a crowded shuttle bus which would get us to downtown Los Angeles. We struggled off the bus when told and found ourselves standing at a street corner in an alien world waiting for a cab. Standing with us was a very large lady and her very small husband. Like us they were heavily laden and it transpired that we were all heading for the same hotel. Within minutes a battered, ancient, and "un-taxi-like" vehicle containing a swarthy, rather shifty looking driver pulled up beside us. Noting the limited size of the boot, among other things, I hastily suggested that the large lady and small escort should take this "cab" and Ann and I would wait for another. No such luck! Our cases had been slung aboard in a flash and the half shut boot lid was being tied down with a ragged piece of string. The four of us were quickly bundled in like sacks of laundry. Ann was pushed into the front passenger seat whilst I was squeezed into the back seat beside the

voluminous lady and almost smothered by her. The small husband was similarly squashed on her other side but, at least, he was probably used to it!

Our desperate journey was rudely interrupted at one stage when the flimsy boot string broke and one suitcase violently escaped to land in the middle of a four lane highway! A squeal of brakes was followed by our driver, who, as though this was a normal occurrence to him, dashed out to collect and re-secure with another length of string which looked no stronger than the first piece. I, selfishly, took comfort from the fact that our cases, being at the bottom of the heap, had remained on board.

At the palatial entrance to the Ambassador Hotel, close to the hillside adorned with the famous 'HOLLYWOOD' motif, the arrival of this somewhat dishevelled quartet was met with the disapproving gaze of an impressively uniformed doorman. It was only later that we discovered that our dodgy driver had extracted three times the going rate from us for our hectic journey. His passing cheerful comment to us was - "SAY, DID YOUSE FOLKS KNOW, DIS JOINT IS WHERE SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY GOT BUMPED OFF?"

As Ann and I slumped gratefully into our king size bed she murmured optimistically that things could only get better.....Thankfully they did!

Dave Heath

Visit to France

Comberton Twinning Association is looking for people in the area with an interest in France and French life. Speaking French is NOT a requirement. We arrange annual visits to and from our twin village in France – Le Vaudreuil, near Rouen, as well as social events locally. The next visit is to France, on 21 to 23 April 2017, with subsidised travel by coach and Eurotunnel. You stay with local host families, and experience the French way of life. Families with children particularly welcome. Book soon to get a place. Annual subscription of CTA is only £10, under 16s free. For more information, or to join, contact Paul Hardy tel 263232, email paul@paulhardy.net, or see www.CombertonTwinning.org.uk. Remember, the “Entente Cordiale” between Britain and France was established long before the European Union, and will continue in force despite Brexit!

Our MP Heidi Allen's Newsletter (Jan-Feb 2017)

The cold winter days have been considerably brightened this month by visits to some of my fantastic primary schools. I'd like to thank Barton C of E Primary School in particular, for inviting me to sample some mud delicacies made in their own playground mud kitchens! Barton are looking for a local sponsor to help them achieve their goal of 20 laptops for the children to use. If you know of anyone, perhaps a local business, or would yourself be interested in helping this fabulous little school get connected, please contact the Head teacher, Clare Coulson on 01223 262474.

I was pleased to go back to Guilden Morden Primary School with the East of England Regional Schools Commissioner, Dr Tim Coulson to see progress since they academised on 1st November. The school looks and feels absolutely fantastic and I would like to offer my thanks to the parents, governors and staff who have worked so hard. I was also fortunate to view their brand new Pre-School's facility, which offers care to under 5's in a modern, well-equipped setting. They still have a few spaces available, though I expect them to fill fast. Contact office@guildenmorden.cambs.sch.uk for further information.

Our schools are our future and we need to invest in them. I continue to raise the issue of fairer funding in the House of Commons and directly with the Education Secretary, Justine Greening. Cambridgeshire has been historically under-funded and is now experiencing unprecedented growth, which makes for something of a perfect storm in the funding environment. The Government are now consulting on new national funding formula proposals and your contribution is really important.

I have concerns, shared by all our schools, that the proposed formula is still not quite right, so please do join me in feeding this in. For information on the changes we need, please contact my office and to submit to the consultation before the closing date of 22nd March 2017, please go to <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/>.

I'm committed to supporting initiatives that improve mental health within our communities, particularly in our youngsters. Over the past year, I've been following the progress of an innovative partnership developed with the Melbourn schools cluster and an organisation called Allyance. This scheme works on early intervention strategies to support young people with mental health issues in their own school environment. The project has been so successful that Cambridgeshire

County Council have approved an extension to their funding for the next year. Furthermore, I hope Allyance will be asked to roll out their initiative all across the county.

I was delighted to celebrate Addenbrooke's great achievement of gaining an overall rating of 'Good' in their recent CQC report. This is a phenomenal turnaround for the hospital and is testament to the dedication and commitment of their outstanding staff. I visited with the Minister, the Rt Hon Phillip Dunne and witnessed just how far the team have come in under two years. We never stopped being proud of you for one moment, and were never in doubt that the quality of care and service was anything other than world class. I'm glad the CQC can now see this too!

Turning to roads, Highways England will shortly be publishing their plans for the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet upgrade. The Consultation opens in March. Work on this stretch of road is vital in supporting our growth and making our roads safer and more efficient. When it's launched, I'll include a link to it on my infrastructure page which can be found here - <https://www.heidisouthcambs.co.uk/a428-black-cat-caxton-gibbet>. Please contribute if this issue affects you.

Thanks to those of you who took the time to contribute to my public transport feedback request. I received almost 100 responses. I'll now be taking your opinions and evidence to key stakeholders, including the bus and train operators. There is no quick fix to our rural transportation issues but I intend to push for innovation and joined up thinking that can benefit South Cambridgeshire as part of the City Deal and Devolution package. Please keep an eye on my website for details.

As always, if you have anything you'd like to share with me, you can find details of my upcoming surgeries here - www.heidisouthcambs.co.uk/residents-drop-surgeries I'll be in Swavesey in March and Cambourne in April. Or call 01954 212707 or email me at heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk

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.

Mary Chapin Carpenter

On Sunday February 5th we went to our latest concert – Mary Chapin Carpenter at the Corn Exchange in Cambridge. This was the last night of her latest UK tour and she admitted on stage that she was looking forward to returning home next day to her pets and her farm house in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. This was no surprise; as her music attests, she is a country singer and song-writer with her feet set firmly on the ground. While keeping her vitriol about the new presidency in check (referring to the “freak-show back home”), she opened her set with “songs of hope and resiliency”. If you are unfamiliar with this five-time Grammy-award winning artist, she has produced 13 studio albums (apparently she still prefers to call them records) since the late 1980s, each one spanning country, folk and Americana music with the odd rocking number thrown in. She treated us to a selection of her hits (“He Thinks He’ll Keep Her”, “This Shirt”, “Passionate Kisses”, “Shut Up and Kiss Me”, and “I Feel Lucky”) and covered several tracks from her latest album “The Things That We Are Made Of” including the stand-out tracks “Oh Rosetta” and the title track. Having seen her last in Nashville in 1994, it was so good to see her so relaxed and still on the top of her form. Having survived a pulmonary embolism in 2005, her songs have taken on a wistful melancholia that adds depth and maturity to her music. And Cambridge is one of her favourite places! She has appeared at the annual Cambridge Folk Festival and queued up for 8 hours to get into the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King’s College, something which she intends to do again this year. In fact, her parting shot was “See you again next Christmas!”

As an introduction to her music, any one of several compilations of her hits would be a good starting point.

Peter Holly

Apprenticeships Jobs Fair

Wednesday 8 March 12.00-16.00 at Cambridge Regional College, CB4 2QT.

An Apprenticeship is more than a job – you gain on the job experience, skills taught at college & the right industry qualifications.

Come & meet employers that are recruiting for apprenticeship jobs.

Tickets free, register at www.camre.ac.uk 01223 418200

‘Making space for God’

A few weeks ago we held a day for couples due to be married in the course of 2017 in churches that are part of the Papworth Team Ministry. This year there will be 19 weddings and it is an important as well as particularly enjoyable part of the work we do. In the course of about 5 hours we spent time thinking about the wedding ceremony and - more importantly – what it means to live happily together under God. As many will testify, the latter is easier said than done.

One of the contributions we made was to offer our thoughts on why getting married in church can be a particularly good choice as the place to start this new season in 2 people’s lives. Until relatively recently the options were limited – the church or the local Registry Office.

One of the most familiar stories about Jesus (recorded in John chapter 2) is when he was a guest at a wedding. His presence resulted in a lot of ordinary water becoming top quality wine. The focus is not on the ceremony but on the impact of what happens when people, in the face of a crisis, wake up to the presence of God in their midst in the person of Jesus. He needed to be asked to intervene and when people followed his instructions the outcome was amazing, lavish and super-abundant.

You may be reading this and finding yourself facing a crisis that seems likely to overwhelm you unless something like a miracle occurs. My encouragement is simple: try calling out to God and see what sort of help and intervention he brings to you.

This invitation is open to all; it is why many of our churches are open 7 days out of 7 so that people of no faith, some faith or lots of faith can find space and peace to reflect, pray and – if they want - be alone with Him.

The Revd Nigel di Castiglione

Local wildlife day – part of the Cambridge Science Festival

Sunday 26 March 11.00-15.30 at Wandlebury Country Park, CB22 3AE. Free, fun day out giving the whole family the chance to make amazing discoveries about our local wildlife. Meet a live barn owl, learn about our local owls & meet some of an owl’s potential prey. Dissect owl pellets to see what they have eaten recently. Study our local amphibians, then go on a scavenger hunt around the park! Free, drop in event in the Stable Rooms. All welcome. No need to book. Children must remain accompanied. Parking £3. Donations gratefully received.

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Dispensary

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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

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Other sizes by arrangement. Reduced rates for Kingston residents

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Addenbrooke's switchboard	01223 245151
Age UK (Information and Advice line)	0800 1696565
Anglian Water (sewage)	08457 145145
Ashcroft Vet Surgery 169 St. Neots Rd, Hardwick	01954 210250
Cambridge Rail Station general inquiries	0845 7484950
Cambridge Water	01223 70605
Camdoc (out of hours)	01223 464242
Chinese , Fish and Chips 2 High St. Toft	01223 263337
Citizens Advice Bureau	01223 222660
Crimestoppers (anonymous crime reporting)	0800 555111
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58 Green End, Comberton	appointments 01223 262500
	prescriptions 01223 262399
Dr. Redwood & Partners, Bourn Surgery	
	appointments 01954 719469
	emergencies 01954 719313
Electricity (emergency)	0800 783838
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Italian , The Pergola, Harlton	01223 260005
Jetlink (to Stansted, Heathrow, Luton, Gatwick)	08705 747757
Magazine Editor Peter Holly	01223 264556
National Rail Enquiries	08457 484950
Neighbourhood Watch (Peter Stokes)	01223 262207
NHS 24hr health Advice Line (talk to a nurse/doctor)	111
Parish Council Chairman (Tim Fitzjohn)	01223 263446
Parish Council Clerk (Peter Stokes)	01223 262207
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Road repair	01223 833717
Rosie Maternity Hospital	01223 217617
Samaritans	01223 364455
SC District Council (Local Councillor Tumi Hawkins)	01954 210840
South Cambridgeshire District Council	03450 450500
Stagecoach (Cambus) information 8am to 8pm	0870 6082608
Stansted Airport	0870 000303
Streetlight failure reporting	0800 7838247

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

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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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Sarah Wright (Secretary)
kingstonvillagehall@gmail.com

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