

Kingston Parish & Church Magazine



March 2018

Village Diary

Saturday 3 rd March	Village Pub Night – Village Hall, 6pm-10pm
Wednesday 7 th March	Village Coffee/Tea – Village Hall – 10.30am
Tuesdays 13 th , 20 th and 27 th March	Core Fitness Class, 10.00am & 7.15pm

Wheelie bin collection dates

Wednesday 7 th March	Black bin
Wednesday 14 th March	Blue and Green bins
Wednesday 21 st March	Black bin
Wednesday 28 th March	Blue and Green bins

Editorial

OK, get out your daffodils, your leeks, and your funny Welsh hats, it's March 1st, St. David's Day! In honour of the patron saint of Wales, you are supposed to eat something called "cawl" (a soup made of leeks and other locally grown produce), Welsh rarebit, and/or "bara brith" (tea loaf). If you don't you may have my deceased mother to deal with, as St. David's Day was her most important day of the year. The Welsh chapel, David Lloyd George and St. David's Day were the three corner-stones of her life and daffodils were in abundance in our house at this time of year. They are still my favourite flower. When it came to rugby my father dared to support England (she came from Cardiff and he came from Bristol), something that she never allowed him to forget! My brother joined her in supporting Wales and I levelled things by joining my father. What this meant was that half the family was always in mourning after the annual Wales vs England rugby match.

This month there is a new feature in the magazine, Book of the Month. Each month a book review will appear and, hopefully, many of you will feel like stepping up and submitting a review of something you have read recently. You are also invited to read a book that has been reviewed and submit your comments – a bit like an on-line book club but in the pages of this magazine.

Peter Holly pjholly45@gmail.com 01223 264 556

Vicar's Letter

"Temptation" is always good for a quick laugh: Oscar Wilde claimed "I can resist everything except temptation" and Mae West said "I generally avoid temptation unless I can't resist it."

American comedian Robert Orben noticed that "what makes resisting temptation difficult for many people is they don't want to discourage it completely."

The language of temptation has been taken over by the advertising industry, which plays to the "naughty but nice" idea: the sense of doing something a little bit forbidden. Far from being seen as a failure if we give in to temptation, it's inevitable - desirable, even. Temptation is to be resisted just enough to make it more enjoyable when we eventually give in, and eat, buy, or do whatever it is that's been tempting us.

All of this is as much like real temptation as pink balloons and heart-shaped chocolates are like real love.

Real temptation isn't about things we are unable to do, or don't want to do – I doubt anyone is tempted to ask the dentist for an extra filling, or HMRC for an extra tax return.

It's not about something we are "a bit partial to" in a "don't mind if I do" sort of way. We might talk about being tempted to another biscuit, or a few more minutes in bed, but really we know it's not that big a deal.

Real temptation comes when part of us desperately wants to do something which the rest of us knows we must not. Real temptation makes us sweat. It hurts to resist. It feels as if it would be so much easier to give in.

This is the season of Lent, when we remember how Jesus faced real temptation in the wilderness at the start of his ministry. They boiled down to the temptation to be selfish, the temptation to grab power, and the temptation to superficial celebrity – all of which are just as much with us today.

We can be sure that whatever temptations we are facing – the real ones that make us sweat, and are so painful to resist – God knows all about them, first hand.

And of course, if we do find ourselves defeated by temptation, we mustn't despair. Ultimately, what saves us is not our success or failure, but the strength and salvation of Jesus, who identified himself with us in this as in every other way, and defeated this enemy just as he defeated all others.

Revd. Steve Day

Church Services for March

Sunday 4th March	Holy Communion 8.30am
Sunday 11th March	Evening Prayer 6.00pm MOTHERING SUNDAY
Sunday 18th March	Family Service 10.30am

Church cleaning

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

Church flowers and brasses

4 th March	Lee Steele
11 th March	Christine Stone
18 th March	Christine Allison
25 th March	Janet Clear

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.

Church Fund Raising Events

Everyone knows that our church is in need of significant and urgent repairs, inside and out. We are progressing with an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for grant aid, but we will also need to raise money ourselves, and we are therefore pleased to announce the following events: An Auction of Promises will take place in the evening on Friday the 27th April. We are very grateful to Julian and Sara Metherell for inviting us to visit the gardens at Kingston Wood Manor on the afternoon of Sunday July 1st. The church fete will take place this year on Saturday July 14th at South Sea House, by kind invitation of James and Janet Clear. Please put these dates in your diaries. Further information in due course.

Bishop David's visit 4th February 2018

The Bishop of Huntingdon, the Rt Revd David Thomson, presided over our Family Communion service on the 4th February, with the assistance of Daniel Miles, the ordinand assigned to our Team from Ridley Hall in Cambridge. He introduced himself as 'the Heineken bishop – one who reaches the parts that other Bishops can't' and proceeded to speak eloquently on a day with a relatively new designation in the Anglican calendar, namely 'Creation Sunday'. He began by telling us that the words 'scientist' and 'fundamentalism' were both first used in 1833 and that science and religion diverged from this time, so that today they appear to be diametrically opposed. This is a false antithesis, he argued, and science by itself does not give us sufficient or adequate knowledge to explain our emotional and moral nature: faith in God in Christ can provide us with an understanding of how to live.



Bishop David at Kingston with Joan Reynolds and Daniel Miles

Cambridge Science Festival

Mon 12 – Sun 25 March

Talks, interactive demonstrations, hands-on activities, film showings and debates, with the assistance of around 1,000 staff and students from departments and organisations across the University and research institutions, charities and industry in the eastern region. Most events are free. Lots of family activities including at the Grafton Centre on 10 March. Find all the details at

<https://www.sciencefestival.cam.ac.uk/>

Important Upcoming Village Events

Charity Auction in aid of

The Church of All Saints and St Andrew

Friday 27th April 7.00pm

Lots will be auctioned after drinks and a light snack supper; a bar will be available.

Our dear little church is in dire need of roof repairs and updated facilities. We are blessed not only with a picturesque building, in the heart of the community, but some pretty remarkable historic wall art, which currently needs our protection and preservation. The expense will be considerable; we are seeking grants from all quarters but your support will be crucial and much valued.

Please join us for a fun evening, with the opportunity to bid for unusual and interesting lots.

If you have lots to offer, and we hope that you will, please speak to Lee 264710 or Torrie 264054. We are especially keen to offer some lots which 'money cannot normally buy' so if you have debenture seats for Wimbledon, Twickenham, for example or access to exclusive events, venues, activities, etc do please consider offering them for sale.

Lee Steele

Kingston Wood Open Garden and Afternoon Tea

Sunday 1st July

By Kind permission of Julian and Sara Metherell

In aid of
All Saints and Saint Andrew Church Kingston.

Lee Steele and Peter Reynolds.

Kingston Church Fete – South Sea Farm

Saturday 14th July

Date	Title	Bourn	Kingston	Caxton	Longstowe
Mar 4	3 rd Sunday of Lent	10.30am FHC Bishop Stephen	8.30am HC	10.30am MP	
Mar 11	Mothering Sunday	10.30am W4A	6.00pm EP	10.30am W4A	8.30am HC
Mar 18	5 th Sunday of Lent	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A		
Mar 25	Palm Sunday	10.30am FW		8.30am HC	10.30am MP
Apr 1	Easter Sunday	10.30am FHC	10.30am HC	11.00am FHC	9.30am HC
Apr 8	2 nd Sunday of Easter		6.00pm EP		8.30am HC
Apr 15	3 rd Sunday of Easter	8.30am HC	10.30am W4A	10.30am MP	
Apr 22	4 th Sunday of Easter	10.30am FW		8.30am HC	10.30am MP
Apr 29	5 th Sun of Easter	10.30am Team Service venue tbc			

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



The Doghouse Caxton

Dog Walking and Home Boarding

We provide a flexible home/day boarding service for dogs in our family home. Dogs are cared for as they would be in their own house. A dog walking service is offered providing regular or one off walks. We hold an animal boarding licence with South Cambridgeshire District Council and have public liability insurance.

For further information contact

Hannah Hope

hannah@thedoghousecaxton.co.uk

01954 719057 07522 964975

Parish Council elections

Parish councillors are elected every 4 years, and the next election for Kingston (and all Parish Councils) will be on 3 May 2018. There are 5 councillors on Kingston Parish Council, so there will be 5 posts to fill. Anybody who meets some basic requirements can stand as a councillor. To be a candidate for election you will need to fill in a Nomination Form and deliver this by hand to the Returning Officer at South Cambridgeshire District Council's offices in Cambourne no later than 4.00pm on Friday 6 April 2018.

If there are no more than 5 people nominated (which may include any or all of the present councillors) they will all be returned unopposed. If there are more than 5 then a poll will be held on 3 May. Providing there is a quorum of at least 3 elected councillors, they will then fill any remaining vacancies by co-option.

If you would like any more information, or you are interested in being a candidate for election and would like a nomination form, please contact me. I can also give you a number of helpful documents about the work of the Parish Council and the role of councillor, and of course there is plenty of guidance on-line as well.

Peter Stokes, Parish Clerk

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Reminders About Village Hall Activities

This is a reminder about the monthly coffee morning in the Village Hall, held on the first Wednesday of each month from 10:30. We now have a good band of regulars, but would love to see more of you for coffee and biscuits and a chat, so spread the word. We hope to soon have a banner for the fence to jog memories each month, like the monthly pub reminder.

Miki Ellar

The use of our newly refurbished Village Hall seems to be increasing, and some of the best new events are Jacqueline Smith's weekly hour-long exercise classes. They are held on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 and Tuesday evenings at 7:15pm and cost £6.50. The classes are aimed at increasing mobility and flexibility. They are a blend of gentle stretches and core strengthening exercises, geared for adults of all ages and abilities to work at their own pace.

With all of us living longer, we are constantly being encouraged to stay healthy and mobile. So here's an easy local solution to keeping fit. We especially encourage any reluctant men to join one of the groups. Come and give it a go!

Call Jacqueline or email her with any queries.

Tel: 07979 802749

Email: jacqslsmith@gmail.com

Miki Ellar

Thriplow Daffodil Weekend

Sat 17 & Sun 18 March

11am to 5pm

£8, Children £4, U5s: free

www.thriplowdaffodils.org.uk



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Kingston Blues

With a new drummer, Mike Nathan from Barton, the Kingston Blues Band has been active over the last few months with recording sessions for an iTunes listing and a return in January to *Hot Numbers*, the Cambridge coffee shop and music venue on Gwydir Street.

A few weeks ago at a Toft Music Evening, three of the band also performed as a trio. This arrangement is ideal for some of the more traditional and slower blues numbers. One new song on our playlist is 'God Bless the Child (that's got his own)' made famous by Billy Holiday. The song title was a personal reference to a money dispute between Billy Holiday and her mother although the choice of words is probably a reiteration of a New Testament passage, "from him that have not, shall be taken away". The sentiment is similar to that expressed in another blues classic on our list, 'Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out'. In this case the lyrics reflect on the fleeting nature of material wealth. Originally popularised by Bessie Smith, it later became a hit for Eric Clapton. These two blues songs hark back to the pre-war era. They were originally performed on acoustic instruments. In contrast, most of the songs played by our full band could loosely be described as Chicago blues which originated in the late 1940s.

Future performance dates for the Kingston Blues band include the Thriplow Daffodil Weekend on Saturday 17 March, a charity event that last year attracted 10,000 visitors. We are also going back to *Hot Numbers* on the afternoon of Sunday 3 June and will play in Kingston on 9 June and the Oakington Village Fair on 30 June. If anyone would like the band to play at a private party or at a charity event please get in touch – although we are already pretty well booked at times during the summer.

Now here's a nice coincidence. Having just started the final chapter of a book by Elijah Ward (highly recommended) on the history of the blues, I came across a reference to the Kingston Trio. I'd forgotten that the first record I ever bought was "Tom Dooley" by the Kingston Trio and, last weekend, when three members of our band played at Toft, we appeared as....The Kingston Trio!

Simon Draper

Wandlebury Wildlife at Wandlebury Country Park, CB22 3AE

Sun 25 March 11.00am-3.30pm.

Fun activities & displays looking at the amazing senses of bats, birds, amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates & even plants. Try a sensory adventure. Free, no need to book – drop in at any time. Parking £3. <http://www.cambridgeppf.org/whats-on>

**ALL Saints & St Andrew's Church,
Kingston**

**Services for Holy Week
and Easter**

Maundy Thursday (29th March)

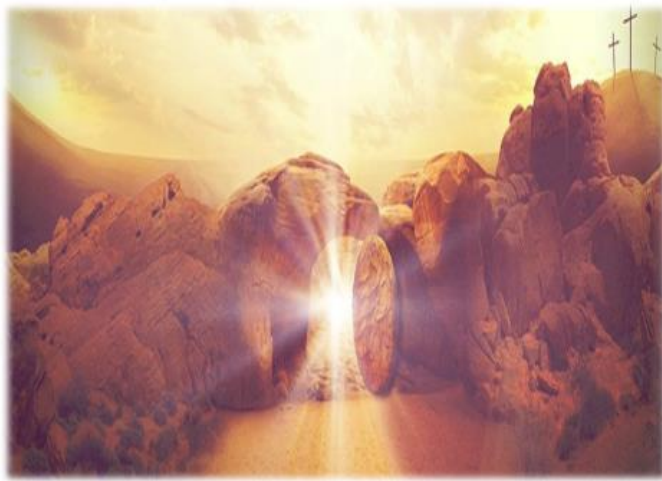
7.30pm ~ Holy Communion at St James' Croxton

Good Friday (30th March)

9.30am ~ Family Service at Bourn

Easter Sunday (1st April)

10.30am ~ Holy Communion



Easter Services across the team also include:

Maundy Thursday at Croxton at 7.30pm

Good Friday 9.30am Family Service at Bourn

Papworth reflections at Noon

Stations of the Cross at Lolworth at Noon

Boxworth reflections at 2pm

There is a walk planned leaving Eltisley at 10am, Yelling at 11am,
arriving at Papworth St Agnes at Noon for Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, Service of the light at Conington at 8.30pm

Easter Sunday - Sunrise service at Lolworth.

Book of the Month

“Robicheaux” by James Lee Burke (Publisher: Simon and Schuster)

Blurring the Lines

Last year I wrote about James Lee Burke’s series of crime books featuring his main protagonist, Dave Robicheaux. His latest book has just been published and, naturally enough, is simply titled “Robicheaux”. It’s classic James Lee Burke and a classic Robicheaux novel. While featuring all the usual suspects (Dave’s best friend Clete Purcel, his boss Helen Soileau, and his daughter Alafair), this book continues to blur lines in several significant ways.

For a start, it is increasingly difficult to separate the author from the main character. Robicheaux is more than just Burke’s voice-piece. The former *is* the latter. Burke changes his name and climbs onto the pages of his book. The affinity between the two is amazing. They’ve clearly had plenty of time to get to know each other.

Secondly, and just to complicate things, Robicheaux’s near neighbour in the book (and someone who is intimately connected with the crimes being investigated) is a novelist who, like Burke, writes historical fiction about the civil war and Cajun country. So now we have Burke living through his main character and writing about another character who shares major facets of himself!

Thirdly, there is Robicheaux’s fictional daughter, Alafair. Across the Robicheaux series of books she has a history all of her own, including her origins in South America and her eventual adoption by Robicheaux and his wife. But Alafair Burke is Burke’s real-life daughter who has also become a crime writer in her own right. Her novels are known for their authenticity and often draw on real-world cases and personal and professional experiences (just like her father’s). When asked about her sharing the name Alafair with the fictional character, she explains that both Alafairs are named after James Lee Burke’s maternal grandmother and that “Alafair” was a more common name in the American South at the turn of the Twentieth Century. In this latest book, Alafair Robicheaux is writing a screenplay for one of the books written by Robicheaux’s neighbour and, in so doing, becomes tangentially involved with Hollywood’s shady acolytes and organized crime.

Fourthly, like his daughter, James Lee Burke, likes to interweave real-life events into his fictional stories. This time around he references real, unsolved murders – the Jeff Davis 8 – that occurred in Jefferson Davis Parish in Louisiana between 2005 and 2009. Involving drugs and prostitution, all eight bodies were found floating in swamps and canals and police involvement was suspected. In this book these murders are more than a back-drop: they are so interwoven that the reader is left wondering which are the real-life murders and which are the fictional ones.

Fifthly, as is often the case in Burke's books, it is increasingly difficult to separate crime from criminal justice and the role played by the police in this phenomenon. When asked by a colleague why Robicheaux visits a known gangster, he has this to say:

Simple. Most investigative cops, often without knowing who Niccolo Machiavelli was, adhere to his admonition to keep your friends close but your enemies closer. Less simple is the fact that we share much of the same culture as the lowlifes, and we are more alike than different, and the information they give is indispensable.

Burke's argument is that, in many cases, the only difference between a cop and a criminal is that one wears a badge and the other one doesn't. And, in this latest book, Robicheaux, the cop, is a suspected criminal himself. During a murder investigation, he discovers he may have committed the very homicide he's investigating, one which involved the death of the man who took the life of Dave's wife. He then works to clear his name and make sense of the murder. He's clearly treading a fine line here.

Another blurred line concerns Burke's connectivity with the Cajun culture of southern Louisiana. He is more than a spokesman for Cajun country: he is poet laureate, historian, critic, defender, lover, and child. Burke, like Robicheaux, is Cajun through and through. This is the main reason why he responds to the unofficial Cajun national anthem "La Jolie Blon" so emotionally.

(There is) no more haunting a ballad in the world. Its origins go back to the eighteenth century but the rendition by Harry Choates is the one that never leaves you. Harry was born in either Rayne, Louisiana, or New Iberia, no one ever knew. He composed and sang in French but didn't know how to speak it. He sold his song for a hundred dollars and a bottle of booze and died drunk or was beaten to death by cops in the Austin city jail. The oddity of Harry's song is that you don't have to speak French to understand it. You know immediately it's about mortality and a lost way of life. Cajun culture is parodied and ridiculed, it is also treated as quaint and commercially exploited and vulgarized. But the travail of the Acadians was real; and so was the love affair of Evangeline on the banks of the Bayou Teche, written about by Longfellow. Whenever someone asks me what southern Louisiana used to look like, and what has been despoiled by industrial polluters and Louisiana's corrupt politicians, I suggest they listen to Harry's lament. In my opinion, anyone who can be indifferent to this song has a spiritual affliction.

James Lee Burke is hardly a dispassionate observer of Cajun life. In this latest book, his connectivity with Cajun culture is ever stronger. He (and his books) are steeped in all things Cajun and are characterized by a fine sense of historical detail. At one and the same time he is historian and activist, observer and contributor. This is why he is able to take a step back and talk about Louisiana's "past grandeur vs legacy of shame" yet, in the next sentence, describe his Cajun surroundings in tones of love and affection, not forgetting of course that it is Dave Robicheaux that is doing Burke's talking for him.

And, finally, as many critics have noted, James Lee Burke has gone way beyond his original genre (crime mystery writing) and has become one of America's best exponents of fiction literature.

In reading this book you are left with the impression that Robicheaux is not getting any younger and that his past is weighing him down. He talks of having too many memories – including of his time in Vietnam, his battles with alcoholism, and the death of his first wife, Molly. Thinking about his time as an investigative cop, he reflects that “I didn’t want to be the repository for all the evil in the world. They may not have been of my making, but nonetheless I had to carry them”. His past – and that of his friends - is his present burden. Sounds like Hemingway to me.

Peter Holly

BOURN PLAYERS PRESENT

Fiddler on the Roof

Based on Sholem Aleichem stories by special permission of Arnold Perl


Book by JOSEPH STEIN Music by JERRY BOCK Lyrics by SHELDON HARNICK

Produced on the New York Stage by Harold Prince. Original New York Stage Production Directed and Choreographed by JEROME ROBBINS

26th 27th & 28th APRIL at 7.30
Matinee on Saturday 28th at 2.30

At the **GREAT BARN**
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TICKETS available at
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and online at
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This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe)
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe www.mtishows.co.uk

NEWS ALERT

Kingston Barns

Many readers are probably intrigued to know what is happening with the Kingston Barns project on Bourn Road. Having chatted with Martin Jackson (project developer) and his assistant, Jackie Day, here is the latest information.

The old barn has been converted into four “high-end” two-bed, two-bath Holiday Lets, one of which incorporates the original silo. There will also be a common area as one of the plans is to make the lettings available to gatherings of family and friends. Work is nearing completion and occupancy will be available from early this summer.

Having toured the larger unit I can safely say that the Holiday Lets are being built to the highest specifications (“five star” is the description). Indeed, everything about Kingston Barns is tasteful and “high-spec” with each unit having en suite bathrooms and wood-burning stoves. They are aimed “above the B&B market” and will be attractive to groups like business executives, wedding parties and family gatherings and reunions. Prior to opening Kingston residents will be invited to look round the properties, but, in the meantime, if you have any questions please feel free to contact Jackie Day. (Tel. 01223 264520; E-mail: enquiries@kingstonbarns.co.uk).

The attached “photos” are projections of what the development will look like, including the inclusion of very attractive gardens at the front of the property.

Further details will be released in due course. In the meantime, watch this space!

Peter Holly



KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL

FOR HIRE

- One large and one smaller hall
- Both newly refurbished
- Up to 50 people sitting
- Tables and chairs supplied
- Fully equipped kitchen
- China, glassware and cutlery
- Fridge
- Alcohol licence
- Disabled access and facilities

Hire charges per hour:

Kingston residents: Before 7pm - £5. After 7pm - £7

Non residents: Before 7pm - £9. After 7pm - £12

Enquiries: Sarah Wright (secretary)

kingstonvillagehall@gmail.com

The Perils Of The Passing Years

'Poor old soul' must have been the thought of some who saw me sometimes as I stumbled, walking stick supported, round the village in recent times. It was not always so! For many years I enjoyed long explorations on foot in scenic mountain and moorland country at home and abroad plus local walks with the Cambridge Rambling Club. Eventually club walks became too long and fast for me as they did for John, a fellow ageing member. We took to easier walks on our own which gradually reduced in length and speed as time took its toll.

The day came when John and I were confronted by a large, locked five barred gate in a Bedfordshire wood. Approaching fellow walkers must have been well entertained at the sight of two, heavily booted and knapsack loaded octogenarians struggling over the obstacle by taking turns to ease by hand the trailing foot of the other over the top bar! When a similar emergency on a badly constructed stile with no vertical hand pole confronted us a short time later 'the writing was on the wall' for both of us!!

As youth slides by most of us become forgetful and a little slower on the uptake. My father-in-law, a bluff Fenman who did not mince his words was fond of relating an incident which occurred on a journey to South Wales to visit his son with his wife, Amy. He had not travelled far for many years and was not familiar with the London Underground. Having got safely to Kings Cross they made their way to what they hoped was the correct underground line to get them to the terminus for Cardiff. When a train arrived Dad stepped just inside the first carriage. Amy, a large country woman not built for speed, stood on the platform carrying the suitcases. She followed Dad closely behind him and on to the train. Dad's question "Is this the train for Paddington?" was quickly answered in the negative and he turned full circle back on to the platform. The doors immediately closed behind him leaving Mum still on the train and trapped inside as the train moved away!

Dad, in a panic, rushed down the platform shouting to a guard "I'VE LOST ME WIFE. I'VE LOST ME WIFE". The answer came back from the guard, "YOU'RE LUCKY MATE, I CAN'T GET RID OF MINE"!!!

Sounds funny in retrospect but not at the time.

Dave Heath.

Editor's Note

As David Heath mentions on p15, he's not the walker he once was. But he still wants to encourage others to walk, so he includes these two photos of the grounds of Wimpole Hall to remind us that there are some great walks on our doorstep. Let's make March the month for putting a spring in our step.



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



Our MP Heidi Allen's Newsletter

Welcome to my second parish newsletter of the year - it's been another busy month! Some of the most productive local meetings I held this month have been with the Whippet bus company, Royal Papworth and Addenbrooke's hospitals, the County Council and Greater Cambridge Partnership. It all started with a meeting with Whippet to discuss concerns about the reliability of the X3 bus which serves Papworth, Cambourne and the surrounding area. Whippet reassured me that the issues of reliability passengers experienced towards the end of last year had been resolved. But they also indicated that the service costs more to run than the revenue it generates, so it is vital people use the service to ensure its future.

As Royal Papworth will be relocated to the Addenbrooke's campus later in the year, I figured there must be some kind of win win situation possible. Staff will need to get to the campus and the bus needs more customers! A second meeting with all affected parties saw us develop this proposal further and I'd like to say thank you to everyone involved for working with such a clear and open sense of partnership. I'll keep you updated with progress, but I'm hoping we can build a more resilient X3 service and help the Royal Papworth hospital too.

Last month saw the Ministry of Justice launch a consultation on the closure of Cambridge Magistrates' Court. The consultation proposes that the work of the Court would be transferred to Cambridge County Court, Huntingdon Law Courts, Peterborough Magistrates' Court or Cambridge Crown Court. The consultation revealed that Cambridge Magistrates' Court sat for 2,376 hours out of a possible 7,620 hours in 2016/17. I have written to the Ministry of Justice to raise some questions about the consultation. A copy of the letter is available on my website - www.heidisouthcambs.co.uk and I will also post the response there. The consultation is open until the 29th March. Please do have your say - www.gov.uk/government/consultations/cambridge-magistrates-court-proposal-on-its-future

My mission to visit all schools in South Cambs continued in January with visits to Abbey College, Cambridge, Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology, Melbourn Village College, Meridian Primary School, Comberton and Monkfield Park Primary School in Cambourne.

It certainly keeps me on my toes, taking challenging questions from students! This month, a theme for many visits has been the 100th anniversary of women gaining the vote. Over the course of the centenary 489 women have been elected to the House of Commons and at the last election, 32% of MPs elected were women. However, given that all the women elected in the last hundred years would STILL not fill the House shows there is more do. A step in the right direction is for young people to understand

not only how our democracy works but that they own it. As I said to the women under and postgraduates at Murray Edwards College – don't think change is someone else's job. If you care about something, you can have a powerful role in making it happen.

At the beginning of January, I was pleased to be invited to speak at the Alliance Mental Health Conference kindly hosted by St John's College in Cambridge. The conference provided workshops for 200 nine and ten year olds from local primary schools. We hear only too often how young people can face challenges with their mental health so this conference offered children a safe environment in which they could talk about the feelings, seek support and equip themselves with practical skills. My particular thanks to Ann Jones and Jenny Jones for arranging this first class event.

As the A14 upgrade continues apace, I coordinated a meeting with Highways England and a number of landowners who are affected by the project. I appreciate the work has been causing some difficulties for residents in some of the neighbouring villages (including rat running through my own village of Elsworth!) As such, I will hold future meetings with Highways England to monitor progress and issues - please do keep an eye on my website where I post a weekly update on the work being undertaken in our area.

Although my newsletter deliberately tends to focus on local issues, I continue to be busy on national issues in Parliament too. This month has seen me raise a range of matters from questioning the bosses of Carillion about the collapse of the company to speaking in the House about the Government's welcome changes to Personal Independent Payment awards for people with mental health conditions.

I also asked the Prime Minister about pay for "live in" care sector staff, who often look after vulnerable disabled adults. There has been some confusion about the impact of the national minimum wage on staff who sleep on site as part of their work. The Prime Minister has agreed to meet me to discuss these concerns and I am hopeful that we can find a way forward.

The above is a brief snap-shot of my work at Westminster but my website is regularly updated with more information and topics. If you have concerns or views about a local or national issue, please do call in to one of my surgeries.

My next surgery will be on 3rd March 10am–12pm at Caldecote Primary School, Highfields Road, Caldecote, CB23 7NX. All are welcome, so I run a "no appointment necessary" system.

To contact me, please email heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk You can also phone my Westminster office on 020 7219 5091 about national issues or my constituency office on 01223 830037 for local concerns.

See you next month!

Thinking Out Loud - About Ed Sheeran

I am not a big fan of modern music but I am prepared to make one exception, and that's Ed Sheeran. With three albums behind him, I can't say I like all his music but he is developing a pretty good track record. He first came to my notice in 2012 when he played Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here" during the closing ceremony of the London Olympic Games. Since then, two of his songs, "Thinking Out Loud" (from his second LP) and "Perfect" (from his third LP) deserve to be labelled as instant classics. Another song, "Shape of You", was a huge hit in 2017, but is too manufactured for my liking. It almost seems that when he tries too hard to make a hit record he strays into "Justin" territory; i.e. that already occupied by the likes of Bieber and Timberlake. Given his considerable song-writing ability, at some stage he may well have to think about the long haul and forgo writing for instant success. He can probably afford to do this and, at one and the same time, earn himself a place in the annals of music-making.

Let's concentrate on his two classic tracks for a moment. Neither is a dance record. Neither is hip-hop or rap. Neither is hip or modern in its styling. Both can be called ballads. Both are reflective and romantic in an edgy kind of way. Both are bitter sweet in their messages. By avoiding current trends, Sheeran steers clear of the "here one minute gone the next" phenomenon enjoyed by so many of today's hits. And, as his sales figures testify, by writing and releasing such songs, he does not eschew hit-making. At the time of writing, "Perfect" (as a duet with Beyonce) is riding high as the Christmas number one on the charts. What I also like about his song-writing is his sense of context and his place in time. "Castle on the Hill" is a nostalgic look back at his schooldays in Framlingham, Suffolk, and what has happened to some of his friends since then. "Galway Girl" is a joyous look back at his roots in Ireland. Neither song initially sounds like an instant hit but both have made it up the charts. Which all goes to prove that the record-buying public has more taste than is commonly believed.

Apparently, not everyone likes England's hit-maker. In an on-line article titled the "Worst Records of 2017", the writer lets rip.

"Somehow his fake regular guy ally routine has tricked the entire universe. But even that doesn't excuse his limp, half-rapping and pandering lyrics, and song-writing that sounds like someone in your college dorm trying to make friends by showing up to every party with a guitar."

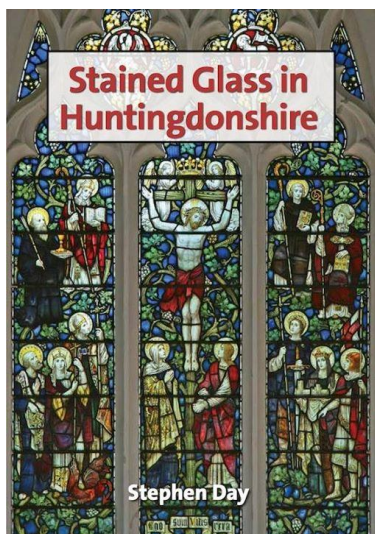
Poor James Blunt suffered the same fate at the hands of his detractors. In Sheeran's case, however, such vitriolic comments are more than matched by those critics who use terms and phrases like "emotive", "impassioned", "timeless", "impeccable guitar playing", "peerless lyricism", "boundless musical palate", and "jarringly honest, often autobiographical story-telling" to describe his work. One aspect of Sheeran's work which irritates some fans, but which I happen to like, is the way, when he plays live, he uses a looping device which allows him to layer the various parts, thus creating a more complete, textured piece (and all created in the moment, as it happens, which to me adds to the excitement). Of course, you can't please everyone but judging by his sales figures, Sheeran seems to get pretty close. And, in my book, anyone who includes a reference to the A14 in one of his songs, is bound for musical glory.

And he continues to feature in the headlines. His engagement to a former school friend has just been announced, as has his purchase of several connected houses in his boyhood town in Suffolk. He has just walked away with two Grammys but chosen not to attend the festivities. Given a possible backlash against him, this was probably a smart move. Given the love-hate relationship the public has with their "stars", he probably needs to tread warily over the coming months. Yet he seems grounded enough to be able to pull this off.

Peter Holly

Stained Glass in Huntingdonshire A Field Guide, by Stephen Day

Stephen Day, our Team Vicar, took a few months' study leave last year to pursue his interest in the stained glass of the Anglican churches of the Diocese of Ely: he visited every single one of them in 344 parishes and photographed all of their accessible windows. This astonishing enterprise has borne fruit in two forms: firstly, an enormous photographic archive, available to view on-line at www.flickr.com/photos/therevsteve/; and, secondly, a new publication, *Stained Glass in Huntingdonshire A Field Guide*, launched at St Andrew's, Caxton, on 26th January. The book is arranged thematically, with sections on the life of Christ, from the Annunciation to the Ascension; The Old Testament; Biblical and Historical Saints; Angels; War Memorials; and, finally, Millennium windows.



For each featured type there are sections on 'What to spot?' explaining the key features which help to identify the subjects depicted; and 'Where else can I see?' encouraging further visits locally and further afield. Interspersed are brief accounts of the main artists and makers of glass in these churches, including the great names of Clayton & Bell, Morris & Co, Charles Eamer Kempe, William Wailes and Margaret Edith Rope, as well as others less familiar. Perhaps the most extraordinary example may be seen at St Andrew's, Kimbolton, which can boast the only example in England of a stained glass window by Louis Comfort Tiffany.

Appended there is a gazetteer of all the Huntingdonshire parish churches with their windows listed with their subjects and positions. Steve's photographs are uniformly excellent and his text is lively and clear: no prior knowledge of the subject is assumed and in fact the book represents an excellent introduction to ecclesiastical stained glass in general. Huntingdonshire is perhaps a neglected part of the country for church crawling, but on the strength of Steve's book, it has many treasures to seek out, right on our doorstep (one not illustrated in the book is the superb Royal Canadian Air Force Pathfinder Squadron memorial window in St Bartholomew's, Great Gransden, dating from as recently as 1989). It is to be hoped that further volumes on the rest of the Diocese will be forthcoming. The book is available from Stephen Day at £10.

Peter Reynolds




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CB23 3UY

Email: papworthteamministryoffice@gmail.com

Web: www.papworthteamchurches.org

Our Team Administrator, Chris Westgarth, works in the office normally on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings; serving the parishes of Bourn, Boxworth, Caxton, Conington, Croxton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Graveley with Papworth St Agnes, Kingston, Knapwell, Lolworth, Longstowe, Papworth Everard, Toseland and Yelling.

For enquiries about weddings, baptisms, funerals and general parish matters, please contact Chris (as above), visit the website or speak to one of our clergy...

> The Revd Nigel di Castiglione, Team Rector – 07770 697240 - 01954 267241

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