

THE WELL

**Kemsing Village Magazine
with news from Woodlands**



Winter 2015 No 200

See centre pages for news from the village

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Editorial Team:- Doreen Farrow, Janet Eaton & Rosemary Banister
We reserve the right to edit [i.e. cut, précis, alter, correct grammar or spelling] any item published, and our decision is final.

The cover is a painting by Lin Henning and was sold as a Christmas Card in 2015 to raise funds for St. Mary's Church. Thanks to Lin for allowing us to re-print the painting.

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE by 1st February 2016

Please submit any items or articles for the next issue of The Well by then.

THE WELL - is published and distributed free, four times a year by the Parochial Church Councils of St Mary's Church, Kemsing and St Mary's Church, Woodlands, to encourage and stimulate the life of the community. The views expressed in the magazine do not necessarily represent official church opinion or policy.

If you use a computer to type your article, it would be extremely helpful if you could Email it to: welleditors@gmail.com (PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS) or send to the Editors c/o Poppies Cottage, 3, St. Edith's Road, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 6PT.

For postal subscriptions, contact Debby Pierson—01732 762033

Christmas Services at St Mary's Kemsing

**Join us over Christmas as we celebrate
the birth of Jesus together!**

Sunday 20th December

7.00 pm 9 Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

2.00 pm Crib Service for Tiny Tots

3.45 pm Crib Service

then Carols at the Well

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

Friday 25th December (Christmas Day)

8.00am Traditional Communion

9.30 am Family Communion Service

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

I don't know about you, but I long for peace. There's far too much conflict and fighting in the world. But what do we mean by peace? Sometimes, we mean a mere truce. It is often said that, in 1914, German and British soldiers on the Western Front stopped fighting, exchanged gifts, sang carols and even played football. The reality was actually not quite as simple, but even then this would have been only a truce –temporary restraint of hostilities.



Better than that would be lasting peace. This past year we've celebrated 70 years since the end of World War II. After 6 painful years, a wave of peace spread across the world in the summer of 1945. Nation after nation laid down their arms, and the world was no longer at war. The Jewish people have an even more rounded idea of peace than that. Encapsulated in the Hebrew word "Shalom", peace is not just the absence of conflict but everything being well. When relationships between the world, its people and the Living God are all in harmony, then there truly is "peace".

This Christmas, at our carol services, on Christmas night, and on Christmas morning, we will hear again the message the angels sang to the shepherds: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests." Or maybe the words are better known to you from the carol: "All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; goodwill henceforth from heaven to men begin and never cease!"

But what do those words mean? To many, they are nothing more than a call for a truce. Let us see if Christmas Day can be the one day of the year when we suspend our grudges and resentments, and all get along. "It's the season of goodwill," we say. Much though I'd commend that, the angels sang of something much more wonderful. The birth of Jesus set in motion events that would bring true and lasting peace. The angels rejoiced over more, even, than the end of all hostility. They sang of a reality where everything and everyone is in harmony, and is the way it was made to be. Clearly, those words do not describe the world as we know it now. But it is the future, and the birth of Jesus launched that future with absolute certainty. Why not join us in church this Christmas, to find out more, and to celebrate?

With every blessing. Your friend and vicar,

James Oakley

A stylized, handwritten signature that reads "James". The letters are dark and ink-like, with a large, sweeping 'J' at the beginning.

St MARY the VIRGIN PARISH CHURCH, KEMSING
www.kemsingwithwoodlands.org

Vicar	Rev. James Oakley	01732 762556
Wardens	Ray Parton	01732 764132
	Jean Walker	01732 761646
Parish Office	Margaret Robarts	01732 761351
Readers	Mary Quenby	01959 522079
	Philip Walker	01732 761646
	Ruth Mason	01959 524486

The Parish Office is now in the St Edith Club, and is open from 10am-1pm on Mondays and 10.00 - 4pm on Thursdays. Answer phone at other times is 01732 761351. Ring first to make sure Margaret is there.

Her email address is: administrator@kemsingwithwoodlands.org

Apart from 5th Sunday, the pattern of services is as follows:

- 08.00 Communion in traditional language
- 09.15 Sung Communion service (followed by coffee in the Church)
- 10.30 Morning Service (with coffee in the Church beforehand)
Sunday Special at the School on every Sunday apart from 1st Sunday of the month which is the 'All-Age' service.
- 18.30 Evening Service (Evensong twice a month, a number of other formats twice a month)

The service pattern on the 5th Sunday will be:

- 08.00 BCP Matins
- 10.00 Combined service with Woodlands at Kemsing
- 18.30 Evensong

See page 3 for details of the Christmas Services at St Mary's, Kemsing.
For details of Woodlands Christmas services, see page 7.

SERVICES at St. Mary's Woodlands, Tinkerpot Lane, TN15 6AA.

- 1st Sunday 4.30 All Age Worship
- 2nd Sunday 11.30 Morning Praise
- 3rd Sunday 4.30 The Lord's Supper [Informal Communion]
- 4th Sunday 11.30 Holy Communion
- 5th Sunday 10.00 Combined Communion Service for both Churches, usually to be held in Kemsing

Children are warmly welcomed at all of our services. Coffee is served from 10.45 to 11.15am before morning services. Evening services are followed by a light meal.

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WOODLANDS—LIFE ON THE HILL



CHRISTMAS AT WOODLANDS

Sunday, 20th December, 4.30pm

Service of Lessons and Carols by Candlelight, followed by seasonal refreshments

Thursday, 24th December, Christmas Eve, 5.30pm

Carols around the Crib by candlelight followed by Christmas Tea Party

Sunday, 27th December, 10am—Combined Morning Service at Kemsing

Our Children's Sunday Club has now started. We meet at 11.30am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. All school-age children are welcome to join us for fun, games, and activities.

Woodlands Tots (for children 0-4yrs)

Every Wednesday during term-time 9.45-11.15am in the Church Hall, Details from Catherine Medlen 07815 107561

Woodlands cafe

Every **Saturday** 11.30am-3.00pm. Why not come and enjoy a home-cooked lunch at a reasonable price, Woodlands Church Hall, Tinkerpot Lane, TN15 6AA.

Winter at Ightham Mote

Discover something new at Ightham Mote this winter

From 9 November—5 January (excluding Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, be part of our Christmas past. Victorian servants have prepared the house for the festivities and the previous American owner of Ightham Mote inspired us to transport you back to 1950s New England. Now we need our guests to arrive — yes, that's you!



Eating; Warm yourselves up with a hearty bowl of soup in the Mote Cafe, or in December, a Christmas lunch. Pop in for lunch or a mug of hot chocolate and a slice of freshly baked cake.

And don't forget to book for our Boxing Day & New Year's Day treks. Full English breakfast in the Mote Cafe followed by an informal led walk. £21.50 book via the Mote Cafe 01732 811314

Shopping, Stocking a great selection of quality gifts and locally hand-made products, the Coach House shop is a perfect place to find some unique presents for friends, family and maybe a treat for you too.

Don't miss our Christmas Fayre on 28th—29th November 10am-3pm with local producers, roast chestnuts, Father Christmas, and carol singing on Sunday, plus our usual sales—see A boards on site for details.

Get out into the great outdoors In January and February enjoy a gentle stroll around the hard path gardens or take in a longer walk on the ancient Estate walks leaflets from the visitor reception. **We have some guided walks followed by a roast on Sundays** 10th & 24th January, 14th & 28th Feb.—book via the Mote Cafe on 01732 811314

For the children there will be February half term family fun from Sat.13-Sun.21 Feb. A chance for the children to have fun outside with our winter activity pack and then come inside to warm up with craft activities.

Ightham Mote is open daily all year from 10-3.30 (the house from 11am - last entry 3.00pm, partial access to house and gardens.

From 6 January—29 February the grounds are only open 10am -3.30pm

NEWS and NOTES

Kemsing Pavilion is helped by those who support the '500 Club' which comprises at least 500 members who, in return for a standing order of £12 a year, enter a draw for monthly prizes (£170 is distributed monthly), and an annual prize of £1,000, which is drawn at a social gathering each December. More subscribers are now needed, and information can be obtained from Erica Cole, tel.no.01732 761772.

Kemsing Library continues to welcome people of all ages to the **Coffee and Chat Session** on Tuesday mornings between 10.30 and 11.30am for an informal get together. For preschool children, **Bounce and Rhyme** on Wednesday mornings from 10.00 to 10.30 am, this activity provides musical fun and activities. On a Friday afternoon from 2.30 to 3pm why not come and listen to a story read by one of our dedicated volunteers in our colourful children's corner. Our Opening times are: Monday 09.00-13.00, Tuesday 09.00-17.00, Wednesday 09.00-17.00, Thursday 09.00 – 13.00, Friday 13.00-17.00, Saturday 09.00 – 14.00.

2016 starts the sad centennial anniversaries of those from Kemsing who died during World War One. On each date there will be a short commendation at The Well at 2pm. The first date will be on **26th January 2016**, which commemorates the 100th anniversary of the death of Reg Dimon and will be followed on **March 9th** by the commemoration of the anniversary of the death of Jack Vaughan. Anyone who would like to join me would be very welcome. Any information from Janet Eaton on 01732 763383. These events will continue until the last anniversary on 31st December 2019.

Message from the Ambulance Service—In Case of Emergency (ICE) - If you are involved in an accident, the emergency services may need to access your mobile phone to find a contact number to find the person to contact. If you store this number on your mobile phone under 'ICE' this will make it easier for them. More than one number can be stored, e.g. ICE1, ICE2, ICE3. It could save your life, or put your next of kin's mind at rest.

WANTED! Kemsing Heritage Centre are currently interviewing Kemsing residents about their memories of life in the village for the oral history archive. However long or short a time you've lived in the village, we are interested in your stories and recollections. You can be interviewed in your home or can come to the centre. If you would be interested in contributing to this important historical archive please contact Erica Cole on 01732 761772 or come to the Heritage Centre at St Edith Hall which is open on Mondays from 2pm to 4pm and the first Saturday of each month from 10am to Noon.



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ST MARY'S, KEMSING – PCC NEWS

We heard on 8th October 2015 that the Sevenoaks District Council Case Officer (Planning) had decided to refuse permission for our new Vicarage and Church Hall. To most of us this was a huge disappointment. Although we are not giving up the idea of a new Church Hall, nor we believe will the Diocese give up the new Vicarage, whatever happens next is going to take quite a long time.

On a better note, the interior walls of the Church have been painted, which makes everything look brighter and cleaner. We have been very pleased with the contractors, Cullen and Lang, who did a marvellous job, and our grateful thanks to the Friends of St Mary's who are fundraising the cost.

The Sound System has been serviced and improved as far as possible, but we are waiting for a faculty to replace the old loudspeakers with two newer, more up to date, speakers. If not before Christmas, then they should be in place in the New Year. This will help everyone sitting anywhere in the Church to hear the service so much better.

Our Parish Administrator, Margaret Robarts, will be retiring at the end of March next year, and the PCC is advertising for her replacement (see page 15). Margaret has had to cope with the loss of the office in April last year, and we shall miss her, especially with all her experience and knowledge of the Church and village.

On a sad note, we were so sorry to hear that Michael Harrington had died. Michael and Maureen Harrington lived at Station House, Honeypot Lane, for many years, and ran MDH Horticultural Contractors until a year ago, when they sold the business and the house and moved to one of the new flats overlooking The Vine in Sevenoaks for a well-deserved retirement. The new owners of MDH continue to carry out the grave-digging and grass cutting in the Churchyard and the PCC has been very pleased with their work. I will personally miss my many chats with Michael over the years, both when I was Parish Clerk, and since I became PCC Secretary. Michael had a wonderfully dry sense of humour which I think was useful in his line of business!

Rosemary Banister, PCC Secretary

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KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Mrs. Yolanda Tredoux (Parish Clerk) Tel: 01732 762841

The Clerk's Office, St. Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6NA

Email : kemsingpc@tiscali.co.uk website: www.kemsingpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Normal Office Hours : Monday, Wednesday & Thursday (9 am to 2 pm)

From January 2015 to mid-October at the time of writing my report, Parish Councillors have attended 9 Parish Council meetings, 4 Downland Management Committee meetings, 6 Recreation Grounds Committee meetings, 2 Finance Committee meetings, 3 Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve Advisory Group meetings, 1 Oxenhill Shaw Joint Management Committee meeting, 13 Car Park Working Group meetings, 2 Churchyard Maintenance Committee meetings, 17 Planning Committee meetings and of course 1 Annual Parish Meeting. The main focus was the purchase of the village car park. This has been an ongoing issue with very difficult legal complications but we remain optimistic that the sale will be concluded soon. So far the Planning Committee made 51 representations to planning applications, the Recreation Grounds Committee dealt with matters regarding damaged play area equipment and maintenance of trees whilst the Downland Management Committee worked towards keeping the Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve in good order, reviewed the five year management plan and applied for several grant funding opportunities to Natural England, the Rural Payments Agency and the Forestry Commission.

Thank you to the Parish Councillors for their hard work, commitment and dedication to Kemsing. Thank to our Litter Wardens, Fred Lomas and John Farrow and to Bob Banister, warden for Green Hill as well as the Co-opted Members serving on the Downland Management Committee (Caroline Copleston and Anne Barratt) for their contribution. Thank you also to our District Councillors Lorraine Stack and Simon Reay, our County Councillor Nick Chard, and Police Community Support Officer Sue Harwood for their continued support.

Parish Council meetings are usually held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, commencing at 7.30 p.m. and are open to the public. If you are interested in the activities of the Parish Council please come along to one of our meetings. Minutes and agenda are available on the Parish Council's website, notice board at St. Edith Hall, or Kemsing Library. **Parish Council meetings** : 29 January, 17 February, 16 March, 20 April 2016 **Annual Parish Meeting** : 23 March 2016. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to wish everybody a very merry Christmas and a Happy new year.

Yolanda Tredoux, Parish Clerk



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ST MARY'S KEMSING



Parish Administrator (Part-time)

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12 hours per week, preferably 4 mornings

Salary: £6,240 (full-time equivalent: £18,200) p.a.

Could you run our busy parish office efficiently and effectively, helping vicar and church family serve the local community?

As first point of contact for enquirers, you'd need to be able to communicate in a friendly and professional manner.

You would need good organisational skills, confidence with Microsoft Office, and willingness to use a range of software.

Further details and application form: James Oakley

vicar@kemsing.org 01732 762556

kmwd.org/admin-vacancy

Closing date for applications: Friday 15th January 2016

Interviews: 25th-29th January

Preferred start date: Monday 7th March

The post-holder will need to be in sympathy with the ethos and aims of the
Parochial Church Council

Kemsing PCC takes the safety of children and vulnerable adults very seriously; a DBS check will be required before the successful applicant's appointment is confirmed.

ST MARY'S CRAFT GROUP



This has been a ‘bumper year’ for the Craft Group, as they have produced over 2,500 knitted items for charity. We were knitting for Smile International but, in May this year along with many other charities, they decided the cost of transporting to other countries is prohibitive and it is better for the money to go to these countries to use to boost their own economies. We had prepared a large number of sets of hats, mitts and scarves ready for the shoeboxes, but these have now been used for the Operation Christmas Child boxes for the Church.

The group are very good at dressing dolls and teddy bears, and a number of these have been given to the School for their fairs. We are sorry but we no longer collect material, sewing machines or other haberdashery items for other countries, but we would be delighted with any wool or half finished items you no longer need. We are now working for the Queen Mother’s Clothing Guild which was set up in 1882 and is based on this country, and all items are distributed to British charities. Many hospices, refuge centres, care homes and others apply for items they need—anything left over goes to the London City Mission so nothing is wasted.

KEMSING RAINBOWS

Kemsing Rainbows continue to thrive. During the summer term the unit was out and about, rambling, strawberry picking, picnicking and doing lots of exercise and learning about healthy eating and a healthy



lifestyle. The girls had lots of fun and worked hard to gain their Aim Hi Badge. During September and October all activities have been based on Autumn, from making bird feeders to hedgehog houses, learning about harvest,

creating sparkly owls and vegetable animals. We look forward to weekly meetings up to Christmas and welcoming new members.

SCOUTING IN KEMSING

The Group Sections are thriving with plenty of youngsters involved.

Due to its poor condition, both Beavers and Cubs are meeting in other village Scout huts over the Winter. It's envisaged that the Group can work towards building an

updated version of the current hut using a design that is in keeping with the local area. The final location requires further discussion based on the needs of the group and costs. Remaining in the current location has the benefit of being more realistically affordable,

partly due to having the services already in place.



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ST MARY'S CHURCH FUNDRAISING TEAM

The Team has had a successful year, raising over £1,000. Recently a Quiz raised £243, and Diana Springall held an Embroidery Design Workshop which raised £500.

The Group has also held a Pop-up Christmas Fair, which raised £222.20 on 14th November. The sale of Christmas Cards also raised much needed funds.

We have plans for next year, with probably a quiz, plant fair and our famous Table Top Sales.

Despite the plans for the Church Hall and Vicarage being turned down, we are continuing to raise money which will be needed when the matter is resolved.

Margaret Robarts

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AUTOCENTRES



KEMSING PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

How quickly time has flown this term and here we are, only a few school weeks away from the Christmas holidays! In September we welcomed some new staff to our Kemsing team. They include Miss Marshall (Year 2 class teacher), Mrs Sowerby (teaching assistant in class 4) and Mrs King (Year 1 class teacher). We also welcomed our brand new reception children and I am delighted to report that they have all settled into school brilliantly.

In a busy term one, our Year 6 children went off to Rippledawn, near Deal for their residential trip, we hosted a very well attended Harvest Festival Service, Blunderbus Theatre Company performed “The owl who was afraid of the dark” to our younger children and we held a whole school ramble in aid of Children in Need. Raising funds for worthy causes continues to be important to the children and the School Council have raised over £300 so far this year for local and national charities.

Much work has taken place recently on updating our school website and it is now being used by children, staff and parents to keep up to date with school events. If you would like to visit the website it can be accessed at www.kemsing.kent.sch.uk (See page 26 for a sneak preview).

One new school initiative that has been greeted with lots of excitement by the children has been Afternoon Tea with the Headteacher. This is a reward system for children who behave well at all times. We have lots of children at Kemsing who always demonstrate exemplary behaviour and so the list of invitees is very long! Our first “tea party” took place last week and was a great success. It is a real treat for me to spend this quality time with children, plus we all get to eat cake!

Finally we are all looking forward to numerous Christmas activities, including The Friends of Kemsing School Christmas Fair, Key Stage 1 Nativity plays, Key Stage 2 Celebration of Christmas, the OAKs Christmas lunch and of course a possible visit from Father Christmas. The festive season is a wonderful time to be in school!

Eileen Mumford, Headteacher

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NEWS FROM COTMANS ASH– FROM MY HIGH SEAT

I often wonder where else in England could you sit where I sit, see what I see and listen to what I can hear from my high seat above the Sevenoaks villages north of the town – if you stand and look over the top of the hedge the whole vista of the Kemsing Vale comes into view.

We seem squeezed into a narrow gully between the North Downs and the high greensand ridge to the south west where Seal Church and its square tower appear in a green meadow enclosed by hedges. It seems to set the pattern for the rest of the Chart where throughout the year the fields change their colour and shades from the green shoots of Spring to acres of ripening barley in mid-summer.

Today is a day of brilliant sunshine and rolling white cloud patterns that cast shadows over the valley to Sevenoaks town where from here, it shows up on a thousand roof tops. Then a step back in time – an old time steam train comes chugging through the valley where it laid a fleecy stream of steam and smoke from Childsbridge Lane to Noah's Ark and disappeared into Cockneys Wood.

Over the years I have shared my seat with many – one precious privilege was to watch Monty Parkin with crayon and paint brush translate all that he saw in the landscape before him onto canvas. The result we all know – his landscapes and portraits were a masterpiece – yes we have lost Monty, but his legacy remains on the walls of many Kemsing homes.

These short, often overcast days of late November used to be the beginning of the 'Big Sleep' – time to hibernate and sleep the winter away for wild nature. It does seem things are on the change – I saw a red admiral on my ivy flowers earlier in the month, queen wasps and bumblebees on the wing, bats hunting in the last light of day when they should be upside down asleep. The only sound is a great silver bird in the night sky Gatwick bound!

At times I have stood in Seal Church field for the reverse view of Kemsing with North Downs as a backdrop to the village. When I was last there it was autumn and the downs were covered with wild autumn shades beyond description – from palest yellow on wild maple to red, amber and white on the hornbeam, it is difficult to accept that a few miles to the north lies the smoke and sweat of the 'Big Smoke'.

Well, here we are nearing the years end and for Heather and I at Cotmans Ash it has been a time of much blessing, with so many of you coming up from the village to see the snowdrops, primroses, cowslips and so many others of Nature's children we share the place with.

The Christmas Festival is about to begin so it is best wishes to you all from
Brian Doe

A SPRING CHALLENGE

St Mary's Church in Kemsing is holding their challenge walk in the North Downs again this spring. This is the eighteenth event and this event should not be confused with a sponsored walk or race, it is neither. Walkers may choose one of three routes, each approximately 11, 15 or 20 miles long that has to be covered within a set time following a route description over cross-country footpaths and lanes, starting at St Mary's Church, Kemsing, and finishing at St Edith's Hall, Kemsing. The eleven mile route goes into the Darent Valley, Romney Street and Woodlands, the fifteen mile route goes into the Darent Valley, Shoreham, Austin Lodge Valley, Romney Street, Knatts Valley and Woodlands and the twenty mile route is similar but extends to Lullingstone. The entry fee of £13 for adults and £6 for under 18s provides for tea and biscuits at the start, light refreshments at the checkpoints and a sandwich and cake tea at the finish with a timed certificate. Event badges are also available for purchase. The profits from the event help major projects at St Mary's Church.

The event is being held on Saturday 14th May 2016 and the closing date for entries is 22nd April 2016. If you want any further information please contact me for an entry form as this contains all the relevant information (available from 1 January 2016). I stress that we do have to decline entries if we exceed our maximum number of 250, so don't delay in submitting your entry and be aware that **entries will not be accepted on the day**. I can be contacted at 125 Pilgrims Way, Kemsing Tel: 01959 524725 or email; NDCWChurch@gmail.com.

Pauline Mallinson, Walk Organiser

Kemsing Guiding Senior Section have been busy this year. The unit formed in September 2014 and as a new unit the girls decided to raise much needed funds by producing a London Life Quiz for aged 5-100! In February the girls spent a day in London walking over 10 miles taking photographs and collecting information. They have continued to work hard on their 'Look Wider' programme which is a personal development challenge made up of eight different areas called octants, including community action, creativity, fit for life, independent living, international, leadership, out of doors and personal values. They recently enjoyed a great time at The Big Gig concert at Wembley Arena which featured amongst others Ella Henderson.

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GRAEME LENO—COACH OF THE YEAR



Above is a photograph of Graeme Leno receiving an award, presented by Mike Gatting at Lords recently for “Coach of the Year”. In September at the Canterbury HQ of Kent County Cricket Club, he also had his photograph taken with Derek Underwood.

The award was in recognition of all the hours he has devoted to coaching the youngsters at Kemsing Cricket Club. What a marvellous achievement!

KEMSING SCHOOL NEW WEB SITE



This is the colourful front page of the new Kemsing School web site. What a great advert for the School!

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FAMILY MILESTONES

Baptisms

Natasha Sceal on 20th September 2015

Araya Jones on 18th October 2015

Hedvika Trott

Elizabeth Trott

Joshua Trott

Sophia Trott all on 15th November 2015

Deaths—Rest in Peace

Olive Skinner (85) on 23rd September 15

Michael Harrington (72) on 27th
October 2015

Basil Course (92)

Keith Russell (65) on 31st
October 2015

Avril Burr (60) on 2nd October 2015

Rose MacLean (73) on 25th October 15

Jane Hogg (90) on 7th November

Extracts from "The Well" Christmas 1965

St Mary's Church would hold its Evensong service at 4pm from December to January (inclusive) as an experiment during the winter months. The celebration of Christmas in Kemsing in 1897 was written up by Bernard Burt based on the memories of Gershom Williams - who, amongst his other services to the village was Chairman of the Parish Council for 21 years. The Kemsing Women's Institute held its Golden Jubilee celebrations to commemorate its founding in November 1915 (the first in West Kent).

Extracts from "The Well" Christmas 1990

Arthur Skinner thanked everyone, particularly his drivers who took him to Dulwich hospital three times a week as a result of his dialysis treatment. Len Newell wrote about the Knights of St George who had brought cheer, comfort and assistance to many disabled ex-servicemen but who were having to close as a formal organisation due to a decline in active membership.

Ros Aisbitt wrote about her visit to Zimbabwe accompanying the Bishop of Rochester (the Rt. Rev. Michael Turnbull) to their link Diocese of Harare as one of 12 young people from the Diocese. The Kemsing Singers began singing for Christmas on 2nd December collaborated with the Wells Cathedral Brass Ensemble on 8th, will perform two concerts at St Edith's Hall on 13th and 14th, and another at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley on 16th. Susan Glock wrote about the Junior Youth Fellowship (the JYFS) which had about 30 boys and girls aged between 8 and 11.

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ST MARY'S CHURCH — BRASS BAND

On the first Wednesday of each month, we meet in the Church at 10am to polish all the church brass and our only instruments are dusters and tins of Brasso !! Jim McIntyre served his apprenticeship with Les Green and cleans the silverware, and we have to thank Brian and Sue Gillett for their help with the large chandeliers which hang above the altar.

If you would like to join us to keep our lovely Church sparkling and also to have a coffee and biscuit afterwards, please contact me, tel. 01732 762785. We would love to hear from you.

Gillian McIntyre



The St Edith Banner which has been kept in the Church up until now, has been moved to the Heritage Centre for safe-keeping. It is signed “19 MINTER 26” and was made in 1926 by Miss Muriel Minter a friend of the wife of the then Vicar, Canon RV Bristow who revived the custom of going in procession to St Edith’s Well at the time of the Feast of St Edith in September each year. Miss Minter later went on to become head of the Wimbledon School of Art. The banner originally hung in an oak frame but disappeared during WW2. It was not discovered again until 1961 when it was found dismantled and dusty in the singing gallery and was refurbished as a banner for the first Kemsing Festival in 1961. It has been lodged in the Church until now, but the Heritage Centre will now become guardians of this special piece of Kemsing History.

Village Diary

December 2015

- 6th** Christingle service at St. Mary's Church, Kemsing at 10.30am
8th Kemsing Gardeners Society 'Gardeners Questions' 8pm St. Edith small hall
9th WI Christmas Party with entertainment St. Edith small hall 7.45pm
10th Wild Life Group Christmas party with Hop Pickers 7.30pm St. Edith small hall £2.00
11th Kemsing Singers Christmas Concert 'Mistletoe & Wine' St. Edith large and) hall 7.30pm. £8 adults £6 Friends of the Singers £4 children from 9
12th Cleves Road, Kemsing or 01959 523752. Available now.
20th Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight at St. Marys' Kemsing at 7pm
24th Christmas Eve
2pm Crib service by Tiny Tots
3.45pm. Crib service followed by Carols at The Well
11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion
25th Christmas Day
8am. Traditional Communion
9.30 Family Communion service

January 2016

- 2nd** Heritage Centre open first Saturday in every month 10.00-12.00
4th Heritage Centre open every Monday afternoon 2.0-4.30pm
13th W.I. St. Edith small hall 7.45 talk by C. Nouhan
Sevenoaks District Council 'Recycling—how, when & why?'
29th Heritage Centre St. Edith small hall 7.30 talk 'Royal Visits to Kent' by C. Breed, members free, others £2.50

February

- 1st** Heritage Centre open every Monday 2.0-4.30
6th Heritage Centre open first Saturday in the month 10.00-12.00
10th W. I. St. Edith small hall 7.45 'Cobnuts In Kent' a talk by A. Hunt, of Potash Farm who explains about this traditional product from our area.
12th Wildlife Group meeting St. Edith small hall 7.30pm £2.00 talk on 'Barn Owls' By Lynne and Peter Flower.
13th Heritage Centre AGM St. Edith small hall 2.30 all welcome

March

- 5th** Heritage Centre open first Saturday in the month 10.00-12.00
7th Heritage Centre open every Monday 2.00-4.30
9th W.I. St. Edith small hall 7.45 Talk by D. Farrow 'Beekeeping– the wife's tale'
11th Wildlife Group meeting St. Edith small hall 7.30 talk 'Environmntal changes n the Arctic' by Glen Morris £2.

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