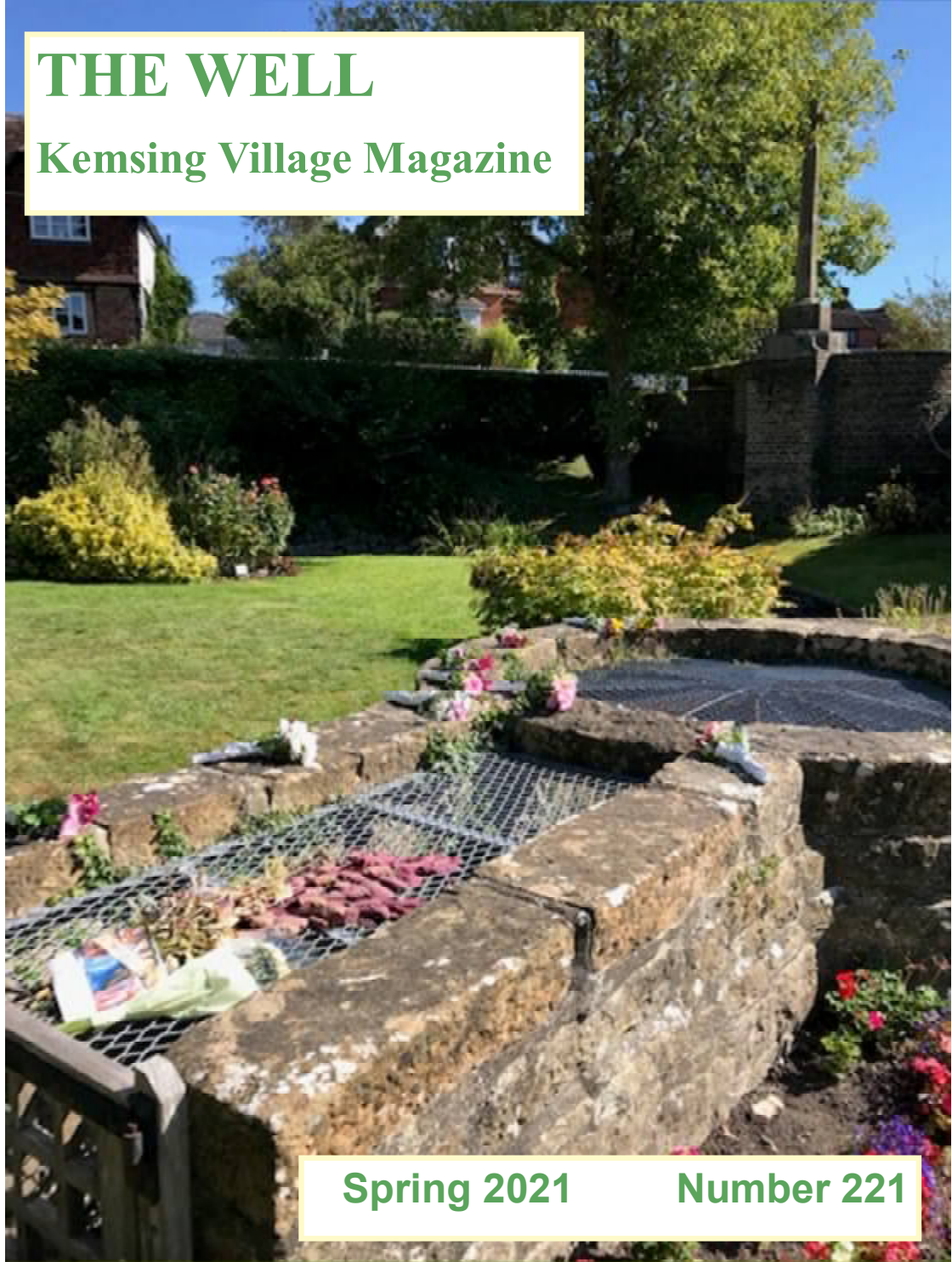


THE WELL

Kemsing Village Magazine



Spring 2021

Number 221

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

**Cover photograph of The Well with flowers for St Edith
Back cover—photograph from our archive**

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE by 1st May 2021

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

THE WELL - is published and distributed free, four times a year by the Parochial Church Council 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 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

Vicar's Letter,

Dear Friends



This will either be the last time I write this column for "The Well", or the penultimate time. This is my 48th "Vicar's Letter" to introduce an edition of The Well magazine.

In early January, I announced to the church family here that I would be finishing as the vicar of Kemsing and Woodlands in the summer. I've not had the opportunity to let the wider community know, although of course many people find out quickly on the grapevine.

If you'd be interested in more detail as to why I'm leaving and where we're going, I hosted an event in mid-January for church family and others who were interested. I spoke for about 40 minutes, before taking questions. The question time covered a range of topics, and included some excellent questions. That part of the evening was not recorded, but the opening presentation was. You can watch it at <https://youtu.be/Ua47vydDJ1E> or using the short link kmwd.org/leave-vid.

It will be with great sadness that we, as a family, leave Kemsing, and that I move on from being your vicar. We have loved living here; it's been our home for over 12 years, and we've made many friends. I've discovered the joy of being a vicar in the same place for a good number of years. Increasingly, when I've been asked to serve by taking a wedding or a funeral, or to organise a christening, I've discovered that I already know the family I'll be taking care of. That adds a wonderful richness to these ministries. It's also been my deepest joy to share the journey of a good number of people becoming Christians and discovering faith in Christ for the very first time. I would love to spend another 10 or 20 years here, continuing to deepen these relationships and walk through the next steps with people.

Sadly, it is not to be. Our two churches here are part of the Church of England. The Church of England has always been a broad and diverse church, with many views within its ranks. My assessment is that the official position has changed from following the teachings of Jesus to views contrary to the teachings of Jesus. Specifically, this has happened in the topic of gender and marriage. I want to be part of a church that offers the life-changing good news of Jesus to everyone, irrespective of age, gender, race, personality or sexual orientation. Sadly, the Church of England no longer does that, even if it tolerates the teaching of Jesus, as historically understood, as one view amongst many. That makes me an outlier who is tolerated for the time being, but who ultimately does not belong within the Church of England any more.

So I realised that the time had come when I would need to resign from ministry within the Church of England, and find another context within which to minister. Because Kemsing and Woodlands churches are part of the Church of England, that means leaving Kemsing.

Continued overleaf

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We will move to the North Yorkshire coast, to live in Scarborough. I will take up a post as Associate Minister at Trinity Church Scarborough. Trinity Church is a contemporary church with about 80 to 100 people of all ages that was started in 2017. It is part of the Anglican Mission in England, a network of Anglican churches that is not affiliated with the Church of England. We are very much looking forward to making new friends, and to being part of a church that holds out the life-changing news of Jesus to the 60,000 or so people who live in Scarborough.

As I say, if you want to know more about the exact reasons for leaving, or about the church to which we move, please watch the presentation linked above.

My final Sunday as vicar here will be Sunday 11th July. We will then move house shortly after that.

Some readers of this letter will not have lived here the last time there was a change of vicar. There's a period of time, normally for about a year, when the church is between vicars. This used to be called an "interregnum", and is now known by the more pronounceable "vacancy".

During that time, there is no vicar here, but life in the church goes on and the church continues to serve the community. The two elected churchwardens are in charge here, supported by the PCC. Services continue to take place in church each week, led by other local clergy and a wonderful army of volunteers. All the various church groups will continue to run. The church continues to serve the wider community with events such as weddings and funerals; again, the people in the church will arrange for all these things to be covered. So please get in touch with our church office if there's something the church here can do for you.

In time, representatives from the church here will work with the Bishop of Rochester and our church's "patron" to recruit a new vicar. Once they've been chosen, and they've served out their notice in their current role, they'll move here, and start getting to know you all. I know from how wonderfully you've treated us that they'll be made most welcome.

Meanwhile, there are four more months before we move north. That's plenty of time for further adventures together, and to continue to enjoy one another's company.

With every blessing! Your friend and vicar,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James". The letter "J" is large and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right. The name "James" is written in a cursive, lowercase font.

What exactly is happening?

From Sunday 21st March, we will have two services in Kemsing Church each Sunday. (It's still too early to restart services at Woodlands). These will be at 9.30 am and 11.00 am. To all intents and purposes, the two services will be identical; they will have the same readings, music, prayers, talk, and so on. We can only seat a limited number in a Covid-secure way, so holding two services is to fit more people in, and not to offer a choice of service styles.

To avoid turning people away, you will need to book if you wish to come. See below for how this works.

Starting the Sunday after Easter (11th April), one of the two morning services each week will incorporate celebrating Holy Communion together. We will alternate which service that is, so that people can take part in Communion whichever timeslot they prefer. Please still come to whichever service suits you. Even if you don't receive Communion, you'll be able to stay in your seat while others do. Other than having Communion at one service, the two services will still be identical.

Government guidance, and so Church of England guidance, has changed to say that singing is no longer allowed during services. So we'll listen to well-known hymns on the organ, rather than have a small choir sing for us.

The services will be recorded, so that a service can be broadcast on YouTube later in the day. As we started to do before Christmas, the online service won't be a live event taking place at a pre-announced time. Instead, the recordings will be edited into an online service and uploaded to YouTube. Once it's ready, the link will be announced on our homepage, Facebook and Twitter, so that you can join in at home at whatever time suits you. This is to enable those who have been advised not to attend events like church services, or who feel more comfortable staying at home, to do so.

What about Easter?

There will be one service in church on Good Friday (2nd April), for which you will again need to book.

I am still trying to find out whether we are also able to hold an open-air service. I'll announce the time and exact style for the service in church once I know whether that will be the only service that day, or if there also be an open-air service to complement it.

On Easter Sunday (4th April), we will have our two usual services at 9.30 am and 11.00 am. Both will incorporate Holy Communion.

Any other events we have held in previous years (such as the "Pesach" meal) will not be happening this year.

Continued overleaf

Booking

- Booking is **free**, via Eventbrite.
- Bookings **open** at 9.00 am on Tuesday morning, and **close** at 6.00 pm on Saturday afternoon.
- It is **easy to book yourself** in. Just go to kmwd.org/tickets.
- Alternatively, **phone Anita** in the office. Her hours are 9.15 am to 12.15 pm weekdays except Wednesdays. At other times, leave a message. At the moment, she's working from home as much as possible. If so, the answerphone will say so, so just leave a message and she'll call you back.
- Please note that Anita is taking a couple of days off on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th March. If you want to come on Sunday 28th March, you'll need to phone her **on the Tuesday**.
- **How many** tickets to book? Book one per person, whatever their age. However, if you've booked all the seats in any pew (so that you're not sharing it with people from another household), you can sit as many as you wish in that pew. The extra people don't need booking in. If, however, there isn't a whole pew available (so you have to share), you then do need to book one ticket for each person, as pews can only seat more than the 2 or 3 people planned when everyone is from the same household.
- If you no longer need tickets you booked, please **cancel** them. Services are often full, so if you don't cancel somebody else can't take your space.
- To cancel tickets you booked yourself, go to kmwd.org/change-tickets. If you don't see the tickets you booked, you need to log in to Eventbrite. If you have never done this before, go to the login screen, and use the "forgotten password" feature.
- To cancel tickets that Anita booked for you, you need to call her and ask her to cancel.
- To **change** your tickets (to cancel some of the seats you booked, to change your pew, to change which service you're coming to, etc.) you need to cancel and then rebook. Sorry; that's Eventbrite's restriction for free events.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

Health and Safety

I've said several times before: Coming to church is safe. When the government locked down schools at New Year, they allowed churches to remain open. They did so having sought professional advice, and looked at where Covid-19 was spreading. They would only have allowed us to decide for ourselves whether to remain open if they were convinced that public worship was not a risk to public health. So please come, confident in the fact that we've done everything we need to do to keep us all safe.

Please do your bit, by making sure you follow all the signs and directions you are given if you want to join us. But as we're now able to reopen, it would be lovely to see lots of people joining us, including from the wider community, especially over the Easter weekend itself.



PARISH CHURCHES OF KEMSING & WOODLANDS

www.kemsingandwoodlands.org

Vicar	Rev. James Oakley	01732 762556
Wardens	Ray Parton	01732 764132
	Trevor Mallinson	01959 524725
Church Office	Anita Connelly	01732 761351
Readers	Mary Quenby	01959 522079
	Philip Walker	01732 761646
	Ruth Mason	01959 524486

The Church Office, in Room 5, 9 West End, Kemsing, is not open during the lockdown but, once things start to get back to normal, Anita will be working there again on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 12.15 to 1.00pm. In the meantime, she can be emailed on: administrator@kemsingandwoodlands.org

Messages can be left on the office answerphone, but may not be picked up on the same day whilst Anita is working from home.

St Mary's, Woodlands

For the time being, sadly the Church will remain closed.

PARISH OF KEMSING & WOODLANDS

Charity No.1131431

PCC Secretary: Mrs Rosemary Banister,
Poppies Cottage, 3 St Edith's Road, Kemsing TN15 6PT
Tel: 01732 762965

The **Annual Election of Churchwardens** will be held on **Thursday, 22nd April**, to elect the Churchwardens for the forthcoming year. This will be an especially challenging year for our Churchwardens, as James and his family will be leaving us in July, for a new life in Scarborough. During the interregnum, which is the time between the former Vicar leaving and the new incumbent being appointed, the Churchwardens and the PCC will need to find other clergy to take services. We pray that these will be able to continue.

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will follow after the meeting to elect the Churchwardens, when those present (either in person or online depending on how we are allowed to meet) will receive the Annual Report & Financial Statements for 2020. All those people on the Church Electoral Roll will receive an Agenda and copy of the Reports before the meeting. Those already on the Electoral Roll do not need to re-apply this year.

Our fundraising events which would have taken place in 2020 had to be postponed, which meant that there have been much less donations or grants available than it had been hoped, to help continue with work on our new Church Hall. The PCC has had to take out a loan from the Diocese to continue with the internal works but, even so, **there is still at least £200,000 more needed to complete everything**. Please look at the next page to see how to donate, every little helps, as funds are urgently needed if we are to have a building which can actually be used.

The Well Editors hope that, by the summer, we will be able to produce a fuller edition of *The Well* which can again be delivered to every household in the parish. Understandably our volunteer distributors have not been asked (or indeed been able to) deliver copies during the Covid restrictions.

Rosemary Banister

St Mary's, Kemsing, Church Hall—money urgently needed to complete the building



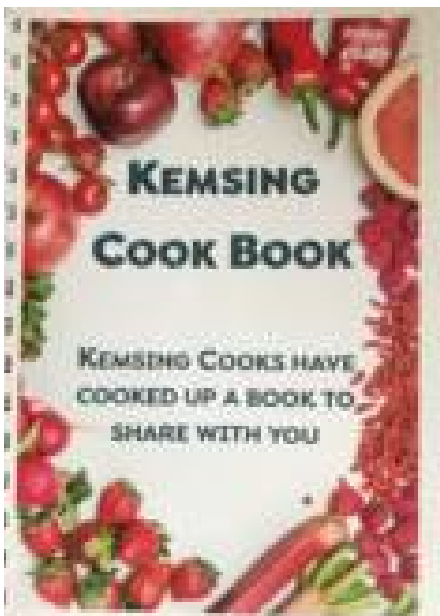
To donate, you can either send a cheque payable to:

‘St Mary the Virgin PCC, Kemsing’ to: Rosemary Banister, PCC Secretary, 3 St Edith's Road, Kemsing, Kent TN15 6PT

Or pay by BACS, to the PCC's CAF Bank: Account no. 00012841, sort code 40-52-40. *Any donation can also be increased if gift-aided.*

Another way of helping is to support the loan, which the PCC has taken out from the Diocese, by pledging a monthly amount which can also be gift-aided. To do this, you can set up a standing order with your own bank to pay into the CAF bank account above.

New: See a video of the old and new halls: kmwd.org/hall-video



KEMSING COOK BOOK (cost £5)

It includes over 30 recipes

All contributed by people in the village which have been favourites of their own

The Cook Book is in A5 format, and is spiral bound, so easy to use whilst cooking

The cost of printing was donated so all proceeds from its sale will go to the fund for the new Church Hall (there are only a few copies left)

To buy a copy, either contact Rosemary on:

Rosie.Banister@btinternet.com

Tel: 01732 762965

(Address: Poppies Cottage, 3 St Edith's Road)

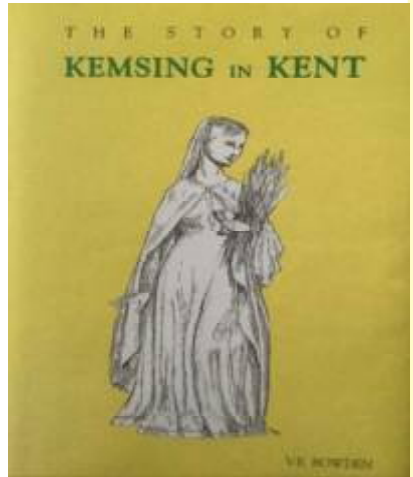
Or Anita, our Parish Administrator, on
administrator@kemsingandwoodlands.org

Tel: 01732 761351

“THE STORY OF KEMSING IN KENT”

Vic Bowden was our Kemsing Historian, although he never described himself as such, but he was responsible for all the historical detail about families and houses in Kemsing which is now safely in the Kemsing Heritage Centre.

His book, “*The Story of Kemsing in Kent*” was written during 1993 with the support of the Kemsing Historical and Art Society and Kemsing Parish Council. Vic didn’t claim it was a definitive history of the village, but it was a collection of materials which he had gathered over 50 years.



In 1993 we didn’t have the help of computer technology, and Vic would write in longhand during the week, and then dictate to Rosemary, the Parish Clerk, to put on a word processor. By early 1994, it was ready for publication and on Saturday, 9th April 1994, the book was launched.

Melinda Robinson, who was Chairman of the Kemsing Historical and Art Society, wrote in her Foreword to the book, that the KHAS ‘was enormously proud to have Vic as its founding President, for in so many ways he is Mr Kemsing himself’. The book consists of 15 Chapters, which start with the Early Years and Medieval Kemsing, and carries on with the Lancastrian and Yorkist Kings, the Tudor Period, 18th and 19th Centuries, through the Victorian and Edwardian eras, the two World Wars, and up to the early 1990s.

For anyone who has come to live in Kemsing in recent years, and hasn’t got a copy, it is a fascinating story of the village we live in, and how it came into the 20th Century. There are still copies available from the Kemsing Heritage Centre, cost £5. Contact Erica on 01732 761772.

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

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

The Clerk's Office, St. Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing,

Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6NA

Email: kemingpc@tiscali.co.uk Website: www.kemsingpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Normal Office Hours: Wednesday & Friday (11am-1pm) – currently closed

The Parish Council welcomes Dr. Guy Morrell who was co-opted as a Parish Councillor at the meeting held on 17 March 2021.

The preparation of the **Ash Dieback Plan** is still in progress and we continue to monitor the situation.

The **Improvement works** project funded by the Darenth Valley Living Landscape Partnership Scheme on **Green Hill, The Dell** and Goss Bank has been delayed and it is hoped to commence at the end of March.

We have seen an increase in **fly tipping and general litter** around the village. Incidents and “hot spot” areas are reported to the District Council.

Oxford Medical Practice was successful in bidding for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds to the CIL Board at Sevenoaks District Council for the planned expansion to improve service levels for Kemsing residents at the **Kemsing Surgery**.

We are making progress with **public conveniences** refurbishment project.

Consideration is being given at the moment to look at creating a more permanent feature at The Well area to facilitate the **Christmas tree and lights**.

Improvements to the boundary hedge at the **tennis court car park area** will take place in the Autumn. The existing trees will be replaced by more appropriate hedge plants to enhance this area.

We have put together a schedule for replacing the Parish Council owned **noticed boards** on an annual basis.

Just a reminder that **Parish Council meetings** are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month (excluding August and December), and commence at 7.30 p.m. Details are available on the Parish Council's website, village notice boards or by contacting the Clerk directly. Meetings are currently held online.

Yolanda Tredoux (Parish Clerk)

Youth and Children's Work

Well, it certainly has proved an interesting time for our youth and children's work over the last 12 months! Whilst being in and out of lock down we have looked to adapt and keep creative in how we maintain contact with our children and young people whilst keeping them engaged in God's word.

For T7 our zoom sessions have been a massive blessing- praise God! With lots of discussion, laughter, time in God's word and inspiring prayer times – this has been a great opportunity to disciple some of our young people. We have been looking at the book of Jonah this term and seeing just how gracious our amazing God is.

For Wednesday Club we have been producing WhatsApp videos each week for the children to watch in their own time. We have this term been looking at People of History – particularly looking at the Old Testament and how God has saved and rescued His people time and time again...and now ultimately, he has rescued those who believe and trust in Jesus!



We have also had a short opportunity to be face to face as well, which with social distanced games has worked well!

Sunday Special also got to meet in the Church yard as well as indoors for a short time, but now we wait to see how we can meet face to face again under the new guidelines.

From outdoor sessions and bonfires, to masks indoors and socially distanced activities ... Praise God for the continued and creative ways we get to still talk about Jesus!



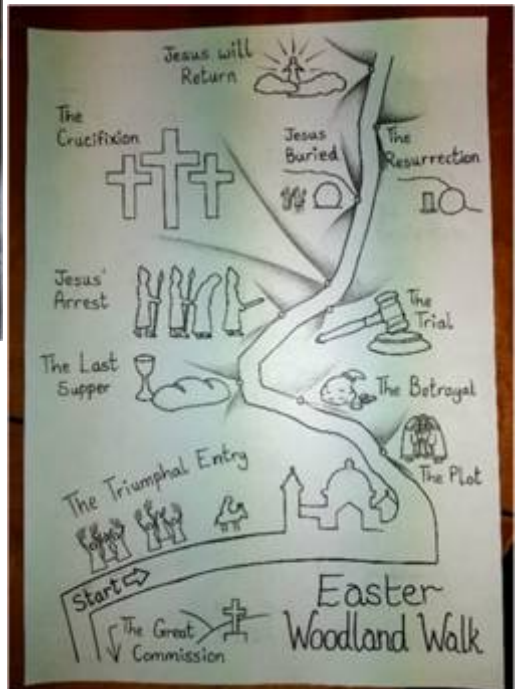
The Easter Woodland Walk

Many of you may have experienced the Advent Woodland Walk which was set up in December last year in the woods up near Oak Hall, Otford Manor- which took you on a journey through the Christmas story.

From the 24th March until around 21st April 2021 we are setting up another Woodland Experience ... this time based on the Easter message.

With scripture and pictures we hope you will find it a huge encouragement and blessing as you wander through and reflect on the GOOD NEWS OF JESUS which we especially celebrate about at Easter.

Details of the Easter Woodland Walk and it's exact location can be found on our Church website.



Kemsing Scouts Remember

At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.

Remembrance Day is a common feature of **Kemsing Scout's** annual involvement in the community, coming together to remember the men and women who have made sacrifices or died in times of war.

Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic and in light of the risks posed, the annual Remembrance Sunday parade to the village War Memorial did not take place in 2020. As with many things last year, we found another way to help ensure this important commemoration continued.

We decided to produce a short film. Thirty-six young people from Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Young Leaders recorded a video of themselves reading a few of the names of the people from Kemsing who died in the First and Second World Wars. We then joined the videos together and shared it via our [Facebook page](#) and the village community Facebook page.



The video was viewed by 2,213 people. You can view it here by clicking [Kemsing Scouts remembers](#)

Since March 2020 our Kemsing Scout sections have continued to hold meetings, but online. During the week of remembrance, leaders organised a scavenger hunt challenge activity to make poppies using household items, which included toy cars,, a boxing glove, and the cat called Poppy.

Throughout the pandemic we have continued to run activities online to maintain our support to the community and develop the skills of our young people. We will come out of lockdown strongly together.

Spring 2021

Is there anything more nerve-wracking than watching toads cross roads? During early spring on damp evenings when the temperature is warming, you may see toads on the move heading to their breeding ponds to spawn. They have their regular routes which, unfortunately, often necessitates them crossing busy roads. Sadly, many are lost. Frogs too can fall victim to the same fate. However frogs are quicker on their feet than the slow, ambling toads and seem to be rather better at dodging traffic.

You may have noticed traffic warning signs depicting a toad. They are strategically placed at known toad crossing points. Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group (KRAG) also organise toad patrols, when volunteers simply pick up toads and take them across the road to safety and towards their destination. Unfortunately the project was cancelled this year due to Covid restrictions.

At this time baby animals and fledglings will start to emerge from the safety of their nests. They will have much to learn by way of survival skills. Folly Wildlife Reserve look after thousands of wildlife casualties every year. If you find an injured or distressed wild animal or bird, call Folly on 01892 543213 or 07939 89928. A good idea is to have these numbers logged into your phone.

The hot topic these days is “rewilding”. An example of it can be found at Knepp Castle Estate, West Sussex. They have been successful trailblazers in actioning this policy. In essence it means allowing nature to have its head by abandoning many previous intensive farming methods in favour of returning to older more sustainable ways. The result has been a significant increase in wildlife there.

Recently Knepp Estate has been involved in the White Stork breed/release project and the Beaver re-introduction programme (more on their website). A re-introduction of European Bison into Blean Woods is also planned and led by Kent Wildlife Trust. It is anticipated that their return after thousands of years will provide significant bio-diversity benefits.

Five young Sea Eagles (White Tailed Eagles) introduced to the Isle of Wight last year seem well established. In addition to our Buzzards over the Hill, you may have spotted Red Kites. They are recognisable by their pronounced fork tails.

Continued on page 7

Sue Stoyell, continued

Last summer a Bearded Vulture was sighted over the Peak District causing quite a stir. Come autumn, Vigo apparently returned to her home in the French Alps. However a Bearded Vulture has been seen this February over Norfolk. They are spectacular birds with a wingspan up to 9ft. They eat carrion, specifically bones. Keep a lookout for her.

These are challenging times for the natural world. Many species have become extinct and many others are vulnerable. However, given the recent emphasis on the importance of healthy eco-systems and bio-diversity, hopefully we can be optimistic for a future when Turtle Doves, Lapwings, Thrushes, and many more will become everyday sights once again. Books on re-wilding you might enjoy: “Wilding” by Isabela Tree (of Knepp), and “The Running Hare” by John Lewis Stempel.

Sue Stoyell

*The following poem has been offered to The Well Editors, which will no doubt strike a chord with most of us:

*I wandered lonely as a cloud, two metres from the madding crowd,
When all at once my name was called, to enter Waitrose hallowed hall.
This was the pensioners' special hour; I'd gone to get a bag of flour,
but I forgot, when through the door, what I had gone to Waitrose for,
The Waitrose staff were extra kind, I told them it had slipped my mind.*

*They asked what else I had forgot, they clearly thought I'd lost the plot.
I phoned my wife again to ask, she reminded me of this special task:
'I need some flour to bake a cake with all the cream I had to take'
'Ah yes I recall,' I had to lie, I dared not ask what flower to buy,
But then I saw them next to the tills-a bunch of golden daffodils!*

[with grateful acknowledgment to the U3A Newsletter, December 2020]

FAMILY MILESTONES

Deaths

Peter LOW (88) on 4th December 2020

Jeff DOWNEY (68) on 8th December

Brian John Lawrence GILLETT (89) on 30th December

Denise HAFFORD (82) on 7th January 2021

Michael LANGLAY-SMITH (92) on 17th February

John GOULDING (91) on 4th March

From “The Well” Spring 1971

The Kemsing Festival was to take place in September. As well as Following the Festival in 1961 (which celebrated the thousand year anniversary of St Edith) it was also the 55th anniversary of the founding of the WI in Kemsing, the 60th Anniversary of the Working Man’s Club (now the St Edith Club), and the 150th anniversary of the beautification of the Church (see panel on right hand side beneath the bell tower).

The Wild Flower Group was formed at a meeting on 17 February under the leadership of Mr Brian Doe.

The Gardeners’ Society held their 19th AGM (65 members were present).

From “The Well” Easter 1996

The Church choirs of St Mary’s Kemsing and St James’ East Malling were to give a performance of Gabriel Faure’s Requiem on 31st March.

The Kemsing-Vigny Link had started in 1992 with a visit from villagers from Vigny (situated in NE France about 3 hours drive from Calais) .It was to be Vigny’s Church Centenary in June 1996 and Kemsing residents had been invited to the celebrations.

There was to be a Garden Safari in June organised by John and Doreen Farrow.

David Buckle (solicitor) wrote about making a will.

A TALE OF A FLOCK OF SHEEP ON GREEN HILL

Not many people will remember that, in December 1993, Kemsing Parish Council became the owner of a flock of fifty sheep, which were put on Green Hill to help preserve the chalk grassland which is a special landscape on the North Downs.

The arrival of the sheep wasn't greeted with joy by everyone; some dog-owners resented having to keep their dogs on leads inside the fenced area on the Hill, despite there being plenty of area around the Hill to walk on. The majority thankfully understood the reasons for preventing the scrub from taking over.

The bill for the sheep, which were elderly ewes was £1,549 plus £17.33 VAT on the marketing and transport levy.

A rota for daily checks was set up, and Parish Councillors and the Clerk (me) took turns to be on the rota. A week after the sheep arrived, vandals had cut the fence in over forty places, which were repaired promptly the next day. However, on Sunday, 9th January, one sheep escaped, but had been recovered by Mac Roxburgh the same evening. Mac had volunteered to be the locum shepherd and worked for the Donegans at Chart Stud Farm at the time. Desmond and Jenny Donegan had also kindly agreed to supply feed and medicines if required as well as Mac's services.

The following week another sheep escaped,, and then a report was received that two sheep had been seen on Pilgrims Way. With the help of the Sevenoaks District Council Countryside Officer, who had assisted the Parish Council in the project, the sheep were again returned safely.

The sheep had been wormed and had their feet checked before grazing, and the Parish Council took out insurance cover through the National Farmers Union for theft and public liability.

The sheep were to stay on Green Hill for ten weeks which would be sufficient for the scrub to be kept down. After that they were sold, and most of the purchase cost recovered, except for a few which had died naturally during the time they were with us.

Despite the challenges, and the worries when some of them managed to escape, I enjoyed being a temporary assistant shepherdess. Not many Parish Clerks at the time could claim to have been one!

Rosemary Banister, Parish Clerk 1978-2002

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Library Re-opening

It is understood that libraries will be opening with effect from 26th June 2021, but that the openings could be staggered, so this is not a definite date at the time of printing.

According to Rebecca Daly's manager at Sevenoaks Library (Rebecca is our Kemsing Librarian), she hoped that Kemsing Library would be amongst the first to open. Let's hope so!

*This edition of The Well is available online:
www.kemsingandwoodlands.org and look under "News" and "The Well"*