

Haldon Views

Bi-Monthly FREE NEWSLETTER for the Parish of Kenn

February-March 2022

What's On?

Please check any dates/times you read in this edition.

February

Art at Shillingford Shillingford Village Hall

Service at St Andrew's 10am Sunday 6 February

Service at St Andrew's 10am Sunday 20 February

WI meeting at the Kenn Centre Tuesday 15 February.

March

Art at Shillingford Shillingford Village Hall

Service at St Andrew's 10am Sunday 6 March

Shillingford Wildlife Group 7.30pm Tuesday 8 March

Wedding Open Evening Exeter Court 4pm-8pm Wed 9 March

Service at St Andrew's 10am Sunday 20 March

WI meeting at the Kenn Centre Tuesday 15 March

Service at St Andrew's Mothering Sunday 10am 27 March

Later in the Year. June 2022 Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

Deadline for the next edition of ***Haldon Views***

20 March 2022

A plea for help from St Andrew's. It is a great sadness that Rod Harbottle is standing down from being our church treasurer, as from April. He has been St Andrew's treasurer for a considerable amount of time. He no longer lives in Kenn, so I have to admit it was no surprise when he informed me of his decision.

So any volunteers? If you're good with figures and would like to help keep a beautiful church



Exeter Court Hotel

W e d d i n g o p e n e v e n i n g

9th ♥ March 22

4 : 0 0 p m u n t i l 8 : 0 0 p m

Venue fully dressed

Glass of prosecco on arrival

Book your timeslots every 15 minutes

5% discount coupon off our wedding packages (new couples only)

Contact our Wedding and Events Manager on events@exetercourthotel.co.uk or 01392
832121 to book your slot

Welcome to the Kenn & Kennford Library & Bookcycle!



I'm not entirely sure how many years the old telephone box in Kenn has been operating as a library, but Dave and I took up the reins a year ago in February. I've become that notorious librarian, wagging a finger and sashing where needed. Dave though is the star of the show, creating shelving for the children's section, adding hooks for your dogs for hands free book choosing, and helping me sift and sort! We've also a number of lovely local residents who keep an eye on the box, and my heartfelt thanks goes out to them all. May we just list a few dos and don'ts though:

1. If you have a large number of books or are just having a clear out, please drop off at a charity shop. Hospiscare (01392 428824) in Marsh Barton is very accessible, but remember to book!
2. Only good quality reading books for both adults and children please.
3. No reference books, cookbooks, clothing or food items please. We just don't have the space.
4. And finally, if the telephone box library is full then please list your book(s) on our Facebook page (search Kenn & Kennford Library), or drop off with a charity shop, thank you.

If you've been gifted some great reads over Christmas, in the fullness of time please consider donating to the Kenn & Kennford Library! If you have any accessibility problems or cannot yourself get to the charity shops, please do call me. Thank you so much for your support,

Kay Wisker and Dave Proud 07752 701182

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

How can we all get involved?

Street Parties (Bank Holiday weekend 3 - 5 June)

The Big Jubilee Lunch (5 June)

Beacon Lighting (2 June)

The Queen's Green Canopy (Tree planting throughout 2022)



The Platinum Jubilee emblem is available for free download along with more information to inspire events here in Kenn & Kennford at www.platinumjubilee.gov.uk

Resilience in the Age of Climate Crisis

DDE is organising a further three sessions exploring the global dimensions to the Climate Emergency, each highlighting positive stories from around the world, inspiring us all to action.



Wednesday 2nd February 6pm to 7:30pm

Cities Facing the Climate Crisis

What are the issues and how are cities responding?

[Click here for Zoom link](#)

Wednesday 16th February 6pm to 7:30pm

Climate Justice and Fairtrade,

with contributions from War on Want and Fairtrade growers in Northern Pakistan.

[Click here for Zoom link](#)



Tuesday 1st March 6pm to 7:30pm

COP15 and the UN Framework on Biodiversity, plus water quality monitors with Westcountry Rivers Trust.

[Click here for Zoom link](#)

All events are free,
but donations are welcome!
Each session will include suggested
actions as well as the
positive stories



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A tribute to Joan Richardson



Some of you will be aware that our mum Joan Richardson passed away in November.

Mum was born in 1931 in Retford, Nottinghamshire. Mum and Dad moved to Devon in the 50's and immediately fell in love with the area and never moved away.

Having lived in Exeter for many years when they retired Mum and Dad moved to Longdown. Then in 2001 they set up home in Kennford, being closer to their eldest daughter Jane, in fact right next door, and loved living in Bridge House. They both became involved in village life but especially Mum. She and Dad were both regular church goers and Mum was a church warden for a number of years and also a member of the Mothers Union and the WI.

She supported many fund raising events for the village and church and held a number of these at the house over the years.

Mum also very much enjoyed her weekly game of bridge although she wasn't that good a player!

Over the last few years mum became less mobile and didn't get to leave the house very often although still enjoyed the occasional glass of wine at The Seven Stars. As she stayed inside even more due to covid, Mum loved to see people walking past the house and giving her a wave and a smile, especially all the local children.

Sadly mum had a heart attack in November and after a very short period in hospital passed away peacefully. She will be very much missed.

Jane Chislett and Annie Clipson

SHILLINGFORD VILLAGE HALL ART CLASSES

Chase away the winter blues by finding your inner artist at the art classes at Shillingford St George Village Hall.

Artists of all levels - especially beginners! - are very welcome to study painting techniques. Details from Mike on 01626 891245, or visit mikemcdonald.co.uk



Heavenly Feasts & Burnt Offering. A book review

The cookery book just came. It's amazing! I don't know how your church managed to get all those people to contribute. It really is SO impressive. And there are some wonderful recipes in there too.

It was really very kind of you to send me a copy.

And what a beautiful church! I hope the book has raised lots of money to protect it.

Best wishes, Claudia (Hammond)

Sunrise over St Andrew's in January



Picture by Polly Davey

St Andrew's Church

SERVICES at CHURCH



6 February	4 th before Lent	10am Morning Worship <i>Family Service</i>
13 February	13 rd before Lent	8.15 Holy Communion
20 February	2 nd before Lent	10am Sung Eucharist
27 February	3 rd before Lent	8.15 Holy Communion
6 March	Lent 1	10am Sung Eucharist
13 March	Lent 2	8.15 Holy Communion
20 March	Lent 3	10am Sung Eucharist
27 March	<i>MOTHERING SUNDAY</i>	10am Morning Worship <i>Family Service</i>

So much for Covid! All services were well attended over Christmas.

The exception was the 9 Lessons and Carols, which was lovely but a bit sparse.

However the attendance at the 5 December outdoor carols in the Churchyard, more than made up for it. About 150 people shivered and sang on the coldest day of the winter so far.

Many thanks to our singers, Bow Movement and Hot Tuna as well as rESOnate. In case you do not know, that is the name of the Brass ensemble. They are called it because they all play in the Exeter Symphony Orchestra. One of the trumpeters said that he loved coming to Kenn because, "You always do something crazy at Kenn." Long may that continue!

Continued overleaf...

One thing we learnt was that there is a vast amount of musical talent and skill in the village. Also it was clear that there were a lot of young parents and children who enjoyed being made welcome at church. At the Crib Service on Christmas Eve there was a wonderful turn-out; also a presentation from Father John which had even an old troupier like me lost in admiration. That is why in the next two months we have scheduled two Child Friendly events. So we are inviting everyone, but specially children, to a Family Service.

These are at **10am on 6 February, when the theme is “A Fishy Tale” and 26 March, which is Mothering Sunday.** See you there!

One of my first memories of coming to Kenn was the arrival of our first television set. This was in the autumn of 1959 and it was installed by a young man just getting going in his electrical business- Herrick James Ratcliffe. Most of us remember him as Jimmy and very fond memories they all are. He was full of jokes, writer of many poems, funny, poignant and sometimes bawdy as well as an *inexhaustible source* of Kennford history. We will miss his cheerful witty presence in the street on any fine day. We all send prayers and good wishes to his family who mourn him. Above all we thank God for him.

Village Churches like St Andrew's are often enriched by worshippers who have not been reared in the Church of England. We were all the richer for the life and friendship of **Joan Richardson**. She was a Nottingham girl and a Methodist. As might be predicted from such a background, she was committed to action to make the world a better place and she spoke her truth with courage – not to say bluntness. She threw herself into the life of St Andrew's, worked hard and gave an immense amount of time to her role as Churchwarden. She was also a very warm and loyal friend to all of us. Looking back over the 17 years I knew her, I can say that if anything was any good, she joined in wholeheartedly, if it was not, she told you so! We thank God for her

Another loss to the village has been Mervyn Hosking. He and Brenda left us in November to be nearer their family in Somerset. Mervyn worked tirelessly for the Church and the community. He organised brilliant fetes; he did all the finance and business side of producing the Cookery Book** I cannot count the number of services and other Church events for which Mervyn produced marvellous, desk top publications. Again we thank God for the Hoskings and pray for their future health and happiness.

*** The Cookery Book is called “Heavenly Feasts and Burnt Offerings” obtainable from Maureen Bate (833485) or any Church activist, Just ask – we'll get it to you! An absolute give away at £12.99 – all in aid of St Andrew's. Have you bought one yet? If not why not?*

Let's all pray that the Covid pandemic really has passed its peak. Thanks be to God for so many NHS workers, Carers, workers in essential services etc who have kept us all going. Thanks too for the vast army of British people who have done their best, followed the rules, made the sacrifices and are bringing us through.

*Bless us all in Kennford, Kenn and Clapham. **Mark Bate.***

Report on Humble Christmas appeal

Dear Prayer Partners and supporters,

May I take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your precious and valuable contribution on my humble Christmas appeal. You all contributed and I'm immensely thankful and grateful.

I would like to report you all on the same.

1. From this contribution I had sent to Deepa to celebrate her Christmas.

2. on 21st we organized a carol singing in open ground where 3 families came together to share the expenses for dinner. I preached the pure gospel and nearly 150 people had privilege to hear the gospel. I spoke on Who is Jesus, why he came to this world and what did he do? Dinner was served for 100 people.

Service at St Andrew's 10am Sunday 6 March 2. on 22nd we organized women's meeting where only women were involved in leading, preaching. I entered hall only for gift distribution. We hired cook and Lunch was served for 70 women. One piece of cake and hotpot was the gift.

3. On 24th in the morning Christmas programme was organized only for Children and a cake and flask to keep hot water in winter was given to 40 kids.

4. 24th night pre-Christmas gathering was organized by our church and Sewa Bihar where 400 Christians gathered and dinner was served.

5. On Christmas programme I ministered God's word and preached for 1 and half hours. followed by Lunch for 700 people & Churches of one organization and our 2 congregation came together.

6. I visited 3 villages to distribute blankets to all those who could not come to collect their gifts on Christmas.

However, one tragedy happened. This was on Christmas night after we all came home. We were having dinner at 11pm. My second daughter wanted to eat leg pieces of goat (Mutton) which I got and prepared by myself. While eating, her two upper teeth came out and she started crying and weeping. Many of you will remember specially David, Sarah and Ian (dad) that in a swimming pool while on the slide she had fallen and lost her two upper teeth, in 2013. Then I had fixed them by spending some money. After two years my older daughter, when she was working, she spent good amount of money and made her teeth good, which came out on 25 December. Now she is telling me to fix her teeth, she feels bad, embarrassed. She is young and on 26th she was visiting the villages with me and she did not open her mask and did not eat anything because she felt if she opens her mouth people will see and bully her.

Kindly do pray for her, she is Prashansa.

7. On Christmas evening we invited two non-Christian families over for a tea party and shared the gospel and served them cakes.

You all have participated in the extension and expansion of God's kingdom by giving and I have discretely and wisely used it since we were not able to celebrate last year due to lock down.

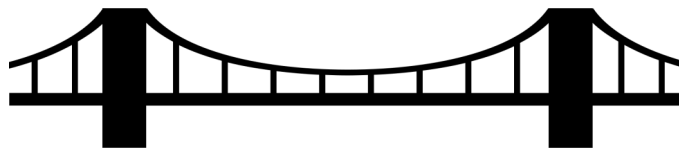
Thank you one and all. Without your help this would be impossible. Thank you.

I Wish you all a blessed and prospering new year 2022.

In His Service and for His glory. **Samuel Sarkar**

On the following page see pictures of Samuel's Christmas Appeal.

Made possible through the support of Kenn & Kennford



BRIDGE

Would you like to play bridge?

A social bridge group plays on Thursdays at 1400 hrs.
at the Kenn Centre in Kennford.

New members are most welcome.

A knowledge of Acol is the only requirement.
If interested, then please contact Hugh Plummer on

01392 833033 for more information.



Arthur Herrick Ratcliffe “Jim” 1927-2021

On the 10 August 1927 in the Post Office cottage (number 3 Victoria Terrace, Kennford) my grandad was born to Winnie and Herrick. Herrick sadly died when my grandad was only 5 years old but he remembered his dad sitting him atop his motorcycle and saying “Come on now, Sonny Jim”.

Jim grew up as one of 4 children (Kenneth, Dinah and David) and much later in life discovered he had a half-sister, Faye. Only ever moving a matter of feet, he had lived in two of the cottages in Victoria Terrace before marrying Honor and purchasing Victoria House as their forever home. Jim used to finish at school and walk down to the girls’ school in Kenn each day so that he could see Honor – they really were childhood sweethearts.

During WW2 Jim was too young to join the army but became a dispatch rider. Despatch riders were used by armed forces to deliver urgent orders and messages between headquarters and military units - a vital role at a time when telecommunications were limited and insecure. During a visit to hospital last year the doctor asked Jim whether he used to be a rugby player as his nose had been quite badly broken in the past and had not healed well. Jim told us that he had been in Exeter City Centre at night during an air raid and had run down into a shelter not being able to see and not realising that the walls had been staggered to help keep any blasts out. He had run full pelt into a brick wall which knocked his front teeth out and broke his nose. Grandad loved to share his stories from his past and had so many tales. He was always happiest when reminiscing.

Around 1940, evacuees were sent from war-torn London out to rural communities to keep them safe. Winnie was allocated a boy called Daniel Carroll who was the same age as Jim and Winnie treated Danny as one of her own. Jim, Danny and Honor became close friends. In later life Danny became better known by his stage name, Danny La Rue. Remaining friends their whole lives, Jim and Honor would receive VIP tickets to see Danny when he performed locally and, in 1984 Winnie, Jim and Honor were invited to take part in *This Is Your Life* and appeared on television – Winnie being the guest of honour.

Jim’s own two children, Keith and Claire, grew up in the village just as he had. Enjoying rural life and having adventures! Keith became an excellent fisherman and won many awards through his skill and passion for the sport. Claire always had an interest in horses and spent hours riding around the Parish (and galloping about the churchyard!).

There is so much I could say about him. Grandad was kind and had a wicked sense of humour – sometimes (*often*) a little bawdy! He was an excellent pianist (even though he couldn’t read music) playing tunes for anyone who asked and reciting poetry to anyone - even if they didn’t ask!

Grandad adored our community and served on the Parish Council for some 50 years. Last year a doctor asked if he had lived in Kennford his whole life and he answered “Not yet!”. He had a wonderful life.

We will all miss you. Go, be with your beloved Honor once more. Love, Ayesha



Arthur Herrick Ratcliffe “Jim” 1927-2021



A Lovers Dream

I've travelled a long and lonely footpath
 From happiness to despair
 Hoping that every thoughtful moment
 I'd find you waiting there.

Maybe one day my hope will find you
 Then I'll know that sometimes dreams do come true

By Jim Ratcliffe

SHILLINGFORD WILDLIFE GROUP

Tuesday 8th March 2022

7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL



Please join us for a look at our very own

TREVOR RIDGERS

AMAZING WILDLIFE

PHOTOGRAPHS

**Trevor lives in Shillingford St George and
is keen to share his superb photographs**

**Tea or Coffee
and biscuits**

Admission is free but a £3 donation would be much appreciated



WI MATTERS

Kenn and Kennford WI

We met in December for our annual Christmas Party. We were mindful of Covid, so we were in the large hall, with ventilation and masks when not eating and drinking. Considering Covid, we had a very good turn-out. Well done ladies.

We had, as usual, a very festive, amazing spread of food, provided by us all. The committee, plus willing helpers, came early to decorate the hall, using ingenious ways to stretch up to put decorations up!

As usual, we had lots of presents, bought and wrapped by Pat, Joan and Sue. Some very amusing, guessing what they were was half the fun. Anyone who didn't come to the party, your presents are safe in our cupboard at the Kenn Centre, for you to pick up at your leisure.

We had the most amazing entertainment by Brian Hodge, a magician. He was meant to come last year but Covid prevented it, but it was worth the wait. A lovely man with lots of tricks and sleights of hand. He involved us all and we all found it hilarious. I don't think I have ever laughed quite so much seeing Polly, with an upturned glass on her head, having pins stuck through it. She was amazingly calm. Well done Polly. There was a dove and a white rabbit who sat on the table between acts. Hazel was bird lady, and we thought. the dove was going to be in the box but when the sides went down there was the bunny! How did that happen? After several encores we stopped for food. It was scrumptious.



W I meeting 18 January

“Blood Sweat and Tea”



On Tuesday 18 January the ladies enjoyed an informative talk by Jeremy Wilson, a camellia grower from Kingsbridge, whose interest has drawn him into the history of tea as well as its propagation. I had vaguely heard that tea bushes were a type of camellia, but there is so much more to its production.

Tea originated in China thousands of years ago. A cup of ‘char’ stems from the Chinese word Chai. Starting with the Dutch East India Company, then the British East India Company, tea had been a valuable commodity for centuries, with these massive companies, and many other individuals besides, making huge fortunes by importing vast quantities.

As tea became heavily taxed, there were tales of importing, smuggling and piracy down the ages, with local Devon folk, throughout our history heavily involved, from both sides of the law. Tea was a rich person’s drink in the 16th century, with ladies keeping their precious tea under lock and key. (Thanks to the Antiques Roadshow, I knew about that!) Even Samuel Pepys sent out for a takeaway cup of tea in the 1600s. Not such a modern idea after all.

Wars have been started over tea, its ownership and growing rights, through the American War of Independence and the various Empires worldwide.

Gradually the price reduced to make it more affordable, for a variety of economic reasons.

Tea was a vital part of the war effort in World War Two. One estimate is that the largest government purchases in 1942 were, in order of weight, bullets, **tea**, artillery shells, bombs and explosives.

By the way, other members of the W I knew of Tregothnan tea from Cornwall. A little out of my league at £2800 per pound in its purest form (I didn’t miss out the decimal point!)

Pat Ellis

PS Please watch out for notices around the villages to see what our next W I meeting will be about. Visitors are sure of a friendly welcome. Check our posters for details.



Happy New Year from Kenn Cricket Club. We will be keeping you up to date in the magazine as we progress to the new season, hopefully one free of covid.

To raise some funds, we are looking to be granted a premises certificate to be able to supply alcohol on match days and social events we run at the club. Please be rest assured we are not looking to open a pub. It's purely to be able to supply some drinks from time to time. This facility will be properly run hence our application via the official channels.

PUBLIC NOTICE **LICENSING ACT 2003**

To whom it may concern:

Kenn Cricket Club is applying for the grant of a Club Premises Certificate for Kenn Cricket Club, Trehill, Kenn, EX6 7XJ

The Licence if granted is to enable the following activities to take place:

Sale of alcohol on/off the premises

Monday to Sunday 12.00 hours to 23.00 hours

Any person wishing to make representations in relation to this application may do so by writing to the Licensing Section, Teignbridge District Council, Forde House, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot TQ12 4XX or emailing licensing@teignbridge.gov.uk. Representations may be made for 28 consecutive days from the date of this notice. The receipt of representations will be published with the appropriate Committee Agenda (if applicable). Due to Coronavirus - If you require further information, please contact licensing@teignbridge.gov.uk who will be happy to explain the application.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for making a false statement is a Level 5 fine on the standard scale.

Dated: To be dated 14th February 2022



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With fabulous home cooked food, real ales, special occasion celebrations in the function room and great hospitality, the Ley Arms, near Exeter, is a great place to visit and enjoy.

Leg of Lamb Macedoine



Ingredients

- 3 ½ Pounds Leg of Lamb
- 2 tablespoons Oil
- 2 Onions
- 4 Carrots, diced
- 2 Leeks , sliced
- 2 Tablespoons Tomato Puree
- 14 ounce Can of Tomatoes
- 1 clove crushed Garlic
- Bouquet Garni or fresh herbs, Salt and Pepper



Method

Brown Meat on all sides in Oil. Drain well and place in a large Casserole. Arrange Onions, Carrots and leeks around the meat and pour over Tomato Puree mixed with tinned Tomatoes. Add Bouquet Garni, Salt and Pepper. Cover and cook – Gas 4 or 5 – for 2 ½ hours. Discard Bouquet Garni and serve surrounded with Vegetables.

Maureen

Exciting News!

St Andrew's Church have a very special culinary publication

**** OUT NOW ****

Deep Sea Cauliflower Cheese

Contributions from celebrities and local legends!

My Dear Mum's Christmas Pudding



Chocolate Orange Cake

Over 250 pages of recipes, anecdotes and images!

A cookbook with a difference

Heavenly Feasts & Burnt Offerings

To order your copies contact John Wood by emailing haldonviews@gmail.com

Copies are also on sale in Kennford Stores

£12.99 per book or £30 if you purchase 3

Thanks to some very kind sponsors, 100% of sale proceeds go to support St Andrews Church

P&P £4.00
for one book.
£5.28 for three

GAMES-Do you want to play?

It's such fun playing them with my grandchildren but they all live a long way away so it's a very rare occurrence.

So I'm just putting out feelers to see if anyone might be interested in forming a game-playing group. I'm definitely talking games on a table (board, cards, etc) - not active, chasing-around games! And playing them would be for fun with a bit of healthy competition but nothing too serious.

If there was interest, we could have a chat about the best way to organise things such as where, when and how frequently. And, of course, which games.

Please get in touch if this is something that might be of interest to you. You're welcome to ring me on: 07866791043 or email me at: avriljames@hotmail.com



Parish Rainfall

As recorded by Pete Holland

December 2021 137mm or 5.48ins

Yearly Rain 2021

1297mm or 57.88ins

2020

1142mm or 45.68ins

Wettest month in 2021 May 228mm



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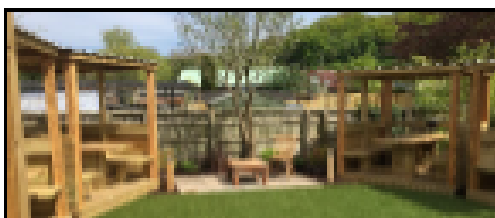
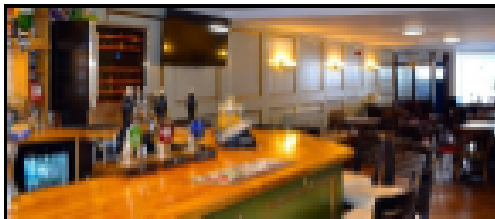
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St Andrew's Church

Churchwarden's Jottings



Here we are in the year 2022. Let's hope we can now move forward and start doing all the things we enjoy. Christmas, despite everything else going on, was a great success this year. What a great carol service outside the church we had. The music, led by a brass band, thanks to Paul Rycroft. Also, our own shanty singers. Many thanks to the Rev Mark Bate for conducting the carol service. If you were there, thank you for coming. We also held our Nine Carols and Nine Lessons Carol Service, inside the church. That too was well supported. And we certainly can't have Christmas without a Crib Service. Thanks to Lorna Young for organising the service, another great success. The only thing missing this year, that starts our Christmas celebrations off here in St Andrews, is Words for Voices. A hard decision had to be made concerning Covid, so this most popular event was cancelled. I am sure there will be another chance for it to be held in the future.

Looking forward to 2022, hopefully, we can do Lent Lunches. We are hoping to do two or three in Lent sometime in March. As I write this I am trying to sort dates out.

Queens Jubilee. There are plans afoot to decorate the church in celebration of this event taking place at the beginning of June. If you are interested in helping out please contact Brenda Stone on 01392 833227.

St Andrews very own cookbook Heavenly Feasts and Burnt Offerings is selling very well. Over half the number ordered have sold!! The book makes an ideal birthday present. The local post office, Partridge Cycles, and the Ley Arms are all places you can pick a copy up from, or you can go online at haldonviews@gmail.com. There has been some great feedback from people who bought the book. Great value at just £12.99.

A plea for help. It is a great sadness that Rod Harbottle is standing down from being our church treasurer as from April. He has been St Andrew's treasurer for a considerable amount of time. He no longer lives in Kenn, so I have to admit it was no surprise when he informed me of his decision. **So any volunteers?** If you're good with figures and would like to help keep a beautiful church alive, please get in touch with me 01392 832462. Your parish church needs you!!!

We are also saying a sad goodbye to **Barry and Ann Cripps** who are moving to a retirement home in Tavistock. I thank them and wish them well for the future. Their support through producing the 'Fisherman' was crucial. The magazine is no longer produced and all the funds held have been shared equally between St Andrew's and St Martin's. Thanks again Anne and Barry.

I have noticed, over the last few years, we seem to be having a big increase in dog ownership in the parish and unfortunately there are a few of these owners who are not picking up the dog poo left behind while walking through the churchyard. This is not right and not proper!! If you see this happening please let me know.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all those people who sponsored the floodlighting of the church over Christmas. Thank you. Floodlighting the church has become more popular of late. It's a great way to remember a loved one, or a birthday or celebration. Just let me know. We were very lucky some years ago money was left to install floodlighting. Lots of people comment on how nice it looks and how lucky we are to have our church floodlit.

Simon Preece. Churchwarden.



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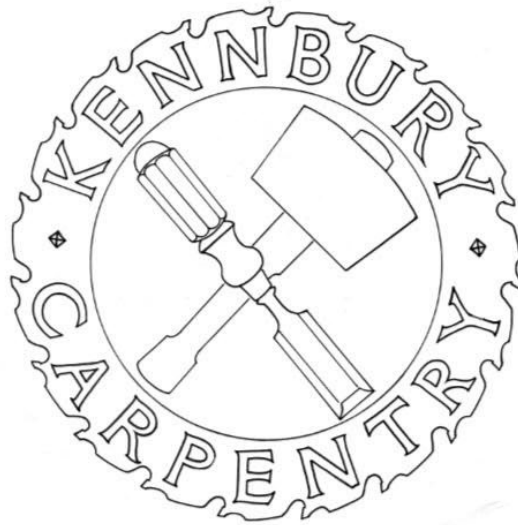


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News from the MOTHERS' UNION Branch at St. Andrew's, Kenn (with Exminster)

The Mothers' Union movement began in 1876. Mary Sumner, the wife of a rector in Hampshire, set up a group to support mothers of all kinds in bringing up their children. After delivering a speech in 1885 to churchgoing women at the Portsmouth Church Congress, she inspired many of them to go back to their parishes and set up similar groups.

Over time the groups who met as Mothers' Union became embedded in their communities. They forged strong links with local people and the Anglican Church. They worked to support one another and give a voice to disadvantaged women while addressing wider societal issues. Driven by Mary Sumner's passion for the role of women in bringing about a better society, the groups proved very popular.

By 1892, membership had reached 60,000 in 28 dioceses, which was to grow to 169,000 members by the turn of the century. In 1893, annual general meetings were organised, and, in 1896, Mothers' Union Central Council was formed.

The movement today is made up of hundreds of individual Mothers' Union charities spread across 84 countries. Mothers' Union is unique in that members work together to solve challenges in their local communities. By helping to restore and strengthen relationships in families and communities, the movement gives a sense of belonging and acceptance to the stigmatised and vulnerable.

The Mothers' Union approach

Mothers' Union works by **creating safe spaces and listening**, breaking down barriers between and within people. Members often make use of participatory exercises, including Bible study, to surface sensitive issues and challenge harmful norms. Active listening is encouraged and plans are forged together. By **mobilising members to partner** with churches, church leaders and other stakeholders (including government and other NGOs) mutually agreed outcomes are achieved.

Mothers' Union equips members and their communities to **recognise and use the skills, resources and talents around them**. Through this process people are able to take ownership of their own future, lifting them from dependency. Following from its historic routes, **advocating and influencing for change remains Important**. Mothers' Union works extensively through lobbying and engaging power-holders, especially government, to address underlying issues and bring about systemic change.

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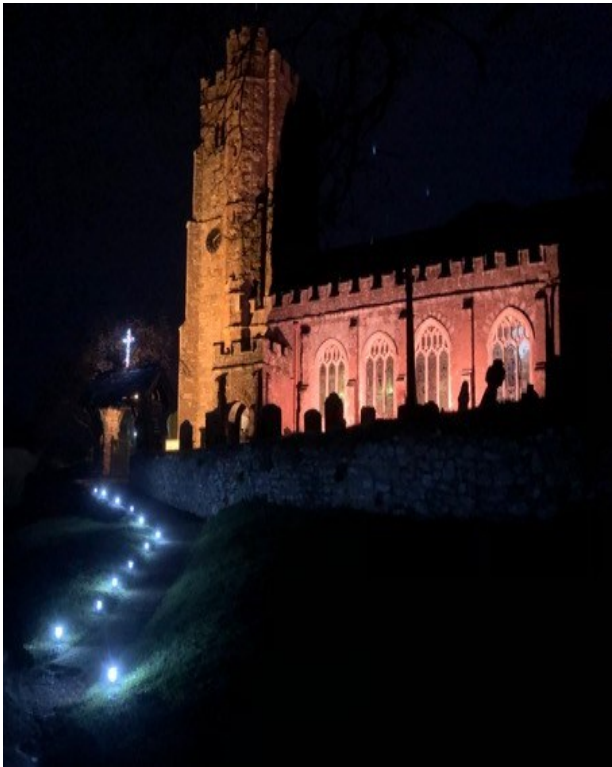
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