



THE LINK



ISSUE 50

Vicar: Rev. Peter Hart Parish Office: 8332 1324

March 2016

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A CELEBRATION!

...of our fiftieth issue, and below is the masthead of the first edition, which ran to twelve pages. We had to change the name because the Diocese was already using it for their magazine!



The Calais Jungle

How far have they travelled,
through treacherous miles
In search of a safe place for their
unborn child
Across borders and deserts, though
weary and worn
Their hope in their hearts will carry
them on

He said, "There is peace, my love,
you will see,
In this place we are going, our child
will be free
Free of all fear and tyranny
And embraced by true humanity

"For wise men will welcome us, as their own friends,
And herald with joy, our journey's end,
With gifts of compassion, kindness and care
Not long now my love, until we are there"

And so at last, they arrived at this place
"No room" said the man with a stony face
"No room" said the border control at the tunnel
"No room" came the cry across the channel

For this is no starry Bethlehem
No stable here, no three wise men
In the jungle in Calais a baby is born
He is the shame, your master of war

Julie Matthews, St Agnes Foundation



Above is the Ethiopian church in the "Jungle". Other churches and schools have already been demolished by the authorities and, at the time of going to press, this one may also be threatened with destruction.

see also page 10:

UK Action For Refugees

Visit our websites:

www.stlukeskew.org.uk

www.barnchurchkew.uk

Hello from *The Link* team

Well here we are with our fiftieth issue! Although we do not have a mission statement per se, we have always tried to include articles of interest to the whole Kew community in order to illustrate the part that the churches play in fostering the community spirit, which is alive and well in Kew. We hope you enjoy our fiftieth edition.

Link 51 will be published on 19th June. Copy —including photographs — to the Editor by email by 29th May, please.

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ST LUKE'S

www.stlukeskew.org

Sunday Services:

8am Holy Communion
11am Parish Communion (Junior Church and Crèche in term-time)
11am Parish Communion with Junior Church participation (First Sunday in the month — All-age Worship)

Every Thursday

10am Holy Communion

THE BARN

www.barnchurchkew.uk 

Sunday Services:

9.30am Parish Communion (Junior Church and Crèche in term-time)
9.30am Parish Communion with Junior Church participation (First Sunday in the month — All-age Worship)

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

We are galloping towards Easter at a rate of knots. As winter was a bit of a late arrival this year, we have been living with camellias and japonica flowers since Christmas, so it is not at all surprising that we are halfway through Lent already. Indeed, the blackthorn in the hedge round the Barn was encouraging us to cast a clout at the end of January. The cold was late, the warmth was early, Easter is early – I actually get my birthday in Easter Week for the first time in years! – and there will be bluebells for Palm Sunday. The redwings have stripped the holly and pyracantha berries from the shrubs in the Rec, and have already set off back to colder climes, their winter visit done. Bumblebees were spotted during half term, a red emperor butterfly in the last week of February and the sunrises and sunsets have been glorious.

But all this breakneck speed in nature and the liturgical year gives us little time for reflection. No sooner had we embraced the mystery of the incarnation than we were pondering the meaning of “Son of God” in the wilderness, tempted to deny the love of God within us for more prosaic, human ways. We are meant to plod our way to Easter, not rush, but this year we cannot help ourselves, as daylight calls us onward and new growth spurs us to ever greater activity. Can we slow down? Should we?

At the heart of this year’s ecumenical Lent course, which is being shared by many from across the different Kew churches, is the fundamental notion that all we have, all we are, is the gift of God. Life itself, family, friends, place, purpose – everything has been given to us by a loving, generous God, who asks of us grateful acknowledgement, loving thanks and lives moulded by an awareness of that gift. Barbara Wood (long of The Avenue & St Winefride’s) calls us week by week to focus on the simplicity of God’s gift to us, and the spectacular array of that gift: to look beyond ourselves and the gifts that God has undoubtedly given us, to the purpose of such loving divine generosity towards us. And we will be properly grateful people, come Easter Day.

At the same time, a report into befriending work in the community, carried out for Kew Neighbourhood Association, calls for us to look again at how we as neighbours and friends engage with those who have more difficulty getting out than we do, whose social circumstances have become circumscribed by illness or infirmity, whose readiness to engage with the wider community is impaired by lack of confidence or even the means to go beyond the confines of their home.

We who have so much to be thankful for, we who rejoice in all that is glorious and stimulating around us, ought to be the first to take that joy, that gratitude, and share it with our neighbours who can’t or won’t get out to do all the great things that come so easily to us. Go and talk to that person two doors down, take cake and flowers with you, and bring them into the orbit of gratitude. Engage with KNA, with your local church group, with the Avenue Club at St Luke’s, to find ways of including everyone in the goodness of our community. And then Easter Day will dawn with greater joy, and greater light, in the shared thankfulness of connected neighbours and cantering Spring.

Peter

Baptisms

The Barn

1st November Tabitha Grace Stafford
29th November Alice Helena Miller
6th December Benjamin Stephen Reding

St Luke’s

29th November Sophie Isabella Cardoza
7th February James Edward Tiley

Funerals

30th November Pam Coggins
11th December Lorna Woodward
4th January Dorothy Fidell
4th February Kathleen Allen
11th February Jean Peters
19th February Betty Watts
23rd February William Collis



Christmas Angels: letter received from the Team Leader for **Achieving for Children**

reads in part “We were astounded by the number of gifts and hampers provided... The families who received the gifts were extremely pleased and commented on the difference the gifts made to them and their families. Many of them asked for their thanks to be passed on to everyone who helped to make their Christmas special.”

There are two casualties this quarter:

Herbert J Boddy - Private L/15369, 1st Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. 24th Division. Killed in action 15th January 1916. Aged 25. Born in Richmond and enlisted in London. Next of kin residents of Richmond Buried in Menin Road South Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Ieper (Ypres) Belgium B. 72 ref I. C. 6. and

Henry Thomas H Green - Private 4395, 9th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. 24th Division. Killed in action 2nd March 1916. Born in Lambeth and enlisted in Richmond

Next of kin residents of Kew Gardens, Richmond. Buried in Menin Road South Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Ieper (Ypres) Belgium B. 72 ref I. B. 14.

There was not much recorded action in the British sector in Flanders at this time but regrettably both these Kew men lost their lives and were buried in the same cemetery at Ypres.



At the time the cemetery would have looked like this



After the war it was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield, a relative of our own David Blomfield (and not so obviously - Charlie Grace)

Research is ongoing, please contact me to correct any inaccuracies at johnelstone@gmail.com

John Elstone

“What’s in a name?” Juliet muses. If ‘a rose by any other name would smell as sweet’ would you be the same person if your parents had named you Boudicca or Septimus? Maybe they did? As Bertie Wooster remarks to his valet: ‘Golly, Jeeves, there’s some raw work pulled at the font from time to time, is there not?’

The power of naming is perhaps underestimated, even if you’re not a boy named Sue. You may be named for a flower, a place, after the month of your birth, or a character from a book. I have met people named for their father’s ship, a First World War battle, and their dad’s former girlfriend (yes, really). We almost resorted to numbering our offspring after failing to agree on names for them. In the Gospels this momentous parental decision is greatly simplified by the strict instructions of an angel that Mary and Joseph’s new son will be called Jesus (“Saviour”).

The babies brought to the font at St. Luke’s and the Barn are already known to their families by the name (or number) assigned to them at birth, but the priest’s question ‘What’s his/her name?’ remains a powerful one. This is the moment when the congregation can bask in approval or suppress a silent snigger, but the point at which the vicar repeats the child’s name is a public declaration that this small individual is known to God as familiarly as it is to its doting parents.

The BBC’s clever mash-up *Dickensian* reminded us that authors also have fun at the fictional font, an apparently bottomless well of names on which to draw. Henry James habitually jotted down names in his notebooks for possible future use in novels.

Baptismal names do not always bode well for their victims. The makeshift baptism Tess Durbeyfield improvises in *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* pretty much dooms her illegitimate infant from the get-go when he is christened ‘Sorrow’. In Laurence Sterne’s *Tristram Shandy*, the shaggiest of shaggy dog stories, when the eponymous hero is finally born – some considerable way into the novel – the servant Susannah mangles the child’s intended name ‘Trismegistus’ as the inauspicious ‘Tristram’. The origins of Jack Worthing in *The Importance of Being Earnest* are even less promising, famously involving a handbag and his attempts to get re-christened ‘Ernest’ in order to comply with his fiancée’s whim.

Edith Nesbit’s short stories for children are liberally sprinkled with babes cursed in the cradle, à la Sleeping Beauty. Rather than avoid the subject, Prince Bellamant comes clean with his résumé in the ‘Royal Match Catalogue’ which royal parents dip into to find spouses for their heirs. Bellamant’s entry reads: *Aged twenty-four. Wants Princess who doesn’t object to a christening curse. Nature of curse only revealed in the strictest confidence.*

You’ll be relieved to hear [plot spoiler] that he finds a bride labouring under a christening curse of her own. These things will happen when you fail to invite a Wicked Fairy to your child’s baptism. Parents take note.

Going social

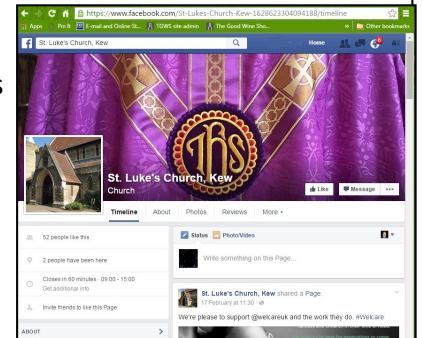
Social media – that’s Twitter, Facebook and Instagram — are great ways of keeping in touch with what is happening at both St. Luke’s and The Barn (between editions of *The Link* of course!) Have you connected, liked or retweeted yet? Here are a few suggestions:

St Luke’s: Thomas Liebers, Treasurer and Digital Communications @lieberstomas



On **Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/St-Lukes-Church-Kew-1628623304094188/>) we share many of memorable and interesting moments from Church. For example, pictures of the works produced by the children attending Junior Church. We can also set up events which you can share with your own friends via Facebook.

Twitter (@stlukekew) is very useful to share information and updates “in the moment” when they occur. We can let you know about the start of an event, as well sharing the occasional “sound-bite” from a sermon or a prayer.



Email is our most effective online communications method by far. Just imagine how many people read their emails every morning on the way to work, during their lunch breaks or in the evening. If you want to know what is going on you can sign up too for a weekly electronic newsletter. Just contact the Parish Office at

office@kewparishes.plus.com to be added to the distribution list. To sign up, email the parish office or look out for the link on our website homepage at: www.stlukeskew.org. This is regularly updated and has the latest edition of *The Link* too!

Please do engage with St Luke’s online but more importantly – please come and visit us. Because despite all the digital stuff, we would still love to talk to you in person.

The Barn: Ruth Gledhill, Digital Communications @ruthiegledhill

The Barn is active on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Each of these media reaches a slightly different demographic, so each is important in its own way.

Facebook (facebook.com/barnkew) is great for promoting and highlighting interesting events. We had a visiting vicar recently who looked amazing as he preached, lit by the rays of the sun through the stained glass windows. It was a widely-liked post on Facebook which his own community in the Gower appreciated seeing as well as users here. We also use Facebook to highlight events such as our film festival. You can also use the message service on Facebook via the page to ask questions, such as when nursery resumes after a holiday.



Instagram (instagram.com/barnkew) reaches a younger generation. It is popular with teens, the demographic which is so absent from so many churches. This is an ongoing project, we’ve already got more than 50 followers. Instagram is much more for passing interest, for looking at nice pictures and videos.

Twitter (twitter.com/barnkew) is the most fun. It is also incredibly effective at doing both the things Facebook and Instagram do, but in one go. Sometimes the Vicar’s sermons are live-tweeted from the church.

Like St Luke’s we also have a page on Kew TW9 (<http://kewtw9.org/>) and our own website: <http://www.barnchurchkew.uk>. It is all very Gospel: spreading good news, being out there in the market place, engaging with and loving our neighbours. The most important rule is to ‘play nicely’ and remember the commandments. Never tweet or comment anything about anyone that you would not want said about yourself. Love your (digital) neighbour as yourself.



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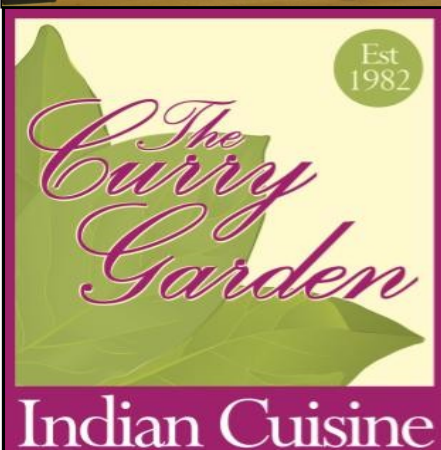
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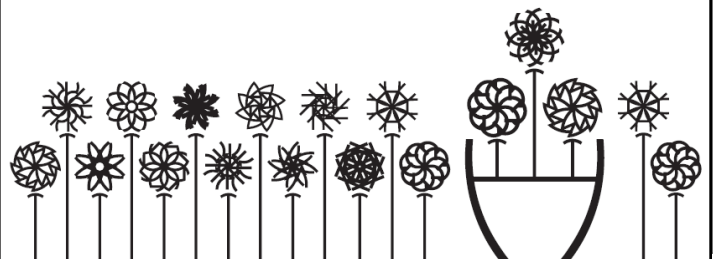


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Cedric Egan (1935 -2015)

Cedric Egan died just before Christmas last year. Cedric's name may be unknown to most of our readers, but many have recently missed the familiar sight of a white-bearded gentleman, looking for all the world like a recently retired admiral, strolling among the shops around Kew Gardens station. He was in fact the senior, most respected, trader in the whole of Kew.

Cedric knew Kew inside out. He worked here for over 50 years at Halletts, as owner since the 1970s, in the business of selling, renting and managing Kew's houses and flats.

Cedric did not only look like a sailor, he was one, with a lifetime's enjoyment of sailing, much of it locally on the Thames, where he could pursue his twin passions for boats and the local wildlife. He and his wife Nicky rescued and reared countless orphaned garden and river birds, one of them, Willoughby the moorhen, being rehoused on the pond in the RBG.

Halletts, with its brave new blue branding, thrives under Cedric's son, Giles, and *The Link* is especially happy that they advertise in our pages, as we find Halletts ads in the earliest surviving newsletters of the Barn Church in 1934. It is a link *The Link* is proud to celebrate.

David Blomfield

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The Barn Nursery in Kew retains 'Outstanding' Ofsted Inspection Grade

The Barn Nursery in Kew is delighted to announce that it has retained its 'Outstanding' Ofsted after a recent inspection in January 2016.

Manager Diane Allen, said "This result reflects the hard work, commitment and passion displayed by our outstanding team. I am truly delighted for them and for the children. This will drive us to continue to serve our parents and children even better in the future"

The nursery has been established for over forty years and has become a true part of the community. It is a non-profit making Registered Charity run by a committee of parents of the children.

For further information, please call Diane Allen on 8876-6910 or email her at info@barnnursery.co.uk



Pensford Field 2016 Wassail was celebrated in Pensford Field on Saturday, January 9th. Many local residents came and we all had a wonderful time dancing and singing with the U-Kew-Lele band. The new Wassail Queen was crowned and together with the Wassail Master they led everyone round the orchard making lots of noise with instruments and pots and pans!
The purpose of wassailing is to awake the cider apple trees and to scare away evil spirits to ensure a good harvest of fruit in the Autumn.

If you would like to find out more about Pensford Field please look at our website: www.pensfordfield.co.uk

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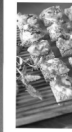
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AVENUE CLUB NEWS



We have some very exciting **Talks** and **Workshops** coming up here at the Avenue Club as well as a host of other regular activities and entertainment.

Men - Don't Miss Out!

We are aware of the need to offer activities that inspire and involve the men in our community.

Garry Freer is a consultant as well as a pilates/yoga teacher and coach. We are extremely pleased that he has time to come to give a talk on personal development on **Monday 21st March at 2 p.m.** Garry will run a light-hearted workshop/seminar examining physical and postural well-being, health and longevity as well as how to improve your quality of life. At the end of his talk, he will be hosting a discussion on topics which would motivate men to join activities and events that might interest them, e.g. a philosophy club? A chess club? Golf gatherings? Outings to a variety of places - a local brewery perhaps? We hope this session will lead onto future male-orientated forums and activities. So tell your friends, family, the man on the bus: it's time to get out and about - you never know, you might start living as long as the women!!

We would really appreciate feedback on any other activities/ suggestions that men would enjoy so that we can start organising it for you! If you can't make it to the Forum, but have some thoughts, do please get in touch.

Everyone is more than welcome to attend.

The Citizens Advice Bureau is hosting a free session on **Energy Best Deals** on **Monday 21st March at 11am**. This will include advice on 1) How to switch suppliers. 2) How to reduce energy consumption. 3) Understanding bills and tariffs. 4) Applying for grants and discounts. **Everyone is welcome to attend. Please book in advance in case of any last-minute changes.**

Lindsey Cape, Area Manager for **Macmillan**, will talk about the history of Macmillan, the changing story of cancer, the support Macmillan offers to people affected by the disease and how the charity is helping to initiate early diagnosis. Lindsey will be here on **Monday 18th April at 2pm**.

Steel Pan Workshop is happening on **Monday 23rd May at 2pm**.

This workshop was very popular when they came a few years ago. Two musicians do a short demonstration of the instruments and then teach us how to play a simple tune. (Good luck with that!) 30 spaces available. **Members get first priority but please let us know if you are interested as there may be space available.**

Fabulous and Fascinating Outings coming up in April, May and June: Museum of Brands, Bowood House, Dennis Sever's House, Museum of Childhood, Eltham Palace, British Library and The Library Museum of Freemasonry. **Members first – but do call, we occasionally have spare spaces.**

Mondays are our Transport and Carer Day: Colin is our friendly cabbie who collects members from around the Kew area and takes them home again. Kay our carer looks after our members while they are here eating lunch, playing games or simply socialising with a ready-made group of friends to have a chat and a cup of tea. Please let us know if you or anyone you know requires assistance in getting here and/or is feeling isolated at home and would benefit from some company.

Our **Book Club** is delighted to welcome the author **Marion Molteno** on **Monday 21st March at 2.40pm**. Marion will discuss her book "Uncertain Light". She will then host a question and answer session.

Non-members are welcome. Call to let us know if you are interested in attending.

We also have our popular **Creative Writing** class on **Mondays (11-12.30 & 1-2.30)**. The class is great fun and you will be encouraged to put your thoughts onto paper in a variety of different genres.

Why not try our **Art Class** on **Wednesdays at 1-3pm** where our teachers will bring out your natural creativity.

Please feel free to contact us on **020 8948 8807** or pop in to see us at St Luke's in The Avenue.



This past summer we made the big move from Kew out to the countryside. I know it happens, but I was worried that I would be bored or lonely, or that I wouldn't fit in. Well, as fate has it, something else came my way which made sure that I was never any of the above.

Just before the big move, our family took a road trip over to Italy. Would we see these "migrants" that the news kept complaining about? Truthfully I was quite nervous, maybe aware that my whole world was about to turn upside down. As we drove out of the tunnel, there was this apocalyptic scene: Gendarmes climbing on and off the motorway, men handcuffed in the centre divider, a family crossing the motorway onto the other side where lorries were stacked up, and a lone teenage boy walking along the shoulder. I burst into tears. My five year old asked, "Mommy, why are you crying?" "Because these people need help, my love, and no one is helping them."

Fast forward 7 months, and my life is very different from the picturesque days of times past. After volunteering in "The Jungle" for a couple of months, a friend and I founded **UK Action for Refugees** with the purpose of supporting refugees all over the world - from Calais, to Greece, Syria, and beyond. While the experience has been emotionally taxing and psychologically draining, it has also been incredibly rewarding and enlightening.

Have I seen terrible things? Absolutely. People who have fled war and genocide, who came to us for safety but were denied the right to life. So they remain in a kind of purgatory, rotting in their own filth. We have failed them. The UK and French governments refuse to acknowledge their human rights. The French police spray tear gas over them nightly, sometimes specifically targeting the women's and children's area. The chants of the blackshirts are loud as Europe moves further and further right, descended into a pit of fear, xenophobia and hate. The French populace are forming into neo-fascist gangs looking for lone refugees or volunteers to rough up. Greek and Turkish coastguards purposely sinking ships full of families. Syria is so bombarded that sometimes it looks like it's raining, but it's just Assad's bombs.

But, have I lost faith in humanity? Far from it.

I am proud to count myself as a member of this ragtag army of volunteers, the underground resistance of our days. Never before have people from all over the world risen up and come together to do the job that our governments are failing to do. For decades, our societies have grappled with political apathy and community disintegration. This crisis has been the wake up call - you are the change you want to see in the world! We are a gorgeous mixture of nationalities, individuals coming together despite religion or politics or ethnicity - simply to help.

And we've moved mountains! The combined kitchens in Calais feed over 5,000 people per day. There are schools, churches, mosques, art centres, and libraries. Hundreds of thousands of refugees have been welcomed onto the Greek islands. Hundreds of containers of aid have been packed up and sent across Europe and down to the Middle East. The large NGOs and charities keep fundraising to "aid the refugee crisis", but just hold back the money amidst a prison of red tape. ALL of this has thus been done by volunteers - "normal" people.

Don't get me wrong, this is not a victory. These camps shouldn't even exist. These people are guaranteed asylum under European law and they are being denied their basic human rights. We should be ashamed of our countries for putting politics and egos in front of our duties to our fellow brothers and sisters.

But don't ever think that you can't make a difference. You may not be able to change the world single-handedly. But, together, WE can.

Please visit our facebook page to support our current projects. One is a refugee welcome centre on the island of Lesbos called the Hotel Elpis (Hope Centre), which will be supported by Mediciens du Monde and the UN. We have just sent two containers of aid out to Syria, one of which was greatly contributed to by the Kew community. We are due to send another two out, one of which will contain an ambulance and other essential medical supplies.

www.facebook.com/ukactionforrefugees

Danielle Giornandi



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Brian Vearncombe

Painter & Decorator

House Maintenance



Brian is well known for his work throughout Kew over many years. He has painted and done maintenance work on countless houses, as well as St Luke's, the Barn, and the Barn Church Hall.

References available.

Flat 3, 42 Merritt Gdns,
Chessington, KT9 2GJ

Tel: 020 8391 1545 or 07581 404000

Diary of Events & Services at St Luke's and The Barn

March

Tuesday 15 th	8pm	St Luke's PCC Meeting in the West End Room of the Church
Saturday 19 th	5-7pm	Easter Family Bingo at The Barn
Sunday 20 th	10am	Palm Sunday Service with Walk from The Barn to St Luke's
Thursday 24 th	8pm	Maundy Thursday service, St Luke's
Friday 25 th	10am	Good Friday Children's Workshop The Barn
	noon	The Passion play, Richmond
	2pm	Good Friday Service at St Luke's
Sunday 27 th	Easter Sunday	

April

Sunday 10 th	9.30am	Barn APCM (during the service)
Sunday 17 th	7.30pm	Meditation Service at St Luke's
Wednesday 27 th	8pm	Barn PCC Meeting
Sunday 24 th	11am	St Luke's APCM (during the service)

May

Sunday 1st	11am	Barn Patronal Festival
Sunday 8 th	noon	Vineyard Lunch at St Luke's
Sunday 8 th	3pm	Afternoon Concert at The Barn (Martin Pagnamenta)
Saturday 14 th		St Luke's May Ball
Sunday 22nd		Family Spring Concert at The Barn
Sunday 29 th	noon	Vineyard Lunch at The Barn

June

Sunday 12 th	7.30pm	Meditation Service at St Luke's
Saturday 18th	7-11pm	Barn Rock 'n Roast with Family Disco
Saturday 25 th		St Luke's Beetle Drive

July

Saturday 9th		Barn Summer Fair
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704417 between 6.30-8.30pm after April 1

For further information please visit www.q2players.org.uk

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KEW FOR YOU

As I sit down to write this, Kew is starting to be full of the glory of spring. Bluebells will be carpeting the Woodland area in late April and May, and be especially beautiful in the grounds of Queen Charlotte's Cottage. Cherry Walk will be in bloom, from behind the Palm House to the Temperate House. There are over 250 types of wonderful magnolias across the Gardens and many Camellias will be blooming, including the newly planted ones along the path from the Victoria Gate down towards the Shirley Sherwood Gallery. My personal favourite is the amazing Davies Alpine House with especially beautiful exotic bulbs.



Scilla forbesii: there will be a stunning display of these beautiful blue flowers in front of the Orangery in March, definitely not to be missed.

Spring at Kew Competition: Take some photos in Kew Gardens and share them on

Twitter using the hashtag #SpringAtKew for a chance to win a year's Friend of Kew membership. See the Kew Gardens web page for further details.

Art: For art lovers, the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art currently has a stunning display of Brazilian Art with amazing paintings by Margaret Mee, from her travels in the Brazilian rain forest. Also on display are works by modern Brazilian artists.

Easter Festival: 19th March till 10th April: Chocolate will be the theme and Lindt will be providing yummy chocolate prizes for a children's trail and there will be craft and chocolate workshops during the Festival, some free and some with a charge. For more details nearer the time see kew.org

The Broad Walk: This has been completely renewed, with a series of large beds each side, a tremendous new feature which is well worth looking at. At 320 metres, it is thought to be the longest double herbaceous border in the world, with over 30,000 perennial plants, which will provide a stunning display of colour from early spring to late summer.

The Alpine Nursery: 19th and 20th March, 11am to 3.30 pm: a chance to look behind the scenes and see beautiful rare plants. You will learn how the collections are cared for and used to support the work of Kew and talk to the experts. Entry is via the Duke's Garden, free and no need to book. Friends of Kew can also enjoy a cup of tea in the Volunteer Resource room, upstairs (no lift). You may also bring one guest with your membership card.

News for Bee Lovers: The bee hives are no longer on the meadow by Elizabeth Gate. They have been moved to their new home in the Order Beds against the wall, parallel to Kew Road.

Free Signed Guided Walking Tours: these will be available on the first Sunday of every month till November 2016. Each tour will have two guides to communicate the wonderful work of Kew through sign language. Please contact j.parker@kew.org for more information.

Kew Palace and Royal Kitchens open: Visit these fascinating places and feel what it was like to work in a royal palace. See how George the third and his family lived. Explore the Royal Kitchens, unchanged since Queen Charlotte died in 1818, and learn how the servants worked there and gain an insight into Georgian cooking.

Kew the Music: a series of very popular outdoor picnic concerts by well known artists from 12th July onwards. Find out more details about the events from the Kew website and plan your visit.

And finally, **The Hive** is landing in Kew Gardens in June! This will be a splendid 17 metre high representation of a beehive, demonstrating the vital importance of the pollination by bees, especially of our cereal crops. Our lives depend on plants being pollinated by bees. The Hive will be on the mound between the Broad Walk and the Princess of Wales Conservatory. Watch this space in the next issue of The Link. It will be accessible to wheelchair users and there will be people there to explain the event.

Rosalind Eagleton



NOTICE BOARD

GENERAL

St. Luke's House

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The Kew Society

Conserves and enhances the ethos of Kew, environmentally and topically. New residents welcome. Sue May **8940 8724**

membership@kewsociety.org

Kew Sinfonia

High standard chamber orchestra, 3-4 concerts p.a. at St Anne's, rehearsals at the Barn.

8876 9318

Kew Horticultural Society

Annual show August Bank Holiday Saturday. Outings and talks.

8948 7254

Kew Wind Orchestra

King's House School, King's Rd, Richmond.

All ages, Thurs, 8pm.

8876 2192

Tea & Art Club

for over 50s Thurs 11-12

Pensford Field. Pam: **07500 178578**

Kew Neighbourhood Assn

offers help with transport to medical appointments and the Avenue Club, together with befriending and shopping.

8948 8054 weekdays 10-12 for help and offers of help.

Kew Community Trust

runs **Avenue Club** - social activities for older people. David Polya

8948 8806

Rotary Club of Kew

Coach & Horses, Kew Green.

Wed, 7.30 for 8pm.

8894 9958

Richmond and Kew Quilters

every 2nd Monday of the month.

7.30—9.30pm, St Winefride's Church Hall.

www.richmondandkewquilters.org.uk

Kew Community Choir

Thurs. 7.30

— 8.30, St Luke's in the Avenue

novesmary@hotmail.com

Q2 Players

Kew Scouts HQ, Station Ave, Presents three full-length plays each season, with performances at St Luke's. **8940 2053**

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Kew Residents Assn.

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operations@richmond.sia.org.uk

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8785 6718 or 8994 0396

KIDS

Girl Guiding

Brownies (7-10 yrs)

Tuesdays: St. Paul's, Raleigh Road;

Thursdays: St. Luke's House,

Sandycombe Road and the Barn Church.

Guides (10-14 yrs)

Thursdays: the Barn Church.

guides5thkew@gmail.com

Kew Scout Group HQ

Station Avenue by Kew Gardens Station (rear of Pether's Butchers Shop).

Beavers (6-7 yrs) Thur 6 pm

Cubs (8-10yrs) Thur 7 pm

Scouts and Explorer Scouts

(11+ yrs) Fri 7 pm

8940 2484

Kew Youth Club

Barn Church (entry Marksbury Ave):

Friday nights during term time, secondary school years 7-9. Entry

£2.50. jabbraddock@sky.com

Kew Park Rangers Football

North Road Recreation Ground.

Ages 5-11, boys and girls.

Sat morning (training),

Sun morning (matches).

07770 755 538 or 8940 9882

Kew Young Musicians

Saturday morning music school for

5-18s. Drums, bass, electric and classical guitar, saxophone, clarinet, flute, recorder and singing.

kewyoungmusicians@googlemail.com

8401 6950

Toddler Groups

Barn Church Mondays 9.30—11.00

and Fri. 9.15—11. Windham Rd.

Tues 9-11 termtime

Toy Library The Old Court House, Sheen Lane, Mortlake.

£1 membership, plus 30p per toy for 2 wks, plus family drop-in.

Thurs. 9.30-11.45.

8876 7294

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Jesus and the Blind Man

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel was set up by the World Council of Churches in answer to a call from the heads of the Christian Churches in Jerusalem to come and be with them to bear witness to their suffering. Kate Cargin served in Occupied East Jerusalem from September to December last year. See also: <http://eyewitnessblogs.com/blogs/>

When I first arrived in Jerusalem there was a large convention of Christians who had come to 'pray for the peace of Jerusalem'. I spoke to one of the participants who was staying in the same convent as I was. She told me it was a wonderful experience to be with 2,000 Christians from all over the world. Not one was from Palestine. I told the woman that there were 14,000 Palestinian Christians in Jerusalem alone. She was hugely surprised.

Many Palestinian Christians, with whom I have spoken, feel hurt and abandoned by this ignorance. They are proud to be part of an unbroken line of Christians in Palestine from the time Christianity began. But people assume that all Palestinians are Muslims.

Every Thursday, there is a communion service at Sabeel on the outskirts of Jerusalem. "Sabeel" is Arabic for 'the way', and also a 'channel' or 'spring' of life-giving water. It is an ecumenical liberation theology centre set up in 1990. Sabeel's purpose is to 'strive to develop a spirituality based on love, justice, peace, nonviolence, liberation and reconciliation for the different national and faith communities'. For them following in the footsteps of Jesus means standing up for the oppressed.

I spoke to Cedar, one of the founders of Sabeel. Displaced from Haifa in 1948, when Israel was established, she suffered a great change from being in comfortable circumstances to being raised in poverty. She told me that the political use of the Bible by Zionists to justify their actions had seriously affected her faith. Sabeel helped her to read the Bible in a more spiritual and relevant way.

Last Thursday the celebrant was Naim Ateek, another founding member. The gospel reading was from St. Mark, Chapter 10, vv 46 – 52, about Jesus healing the blind man on the outskirts of Jericho. Discussion about the story was open to the congregation. One woman said "He was living in Area 'A'". This is one of the classifications of Palestine devised under the Oslo agreement. "He would not have been allowed to come to the eye-hospital in Jerusalem." Another said, "The man was given a name, Bartimaeus. He was not just a number." "He was from the margins of society." "People tried to shut him up, but he shouted even louder." "Jesus asked him what he wanted him to do for him. He didn't make assumptions." "Some people are wilfully blind and do not want to see." All of this is painfully relevant for Palestinians today.

The previous day, I had taken a delegation of four Anglicans from Surbiton to see a Palestinian family who live in Wadi Al Jose, a district of Jerusalem a 10 minute walk from where I live. The family consists of an 85 year-old woman, a refugee from Ber Sheba in 1948, her two sons, Nouredin and Sharif, along with their wives and seven children. Nouredin, told us that in March this year, Israeli soldiers came without warning and demolished part of their house. Since then, they live in fear that the soldiers will come back and demolish the rest of it. They have lived there for 40 years but now the whole area is designated to be cleared to build a nature park. One of the delegation asked them if any provision had been made to re-house them. Nouredin shook his head and said 'We have nowhere to go.' Both Nouredin and Sharif are blind.

Kate Cargin



SMALL STEPS FOR AFRICA - 'The journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step' - Lao Tzu

SSFA is an education and sanitation charity that started right here in Kew back in 2008, when my mother Tracey and I started a fundraising campaign, supported by the congregation at St. Luke's Church, to provide clean water sources to a village in Eastern Uganda. This has grown, but our mission is still simple: to promote education and sanitation as the cornerstones of development in countries across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Our next fundraising event is a Second-Hand Sale on **Saturday 19th March** at St. Luke's House, Sandycombe Road. There will be a range of quality items on sale, from clothes to books to toys to bric-a-brac, as well as a cake stall and African handicrafts. Do come along, 11am-3pm!

For more information about SSFA, please see our website

www.smallstepsforafrica.org or email charlotte@smallstepsforafrica.org.



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