

Keyworth Methodist Church

Minister
Website
KeyNotes Editor

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EASTER 2025 ISSUE 17



**'KEEPING US CONNECTED
AT KMC'**



**What's that
tune?
Answer page 16**



EASTER EDITION 2025

SERVICES AT KMC DURING EASTER TO MAY

Services at 10.15 unless stated

April

6	Rev Tony Simpson	13	Palm Sunday Rev Naomi Sparey
20	Easter Day Rev Tony Simpson H C	27	David Morley

May

4	Christian Aid	11	Wilma Young
18	8.30 Rev Tony Simpson HC		
	10.15 Rev Andy Fyall Chair of the Nottingham and Derby District		
25	Rev Tony Simpson HC		

EASTER FUNNY Seen on a Church Bulletin Board

Potluck supper – Sunday at 5 p.m. and medication to follow!

MANSE MUSINGS – EASTER 2025

Last year I wrote about the language we sometimes use that is 'inclusive' for those 'in the know' whilst at the same time excludes those who do not understand it's meanings. Over the past few weeks, I have been talking to people about membership of the church here in Keyworth and what that means.



We talk in the Church about being 'members of God's family' and most of us can imagine what that might mean from our experiences with our own families, either as children growing up or in nurturing our own children and we need to recognise that for some people that experience will not be a positive one. To be a member of a specific church is to also be part of the family of gathered worshippers and, by becoming a member, it demonstrates a commitment to that family and to the wider family of both the Methodist Church and the Christian faith.

Of course, people can come to worship whether they are members or not and we baptise children into the family of God, even if they are too young to make that commitment for themselves. But to be a 'card-carrying' member of the Methodist Church is to take that one extra step of commitment and to declare that 'I am part of this church's body'.

The idea of a membership card, as with some of the matters I mentioned last Easter (yes, I do keep a copy to make sure I don't repeat myself too much), is part of our history when Methodists had to show their membership cards in order to receive Communion. I remember as a child my local church having Communion after the main service so that those who were not members could leave, allowing the remaining worshippers to receive the bread and wine (and, dare I say it, for some, have a feeling of superiority). Thankfully we do not follow this practice now (it is over 50 years ago – I know, I don't look that old....) and Communion is available to all, and rightly so, as Jesus' message of eternal life was for all.

Membership of an individual church then extends to the Methodist Circuit each church belongs to (churches that are gathered together geographically into an administrative group under a Superintendent Minister) and then, further, to the District (a gathering of Circuits into a geographical administrative group under a District Chair). Beyond that each District is overseen and are members of the 'Connexion' which is the Methodist term for the whole of the church family in the UK (and beyond). We are, each of us, 'in connexion' with each other and supporting each other.

But what does 'membership' mean day to day – does it mean that I've got to be on a rota doing something or another? The simple answer is 'no'. Whilst the church needs people to undertake various tasks to ensure that it's worshipping life and outreach continue, it does not mean that membership requires a person to 'do' anything other than to support the work of the church in whatever way they can – and daily prayer is one of the ways in which this can be done. Nor do we, in the Methodist Church, ask people to 'tithe' (promise to give) a percentage of their income to the church. We simply ask that people, whether members or not, to offer what they can in order to support the work of the church.

Why do people do all this? Because the message of Easter is that God came to us in human form as Jesus to show us how to live in a way that included everybody in God's love. And more than that. By dying and coming back to life through the Resurrection, Jesus showed that death was not the end and that all who believed in God would have eternal life.

Church membership is showing commitment to take that message and be part of a family who wish to share this good news with others. It is our way of showing our human commitment to God whose commitment to us was so great as to send His Son to live amongst us and to die to demonstrate the depth of His love for us.

May your Easter be one of happiness and joy. *Rev. Tony Simpson*

AN EASTER FUNNY

Seen on a Church Bulletin Board

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the Church Hall on Friday afternoon!



APRIL

Such sudden bursts of passion-laden energy,
as torrents of rain or hail or snow come tumbling down.
Yet unpredictable the sun still smiles at me through tears.
In jest you smile your clown-like joker face at me,
each time I try to catch a part of you, you slip away,
have changed your countenance and thumb your nose.
How can I ever, ever take you seriously?
You imitator of all seasons, soon you'll be gone and give
the throne to May....

Olga Allen (once of Selby Lane)

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT

In the words of Pope Francis.

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words -
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude -
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience -
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope -
- Fast from worries and trust in God -
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity -
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful -
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy -
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others -
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled -
- Fast from words and be silent, so you can listen.



A ROYAL MAUNDY INVITATION

I was very pleased to hear recently that Paul Johns has been invited to be a Maundy Recipient, having been nominated by the Bishop of our Diocese. The Royal Maundy Service will be held this year in Durham Cathedral on Thursday 17th April, Maundy Thursday. He will be one of 76 men and 76 women recipients, this being the age of the monarch. The King himself hopes to present the honour, after he missed the service last year through ill health. I hope Paul is well enough to attend and enjoy the occasion.

It brings back memories of 2018, when I was surprised to receive an invitation "out of the blue" and Cathy joined me to attend the Royal Maundy Service, held that year at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, to receive Maundy Gifts from the Queen. The service is held each year on Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday, and by 2018, they had been held at every cathedral in the country during her reign, usually with most of the recipients being people from within that cathedral's diocese - it was held at Southwell Minster in 1984. Probably to minimise travel for the Queen, the service in 2018 was held, not in a cathedral but in St George's Chapel, and recipients were not just local to Windsor, but a few people were invited from every diocese in the country.

When we arrived the day before the service, it was obvious that evening that Windsor was full of folk who were there for the ceremony and it was good to get to know some of them beforehand, or afterwards at the lunch reception which was held in the State Apartments of Windsor Castle.



The ceremony itself was memorable, as the Queen personally delivered the gifts to all 184 of us, 92 men and 92 women, one for each year of her age. Guests were seated in pairs, with the recipients in the aisle seat ready to meet the Queen as she walked round the chapel to distribute the Maundy Gifts during the service. The liturgy included references to the Last Supper and concluded with the hymn "When I survey the wondrous cross". Then the Queen departed in a procession, preceded by the Lord High Almoner and other office-holders, and accompanied by several Yeomen of the Guard, leaving us to be escorted through the Castle grounds to the reception

The Maundy Gifts were in two leather purses, a red one containing £5.50 in coins to represent what was previously food and clothing, and a white one containing 92p in Maundy coins. They are legal tender, but I haven't used them or attempted to sell them on yet! - they are a precious keepsake!

The history of Royal Maundy is long and varied. The word *Maundy* derives from Christ's command (*mandatum*) at the Last Supper to love one another after He had washed the disciples' feet. By the fourth or fifth century, a ceremony had arisen following communion on Maundy Thursday, that church leaders washed the feet of the poor. Centuries later, King John was recorded giving garments, food and other gifts to the poor of Knarborough and, in 1213, he gave some coins to poor men in Rochester. Then, in 1363, Edward III gave 50 pence to 50 poor men and years later Henry IV decreed that the number of pence be the same as the age of the monarch. Later monarchs didn't always wash feet or make the gifts in person and there is no record of a monarch's attendance in the years after 1698. However, the Lord High Almoner continued to perform washing of feet until 1737. The only sign now of what used to be the washing of feet is that nosegays are still carried, having once been needed to disguise the smells!

Maundy Gifts have varied over the years and have included garments, cloth and coins in differing quantities and of different value from year to year. They have had a chequered history over the centuries, but the gifts were eventually replaced by money as they had often been sold off by recipients for less than their true value. The ceremony was normally held within reach of London, but at a variety of venues according to where the monarch happened to be in the lead up to Easter.

In the early 20th century, members of the royal family rarely attended the Maundy service, but Elizabeth II herself attended all but 4 Maundy services during her reign, which were held at cathedrals throughout the country. Recipients once retained their status for life, with waiting lists for others to follow them after their death, but this is no longer the case. Now they are simply people who must be over the age of 70, mainly Anglicans chosen by their bishop for service to their churches and communities, but some must be from other denominations, which is how Paul and I must have qualified! *Roger Gould*

FRIENDS

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of friends, their comfort, help and care
For all the joy and happiness, the special things we share.

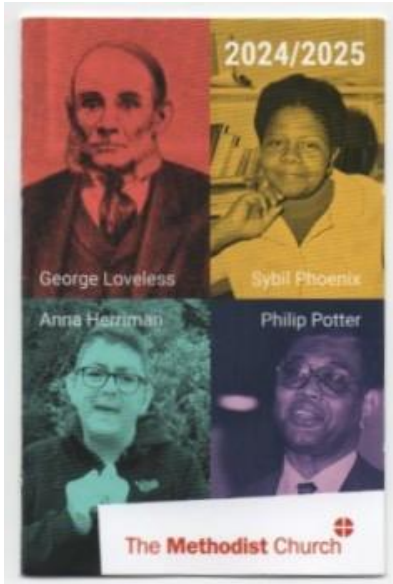
Thank you for those other times, the days of long ago,
The memories and hopes and dreams that only they can know.

Thank you for the helping hands when problems crowd around,
For all the patient listening the kindness we have found.

For all the steadfast loyalty on which our trust depends,
Let us repay this love today, and thank you, Lord, for friends

Iris Hesselden

METHODIST MEMBERSHIP TICKET



As Tony mentioned in his Easter message all members of the Methodist Church ought to have received a membership ticket just before Christmas. On the reverse is a summary for what we are '**Called To**' as members of the Methodist Church.

- Worship within the local church, including sharing in regular Communion and through personal prayer.
- Learning and caring through Bible Study and meeting for fellowship so that I may grow in faith and support others in their discipleship.
- Service by being a good neighbour in the community challenging injustice and using my resources to support the Church in its mission in the world
- Evangelism through working out my faith in daily life and sharing Christ with others.

In thinking about the ticket, I wondered just who are the people displayed on the front this year.

(Top left) George Lovelace 1797 to 1874

George was the leader of the Tolpuddle Martyrs who were convicted of 'administering unlawful oaths in forming a 'Friendly Society of Agricultural Labourers.' In 1833, George, along with his brother and 4 friends was transported to Australia for 7 years although they were given a full pardon in 1836. George was a Methodist Local Preacher and on his return to the UK decided to emigrate to Canada in 1844 where he lived with his wife Elizabeth and their 5 children

(Top right) Sybil Pheonix born 1927 – Sybil was born in British Guiana and moved to London with her fiancé in 1956 where she experienced racism. She was a Methodist Local Preacher as well as a community worker providing support for unwanted children and housing for single homeless young women. She founded a Youth Club for black teenagers which was destroyed by the National Front in 1976. Four years later it was reopened with Prince Charles in attendance. Sybil has also worked on behalf of the Methodist Church setting up anti racist training for members of the clergy and has led the work in many countries around the world. She was awarded an MBE in 1973, upgraded to an OBE in 2008

(Bottom left) Anna Harriman is a Methodist local preacher who was born profoundly deaf and is a registered sign language translator. She preaches in her local circuit and for a UK national online church on Facebook called BSL Church Worship for the Deaf Community, which is wholly in British Sign Language. When she leads worship within the Methodist Circuit, sometimes she incorporates sign language and may also include aspects of Deaf Culture into her sermons. As part of this she began to translate hymns and worship songs into BSL and inserted them into final worship videos. She says, 'Members of my circuit and church have actually found this quite powerful as it gives a deeper, richer meaning to the hymns and songs. The visual perspective helps to convey the messages in the words.'

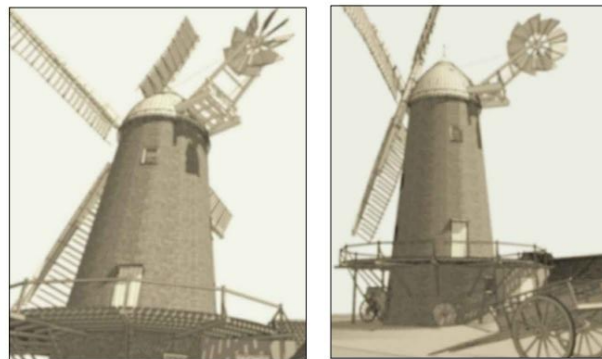
Philip Alford Potter 1921 –2015 He was a leader within the Methodist Church and the third General Secretary of the World Council of Churches. Philip Potter was born in Dominica in the West Indies being active in the Church from an early age, first becoming a pastor and then an ordained Methodist minister. He worked for the Methodist Missionary Society in London and then as a spokesperson for youth at the World Council of Churches. He served as General Secretary from 1972 – 1984. Under Philip Potter's leadership were the development of the theological consensus document *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*, the continuation of a courageous campaign against apartheid in South Africa and other forms of racism.

***If you would like to become a member of Keyworth Methodist Church
please speak to Tony Simpson or Geoffrey Daft***

MEMORIES OF A WINDMILL

Back in lockdown I finally managed to carry out some 'photo archaeology' I had long wanted to reconstruct a 3D model of the Keyworth mill. I wonder if any of the views jog any one of our congregation's memories? I produced several views to make up an exhibition in the village library back in 2021 and this is to be repeated in June /July this year. They are also in book form in the local studies section of the library.

Liegh White



**Selby Lane and the Village Windmill
c1956**

2 GARDEN POEMS By Elspeth Jackman

Keep it Tidy

I enjoy a tidy garden.
You leave it all intact.
The lawn is mowed, the edges cut.
The lively weeds extracted, BUT
Leave it for a single day.
And the Earth, that force, will have its way.

But soon a new idea takes hold.
I must change tactics and be bold,
Instead of bending back for hours
And spending several hours on flowers,
I must bring in plan A or B

My Heart

My heart is like a garden.
Where weeds spring up, unbidden.
But overhaul it, yes, for good.
And daily keep it clear
Of self-centred thoughts, indulgent, moans,
Instead of praise and glory.

Yes, two half hours each day in all,
But what a difference to the toil.
If I have discipline to play
the piano regularly every day.
I can keep my garden free
of weeds, and it becomes a joy to see.

Never again a three-hour stretch,
On a single patch. Oh no!
While the rest grows weeds,
I take my hoe and every day,
Make sure the weeds don't have their way



PRAYER WORKS - HELP TO MAKE IT WORK.



Dear Everyone

Tony and I run a WhatsApp daily prayer group. Each day one of our team posts a prayer for us all to follow. But it's also a space where anyone can post a prayer or concern, asking others to pray for that situation also. If you would like to be part of this group please WhatsApp me on 07988227688 *Rev Ruth Simpson*

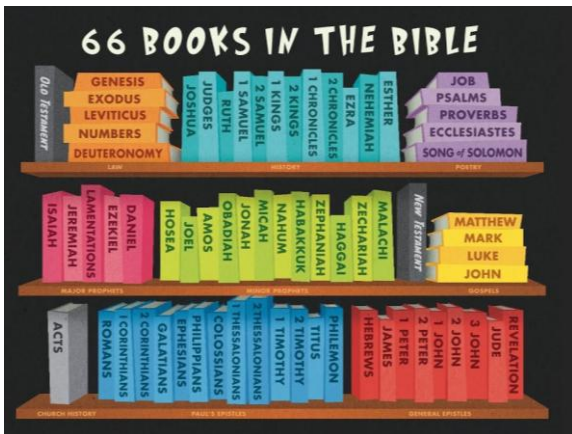
ASH WEDNESDAY

"So, as I write it is Ash Wednesday. We are stardust. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The first light in the universe was when hydrogen atoms gravitated together to form a dense mass, so dense that fusion from hydrogen to helium was initiated. It illuminated deep dark space for the first time. Multitudes of stars followed. Going through billions of years of fusion, until their hydrogen ran out and they quickly aged as the fusion had to fuse helium & created elements of increasing atomic mass, going up through what we now call the periodic table. Through deepest time, successive generations of these stars exploded & spewed their final fusion products out across the universe. Much later our star Sun formed. It attracted the star dust from many generations of dead stars. Out of death came planets and life, such as ours.

To quote Joni Mitchell

"We are stardust, we are golden and we've got to get ourselves back to the garden."

Happy Ash Wednesday! *Nick Riley*



HAVE YOU A FEW MINUTES TO SPARE? ANSWERS ON PAGE 16

A Puzzle for Lent and Easter
Can you identify the Books of the Bible from the following clues?

1. Jewish ancestors
2. Assess the homework
3. A radical disclosure
4. Chess pieces
5. Footballing Casuals
6. May be found holding the ladder steady
7. Invaders of Britain
8. Worn long for winter warmth
9. Basic to Mathematics
10. A Minister's wife
11. Mourning dirges
12. The obscure one
13. The very origin
14. An outward journey
15. A selfless explorer
16. Powerful sentencers
17. Soccer pundit Richards
18. Source of income
19. Stories of Narnia
20. Sweeter than lemon squash

AN EASTER FUNNY

seen on a Church Bulletin Board

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands....

APRIL FOOL

We've all heard the one about the four men - George, Andrew, David, and Pancake - all named after the day on which they were born. Yes, it began life as an Irish joke but that's not PC now so the joke has to be reconfigured. But the Irish have always got their own back in the Six Nations Rugby!

It's often been asked whether Jesus had a sense of humour. I think he had. I can't see how he could have talked about camels passing through the eyes of needles (Luke 18:25) without at least a smile on his face. Likewise, his picture of a guy with a great log in his eye struggling to see the speck of dust in his friend's (Matthew 7:3-5). And was there also a darker side to his humour? Did he have a smile on his face when he spoke of cutting off offending hands and plucking out offending eyes (Matthew 5:29-30) – just to show he didn't intend us to take that literally?

We've recently celebrated April Fools' Day. All sorts of odd things will have been said and done this year as in previous years. Some of us are old enough to remember Panorama's 1957 report from Lake Lugano, Switzerland, that the combination of a mild winter and the virtual disappearance of pests like the spaghetti weevil, had resulted in a bumper spaghetti crop. Many were taken in!

In 1 Corinthians 4:10, Paul speaks of himself having become 'a fool for Christ', i.e. that he has become foolish by worldly standards in order to become wise in a Christian sense. And Jesus had asked for the same. Isn't it the very essence of foolishness not to be concerned about what we will eat and drink or wear (Matthew 6:25)? And is it not just plain foolish not to resist the evildoer, to turn the other cheek to the person who has just hit you, or to hand your cloak over to the person who has just taken your coat (Matthew 5:39-40)?

Good Friday approaches. And each year we in the Church ask the world to believe that the death of a young man, early-thirties, by crucifixion in a backwater of the Roman Empire provides the essential key to resolving how human beings can best live in harmony with each other and with God, that however much power the Trumps, Putins and Netanyahus of this world believe they have, a sandal-shod Galilean teacher who told stories of farmers, banquets, lost coins, rebellious sons and concerned Samaritans had more. Does that make us fools – for Christ's sake?

PS - Don't take the foolishness too far. The fool built his house on sand (Matthew 7:24-27). This is an instance when we must be wise. 'Christ is made the sure foundation' (Singing the Faith 677 verse 1). *Peter C*



AN EASTER PROMISE

If we but had the eyes to see God's face in every cloud,
If we but had the ears to hear his voice above the crowd,
If we could feel His gentle touch in ever Springtime breeze
And find a haven in His arms neath sheltering, leafy trees...
If we could just lift up our hearts like flowers to the sun
And trust His Easter Promise and pray, "Thy will be done",
We'd find the peace we're seeking, the kind no man can give,
The peace that comes from knowing
He Died So We Might Live! *Helen Steiner Rice*

BOLTON ABBEY PASSION PLAY

One Easter we were staying in a holiday cottage near to Bolton Abbey in the Yorkshire Dales, our girls were about 10 and 12 years old then. We saw that a local group were performing a Passion Play in the grounds of the Abbey and so we went.



Bolton Priory was founded in the 12th-century as an Augustinian order, but was closed in 1539 in the Dissolution of the Monasteries. What remains by the banks of the River Wharfe are ruins and the Priory Church of St Mary and St Cuthbert, which is an active Church of England church.

The play started down by the river with John the Baptist baptising people in the waters of the Wharfe. We then moved around the ruins with the players who acted out various scenes, including Jesus riding

into Jerusalem on a donkey, His cleansing of the Temple, being tempted in the desert by the Devil, The Last Supper, Jesus's trial and arrest leading up to Jesus carrying the cross towards the church, wearing a crown of thorns on his head.

By this point we were all so immersed in the drama, experiencing the pain Jesus was feeling and wanting to help. Our youngest daughter had got so involved that we had to restrain her from going to help Jesus carry the huge wooden cross.

We all made our way into the church where the three crucifixes were raised and as the nails were hammered in, the sound reverberated around. The scene was so emotional, the sound of sobbing from most of the congregation could be heard.

Our daughter was distraught and took a lot of comforting after the play was over. Later on as we were making our way across the car park to return to our car, I spotted Jesus having an ice cream and pointed him out to our daughter, perhaps rather irreligiously, saying that Jesus was okay and it was only a play. It was something we will never forget: the drama was so very powerful.



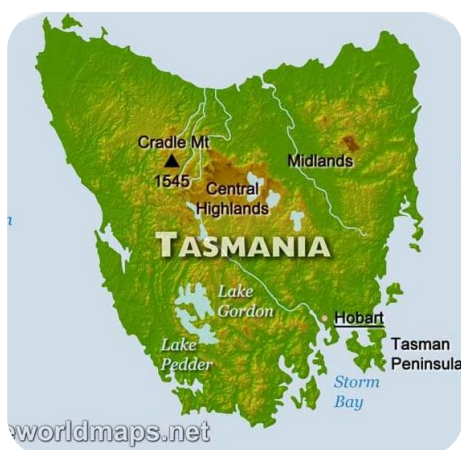
Clare Franklin

**Written in
February 2025**

A LETTER FROM TASMANIA

Dear All,

As you will have gathered, the Dashwood's are in Tasmania visiting the family. A trip we nearly didn't think we'd make but so glad we have. It was a long haul of a journey via Abu Dhabi this time, but my assisted travel was amazing. Only an hour for changeover in Abu Dhabi but a wheelchair awaited me outside the aircraft and away we went, with Alex my husband, having to basically sprint to keep up with him. At least he got some exercise in, to break the monotony of the flight.





Then another 15-hour flight but so worth it, seeing our daughter's face in Hobart around 9.30 pm their time. The boys insisted on waiting up to greet us, but retired quickly, excited and tired. Not the only ones.

The time is passing so quickly visiting folk, enjoying meals out with the family, local activities, wooden ship regatta in Hobart, visiting the Mona Museum and activity centre. Another local show coming up next week, plus celebrating my birthday too which has been so special. I've felt very blessed. Alex has enjoyed cricket with the boys and walking Tango the dog.

However, on a more serious note I would like to pass on some thoughts I had whilst having my quiet time one morning. Sitting out in the sun on the decking I finished up looking at the Day-to-Day diary when we remember folk in our church, plus the church activities and streets around Keyworth (thank you Anne for your tireless work each year assembling these) names are now 'people' I have got to know over the years since moving up from Cornwall. Folk who have come to mean more than just contacts and have become such a blessing and support; so I sat quietly remembering the fellowship and prayer support available. I then realised that I was eleven hours ahead of you all in the UK when the thought struck me, THE LORD IS ALREADY AHEAD OF US in whatever we do or plan. It's up to us whether we acknowledge this and trust Him that makes the difference. The fact is, this Easter we will be reminded again of the Lord's resurrection when the women were told to go ahead and tell the disciples the good news. Christ was already waiting ahead to greet them all later in the upper room, afraid and wondering what was ahead for them, with all their doubts and fears.



So, a thought to leave with you, and myself - the Lord goes before us no matter what lies ahead. He has promised his loving presence. 'I am with you always, even until the end of the world.' It's whether we are prepared to trust Him. The world is in turmoil, and we are the ones who can lead the way by our example in quiet trust. At this moment I am still eleven hours ahead of you, but God willing we will be back with you all for Easter with the promise that He is still ahead of us, wanting to guide and sustain us in whatever He wants us to do; or perhaps just giving us the courage or strength to face each day. 'Let go, and let God.' He really is there ahead of us thank goodness. Special blessings to you all, *Chris Dashwood.*

MABEL'S MARKET SALE – SATURDAY 31ST MAY

After many years of the Keylink committee arranging various fund-raising events throughout the year in support of Self-Help Africa (including many Mabels' Markets!), the committee 'retired' at the start of 2022 but have still continued to sell SHA Christmas cards each year since.



**Self Help
Africa**

We still hope to support the work of Self Help Africa with occasional events so have organised a coffee morning on ***Saturday 31st May from 10am until 12 noon.***

There will be cake on sale with coffee/tea, and various stalls – home produce, books and nearly new/bric-a-brac. Please let friends know and come along to socialise and support this event. (P.S. If you have any contributions for the stalls, I would be happy to hear from you! *Malcolm Shaw*)

PALESTINE NEWS from Nichola G Jones

Many of you will remember that at Christmas we raised money to send to 'The School of Joy' in Bethlehem along with individual donations. It took a little while, but here is the reply Nichola received from Father Mamdouh.

'Dearest Sister in Christ, Dearest most Rev Nichola,
Good news we received your donation in our school account today Thank God who helps us and for friends like yours.

We thank the gracious, kindly women and men who gave from their own purses to make this donation possible. The £684 came from you to Ramallah to Bethlehem and into our account. What a journey it has made. Always we are grateful for the Christ who holds us as His Family and the kindness that reaches across the miles

Though our children will never see the people from Keyworth, they are so thankful to them for their great bounty. Please show them our photographs so these good men and women our sisters and brothers know they have a place in our family here.

Ask them to come and visit us but not in the present disaster since we do not know what will happen from day to week. We live under the providence of God who alone keeps us safe and your love and kindness which keeps us warm.

Many thanks for your solidarity and support

God Bless

Fr Mamdouh'

(and here are the photographs of some of the children as mentioned by Father Mamdouh)



KEYWORTH CHOIR CONCERT

APRIL 12TH

Keyworth Choir are performing their Easter concert in our church on **Saturday 12th April at 7.30pm**. The choir are performing one of only two sacred pieces written by Rossini – the ***Petite Messe Solennelle***.

Rossini is well-known for his operatic works

(*The Barber of Seville*, *Tancredi* and, of course, for

William Tell with its famous overture) and his mass is

unmistakenly operatic in style and abounds in the memorable tunes and rhythmic vitality for which Rossini became justly famous.

Tickets are available at £12 each. Please contact *Maureen Payne*

AN EASTER FUNNY? Seen on a church bulletin board

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality....



COAT OF HOPES



Last November we hosted for one night the Coat of Hopes on its way from Nottingham to Stamford. The Coat is made of patchwork and is on a walking pilgrimage through the U.K. It began its journey during Cop 26 and has been travelling ever since telling the stories of the amazing patches and highlighting the climate and ecological emergency we face. It has been in Norwich and now in Lowestoft. You can track its journey online. A number of people came to see the Coat in Keyworth, listen to the stories and try the Coat on. It was moving to walk with the Coat on while the pilgrimage song was sung. You may recognise some of the wearers!.....



TURNING THE PAGE

What do you do when you want to know something?

Do you 'Google it' or go to 'Wikipedia'? Nothing wrong with that of course, but there's still a place for the humble 'book'. And at KMC we have plenty – a small library, indeed, though you have to know where to find it, tucked away in shared space with our Minister's office.

At our Church Anniversary service, I spoke briefly about the library as a valuable learning resource. It contains lots on the Bible, including commentaries on the Bible's many books. There's much on the history of the church, including Methodism and our foundational story of the Wesley brothers. There's Christian devotional material and music and much on Christian belief. There are also inspiring short biographies and some thought-provoking novels. The word 'Gospel' means 'good news' and there's a magazine devoted exclusively to good news. It's called 'Positive News' and there are lots of back-numbers there. So, there's much that can supplement what we learn together from Sunday worship – much to enhance our understanding of the gospel.

So how about popping in there after a service one Sunday and taking a look? You just might find something really helpful or challenging – something to make a change from TV! There are no borrowing rules. Just take what you wish and return it when you've finished. And if it was helpful, recommend it to someone else! *Peter Curtis*

AN EASTER FUNNY? Seen on a church bulletin board. Miss Charlene Mason sang, 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation!

TWIT OF THE DAY *from Garden Philosopher*

The days are at last lengthening, so I have been able to do some garden tidying in preparation for Spring. A host of tiny snowdrops shimmy in the borders, the grass is studded with lilac crocuses, and the robin no longer sings on his own but is joined increasingly by other garden birds, notably great tits with their bold song and, first thing in the morning, a song-thrush a few gardens down. The world is waking up!

However, we have also been hearing something else when birds and flowers have gone to sleep, other feathered creatures of the night. It's some time since we heard that evocative `Twit' and `Twooo' alerting us to the presence of owls in the dark hours. Not that we ever see them, but it is a reminder that Nature in its economy is never entirely asleep. I remember the incredible experience of seeing an owl in action along the canal at dusk many years ago. Then it was a Barn Owl, a spectral shadow floating above waste ground, quartering it in the hunt for small, foolish mammals . . . I watched for a long time, an experience that will never be forgotten.

This time my bird expert, B--, confirmed that what we were hearing, snuggled up in bed, were in fact two Tawny Owls. Are you aware that what in youthful ignorance I thought was the call of one bird (`Twit-Twooo') is actually that of two, one responding to the other, the sharp *Twit* (sounds more like `kewick') produced by the female and the wavering *Hoo-ooo* the male response. So there you have it - a couple who are possibly entire strangers and have never even seen each other before, but who have a strong drive not to be lonesome anymore! It is, of course, the mating season. Funnily enough, it was only the sharp *Twit* that was heard for many nights; the *Twooo* only followed in mid-February, just before Valentine's Day, and since then we have not heard either again. They found each other! Can we hope that it is a love match?



The search for fulfilment, I would suggest, is experienced by all of us. Our definition may not always be the same, and we may not put out calls to others like the owls; we may be thwarted, or our perception may be distorted, resulting in misdirected, selfish, or even vile acts. But there is somewhere deep within a feeling that our lives need to be completed and meaningful.

In our Bible we meet with the belief that there is One who will respond to our search and our cry, One who also searches us out and knows us through and through; who wants us to find and to be found, to have `life in all its fullness'. Jesus came, we hear, `to his own and his own knew him not' but he continued to search and connect with those who did respond, right up to those last moments on the cross - and then beyond, for the Spirit of God in Jesus still calls and searches us out. And one day `we shall know as we are known'.

On Easter morning the Psalmist's words (Psalm 30) come true:

`Sorrow may endure for a night,
but Joy comes in the morning . . .
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.'

AN EASTER FUNNY? **Seen on a Church Bulletin Board**

At the evening service tonight the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and hear our choir practice.

A FISH CALLED WANDER - a fishy tale by Nick Riley

It was a bright frosty February morning with a gin clear sunrise. The air was still. I walked out of my drive onto Selby Lane and ambled towards the village centre. Hedge sparrows were flitting about as I said a gentle "hello" to a friendly robin. Then to my astonishment I came across a large golden fish lying within a hawthorn hedge! It was a koi carp lying completely still, apart from its gasping mouth and gills, pulsating in a desperate attempt to breathe. I knew there was little time left for this fish to survive, if at all. I gently, but firmly, extracted the fish from within the thorny branches & briskly walked back to my house, fish securely in hand.

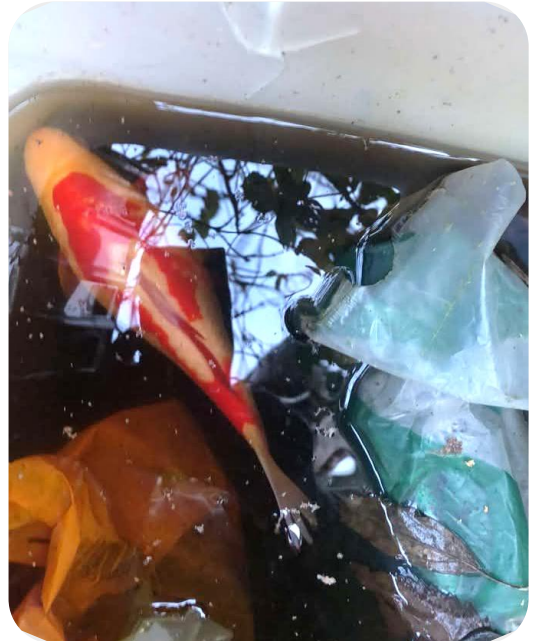
The cold had aided its survival, as its metabolic rate would be low and thus oxygen demand reduced. I knew that if I put the fish into even cold tap water, it would likely die with thermal shock. Then I remembered that I had a large plastic crate filled with rain water down the side of our house. I gently placed the fish in it and fanned the icy water through its mouth and gills using my hand. Slowly the fish began to move its tail. I removed my hand and the fish floated, right way up, with its dorsal fin just breaking the surface. I partly covered the crate so that the fish could safely hide, undisturbed, and hopefully recover from its ordeal.

So how did this fish wander into a hedge? When I was a boy, I read a book called "The Elements Rage," written by Frank W. Lane (1965). I remembered accounts in it of fish falling from the sky, even a human hailstone; the latter caused by an unfortunate parachutist being sucked upwards into a thundercloud.

Thunderstorms moving over water bodies, can form waterspouts which can suck fish up into cloud and carry them aloft until released back into water or onto land. There are even records of frogs being transported in this way. Perhaps the Egyptian plague of frogs in the Book of Exodus are an ancient record of such phenomena? However, the fish in the hedge was solitary and the weather conditions were stable with no thundery activity.

So, it would seem more likely that a large avian fish-eating predator was responsible. Could that have been an osprey? Well possibly, as ospreys do nest at Rutland Water, but they are rare in Britain. However, it would seem more likely to be a heron that had removed the fish from a local pond and accidentally dropped it when flying over Selby Lane. Herons are frequently seen around Keyworth. So, I then started enquiring as to who had a garden pond with koi carp in the vicinity of the hedge; I drew a blank. I found out that koi carp were living in a pond at Stanton, and contacted the owner, but they never got back to me.

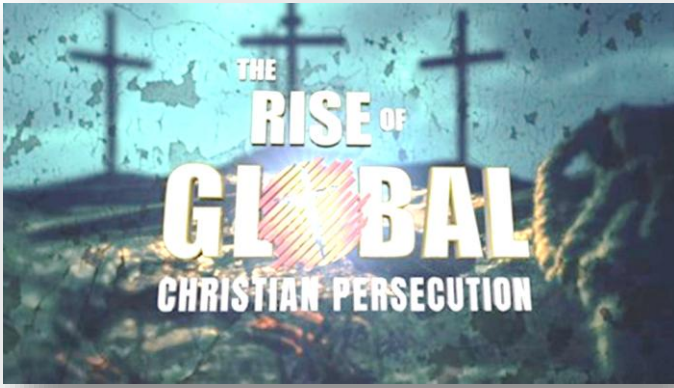
Later in the day I checked the fish. It was resting in mid water, breathing was regular, there was clear mucous around the gills & mouth and some slight abrasion damage to its scales. I avoided feeding the fish, as I did not want food to rot in the water. In any case there were plenty of insect larvae about, as well some algae, a natural food supply. Gradually as the weeks went by the fish became more active and fully recovered. It was time to rehome it to someone who had a large pond and knew how to look after koi carp long term. Thanks to the "Spotted Keyworth" Face Book page we managed to find someone locally. What a lucky fish!



A COUPLE OF EASTER FUNNIES? Seen on a Church Bulletin Board

For those of you have children and don't know it. We have a nursery downstairs...

This being Easter Sunday we will ask Mrs Pullet to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.



As the new 'Promoter of Social Issues' for our church, I intend to write of concerns from around the world and the first issue I would like to raise is that of religious persecution and I will be focusing on the persecution of Christians. So, while we enjoy the freedom to worship without fear, remember these worrying statistics.

Around 365 million Christians around the world are being subjected to the highest level of persecution. That is about 1 in 7 of the world's Christians. In Africa the figure is 1 in 5, in Asia it is 1 in 7. The countries with the highest levels of

persecution of Christians are North Korea, Somalia, Libya, Eritrea and Yemen.

In 2023 (the latest available data) 5621 Christians were killed for faith-related reasons and 210,000 Christians were driven out of their homes while 14,766 Churches and other Christian properties were attacked.

Venezuela closed more churches than any other country in 2023 in an authoritarian crack-down on Christian freedom. In 2023, at least 436 acts of hostility against churches occurred in the United States, more than double the number identified in 2022.

France has the highest number of hate crimes against Christians in Europe - who remain the country's most targeted religious community - followed by Germany, Italy and Poland.

Gender-based violence against Christians is happening around the world.

The principal victims of this violence (although not exclusively) are women and girls. Women who convert to Christianity from Islam are being forced into marriage with Muslim men to convert them back to Islam. Christian women in these countries are being subjected to rape, beatings, acid attacks, and murder for their belief. They are being abducted and subjected to honour-based violence and psychological torture by their relatives.

Christian men in states that are hostile to Christianity face unemployment or being forced into low-paid menial jobs. They face daily discrimination in the workplace. Christian men also face false allegations, often leading to vigilante justice and arbitrary imprisonment. Priests, pastors and church elders are explicitly targeted with false allegations of bribery and coercing people to convert to Christianity. In sub-Saharan Africa, Christian men and boys are being kidnapped by radical Islamic fighters and forced to fight against their will.

Christians can also persecute other Christians. A Russian Orthodox bishop claimed that the war in Ukraine is a holy war to justify the wholesale destruction of many churches and other buildings across Ukraine. In Venezuela, organised crime is using Christianity to legitimise their illegal operations by targeting churches and priests, whilst the Venezuelan authorities are cracking down on Christian values and freedoms.

So let us think and pray on this worrying persecution of our fellow Christians around the world.

Debbie

AN EASTER WISH God always has something for you, a key for every problem, a light for every shadow, a relief for every sorrow and a plan for every tomorrow.

An umbrella cannot stop the rain but it allows us to stand in the rain. Faith in God may not remove our trials but it gives us strength to overcome them

HAVE YOU A FEW MINUTES TO SPARE - ANSWERS

A Puzzle for Lent and Easter

1. Jewish ancestors - Hebrews
2. Assess the homework - Mark
3. A radical disclosure - Revelation
4. Chess pieces - Kings
5. Footballing Casuals - Corinthians
6. May be found holding the ladder steady - James
7. Invaders of Britain - Romans
8. Worn long for winter warmth – (long) John (s)
9. Basic to Mathematics - Numbers
10. A Minister's wife - Ruth
11. Mourning dirges - Lamentations
12. The obscure one - Jude
13. The very origin - Genesis
14. An outward journey - Exodus
15. A selfless explorer Titus (Oats)
16. Powerful sentencers - Judges
17. Soccer pundit Richards - Micah
18. Source of income - Job
19. Stories of Narnia - Chronicles
20. Sweeter than lemon squash – Joshua

What's that Tune? (p1) Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Saviour

Who are these two? (p16) Daft Wader and Princess Gwyn S

TIME TO DISCOVER

After our *New Year* restart, we continued with meeting topics of *Ezekiel* with *Paul Roebuck*, some more *Sabbatical Reflections* with *Tony Simpson*, and then a revisit from *Ian Todd* on *Spiritual Dimensions*.

We then, during Lent, have been hosting our Thursday evenings for five weeks *as a Churches Together Lent Group*. The Lent theme for this year is '*A Beautiful Friendship*' based around the film '*Casablanca*', with the group meetings currently in progress, and touching on underlying themes such as conflict, exile and wilderness, love and friendship, loss and hope (temporal and eternal).

We will *restart as Time to Discover after Easter* on Thursday evening *May 1st*, and *fortnightly thereafter*, with meeting topics yet to be arranged.

As always, see KMC weekly notices for updated details, and for hosting addresses.

Our meetings are normally fortnightly on Thursday evenings at participants' homes, and are open to any who may wish to come along – whether regularly or whether just for an occasional topic of interest. And if so, it can be helpful to hosts if you let the host or myself know beforehand.

If you want to know more about the group, just contact Robin Wilcockson. *Robin*

KMC 'MAY SOCIAL!' SATURDAY MAY 3RD

Come along to an evening with a difference. We hope that there will be a variety of games, musical items, poems and sketches with refreshments in the middle.

So be here and find out 'Who's been Framed,' try the fascinating 'Church Rhymes Game' and May Quiz. 

Have you ever played the 'Chocolate' game?

Or the 'Bring Me Game?' Besides all of the above we hope to have several musical items, fascinating sketches, the odd poem and even a dance or two!

It is going to be an evening to remember with our friends. *June C*





U3A EXPLORING WORLD FAITHS

We continue to normally meet on the *third Friday afternoon of each month* at 2.0pm in the *Centenary Lounge* of the Village Hall, although occasionally we have a visit instead.

In *January* we had a 'Fuddle' meeting, which gave opportunity to *reflect* on the various *topics* and *visits* we had shared *last year*.

In *February* we tackled the subject of '*Inter-Faith Worship*' and how (or indeed whether) this might be possible, with our own *Peter Curtis* leading us in *discussion*. We noted that there are some common aspects, such as prayer, but some which would be difficult such as profession of a particular faith. The King's coronation service was noted as one in which various faiths were present and sharing as far as they felt able to do so.

Our *March* event was a *visit to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mosque in Sneinton*. Our numbers were reduced, with some unable to come because of various health issues, but those of us who were there had a most welcoming and interesting visit, with some quite in-depth conversation about things such as Ramadan, Lent, Easter and the Muslim understanding of Jesus, different strands within Islam etc – and of course being shown round their worship areas.



Our 'Faiths' group *won't be meeting in April* (our date coming in the Easter weekend), but we *will resume in May (16th)*.

In our group we have participants from various faith (and indeed no-faith) backgrounds, and with a good representation from KMC. If you are interested in coming along, please contact Robin Wilcockson to find how to join u3a, if not already a member.
Robin



A KEYWORD FLIGHT OF FANCY

When I walk from my house, down Selby Lane to 'Chapel' as Melvis always called it, I am often regaled by Crows perching in TV ariels with their distinctive Caw Caw.... And very often, when I walk up to our chapel entrance I've been chattered at by a Magpie with its rapid Ca,ca.ca.ca.ca.ca sound.

At the time of writing this, Crows are busily building a nest high in our large ash tree and if Jenny or I venture into our back garden we are 'Cawed' at vigorously, as though the Crows have always owned the place! We are visited by many Magpies and Crows which are extremely intelligent birds that will harass and make fun of wood pigeons and visiting pheasants as they swoop around the garden.



In Britain, the Corvidae Family or Corvids contains Crows Magpies, Ravens, Jays, Jackdaws and Choughs. Indeed, we have seen from our garden a raven attack buzzards or red kites with a curious loud quacking, duck like sound.

I have recently thought that all these birds, or at least their ancestors, have lived atop the Wolds Hills of Keyworth village for centuries. They have seen all the changes before and since Keyworth was mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 when it had a population of around 80.

Apparently, the earliest form of the name Keyworth is '**Caworde**'.

Worde or worth means an enclosure or homestead. But what about the 'Ca' part? No-one really knows, but a suggestion is that it might have been someone who settled here called Ca....!

So back to the Corvids. The British **Ca**-rion Crow has the well know **Ca**-w call. The Magpie's Latin name is Pi-**ca** and the name magpie only dates back to the 16th century when the name Margaret or Maggie was given to the bird as its call sounded like a chattering woman!!! Most of us know at least part of the superstitious rhyme on seeing a magpie.

'One for sorrow, two for joy, three for a girl and four for a boy, five for silver, six for gold, seven for a secret never to be told, eight for a wish, nine for a kiss, ten a surprise you should be careful not to miss, eleven for health twelve for wealth, thirteen - beware it's the devil himself. (So watch out!)

Our friends the Crows and Magpies have lived here on the hills above the valley of the Trent, long before men and women settled at Caworde/Keyworth. No doubt there was an enclosure or homestead that developed into a village and it's my flight of fancy to suggest that this is the village of the **Ca** -rion Crow with

its' **Ca**-w call and the Pi-**Ca** or Magpie that are the originators of Caworde now Keyworth.

And of course, there are still very many Magpies in the village - including these two!! *Geoff D*



THE NEXT EDITION – SEPTEMBER 2025

My thanks to all who contributed to this 17th edition of KeyNotes and my apologies to anyone whose contribution I may have missed or not used! So, you have five months to be inspired to write and to find items for edition 18 next September, hopefully, throughout a glorious Summer. My thanks also to the Pastoral Team for delivering. If you would like to look on line there is a copy on the church website and an electronic copy will be circulated soon. Geoff D

And a final Easter Funny!

What happens when a microscope crashes into a telescope??? **A Kaleidoscope!!!!**(Thanks Mary G!)